



ISSN 0897-2958

# Fraternally Yours®

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

VOL. 105, NO. 4

JANUARY 2019

HAPPY  
*New Year*  
2019

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

*42nd Quadrennial Convention*

Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina

**OCTOBER 3-6, 2019**

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

## Fraternally Yours, ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA®



ISSN 0897-2958



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

Periodical Postage Paid at  
Cleveland, OH 44101 and additional entries

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

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

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

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**CHAPLAIN:**  
Very Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando,  
Cathedral of Saint Columba, 159 W. Rayen Ave.,  
Youngstown, OH 44503. Residence: (330) 744-5233.  
Email: [ppolando@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:ppolando@youngstowndiocese.org)  
**PRESIDENT:**

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

**NATIONAL DIRECTORS:**  
Jeanette E. Palanca, 304 W. Exchange Street,  
Crete, IL 60417. Residence: (847) 770-3508. Email:  
[jeannetteeve@outlook.com](mailto:jeannetteeve@outlook.com).

Sue Ann M. Seich, 1433 Saxony Circle, NW, Canton,  
OH 44708. (330) 478-2949. Email: [sams330@aol.com](mailto:sams330@aol.com).

Lawrence M. Golofski, 1114 Surrey Lane, Vandergrift,  
PA 15690. Residence: (412) 915-9035. Email:  
[LarryG.FCsla@gmail.com](mailto:LarryG.FCsla@gmail.com).

Joann Skvarek Banvich, Whiting, IN 46394. Residence:  
(219) 322-8785. Email: [btvendo@gmail.com](mailto:btvendo@gmail.com).

**NATIONAL TRUSTEES:**  
Virginia A. Holmes, 1625 Vermont Avenue, White Oak,  
PA 15131. Residence: (412) 672-1565. Email:  
[Holmes7732@aol.com](mailto:Holmes7732@aol.com).


Barbara Novotny Waller, 413 Oley Street, Reading,  
PA 19601. Residence: (610) 372-5750. Email:  
[bnwaller@comcast.net](mailto:bnwaller@comcast.net).

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

Dennis L. Povondra, 102 South Janda Avenue, Tabor,  
SD 57063. Residence: (605) 463-2571. Email:  
[povondra@hcinet.net](mailto:povondra@hcinet.net).

Dorothy L. Urbanowicz, 27 Crescent Drive, Monessen,  
PA 15062. Residence: (724) 684-8243. Email:  
[dorothy8613@gmail.com](mailto:dorothy8613@gmail.com).

**COURT OF APPEALS:**  
Anne M. Sedlock  
Judith A. Fedor  
Cynthia Oresik  
Bernadette J. Demechko



## CONTENTMENT

The story is told of a farmer who lived on the same farm all of his life. It was a good farm, but with the passing years, the farmer began to tire of it and long for something better. Every day, he found something else wrong with the farm and finally decided to sell. He hired a realtor, who made up a sales flier, emphasizing the good points of the farm, including an ideal location, modern equipment and healthy stock on acres of fertile ground. Before she ran the ad, she called the farmer and read it to him for his approval. The farmer listened carefully as she read, and when she finished, he cried out, "Hold everything! I have changed my mind. I am not going to sell. I have been looking for a place like that all of my life!"

Like the farmer, you and I are constantly looking for something "better." Deep in our hearts, we long for something more. We should be living illustrations of peace and contentment, but we often struggle in life . . . so think about it . . . what is the secret of contentment?

Dear Friends,

As we begin another New Year consider that contentment is all in your perspective. Just trust in God, and learn to be content in whatever circumstances you find yourself. The first step toward a contented life is to trust in God and choose which perspective you will view your life from.

Until Next Month . . . Happy New Year!  
**Warmly, Carolyn**

## CONVENTION 2019

### Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina

It is hard to believe, but the time is fast approaching for delegates to gather for the organization's 42nd National Convention to be held October 3-6th, 2019, at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina, 700 S. Florida Ave., Tampa, FL 33602. Delegates will experience Tampa's dynamic downtown – this beautifully transformed waterfront hotel sits adjacent to the Tampa Convention Center and is steps from the Tampa Riverwalk, Florida Aquarium, the evolving Sparkman Wharf (formerly Channelside) and Amalie Arena. Take a plunge in the gorgeous rooftop pool, work out in the state-of-the-art fitness center, enjoy marina activities or indulge in restaurants, which include a brand new gastropub.

While the convention site is appealing, each delegate should keep in mind that they will be responsible for making critical business decisions for our Association. It is VITAL that branches send members that are willing to listen, learn, discuss, and debate matters of great importance. The welfare of our organization rests in the hands of our delegates, who when in convention session, are the governing, legislative and judicial body of our Association. Therefore, it is imperative that the delegates you elect are willing to attend the daily business sessions, and are knowledgeable about the vision, mission, goals and objectives of FCsla. More details will be forthcoming – including information about delegate selection, timelines based on the associations bylaws, committee, and specific hotel accommodations. It is not too early to save the dates and begin to discuss travel plans for this important event!



# ST. RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

*Stastlivi Novy Rok!* Happy New Year! My prayer is that your celebration of the Birth of Jesus at Christmas was filled with hope and happiness! To those of you who were fortunate to celebrate the season with families and to those who celebrated quietly without the pleasure of visiting family members, may the blessings and grace of the Virgin's Child be upon you and your loved ones throughout 2019! May all of us, through the intercession of the Mother of God, come closer to and obtain a better relationship with her Son, Jesus Christ, through our love for our benevolent God and for one another.

As some of you may recall, in 2009 the topic of my articles each month focused on saints within the Church. Our Holy Catholic Church is abounding with saints whose lives may not be familiar to many of you. In 2019 I would like to revisit this topic and hope to present to you twelve additional saints whose lives were devoted to Christ and who have had a lasting influence in the annals of Church history.

On the wall in the Department of Canonical Services in the Diocese of Youngstown, where I serve as Executive Director and Judicial Vicar of the Tribunal, hangs a picture of St. Raymond of Peñafort, who is the patron saint of canonists such as me. He was born in Peñafort, Catalonia, Spain in 1175 with family lineage associated with counts and kings. He excelled in his studies so that by the time Raymond was twenty he was teaching philosophy in Barcelona. Having achieved a great reputation, he left Barcelona at the age of thirty to study in Bologna, where he soon earned a doctorate in both civil and canon law.

At the age of 47 Raymond became a Dominican. Being a humble and fervent young novice, he asked to be given a severe penance to atone for what he felt was some complacency in his teaching. His superiors did impose a penance but not one he expected. His task was to write a collection of cases regarding sins, penances and conscience for the use of confessors. The collection discussed pertinent doctrines and laws of the

Church that pertained to a problem or case that might be brought to a confessor. St. Raymond's reputation in canon law only increased. His preaching throughout Spain brought him additional fame, as did his charitable deeds. He had a remarkable record of converting heretics, especially Moors.

As a result of St. Raymond's far-reaching reputation, Pope Gregory IX called Raymond to Rome in 1230 to work for him and to be his confessor. Pope Gregory then asked Raymond to gather together all the scattered decrees of Popes and Councils from 1150 until that time. It took three years for Raymond to compile five books that were called the "Decretals." These were considered a cornerstone of canon law and one of the best collections of Church law until the Code of Canon Law was written in 1917.

In 1235 the pope named St. Raymond to the position of archbishop of Tarragona. Raymond was now 60 years old and not at all happy about the assignment. However, it was to last only a short time since he became seriously ill. He returned to Spain to convalesce where he resumed his work as preacher and confessor. His recovery was short lived as he was elected at the age of 63 to be the head of the Dominican order, only the second person named so after St. Dominic himself. Once again he used his education and talent by devoting the next two years to drawing up a clearer revision of the constitution of the Dominican order.

Many illustrations of St. Raymond show him standing upon his cloak on a body of water while holding up one corner of the cloak. The pictures refer to a famous incident that is said to have taken place at a time when St. Raymond accompanied the king to Majorca. The king had promised to curtail his womanizing but failed to follow through on his promise. As a result, Raymond asked to go back to Barcelona. The king refused him, as well as threatened to punish by death anyone who attempted to aid Raymond. It is said that St. Raymond then walked to the sea and spread his cloak upon the water. He tied up one corner to his staff to make a sail, and after making the sign of the cross, continued upon the water to reach Majorca, some 450 miles away, six hours later. Once there he gathered up his cloak, which was dry, and proceeded to his monastery. A chapel was later built on the place where he was to have landed.

When St. Raymond was 65 years old he resigned his position as head of the Dominican order, citing his age as a factor. But his work for God was not yet over. He remained active in the conversion of the Moors in Spain and was also responsible for St. Thomas Aquinas writing his work, *Against the Gentiles*. St. Raymond of Peñafort served the Lord another 35 years and lived to be a grand 100 years old! The above-mentioned miracle, including several others, is said to be recorded in the decree of St. Raymond's canonization which took place in 1601. *St. Raymond of Peñafort, patron saint of canonists, pray for us, that we may dedicate our lives to following God's commandments and fulfilling His plan for us.*

## Witamy / Welcome

A warm welcome to all the former members of Polish Women's Alliance who are receiving their first edition of *Fraternally Yours* this month. Welcome to the FCSLA fraternal family. We hope you enjoy our monthly publication! Feel free to submit your news to: Carolyn M. Bazik, National Editor @ PO Box 1617, Reading, PA 19603 or by email to [zjbazik@comcast.net](mailto:zjbazik@comcast.net).

# Message from our National President

## CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



***“Joy springs from a grateful heart ... [and from] remembrance of the amazement which our encounters with Jesus Christ awaken in our hearts.”***

**\*\* Pope Francis**



Dear fellow members,

2019 promises to be another exciting year, as we move forward with the steps necessary to prepare for our 42nd Quadrennial Convention scheduled for Tampa, Florida from Thursday, October 3 (registration and committees) through Sunday, October 6, 2019. Your branch secretary should receive the Official Notice, including delegate

application forms in early January, 2019. It is a new, exciting beginning of an exciting year for all of us!

During my tenure as your National President, we have grown financially and fraternally. With over 111,000 members and licensed in 48 states and D.C., our association holds over \$1.1 Billion of life insurance in force, has nearly \$1 Billion of admitted assets and a healthy surplus for a fraternal our size. We continue to implement ways we can build through the fantastic opportunities we have across the United States of America!

We currently have over 500 branches in many neighborhoods where our branch members, working with those in the community, continue to transform lives through our increasing number of matching funds programs, and countless random acts of kindness and charitable works.

The beginning of the new year is a good time for financial planning for immediate needs and for retire-

ment. For those of you, your children or grandchildren who are employed, the use of a traditional or Roth IRA makes a lot of sense. The tax savings and deferral advantages cannot be ignored. This is especially important for workers who do not have company pension plans.

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association has exceptional IRA (both Roth and traditional) annuity plans available. Check out our notices in the monthly magazine, contact your branch officer, producer or home office staff for more information.

May all of us make clear and simple resolutions in the New Year. We can make FCSLA part of our planning as one of those resolutions!

Happy New Year, God's blessings, health and happiness as we continue life's journey together!

**Cynthia M. Maleski**

### **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

- Did your children, grandchildren receive special awards or achievements in school?
- Baptisms? Confirmations? New Members?
- Participated in Volunteer & Community Events?

If they are members of the FCSLA please send us a photo and short article about their special achievements!

Email National Editor at [zjbazik@comcast.net](mailto:zjbazik@comcast.net)

## **FCSLA Annuity Rates**

**Rates for our deferred Elite Annuities:**

**SILVER ELITE (5 YEAR)**

**3.25% APY\***

**GOLD ELITE (7 YEAR)**

**3.50% APY\***

**PLATINUM ELITE (10 YEAR)**

**3.75% APY\***

\*This rate is in effect 1/1/2019 thru 3/31/2019.

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 2019 is 2% APY and for the Platinum Elite is 2.5% APY.



## *Sr. Branch 101 Observes Veteran's Day with Warriors' Brunch*

At the eleventh minute, of the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month – November 11th, 2018, while Church bells pealed throughout Europe, poppies flowered on Flanders fields in France, moments of silence were held from sea to shining sea, and while dignitaries laid wreaths and flowers at war memorials, the St. Louis Branches of



**L-R: Military brothers – US Navy (active) Jon Duffie (married to S101 member Leah Duffie, nee Miklovic); USMC Joshua Miklovic member S101 and USMC Jacob Miklovic member S101.**

S101 and J011 were 'serving those who have served' – 100 veterans and their families on Veterans Day – a Day of remembrance and prayer. Exactly 100 years ago to the day, World War I – described as "The Great War" – contemporaneously described as the "war to end all wars" officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles

was signed in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France.

More than 100,000 Americans died in World War I, after the United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917 – on this day of remembrance, we come together to give thanks to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in that conflict and those who returned home to help shape the world we live in today.

On this Veterans Day – historically named Armistice Day – our Branches took a moment to reflect on the sacrifice and service of our over 20 million Veterans of Military Service and honor those warriors along with the support from their

families, and as a nation, to stand in silence and honor the fallen of all conflicts, that contributed to maintaining the freedoms that we enjoy – especially the Freedom of Religion!

Our warriors' brunch was celebrated at St. Mary Magdalen which is celebrating its centenary of existence serving the south St. Louis community with its spiritual and corporal needs for the past one hundred years.

In addition to honoring the retired and active military attendees, past veterans who 'passed' since last year's brunch, received their "Last Post" which, historically, was incorporated into military funerals, where it was ordered as a final farewell, symbolizing the fact that the duty of the dead soldier is over and that they can rest in peace.

Come home! Come home . . . The last post is sounding for you to hear . . . All good soldiers know very well there is nothing to fear.

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, in St. Louis, is privileged, humbled and honored to provide this annual warriors' Brunch . . . For those who serve now . . . With gratitude to those who served then . . . That we all might live in Freedom tomorrow . . .



**Veterans and their families.**

## **ATTENTION! UWAGA!**

### **MERGER MEMBERS ARE YOU LOOKING FOR:**

**Archived issues of Glos Polek or the Fraternal Journal?  
Photos from a past event? Polish Holiday Recipes?  
Polish Traditions?**

**You can now find them on the FCSLA website!**

**GO TO: [FCSLA.ORG/](http://FCSLA.ORG/) Z District  
or [FCSLA.ORG/](http://FCSLA.ORG/) U District**

## Monessen Sr. Branch 88 Annual Holiday Celebration

Monessen Sr. Branch 88 held their annual Christmas Party on December 2, 2018 at the Cedarbrook Golf Country Club. A sunny afternoon provided the beautiful setting with golfers on the course. President, Dorothy Urbanowicz welcomed and provided invocation. Members enjoyed a delicious meal with holiday background music provided by DJ Ron Doty.

Following dinner a moment of silence was held for all deceased members and Dorothy then introduced the branch officers. She reminded those present of the current Friends and Family campaign as well as the fact that the only requirement for membership is Christian. Annuity rates were then reviewed and questions were answered. Announcement was made of the seven scholarship winners from Sr. Branch 88 and Jr. Branch 157 being: Kylie Kane, Gabrielle Leadbitter, Lillian Machusko, James B. Smith, Anthony Startare Jr., Sean Billy, and Ana Brandt as well as the additional two members, Rachael Funtal and Kathryn Dzurik receiving scholarships from the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance.

Fifty year members were recognized: Andrea Bernik, Mark Adam Rackish, John Shosky, Ralston Cavender, Cynthia Getty, Frederick McLuckie, Joseph Feehan, Patrick Feehan and Mary Carol Jones.

Dorothy announced that the branch provided a "Join Hands Day" Car Wash with the Leo Club and Sr. Branch 88 had two Matching Funds Projects as well as Jr. Branch 157 also had two Matching Funds Projects.

Dorothy pointed out that the quadrennial convention will be held in 2019 and FCSLA will be donating One Million to various churches, schools and civic groups. She also reminded members to keep addresses and beneficiaries current. An announcement was also made about the Slovak Catholic Federation.

Following distribution of centerpieces and 70 door prizes, Dorothy recited "A Christmas Prayer" by Robert Louis Stevenson and members were wished a Very Merry Christmas and Blessed Happy New Year as they departed.



Branch Officers, L-R: Rosemary Betza, Dorothy Urbanowicz, Flora Funtal, Ruth Todd and Cindy Pawelec.



### Attention!

If you would like to receive *Fraternally Yours* by email instead of through the mail please return this form to the attention of Marie Dalpiaz at the Home Office.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

You will begin to receive *Fraternally Yours* by email as soon as the changes can be made.



## Sr. Branch 140 Holds Annual Meeting and Christmas Party

Sr. Branch 140, Lansford, PA held their annual meeting and Christmas Party on Sunday, December 2, 2018 at Macaluso's in Nesquehoning, PA. Louise Dunstan, Branch Financial Secretary/Treasurer thanked her committee and President Veronica Bazik welcomed members and conveyed her wishes for a blessed holiday season. National Trustee and Branch auditor Barbara Waller provided an update on the state of the FCSLA on the National level and National Editor Carolyn Bazik spoke about the upcoming 42nd Quadrennial Convention in Tampa, FL on

October 3-6, 2019. Branch Chaplain Monsignor Tom Derzack concluded the event with a blessing. Everyone left looking forward to next year!



## Branch 313 Celebrated Fall Blessings Luncheon

Branch 313 celebrated a Fall Blessings luncheon on November 3. Attendees made food and paper product contributions to the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches food pantry; representatives from the Association of Churches attended the luncheon as guests. A matching funds event was also held with proceeds split between the food pantry and the St. Vincent de Paul society.





## Anna Hurban Scholarship Fund

**First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association**

**24950 Chagrin Boulevard**

**Beachwood, OH 44122**

**800-464-4642 • www.fcsla.org**

**Get Involved. Make a Donation.**

**You** can make a difference in helping to make education affordable for a deserving student. Your generous gift to the Anna Hurban Scholarship Fund gives our young members the opportunity to build an even stronger foundation as they begin their life journey and affirms them at a crucial time in their lives.

Sincerely,  
**Cynthia M. Maleski**  
National President and CEO

*First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association of the United States of America is a Fraternal Benefit Society organized under 501(c)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your contributions to our scholarship fund are tax deductible.*

### Your Contribution Information

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

All donations, large and small, matter and are greatly appreciated. All donors and gifts will be proudly acknowledged in *Fraternally Yours* magazine unless you request that your name be withheld.

**Method of payment:** Please write your check or money order payable to FCSLA Anna Hurban Scholarship Fund.

**Send your donations to:** National President, FCSLA,  
24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Beachwood, OH 44122.

## Anna M. Hudock Parish Volunteer of the Year



Miss Anna M. Hudock was voted the Parish Volunteer of the Year at her parish of St. Andre Bessette in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Anna has been deeply involved in many capacities of parish functions. As head of the Social Justice Council she oversees the annual

Remembrance Mass and the Holiday Giving Tree, and she coordinates visits to parishioners who are homebound or reside in nursing facilities. In addition to serving as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist at Masses and at the local hospital, she is a member of the parish choir and a lector at daily Mass. She also serves on various parish committees and volunteers at numerous parish events.

She is a member of the Board of the Slovak Heritage Society of NEPA and serves as its recording secretary. She is also Treasurer of the Magdalen I, Iskra District of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. Anna was recognized for her dedicated service at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner honoring all parish volunteers on November 11, 2018. Pictured above is Rev. Kenneth Seegar, Pastor of St. Andre Bessette Parish, presenting Anna with the award.

**Congratulations, Anna!**

## SLOVAK-AMERICAN COOK BOOK

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

**ALL ARE SOLD FOR CASH**



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

(Please Print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed find \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ (Money Order)

☐ (Check) for \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the Cook Book.





# IN MEMORIAM

## Thomas "TJ" Studniarz, S519



Thomas "TJ" Studniarz, Sr., age 68, of Willoughick, OH passed away March 11, 2018. He was born in Cleveland, on July 20, 1949, to the late Ted and Marie (Fioritto) Studniarz. He was a proud and loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend. TJ was a faithful fan of the Cleveland Indians and had a passion for classic cars and music. Above all, his greatest joy and source of pride was his family, especially his grandchildren. A tremendous loss is felt by all of those who were blessed and honored to know him. TJ is survived by his loving wife of 46 years, Carol, children Thomas (Tina), Jeff (Christine), Sandy (Bob) Hungerford, and Michelle (Brian) Bowes, 12 grandchildren, 1 grand-doggy and siblings Anita (Buck) Orndorff, Mary (Jim) Federico, Bob (Rosa) and Joe (Donna).

## Charles S. Bares, W093



Charles Stanley Bares died on April 20, 2018. He was born on a farm near Tabor, SD on February 12, 1931 to Tony and Anna Bares. He was a 1949 graduate of Tyndall High School. He served in the Korean War and was a lifetime member of the V.F.W. and also served on the school board. Charlie was an active member of St. Leo's Church in Tyndall all of his life. On June 21, 1955, he married Margaret Uhing in Bow Valley, NE. Together, they farmed south of Tyndall until their retirement in 2009. Charlie had a great love for farming, especially caring for his livestock. He also loved polka music, Czech Days, dancing, playing cards, enjoying friends and trying his luck at the casino, chocolate pie, chocolate cake, chocolate candy and apricot kolaches! Grateful for sharing his life are his wife, Margaret, their three children: Bob (Linda) Bares of Tyndall, Carol (Jay) Romkema, Springfield and Tom (Janie) Bares of Tyndall; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; a sister, Mary Ann Cuka and many relatives and friends.

## Rita Petty LoGiudice, S161



Rita passed away on March 17, 2018. She was born May 8, 1940, in Youngstown, OH, a daughter of Helen and Joseph Novotny. She was a graduate of Ursuline High School. She was a floral designer working at many local shops including Burkland and Walther's Florists. A devout Catholic, Rita was a member of Our Lady of Sorrows Church. A volunteer at the church, she enjoyed helping to decorate it for all holidays. She was proud of her Slovak heritage and was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning. She was a loving, caring person who always had a smile on her face and a kind word. She cheered for The Ohio State Buckeyes and all the Cleveland teams, Indians, Browns and Cavs. She leaves to cherish her memories, her husband, Robert LoGiudice of Boardman; daughter Susan (Ron) Yarab of Poland; daughter-in-law Raynae Petty; grandchildren Magen Ross Petty and William Mark Petty of Boardman; sister Therese (John) Nestor of Austintown; aunt Philomena McCaffery of Youngstown; sister-in-law Dorie Novotny of Struthers; brother-in-

law Don LoGiudice of Youngstown; and many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in her name to Cardinal Mooney High School/Adopt a Student Fund, 2545 Erie St., Youngstown, OH 44507, [www.cardinalmooney.com](http://www.cardinalmooney.com).

## Genevieve D. "Ginger" Lambert, S046



Genevieve D. "Ginger" Lambert, 75, of Sugar Grove, IL passed away February 26, 2018 after a 4+ year courageous battle with ALS. Ginger was born in Chicago, IL on February 6, 1943 to Edward and Genevieve Witowski and was the youngest of three children. Ginger's mom Genevieve passed away giving birth to Ginger. Edward then married Helen who raised Ginger and her surviving siblings Edward and Elaine. At age 15, Ginger joined the 4H where she met her husband Rodger. Ginger and Rodger were married in 1964 at St. John of God Church, two days after her 21st birthday. They were married for 50 years until Rodger passed away in 2014. Ginger's passion was people. She always put others first and never asked for anything in return. She had the unique ability to listen intently to others and always kept in touch with everyone she encountered. Since 1987, until her illness took away her independence, Ginger volunteered weekly at the Hesed House, whose mission is to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless and give people the chance to hope again. She was a member of Holy Angels Catholic Church in Aurora until St. Katherine Drexel opened its congregation in Sugar Grove. Ginger had a special heart for animals. She loved all her grand dogs over the years, Annie, Hogan, Oscar and Arthur. Survivors include daughter Suzanne (Kevin) Duck of Batavia, IL and their children Cassie and Natalie, son Brannon Lambert and his significant other for 25 years, Dawn Marsillo, of Chicago IL, daughter Andrea (Grant) Thayer and their children Jack, Peter, and Eli, brother Edward (Carlene) Witowski, and a sister Elaine (Dick) Dynis, as well as many extended family and friends.

## Virginia Sikora (nee Gadowski), Z882



Virginia Sikora (nee Gadowski), age 90, died December 12, 2018. Beloved wife of the late Raymond Sikora. Dear sister of the late Wanda and the late Joseph. Fond aunt of Joyce. Virginia was the Past President of the Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation from 2005 until 2017, Past President of the Polish Women's Alliance of America from 1999-2011. She was also the Treasurer for the City of Detroit, Treasurer of the Detroit Board of Education, Trustee of the Detroit Police and Fire System. Virginia was a 41 year member of Detroit Municipal Credit Union and was also the first woman elected to the Board of Directors as President of the Credit Union. Memorial contributions to the Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation, 6645 N. Oliphant, Chicago, IL 60631 are requested.

## HELEN KOCAN DISTRICT MEETING

The last meeting of 2018 for the Helen Kocan District was held at Theo's Restaurant in Highland, IN on Sunday, October 14, with each Branch of the District being represented.

After a four course luncheon was enjoyed by all, President Margaret Abildua introduced Mr. Jim Morsovillo, Regional Sales Manager who gave many ways to stimulate sales in our

District. He not only motivated our agents and recommenders, but gave many inspirational suggestions to all branch officers on how to stimulate sales within their branches, and give recommendations to agents within their Districts.

Following Mr. Morsovillo's inspirational talk, the general meeting was called to order, completing all general

business of the Helen Kocan District. The final topic of the afternoon being a Tutorial on Matching Funds. Highlights of the Guide Lines of the Matching Funds were addressed, followed by detailed discussions and suggestions from branch officers.

The meeting adjourned after suggestions for activities for 2019 were presented and discussed.



Helen Kocan District Officers, L-R: Margaret Abildua, President; Betty Yurechko, Treasurer; Joann Skvarek Banvich, Vice-President.



FCSLA Regional Sales Manager Jim Morsovillo addressing district members in attendance at the meeting.



Representatives of S409 and J317; East Chicago, IN.



Representatives of S452 and J348; Whiting, IN.



Representatives of S507 and J432; Hammond, IN.



Representatives of S53 and J83; Joliet, IL.



Representatives of S289 and J184; Gary, IN.



Representatives of S81 and J58; Whiting, IN .



# CHICAGO REGIONAL SUMMIT



Officers and members of the Anna Hurban Chicago District, the Helen Kochan District of Indiana/Joliet, PWA and PUNA Districts joined together on September 22, 2018 for a Regional Summit. The Summit was coordinated by the Home Office and held at the Mayor's Mansion Banquet Hall in Chicago, IL. The day began with a presentation from National President,

Cynthia Maleski, who welcomed guests from across the region. Cynthia's remarks focused on the history of the organization, its tremendous growth over the years, and the prospects of a very successful future given our size, stability, values and leadership. Following Cynthia's presentation, Katherine Bowes, Acting Interim National Secretary, introduced our National Sales Director, Al Heiles. Al reviewed the FCSLA product offerings and focused on our Single Premium



Whole Life Policy and its particular appeal for wealth transfer. He also highlighted the tremendous value of the Super Youth Term policy for guaranteeing the insurability of our young people for an exceptional annual premium. Al introduced Jim



Morsovillo, the Regional Sales Manager for the Midwest area. The morning presentations were rounded out with a

presentation from Kelly Shedlock, the National Fraternal and Youth Director. Joining us by phone, Kelly discussed the coordination of matching funds for the branches and a variety of nationally sponsored contests for our junior and senior members. Kelly also gave an update on the new branch manual (recently mailed in October to branch officers) and fielded branch questions. The presenters wrapped up the meeting with a question and answer session at which time the attendees then continued their fellowship and enjoyed a delicious ethnic lunch. All the attendees left the meeting inspired and commented on the value of holding a session like this and being able to connect with the National Leadership Team at the local level (To see additional photos from this event go to: <http://www.fcsla.org/district/chicago/gallery.php>)





## *"A Harvest Moon" Debutante Ball in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania*

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association presented *A Harvest Moon Debutante Ball* in Wilkes-Barre, PA on October 27, 2018. For the first 38 years the Debutante Ball was sponsored by the Polish Union of USA, but since the merger in 2016, FCSLA continues to sponsorship of this unique event which celebrated its 40th year! This was a wonderful time to share with the communities of Northeastern Pennsylvania, our young female members, by presenting them into society. They were presented that evening by their parents, and along with their escorts they danced the traditional polonaise waltz.

We proudly introduced Ms. Lilly Shotto of Dunmore, PA. She was presented that evening by her parents Mr. Warren and Mrs. Pam Shotto. Lilly was escorted that evening by her brother, Mr. Spencer Shotto of Dunmore, PA. Lilly graduated from the Common Wealth Charter Academy in June of 2018. She is currently attending Lackawanna Community College's EMT course. Lilly will complete the EMT course this December. She looks forward to moving into an EMT position once she's done, as she continues to pursue a career in helping others.

We proudly introduced Ms. Savannah Furlong of Harrisburg, PA. She was presented that evening by her parents Mr. Lawrence and Mrs. Meri Beth Furlong. Savannah was escorted that evening by Mr. Trevor Patrick of Hummelstown, PA. Savannah is in 10th grade at Dauphin County Technical School. Savannah's goal in life at this point in time is to pursue higher education to become either a Physical Therapist, obtain a degree in exercise science or something within the Dental Field. She hopes to travel, go to the University of North Carolina, and has aspirations of participating within their Club Gymnastics Program.

The Page Boy for this year's ball was Mr. Jacob Kopko of White Haven, PA. He was extremely excited to play the role

his older brother, Joseph, did when he was a Page Boy himself years ago. Our Page Girl this year was the daughter of our very own Chairperson, Miss Madelyn Stefanac of Spring Brook Township, PA. Mrs. Emily Stefanac, Chair of the Debutante Ball, said, "I've been waiting over a decade for the day I could see my daughter play the role of the Page Girl! It is so surreal to actually watch her dancing on the floor, twirling in her dress. We are so blessed, proud, and cannot wait for the day she can be a Debutante herself."

Congratulations go out to the winner of the Grant Larronde Scholarship, Ms. Karen Hilenski, who attended the evening with her family to be recognized by Mrs. Elaine Larronde herself. Elaine presents this scholarship in loving memory of her late son, Grant, to honor his legacy by helping a chosen member, based on an essay submitted, the financial help in pursuing higher education.

Congratulations also go out to the winner of the Marion Vrabel Scholarship, Debutante Ms. Savannah Furlong. The late Marion Vrabel's daughters, Mrs. Elaine Larronde and Mrs. Deborah Osborne, presented the scholarship to Debutante Savannah. Each year Elaine and Deborah are honored to present this scholarship to one of our Debutante's, as a continued way to celebrate their late mothers belief in higher education. All fraternal member Debutantes are eligible to receive this scholarship, the winner is chosen based on an essay submission, and is announced live the night of the ball.

The evening program was concluded with a special presentation to our very own Ms. Charlotte Androckitis. Charlotte has been employed in the fraternal community since 1963, for 55 consecutive years and recently retired on October 15th, 2018. She was the General Secretary of the Polish Union from October 1982 until March 21, 2010 when a special convention changed that title to CEO/National Secretary. In September 2010, she was elected by the 2010 convention delegates to hold the position of CEO/National Secretary, a position she held until June 1, 2016 when the Polish Union was merged with the FCSLA. At that time her title was changed to acting PUNA CEL/National Secretary. Charlotte served on the committee of the Debutante Ball since its inception 40 years ago, and continues to do so presently. She also chaired the event on two different occasions

*Continued on page 13*



**The Debutante Ball Committee.**



**The committee with Charlotte and the sweet treats they presented her to enjoy!**



**The Debutante Ball Committee, FCSLA National Officers, and some members pose for a photo after the ball!**



before this evening. Charlotte was honored to be our Presenter of Debutantes at this year's ball.

Mrs. Emily Stefanac, Debutante Ball Chair, would like to express her sincere gratitude to her committee members: Charlotte Androckitis, Reverend Patrick Albert, Mary Ann Arnold, Nancy Bachurek, William Geibus, Terri Rumensky, and Deborah Zielinski; for their continued dedication and help in planning this spectacular event. She would also like to thank Carolyn Bazik for volunteering to attend the ball, and capture gorgeous pictures for us to cherish for years to come. A special thank you goes out to all of the FCSLA members who attended this year's event, especially President Cynthia M. Maleski. The many miles traveled for those individuals to attend did not go unnoticed and are continually appreciated.



**Ms. Lilly Shotto of Dunmore, PA with her parents Warren and Mrs. Pam Shotto.**



**Ms. Savannah Furlong of Harrisburg, PA with her parents Lawrence and Meri Beth Furlong.**

On behalf of the Debutante Ball Committee, we express our sincere gratitude towards our Debutantes, Escorts, Page Boy, Page Girl, their families, friends, and all of our fraternal members who came out to support this year's Debutante Ball. We hope to continue with this beautiful tradition for years to come, and sincerely invite you to participate in next year's Debutante Ball! Planning will be under way shortly, so please give thought to spending the evening with us next year, as we take a moment to celebrate our youth and present a new group of Debutantes into our society.



**Debutante Lilly Spencer with her escort and brother Spencer Shotto.**



**Debutante Savannah Furlong with her escort Trevor Patrick.**



**Front row, L-R: Ms. Lilly Shotto, Miss Madelyn Stefanac, Ms. Savannah Furlong. Back Row: Mr. Spencer Shotto, Mr. Jacob Kopko, Mr. Trevor Patrick.**



**National President Cynthia Maleski thanks retiring PUNA CEO/National Secretary Ms. Charlotte Androckitis for her 55 years of service and presents her with a gift!**



**Emily Stefanac, Debutante Committee Chairperson thanks Charlotte for her service and wishes her well on her retirement on behalf of the Committee.**



## *Sr. Branch 111 of Charleroi, PA Holds Annual Meeting and Christmas Luncheon*

The annual luncheon included 21 guests. Prayers were offered in remembrance of Past-President Grace Popson, who passed away earlier this year. She faithfully served the branch for over 50 years and will be deeply missed. Members participated in the meeting and then enjoyed good food and fellowship. They were presented with a token from the FCSLA and door prizes were drawn. All were given the Family & Friends Membership Rewards forms—anyone interested in joining can also email: [claybaugh@zoominternet.net](mailto:claybaugh@zoominternet.net).



## **Branch W018 Enjoy Winery Outing**

Soaring Wings Winery was the destination for the adult members of FCSLA Branch W018 (Omaha, NE) on Sunday, September 23rd. The winery had been a popular adult activity in the past and this year was no exception. The event drew the most members the Branch has entertained at the winery!



**Proud Members of FCSLA enjoy the wine, food and views at Soaring Wings Winery, Ann Jelinek and Teresa Dorwart.**

Members enjoyed sampling the variety of wines and beer (new this year) and their goody bags, provided by the Branch, filled with cheeses, meat, crackers, fruit, and cookies to complement their wine (beer) and cheese.

Members also enjoyed seeing and visiting with friends, as well as listening to the live music and appreciating the breathtaking views of the countryside at Soaring Wings.



**L-R: Laura Tworek, Tom Jelinek, and Marge Egermier.**

## **Celebrates 103rd Birthday**

Catherine Kovalchik, member of Branch 30, St. Anne's Lodge in Youngstown, OH, celebrated her 103rd birthday on December 4, 2018.

Congratulations and God's blessing on your special day!



## **Sr. Branch 88 and Jr. Branch 157 It's All a Family Affair!**



Catherine Hynek, who is a member of the Sr. Branch 88 of Monessen, PA is pictured with her 28 of 32 grandchildren and great-grandchildren who are members of Jr. Branch 157 of Monessen. The family recently gathered for a Thanksgiving Family Celebration!

## **Fall Activities for Branch W137**

W137, (Cedar Rapids, IA) members met at Bass Family Farms for a hayride and wienie roast. All families went home with a pumpkin and treat bags.





# FCSLA 2019-20 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**More than \$268,500 in Scholarship Awards!**

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA) is pleased to announce its **2019-20 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. 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 26, 2019. 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](http://www.fcsla.org)
- E-mail us at [Scholarship@FCSLA.org](mailto:Scholarship@FCSLA.org)
- Call the National Headquarters at **800-464-4642, ext. 1054**
- Fax the form at 216-464-9260
- Complete the form on this page and mail it to:

### **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION**

**Scholarship Department • 24950 Chagrin Blvd • Beachwood, OH 44122-5634**

---

## **2019-2020 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Application requested for the following award:

- ☐ College    ☐ Graduate    ☐ High School    ☐ Religious    ☐ Grades 1-4    ☐ Grades 5-8

# Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius Servant Leadership Award

On October 28, 2018, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA awarded the Servant Leadership Award to 35 outstanding high school Juniors and Seniors from the dioceses of Harrisburg, PA, and Bridgeport, CT. The ceremony took place at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA. Over the past 16 years, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius have honored over 1,100 teens in the Dioceses of Bridgeport, CT; Charleston, SC; Chicago, IL; Gary, IN; Harrisburg, PA; Milwaukee, WI; Pittsburgh, PA; St. Louis, MO; Scranton, PA; Syracuse, NY; and Trenton, NJ with the Servant Leadership Award.

The Servant Leadership Award recognizes distinguished high school Juniors and Seniors who are joyful witnesses, compassionate proclaimers, and enthusiastic builders of the Kingdom of God. The focus of the award is on teens who remain active in their faith and parish beyond Confirmation, and who actively serve in their parish, school and community.

Receiving the award were: John Ayres, Alex Cerminaro, Maura Consedine, Victoria Corado, Frances Czeponis, Samantha Darrup, Patrick Elter, Joseph Alexander Frasca, McKenna Geisel, Gina Gratti, Amy Grosser, Maison Grow, Colin Holcombe, Zachary Honabach, Danielle Hooper, Sarah Ickowitz, Margaret Karpinski, Grace Kearns, Lauren Elizabeth Koppen, Lauren Koranda, Kade Anthony Matter, Sarah Moore, Sophia Mucciolo, Katherine Lucy Negro, Nicholas Anthony Norce, Emily Olszewskie, Mary Elizabeth Richardson, Sarah Rodriguez, Maria Schiano, Thomas Schultz, Anthony Starvaggi, Justin Michael Wilga, Olivia Young, Lilian Alexis Yuschack, and Anthony Zimmerman.

Each teen was given the opportunity to select one person as a mentor who has encouraged them to generously use their time and talents as a follower of Jesus. The mentors selected were parents,



**Award recipients walk in at the beginning of the Servant Leadership Award ceremony in the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA.**



**Student recipients of the 2018 Servant Leadership Award.**

grandparents, teachers, coaches, youth ministers, scout leaders, Deacons, Sisters and Priests, who have been role models for the teens. Mentors recognized by the teens have made a difference in their lives by modeling servant leadership as a way of life in their family, parish, and community.

At the ceremony the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius also honored four adults who received the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award in the ministries of evangelization, education, elder care and ecumenism. Father Jankola was a priest from the Diocese of Scranton who was instrumental in recognizing the need for religious sisters to educate children and founded the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in 1909.

The 2018 Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Awards went to:

## **Evangelization — Sister Angela Pikus, OCD and the Carmelite Community of Danville**

Sister Angela Pikus, OCD and the Carmelite Community of Danville were the recipients of the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award for Evangelization. Sister Angela and the Sisters of the Carmelite Community of Danville have a strong influence in the surrounding communities and possess an evangelizer's heart in their lives as woman religious. As a cloistered, contemplative community, the impact and outreach of their prayers and their openness and willingness to walk with others in prayer is well known. The number of people from all walks of life who know about the Carmelites and cherish their ongoing relationship with the Carmelite nuns is amazing. They make wonderful connections and they stay connected. Though the Sisters of the Carmelite Community of Danville are a small cloistered congregation, they have touched the hearts of many people, believers and non-believers alike, in a variety of community settings. The Carmelite Sisters evangelize through forming strong bonds by knowing how to enter people's hearts and by helping them to discover a sense of God and his love.

## **Education — Mr. Carl Romanski**

Mr. Carl Romanski was the recipient of the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award for Education. Carl spent 35 years as a Spanish instructor at the Danville Area High

*Continued on page 17*



**Receiving Lifetime Servant Leadership Awards from Sister Michael Ann Orlik, SS.C.M. (second from right) General Superior of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius; (L-R:) Dr. Richard Sciotti for elder care; Sister Angela Pikus and Margaret Kob for evangelization; Mr. Carl Romanski for education. Absent from photo: Brother Michael Gosch, CSV for ecumenism.**



# Servant Leadership Award

*Continued from page 16*

School. His dedication to the teaching profession was greatly appreciated by his students, their parents, and the school administration. His love for the Spanish language inspired young people from ninth grade on. He was an icon in the Danville Area Spanish department and among the faculty. After retiring from regular teaching in 2003, Carl continued to put his Spanish language skills to serve others, serving as a translator for Keystone Farmworker Health in 7 counties in the region. He continues his work as a Spanish interpreter for Children and Youth Services, the Area Agency on Aging, and Behavioral Health/Intellectual Development Services in Northumberland County as well as interpreter for CMSU Mental Health, medical clinics and businesses. Carl also worked as a translator

for migrant farm workers in Berwick and Hazleton. Carl's service is ongoing as he remains very active in his Parish, St. Joseph's in Danville. Carl's faithfulness to the Gospel message of Jesus is enhanced by his great desire to use his gift of language to serve others.

## Elder-care — Dr. Richard Sciotti

Dr. Richard Sciotti was the recipient of the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award for Elder-care. Dr. Sciotti has more than 20 years of research and drug discovery experience, 14 years at private companies and 10 years at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. He has led drug discovery efforts in malaria, immunosuppression and cardiovascular therapeutic areas. In 2015, Dr. Sciotti was awarded the prestigious Department of the Army, Research & Development Achievement Award for Leadership Excellence, and in February 2018, he was honored with the Department of Defense (DoD) Laboratory Scientist of the Quarter Award which is the highest-level DoD recognition and the first time an individual in the Army Medical Command has won the award. Dr. Sciotti entered government service because he felt the call to duty for our nation, a call to utilize his expertise to serve his country. We also know that Dr. Sciotti is a man of prayer and that he felt called to utilize his expertise and God-given gifts to serve his country and the world. Those God-given gifts are extensive since he is recognized as a leader in malaria prophylaxis. Prevention of diseases benefits everyone, especially those in third world countries and the elderly who are most susceptible. Pope Francis has stressed the importance of preventing disease and he commended men and women in science who cultivate and apply God's gift of creation for the treatment and cure of diseases. Pope Francis considered it "a way to free the oppressed." And that is exactly what Dr. Sciotti does, apply God's gifts in creation within himself to find a treatment and a cure for disease for everyone.

## Ecumenism — Brother Michael Gosch, CSV

Brother Michael Gosch was the recipient of the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award for Ecumenism. Brother Michael is a member of the Clerics of St. Viator, an international Roman Catholic religious congregation who proclaim Jesus Christ and his Gospel to those whom they serve. Following that Mission, Brother Michael has a passion for social justice and for the advancement of justice for immigrants. As Director of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office for the Viatorians he works to involve the community in social justice issues in collaboration with other religious communities and organizations. In 2017 he co-founded the Viator House of Hospitality in Chicago, a residence for immigrant males, ages 18-22, who are seeking asylum in the United States. In addition, he has been actively involved for many years in the advocacy, education and pastoral efforts of the Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants (SBI), including taking on various leadership roles to help advance immigration reform. Brother Michael takes people where they are and sees Christ in each person. He does not judge, he forgives easily, and lives the Beatitudes with people of various faith traditions. Brother Michael is fearless as he champions immigration reform and he is well known in the community as someone who will help to find the necessary resources and people to serve the immigrant population. Brother Michael, has spent his life witnessing to the joy of the Gospel by his response to people in need of comfort, respect, and hope; people at the margins in our own country.

## Students Receive Murgas Scholarship at King's College

Jo Anna Cox of Forty Fort and Madison Dunlow of Wilkes-Barre, PA, both first year students at King's College, are recipients of the Father Jozef Murgas Scholarship. The scholarship was established and awarded for the first time in 2017 and is presented annually to a first year King's College student or students from an area Catholic, private, or public high school.

This year contributions were made, allowing for two scholarships. Cox plans to major in exercise science and Dunlow plans to major in education.

The scholarships were formally presented at a recent ceremony held in the Father Jozef Murgas Room located at King's on the Square in downtown Wilkes-Barre.

To obtain further information about supporting the Murgas Scholarship or to arrange a tour of the Murgas Room at King's on the Square, contact Magdalen Benish, board member of the Slovak Heritage Society of NEPA, at (570) 823-1222.



**Seated, L-R: Madison Dunlow and Jo Anna Cox, scholarship recipients; and Father John Ryan, C.S.C. president of King's College. Standing, L-R: Dorothy Sullivan, vice chairman of the Slovak Heritage Society of NEPA and a donor of one of this year's scholarships; Elaine Palischak, chairman of the Slovak Heritage Society of NEPA; and Anna Hudock, secretary of the Slovak Heritage Society of NEPA.**

# MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

## Branch W045

### Bake Sale

On Saturday, August 11, 2018 the St. Monica Circle of St. Wenceslaus Parish in Cedar Rapids, IA and FCSLA Branch W045 co-sponsored a bake sale of kolaches and rohlicky to raise funds for the new elevator/narthex addition to the church. The bake sale was a huge success and raised \$2,500 for the new addition. Branch members washed and rewashed baking pans starting at 4 a.m., helped get orders ready, cashiered and carried orders out to the car. Photos showcase kitchen workers, the church addition and Fr. Christopher Podhajsky accepting the \$600 matching fund check from the officers of St. Monica Circle and Branch W045.



## Sr. Branch 77

### Fun Walk 4 Kane Benefit

On Saturday, September 15, 2018, McKeesport Branch S077 participated in a matching funds event with the Kane Foundation. The event was the 7th Annual Joan Burns Kane Foundation "Fun Walk 4 Kane".

The Kane Foundation was created to raise private funds to help enhance the quality of life of the residents and their families. One hundred percent of all donations are devoted to gifts and enhancements for the Kane Centers and residents.

Officers of Branch S077 walked with residents, families and friends and assisted with wheelchairs. Following the walk, a picnic lunch was served and tickets were drawn for prizes. Tickets were available to purchase chances for a beautiful array of baskets. Entertainment was provided by a DJ and a magician who circulated among the crowd for everyone's enjoyment. The residents of Kane and their families look forward to this walk every year. Branch S077 officers enjoy this event tremendously and were happy to participate in this annual event for such a wonderful cause that brings joy to so many.



L-R: Marian Greenland, Financial Secretary; Mary Jo Matta, Vice President; Judy Fedor, Recording/Jr. Secretary; Virginia Holmes, Treasurer; Jerry Holmes, President.



# MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

## Jr. Branch 168

### Raffle Ticket Benefit

Jr. Branch 168 recently completed a Matching Fund Project with the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Danville, PA. Members sold raffle tickets at St. Andre Bessette Parish in Wilkes-Barre, PA for the sister's Annual Summer Raffle. The drawing took place on August 15, 2018. After a recent liturgy at St. Andre Bessette Parish, Ann Dougher, Secretary/Treasurer of Jr. Branch 168 presented the Matching Fund check to Sister Martina Hanrahan, SS.C.M.



L-R: Anna M. Hudock, District Treasurer; Magdalen I. Iskra, District President; Ann Dougher, Secretary/Treasurer of Jr. Branch 168; Sister Martina Hanrahan, SS.C.M.; Rev. Kenneth Seegar, Pastor of St. Andre Bessette Parish; Sister Kate Morris, SS.C.M. and Martha A. Iskra, District Vice-President.



## Branch 319

### Tricky Tray Bazaar

The FCSLA Allentown Branch 319 completed a matching funds project with St. John the Baptist Slovak Roman Catholic Church in Allentown, PA at their annual Tricky Tray bazaar on the November 3rd and 4th weekend. The branch donated a raffle basket as well as \$100. The association also had cookbooks on hand for sale.

FCSLA members along with church parishioners helped set up, sell chances on all baskets, sell food and desserts as well as beverages.

Many people came out to support the church. Former FCSLA National Auditor, Monica Anthony stopped by to chat and have a photo op.



## Sr. Branch 88

### Greater Monessen Historical Society

On Saturday, October 20, 2018 Monessen Branch 88 provided a Matching Funds project for the Greater Monessen Historical Society, a themed dinner "The Armistice, the Great War and New Nations". Guests were encouraged to dress in costume from the time period of the World War I, which saw creation of the new nations of Poland, the First Czecho-Slovak Republic and the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.



Monessen Branch 88 President, Dorothy Urbanowicz presented Historical Society President Daniel Zygłowicz with the Special Commemorative Limited Edition Medal from the Pittsburgh Agreement 100th anniversary celebration at the Heinz History Center and a check from Branch 88. The signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement on May 31, 1918 was an important occurrence in the course of events leading to the establishment of an independent Czecho-Slovak state after the First World War. The catalyst for the drafting and signing of this agreement was the visit to Pittsburgh and Professor Thomas Masaryk who later became the first President of Czechoslovakia. The agreement was also signed by leaders of local and national Slovak and Czech fraternal organizations.

The Greater Monessen Historical Society will also receive a check for \$600 from the Home office.



## Sr. Branch 289

### Pancake Breakfast

On Sunday, November 4, 2018 members of Branch S289 (Gary Indiana) participated in a pancake breakfast to benefit the Good Samaritans. The Good Samaritans is a ministry at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Schererville, IN that provides

*Continued on page 20*



# MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

help for those in need of food and financial help in the local community. The event was a grand success and a good time was had by all. Over \$1,000 was made which will be well used during this Christmas season. All participating FCSLA members from S289 worked hard but found some time to enjoy the pancake breakfast. Several junior members from J184 (Gary, IN) also helped out both to work and enjoy the delicious pancake breakfast.



Members of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA) gathered recently for a mini-golf tournament at the Broadway Driving Range and Miniature Golf Center in Depew, NY. The event sponsored by Jr. Branch 534, served as a fundraiser for the School Scholarship Fund at St. Gregory the Great Parish in Williamsville, NY.



**Orchard Park residents Jim and Barbara Bowen and their children.**



**West Seneca resident Greg Sulkowski and his family.**



**Branch 630 Auditor, Len Hoeglmeier of Lancaster and Nancy Kihl.**



## Jr. Branch 534 Mini-Golf Tournament



## Jr. Branch 157 Historical Society

Jr. Branch 157 of Monessen recently sponsored a Matching Funds Project for the Monessen Historical Society. Present Matching Funds Check are Dorothy Urbanowicz, President, Daniel Zyglowicz, Historic Society President and Rosemary Betza, Branch Financial Secretary.



## Slovak Filmmaker Shows Film in Youngstown, Ohio

On November 10, at 1:00 p.m. the ASCA was thrilled to have independent Slovak filmmaker, Dušan Hudec, at The Fr. Snock Center in Youngstown, OH present his new film, *The Oath*.

Many of you will remember Mr. Hudec's film, *The Final Mission*, which he presented here in Youngstown in 2015. That film was about American fliers shot down over Slovakia during WWII. This new film also is about events taking place during WWII, but it concerns events in the Pacific theater. *The Oath* is the story of Michael Strank, a U.S. Marine Corps sergeant who was born in Slovakia, moving to the U.S. as



a three-year-old child. Sgt. Strank was the leader of the detail that raised the American flag on Mt. Siribachi on Iwo Jima, an event forever immortalized in Joe Rosenthal's photograph.

Mr. Hudec spent close to four years on the research for this film, finding the last surviving veterans who knew Strank personally, interviewing his surviving sister in Johnstown, PA, combing the National Archives for material, and producing both a Slovak and English version of his film so that Michael Strank would not be forgotten. This film certainly will make sure of that. If your group is interested in screening *The Oath* (or *Final Mission*) please contact: [loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com](mailto:loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com) or 330-549-3760.



Loretta Ekoniak

### SLOVAK CATHOLIC FEDERATION

#### An APPEAL to MUSIC DIRECTORS and ORGANISTS

Musicians who are or were part of the music ministry in Slovak national parishes and religious communities, your assistance is requested. The Evangelization and Spirituality Committee of the Slovak Catholic Federation is seeking translations of Slovak hymns that were used in your parishes or chapels. Perhaps local translations were provided by music directors, organists, clergy, parishioners or community members.



The SCF hopes to compile, review, compare and edit some of our beautiful hymns. The goal is to prepare these hymns to be sent to national liturgical music publishers in the hope that our entire nation may prayerfully benefit from these beautiful texts and melodies. All categories of hymns (general, seasonal, sanctoral, and occasional) are in consideration.

In addition to these hymns, there is a request to individuals in the Slovak-American community who are well-versed in the Slovak and English languages and who have a lyrical and poetic sense and who would be willing to provide their expertise to help refine these translations, to please make contact with the SCF.

Anyone seeing this article is kindly asked to share it with all those people who have had a role in Slovak hymn translation. Please refer information, questions and contacts to [michael@cbhs.edu](mailto:michael@cbhs.edu) and thank you for your enthusiastic response.

### Ella Skurka Johnston Blessed by Pope



Richard A. Skurka (S81, Whiting, IN) is a very proud and excited grandfather. Pictured is his granddaughter Ella Skurka Johnston being blessed by Pope Francis during a trip to the Vatican in late April 2018. His granddaughter is the daughter of Kirstin Skurka Johnston, also a member of S81.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

FIRST CATHOLIC  
SLOVAK LADIES  
ASSOCIATION



# SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS APPEAL

The 2018 Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is nearing the end. Funds raised in this annual Appeal are sent to the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius to assist with its day to day operations. The College is the residence of priests from Slovakia who are sent to Rome by their bishops for graduate studies. After receiving their degrees, these priests return to their dioceses to work as seminary teachers, Tribunal officials, and in other ministries.

For many years a second collection in Slovak parishes provided most of the funds for the Appeal. Today, the Appeal relies upon the generosity of our Slovak Catholic Fraternal Societies, their Branches and Districts, and individual members of the clergy, religious and laity in addition to collections from Slovak parishes. Thank you to all who have already made their donation to the 40th Annual Appeal. For anyone who has not, please consider doing so by filling out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check to the address provided.

Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and all donations, no matter the amount, are formally acknowledged. **As of September 15, the 2018 Appeal has raised \$25,247.81 from 143 Donations.** Again, thank you for your goodness and generosity to the Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. **Donations received after December 1, 2018 will be credited toward the 2019 Appeal.**

*The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdic, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Swedesburg, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.*

## 40th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to  
**Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to:**

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta  
First Vice President, Slovak Catholic Federation  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
120 Jefferson Street  
Swedesburg, PA 19405

# REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF AUGUST 31, 2018

## ASSETS

|                                      |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cash & Short Term Investments        | \$ 23,835,058         |
| Bonds                                | 928,843,740           |
| Preferred Stock                      | 2,253,102             |
| Common Stock                         | 7,334,067             |
| Investment Income Due & Accrued      | 13,878,442            |
| Property Plant & Equipment, Net      | 5,157,306             |
| Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest | 2,731,051             |
| Other Assets                         | 1,217,395             |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                  | <b>\$ 985,250,161</b> |

## LIABILITIES

|                                      |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Life Reserves                        | \$ 298,086,975        |
| Annuity Reserves                     | 559,267,022           |
| Death Claims Payable                 | 3,163,413             |
| Unearned Premiums                    | 490,326               |
| Matured Endowments                   | 317,136               |
| Provision for Dividends Payable      | 1,400,000             |
| Accumulated Dividends & Interest     | 4,668,289             |
| Accrued Convention Donations         | 714,000               |
| Provision for Future Conventions     | 479,130               |
| Asset Valuation Reserve              | 8,609,511             |
| Interest Maintenance Reserve         | 1,222,856             |
| Other Liabilities                    | 1,551,824             |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>             | <b>\$ 879,970,481</b> |
| Surplus                              | \$ 105,279,680        |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS</b> | <b>\$ 985,250,161</b> |

## INCOME STATEMENT

For the Eight Months Ending August 31, 2018

## REVENUE

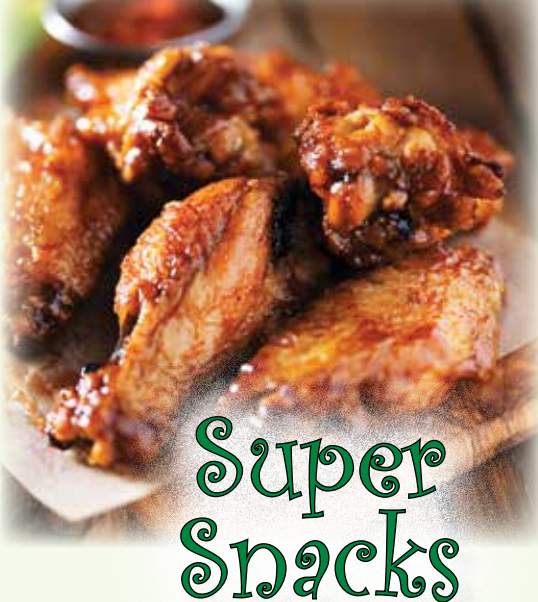
|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Insurance Premiums                           | \$ 2,530,641         |
| Annuity Premiums                             | 25,719,305           |
| Investment Income                            | 30,672,428           |
| Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve | 151,436              |
| Rental Income                                | 247,696              |
| Other Revenue                                | 452,128              |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>                         | <b>\$ 59,773,634</b> |

## EXPENSE

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Increase in Reserves — Life            | \$ 448,975           |
| Increase in Reserves — Annuity         | 19,473,500           |
| Insurance Benefits                     | 5,274,626            |
| Annuity Benefits                       | 20,747,649           |
| Commission Expense                     | 788,985              |
| Surrender Benefits                     | 3,066,112            |
| Post Mortem Benefits                   | 992,881              |
| Miscellaneous Member Benefits          | 74,600               |
| Matured Endowments                     | 10,844               |
| Donation Expenses                      | 67,258               |
| Change in Accrued Convention Donations | 168,000              |
| Convention Expenses                    | 133,336              |
| Bank Service Charges                   | 50,069               |
| Data Processing Service Fees           | 220,110              |
| Accounting Fees                        | 75,690               |
| Actuarial Fees                         | 211,217              |
| Legal Fees                             | 28,987               |
| Consulting Fees                        | 90,934               |
| Branch and District Funding            | 542,535              |
| Fraternal Activities                   | 59,043               |
| Official Publications                  | 321,110              |
| Scholarship Awards                     | 195,664              |
| Miscellaneous Employee Benefits        | 330,363              |
| Fees — Directors                       | 110,452              |
| Salaries — Employees                   | 1,328,432            |
| Salaries — Officers                    | 346,152              |
| Interest Expense                       | 262,523              |
| Tax Expense                            | 139,479              |
| Depreciation Expense                   | 147,216              |
| Utility Expense                        | 68,641               |
| Postage and Printing                   | 163,038              |
| Advertising                            | 67,757               |
| Travel Expense                         | 57,043               |
| Insurance Department Fees              | 82,494               |
| Sales Promotion                        | 129,516              |
| Rental Expense                         | 255,308              |
| Other Expense                          | 470,348              |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>                   | <b>\$ 57,000,886</b> |

## Income (Loss) from Operations

|                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Dividends to Members          | \$ 914,925          |
| <b>Subtotal Income (Loss)</b> | <b>\$ 1,857,822</b> |
| Capital Gains (Loss)          | 4,277               |
| <b>NET INCOME (Loss)</b>      | <b>\$ 1,862,099</b> |



# Super Snacks

## SWEET & SOUR GLAZED CHICKEN WINGS

4 pounds chicken wings, cut in half at joint (wing tips removed)  
1 teaspoon coarse salt plus more for seasoning  
Ground pepper  
4 cups pomegranate juice  
¼ cup packed light-brown sugar  
2 teaspoons chili powder  
¼ to ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper (optional)

Preheat oven to 450 degrees, with racks in middle and upper thirds. Arrange chicken wings in a single layer on two rimmed baking sheets; season with salt and pepper. Bake until deep golden brown, crisp, and cooked through, 45 to 50 minutes, flipping chicken and rotating sheets halfway through.

Meanwhile, in a medium saucepan, combine pomegranate juice, sugar, and 1 teaspoon salt. Bring to a boil over high and cook until mixture is reduced by three-quarters (it should coat the back of a spoon), 35 to 40 minutes. Stir in chili powder and cayenne pepper (optional).

Transfer wings to a large bowl, add pomegranate glaze, and toss until coated. Serve warm or at room temperature.

## ULTIMATE NACHOS

1 (13½-ounce) bag store-bought large tortilla chips  
1 cup refried beans  
¾ cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese  
¾ cup shredded cheddar cheese  
½ cup chopped pickled jalapeno chiles  
1 jalapeno chile, seeded, ribs removed, and minced  
½ cup canned sliced black olives  
Fresh cilantro leaves

Chili sauce or hot-pepper sauce  
Chopped tomatoes, for serving (optional)  
Sour cream, for serving (optional)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Top each chip with about 1 teaspoon beans and 1½ teaspoons cheese; evenly divide chiles and olives among tortilla chips. Transfer to an ovenproof serving platter, forming layers; add chili sauce.

Bake until heated through and cheese melts, 3 to 5 minutes. Remove, and garnish with cilantro leaves. Serve immediately topped with tomatoes and sour cream, if desired.

## CHEDDAR CHEESE BALL

2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, room temperature  
2 packages cream cheese (8 ounces each), room temperature  
½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature  
2 tablespoons milk  
2 tablespoons mango chutney  
1 cup toasted pecans (broken pieces)  
Crackers, for serving

Place cheddar, cream cheese, butter, milk, and chutney in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a paddle attachment; mix until well combined. Transfer mixture to refrigerator; let chill overnight. Roll cheese mixture into a ball. Place pecans in a shallow dish. Roll cheese ball in pecans to fully coat. Serve with crackers.

## YOU'LL LOVE THIS TORTILLA CHIP DIP

16 ounces cream cheese, room temperature  
¾ teaspoon coarse salt  
½ cup chopped scallions (from 3 or 4 scallions), plus more for garnish (optional)  
½ cup hot-pepper relish  
Tortilla chips, for serving

Beat cream cheese with a mixer on medium-high until fluffy, about 1 minute. Beat in salt and scallions. Fold in relish; garnish with scallions. Serve with chips.

## KETTLE-CHIP NACHOS

1 bag (8 ounces) kettle potato chips, such as Cape Cod  
2 ounces cream cheese  
½ cup whole milk  
½ cup crumbled blue cheese

1½ cups shredded Gouda (5 ounces)  
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper  
2 teaspoons hot sauce,  
1 thinly sliced jalapeno (¼ cup)  
½ cup sour cream  
2 tablespoons chopped chives (from 1 bunch)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment; spread chips out in a single layer. In a small saucepan, whisk together cream cheese and milk over medium heat until combined, 2 minutes. Whisk in blue cheese and ½ cup Gouda. Bring to a boil and cook, whisking constantly, until thickened, 5 minutes. Stir in ¼ teaspoon salt, ⅛ teaspoon pepper, and hot sauce.

Drizzle cheese sauce evenly over chips, then sprinkle with remaining 1 cup Gouda. Bake until bubbly and crisp at edges, 5 to 7 minutes. Top with jalapeno, sour cream, and chives; serve.

## LOADED SWEET-POTATO SKINS

4 medium sweet potatoes (about 2 pounds total), scrubbed and patted dry  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
Coarse salt and ground pepper  
¼ cup low-fat buttermilk  
¼ teaspoon sweet paprika, plus more for garnish  
4 slices bacon  
¼ cup reduced-fat sour cream  
1 scallion, sliced, for garnish

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. On a rimmed baking sheet, rub sweet potatoes with oil; season with salt and pepper. Bake until tender, 40 to 45 minutes. Let cool on sheet (keep oven on).

Halve sweet potatoes lengthwise; scoop out ⅓ cup flesh from each half into a medium bowl. Add buttermilk and paprika to bowl. Mash until smooth; season with salt and pepper. Stuff sweet-potato skins with filling. (To store, refrigerate, up to 2 days.)

Arrange sweet-potato skins on sheet; bake until lightly browned around edges, about 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a skillet, cook bacon over medium until crisp, 5 to 8 minutes. Drain on a paper-towel-lined plate; crumble. Stir together sour cream and 2 tablespoons water; drizzle over sweet-potato skins. Garnish with bacon, paprika, and scallion; cut in half to serve.



## *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.