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Fraternally Yours®

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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DECEMBER 2016



The
First Catholic
Slovak Ladies
Association
Officers
and Board
of Directors
wish you
a Blessed
Christmas
and a very
Happy
New Year!

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

Fraternally Yours, ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA®



ISSN 0897-2958



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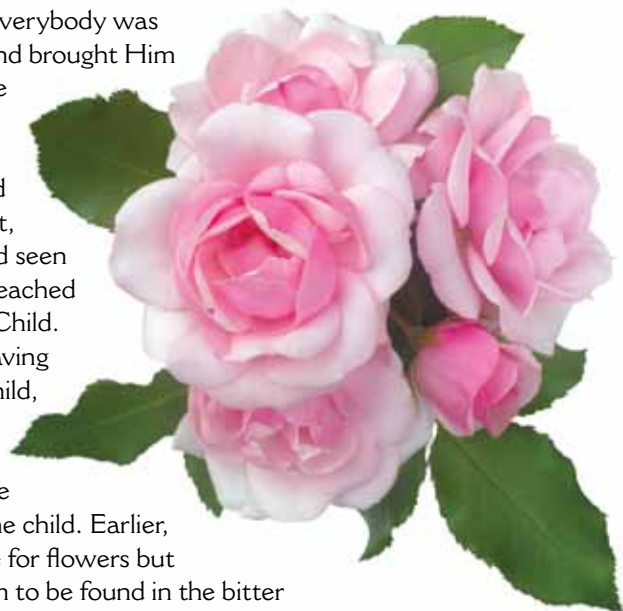
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Legend of the Christmas Rose

On a cold December night, everybody was coming to see their new Savior and brought Him all kinds of gifts and presents. The three Wise Men came in with their valuable gifts of myrrh, frankincense and gold and offered them to Baby Jesus. At that point, a shepherdess, Madelon, who had seen the Wise Men passing through, reached the door of the stable to see the Child. However, being very poor and having brought nothing to offer to the child, she felt helpless and started weeping quietly at the sight of all of the wonderful gifts the three Wise Men had bestowed upon the child. Earlier, she had searched the countryside for flowers but there was not even a single bloom to be found in the bitter winter.



An angel outside the door was watching over her and knew of her fruitless search. He took pity on her and when he saw her head drooped down in sorrow, decided to help her with a little miracle. He gently brushed aside the snow at her feet and where her tears had fallen, sprang a beautiful cluster of waxen white winter roses with pink tipped petals. He softly whispered into the shepherdess's ear that the Christmas roses were far more valuable than any myrrh, frankincense or gold, for they are pure and made of love. The maiden was pleasantly surprised when she heard those words and joyfully gathered the flowers and offered them to the Holy Infant, who, seeing that the gift was reared with tears of love, smiled at her with gratitude and satisfaction. Thus, the Christmas rose came to symbolize hope, love, and all that is wonderful in this season.

Dear Friends,

Christmas is the season of giving gifts as, one of the ways we show love toward one another. This should not mean that the gifts we give are the sole expression of our love. Even if the gift inconsequential or of no material value, there is no gift more costly or more valuable than one that comes straight from the heart. The tradition of giving gifts during Christmas originated from the kind gestures of the three Wise Men who brought expensive presents for the Infant Jesus to welcome him into this world. Since then, it seems people have made gifts a mandate for Christmas.

But as the legend of the Christmas Rose reminds us, often the gesture of giving counts more than the gift itself. Perhaps this legend originated to teach us just that; no matter what you gift, it must come from the heart and soul — even if the gift is simply a flower. It is reminiscent of the legend of the Christmas Rose, the flower which only blooms during the chill of winter, that sharing gifts of the heart is an important part of our Holiday celebrations.

Merry Christmas!

Until next month,
Warmly, Carolyn

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

STASTLIVY NOVY ROK!

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

Stastlivy Novy Rok! Happy New Year! I know that I am a few days late (it began on 29 November this year) but I send you my blessings of the Season — the beginning of the Church New Year with the commencing of the Season of Advent. The word “advent” means “the arrival that has been awaited, especially of something momentous”. For us Christians, Advent is preparing for the coming of the Christ in two ways. In the midst of the secularistic aspect of the “holiday season” that assist people to prepare the “holiday” – shopping, greeting cards, songs, office parties, decorating, etc. – you and I, at the beginning of this New Year, are asked to keep these days prior to Christmas as a period of preparation for A. the anniversary of Christ’s birth **and** B. looking forward to His Second Coming at the end of time. Various places in the Sacred Scriptures look forward to the coming of the Messiah, the one who will save humanity from eternal sinfulness. He will be like us in all things but sin. He will be human and divine. He will save all people. Prior to His coming, all must prepare.

For example, in the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah* in the Hebrew Scripture’s, the prophet wrote “Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: ‘Ask for a sign from the Lord, your God; let it be deep as the nether

world, or high as the sky!’ But Ahaz answered, ‘I will not ask! I will not tempt the Lord.’ Then he said: ‘Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary men, must you also weary my God!? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel!’” (7:10-14). The Savior will be unique and will be God among us. Saint Paul scribed the following in his *Letter to the Romans*: “For the scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon him. For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved’” (10: 11-14). All who look forward to the Savior will be with Him forever.

The celebration of Advent in Christian communities goes back to the fourth century, with the number of weeks of preparation varying prior to Christmas. Why a need for preparation? There was a long period of preparation prior to the coming of the Redeemer. From the story of Adam and Eve to the Incarnation of Jesus, the Prophets and the Law were in place hundreds upon hundreds of years in expectation of the Redeemer whom we call the Emanuel. And since

the Ascension of Christ into Heaven, the Christian community has waited over two millennia for His Second Coming. Our Church year immerses us into this history of salvation through the liturgical seasons that we celebrate annually. Just as we prepare for the special family and public momentous celebrations of our lives, we must annually prepare for the spiritual ones as well. We have to prepare for each highpoint of the liturgical year to remind ourselves of the gift of life, the gift of salvation, the gift of eternal life through Him.

I am the first to admit that I, too, get into the secular spirit during the holiday season – I live within that culture. But, I encourage my parishioners, you, and myself to get into the Advent spirit. Do you have an Advent wreath, a booklet or other spiritual source that has a daily scriptural passage and/or reflection, a Jesse Tree (very advantageous!) or a children’s Advent calendar? These are tools to assist all of us to prepare for the Christmas Holy Days Season at the end of December and the beginning of January.

Oh, by the way, Vesele Vianoce to you and your families, especially when the Christmas Season liturgically begins in the Christian calendar, i.e., on 25 December!

Pope Benedict XVI Academy of Excellence Receives FCSLA Donation

Pope Benedict XVI Academy of Excellence, Frankfort, IL, was a recipient of a \$10,000 donation from the 41st Quadrennial Convention.

Pope Benedict is an independent Catholic high school following strict Catholic principles with a rigorous college prep education. The donation was greatly received to insure tuition remains at a family affordable rate for all kids and to remain up to date in technology for the school.



Pictured receiving the donation from Jeanette Palanca, National Director, is Dr. Joe Majchrovicz, President of Pope Benedict with Father David Simonetti, Founder and Chairman of the Board, looking on with students from the school.

Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Dear Fellow Members,

During this season of embracing Christ's love as we await His coming, it is fitting for us to outline our hopes that delegates to our upcoming special convention (by mail) will positively vote to approve our pending mergers. From time to time, you have received information about them in the magazine. The delegates will receive extensive information

packets soon. Our most current outgoing and incoming boards have fully embraced these mergers as we explore ways to grow and thrive in the short and long term. Even though our new membership criteria have shown a small uptick in new members to date, we continue to have a general overall decline which we have seen for many years.

As part of ongoing strategic planning and a key strategy the board and management have agreed upon is to explore and study business combinations, such as mergers, with fraternal benefit societies with a common bond, when presented with these opportunities. We are fortunate indeed that members of our board of directors, committed in purpose and time have studied, worked with management and consultants and have voted consistently and overwhelmingly for nearly two years on these potential mergers as a key initiative to enable us to move forward.

The societies which have approached us for consideration are The Polish Union of North America (based in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and founded in 1890), which has approximately 6,848 members and assets of \$7.6 million, and The Polish Women's Alliance of America (based in Chicago, Illinois and founded by women in 1898) which has 29,617 members with assets of \$53 million. First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association will continue to be the surviving entity in both cases and our board will stay as it is. More information can be found on our website www.fcsla.org.

These merger opportunities with these two like-minded societies provide us with the essential building blocks that we need to grow. From a fraternal perspective, it is exciting that we can share our future with fraternal benefit societies that espouse these longstanding Catholic values and Slavic traditions! From a business perspective these mergers will bring in new members – in substantial part life insurance members – increase our asset base, spread our risk over a larger membership pool and promote

economies of scale. It would take many, many years for us to attain these goals. In fact, we may never do so with the one member at a time approach. This approach is less costly; we have estimated that the cost of this approach is 10%-20% of the cost of organic approach (one sale at a time). We will have an opportunity to open up our own distribution channels to these new members, as well. Many outside experts have also been consulted along the way, including independent actuaries, attorneys and auditors. They agree with this analysis.

We are hopeful that the delegates elected by our branches will vote for these opportunities so that we may open our hearts and doors and welcome these new members to First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

As I join with my beloved family, I also join with you in love and friendship as we set a beautiful table on Christmas Eve to celebrate vilija and welcome the Christ Child into our hearts and into the depths of our souls.

Faternally,

Cynthia M. Maleski
National President

FCSLA Annuity Rates

Rates for our Elite Annuities:

SILVER ELITE (5 YEAR)

2.75% APY*

GOLD ELITE (7 YEAR)

3.00% APY*

PLATINUM ELITE (10 YEAR)

3.25% APY*

*This rate is in effect 10/1/2016 thru 12/31/2016.

The credited rate is reviewed quarterly by the Board of Directors and will never go below the minimum guaranteed rate. The guaranteed minimum rate for Elite Silver and Gold contracts issued in 2016 is 2% APY and for the Platinum Elite is 2.5% APY.

The Spirit of Christmas

By the magical light of a small Christmas candle
A little old man tries to carefully handle
The small porcelain manger which serves as a bed
For the wee Baby Jesus to lay down His head.

In wonder he brings
the manger up to
his view,
Smiles at the baby
and whispers,
"I love you!
I love you for bring-
ing this season of joy,
I love you for growing
to a man from a boy;



For being our light and leading the way,
For being the spirit which makes Christmas Day!
You've been my mentor, my model, my hero and guide,
Please continue to help me and stay by my side.

I've tried to follow your teachings and give as you gave,
Reminding all to be kind and that it's wise to behave.
Help me to serve others and bring them your light,
Especially the children, please bless them tonight!

Some have so very little, scarce food for their table,
You know how it feels – you were born in a stable!
Bless all their mothers & fathers with a knowledge that's sure,

The best gift they can give is their love, strong and pure.

That's the Spirit of Christmas when all is said and done,
God's gift of love, that came as His Son!"
Then back to His mother the child returned
The Nativity glows as the candle is burned,

In a wink the little old man slips quietly away
Some say he goes up the chimney and climbs in a sleigh.
Whatever the case, His mission is clear –
Give unto others, bringing love and good cheer.

He flies into the night and bids adieu
Doing for others what Jesus would do!

Author Unknown

The 23rd Edition of Our

SLOVAK-AMERICAN COOK BOOK

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Stocking Stuffer!*

No books are sold
or delivered C.O.D.

ALL ARE SOLD FOR CASH

The cost of each book is \$9.00. A carton of 18 books is \$144 (\$8.00 per book). Canada residents \$11.00 U.S. money order per book. *Send only money order or check payable to:* First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Attention: Cook Book Department, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Beachwood, OH 44122.



(Please Print)

Name _____

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City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

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Enclosed find \$ _____ ☐ (Money Order)

☐ (Check) for _____ copies of the Cook Book.

Branch W074 Honored Scholarship Winner Jaelynn Sis

On May 28, 2016, Branch W074 Atwood, KS, honored scholarship winner Jaelynn Sis and her family at a special dinner held at St. John's Hall.

Jaelynn is a freshman at McCook Community College in McCook, NE where she is majoring in Elementary Education. She is the daughter of Jeremy and Anna Sis and has a sister Juliann. The family are members of Branch W074 in Atwood, KS.





*The gift of love,
the gift of peace
The gift of happiness...
May all these
be yours at Christmas!*

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FCSLA 2017-18 Annual Scholarship Program

More than \$248,250 in Scholarship Awards!

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA) is pleased to announce its **2017-18 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

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 28, 2017. Applications received after that date will not be considered.

Applications and further details for this program may be obtained by:

- Visit our website at www.fcsla.org
- E-mail us at Scholarship@FCSLA.org
- Call the National Headquarters at 800-464-4642, ext. 1054
- Complete the form on this page and mail it to:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

Scholarship Department

24950 Chagrin Boulevard • Beachwood, OH 44122-5634

2017-2018 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

FCSLA Host Slovak Catholic Federation National Board Meeting

The National Board of Directors of the Slovak Catholic Federation held its Fall, 2016 meeting at the home office of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association in Beachwood, OH on Tuesday, September 13. In keeping with long-standing tradition, the day began with morning prayer which was led by Msgr. Thomas Derzack, SCF National Chaplain. Father Andrew Hvozdozic, SCF National President, in his opening remarks, highlighted his trip to the Vatican for the canonization of Saint Teresa or Kolkata (Calcutta), sharing an insightful story about his personal interactions with her during a visit to the United States. In addressing the routine aspects of such meetings, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved and the required reports of the National Secretary-Treasurer and the SCF Chapters were reviewed and accepted. Father Thomas Nasta, 1st National Vice President summarized the results of the 2016 Appeal, which was enhanced by a direct mailing appeal to the SCF membership. Although there was considerable effort and some expense involved in this endeavor, it proved to be beneficial to the goal of maintaining the Federation's support of the Pontifical College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome.



Father Tom Nasta, National First Vice-President, SCF celebrates Mass in the FCSLA Board Room.

Dolores Evanko, National Secretary-Treasurer, updated the board on the status of the Conference of Slovak Religious which has essentially been inactive since the death of the most recent president. The files and information related to the conference's activities have been forwarded to the Jankola Library in Danville for review by the National Secretary-Treasurer and Sister Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SSCM. Msgr. Robert Siffrin, Chairman of the Conference of Slovak Clergy, presented the 2016 Fall Report, highlighting the departure of Monsignor Vladimir Stahovec as Rector of the Pontifical College. He was appointed pastor of a parish in Bratislava. The new Rector, Rev. Pavol Zvara, Th. Dr., PhD, SLL, was appointed

by the Conference of Slovak Bishops.

In a change from the usual schedule, Mass was celebrated at 11:30 at the FCSLA Home Office before lunch. This modification was made to accommodate the many board members who were driving to the meeting from throughout Northeast Ohio, rather than staying at the hotel overnight, allowing them an opportunity to begin their journey to Beachwood at a more reasonable hour. Lunch was provided in the FCSLA dining area allowing the members to separate into their various standing committees to meet and set goals for the upcoming year and beyond, as well as review the completion of various tasks related to the goals set at the spring meeting.



In the lobby of FCSLA headquarters, are, from left to right: Dolores Evanko, SCF secretary-treasurer; Rev. Andrew Hvozdozic, SCF president; Cynthia Maleski, FCSLA national president; and Rev. Thomas Nasta, SCF first vice-president.

The primary component under "New Business" was discussion of the quadrennial convention, planned for Fall 2017 in Youngstown, OH. The gathering will open on Sunday, September 17 with a 4 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Columba in Youngstown, followed by a dinner. Monday, September 18 and Tuesday, September 19 will be filled with all day meetings and various Federation related activities. As required by the Constitution and By-laws of the SCF, Father Andrew Hvozdozic made the declaration announcing the convention. Forms were distributed to all those present to solicit patrons for the 59th National Convention commemorative book. The deadline for submissions to the listing of patrons is August 1, 2017.

The next regular Executive Board meeting is set for Tuesday, April 4, 2017 in Danville, PA with a dinner planned for the evening before for members and guests who can participate. Looking ahead to 2018, the spring meeting will be held on April 10, 2018, with dinner and a tour of the Father Joseph Murgas Room of King's College scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on April 9th. Father Murgas was a noted inventor, artist and founder of the Slovak Catholic Federation. The rather recently opened collection and display highlight the varied and inspiring accomplishments of the legendary Slovak priest. The meeting concluded with evening prayer led by Msgr. Derzack. Many of the board members then traveled to Youngstown for a dinner hosted by the Conference of Slovak Clergy which would be meeting the next day.



L-R: Standing – Monsignor Peter Polando, National Chaplain, FCSLA; Mary Jo Savage, National Secretary, LPSCU; Father Gerard Gonda, O.S.B., President Benedictine High School; Monsignor Robert Siffrin, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, Diocese of Youngstown; Theresa Kluchinski, National President, LPSCU; Cynthia Maleski, National President, FCSLA; Stephen Hudak, Interim National Treasurer, FCSLA; Sitting L-R: Marie Golias, National Second Vice-President, SCF; Dolores Evanko, Secretary-Treasurer, SCF; Father Andrew Hvozdozic, President, SCF; Father Tom Nasta, First Vice-President, SCF.



Magdalen I. Iskra District National and District Scholarship Awards Luncheon

The Magdalen I. Iskra District recently held a luncheon to honor the 10 National and 5 District Scholarship recipients from the district. Two special award recipients were also honored. There were 56 adults and 5 children in attendance. The luncheon was held at the Best Western Genetti Hotel & Conference Center in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Anna M. Hudock, District Treasurer served as Master of Ceremonies. Mary Migatulski, District Trustee and Bernadette Yencha, Secretary of Sr. Branch 172 led the singing of the National Anthems of the United States of America and Slovakia. Magdalen I. Iskra, District President extended greetings to all in attendance. Ann Dougher, District Auditor gave the invocation.

A delicious buffet was served. After lunch, 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 was given gifts, compliments of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. After the awarding of the scholarships and gifts, District Secretary Diane Gregor gave the benediction. The program ended with the singing of "God Bless America" by everyone in attendance.

Recipients unable to attend were: Anna R. Blazes, National College Freshman Award; John V. Morris IV, National High School Junior Award; Malia R.B. Munley, National High School Sophomore Award; Sarah A. Minnick, District Graduate Award; Daniel J. Feehan, District College Fresh-

man Award; and Marissa E. Jason, District High School Freshman Award.

Congratulations to all recipients!



Seated: Jack George and Rosalie Eckert. **Standing:** John George, Peter J. George, Ryan Jon Eckert, Stephanie Eckert and Connor J. Eckert.



National, District, and Special Award Recipients — First Row: Peter J. George, National 7th Grade Award; Brianna M. Van Why, Magdalen I. Iskra Scholarship; Catherine Rose Flannery, District 3rd Grade Award; Lauren E. Shemansky, National 1st Grade Award; Ryan Jon Eckert, District 5th Grade Award; and Alina M. Guth, Frank and Joann Biros Memorial Scholarship. **Second Row:** Dylan M. Christy, National 8th Grade Award; Kristina M. Guth, National High School Junior Award; Maura J. Nerbecki, Theresa Sajan College Graduate Award; Megan Marie Smith, National College Senior Award; and Connor J. Eckert, National High School Senior Award.



Seated: Martha A. Iskra, Magdalen I. Iskra, and Megan Marie Smith. **Standing:** Mary Damiano, Jacqueline Smith, Brian Smith and Geriann Smith.



Seated: Pauline Nerbecky, Janet Nerbecky, Ann Kwak, Mary Ann Kudey, and William Greytock. **Standing:** Maura J. Nerbecky and Michele Thomas.



First Row: Catherine Rose Flannery; **Second Row:** Andrea Flannery and Michael Flannery.



Seated: Patricia Bryk, Matthew Van Why, David Bryk, Antoinette Kravits and Donna Schwalbach. **Standing:** Kelly Van Why and Brianna M. Van Why.



Seated: Nevin Christy, Donna Christy, Karen Guth, and Thomas Guth. **Standing:** Rachel Christy, Dylan M. Christy, Kristina M. Guth, and Alina M. Guth.



Seated: Thomas Shemansky, Lauren E. Shemanski, Francis Ceklosky, and Ann Dougher. **Standing:** Linda Shemansky, Theresa Ceklosky, Barbara Ceklosky, and Jo Ann Klinesmith.



Seated: Magdalen Benish, Agnes Munley, and Mary M. Migatulski. **Standing:** Anna M. Hudock, Diane Gregor, Helen Willett and Bernadette Yencha.

Additional photo on page 11

Jr. Branch 231 and Sr. Branch 169 Honors Scholarship Winners

Scholarship winners from J231 and S169 were honored at a dinner at the Avalon Inn, Warren, OH in August 2016. President Dolores Sonoga presented the winners with a monetary gift. Pictured are Aaron Slifko, J231, Dolores Sonoga, Branch President; and Brooke Bobovnyik, S169. An additional winner Kimberly Sefcik, S169 was not able to attend the dinner. She was also the recipient of the Katherine L. Sedlacko Scholarship presented by the District Family Scholarships.

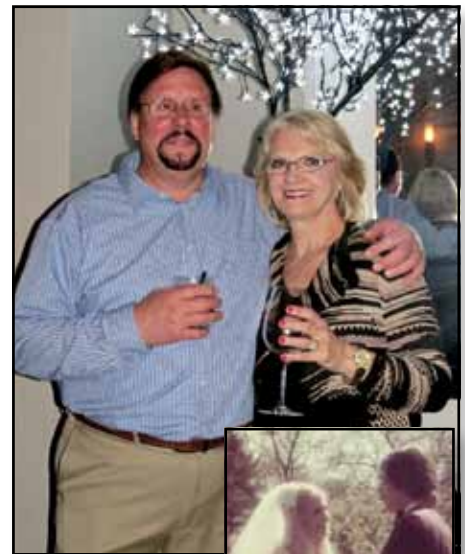


First Holy Communion



MAGDALENA ROSE MAUST received her First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 17, 2016 at Saints Philip and James Catholic Church in Meyersdale, PA. Maddie is a member of J112. She is the daughter of Susan Maust, Windber, PA and the granddaughter of Betty Sapola, Mt. Pleasant, PA.

Celebrates 40 Year Anniversary



Rita A. (Kmetz) Jordan (S128) and her husband Robert celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on May 8, 2016.

The couple's daughter Kristi and her husband Justin had a big party to celebrate with family and friends at the Parkers Grill and Tavern in Avon Lake, OH. They were married by Rita's uncle Father Bernard Slimak, OSB at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Lakewood, OH. Rita's mother was Mary Slimak Kmetz and her aunts were Sr. Mary James and Sr. Mary Martina, VSC.



10 PAY LIFE INSURANCE

Life Insurance for Families

Permanent Life Insurance purchased over a period of 10 years.

- Issue ages are 0 through 85*
- Minimum insurance amount is \$5,000 for all ages

* Maximum issue ages in Washington state differ. Residents of Washington state, please consult your FCSLA representative.

(Contract 01-WL-05)

Let's Plan Together

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

of the United States of America
a Fraternal Benefit Society domiciled in Beachwood, OH



FRATERNAL LIFE INSURANCE AND ANNUITIES

For more information, please visit us at www.fcsla.org or call (800) 464-4642

MARCH FOR LIFE

Our Presence at the 44th Annual Right to Life March on Friday, January 27, 2017 in Washington, DC is extremely important.

The FCSLA is once again offering free transportation from the FCSLA Home Office in Beachwood, OH for this very important trip. Please call Kelly at the FCSLA Home Office. Her phone number is 800-464-4642 EXT. 1051 or email her at Kelly@fcsla.org for details or questions before December 15th.

The Anna Hurban District of Chicago Celebrates 90 Years

July, 1926 in a meeting of all Chicago and neighboring lodges at St. Simon the Apostle Slovak Parish, 52nd and South California, members and officers of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA) gave birth to the Anna Hurban District of Chicago. Fast forward 90 years later and on October 8, 2016, FCSLA National Officers, current and former Anna Hurban District Officers and members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association gathered to commemorate this auspicious event through the celebration of a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Patrick Church, Lemont, IL.

Celebrant for the mass was Bishop Alberto Rojas, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago with assistance from Deacon Larry Oskielunas of St. Patrick Parish. In his homily, Bishop Rojas reminded us that the foundation of our fraternal is rooted in working for justice, which is empowered through God's love for us all.

Immediately following the mass, a luncheon for 92 mem-



Front Row L-R: Sue Raymond (S455), Jarmila Hlubocky (District Financial Secretary), Lorraine Gibas (District President), Bishop Alberto Rojas, Aux. Bishop of Chicago Archdiocese, Cynthia Maleski, National President, Fay Hlubocky (District Vice President), Gary Ledvora (District Treasurer). Back Row L-R: Jeanette Palanca (National Director & District Recording Secretary), Matus Bohacik (District Chaplain).

bers was held at the Ruffled Feathers Golf Course, also in Lemont, where everyone spent a delightful afternoon of fraternalism and sharing their favorite memories of the Chicago District with one another. The District was honored to have in attendance the following FCSLA guests: Cynthia Maleski, National President; Steve Hudak, National Treasurer; Joann Skvarek Banvich, National Director; Margaret Abildua, President of the Indiana/Joliet District and members of the Indiana District. Chicago District President, Lorraine

Gibas, welcomed the members and reminded them of the passion and purpose of our grandmothers, mothers, aunts and fraternal family who formed, sustained and led the District over the past 90 years. A moment of silence was taken to remember the District's deceased past leaders and members and to ask them to guide and inspire us as we continue to move the District forward.

In her keynote speech, Cynthia Maleski, inspired the audience with her comments about the vision and perseverance of the women who have made the District what it is today, and the importance of continuing the work and spirit of these past leaders as we move forward. District Chaplain, Matus Bohacik, led the members in prayer before and after the luncheon, and Jeanette Palanca, District Recording Secretary and National Director, introduced the



District Officers and honored guests. Gary Ledvora, District Treasurer, kept the program moving by serving as the Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon.

Ending the program the members sang both "God Bless America" and "Hej Slovaci". At the end of the day, members



Bishop Alberto Rojas, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago and Matus Bohacik, Chicago District Chaplain.



left with a small commemorative, program booklet, and gifts from the Home Office, including a copy of a photo of the District Board 40 years ago.

Many thanks to the Planning Committee, Lorraine Gibas, Jeanette Palanca, Gary Ledvora, Fay and Jarmila Hlubocky, Joyce Kelly, and Mary Therese Tylus for their hard work in coordinating this event.

Happy Birthday Anna Hurban District – may you be blessed with many more! (To see additional photos from this event go to: <http://www.fcsla.org/district/chicago/gallery.php>)



SS.C.M. Sisters Offering Christmas *Oplatky*

Oplatky, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers, will be available this holiday season from Jankola Library. Orders will be accepted until December 16, 2016.

The *Oplatky*, five in one package, are thermal-sealed and can be purchased for \$5.00 per pack. In addition, the minimum cost of shipping and handling is \$6.00 and upward, depending upon the number of packs ordered and the cost of priority mailing. Customized requests can be filled to meet your needs. Payment to Jankola Library must be made before the wafers will be shipped.

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

Magdalen I. Iskra District

Continued from Page 8



District and Branch Officers in Attendance — First Row: Anna Hajala, Anna M. Hudock, Magdalen I. Iskra, Antoinette Kravits, Mary M. Migatulski, Theresa Ceklosky, and Martha A. Iskra; Second Row: Diane Gregor, Rita R. Kcenich, Ann Dougher, Donna Schwalbach, Bernadette Yench, Ann Kwak, Patricia Bryk, and Barbara Ceklosky.

DISTRICT ANNA HURBAN OF CHICAGO JUNIOR BRANCHES GO ON A FISHING FRENZY!

In July the Chicago area branches of District Anna Hurban celebrated their annual Junior Branch summer event. This year the event went outdoors to the Monee Reservoir in Monee, IL for a day of fishing and fresh air. Children were provided with fishing poles if needed and advice on how to snag their prized fish. There were 25 attendees including members from branches J174, S258, J96, S46, J339, S287, S421,



J382 and S485. Untimely weather was a big risk in taking the event outdoors, but the group was blessed with the perfect Saturday afternoon for fishing and playing.

After some time spent fishing, guests were treated to a catered lunch of fried chicken, mostaccioli, corn and salad, followed by games for kids and adults alike. Congratulations to

Jessilyn Gibas for the biggest catch of the day!



**BIGGEST
CATCH OF
THE DAY!**



43rd Annual Slovak Day In Northwest Indiana

Sunday, July 17, 2016 marked the 43rd traditional Slovak Day celebration at the Salvatorian Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Merrillville, IN. This year's Slovak Day was dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the announcement of the establishment of the Diocese of Gary to encompass four northwest Indiana counties. Betty Yurechko, former FCSLA National Officer along with her late husband Carl, served as chairpersons for 39 years. To assist Betty and her grandson Jason in keeping up this tradition, several volunteers from the various branches of the Helen Kocan District joined the committee along with Joann Skvarek Banvich, FCSLA National Director.

Festivities began with a concelebrated Mass in the shrine by Bishop Donald Hying along with several priests of Slovak ancestry from the area. The Yurechko family presented a zucchetto belonging to Pope John Paul II to the Salvatorian Fathers to place in their new museum. This item was given to the late Carl Yurechko, but the family felt it should be memorialized for everyone to enjoy.

Following the liturgy the Salvatorian Fathers presented the new Panorama on Christianity to the Slavic Nation for all

attendees of the celebration. A luncheon was available with a wide variety of Slovak and Polish culinary specialties that could be enjoyed either in the hall or outside at the beautiful picnic grounds that are surrounded by grottos, chapels, and the Stations of the Cross. A bake sale of homemade pastries was held in addition to a water and candy sale.

This year, in the fraternal spirit that the FCSLA is known for, Sr. Branches 452 of Whiting, IN and 409 of East Chicago, IN sponsored a luncheon table for villagers and staff of the Sharing Meadows near Rolling Prairie, IN so that they could enjoy the festivities.

A cultural program was held in the afternoon featuring the skill and artistry of the Veselica Slovak Ensemble of Chicago who performed the music and dances of the various regions of Slovakia. The highlight of the program consisted of the very young members of this organization who also performed. The entire ensemble and Slovak Day Committee members are seen in the group picture below. Music for dancing was played throughout the afternoon and the festivities concluded with a cash raffle. This year's event seemed to be one of the largest and was enjoyed by all who attended.



FCSLA Art Contest Entry Winners

Kelly Shedlock, Fraternal & Youth Director

AGES 6 & UNDER

1st Place

Title of Drawing: Hello Kitty Mermaid
Name of Artist: **Clare Freaney**, Avon OH
Age: 5 — *Branch:* J-457
Quote from the Artist:
 "I wish I could have Hello Kitty Mermaid as a pet because I love to swim and we would swim and play together."

2nd Place

Title of Drawing: Maggie's Famous Horse
Name of Artist: **Maggie Sejba**, Fairlawn, OH
Age: 6 — *Branch:* J-380
Quote from the Artist:
 "I am about to ride on my horse named Margaret. She is imaginary."



First Place — Clare Freaney



Second Place — Maggie Sejba

AGES 7 – 10

1st Place

Title of Drawing: My Fur Family
Name of Artist: **Lily Lehtinen**, Cary, NC
Age: 10 — *Branch:* J-029
Name of Pets: Hermit Crab – Crystal, Cat – Calvin, Mini (black) Dachshund – Phoebe and one more mini (red) Dachshund Lucy (not in the drawing)

2nd Place

Title of Drawing: Tiny My Hermit Crab
Name of Artist: **Alexa Knapp**, Cranberry Twp., PA
Age: 10 — *Branch:* J-115
Quote from the Artist:
 "This is my hermit crab, Tiny. She loves to crawl in the sand. I love watching her."

3rd Place

Title of Drawing: Fuzzy Butt
Name of Artist: **Clare Yakich**, Brunswick, OH
Age: 9 — *Branch:* J-453
Quote from the Artist:
 "I want a bunny rabbit because a bunny is fuzzy."

Honorable Mention

Title of Drawing: My Pet Rats
Name of Artist: **Parker Lash**, Lower Burrell, PA
Age: 8 — *Branch:* J-126
Name of Pets: Super Rat & Chilly
Quote from the Artist: "They are friendly and fun to hold. They like peanuts and pineapple for treats."

Honorable Mention

Title of Drawing: Sader Pup
Name of Artist: **Briana Pavlik**, Sheffield, OH
Age: 10 — *Branch:* J-198
Name of Pet: Sadie
Quote from the Artist:
 "Sadie is sniffing her new ball outside."

Honorable Mention

Title of Drawing: I Love Koalas
Name of Artist: **Ryan Sams**, Lorain, OH
Age: 8 — *Branch:* J-198
Quote from the Artist:
 "I love koalas so much, they are so cute and fluffy."

Honorable Mention

Title of Drawing: Spike the Blowfish
Name of Artist: **Anna Yakich**, Brunswick, OH
Age: 7 — *Branch:* J-453
Quote from the Artist:
 "I like it because I like its spikes and because I like when it blows up."



First Place — Lily Lehtinen



Second Place — Alexa Knapp



Third Place — Clare Yakich

FCSLA Art Contest Entry Winners



Honorable Mention — Parker Lash



Honorable Mention — Anna Yakich



Honorable Mention — Briana Pavlik



Honorable Mention — Ryan Sams

Honorable Mention

Title of Drawing: Zesty the Mixed Breed Dog

Name of Artist: Ann Koppitch, Shaker Hts., OH

Age: 12 — *Branch:* J-355

Quote from the Artist: "Zesty happy to be home."



First Place — Virginia Kouba

AGES 11 – 13

1st Place

Title of Drawing: Puurfect Pet

Name of Artist: Virginia Kouba, Auburn, NE

Age: 13 — *Branch:* W-024

Quote from the Artist:

"My cat Stone recently died. This is the type of cat I would like to have. I would name it Cursor. I miss having a good listener around."

2nd Place

Title of Drawing: Bandit

Name of Artist: Morgan Plagens, Elkhart, IN

Age: 13 — *Branch:* J-058

Quote from the Artist:

"A picture of my dog Bandit sitting."

3rd Place

Title of Drawing: Pets

Name of Artist: Giavanna Feschuk, West Mifflin, PA

Age: 11 — *Branch:* J-018

Quote from the Artist:

"This is a cat I want. I would name it Whiskers. Instead, I own three dogs."

3rd Place

Title of Drawing: Longing for a Dog

Name of Artist: Julia Zdrojewski, Belle Vernon, PA

Age: 13 — *Branch:* J-157

Quote from the Artist:

"This is the dog I wish I could come home from school to every day, he would give me kisses."



Second Place — Morgan Plagens

Continued on Page 16

FCSLA Art Contest Entry Winners

AGES 11-13



Third Place — Giavanna Feschuk

AGES 14 – 15

1st Place

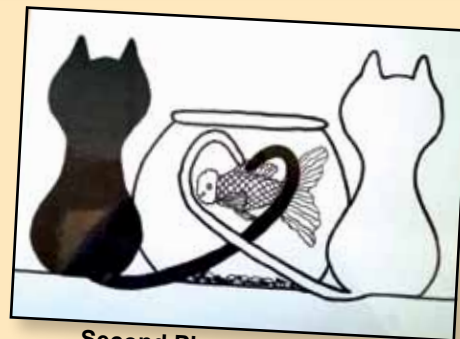
Title of Drawing: Doggie
Name of Artist: **Marisa Plagens**, Elkhart, IN
Age: 15 — Branch: J-058
Name of Pet: Bandit

2nd Place

Title of Drawing: For the Love of Pets
Name of Artist: **Mya Agee**, New
Springfield, OH
Age: 15 — Branch: J-192
Quote from the Artist:
"My two very different cats, Tiger &
Shadow and my fancy goldfish, Pearl."

3rd Place

Title of Drawing: My Dream Horse
Trots Away
Name of Artist: **Natalie Latosek**, Luzerne, PA
Age: 15 — Branch: J-362
Quote from the Artist:
"A horse, any horse I wish someday
I might have to love."



Second Place — Mya Agee



Third Place — Julia Zdrojewski



Third Place — Natalie Latosek



First Place — Marisa Plagens



Honorable Mention — Ann Koppitch

First, thank you to all who entered the 2nd Annual Art Contest!

Second, you are all WINNERS!!!

The drawings that came in were absolutely AMAZING!!! Our youngest entry was 6 and she draws better than I do! All of you are so very talented! The details of each drawing were incredible. The judges had a very tough time.

Everyone that entered received a special gift just for entering.

Congrats to our Grand Prize winners! I had to add honorable mention to the list of grand prize winners because we had so many good ones. The judges had a few that were tied and we just couldn't choose.

Once again thank you to all who submitted their drawing — you made this a very successful contest. I really enjoyed each and every drawing that came in.

I hope those who entered this year will enter again next year. And if you didn't get a chance this year, please enter next year!

Mothers and Daughters “High Tea” at Danville, PA

Sister Donna Marie, Principal of Saint Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten, pours tea at the annual Mothers’ Tea at Saint Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten in Danville.



Branch W018 Gathers at Bohemian Cafe One Last Time

On Sunday, August 28th, sixty-six adult members of Branch W018 gathered for camaraderie and the world’s best Czech food at Omaha’s Bohemian Cafe. We were our own entertainment meeting new people, reconnecting with old friends, laughing with the young and those a bit older than young.

The beloved Bohemian Cafe, in business for over 90 years, closed for good on September 24th. However, the Bohemian has been the site of many Branch W018 gatherings over the past 25 years, and members felt we owed them a final goodbye in person. While many more than the sixty-six wanted to come, the restaurant only had room for those who were lucky enough to reserve their spots first. In fact our allotted spots were taken within three days after the invitations were mailed!

The Branch paid for the meal — chicken noodle soup, roast pork, dumplings, sauerkraut or sweet and sour cabbage, rye bread. The pilsner was not included in the price, but many enjoyed the delicious beverage. Almost everyone said how much they enjoy the Bohemian Cafe and are sad to see it close. All members thanked the officers for the wonderful Branch sponsored adult activity.

Next year the Branch will have to work hard to top this well-received and appreciated activity.



(L-R) Isabel Helwig, Miranda Behm, Saumya Mehta, Victoria Want, Charlotte Mori and Adelena Mori enjoy the Mothers’ Tea at Saint Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten in Danville. Mothers and daughters gathered for a “High Tea” at the school on September 18.

Hayride Outing for Branch W137

Branch W137, Cedar Rapids, IA enjoyed great fall weather October 9, 2016 for a hayride and hot dog roast at Bass Family Farms. Forty members, young and old, took home Halloween treats and a pumpkin.

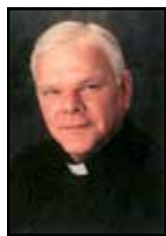


Girls sing for their mothers at the beginning of the annual Mothers’ Tea at Saint Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten in Danville.



IN MEMORIAM

FATHER EDWARD FRANCIS LAJACK, S408



Father Edward Francis Lajack, age 74, died July 25, 2016 after having received the prayerful support and consolation of the Sacraments. Edward Francis Lajack was born on January 29, 1942 in Lakewood, OH. His parents were the late Stephen A. and Mary E. (Lestinsky). He was educated at Borromeo Seminary, Wickliffe and St. Mary Seminary, Cleveland. On May 25, 1968 in St. John Bosco Church, Parma Heights, Bishop Clarence G. Issenmann ordained him to the priesthood for the service of the Diocese of Cleveland. Fr. Lajack's first assignment was as Parochial Vicar of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Cleveland. On September 25, 1968 he was transferred to St. John the Baptist, Akron to serve as Parochial Vicar. Fr. Lajack was assigned Parochial Vicar of St. Patrick (Rocky River Drive), on July 5, 1973. On June 29, 1978 he was assigned Parochial Vicar of St. Mark, Cleveland. On January 17, 1979 Fr. Lajack was named Pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius, Barberton. In addition to this assignment he served as Chaplain for the Knights of Columbus Barberton Council #1617. He also served two four-year terms as National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. He is survived by his brother Fr. Jerome M. Lajack, Senior-Priest Retired (former pastor St. Wendelin, Cleveland), sister-in-law Rita (Raymond-deceased) Lajack of Round Rock, TX, nieces Deborah (Richard) Bedell of Naperville, IL, Rita Ann (Anthony) Incristi of Rockwall, TX, and Christine (Peter) Banks of Round Rock, TX, great-nephews Christopher, Jonathan, Raymond, and great-niece Aurelia and caregiver Patricia Witkiewicz. Memorials may be made to St. Colette Parish. May Father rest in peace.

DOROTHY B. URICH, W051



Dorothy B. Urich, 97, of Garner, IA, died September 1, 2016. Dorothy Barbara Brcka, the daughter of Anton and Emma (Houdek) Brcka, was born on December 4, 1918. She attended Garfield #8 country school through the 8th grade. Dorothy then helped her father take care of her younger brother and sister and with work on the farm. On September 12, 1938 she married Rudy Urich at the St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Duncan. They made their home on his parent's farm northwest of Garner. Rudy and Dorothy moved off of the farm after 62 years to a new home in Garner in 2001. Dorothy enjoyed square dancing, baking, gardening, sewing, making over 100 quilt tops for the missions, and volunteering at Concord Care Center for many years. She was a member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Rosary Society, and was an honorary member of the Duncan Rosary Society. She also belonged to the Garfield Hobby Club and Birthday Club. Dorothy is survived by her children, Roger Urich of Garner, Robert (Billie) Urich of Oro Valley, AZ and Carmen Urich of Fort Collins, CO; and four grandchildren and their families.

THOMAS MURPHY, S414

Thomas J. Murphy, 58, of Tamaqua and Lake Hauto, PA passed away June 30, 2106 after fighting a courageous battle with cancer. Tommy was a "Good Man" who endured this devastating

disease with so much class and dignity that very few people could have matched. To the end he thought about others before himself. Tommy attended Carbon County Vo-Tech and graduated from Marian Catholic High School in 1976. He was an accomplished carpenter and wood worker. He also was a graduate of Lehigh County Community College in the HVAC program. Tommy was a member of UAW Local 524 and was working for Postoler & Jaeckle Corp. as a HVAC Technician. He also was a drummer and played in various bands in the Tamaqua area. Surviving, in addition to his parents, are companion, Mary Wills; sister, Debbie (Frank) Natitus, Trucksville; brother, Joseph, Coaldale; nephew, Frank (Liza), Perkasio; nephew and godson Daniel (Kim) Natitus, Dallas; niece, Katie (Brett) Benson, Shavertown; great-nieces and nephews; aunts and uncles; numerous cousins and wonderful friends.

WILLIAM "BILL" MALEK, W051



William "Bill" J. Malek, 84, of Britt, IA, died September 17, 2016. William Joseph Malek, the son of William G. and Lillian (Vavrik) Malek, was born April 10, 1932 in Mason City, IA. He graduated from Britt High School in 1949. Bill served his country in the U.S. Army from March of 1953 to February of 1955 in the Engineering Corps operating heavy equipment. On February 14, 1956 he married Celestine "Sally" Buzicky at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Duncan. They lived north of Britt where they farmed and raised their family. Besides farming, Bill also was a postal carrier for eighteen years. Bill was proud of his Czech heritage and enjoyed being part of the Malek Fishermen Band, playing concertina for many years. He was a member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, and the Britt VFW and American Legion where he served as past commander. Bill is survived by his three children, Daniel Malek of San Jose, CA, James (Mette) Malek of Sioux City, IA and Rosanne Malek of Urbandale, IA; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and special friend Theresa Leerar.

ANN ADELINE SIMON, W056



Ann A. Simon, 92, of Lonsdale, MN passed away June 19, 2016. Ann was a member of the IC CCW, FCSLA and Knights of Columbus Auxiliary. Her life of faithfulness to the Lord and family was her legacy to her many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Attending Mass, praying the rosary and daily prayers were very important parts of Ann's life. Ann married Ray Simon on September 14, 1943 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in New Prague. They enjoyed 67 years of marriage. They settled on a farm near Lonsdale where they raised their eight children. Ann was a dedicated dairy farm wife until 1985 when she and Ray moved to their home in Lonsdale. She was a talented homemaker, seamstress, gardener, cook and baker. Her home became the gathering place of numerous celebrations. Ann is survived by children, Ray (Marlene), Tom (Janet), Mike (Sandie), Dick (Roxanne), Mary (Darl) Rah, Tony (Mary), Joe (Sandy); daughter-in-law, Marcia; 33 grandchildren; 48 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Marion Skluzacek; siblings, Elsie (George) Tupy, Jim (Joanie) Skluzacek; and by many loving relatives and friends.

JAMES T. SHIREK, W092



James Thomas Shirek, 89, of Lakota, ND, died June 25, 2016 in Devils Lake, ND. He grew up in Perth Township, Walsh County, ND and attended Lambert #73 Country School. After school he went to work farming with his dad on the family farm. James married Stella Mayer on October 30, 1950 at the Bechyne Church. The couple farmed for 25 years, and then James went to work for Michigan Implement. He later worked for SSR Pump and farmed for Chuck Bina until he retired at age 80. James and Stella moved to Lakota, ND in 2014. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, playing cards, and mostly spending time with his family, grandkids, and great-grandkids. James served on elevator, school, and township boards. He was on the board of directors for Bechyne Heritage Hall. Jimmy T. is survived by his wife of 65 years, Stella Shirek, Lakota, ND; children, Beverly (James) Sommerfeld, Horace, ND, James M. Shirek, rural Lankin, ND, Randy (Joy) Shirek, Minot, ND, Patricia (Harley) Wallace, San Tan Valley, AZ, and Anthony (Laura) Shirek, Rochester, MN; nine grandchildren; four great grandchildren; sister, Marcy Oppegaard, Lakota, ND; and numerous nieces and nephews.

DOROTHY D'ANDREA (KUSNIR), S422

Dorothy D'Andrea, 81, of Niles, OH entered into eternal life June 27, 2016. She was a graduate of St. Mary's High School. A Packard Electric 1999 retiree, Dorothy worked as an assembler for over 30 years. She enjoyed crocheting and knitting. Dorothy was very active in the lives of her grandchildren, and was always very supportive of each of their dreams and accomplishments. They truly were the "apple of her eye". Dorothy will be sadly missed by her three sons John J. D'Andrea of Niles; Michael A. (Cathy) D'Andrea of Niles and Robert J. (Jill) D'Andrea of Hartford; two brothers Thomas (Jan) Kusnir of Warren and John (Nancy) Kusnir of Port St. Lucie, FL and seven grandchildren.

MARY SAWCZAK, S184

Mary (Thompson) Sawczak, 88, of Carteret, NJ died on June 30, 2016. She was born in Carteret and was a life-long resident. Mary was a retired seamstress. She was a parishioner of Divine Mercy Parish-Sacred Heart of Jesus RC Church in Carteret. She is predeceased by her husband, Anthony Sawczak, who died on April 26, 2013. Mary is survived by her two brothers, Vincent Thompson and his wife, Renee and John Thompson and his wife, Ann; her sister-in-law, Genevieve Kurdyla; and several nieces and nephews.

AGNES HELEN LAZAR, S45

Agnes Helen Lazar, 92, of Hazleton died June 29, 2016 at Celtic Hospice, Wilkes-Barre, PA. She was a member of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church, Hazleton, and a 1941 Hazleton High School graduate. Agnes enjoyed gardening, flowers, baking, traveling to see family, trips to California and Mexico, and making ethnic Slovak foods. She was employed as a nursing attendant during World War II by Harrisburg State Hospital, a cafeteria worker by St. Joseph's Memorial School, Hazleton, and later was a homemaker. Preceding her in death, in addition to her parents, was her husband, George

T., in 1998. Surviving are her daughter, Helen and her husband, Dr. Peter Sidlauskas, Escondido, CA; sons, George A. and his wife, Pamela, and Mark E., both of Millersburg; and Richard and his wife, JoEllen, Harleigh; two grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Agnes was the oldest and the last surviving member of her immediate family.

DARRYL ALLEN LANGSHAW, S555



Darryl Allen Langshaw, 37, was taken too soon from this world on July 3, 2016. Darryl was a 1997 graduate of Solon High School and went on to complete a Master's Degree in Business Administration at Gannon University in 2002 where he was a proud member of the TKE fraternity. He was a Manager at Forest City Capital Corporation and a dedicated employee since 2004. He will be remembered for his kind and caring heart and his unconditional support. Darryl was known for his sense of humor and his magnetic personality. He was active in the Greater Cleveland Partnership, Young Professionals through Forest City. Darryl leaves behind his loving wife, Kristi (McClaran), whom he married on August 30, 2008. He is also survived by his two beautiful daughters Adalyn (4) and Miyla (1), who were his pride and joy and the light of his life. Also surviving are his parents Dale and Nancy Langshaw; sister, Dawn (John) Burke; twin nieces, Kayleigh and Keira; Uncle Don (Kathy) Langshaw, Uncle Doug Langshaw; mother-in-law Kathleen McClaran and brother-in-law Ryan McClaran. Darryl's memory will be carried on by his wife, daughters, family and friends, and by all those whose lives he touched.

JOAN M. GRISSO, S457



Joan M. Grisso, 82, of Clarksburg, WV, passed away on July 4, 2016 in Pittsburgh, PA. Joan was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, John Paul Grisso, on January 18, 2006. Joan is survived by her two sons, John S. Grisso and wife Maria of Pittsburgh, PA, and Michael Grisso and companion Kimberly Kinkelaar of Bridgeport, WV; three granddaughters and three great-grandchildren. Joan was a graduate of St. Mary's High School and a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church where she enjoyed taking part in the local "birthday club" with her friends. Over the years she worked at Minard's Spaghetti Inn, Green Acres Supper Club, and Dave's Restaurant, where her very social and vibrant nature made her well known to the many patrons. She enjoyed dancing at Green Acres with her sister Thelma and singing with the local musicians including Sam Bettini. Joan loved music, especially Frank Sinatra, as she would dance along to his tunes while working in her kitchen.

JOSEPH FRANK MALECEK, S149

Joseph Frank Malecek, 97, of Belle Plaine, IA died July 9, 2016. Joe graduated from Belle Plaine High School in 1936. Following high school, Joe was asked to tend to the farming and to his widowed mother. On November 24, 1947, he married Leona Marie Hala from Toledo, IA. Together they raised their family of seven children: Bonnie Pitz of Belle Plaine, who was married to the late



IN MEMORIAM

Dave Pitz in Newton; Gerald (Annie) Malecek of Sparta, GA; Donna (Gary) Mosbrucker of Johnstown, PA; JoAnn (Bill) Robb of Webster City; Don (Carol) Malecek of Fairfax; Teresa (Bob) Hermesen of Belle Plaine; and Tim (Anne) Malecek of Marion. During the early years of their 64 year marriage they briefly lived near Dysart and the New Hartford area. Later they moved back to the family farm in Belle Plaine. Before retiring he worked for the Chicago Northwestern Railroad. He is survived by his seven children; his sister, Mary Thorman; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Milo and Juanita Hala of Toledo; 25 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and 28 nieces and nephews. Joe was a kind gentleman. He was honest and humble; loved his wife and his children, always encouraging them to put their best foot forward.

LORETTA Q. MAYLATH, S299



Loretta Q. Maylath, 87, of Wallingford, PA passed away peacefully on July 8, 2016. She was a graduate of Conyngham High School with the class of 1946. Loretta was a woman who was dedicated to her home and family. She also worked for several years as a bookkeeper for Nilon Brothers. She was a long-time member of St. John Chrysostom Church. She enjoyed playing bridge, painting and doing puzzles. She also enjoyed sports and was an active bowler and tennis player. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Lewis A. Maylath; daughter, Kathleen Maylath; son, Richard Maylath (Barbara); two grandchildren; sister, Margaret Chapman. In lieu of flowers, donations in her name can be made to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org/donate.

ANN M. (HUDAK) KOZAR, S161



Ann M. (Hudak) Kozar, 87, Youngstown, OH passed away on July 9, 2016. She was lovingly called "Ainka" or "Little Ann" by her family and friends. She was the beloved wife of the late William Kozar. Ann attended Campbell Memorial High School and worked at Kohlers Dry Cleaning, the Mural Room and the Youngstown Letter Shop. Those who knew Ann remember her as a loving, kind, and giving person. She was devoted to her family and her church. She was an excellent cook and baker, and nothing made her happier than to prepare a wonderful meal and gather her children and grandchildren together around the table to enjoy it. Ann was a member of St. Matthias Sacred Heart and Rosary Society, the Senior Golden Echoes, and the Infant of Prague Guild. She volunteered at the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen, St. Paul the Apostle Piroghy, and the Touched by Nathan Foundation. She is survived by her daughters, AnnMarie (Jerry) Hiznay of New Springfield, Kathleen Doyle of Chardon, and Mary Ellen "Mer" (Will) Michael of Boardman; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. The family requests that memorial contributions in Ann's memory to Hospice of the Valley or the Touched by Nathan Foundation.

DOROTHY E. OLAH, S70

Dorothy E. Olah, 92, formerly of New Jersey, died peacefully on July 13, 2016. She was the wife of the late Joseph J. Olah. Dorothy is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Karen and

Justin Wharton; her grandsons Ben from Berkeley, CA and Jake from Philadelphia, PA. Dorothy cherished her relationship with her sister-in-law, Virginia Olah, and her dear friends, Shirlee Belli, and Richard and Elsbeth Hill. Dorothy was a kind, selfless and caring person, always putting others before herself. Her sense of humor and positive attitude brightened the lives of all who knew her. There are not enough words to express the kindness she extended to everyone! Dorothy loved taking care of animals. She especially enjoyed feeding the birds and squirrels from her window every day! In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to the Animals Rescue League in Brewster, MA.

ANDREW G. KOMAR, S182



Andrew G. Komar, 92, left this life July 10, 2016, to enter eternal life in Heaven with his beloved wife, Margaret, who passed away April 1, 2013 and his son, Joseph, who passed away April 23, 1963. He was a U.S. Navy Veteran, serving on the USS Attu, an aircraft carrier, proudly serving our country during World War II in the South Pacific Islands. He married Margaret Piskura on May 7, 1949 and together they had five children: Andrea (Tim) Rowzer, Thomas, Paula (William) Saverling, Joseph (deceased), and Jayne (Matt) Vizzini. They also had eleven grandchildren; and fifteen great-grandchildren. He worked as a coal miner most of his life. He was General Foreman at Bethlehem Mine 78 in Windber, PA and Mine 73 and retired in 1988. He enjoyed fishing and hunting and was an excellent woodworker which kept him busy the last few years. He could fix anything. After his wife's passing, he came to live with his daughter Paula and son-in-law Bill. He was always building something, which he would then give out as gifts.

HELEN S. BAKER, S161



Helen S. Baker, 92, Youngstown, OH passed away on July 17, 2016. Helen graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School and then worked at General Electric. She was a member of St. Matthias Church. She enjoyed her family, as well as, traveling, gambling, cooking and gardening. Helen belonged to several clubs including Red Hats and Sokols. She leaves behind to cherish her memories, several nieces who were her caregivers, Frances Martin, JoJo Yosten, Terry Bury, Trisha Lyons and Jodi Pacella; she also leaves Lana Philips and Carol DeFiore; and many more nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. The Baker family requests that in lieu of flowers, that a donation is made to Paisley House or to Senior Independence Hospice in Helen's name.



Youngstown District Honors Scholarship Winners

The Youngstown District honored its 24 scholarship winners at a dinner in August at the Avalon Inn, Warren, OH. Emma Burin, President of Branch 422, which hosted the event, welcomed the 140 attendees and congratulated winners. She also thanked the parents and grandparents who had originally bought insurance policies for these students.

President Bernadette Demechko, thanked the committee which included Co-Chairperson, Sandi Saluga, Branch Financial Secretary. The room was festive with potted miniature pink roses centering the tables.

Bernadette dispensed with the meeting but did speak on perpetuating Slovak values and heritage. She pointed out that since northeast Ohio has many ethnic groups living in the area, there is not a single Sunday during the summer where you can't attend a Slovak, Polish, Italian, or other ethnic festival. She pointed out, as the students spread out across the United States and go to colleges out of state and eventually live far from the area, it will be more difficult to be reminded of their Slovak heritage. She noted recently a member who 15 years ago had won a scholarship and was at a scholarship dinner at that time, contacted her and asked her to "write-up" an annuity for her. In her email she said, "Now that I am involved in a thriving medical business and doing quite well out here in the west, I want to show my appreciation for the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA) for its original assistance." Bernadette continued, "Don't forget the FCSLA when you are financially secure and always stay close to your family and faith."

Bernadette then called each Branch President forward and she, in turn, introduced the winner(s) of her Branch.

FCSLA Scholarships from St. Patrick's Branch W191

St. Patrick's FCSLA Branch W191 presented eleven Catholic grade school scholarships to students of St. Patrick's Catholic School in Lincoln. Fr. Troy Schweiger is shown with some of the scholarship recipients and their families. They enjoyed a social with the parish by serving donuts and coffee after the 10 a.m. mass.



Each winner spoke briefly on his/her goals, current studies, and extracurricular activities.

Agnes Lisko, family representative of the Katherine L. Sedlacko Family Trust Scholarship, stated Kimberly Sefcik, Branch 169, Warren, OH, was being awarded the Sedlacko Scholarship. Since Kimberly was already at the University of Pittsburgh, her parents accepted the award on her behalf.



Agnes Lisko (center) visits with Mary Ann and David Sefcik, whose daughter, Kimberly, is working toward a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree at the University of Pittsburgh.

Patricia Granchay, President of Branch 156, presented the Ann S. Granchay District Scholarship to Kelly Passmore, Branch 161, Newtown Falls, who is attending Youngstown State University.

After prayers for the deceased members of the District, the meeting was adjourned.



Youngstown District Scholarship winners honored at luncheon. Seated L-R: Christopher Leombruno; District President, Bernadette Demechko; Brooke Merrell; Aaron Slifka; Jeffrey Pezzuto; Nicholas Shannon; Standing L-R: Emily Wolfgang; Joseph Shushok; Gabrielle Fellows; Kelly Passmore (winner of Anna S. Granchay District Scholarship); Brooke Boovnyik; and Mya Agee.

Sr. Branch 114 Annual Meeting and Christmas Party

St. Ann Sr. Branch 114 invites all of its members to our Annual Meeting and Christmas Party. It will be held on Sunday, December 18th at 1:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway in Lorain, OH. The party includes door prizes and a late lunch. Please make your reservations no later than December 13th by phoning Bernie Danevich at 440-960-2605 or Marge Thomas at 440-288-1492.

Attended Annual Jednota Slovak Mass

Four members of Jr. Branch 158 (Egypt, PA) attended the annual Jednota Slovak Mass at the National Shrine of the Basilica, Crypt Church, in Washington, DC, on September 18, 2016. Members Matthew (11), Steven (10), Candice (10), and Christian (8) McNeill of McLean, VA attended the service which was conducted in Slovak. Their grandmother, Margaret Buss, is a member of Sr. Branch 319 (Catasauqua, PA).



Branch W018 Recognizes Scholarship Winners

Branch W018 recognized nine junior members who received First Catholic Slovak Association scholarships from the National Office or from the Branch. The recipients and their families were the guests of honor at the Branch-sponsored dinner at the Spaghetti Works in the Old Market in Downtown Omaha.

At the conclusion of dinner, President Bob Hladik, Sr. and Branch Scholarship coordinator Julianne Popelka presented each junior member a certificate of recognition.

Those being honored at the National Level were Sophia Adamek (5th Grade Elementary); Jonathan Keenan (College Junior); and Hailey Zuroske (High School Sophomore).

Those honored at the Branch level were Cooper Hladik (K-4 Elementary); Katie Peterson (High School); Benedict Rice (5-8 Elementary); Luke Rice (5-8 Elementary); William Rice (High School); and Colin Zuroske (K-4 Elementary).

Branch W018 is very proud of all these young men and women!

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF JULY 31, 2016

ASSETS	
Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 20,359,340
Bonds	792,950,856
Preferred Stock	2,005,553
Common Stock	4,683,045
Investment Income Due & Accrued	12,601,592
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	5,464,809
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,822,361
Other Assets	8,282,274
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 849,169,829
LIABILITIES	
Life Reserves	\$ 253,046,058
Annuity Reserves	479,833,326
Death Claims Payable	2,659,523
Unearned Premiums	477,977
Matured Endowments	343,211
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,400,000
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,434,567
Accrued Convention Donations	189,000
Provision for Future Conventions	117,000
Asset Valuation Reserve	7,675,823
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,128,154
Other Liabilities	1,543,626
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 752,848,265
Surplus	\$ 96,321,564
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 849,169,829

INCOME STATEMENT For the Seven Months Ending July 31, 2016

REVENUE	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 2,026,292
Annuity Premiums	36,380,324
Investment Income	24,086,681
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	101,820
Rental Income	232,897
Other Revenue	5,321
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 62,833,334
EXPENSE	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ (682,938)
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	32,071,296
Insurance Benefits	4,367,392
Annuity Benefits	15,460,564
Commission Expense	1,013,894
Surrender Benefits	2,703,440
Post Mortem Benefits	815,331
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	46,228
Matured Endowments	9,611
Donation Expenses	56,511
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	147,000
Convention Expenses	89,521
Bank Service Charges	57,972
Data Processing Service Fees	175,176
Accounting Fees	76,322
Actuarial Fees	144,206
Legal Fees	250,765
Consulting Fees	68,363
Bonus to Branches	485,100
Fraternal Activities	88,910
Official Publications	249,165
Scholarship Awards	155,723
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	196,207
Fees — Directors	99,394
Salaries — Employees	843,308
Salaries — Officers	266,813
Interest Expense	166,075
Tax Expense	165,449
Depreciation Expense	146,540
Utility Expense	50,944
Postage and Printing	108,694
Advertising	54,058
Travel Expense	66,087
Insurance Department Fees	102,099
Sales Promotion	83,773
Rental Expense	232,897
Other Expense	255,208
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 60,687,098
Income (Loss) from Operations	\$ 2,146,236
Dividends to Members	810,807
Subtotal Income (Loss)	\$ 1,335,429
Capital Gains (Loss)	25,476
NET INCOME (Loss)	\$ 1,360,905



Holiday Gift Giving

THE MOST WONDERFUL GINGERBREAD COOKIES

3 cups all-purpose flour
 1½ teaspoons baking powder
 ¾ teaspoon baking soda
 ¼ teaspoon salt
 1 tablespoon ground ginger
 1¼ teaspoons ground cinnamon
 ¼ teaspoon ground cloves
 6 tablespoons unsalted butter
 ¾ cup dark brown sugar
 1 large egg
 ½ cup molasses
 2 teaspoons vanilla
 1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest (optional)

In a small bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, ginger, cinnamon, and cloves until well blended.

In a large bowl (KitchenAid's great for this) beat butter, brown sugar, and egg on medium speed until well blended.

Add molasses, vanilla, and lemon zest and continue to mix until well blended. Gradually stir in dry ingredients until blended and smooth.

Divide dough in half and wrap each half in plastic and let stand at room temperature for at least 2 hours or up to 8 hours.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Prepare baking sheets by lining with parchment paper. (Dough can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 4 days, but in this case it should be refrigerated. Return to room temp before using.)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease or line cookie sheets with parchment paper. Place 1 portion of the dough on a lightly floured surface. Sprinkle flour over dough and rolling pin. Roll dough to a scant ¼-inch thick.

Use additional flour to avoid sticking. Cut out cookies with a ginger bread man cutter.

Space cookies 1½-inches apart. Bake one sheet at a time for 7-10 minutes (the lesser time will give you softer cookies). Remove cookie sheet from oven and allow the cookies to stand until the cookies are firm enough to move to a wire rack. After cookies are cool you may decorate them any way you like.

TRIED & TRUE FABULOUS SUGAR COOKIES

3 cups flour
 1 cup granulated sugar
 1½ teaspoons baking powder
 ½ teaspoon salt
 1 cup soft butter
 1 egg, slightly beaten
 3 tablespoons cream
 1 teaspoon vanilla (can substitute almond extract)

ICING

⅓ cup Crisco or ⅓ cup of softened butter
 1 pound of confectioners sugar
 About ¼ cup of milk
 1 teaspoon of vanilla

Sift dry ingredients, cut in butter and add other ingredients. Blend thoroughly; chill for several hours.

Break off a piece of dough the size of an orange and pat it flat in your hand. Using a rolling pin, roll dough on floured board (best to use a 2/1 ratio of flour/sugar - 4 tablespoons flour mixed with 2 tablespoons sugar) or between wax paper. (It helps if you flour both sides of the dough.) Roll out to about a ¼ inch thickness. Cut out and put on parchment lined or ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 5-8 minutes at 400 degrees. Remove the cookies from the oven as soon as you see them turning color at the base of the cookie. Let cool completely.

Mix icing ingredients together until smooth. Separate into different bowls, add food coloring to achieve various colors. Spread on cookies with a butter knife, use cake decorating piping equipment to add decorative accents. If you want the sprinkle type decorating candies to stick, brush the cookie with clear Karo syrup and then sprinkle. Makes 5 dozen.

ICING

2 cups confectioners sugar, sifted
 ½ teaspoon almond extract
 ¼ cup milk
 Food coloring

To make icing, combine sugar, almond extract and just enough milk (about ¼ cup) to make the frosting the consistency of thin glue. Pour icing into shallow bowls wide enough for dipping cookies. Add food coloring.

To decorate, dip the topside of each cookie into the icing. Remove quickly and let icing drip of excess back into the icing bowl. Let dry. Pour additional colored

frosting into pastry piping, or use a plastic sandwich bag with the tip of one corner nicked off. Gently squeeze frosting on to cookies in whatever patterns you choose.

CHRISTMAS ALMOND BARS

2 cups white sugar
 ¼ cup light corn syrup
 ½ cup water
 1 pinch salt
 2 egg whites
 ⅔ cup almonds
 35 caramels
 2 tablespoons water
 24 ounces milk chocolate chips

In a medium saucepan, combine sugar, corn syrup and ½ cup water. Bring to a boil and add salt. Heat to 270 to 290 degrees fahrenheit, or until a small amount of syrup dropped into cold water forms hard, but pliable threads. While the syrup is cooking, beat the egg whites in the metal bowl of an electric mixer until stiff peaks form. When the syrup is ready, set the mixer to low speed, remove the syrup from the heat, and pour it into the egg whites in a thin stream, blending continuously.

Continue to mix until the nougat begins to thicken to the consistency of a soft dough, about 20 minutes. Lightly grease a 9x9 inch baking dish. Mix in almonds and press nougat into prepared dish. Chill in refrigerator until firm, about 30 minutes.

In a small saucepan over low heat, melt the caramels with water. Pour melted caramel over nougat. Chill in refrigerator 30 minutes. Cut the chilled candy into 14 oblong bars with a sharp knife. In a microwave-safe bowl, microwave chocolate until melted. Stir occasionally until chocolate is smooth. Dip bars into melted chocolate, let cool 2 hours on wire rack or waxed paper. Makes 14 bars.

OATMEAL COOKIES

1 cup of shortening
 1 cup of sugar
 2 eggs
 1½ cups of flour
 ½ cup of raisins (nuts or chocolate chips may be substituted)
 1 cup of oats
 1 teaspoon of vanilla
 1 teaspoon of baking soda
 ½ teaspoon of salt
 ½ teaspoon of cinnamon
 ¼ teaspoon of nutmeg

Cream shortening, sugar, eggs and vanilla together. Add and mix in oats.

Mix in the other dry ingredients. Refrigerate until chilled (several hours). Create walnut sized balls and place them on an ungreased cookie sheet. Press each ball flat with a sugared glass. Bake 10 to 12 minutes at 375 degrees. Cool completely and then sprinkle with confectioners sugar before serving.

PERIODICAL

12/16

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.