



ISSN 0897-2958

Fraternally Yours®

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

VOL. 104, NO. 6

MARCH 2018



ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

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ISSN 0897-2958



Fraternally Yours,
ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,
is a monthly magazine published by the
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.
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Periodical Postage Paid at
Cleveland, OH 44101 and additional entries

Subscription Rate, Non-Members: \$6.00 — 1 Yr.

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

Postmaster: Send address changes to
Ženska Jednota,
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44122
Deadline for all articles is the 15th
of the month, 1½ months prior to the issue date.

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A LENTEN REFLECTION

Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.
Give up pessimism — become an optimist.
Give up harsh judgments — think kindly thoughts.
Give up worry — trust Divine Providence.
Give up discouragement — be full of hope.
Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.
Give up hatred — return good for evil.
Give up negativism — be positive.
Give up anger — be more patient.
Give up pettiness — become mature.
Give up gloom — enjoy the beauty that is all around you.
Give up jealousy — pray for trust.
Give up gossiping — control your tongue.
Give up sin — turn to virtue.
Give up giving up — hang in there!

Dear Friends,

Lent challenges us to take a break, to put things on hold for a moment, to step back and look at ourselves and the lives we are leading. The season challenges us to confront those things and situations that make us less than what we – and God – want us to be. May this Lenten season speak to you of hope that you can be reborn and re-created in the life and love of God. May each of you, discover hope and purpose, and rekindle to the light and warmth of God's love in your lives and in the lives of your family and friends.

*Until Next Month,
Warmly, Carolyn*

Dear Members,

This year, Easter falls on April 1st. Due to publication dead-
lines you will receive the April issue after the Easter holiday,
nonetheless, Easter will be featured in the April, 2018 edition.
Thank you for your understanding.

Carolyn



IRREGULAR MARRIAGES

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

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In the previous articles of this 2018 series, I have attempted to explain the Catholic Church's teaching on Marriage and how marriages may be declared invalid or valid under the *Code of Canon Law* (Church law). Not only within the worldwide cultures that the Church is immersed but also within the Catholic Church itself in which we profess our Faith in Jesus Christ, there are some instances that the Sacrament of Marriage or Marriage itself, may be declared invalid from the time of consent because of error in the consent. The Church's teaching on the Sacrament of Marriage is defined in the *Code* beginning with canon 1055 that states: "§1 The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life and which is ordered by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring, has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament between the baptized." Paragraph 2 continues: "For this reason, a valid matrimonial contract cannot exist between the baptized without it being by the fact a sacrament."

This is a very important statement introducing the person to the understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage. The union of husband and wife is a Sacrament received by a Catholic and another Catholic or by a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic. A Catholic may marry a non-baptized person but the marriage is not sacramental because of the status of the other party being non-baptized.

However, if the Catholic party obtains permission from the local Bishop to be married to the baptized non-Catholic or non-baptized party, the Church recognizes the validity of the marriage. This is also true within the Law of the Catholic Church for all marriages in cultures throughout the world. The Church recognizes the validity of marriages in other religions, the validity of marriages of parties who have no religious affiliations, and of those marriages between a woman and a man who have publically and legally attempted marriage. And because of recognizing the validity of the marriage between husband and wife, the Catholic Church has authority to declare validity or invalidity when it comes to persons who are attempting marriage with a Catholic.

For example, Meredith, a Catholic, marries Eric, a Catholic, in the Catholic Church - this is considered a valid marriage. Should they marry outside of the Catholic Church, let us say on a beach in the Bahamas before a civil magistrate, the Church does not recognize this as a valid marriage (we will discuss the

implications of this in a future article!). If Suzy, a Christian, marries Jeff, a Catholic, in her Lutheran Church with the permission of Jeff's Bishop - it is a valid marriage in the Catholic Church. But if Jeff has not received the permission of his Bishop, the Catholic Church does not recognize the validity of the marriage (another discussion for a future article!). Should Patti, a non-Catholic, marry Mike, a non-Catholic, the Catholic Church recognizes the validity of this marriage. However, if Patti civilly divorces Mike and subsequently desires to marry Evan, a Catholic who has never been married, Patti would have to undergo an annulment process within the Catholic Church. All of this may difficult to understand, but the validity of Marriage has been an important backbone in our Faith history from the formation of man and woman in the *Book of Genesis* until the present day. Stay tuned to the continuing saga of the history of the Sacrament of Marriage, the definition of Marriage by the Catholic Church, and the various notions of Church Law that validate or invalidate Marriage!

United in Marriage in Danville, Pennsylvania



Kara R. Munley and Stephen Clemson were united in marriage on September 30, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church in Danville, PA. The Rev. James Lease performed the ceremony.

Kara is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Munley of Kingston, PA. Stephen is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clemson of Tamaqua, PA. They are graduates of Misericordia University in Dallas, PA and both received their doctorate degrees in Physical Therapy. They reside in Wapwallopen, PA. Kara was the recipient of the Graduate scholarship from the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association in 2013 during her studies at Misericordia University. She is a member of Sr. Branch 172 in Wilkes-Barre, PA. She is the great-niece of Dr. Magdalen Benish, who is also a member of Sr. Branch 172 in Wilkes-Barre.

PRIVACY POLICY CHANGE

To be more responsive to our members, we recently made a change to our Privacy Policy. We will now be able to provide certain certificate information to certificate owners over the phone rather than only by mail. Members will receive a copy of the revised Privacy Policy by mail with their regularly scheduled certificate information mailings.

Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Dear Fellow Members,

As I write this article, we are entering the great season of Lent in the Church. My own focus this year is to try to find real meaning in the spirit of the season, as we continue life's journey. We hear lots of discussion these days about "servant leadership" and what this can mean to all of us. When I think back in my own growth in my career, I think about the many times I have drawn on the "collaborative" style of management to strive to arrive at consensus and common goals. Nowadays, this may be called "servant leadership".

We all have opportunities in our lives to become servant leaders in our own environment. Everyday all face interactions with others in common, life enhancing purposes.

It can be about enhancing one life, several lives (in a family, for example), in our workplace, or in our broader community. We can choose to build up that elderly person, a fellow parishioner, or fellow employee in the workplace, our family, or our community.

As St. Thomas Aquinas said in his writings, we must be about the greater common good. We can all make differences in our world, even if it is only "person to person".

As we journey through the season of Lent, let us all think about how we can best serve each other and our communities where we live and work. Together, we have the ability to change the world.

Our branches and districts have great capacity to partner with other groups in our communities in various parts of the United States to BUILD communities, and in some cases TRANSFORM them. It is up to us as we only see this present time once in our lives.

Let us help each other as we build our relationships, our communities and our lives!

May God and the Blessed Mother be with us in our common journey!

Cynthia M. Maleski
National President

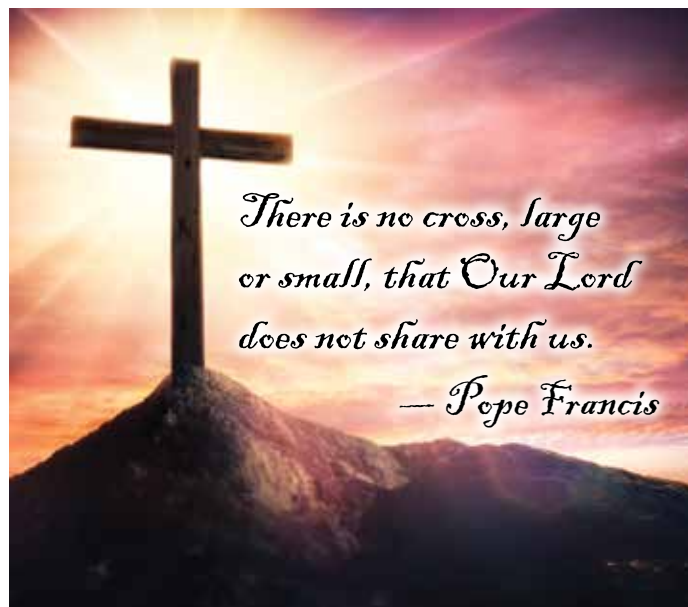
FCSLA
Annuity Rates
Rates for our Elite Annuities:
SILVER ELITE (5 YEAR)
2.75% APY*

GOLD ELITE (7 YEAR)
3.00% APY*

PLATINUM ELITE (10 YEAR)
3.25% APY*

*This rate is in effect 1/1/2018 thru 3/31/2018.

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 2018 is 2% APY and for the Platinum Elite is 2.5% APY.



Combined Christmas Party for Sr. Branch 452 and Jr. Branch 348 Members

A combined Christmas Party was held in Whiting, IN for the members of Sr. Branch 452 and Jr. Branch 348. As the children of the Junior Branch sign in they have to guess how many jelly beans are in the bottle. The Senior Branch members were asked to participate in a free will offering for the Bishop's House (Tabor House) which was being sponsored by Sr. Branch 409. Joann Skvarek Banvich, National Director provided information to the members regarding the Tabor House project which is currently in process by Bishop Hying of the Diocese of Gary.

The first program held for the children is a craft table, with a new idea each year by the Ortiz Sisters. Thanks to Margaret Ortiz, Joanne Ortiz, and Mary Beth (Ortiz) Kutcka, the young participants run to this corner as soon as they take off their coats. This year each child was given a small canvas to make a fingerprint string of Christmas lights. Additionally, one large canvas combining all of the members of Junior Branch 348 fingerprints was created. Santa along with the officers, parents and grandparents were very proud of each and every canvas. Several games were played by the young members while the Senior Branch members watched the games. One game which



was begun by past President Elizabeth Dedinsky has continued to be an annual hit.

Several guests from other branches in the District along with Rosemary Mlinarich, retired National Officer and member of the Chicago District had an opportunity to socialize with each

other prior to the adult games. A wonderful Christmas buffet table with appetizers, main course and sides along with homemade desserts was enjoyed by all. Of course the arrival of Santa while the members all sang Christmas carols was the main event for the

junior members. Santa passed out presents to all Juniors while Betty Ortiz, Financial Secretary along with Mary Beth Kutcka, President played Santa to the Senior members and guests. Everyone had a wonderful, enjoyable afternoon.



Anna Hurban Chicago District Celebrates FCSLA's 125th Anniversary

The Anna Hurban Chicago District hosted its local 125th anniversary celebration on October 21. The day started with Mass celebrated by Bishop Alberto Rojas at St. Jane deChantal Church in Chicago. Father Edward Cronin, pastor of St. Jane's, welcomed the group and concelebrated the Mass



with Bishop Rojas. Following Mass, the group shared in a traditional Slavic luncheon at Mayor's Mansion in Chicago. In addition to the Branches from the Chicago District, members of the Polish Women's Alliance of America, PWAA, and the Indiana District joined the day's celebration. National President, Cynthia Maleski, joined the group via Skype, and inspired the group with her remarks about the history of the organization, its founders and past leaders, and how far we have come over the past 125 years. Following the luncheon, Honorary Slovak Consul to Chicago, Rosemary Wisnosky brought greetings to the group from the Slovak Consulate. Lorraine Gibas, Anna Hurban Chicago District President, addressed the group, reminding us of the strength of past District and Branch leaders who provided the foundation of our organization. The group remembered all those deceased who have been part of the organization,

with each Branch lighting a candle in remembrance. This historical perspective was enhanced when the group viewed the commemorative DVD prepared by Home Office, which detailed FCSLA's history. The celebration closed with a raffle of beautiful gift baskets donated by Branches and individuals. All proceeds of the raffle, totaling over \$1,000, were donated to Catholic Charities, Disaster Relief, to aid the victims of the several natural disasters across the country. The day's celebration ended with the group of over 150 singing "God Bless America".





Chicago District Senior Branches Held Annual Christmas Luncheon

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, District Anna Hurban of Chicago, hosted its fifteenth annual combined Senior Branch Christmas Party at the Orland Chateau in Orland Park, IL on Saturday, December 2, 2017 with a total of 368 senior branch members and guests in attendance along with Rosemary Macko Wisnosky, Chicago Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic, National President Cynthia M. Maleski, National Secretary Denise Mackura, National Directors Joann Skvarek Banvich and Jeanette Palanca, Margaret Abildua, Indiana-Joliet District President, members of the recently merged Polish Women's Alliance and members of the Joliet-Indiana District. District members and their guests enjoyed many great conversations while catching up on the years' events before and during the luncheon. The branch members and their guests feasted on a flavorful family style meal, which included the traditional Slovak roasted pork, smoked Polish sausage with sauerkraut, oven baked chicken with dressing, buttered parsley potatoes, vegetable melody and beef barley soup. Everything was deliciously prepared and scrumptious!

District President, Lorraine Gibas opened the luncheon with a few opening remarks and then turned the podium over to National President, Cynthia Maleski, who spoke to the accomplishments of our organization during the past year as well as highlighting the accomplishments of our organization during the past 125 years. Cynthia then recognized District President Lorraine Gibas and Past District Presidents Mary Therese Tylus and Joseph Ledvora for their leadership, dedication and service to our society by presenting each of them with a token of appreciation on behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association of the United States of America.

The District then sponsored its annual raffle of 105 prizes of all kinds and 54 gift cards to various entities in denominations of \$15, \$20 and \$25 donated by individuals, the District and Chicago Branches. With a surprise visit from Santa, the District Junior Members who were in attendance acted as prize runners to help distribute the gifts to the raffle winners who shouted "Kapusta, Koláčiky, Bingo" or another favorite Slovak word upon hearing their winning number. This year the District solicited from its members and guests in

attendance gently used coats, hats, scarves, and gloves for homeless adults with severe mental illnesses at ACCESS Psychological Services, a Division of CTF Illinois located in South Holland, IL. The wonderful event, started by Marge Krugley (S180) has been a favorite now for the entire District and the surrounding Chicago area.

District President, Lorraine Gibas remarked that, "Once again, everyone had a wonderful time renewing old friendships, making new ones and reminding everyone of the wonderful FCSLA products and upcoming District events! Truly the room was electrified with folks meeting and greeting one another, renewing old friendships and acquaintances and forging new ones."

A special thank you goes out to the Senior Branch Christmas Party Committee: Lorraine Gibas – Event Chair, Janice Mager – Raffle Prize Coordinator, Barbara Mugavero – Raffle Gift Card Coordinator, Jarmila Hlubocky – RSVP and Raffle Prize Distribution Coordinator and FCSLA Promo Items Co-Coordinator, Dr. Fay Hlubocky – FCSLA Promo Items Co-Coordinator, Gary Ledvora – Santa and Raffle Ticket Sales Coordinator, Barbara Schultz – Menu and Venue Coordinator for the Event, Rich and Irene Zittman – Seating Plan and Door Greeter Coordinators, Judy Tybor-Knizner and Branch S287 – Centerpiece Coordinators, Jeanette Palanca – Invitation Coordinator, Charitable Donation Coordinator and Event Photographer, Emily Minelli – Oplatky Sales Coordinator, and Mary Therese Tylus – Event Photographer. And last, but not least, a huge thank you to the entire District Board and Branch Officers and all their elves for working so hard in making it such another memorable event for our members and their guests.

So mark your calendar for next year's party on Saturday, December 1, 2018 – same time, same place! (To see all of the photos from this event, please go to <http://www.fcsla.org/district/chicago/gallery.php>)



At the Orland Chateau in Orland Park, Illinois



Branch W018 Celebrates the Christ Child and the Holiday Season

Branch W018 celebrated the Christ Child and the Holiday Season with a luncheon, caroling, a visit from Santa, and games on December 4, 2017 at Dave and Buster's in Omaha, NE.

This was the 80th annual Youth Christmas Party sponsored by the Branch, as best as Branch historian and president Bob Hladik could figure. The early Christmas gatherings were held at the local Sokol Hall and, later, in Church basements/social halls. Eventually, they moved to venues such as Eddie's Social Hall. To keep the event new and exciting, the Branch chose Dave and Buster's for this year's festivities.

Between lunch and Santa, Julianne Popelka, the Scholarship and Social chairperson, reminded all members to take advantage of the scholarship opportunities available from both the National Office and local Branch of FCSLA.

Seeing the parents, grandparents (and even great-grandparents) of the

Branch junior members enjoy the good food and Christian fellowship was very gratifying.

Again, this year, the members were asked to bring canned food goods to the party. These were taken to the local St. Vincent de Paul Society for distribution to those in need at their food bank. The generosity of the Branch members is heartwarming. Six large boxes of food were collected and given to St. Vincent's.



The Adams family took advantage of Santa's visit to pose for a family picture.



Mark Zuroske, Tom Jelinek and Chris Zuroske load the donated food for delivery to St. Vincent de Paul Society.



Santa made a special point of asking Roseanne Rozmarin what she wanted for Christmas.



These two photos (above) prove no junior member is too young or too old to enjoy talking to Santa.

Holland, Ohio Branches Hold Christmas Party

Branches S639 and J538 held their first Christmas Party in 2017 entertaining 40 members and guests. Along with a visit from Santa, the children played miniature hockey, frosted cookies, sang Christmas songs, were read "The Night Before Christmas" story and had chances to win candy "hidden" in an Ice Castle made of playing cards. Pictured (below) are J538 President Andrea Schak, and her children Evelyn, Alexander, and holding Wesley, is GA Tim Snyder. The Ice Castle was Eastern European, took a "couple" of hours to build, using 75 decks of cards. Fun was had by all.



Annual December Meeting and Christmas Dinner

The members of Sr. Branch 114 in Lorain, OH celebrated their annual December Meeting and Christmas dinner on Sunday, December 17, 2017 at American Slovak Club. President, Bernie Danevich welcomed all members followed by a prayer and a meeting with a yearly report of both branches was given. Included was a report of the activities and events we participate in during the year and the two Matching Funds that were held by Sr. Helen, SC. All the years deceased members were remembered with a prayer and a reminder to pray for our members that are home bound or ill and in nursing homes.

An election of officers followed with the current officers agreeing to serve for the next year and were sworn in by Marie Schweinberg. Members were reminded of the year's coming social events and meetings held on the 3rd Sunday of the month; July-scholarship luncheon, October-Bingo and December-annual meeting and Christmas dinner, also that scholarship forms are available and need to sent in to the home office by February 26. All members are welcome at all regular meetings. The meeting was ended with poinsettias and door prizes being raffled. All then enjoyed a delicious hot meal and visiting with fellow members.

A Christmas Blessing was read by President Bernie Danevich on behalf of all the officers, and wishing all a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year.



Annual Christmas Party at St. Ann Lodge, Sr. Branch 153



St. Ann Lodge, S153, Farrell, PA held their annual Christmas Party on Sunday, November 12, 2017 at the Park Inn by Radisson, West Middlesex, PA.

Members were treated to a delicious sit down dinner. After dinner, BINGO was played for prizes. Each member in attendance received a door prize along with and a box of candy. Handouts from the Home Office were also given out to members. To close the afternoon, Christmas Carols were sung in English & Slovak. Prayers were offered for all deceased members and warm Christmas Wishes extended to all!

PLEASE NOTE!

Annual Branch Christmas Party articles and photos received after this issues deadline, will be held for publication only if space allows in future issues of *Fraternally Yours*.

Pittsburgh District 3 Celebrates 125th Anniversary with River Cruise

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Pittsburgh District 3 celebrated their 125th anniversary in grand fashion on Sunday, September 24, 2017 with a three-hour scenic Luncheon Cruise of Pittsburgh's three rivers, the Monongahela, the Allegheny and the Ohio on the Queen of the Gateway Clipper Fleet. The theme of our celebration was "Celebrating the Past, Sailing into the Future." Over 100 members came to celebrate with us.

An invocation was given by Father Edward Mazich, O.S.B., Rector at St. Vincent Seminary and member of FCSLA Branch 13.

A handout, which was a brief summary of the FCSLA, was distributed to all in attendance and appropriately a St. Ann Medal and laminated holy card,

since St. Ann is the patron saint of the FCSLA. The St. Ann medals and holy cards were blessed by Father Mazich after his invocation and blessing before our meal.

A short program, presented by Virginia Holmes, the Pittsburgh District parliamentarian, included greetings read to the District from our National President Cynthia Maleski. Tom Wolf, Governor of Pennsylvania, sent greetings and recognition to the FCSLA on the celebration of its 125th Anniversary. William Peduto, Mayor of Pittsburgh, issued a proclamation declaring September 24, 2017 "First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association 125th Anniversary Day, here in our most livable City of Pittsburgh".

National officers that were in attendance to help us celebrate included Larry Golofski, National Director, Virginia Holmes, National Trustee and Judy Fedor, member of the Court of Appeals.

A delicious lunch was served and everyone had a wonderful time socializing. In lieu of gifts to district members, it was decided to donate \$500 to Catholic Charities Hurricane Relief Fund.

Everyone in attendance left with a copy of an 18 month calendar highlighting milestones in our 125 year history and an FCSLA pen that was supplied by our home office.

We would like to thank everyone who worked hard to make our 125th Anniversary Celebration a great success.



Maggie Golofski, Pittsburgh District Recording Secretary, pictured with the 125th Anniversary poster she created that was displayed at District meetings and events.



Pittsburgh District Officers front row, L-R: Aimee Perri, Auditor; Virginia Holmes, Parliamentarian; Maggie Golofski, Recording Secretary; Marilee Kessler, Vice President; Barbara Gajdosik, President. Second Row: Monica LaFrankie, Auditor; Jerry Holmes, Financial Secretary.

2018 FCSLA FRATERNALIST OF THE YEAR

The Fraternalist of the Year Award is an honor presented by FCSLA to recognize an individual within our organization who, through example and accomplishment, provide outstanding volunteer service to his or her FCSLA branch, church and community during the past year.

The winner will receive a check for \$100.00; will be featured in the *Fraternally Yours* Magazine, on our website and Facebook page.



GUIDELINES:

- ◆ All FCSLA members are eligible to submit a nominee for this award.
- ◆ The nominee must be a member in good standing of the FCSLA, age 23 and older and a history of fraternal and community service.
- ◆ National Officers, Home Office Employees and previous recipients of this award are not eligible.
- ◆ Include a head and shoulders photo of nominee.
- ◆ Nomination Form, additional sheet of paper and photo should be mailed to: FCSLA, Kelly M. Shedlock, Fraternal & Youth Director, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122 or email to: kelly@fcsla.org.
- ◆ If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Shedlock via email at kelly@fcsla.org or at the home office 800.464.4642 EXT 1051.
- ◆ You may also print this form off our website www.fcsla.org.
- ◆ An independent committee will select the winner.
- ◆ **Deadline for Entries is May 4, 2018.**

2018 FCSLA Fraternalist of the Year Nomination Form

PLEASE PRINT!

NOMINEE:

Nominee's Name: _____ FCSLA Branch #: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone #: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Marital Status: ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Widowed

If Married Spouses Name: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer/School: _____

Please review the following categories.

On a separate sheet of 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper (please type or print)
provide your response for each category.

1. **Society Leadership:** Describe your nominee's involvement in the past year in FCSLA's local branch and district governance and activities. This would include service as a branch or district officer, or committee member for any and all FCSLA branch meetings, activities, dinners, blood drives, Matching Funds, Join Hands Day, etc. at any branch or district level.
2. **Service to Others:** Describe how nominee has provided significant volunteer service in the past year to his/her community or participated in outreach programs and environmental activities on the local, state or international level. (Examples: Participation in church groups, mentoring programs, school or community activities, disaster relief efforts, community or service groups.)
3. **Innovative Leadership:** Describe how this nominee has been a leader or an innovator during the past year. (Examples: Engaged in cross-generational participation in an event or activity, updated an old annual activity to make it more relevant, saw a need and created a program to address it, etc.)
4. Finally, describe your personal feelings of admiration for your nominee and why you feel he / she deserves this award.

NOMINATOR:

Name of Nominator: _____ Branch #: _____

Phone #: _____ E-Mail: _____

Signature of Nominator: _____

Chicago Junior Branches and District Sponsor 7th Annual Christmas Party

The FCSLA Chicago area Junior Branches and the Chicago District kicked off their holiday season by co-sponsoring their seventh annual Junior Member Christmas Party on Sunday, November 5, 2017. The celebration was held once again at the Christian-based Camp Manitoqua and Retreat Center in Frankfort, IL with a total of 115 in attendance (Junior and Senior members and their guests). The Junior members had a magical time and participated in decorating their own Santa hat, coloring pictures, playing Hooligan (a dice game) for prizes, a game room, photo booth, dancing with a DJ, kids' raffle and Super Raffle. After lunch, Svätý Mikuláš (St. Nicholas), Bishop in 4th Century Myra, Turkey arrived telling the children stories and posing not only for the traditional group photo but individual photos as well. To end the celebration, children had the chance to win from over 60 raffle prizes and many super raffle prizes. Winners of the super raffle prizes were: Jessilyn Gibas (S421) – Beats Headphones; Richard Lehocky (S485/J382) – Electric Keyboard; Grayson Tholl (J370) – Child's Motorized Dune



donations were overwhelming and our junior members truly demonstrated the spirit of generosity and goodwill in sharing with those who are less fortunate and in need.

A special thank you to Dr. Joyce Nugent-Hirschbeck, this year's Jr. Christmas Party Committee Chair and her Co-Chair, Jeanette Palanca and their team of junior and senior member elves for all their hard work and preparation in making this event another great success. A huge thank you to the following branches

Buggy; Peggy Plank (S258) – Christmas Wreath; Cameron Palanca (S258) – St. Nick Statue, SmartWatch and \$40 Apple Gift Card; Dr. Joyce Nugent-Hirschbeck (S258) – St. Nick Statue; Karen Strache (S421) – SmartWatch; Joyce Kelly (S287) – \$50 Netflix Gift Card; and Kim Bruining (S421) – \$40 Bath & Body Works Gift Card.

The tradition of sponsoring a community organization continued with Junior members being encouraged to donate non-perishable foods for adults with severe mental illness from ACCESS Behavioral Health/a division of CTF Illinois in South Holland, IL. The

and individuals who donated cash or prizes for the two raffles: J106, J339, J322, J96, S258, Lorraine Gibas, Dr. Joyce Nugent-Hirschbeck, Jeanette Palanca, Rosemary Mlinarich, Vi Nugent, Lynda Schoeberth, Doreen Poetzing, Judy Tybor-Kinzner, Janice Mager and Gary Ledvora. The children, their parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents had a wonderful time and all are looking forward to next year's party and another visit from Svätý Mikuláš (St. Nicholas)! (To see all of the photos from this event, please go to <http://www.fcsla.org/district/chicago/gallery.php>)





Sr. Branch 156 Annual Christmas Party

Branch S156, Struthers, OH, held their annual branch Christmas party at Tavola's Restaurant in Austintown, OH with 55 members in attendance.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner and the desserts were homemade by Ann Schur, Carol Vargo, Charlotte Jennings and Patti Granchay. Gifts from the home office were distributed. Additionally each member received gifts from the branch. The branch presented a \$500 donation to the Activities Department of Meridian Arms Living Center.



Youngstown Sister Cities Tour of Slovakia

Join Kay and Jim Bench on the 20th Heritage Tour of Slovakia on July 10-24. We will visit UNESCO historical sites, go rafting on the Dunajec River, and see the largest ruined castle, Spisska Hrad. Participants will have a chance to meet and visit long lost relatives, tour castles, churches, caves, visit wine country and enjoy wine tasting, and take in folk performances.

Travel arrangements are being made by Paul Hudak of

Adventure International Travel Service Inc. Phone 216-228-7171 or 800-542-7171 or e-mail Paul@advintravel.com.

For additional information contact Jim or Kay Bench at 724-858-5843 or 724-771-7900 or e-mail them at jm_bench@yahoo.com or skbench@gmail.com.

Total tour costs and land arrangements are \$3,473 pp from Toronto \$3,836 pp from Chicago \$3,986 per person from Newark \$4,179 per person from Pittsburgh.

Keeping Traditions Alive in the Alle-Kiski Valley

Brackenridge, PA resident Pat Homick learned to cook from her grandmother, who immigrated to the United States from Slovakia.

Her grandmother, Johanna Fabry, not only kept her family's traditions alive by cooking, but she was also a founding member of Branch 313 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

The group was formed in 1911 in Tarentum and later moved to Harrison's Natrona neighborhood.

The group has remained active in the Alle-Kiski Valley for more than 100 years by donating to area charities, providing scholarships to Catholic students and holding events for the public.

Homick has carried on her grandmother's recipes and traditions for decades as a Branch 313 member.

She made dinner for nearly 40 people who attended the group's an-

nual Christmas dinner at St. Joseph High School in Harrison.

The meal included traditional Polish and Slovak beef, pork, potatoes and noodles and cabbage.

Another Slovak tradition celebrated during the dinner is the sharing of Oplatki, which is a Christmas wafer that is used to welcome each other when getting together for Christmas dinner.

"We have each other form a sign of the cross in honey on a person's head," said Cynthia Maleski, national and local president of the association. "And that is to welcome them and forgive each other for anything we have offended them in the past year."

After forming the sign of the cross in honey, then they share the wafer with each other.

Natrona resident Patty Babinsack said sharing the Oplatki was a tradition in her family when she was growing up.

Now, she shares the Oplatki with her friends during the annual dinner.

The dinner also acts as a fundraiser in which the association matches the donations up to \$600. That money goes to help local charities, including Allegheny Valley Association of Churches food bank.

"We usually get pretty substantial donations," Maleski said.

Beverly Kaniecki, principal of St. Joseph, said the association has been a partner in education and the community for many years and that they support everything the school does throughout the year. The dinner has been held at the school since 2009.

The Rev. Aaron Kriss gave the blessing at the dinner. Coming from a Polish family, he said it's good to keep the Polish and Slovak traditions alive.

He said it's no accident the Association has done as well as it has and continued to prosper over the years. He believes their success has a lot to do with the faith that lies beneath the actual organization.



Chester Jonczak plays traditional polka music on the accordion as National and Branch president Cynthia Maleski sings along in Slovak during the party, held on January 7, 2018.



Sister Rosemarie Caldwell (L) and Katherine Moretti (R) sing and dance to the polka music.



Branch members enjoying their traditional foods and each other's company.



Jane Bakos bows her head for a prayer.

United Slovak Societies Scholarship Available to High School Seniors

The United Slovak Societies at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH, announces 2018 scholarship availability to graduating high school seniors who are entering college and are five year members of our local lodges that include: National Slovak Society Assembly 160, Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 111, First Catholic Slovak Union #228, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Branch #114 and Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union #77.

The one-time scholarship application and rules may be obtained by visiting www.americanslovakclub.com. Deadline for completion is May 30, 2018.

Annual Vilija Dinner

The Sr. Branch 161 annual activity of Youngstown, OH, was enjoyed by 75 members. The event was the annual Vilija Dinner held in December at Our Lady of Sorrows parish hall. The Vilija, sponsored by the American Slovak Cultural Association, celebrated its 40th year, and included the traditional Christmas Eve dinner menu, basket/money raffles, and a play, folk singing and dancing by the Pittsburgh Slovaks.



Pittsburgh Slovaks perform for the 250 guests at the Vilija held at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Hall, Youngstown, OH.



Branch 161 President, Melanie Leonard, is shown with her family (L-R) son, Jeff, cousins Roseann Pritchard and Paul Armour, Melanie and daughter, Theresa.

Sr. Branch 156 Sends Ages 80+ Mother/Father's Day Cards



Pictured are the cards that Branch S156, Struthers, OH sent to its members, age 80 and older for Mother's Day and Father's Day each year. The card also contained a \$20 gift from the branch! These cards are a wonderful way to keep in touch with branch members!

Branch W080 Christmas Party

Branch W080 held their Christmas party on Saturday, December 2, at the Pine Street Pub in Clarkson, NE, following evening Mass.

Adorable reindeer cups filled with treats, made by the students of St. John Neumann School, decorated the tables.

Following a delicious hot buffet meal and dessert, several games of Christmas Bingo were played and the lucky winners opened their gifts.

A short business meeting followed where we discussed the yearly budget plans. Fr. Rodney Kneifl led us all in prayer to close the evening.



Jr. Branch 66 Members Money Card



Pictured is the card sent to Jr. Branch 66 (Struthers, OH) members each Christmas season, for the past five years. The cards contained a \$20 gift from the branch. The card and gift are nice way to keep in touch with younger branch members and their parents. Each year the branch enjoys reading the many thank you notes they receive from happy young members!





IN MEMORIAM

Joseph Rocosky, S45



Joseph D. Rocosky of Upper Darby, PA and formerly of Hazleton, PA died March 17, 2017 at the age of 67. He worked for the Bureau of Forestry, was a member of the Chamber of Commerce in Freeland, PA and was involved with the Boy Scouts of America. He also was a member of the St. Anne's Band, the Hazleton Philharmonic and the Navy Band. He is survived by his beloved wife Suzanne Berkery Rocosky, his son Owen J. Rocosky and a sister Barbara

(the late Wesley) Deaton. Also survived by many other loving family members.

Agnes A. Stephan, S89



Agnes A. Stephan, 95, of Bethlehem, PA passed away on March 9, 2017. She was the wife of the late Michael J. Stephan, Jr., who passed away on July 8, 2008. Born in Bethlehem, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Mary (Mizak) LaBuda. Agnes was a lifelong member of Incarnation of Our Lord Church, the former Ss. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church,

having been active in the Choir. She was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Branch 89. Agnes loved her children and grandchildren dearly. She loved her Slovak culture, especially enjoyed Polka music. She was known as the "Slovak Lady" by her friend Alex Fydrzyszewski. Survivors include daughters, Nancy Hutt and husband Carl of Lower Nazareth Twp. with whom she resided; Michelle Shannon and husband Patrick of Lower Saucon Twp.; son, Michael III of Bethlehem; 4 grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Church and/or the St. Francis Center for Renewal, 395 Bridle Path Rd., Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Anna B. Thur, S141



Anna B. Thur (nee Bobonick), age 95, passed away on September 14, 2017 in Melbourne, FL.

She was the wife of John (deceased), mother of Annette Jacoby (John O. deceased), Roseann Storey, and Jonathan (deceased); grandmother of Thomas J., Chad M. and Brice A. Storey; great-grandmother of five; daughter of John and Anna (both deceased); sister of John (deceased); sister-in-law to Carol Bobonick.

She retired from the Diocese of Cleveland Printing and Mailing Department in 1987. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to St. Andrew Svorad Abbey.

Mitchell "Mitch" Strepko, S140

Mitchell "Mitch" Strepko, 97, of Lansford, PA, passed away on November 19, 2016. He was the husband of Bernice (Skrabak) Strepko of Lansford. They had celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary this past July 20th. Born in Lansford, he was the son of the late Stanley and Anna (Gryzik) Strepko. Mitch served in the U.S. Army Air Force during WWII as a Gunner and was a member of the Flying Circus 380th Bombardment Group Association. For

his first job, he had worked in an Air Plane Factory in Maryland, and then worked for the LC&N Mining Company and last as a Machinist in Easton. Mitch also owned and operated his own Dry Cleaning Business in Lansford for several years. He was a member of the former Ss. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Church and former St. Katharine Drexel Roman Catholic Church in Lansford. Mitch was a former member of the Knights of Columbus and a member of the former Lansford Amvets. Surviving along with his wife; is a daughter, Lorraine Kreider and her husband Ronald of Lancaster; a son, Barry Strepko and his wife Tina of Ephrata; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Michael P. Tomasko, S44



Michael Paul Tomasko, also known as "Buddy" or "Mike", 85, of Monarch, PA passed away peacefully on April 5, 2017. He was born August 13, 1931, in Monarch, the son of the late Michael Paul and Helen (Terock) Tomasko. Mike was a lifelong member of St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, Connellsville. He served in the United States Army from 1954 to 1956, where he was stationed in Korea

during the Korean Conflict era and in peace time. He was a member of the Independent Slovak Citizens Club of Connellsville and the Juniata Sportsman's Club and was a longtime social member of the Monarch Volunteer Fire Department. Mike worked at Anchor Hocking for more than 30 years until his retirement. Mike had a gentle demeanor and will be missed dearly by all those who knew and loved him. Michael is survived by his children, Michelle Moscalink and husband Charles of Uniontown and Marcia Collins and husband John of Lemont Furnace; three grandchildren; sisters, Irene Mercuri of East Lake, OH, and Rose Marie Necci of North Ridgeville, OH; sisters-in-law, Mary Ann Zozula of Scottsdale and Janet Zozula of Mt. Pleasant; brother-in-law, Joseph Zozula of Scottsdale; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Dorothy R. Vota, S287



Dorothy R. Vota, 86, of Taylorville, Illinois passed away January 1, 2017. She was born January 3, 1930, in Chicago, a daughter of John and Anna (Czabala) Spisak. She was raised in the Roseland neighborhood and attended Fenger Academy High School. Following graduation, she worked as a bookkeeper at both Celotex and Hart, Schafner and Marx in downtown Chicago. Dorothy met her husband,

Martin Vota, at Lake 26 near Spooner, Wisconsin, in 1951, where they would continue to vacation for the next four decades. She married Martin on May 30, 1953, at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Chicago. Dorothy and Martin then moved to Decatur, Illinois, and opened Decatur Television Engineers when WAND-TV began broadcasting. In 1966, Dorothy and her family moved to Taylorville to continue to sell and repair televisions. She worked at Pepsi Cola in Taylorville before joining Martin to work at Vota TV and Appliances in Kincaid, Illinois, which the couple owned and operated until their retirement in 1989. Martin preceded her in death on January 8, 2015. In her retirement, Dorothy took painting classes with her friends and crocheted afghans for her grandchildren. She enjoyed following her family and friends on Facebook and emailing relatives

in Europe. One of the special moments of her life was attending and participating in her grandson Matthew's wedding.

Dorothy was known for her great singing voice and released her own album in her early 20s. She was proud of her Slovakian heritage and was a lifelong member FCSLA. Dorothy is survived by her children Cathy (Marty) Arnold of Aurora, Illinois, Martin (Deanna) Vota of Taylorville, Cindy Drea of Taylorville, Lori Ward of Rochester, Illinois, and Robin Vota of Springfield, Illinois; grandchildren Matthew (Paula) Arnold and Kaitie Arnold, Heidi (Tyson) Corbin and Haylen Vota, Andrew and Bridget Drea and Arika and Keegan Ward; an expected great-grandchild; nephews Dennis (Carol) Zarr of Overland Park, Kansas, and Richard (Susan) Zarr of Cedar Lake, Indiana; a brother-in-law Juan Cruz of Blue Island, Illinois; and several other nieces and nephews. Memorials may be made to the Shriner's Hospital for Children in St. Louis.

Barbara Duris, S149



Barbara "Louise" Duris, born November 23, 1922 in Battle Creek, MI passed peacefully April 25, 2017. Barbara moved to Toledo in 1938. She married Joseph G. Duris on November 29, 1941 at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, where they were active in the Parish community their entire lives. Barbara's life was centered on her family. She was a mother of steadfast conviction and dedication: how else could one explain the mountains of laundry, the endless ironing and the kitchen that never closed, all the while working 20+ years on second shift. Through the trials and tribulations of everyday life, her family witnessed their parents' enduring love for each other and their patience, compassion and peaceful spirit inspired by their faith. Left to cherish her memory are her children, Pamela, Michael (Linda), James (Corrine), Patrick (Sandra), Daniel (Mary Lynn), Joseph (Deborah), Mark (Lisa), Matthew and Anthony (Vicki); as well as 36 grandchildren spanning many generations. In lieu of flowers, the family requests those wishing to memorialize Barbara do so with a donation to St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Toledo and Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

Betty Gerold, W001



Betty (Elizabeth) Jean Gerold, age 89, of Jordan, died April 28, 2017 in New Prague, MN. She was born in New Prague on April 16, 1928, to Edward and Sylvia (Washta) Bisek. She spent some of her childhood in New Prague, but lived in several towns in Minnesota and Iowa as her family followed Ed's construction jobs. Betty graduated from Mankato State College with a teaching certificate and taught for two years in Wanamingo, MN. On October 14, 1950 she married Dennis Gerold at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in New Prague. Betty and Dennis lived on their dairy farm in Jordan. Betty was a kindergarten Title 1 teacher for the New Prague school district for several years. Betty is survived by her husband, Dennis of Jordan; children, Mary (Kevin) Higgins; Mona (Dave) Harmann; Dave (Jean) Gerold; Steve (Jane) Gerold; Judy (Mark) Harinen, Dan (Kris) Gerold, John (Marsha) Gerold and Paul Gerold; 20 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. Donations in her memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or St. Wenceslaus School.

Barbara "Bebe" Nekic, S141



Barbara "Bebe" Nekic, 76, passed away peacefully on March 9, 2017 in Columbus, OH. Barbara is survived by her children, Ted Nekic, Ken Nekic and Lisa Ohmer (Charles), all of Columbus and her two grandsons. Barbara was born in Cleveland to Frank and Helen Nemchak. In her early 30's she returned to college to finish her degree at Kent State, unusual at the time. She went on to teach Special Ed for 30 years in

Canton and Columbus, typically in the inner city. She was a talented artist, creating collage and mixed media works. Her greatest gift was as a mother, being forever positive and kind, not just to her own children but to others as well; she was the original Kool-Aid Mom. In lieu of flowers, a contribution may be made to the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education.

Anna M. (Wilson) Kozlak, S281



Anna M. Kozlak, 83, died May 2, 2017 in Torrington, CT. She was the beloved wife of Edward J. Kozlak, Sr. Mrs. Kozlak was born in Cohoes, NY, on September 21, 1933, daughter of the late Erskin and Anna (Schlosky) Wilson, and had been a Torrington resident most of her life. She was a communicant of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Harwinton and a former communicant of Sacred Heart Church

in Torrington. Anna enjoyed traveling, baking, and caring for her home. Survivors, in addition to her husband Edward, include three sons, Edward J. Kozlak, Jr., and his wife Lorie, Brian A. Kozlak, and Dean R. Kozlak and Angelina Alvarez, all of Cocoa, FL; a granddaughter, Maryanna Kozlak; and a step-brother, William Schlosky of Sharon. Friends who so desire may make memorial contributions to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 78 Litchfield Rd., Harwinton, CT 06791.

Mary H. Minarik, S089



Mary H. Minarik, 90, of Bethlehem, PA, died on January 27, 2017. She was born in Bethlehem, the daughter of the late Andrew and Anna (Repko) Harvilla. She was the devoted wife of 70 years to Frank L. Minarik who died on December 16, 2016. Mary graduated from Bethlehem Catholic High School. She worked as a seamstress for Laros Silk Mill and later

Highland Fashions and was a member of the I.L.G.W.U. Mary was a parishioner of Saints Simon and Jude Catholic Church and was a Past-President of their Senior Group. Mary was also a member of the Bethlehem Steel Club. She enjoyed dancing and traveling with her husband, playing cards and she especially adored spending time with her family. Survivors: She will be lovingly remembered by her daughters, Nancy Barnet and husband, Richard of Wilmington, NC; and Mary Frances Weaver and husband, Michael of Downingtown, PA; daughter-in-law, Lori Minarik of Salisbury Twp.; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Sr. Branch 452

Annual Halupky Dinner

On October 29, 2017, Sr. Branch 452 in Whiting, IN partnered with the Knights of Columbus in sponsoring the annual Halupky (Holubki) Dinner. During this event, the Jr. Branch 348 youth held a dessert bar and raffle adjacent to the dinner. With the planned demolition of the Immaculate Conception Church in Whiting, IN there is a need to make capital improvements to the Immaculate Conception Grotto to prepare it to function alone.

These events generated over \$3,300 and brought together 16 junior and senior members to volunteer along with 34 Knights and friends of the community. This year, National Honor students from the local high schools were able to earn community volunteer hours by helping with the 500 attendees. Thanks to the Home Office matching funds program for assisting with additional funds for this ongoing project. All proceeds from these events were presented to Bishop Donald Hying and his Chief of Staff, Michael Wick at the Diocese of Gary Pastoral Center by Betty Ortiz, Financial Secretary and Joann Skvarek Banvich, National Director of FCCLA and officer of Sr. Branch 452.



Branch W187

Funds for New Parish Computer

Branch W187, Valparaiso, NE raised money through a matching funds projects a new parish computer to organize church records. Pictured L-R: are Branch Secretary Clarice Sabata; Vice-President Mike Divine; Father Matthew Zimmer; President Shannan Kramer; and Treasurer Robina Regnier.



Jr. Branch 207

Bake, Book and Raffle Sale

Jr. Branch 207, Shamokin, PA joined with the Osterhout North Branch Library in Wilkes-Barre, PA for a bake, book, and raffle sale. The proceeds will enable the children's section to purchase additional books. Shown behind an array of baked goods are Marguerite Latinski, Alicia Stier, Carol Carauaggie, Florence McCabe, branch secretary-treasurer; Rita Kcenich, branch president; Joanne Austin, librarian, and Ann Hajala, branch auditor.



Seen making snowmen puppets are Adalaide Bott, Angelina Papa, and Carli Papa. Offering assistance are Frank Mrozowski, Joanne Austin, Rita Kcenich, and Ann Hajala. What fun to move and pretend to play in the snow!



Sr. Branch 172

Cemetery Memorial Book Fund Raiser

Saint Michael's Cemetery Committee of Queen of Angels Parish in Jessup, PA, has an active and continuing interest in the upkeep of St. Michael's Cemetery, the final resting place of parishioners, relatives, neighbors, and friends, many of whom are War Veterans. Since the Committee is in financial need to care for and continue the upkeep of the cemetery, located in Jessup, FCCLA Sr. Branch 172 sponsored a Matching Funds Project to print a Memorial Book, incorporating

the names of those who memorialized a brick in the Memorial Prayer Garden at the cemetery. The printed book will be placed near the statue of St. Michael in the church, formerly named St. Michael's Slovak Church. Recently a statue of the Blessed Mother, as you can see in the photo, along with benches and a decorative chain were placed in the garden. As a corporal work of mercy, the Committee is dedicated to the care and maintenance of the cemetery.



Seated L-R: Ann Podrasky and Andy Fetcho; Standing: Kathy Elkins, Mary Ann Murray, Jean Fetcho and John Johnson.



Seated L-R: Michael Skovira and Andy Fetcho; Standing L-R: John Johnson, Mary Ann Murray, Jean Fetcho, Ann Podrasky, and Kathy Elkins.

Slovak Heritage Program

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association presents the Slovak Heritage Programs on the first Monday evening of each month, starting at 7 p.m. at the Mount Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228 (412-531-1912).

April 2, 2018 — Slovak Castles and Castle Ruins

Otilia Golias will show and discuss the famous Castles in Slovakia.

May 7, 2018 — Weddings in Slovakia

Back by numerous requests, Otilia Golis will repeat her presentation of a wedding in Slovakia.

June 4, 2018 — History of the Pittsburgh Agreement

Rich Kocur will give an in-depth presentation of the history of the Pittsburgh Agreement with some little known facts.

2018 CONSULAR TOUR OF SLOVAKIA AND ITS NEIGHBORS

AUGUST 13 – AUGUST 26, 2018

Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko has prepared a deluxe 15 day tour of Slovakia, Vienna, Poland and Hungary. The itinerary for Slovakia includes the historic towns of Bratislava, Svaty Jur, Devin, Bojnice, Tatras, Levoca, Kezmarok, Spisska Sobota, Spissky Hrhov, Zdiar, Stara Lubovna, Kosice, Bardejov, Jedlinka and Presov. Some of the highlights in Slovakia include six castles, a mock wedding, two wine tastings and rafting. This is the only tour that also includes welcome receptions by the U.S. Ambassador in Bratislava and by the Mayor of Presov.

As you travel through various regions of Slovakia, arrangements can be made for you to visit your ancestral villages and families.

At no extra cost, Joe has included two nights in Poland and two nights in Hungary. While in Poland, we will visit the shrines of Blessed Faustina and the Black Madonna. We will also tour Pope John Paul II's birthplace, the famous Wieliczka salt mine and Auschwitz. And of course, we will shop in Zakapane. In Budapest, we will visit the ancient architectural sites including the Royal Palace, Citadella fortress and Parliament.

The total price for this fantastic tour is just \$4,300 per person (double occupancy). This includes round trip airfare from either Pittsburgh or New York, two delicious meals daily, four star hotels, free admission to all the sites, air conditioned bus, a professional guide and more. Compare this itinerary with other tour packages. For a detailed copy of the daily itinerary or more information, contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000.

Frances Jakabcin Eastern PA Spring District Meeting

The Frances Jakabcin Eastern PA Spring 2018 District Meeting will be hosted by Branch S319 of Allentown, PA. The meeting will be held Sunday, April 15th, 2018 at 1 p.m. at: DeSales University, McShea Student Center 2755 Station Ave., Center Valley, PA 18034. RSVP by calling District President Veronica Bazik at 570-645-5253 by April 7th.

FOR SALE

Embroidered Easter Basket Covers

Three types of basket covers available
to bring your Easter Foods to Church
for blessing on Holy Saturday.

Each embroidered cover is \$30.00 plus \$5 shipping.

1. Slovak words "Kristus vstal zmrtvych"
"Christ is risen!"
2. English words "Alleluia! Christ is risen!"
3. Byzantine Slovak words "Christos voskrese"
"Christ is risen!"

Each cover is approximately 27" x 17"



*Keep the traditions alive and pass these treasured
covers from generation to generation.*

Order by phone at 724-562-0783 or 724-277-4236
or use order form below

ORDER FORM

_____ Total Number of Covers Ordered
 _____ "Kristus vstal zmrtvych" [\$30 plus \$5 s&h]
 _____ "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" [\$30 plus \$5 s&h]
 _____ "Christos voskrese" [\$30 plus \$5 s&h]
 Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone number _____

Kindly make checks payable to: Fr. Micah E. Kozoil
Send this order form and check for \$35 to:

Fr. Micah E. Kozoil
 St. Aloysius Church
 459 Ranch Road, Dunbar, PA 15431

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

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2017

ASSETS

Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 19,745,822
Bonds	904,659,123
Preferred Stock	2,428,932
Common Stock	7,726,505
Investment Income Due & Accrued	13,593,927
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	5,225,509
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,733,286
Other Assets	1,820,315

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 957,933,420

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 297,565,235
Annuity Reserves	535,557,687
Death Claims Payable	2,488,948
Unearned Premiums	485,396
Matured Endowments	349,301
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,400,000
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,582,105
Accrued Convention Donations	504,000
Provision for Future Conventions	382,720
Asset Valuation Reserve	8,907,590
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,568,098
Other Liabilities	1,852,339

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$ 855,643,418

Surplus \$ 102,290,001

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS \$ 957,933,420

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Ten Months Ending October 31, 2017

REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 3,432,522
Annuity Premiums	32,947,143
Investment Income	38,674,319
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	233,902
Rental Income	494,009
Other Revenue	23,229

TOTAL REVENUE \$ 75,805,124

EXPENSE

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 1,546,196
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	26,571,669
Insurance Benefits	5,698,439
Annuity Benefits	23,800,638
Commission Expense	987,848
Surrender Benefits	3,384,230
Post Mortem Benefits	1,112,531
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	74,080
Matured Endowments	27,606
Donation Expenses	108,512
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	210,000
Convention Expenses	305,228
Bank Service Charges	92,677
Data Processing Service Fees	219,201
Accounting Fees	72,256
Actuarial Fees	248,873
Legal Fees	100,446
Consulting Fees	109,041
Bonus to Branches	689,700
Fraternal Activities	122,271
Official Publications	378,780
Scholarship Awards	269,130
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	386,804
Fees — Directors	142,875
Salaries — Employees	1,695,373
Salaries — Officers	462,389
Interest Expense	251,836
Tax Expense	290,665
Depreciation Expense	216,402
Utility Expense	106,867
Postage and Printing	207,554
Advertising	90,031
Travel Expense	109,897
Insurance Department Fees	219,528
Sales Promotion	185,251
Rental Expense	541,458
Other Expense	563,445

TOTAL EXPENSE \$ 71,599,727

Income (Loss) from Operations

Dividends to Members	\$ 4,205,397
Subtotal Income (Loss)	\$ 1,158,155
Capital Gains (Loss)	(69,144)
NET INCOME (Loss)	\$ 2,978,099



Welcome Friends

MACARONI WITH CHEESE, CHICKEN AND MUSHROOMS

- 17 oz. packet macaroni pasta
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 carrot, washed, peeled and chopped
- ½ red bell pepper, washed, seeded and diced
- 1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken thigh fillets, cubed
- 1 head of broccoli, washed and cut into florets
- 7 oz. sliced mushrooms, washed
- 2 cloves garlic, minced or finely chopped
- 16 oz. light cooking cream
- 2 tablespoons vegetable stock powder
- Salt to season
- ¾ cup Parmesan cheese, grated and divided

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cook pasta in a large saucepan of salted, boiling water, following packet directions until tender. Drain pasta in a colander and pour into a deep baking dish. Set aside.

While pasta is boiling, pan fry in a large and deep frying pan/skillet, onion and carrot until onion is transparent. Add the chicken, broccoli and mushrooms, and cook until chicken has browned and broccoli has softened slightly. Stir through garlic, cooking cream, stock powder and salt (adjust to your tastes).

When cream begins to simmer, remove from heat and stir through ½ cup Parmesan cheese. Pour creamy chicken onto pasta and stir through to combine.

Change oven setting to grill/broil on medium heat. Sprinkle pasta and chicken mixture with remaining cheese, and place into oven to brown on top.

When golden on top, remove from oven and serve.

BEEF TORTELLINI SOUP

- 1 pound ground beef
- 3 cups water
- 1 (28 ounce) can tomato puree
- 1 (10½ ounce) can French onion soup, undiluted
- 1 (9 ounce) package frozen cut green beans
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 1 (9-ounce) package refrigerated cheese-filled tortellini

In a soup pot over medium-high heat, cook ground beef 5 to 7 minutes or until browned; drain.

Add remaining ingredients except tortellini. Bring to a boil, cover, then reduce heat to low and simmer 15 minutes. Add tortellini and cook 5 minutes or until tortellini is tender. Serve with Parmesan cheese.

HAWAIIAN CHEESE BREAD

- 1 loaf (1 pound) Hawaiian sweet bread
- 1 block (8 ounces) Swiss cheese
- 3 slices red onion, chopped
- ½ cup butter, melted
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 teaspoon salt

Cut bread diagonally into 1-inch slices to within 1 inch of bottom. Repeat cuts in opposite direction. Cut Swiss cheese into ¼-inch slices; cut slices into small pieces. Insert into bread. Combine the onion, butter, garlic and salt; spoon over bread.

Wrap loaf in foil. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve warm.

CHOCOLATE BILLIONAIRES

- 1 package (14 ounces) caramels
- 3 tablespoons water
- 1½ cups chopped pecans
- 1 cup crisp rice cereal
- 3 cups milk chocolate chips
- 1½ teaspoons shortening

Line two baking sheets with waxed paper; grease the paper and set aside.

In a heavy saucepan, combine the caramels and water; cook and stir over low heat until smooth. Stir in pecans and cereal until coated. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto prepared pans. Refrigerate for 10 minutes or until firm.

Meanwhile, in another heavy saucepan, melt chocolate chips and shortening over low heat; stir until smooth. Dip candy into chocolate, coating all sides; place on prepared pans. Refrigerate until set.

CINNAMON BUN PIE

- ¾ cup plus 2 tablespoons butter, melted, divided
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 1 (16.3-ounce) package refrigerated biscuits (8 biscuits)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Coat bottom of a deep-dish pie plate with 2 tablespoons melted butter; set aside. Place remaining melted butter in a small bowl.

In another small bowl, combine pecans, sugar, and cinnamon; mix well. Sprinkle one-quarter of the pecan mixture over bottom of pie plate.

Separate each biscuit into 3 layers. Dip biscuit pieces one at a time in melted butter, making sure to coat each thoroughly. Layer 8 biscuit pieces in bottom of pie plate, completely covering pecan mixture. Repeat pecan mixture and biscuit layers two more times. Top with remaining pecan mixture and drizzle with any leftover melted butter.

Bake 20 to 25 minutes, or until biscuits are golden and cooked through. Allow to cool 5 minutes, then invert onto a serving platter and slice into wedges. Serve warm.

NEW ORLEANS BREAD PUDDING WITH BOURBON SAUCE

- 1 quart whole milk
- 1 loaf French bread, broken into pieces (approximately 9 cups)
- 3 eggs
- 3 cups sugar
- 2 tablespoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup raisins
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter
- 1 (5-ounce) can evaporated milk
- 1 egg yolk, beaten
- 2 tablespoons bourbon

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Coat an 8-inch square baking dish with cooking spray.

Pour milk into a large bowl; add bread, crushing with the back of a spoon, and soak until all milk is absorbed. Add 3 whole eggs, 2 cups sugar, vanilla, and raisins; mix well. Spread mixture evenly into prepared baking dish.

Bake 40 to 50 minutes, or until firm and golden.

Before serving, in a medium saucepan, combine the butter, evaporated milk, 1 cup sugar, and egg yolk. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, for 10 to 15 minutes, or until thickened. Stir in bourbon then serve sauce warm over bread pudding.

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.