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FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

Fraternally Yours, ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA®



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Christmas Expectations

What do you envision when you think of Christmas? Smoke curling from chimneys into cold skies? Children watching for Santa Claus with his sleigh full of toys? The smell of Christmas cookies wafting through the house? The sound of Christmas music on the stereo? Being in the middle of the frantic last minute rush to find the perfect presents?

It is easy to conjure Christmas images because there is no season of the year so full of nostalgia and ripe with expectation. It is hard not to become excited about the approach of this joyous occasion. Visions of sugar plums, or their contemporary equivalent, dance in our heads as our favorite carols are played on the radio and our environment is transformed to reflect the coming holiday.

But I wonder, have you ever been disappointed by Christmas? Did you expect something for Christmas that didn't materialize? Maybe you were looking for a bonus in your pay check that wasn't there or you were expecting someone to come home for the holiday who didn't arrive. Maybe you didn't receive the present you were looking for — the latest video game or I Phone or tablet? Maybe you just had this feeling of anticipation for something that just never happened.

Christmas can be that way. We can build up. With the approach of the holiday, we begin living in a state of perpetual excitement, building up hopes and dreams that the holiday doesn't always fulfill. When the season passes and winter sets in, we feel sad and let down. This is one reason people often feel depressed after the holiday.

That's too bad because you know what the real message of Christmas is about? It's about what we don't expect. That's right. Christmas isn't about what we expect; it's about what we don't expect.

Think about it. Zechariah and Elizabeth didn't expect to have a baby in their old age. Mary didn't expect to become the mother of the Son of God. She couldn't believe it when the angel told her. "Why, I'm not even married", she said. Joseph didn't expect his young bride to be pregnant. Herod didn't expect to be disturbed by word of the Child. The shepherds didn't expect to see angels in their fields. The Magi didn't expect to find the Savior of the world born in a manger in a poor little country village like Bethlehem. The whole thing was a surprise. God surprised everybody that first Christmas.

And when you think about Jesus' teachings, you realize that surprise is in the nature of who God is. God is full of surprises.

The meek shall inherit the earth. Think about that. That's really a surprise, isn't it? When you look around and see the people who shove and push and talk the loudest getting ahead of everybody else, you wonder about the meek. The first shall be last and the last first. That's another winner. The high and the mighty going into heaven behind the lowly and the poor....

You see, it isn't a matter of what we're expecting for Christmas. It's what we don't expect. That's what we ought to be looking for, what we don't expect because that's the way God is. God is a God of surprises.

I don't have anything against traditional Christmas celebrations. In fact, I love them. I enjoy the trees and lights, family dinners and music and presents, and all the rest. But we ought to realize that God may have some surprises in store for us this Christmas. God doesn't always come to us in the old familiar ways, so be open to hearing and seeing God's surprises. God may speak to us in a new way, or in a new place where we least expect it. The surprises of God! We never know what they will be or when they are coming, but the word of the gospel is that they are present and that they do come. This is what Christmas is really all about.

Dear Friends,

Remember this Christmas . . .

"It's sharing your gifts, not purchasing gifts; It's not wrapping presents, it's being present and wrapping your arms around the ones you love; It's not getting Christmas cards out on time,

It's sending any card, anytime, at the right time; It's not having the biggest and best Christmas light display,

It's displaying the light of Christ that shines from your heart; It's not Santa coming down the chimney,

It's Jesus coming down from heaven in the form of a baby, and giving us the gift of eternal life."

Merry Christmas!

Until Next Month,
Warmly, Carolyn

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In the opening words of his pontifical infallible teaching entitled *Ineffabilis Deus* that was pronounced and defined on 8 December 1854, His Holiness, Pope Pius IX began his Apostolic Constitution with the following paragraph. "God Ineffable – whose ways are mercy and truth, whose will is omnipotence itself, and whose wisdom 'reaches from end to end mightily, and orders all things sweetly' – having foreseen from all eternity the lamentable wretchedness of the entire human race which would result from the sin of Adam, decreed, by a plan hidden from the centuries, to complete the first work of His goodness by a mystery yet more wondrously sublime through the Incarnation of the Word. This He decreed in order that man who, contrary to the plan of Divine Mercy had been led into sin by the cunning malice of Satan, should not perish; and in order that what had been lost in the first Adam would be gloriously restored in the Second Adam. From the very beginning, and before time began, the eternal Father chose and prepared for His only-begotten Son a Mother in whom the Son of God would become incarnate and from whom, in the blessed fullness of time, He would be born into this world. Above all creatures did God so love her that truly in her was the Father well pleased with singular delight. Therefore, far above all angels and all the saints so wondrously did God endow her with the abundance of all heavenly gifts poured from the treasury of His divinity that this mother, ever absolutely free of all stain of sin, all fair and perfect, would possess that fullness of holy innocence and sanctity than which, under God, one cannot even imagine anything greater, and which, outside of God, no mind can succeed in comprehending fully". This first paragraph of the papal definition teaches the members of the Church what had been believed and practice from the Tradition of the Catholic Church.

Although there is no direct biblical mention of the im-

maculate conception of Saint Ann with the Blessed Mother, in the Church's deposit of Faith from Pope Pius IX and onwards Catholics formally acknowledged that from the moment that Saint Ann conceived the Blessed Mother the stain of original sin was excluded from her soul. How many times we Catholics have prayed the ejaculations: Mother of grace; Mother most pure; Mother most chaste; Mother most inviolate; Mother undefiled; Spiritual vessel; Vessel of honor; Singular vessel of devotion; Queen of Virgins; and, Queen conceived without sin [From the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Litany of Loreto)] approved by His Holiness, Pope Sixtus V in 1587]. The Bishops of the United States of America unanimously proclaimed the Blessed Mother under the title of Mary Conceived without Sin as the patroness of the United States on 13 May 1846 and was approved by His Holiness, Pope Pius IX in a decree published on 2 July 1847. The church dedicated to Mary in our nation's capital reflects this patronage as is titled the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the campus of The Catholic University of America in Northeast Washington.

Saint Anselm wrote of the Blessed Mother in these words that are read throughout the world on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception from the Office of Readings in Liturgy of Hours (the Breviary): "To Mary God gave his only-begotten Son, whom he loved as himself. Through Mary God made himself a Son, not different but the same, by nature Son of God and Son of Mary. The whole universe was created by God, and God was born of Mary. God created all things, and Mary gave birth to God. The God who made all things gave himself form through Mary, and thus he made his own creation. He who could create all things from nothing would not remake his ruined creation without Mary. God, then, is the Father of the created world and Mary the mother of the re-created world. God is the Father by whom all things were given life, and Mary the mother through whom all things were given new life. For God begot the Son, through whom all things were made, and Mary gave birth to him as the Savior of the world. Without God's Son, nothing could exist; without Mary's Son, nothing could be redeemed. Truly the Lord is with you, to whom the Lord granted that all nature should owe as much to you as himself."

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you!

Christmas Oplatky – 2017

Oplatky, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers, will be available this holiday season from Jankola Library. Orders will be accepted until December 15, 2017. 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 \$7.00 and upward depending upon the number of packets ordered and the cost of priority mailing. Customized requests can be filled to meet your needs. Payment to Jankola Library is expected before receiving an order. For more information or to place an order contact Sister Catherine Labouré Bresnock, SS.C.M. at 570-275-5606 or write to Jankola Library and Slovak Museum 580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

PLEASE NOTE!

Annual Branch Christmas Party articles and photos will be in the January – March 2018 issues. Any articles and photos received after February 10th, 2018 will be held for use only if space allows in futures issues of *Fraternally Yours*.

Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Dear fellow members,

With pride and gratitude for the hard work and leadership of past generations, to our present leaders and with hope for the success and progress for generations to come we complete our 125th anniversary year after an array of celebrations and gatherings, beginning with our National Gala weekend on July 29-30, 2017. We thank our 125th

Anniversary Steering Committee, with, Msgr. Peter Polando, Sue Ann Seich, Jean Buday, Irene Drotleff, Mary Ann Johaneck, Barbara Waller, Carolyn Bazik, Barbara Sekerak, Kelly Shedlock, Katherine Bowes, Jeanette Palanca, Steve Hudak and myself working with all volunteer leaders and employees who made the events a success.

As Anna Hurban said many times, we are the keepers of hearth and home. Even though times have changes dramatically during these 125 years, we must recall every day that we need to keep the essence of our "home" through our teaching of our faith to our families, our time honored traditions and our rituals. In this way, our values are passed on to future generations and embedded in the mindset of our children, grandchildren, other family members and others whose lives we touch. We must remind ourselves to keep going back to these basics, especially in this season of Advent and Christmas.

I have chosen our Christmas Eve Supper, (or vilija in Slovak) as the centerpiece of this article. We share this wonderful and holy custom with many other Slav nationalities, including Czechs and Poles. The word itself comes from the Latin "vigilare" which means "to wait". We spend



"Security Faith Traditions"

Christmas Eve sharing a meatless meal, because it is the last day of Advent. We eagerly anticipate the appearance of the first star on this holy night, the night of the birth of the Christ Child.

The insert here outlines the traditional Christmas Eve Supper menu from our famous Slovak-American Cookbook. It was first published in 1952 in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. The Cookbook was chosen by Town and Country magazine as part of its feature article on America's Best Community Cookbooks and made top listing by Cuisine Magazine.

Most of all, it contains authentic recipes shared by officers, members and friends as a recipe for love and tradition passed on through generations.

Happy 125th Anniversary, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association!!

With Love, Gratitude and Pride,

Cynthia M. Maleski
National President

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE SUPPER MENU

(taken from "FCSLA Slovak-American Cookbook")

Oplatky (Christmas Wafers)

Wine

Mushroom Soup

Bobalky

Honey

Pagach

Fish Beans Peas Sauerkraut

Mixed Dried Fruits or Stewed Prunes

Assorted Fresh Fruits

Nut and Poppyseed Rolls

Coffee

Mixed Nuts

Rozky

The traditional Christmas Eve Supper is prepared with home grown crops. The meal, therefore, varies in different parts of Slovakia. Varieties of soups are served. For example, some people serve mushroom soup, others serve sauerkraut soup with mushrooms poured over a serving of mashed potatoes, which were combined with browned onions. Another soup served on another part of Slovakia is the lima bean and prune soup. The dried fruits are grown on their own soil.

Footprints in the Snow

One white and wintry Christmas Eve
In a village, not long ago,
A young child took a journey,
Leaving footprints in the snow.
Clutched within her tiny hand
She carried a small tattered heart,
Fashioned from scraps of cloth,
Wrapped in the charm of childlike art.

A manger scene of wood and straw
Was the child's destination.
Her only Christmas wish,
To join Christ's birthday celebration,
She placed her precious handmade gift
Upon the straw with care,
And before she turned to leave,
Whispered a simple prayer.

The villagers who stood nearby
Recall that night with awe,
Retelling every detail
Of the miracle they saw...
A second set of footprints
Appeared next to the girl's own.
They seemed to walk right by her side,
To see her safely home.

But there's no mystery in the presence
Of this unseen Friend –
For once God's touched your heart,
You'll never walk alone again.

~ Author Unknown ~

I have received calls and notes saying I miss reading your articles in the magazine. I am truly touched. It means more to me than you know. My aunt passed away earlier this year and I had several people ask where I was because they wanted to meet me and let me know they loved reading my articles – even before they said hi to my parents! I was blown away by that – and I know my Aunt Marie was laughing from above.



It has been a very busy year with our 125th Anniversary celebration and mergers.

I am still here and hopefully I will be able to submit a few articles next year.

I would like to send out a "Fraternal Welcome" to all our new members from PUNA & PWAA. I hope you enter some of the contests I put in the magazine – I LOVE sending our members gifts!

I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Very Blessed & Merry Christmas!

Kelly

MARCH FOR LIFE

Our Presence at the 45th Annual Right to Life March on **Friday, January 19, 2018** in Washington, DC is extremely important. First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association supports the position of the Pro Life Movement.

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

Will you join us? Please call Kelly at the FCSLA home Office. Her phone number is 800-464-4642 EXT. 1051 or email her at Kelly@fcsla.org for details or questions and to reserve your seat on the bus before December 15th. The buses fill up quickly and seating is limited so don't wait until the last minute to reserve your seat. You can also go to our website www.fcsla.org for a tentative itinerary for the trip.

If you would like to attend and are unable to join those leaving from the FCSLA Home Office, please look online for information and transportation. Call your local church or diocese, they may be able to help.

Vilija at the Abbey

Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Supper

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Noon Mass with Vilija Following

*Sponsored by Saint Andrew Abbey, the Slovak Institute
and the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club*

Featuring Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble

Accordianist Ralph Szubski

Fabulous Basket Raffle!

Pre-sale tickets required: \$20.00

Call 216-721-5300 Ext. 100 before November 28th.

Seats are limited. No sales at the door.

2017 American Slovak Cultural Association Annual Vilija Dinner

Now that the summer events are through it is now approaching the time for our biggest event! On December 10th we will once more celebrate our traditional Slovak Christmas Eve meal (Vilija or Štedrý Večer). Once again we will be holding it at 4:00 p.m. at the Father Snock Center, St. Matthias Church, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Youngstown, OH.

Of course, we will have all the traditional foods: Oplatky and honey, Mushroom Soup (kapustnica), Pirohy, Baked (not fried) Fish, Peas, Bolbalky, Kolače, and Apples. We will also have the Pittsburgh Slovaks for after dinner entertainment, a Lotto Tree, a Basket Auction, and a 50/50 drawing. This year we will award two scholarships and have invited the winners and their family members to attend our dinner.

Come join your friends, or make new ones, and celebrate this wonderful Slovak tradition with us!

Once more, we are going to hold our ticket price to \$20.00 per ticket. We truly are trying to make this an affordable event for everyone. Our main focus is to help keep our Slovak traditions alive! Tickets MUST be purchased in advance, the deadline is December 1st, there are NO ticket sales at the door. If you wish to purchase tickets or have questions, please contact Loretta Ekoniak: 330-549-3760, loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com or Ron Garchar: 330-533-7077. If you have special seating needs, please call Ron! We hope to see you there!

Loretta Ekoniak, President ASCA

"We wish you a Christmas filled with the wonder of the birth of Christ, the warmth of the Holiday spirit and the love of family and friends."

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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 10/1/2017 thru 12/31/2017.

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 2017 is 2% APY and for the Platinum Elite is 2.5% APY.

Louise M. Yash District Celebrates 125th Anniversary of the FCSLA

Members and guests of the Louise M. Yash District gathered on Sunday, October 8th to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the FCSLA. The event was held at the Silver Spring Golf Club in Menomonee Falls, WI.

Opening prayer was led by Most Reverend Richard Sklba, a proud Slovak and retired bishop in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Guests then enjoyed a brunch buffet, overlooking the golf course. National President Cynthia

Maleski gave a beautiful reflection on the history of the FCSLA, Slovak immigration and our Catholic faith. Everyone was delighted with the door prizes and the handmade Slovak ornaments given out to each guest.



*Congratulations
FCSLA!*

2017 Photo Contest Winners

Our 3rd Annual Photo Contest was a HUGE success! The photos just kept coming in and they were all AMAZING!! I wish I could give everyone a grand prize! You make the judging tougher and tougher each year. A big "thank you" to everyone who sent in a photo to make this contest successful and fun! You are ALL winners in my book. Everyone that sent in a photo received a little gift for participating.

I hope everyone enjoys these wonderful photos of the grand prize winners. God has blessed us with so many wonderful and

amazing things in this world – photos do not do them justice, but it sure is fun to look around and try to capture the awesome visions we see through our camera lenses.

These photos can also be found on our website www.fcsla.org and on our Facebook Page.

Start looking for unique photo opportunities for the 2018 contest.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Kelly Shedlock
Fraternal & Youth Director

ANIMALS

1st Place (tie) – “Seattle Whale Watching” – In the San Juan Islands off the coast of Seattle, WA – Branch S-522 – Mark Summers, Hinckley, OH

1st Place (tie) – “Crabby Day” – At the Galapagos Islands – Branch S-590 – Judith Figura, Pittsburgh, PA

2nd Place – “Leopard” – At the Pittsburgh, PA Zoo – Branch S-011 – Nicole Csider, Munhall, PA

3rd Place – “Thursday” – Found a baby toad while cutting grass and named he/she “Thursday” (photo was taken on Thursday 8/10/17) – Branch S-319 – Chris Harvilla, Palmerton, PA

Honorable Mention (tie) – “Hello Oliver” – Our neighbors' dogs enjoy coming over to our house to visit – they pose nice for photos. – Branch S-023 – Cassandra Muffler, Oconomowoc, WI

Honorable Mention (tie) – “Samoa sitting on the hood of my car” – Jumped on the hood of my car after I got in. Baby its cold out here! – Branch S-141 – Donna Connolly, Flowery Branch, GA



ARCHITECTURE

1st Place – “Spring at Joan of Arc” – Built in 1420 in France, brought to the USA in the 1920's and then to Milwaukee, WI in 1966 – Branch S-023 – Laurie Muffler, Oconomowoc, WI

2nd Place – “Into the City of Blue” Morocco – The city of Chefchaouen is known for its gorgeous blue architecture – Branch S-001 – Charlene Westfall, Aurora, OH

3rd Place – “Gateway to Mercy” – Eastern State Penitentiary (closed in the 1970's) – The gate of the main entrance of the hospital ward – Branch S-140 – Rachel Kostival, Reading, PA

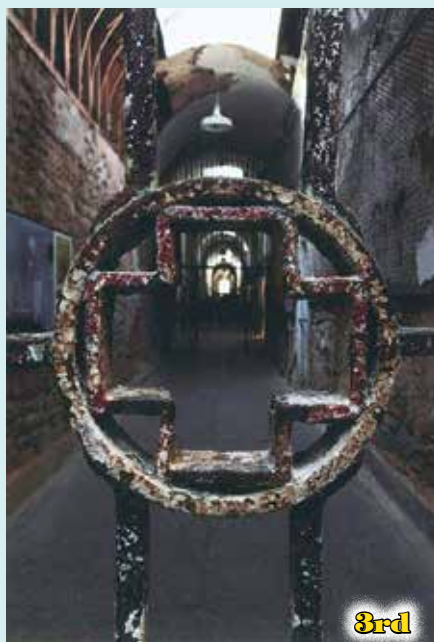


2017 Photo Contest Winners

ARCHITECTURE (Continued)

Honorable Mention (tie) – “Circle of Fun” – Cedar Point Amusement Park, Sandusky, OH – Branch S-524 – Amy Dreger, Avon, OH

Honorable Mention (tie) – “House Tops” – Looking over the city of Barcelona, Spain – Branch S-011 – Cyrilla Bakey, Homestead, PA



MISCELLANEOUS NATURE

1st Place (tie) – “Ghost Ship” – Early one morning on the Current River, a spider was busy spinning an amazing web. – Branch S-101 – Margaret Lyons, St. Louis, MO

1st Place (tie) – “Reflection” – Pemaquid Point Lighthouse, Bristol, ME – Branch S-011 – Ann Csider, Munhall, PA

2nd Place (tie) – “Bouy with a View” Juneau, Alaska – Sea Lions resting on a bouy, in the background Mendenhall Glacier part of the Tongass National Forest – Branch S-013 – John F. Lipchick, Jr., Plum, PA

2nd Place (tie) – “The Storm before the Calm” – A summer thunderstorm fast approaching over the Mississippi River towards the Bluffs of Alton, IL – Branch S-287 – Rosa Knizer, Alton, IL



2017 Photo Contest Winners

MISCELLANEOUS NATURE *(Continued)*

3rd Place (tie) – “Just Hanging Around” – this little tree frog has been yard in Youngstown, OH “just hanging around” for the cover and food. – Branch S-344 – Rick Maro, Youngstown, OH

3rd Place (tie) – “Portland Lighthouse” – Portland, ME – Branch S-011 – Tim Csider, Munhall, PA

Honorable Mention – “God’s Paint Brush” – Victor, CO – Branch S-633 – Ron Scribner, Omaha, NE



LAKES/MOUNTAINS/WATERFALLS

1st Place (tie) – “Majestic Rainier” – Mt. Rainier overlooking the city of Seattle, WA. – Branch S-081 – Linda Vargo, Whiting, IN

1st Place (tie) – “Bryce Canyon” – this photo was taken while hiking the Navajo Trail at the bottom of Bryce Canyon, UT – Branch W-001 – Luke Siskoff, Shakopee, MN

2nd Place – “Mount Rainier” – Branch S-522 – Virginia Summers, Hinckley, OH

3rd Place – “Seaside Serenity” – Pawleys Island, SC – the best escape anyone can have. – Branch S-038 – Brianna Guth, Easton, PA

Honorable Mention (tie) – “On Jordan’s Bank” – Acadia National Park, ME – Branch S-011 Sarah Csider, Munhall, PA

Honorable Mention (tie) – “Beautiful Day in Cleveland” on the shores of Lake Erie. – Branch SZJO – Susan Chlysta, Ravenna, OH



2017 Photo Contest Winners

LAKE/MOUNTAINS/WATERFALLS (Continued)



2nd



HM



HM

FLOWERS/LEAVES/TREES

1st Place (tie) – “Pretty Pond” – My friend’s mom has a pond in her backyard in Salem, OH and it is filled with waterlilies.
Branch S-169 – Kathleen Bach, Youngstown, OH

1st Place (tie) – “Sunflower Patch” – I was riding my bike around the Mill creek Metro Park Farm, Canfield, OH and came across this patch of sunflowers! – Branch S-030 Margaret Proch, Canfield, OH

2nd Place – “We Are All Family & Happy” – Bryson City Exit off US 19 South – Branch SZJO – Michael Palof, Sylva, NC

3rd Place (tie) – “January Adventures” – Three snow glistened trees in my backyard.
Branch SZJO – Juila Stranges, Wheatfield, NY

3rd Place (tie)– “The Wonder of Growing” – Sapling tree planted in 1983 in our front yard of our home when we had our first son. – Branch S-065 – Kathleen Capristo, Henderson, NV

Honorable Mention– “Lego Butterfly Garden” – Nature Connects® Art with Lego bricks displayed at the Cleveland Botanical Gardens. – Branch S-524 – Mary Pike, Avon, OH



1st



1st



2nd



3rd



3rd



HM

2017 Photo Contest Winners

SKIES/SUNSETS/TROPICAL

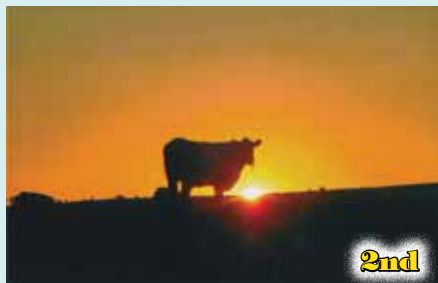
1st Place – “Sunset Catalina Island” – Sunset over Catalina Island Harbor, CA – Branch S-044 – Susan Lucia, Mt. Pleasant, PA

2nd Place – “Emblazon Bovine” the Ocean” – Our cow eating a corn stalk during a sunset in Hartington, NE – Branch W-014 – Chad Lammers, Harrington, NE

3rd Place (tie) – “Tropical Paradise” – Magnificent sunset on Sanibel Island, FL – Branch S-141 – Rose Marie Krulac, Solon, OH

3rd Place (tie) – “Sunset on the Bay” – Having dinner on the bay when the most beautiful sunset appeared – Ocean City, MD
Branch S-319 – Mary Jo Zima, Downingtown, PA

Honorable Mention – “Before the Storm” – Watching the storm coming while driving to Iron Pigs (AAA) baseball game, had a 2 hour rain delay
Branch S-319 – Nancy Mazurek-Harvilla, Palmerton, PA



OVERALL BEST PHOTO

“Paying Respect to Great Grandpa”

We went to the cemetery to put flowers on Great Uncle and Great Grandparent’s graves. My grandson rested his head on my mom and dad’s headstone.

Branch S-101 – Jeanette Venker, St Louis, MO



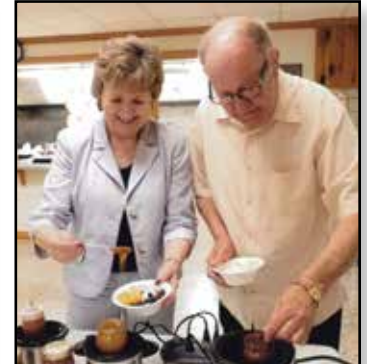
Branch W137 Oktoberfest Beer Tasting

Branch W137 adults, Cedar Rapids, IA met on Sunday, September 17, 2017 at St. Ludmila Social Hall for an early Oktoberfest Beer tasting. Beer, snacks, and prizes were enjoyed by all adults in attendance. On October 8, 2017 members enjoyed a hayrack ride and wienie roast at Bass Farm. All attendees went home with a pumpkin.



Sr. Branch 262 Ice Cream Party

Sr. Branch 262 in East Vandergrift, PA celebrated FCSLA's 125th Anniversary with an ice cream party for branch members and guests. The event included music, prizes, cake pops, and ice cream with a countless choice of toppings.



First Holy Communion

Allison Grace Heath, daughter of Ken and Dawn (Babik) Heath of Severn, MD celebrated her "First Holy Communion" on April 20, 2017 at St. Joseph Parish in Odenton, MD. Father Jim Keisel celebrated the Mass with the children. She attends the School of the Incarnation, in Odenton, MD. Now in the 3rd grade, she and her sister Abigail Laine are both members of J364, Johnstown, PA.

Her grandmother, Janet Babik is a member of S28, Johnstown, PA now residing with her husband Bernard in Dover, PA. Her great-great Aunt Helen Babik was President of both S28 and J364 for over 50 years.



National President Cynthia Maleski Receives the Pope Francis Charity and Leadership Award

On October 21, 2017, National President Cynthia Maleski received the Pope Francis Charity and Leadership Award from Caritas in Veritate International, for her life's work. Caritas serves under the direction of the Holy Father to promote integral human development.

In her various roles as wife, mother, leader in her parish and diocese, her pro bono legal and leadership work to promote human rights in eastern Europe and other countries over many years, as legal counsel to Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh to advocate for the inner city poor, as Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner and Cabinet Secretary, especially development of the first Children's Health Plan in the United States, her service to the elderly and children, and as National President of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Cynthia strives to live the Vision of Caritas in Veritate International.

According to church leaders, she "... has brought charity and truth to people in great need, transformed lives of the underprivileged by inspiring hope through

charitable works and fraternal aid, and has contributed to the building of communities that will continue to assist in the efforts of charity and truth, and works to form others to manifest the mercy of God in our world."

When members of the FCSLA board learned about the upcoming Pope Francis Charity and Leadership Awards Ceremony, they decided to support and attend this awesome tribute held in Washington D.C.

Upon receipt of the award, Cynthia noted. "I am truly humbled and honored to follow in the footsteps of Donald Cardinal Wuerl, Sean Cardinal O'Malley, Mother Theresa and others in trying to live out our Faith, and thanks her parents Richard A. and Helen Palovcak Maleski, her family and especially the Sisters of St. Joseph and Sisters of Mercy, as our faith is a Sacred Trust."



Additional Leadership Award Photos



St. Cyril Academy's Class of 1967 50th Anniversary

St. Cyril Academy's class of '67 could not have chosen a better meeting place to celebrate our 50th



L-R: Margie Baran S089, Eileen Kusbel Schneider S452, and Kathy Hritz Briant S088.

anniversary than fabulous Las Vegas. They simply could not wait for Alumni Day next October in Danville, PA where they will again reconnect. Margie Baran made a collage of former reunion pictures for all attendees. Eileen Kusbel Schneider, dressed as Mother Superior, did a skit including a test of many high

school people and events that they were at task to identify. The group laughed heartily as she reminded them not to turn their test papers over, talk or cheat. They even had to exchange test papers written only in blue ink and corrected in red ink. Relaxing in the beautiful Bellagio Hotel, site seeing, excellent dining, Vegas shows, shopping in perfect weather made this reunion awesome.



L-R. seated: Ellen Kerr Ryan, Grace Zaretti Conti, Carol Kessler DeSilva, and Elaine Kopecky Sweeney. Standing: Connie Gordon, Bette Ryan, Eileen Kusbel Schneider, Kathy Hritz Briant and Margie Baran.

FCSLA 2018-2019 Annual Scholarship Program

More than \$248,250 in Scholarship Awards! ~ See Page 21 for Application Request

HELEN KOCAN DISTRICT 125th CELEBRATION

Two hundred Helen Kocan District members gathered at the Croation Center in Merrillville, IN to celebrate their 125 years of progress as a successful fraternal and exchanged many stories of the Helen Kocan District since its organization in 1941 and the first Branch of the area in 1896.

The afternoon started with an inspirational Mass celebrated by Father John Kalicky, concelebrated with Monsignor Joseph Semancik and Deacon William Bevin.

Following the Mass, and after welcoming greetings by President Margaret Abildua and the invocation by Monsignor Semancik, a typical Slovak,

family style dinner was served.

The Helen Kocan District celebration was highlighted when Vice President and National Director JoAnn Skvarek-Banvich presented our National President, Cynthia Maleski who addressed the members with her usual motivating words.

President Maleski also presented everyone with a gift from the FCSLA.

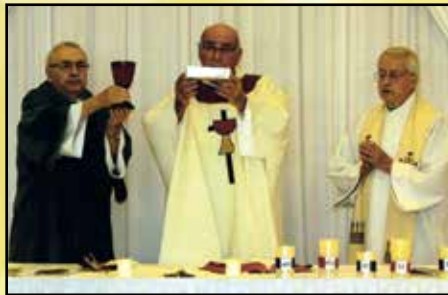
JoAnn then introduced the Hoosier Hrvati Adult Tamburitza Orchestra, a local group of Slovak Dancers and musicians adding to the afternoon's festivities.

Following was the awarding of the Centerpieces, a decorated FCSLA Slovak cookbook, (designed and made by

Annette Markovich and Mary Markovich) by playing the LEFT/RIGHT game conducted by Judy Vhrin-Mojzik.

To commemorate the day, each member received a pen and historical calendar, from the home office and a custom designed ceramic mug from the Helen Kocan District.

The afternoon ended with closing words from President Margaret Abildua expressing her gratitude to Fr. Kalicky, Msgr. Semancik and Deacon Bevin for their celebration of the Mass, her committee who spent many hours planning the 125th Celebration and all who volunteered to help the afternoon run smoothly.



United Slovak Societies Halloween Party in Lorain, Ohio

On Sunday, October 29th, the United Slovak Societies sponsored a children's Halloween bowling party for the local lodges at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH.

The children bowled a few games then received treat bags, pumpkins, pizza and cupcakes. A terrific time was had by all.



Michele Mager, Marge Kurta and Helen Zemanek waiting to serve children and parents.



A packed bowling alley.



In the alley with a handful of kids. Back Row, Marty Zemanek, Michele Mager-secretary, Ken Arendt-vice president, Len Zilko-president, Helen Zemanek, Marge Kurta-auditor, John Katricak-auditor.

Additional Kocan District Photos



FCSLA 125th Anniversary Weekend Celebration



District Anna Hurban of Chicago An Afternoon of Bingo with the Vets at Hines VA Hospital, Maywood, IL.

For eleven consecutive years, members from the District Anna Hurban of Chicago met on Saturday, April 22, 2017 for its Join Hands Day event at the Edward Hines, Jr., VA Hospital. Eighteen of the District members spent the afternoon with 38 of the resident veterans playing 45 very serious games of bingo where the vets had the chance to win some of the \$1,135 in commissary coupons available as prizes. The District provided \$500 toward the commissary coupons with District Branches contributing an additional \$635. To make the playing field fair, each of the vets who arrived to play bingo received an initial gift of \$5 in coupons along with the FCSLA drawstring bags. So as not to forget the other resident veterans who were unable to attend the bingo event, the District also gave each of them a \$5 commissary coupon book and an FCSLA drawstring bag. Once again the event was a huge success with the vets truly enjoying their visit with us and once again asking us how soon we could come back to see them.

This VA Hospital is located in Maywood, IL and is the largest of the Chicago-area Veterans' Hospitals, well known for its many programs and specialties including blind rehabilitation, spinal cord injury, neurosurgery, radiation therapy, cardiovascular surgery, and serves as a Polytrauma Center for severely injured veterans with skilled medical professionals who treat patients with traumatic brain injuries.

As always, the afternoon was filled with lots of laughter and fun, and all members in attendance agreed that it was just a small way of showing these vets how grateful we all are to them for the sacrifices they have made to ensure our American freedom! (To see additional photos from this event go to: <http://www.fcsla.org/district/chicago/gallery.php>)



39th Anniversary of the Polish Union Debutante Ball

The 39th Anniversary of the Polish Union of USA Debutante Ball was recently held in the lovely ballroom of Genetti Manor, Dickson City, PA. The event this year was sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association of Beachwood, OH.

Emily Stefanac, Chairperson of the event, did the welcome and introduced everyone. Rev. Patrick L. Albert, Polish Union of USA Chaplain and a member of the Advisory Board did the opening and closing prayers.

The theme of the Deb Ball this year was "A Fraternal Affair". Three lovely young ladies were presented on the arm of their family member. Amy Zielinski, former Debutante, presented the young women by reading their bios. The three Debs along with their escorts then danced the traditional Polonaise Waltz after which a modern waltz was danced with the Debs, Escorts and family members.

Elaine Vrabel Larronde and Deborah Vrabel Osborne then presented their Annual Scholarship check to the Debutante that won the essay contest this year, Isabella Eva Kropiewnicki. Before presenting the check. Mrs. Larronde spoke



From Left: Elaine Vrabel Larronde; Isabella Eva Kropiewnicki and Deborah Vrabel Osborne. (Daughters of the late Marion Orloski Vrabel presenting this year's Scholarship to Debutante Isabella Eva Kropiewnicki).



Front Row: Committee Members - Mary Ann Arnold, Nancy Bachurek, Terri Rumensky and Charlotte L. Androckitis. Back Row: Emily Stefanac, Chairperson of Deb Ball; Amy Zielinski, Presenter of Debs; and Debbie Zielinski, Committee Member.

a few words about her mother whom this scholarship was named for and about some childhood memories.

A delicious dinner was served along with a great dessert and some liquid refreshments. Music for dancing and listening was provided by the George Tarasek Orchestra.



L-R, Front Row: Escort, Mark Rinaldi and Debutante, Ashlynn Cox; Page Boy, Brennan Huber and Page Girl, Lilly Marie Huber; Debutante, Isabella Eva Kropiewnicki and Escort, Cooper Shotto. Back Row: Escort, Justin Stefanowicz and Debutante, Julianna Davis.



L-R: Ann Podrasky, Mary Ann Murray, Helen Oravec, Nancy Bachurek, Dorothy Villegas, Charlotte L. Androckitis, Rev. Patrick L. Albert and Terri Rumensky. (Members of the FCCLA along with Polish Union USA Advisory Board)

UNITED SLOVAK SOCIETIES HOLIDAY EVENTS

The United Slovak Societies at the American Slovak Club located at 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, OH, 44055 will host the following event:

SILVESTER STEAK FRY

Sunday, December 31st at 5-9 p.m.

Branch W033 Hosts State Meeting

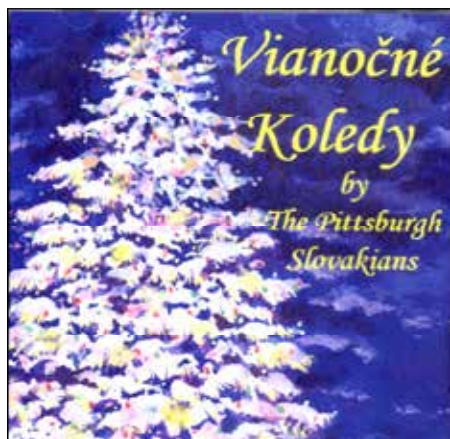
Sunday, October 1, 2017 Branch W033, Spillville, IA hosted the State Meeting at their local library. Six branches were in attendance with 34 members present. Registration began at 9 a.m. with members enjoying time to chat over coffee, kolaches, and kolliha. The meeting began at 10 a.m. with Officers Sally Hejlik, VP; Delores Neblung, Secretary; and Henry Rayhons, Treasurer presiding. A delicious dinner was served at noon with refresh-



ments, pork cutlets, parsley buttered potatoes, cheesy corn, broccoli salad and carrot cake for dessert. Following dinner the State Scholarship winners were announced and the meeting was reconvened. After adjournment and prayer, door prizes were distributed and everyone left for their journey home.



CD Available for Christmas Gift Giving



This recording is the result of several decades in which the Pittsburgh Slovaks have spread the Slovak Christmas Spirit through their Christmas performances. The carols offered here are priceless treasures that will re-awaken cherished traditions and memories.

Make checks payable and mail to:
Pittsburgh Slovaks
234 Ilion St., Pittsburgh, PA 15207
\$17.00 each includes postage.

5 Generations of FCSLA Members

Newborn Evelyn Rosalee Hunt is joined by her father, Jon Allen Hunt 27; grandmother, Angela DeRosette (Brill), 46; great-grandmother, Susan Brill (Lucas), 65; and great-great-grandmother, Elizabeth Lucas, 88; wife of Michael Lucas (deceased); who are originally from Cambridge, OH, and now she resides in Jennings, FL.

Evelyn was born November 23, 2016, to Jon Allen and Stephanie Hunt, who reside in St. Petersburg, FL. Evelyn is their first child, Angela's first grandchild, Susan's first great-grandchild and Elizabeth's first great-great-grandchild. They are members of Sr. Branch 478 and Jr. Branch 372.



Cleveland Okres District Event Schedule

- December 9, Saturday – 1:30-3:30 p.m. District Christmas Party with LOHV residents, Bedford
- December 10, Sunday – Vilija Dinner at St. Andrew's Abbey, Cleveland

FCSLA 2018-19 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

More than \$248,250 in Scholarship Awards!

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA) is pleased to announce its **2018-19 Scholarship Program**, which is in fulfillment of one of the objectives of the organization. An eligible candidate for an 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 an annuity certificate (no minimum amount required). 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%.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS - \$1,250 EACH

59 Freshmen • 28 Sophomores • 17 Juniors • 17 Seniors

GRADUATE AWARDS - \$1,750 EACH

19 Full-Time Graduate Awards

36 HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS - \$1,000 EACH

9 Freshmen • 9 Sophomores • 9 Juniors • 9 Seniors

32 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AWARDS - \$750 EACH

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

32 EARLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AWARDS - \$750 EACH

8 for Grade 1 • 8 for Grade 2 • 8 for Grade 3 • 8 for Grade 4

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 27, 2018. Applications received after that date and time will not be considered. Electronic copies (preferably PDF file) and faxed copies of application and supporting materials will be accepted.

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 Blvd • Beachwood, OH 44122-5634

2018-2019 FCSLA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST

Please send a scholarship application form by: ____ US Postal Mail ____ Email
(PLEASE PRINT)

Branch No. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

☐ College ☐ Graduate ☐ High School ☐ Seminary or Deacon ☐ Grades 1-4 ☐ Grades 5-8

CONSULAR TOUR COVERED THREE COUNTRIES

Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko recently returned from his most successful tour of Slovakia with 24 Americans from eight different states. After a tour of Vienna which included Schobraunn Palace, they began their tour of Slovakia in Bratislava where they attended Mass at the famous St. Martin's Cathedral. While in Bratislava, they were guests of U.S. Ambassador Adam Sterling and his wife at their residence commonly referred to as "the little White House" (see photo). They also visited over 20 other historic towns including Kosice, Cicmany and the famous pilgrimage town of Sastin. Eight of the 24 tourists met with their Slovak relatives in various towns. In Presov, the sister city of Pittsburgh, the Mayor's office held a special reception for the group (see photo).

While in Poland, they toured the birthplace of St. John Paul II, Czestochowa (home of the Black Madonna), the former residence of St. Faustina, Auschwitz and the Wieliczka salt mine.

The tour included spa treatments, two wine tastings, rafting, visits to five castles, tour of over 10 basilicas and cathedrals, shopping and many other historical sites.

Joe is already planning his next tour for the summer of 2018.



Pittsburgh's sister city, Presov, held a special reception for the group at the mayor's office.



U.S. Ambassador Adam Sterling and his wife hosted the group at their residence in Bratislava.

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF JULY 31, 2017

ASSETS

Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 24,939,487
Bonds	889,304,792
Preferred Stock	2,564,129
Common Stock	7,137,576
Investment Income Due & Accrued	14,073,139
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	5,531,487
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,797,494
Other Assets	1,866,629
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 948,214,734

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 297,294,430
Annuity Reserves	528,096,916
Death Claims Payable	2,380,863
Unearned Premiums	514,614
Matured Endowments	334,374
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,400,000
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,546,882
Accrued Convention Donations	441,000
Provision for Future Conventions	332,719
Asset Valuation Reserve	8,571,376
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,681,072
Other Liabilities	1,637,943
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 847,232,189
Surplus	\$ 100,982,545
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 948,214,734

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Seven Months Ending July 31, 2017

REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 2,579,197
Annuity Premiums	24,889,185
Investment Income	26,835,844
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	170,529
Rental Income	371,505
Other Revenue	19,200
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 54,865,459

EXPENSE

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 474,575
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	19,911,715
Insurance Benefits	4,156,639
Annuity Benefits	17,810,611
Commission Expense	730,876
Surrender Benefits	2,279,436
Post Mortem Benefits	795,661
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	43,511
Matured Endowments	4,831
Donation Expenses	69,646
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	147,000
Convention Expenses	184,149
Bank Service Charges	63,239
Data Processing Service Fees	145,669
Accounting Fees	42,671
Actuarial Fees	196,072
Legal Fees	103,066
Consulting Fees	72,870
Bonus to Branches	483,450
Fraternal Activities	87,226
Official Publications	284,664
Scholarship Awards	182,581
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	252,954
Fees — Directors	103,095
Salaries — Employees	1,153,411
Salaries — Officers	343,314
Interest Expense	161,344
Tax Expense	201,864
Depreciation Expense	137,556
Utility Expense	85,456
Postage and Printing	119,607
Advertising	71,960
Travel Expense	65,849
Insurance Department Fees	176,226
Sales Promotion	129,797
Rental Expense	401,250
Other Expense	411,149
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 52,084,990

Income (Loss) from Operations

Dividends to Members	\$ 820,330
Subtotal Income (Loss)	\$ 1,960,139
Capital Gains (Loss)	(89,861)
NET INCOME (Loss)	\$ 1,870,278



CREAM CHEESE SUGAR COOKIES

2½ cups all purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
1½ cups granulated sugar
1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
½ cup butter, softened
1 egg
2 teaspoons vanilla

Frosting

2½ cups powdered sugar
¼ cup butter, softened
2 to 4 tablespoons milk
½ teaspoon vanilla
Gel food colors, as desired
Candy sprinkles, as desired

Heat oven to 350 degrees. In small bowl, mix flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; set aside.

In large bowl, beat granulated sugar, cream cheese and ½ cup softened butter with electric mixer on medium speed about 1 minute or until fluffy; scrape side of bowl. Beat in egg just until smooth. Stir in 2 teaspoons vanilla. On low speed, beat flour mixture into sugar mixture until well blended. Cover and refrigerate 15 minutes.

Shape dough into 60 (1-inch) balls. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until edges are set. Cool 2 minutes; remove from cookie sheet to cooling rack. Cool completely, about 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, in medium bowl, beat powdered sugar, ¼ cup softened butter, 2 to 4 tablespoons milk and ½ teaspoon vanilla with spoon until smooth and fluffy. If frosting is too stiff to spread, add additional milk, 1 teaspoon at a time. Tint with food color. Using knife, spread slightly less than 1 teaspoon frosting on each cooled cookie; top with sprinkles. Store covered in airtight container.

CHRISTMAS CRUNCHIES

Non-stick cooking spray
1 cup all-purpose flour

¼ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
¼ teaspoon salt
½ cup unsalted butter, softened
½ cup granulated sugar
½ cup firmly packed light brown sugar
1 large egg
½ teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup regular rolled oats, uncooked
1 cup corn flakes
½ cup shredded sweetened coconut
½ cup coarsely chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line two cookie sheets with parchment paper, very lightly spray parchment with non-stick cooking spray. Set aside.

In a small bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Stir to combine with a whisk. Set aside.

In the bowl of a stand mixer with the paddle attachment, cream together butter and both sugars until well combined. Add egg and beat until light and fluffy. Stir in the vanilla extract.

Add flour mixture to the butter mixture and mix to thoroughly combine. Fold in oats, corn flakes, coconut and pecans, mixing until evenly distributed throughout the batter.

Shape dough into 1-inch balls, placed approximately 2 inches apart on prepared cookie sheets.

Bake for 10-12 minutes or until cookies are very lightly golden brown. Cool cookies on wire rack.

GLUTEN-FREE SNICKERDOODLE CHEX MIX

¼ cup sugar
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
2 cups Cinnamon Chex cereal
2 cups Chocolate Chex cereal
4 cups popped popcorn
¼ cup butter or margarine

In small bowl, mix sugar and cinnamon; set aside. In large microwavable bowl, mix cereals and popcorn.

In 1-cup microwavable measuring cup, microwave butter uncovered on high about 40 seconds or until melted. Pour over cereal mixture, stirring until evenly coated.

Microwave uncovered on high for 2 minutes, stirring after 1 minute. Sprinkle half of the sugar mixture evenly over cereal mixture; stir.

Sprinkle with remaining sugar mixture; stir. Microwave 1 minute longer. Spread on waxed paper or paper towels to cool. Store in airtight container.

ULTIMATE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

¾ cup granulated sugar

¾ cup packed brown sugar
1 cup butter or margarine, softened
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 egg
2¼ cups all-purpose flour
1 box Vanilla Instant Pudding mix (3.4 oz.)
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup coarsely chopped nuts
1 package (12 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips (2 cups)

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Mix sugars, butter, vanilla and egg in large bowl. Stir in flour, pudding mix, baking soda and salt (dough will be stiff). Stir in nuts and chocolate chips.

Drop dough by rounded tablespoonfuls about 2 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until light brown (centers will be soft). Cool slightly; remove from cookie sheet. Cool on wire rack.

NO BAKE CREAMY PEANUT BUTTER SQUARES

½ cup butter or margarine
2 cups powdered sugar
1½ cups graham cracker crumbs
1 cup creamy peanut butter
3 pkg. (4 oz. each) Semi-Sweet Chocolate, melted

Line 13x9-inch pan with aluminum foil, with ends of foil extending over sides.

Microwave butter in large microwavable bowl on high for 45 seconds or until melted. Add sugar, graham crumbs and peanut butter; mix well. Spread onto bottom of prepared pan; cover with chocolate.

Make shallow cuts in top of dessert to mark 48 squares. Refrigerate 1 hour or until firm. Use foil handles to remove dessert from pan; cut into squares following scored lines on dessert.

NO-BAKE NUTELLA™ OATMEAL COOKIES

2 cups sugar
2 tablespoons butter
½ cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla
¾ cup Nutella™ hazelnut spread
2 cups old-fashioned oats

Line cookie sheet with cooking parchment paper. In 4-quart saucepan over medium heat, heat 2 cups sugar, 2 tablespoons butter and ½ cup milk to a rolling boil. Boil 1 minute; remove from heat.

Stir in 1 teaspoon vanilla and ¾ cup Nutella until creamy and combined. Stir in 2 cups old-fashioned oats until well coated. Immediately drop by 2-tablespoonfuls onto cookie sheet. Cool about 15 minutes or until set.



PERIODICAL

12/17

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.