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Fraternally Yours®

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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FEBRUARY 2019

*Our Members
are the
HEART
of Our
Association*

HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

Fraternally Yours, ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA®



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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,
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REAL CONNECTIONS

Today, the world is more connected than ever before. At the same time, divisive-
ness, mistrust, and loneliness seem to be increasing at alarming rates, affecting
all areas of our lives. The problem is not that people lack the means to connect.
There's a Smartphone or tablet in almost everyone's pocket or hand. High-speed
communication networks abound, now even while sailing across the ocean and
flying through the sky. The problem is not with the availability or even affordability
of connections. The problem is in the quality of those connections.

In our super connected world, connections have become trivialized. Connec-
tions are used to conduct discrete transactions rather than to develop ongoing
relationships. First malls, now online shopping, have all but eliminated Main Street
shopping and small merchants. Optimizing the transaction for the cheapest price
has become more important than nurturing the relationship. So, sadly, as we
become more functionally connected through technology, we feel less connected
on a human level. We connect over much longer distances, and over much, much
shorter durations. Emails and texts have all but replaced phone conversations or
meeting in person for coffee.

The concept of real connection is in danger of being corrupted. We try in vain
to replace a single enduring connection with a thousand brief, fleeting connections.
And try as we might, it is not the same. There's value to enduring connection that
cannot be experienced in any other way. A hundred likes, shares, or comments
about an article on Facebook or Instagram, while nice, do not adequately replace
the wise commentary of a trusted friend. Now instead of seeking recommenda-
tions from trusted friends, we search online for ratings and reviews from people
we're not even sure are real.

We know that life can be difficult, and much more often than not, those dif-
ficulties seem to be best addressed by joining together in cooperation and un-
derstanding with the people around us. With that in mind, the question becomes
this. How do we avoid further disconnection, and how do we repair, re-energize
and expand on the quality connections that bring so much positive value to life?

A good first step is gratitude. It's good to be reminded on a regular basis of the
value of quality connections. Not just in our connections to other people, but also
in our connections to things such as our work, our faith, to nature, to our values
and hopefulness. It's easy to become complacent about the good things in life, to
take them for granted.

Like all good and valuable aspects of life, quality connections are not free.
They do require work. They require commitment and sacrifice. You can't develop
a meaningful connection with someone by simply including that person in an email
blast every week or sending an occasional text. To forge a valuable connection, you
have to offer something of real value. You have to give of yourself and your time.

The same dynamic applies to other forms of connection. To connect meanin-
gfully with your values, you must consistently live those values. Lip service is never
enough; it must always be accompanied by action and attention.

As you do give more and more of yourself, the magic of quality connection
begins to happen. As you invest your time in your relationships, in your appreciation
of nature, in your hopefulness, in your spiritual faith, their collective value grows
deeper. By giving of yourself to these connections, you enhance the quality of the
connections. Instead of conducting mere transactions, you are extending a part
of yourself into the lives of the people with whom you share those connections.

Dear Friends,

I believe, the quality of your life comes in large part from the quality of your
connections. Be thankful for those connections. Be generous with those connections.
Be willing to work and learn and improve upon those connections, to deepen them,
to pour more meaning, substance, time, resources and caring into them. Choose
to be an advocate of higher quality connections, leading others by example with
your love, respect, tolerance, joy, and generosity.

Until Next Month,
Warmly, Carolyn

ST. BLAISE

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Many of us recall from the time we were children having our throats blessed in church on the feast day of St. Blaise, February 3. The practice of blessing throats on his feast day began in the 16th century and continues today. Two consecrated candles are tied together to form a cross which is held up to our throats as the priest or deacon asks God, through the intercession of St. Blaise, to deliver us from every disease of the throat, as well as every other disease. But do we really know anything about St. Blaise and how this practice came to be? Or why St. Blaise is venerated as the patron saint of sufferers from throat diseases? And of wild animals and veterinarians? And of wool combers?!

Little is known about the early life of St. Blaise, but it is believed that he was born to a noble family. He was said to be a physician with miracles that were attributed to his healing power. Crowds came to him for the cure of both bodily and spiritual afflictions. Having been raised and educated in the Catholic faith, Blaise was made bishop of Sebastea in Armenia at a young age. One might ask how a physician could suddenly become a bishop. At the time it was common for the local village to nominate a man to become bishop based on the man's exceptional holiness and leadership. The man would then be examined and consecrated by other bishops with the approval of the Pope. Simply stated, St. Blaise undoubtedly "fit the bill" to become bishop.

In 311 the Emperor Constantine had legalized the practice of Christianity. This freedom of religion remained for five years until Licinius, co-emperor, betrayed Constantine and began a persecution of Christians. Blaise received a message from God to flee to the back country. There he lived as a hermit spending his days in prayer. Wild animals became his companions as he cared for them and cured their diseases. One day a group of hunters seeking animals for the amphitheater stumbled upon Blaise's cave. There they found him kneeling in prayer surrounded by docile bears, wolves and lions. The hunters were naturally shocked. Still they arrested Blaise because of his Christian faith.

Two incidents occurred as St. Blaise was being led to prison from his mountainous cave. First, a distraught mother

came to him with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. Blaise prayed before the child who then coughed up the bone and was healed. The second incident involved being met by a poor old woman whose pig had been seized by a wolf. Blaise commanded the wolf to return the pig. The wolf subsequently released the pig without any harm. In gratitude the old woman later came to the prison and brought Blaise bread and two wax candles to dispel the gloom of his dark cell. You can now understand the symbolism behind the practice of blessing throats with two candles.

St. Blaise is said to have been thrown into a lake in an attempt to drown him, but he stood on the surface and invited his tormentors to walk out to him in proof of the power of their own gods. It was they instead who drowned. When Blaise returned to land, he was beaten and his flesh was torn with wool combs. What is a wool comb? It is an instrument used for combing wool but in the case of St. Blaise, it was used for shredding the skin! Finally, St. Blaise was beheaded.

Over the next four hundred years many stories were told about St. Blaise. He became one of the most popular saints in medieval times. His relics were dispersed over Europe and many miraculous cures were attributed to him, especially of sore or diseased throats. St. Blaise is often illustrated holding two crossed candles; or in a cave with wild animals; and also often shown with steel combs. St. Blaise, pray for us, that our throats remain free from illness, so that we may continue to praise God.

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.

Court of Appeals Notice

On December 13, 2018, in accordance with our Bylaws, Article V (A) (4) (j), the Board of Directors filled a vacancy on the Court of Appeals created by the untimely death of Ronald Sestak. Utilizing a list of candidates who are Principal members in good standing of the Association and who are duly qualified, Flora J. Funtal was elected to fill the vacancy. Flora, of Finleyville, PA, is a member of Senior Branch 088 (Monessen, PA).

Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



To my fellow FCSLA officers, members and friends,

We began 2019 with a renewed sense of positive vitality and strength in our plans to continue to welcome our new members, embark on a new board visioning project and plan a meaningful quadrennial convention in Tampa, Florida from October 3 through October 6, 2019.

We continue to build our membership, financial strength and fraternal profile throughout the United States. To do so, we must continually review our product mix, our producers where they are located, our branches and their activities and where we can develop new branches and leaders. Meanwhile, we lead and run our association, currently with 111,000 members, holding over \$1.1 billion of life insurance in force, with nearly \$1 billion of admitted assets and a healthy surplus for a fraternal of our size. Our opportunities are immense. It is not a short order, indeed, for a truly NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of such preeminence such as ours!

This year, we also must focus on convention planning as we look forward to a wonderful, meaningful quadrennial convention in Tampa, Florida. Delegates will be able to experience Tampa's dynamic downtown with the newly transformed hotel with a rooftop pool, state of the art fitness center, with the Tampa Riverwalk nearby. So let's schedule and grab a flight to Tampa and be part of the ambiance of this glittering American city! We look forward to our time there together. October will be here before we know it.

New facets of our fraternal strength include our Matching Funds Program promoting charitable works within our communities nationwide, and our Anna Hur-

ban Scholarship Fund. In 2018, we saw our branches holding a record number of matching funds projects in our communities. We also continue to receive monetary donations to our Anna Hurban Scholarship Fund, to benefit our student members.

MOST IMPORTANT is that we strive to work in concert to promote the long term best interest of the association, respecting each other through compassion, patience and dignity and displaying high levels of transparency and integrity. We must act as Ambassadors of Christian ethics in all areas of our lives, with perseverance and constancy.

As we celebrate the Feast Days of Saints Cyril & Methodius, Our Lady of Lourdes and Valentine's Day, let us move forward with courage and charity, but most of all love.

Fraternally Yours,
Cynthia M. Maleski

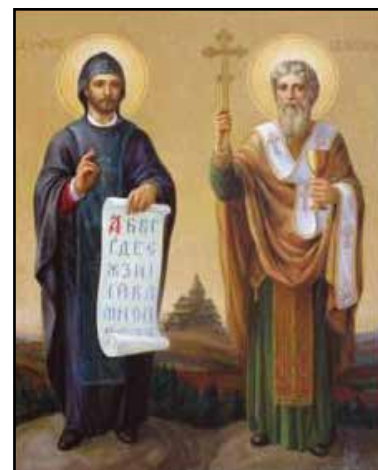
Saints Cyril and Methodius

Saints Cyril and Methodius were two Byzantine brothers born in Thessalonica in the 9th century. Part of a prominent Christian family, their father was Greek and their mother was Bulgarian.

In 860 Cyril and Methodius went as missionaries to what is today the Ukraine, spreading Christianity among the Slavic peoples of Bulgaria, Great Moravia and Pannonia.

They are credited with devising the Glagolitic alphabet. At the request of the Moravian prince Ras-tislav, they began to transcribe religious books from Greek into Old Bulgarian.

Their alphabet is seen as the precursor to Cyrillic, which was named after Cyril. Today most of the Slavic countries, including Russia, still use an extension of that alphabet. Throughout his life, Cyril was known as Constantine, only adopting his religious name of Cyril while on his death bed. In 1880, Pope Leo XIII introduced their feast into the calendar of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1980, Pope John Paul II declared them co-patron saints of Europe, together with Benedict of Nursia.



CORRECTION

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association has over \$1.1 Billion dollars of life insurance in force. We apologize for the typographical error that appeared in National President Cynthia Maleski's page 4 column in the January 2019 issue of *Fraternally Yours* stating \$1.1 Million.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY . . . A UNIQUE WAY TO SAY "I LOVE YOU!"



Albert Heiles

February is the month when we all seem to settle down and perhaps relax a little more. The hectic pace we followed in December, along with the following catch up month of January, really put a strain on our normal living activities. Now, is the time to regroup and put our life back into an order and pace that is more normal. However, along with the new month, something new comes along for us to think about: LOVE.

That's right, February is Valentine's month. It's the one month a year we set aside to tell someone special we love them, perhaps in an extraordinary way. Valentine's day celebration began over one hundred years ago and it has become a favorite day for people taking time to display their thoughts, affections and love towards someone special in their lives.

Valentine's days are not meant just for people in love, but rather for people we consider special. It's a day we set aside to display how we feel and tell them what they mean to us. How about a unique idea to show your feelings?

I would like to suggest you consider opening a new life insurance policy on yourself or someone you love. What better way to say we love you than by giving them something that could possibly last a lifetime and have benefits far beyond the life of a dozen roses, or a box of chocolate.

A FCSLA life insurance policy offers value not just for one day or for one month but perhaps for a very long time. Our whole life policies have cash values that can accumulate over time which will offer additional benefits in later years. In the untimely death of an insured, the beneficiary may be comforted in the benefits of the policy. FCSLA offers several types of permanent whole life insurance policies. We offer a policy that can be paid on for only 10 or 20 years and be fully paid up. We also offer a policy that offers lower premiums in which premiums are paid over an individual's entire lifetime. And finally, for the individual who would like to make only one premium, with no renewing premiums, we offer single premium whole life policy.

Our policies are available for the very young to the more senior member; from age 0 to age 80 in some cases. Prices and values differ, but one thing remains the same. The policy is backed by one of the finest Fraternal Benefit Societies in the USA. FCSLA, with nearly a billion dollar of assets and a history of serving over 120,000 members in over 125 years, is here to help in your life insurance questions.

Our Recommenders and professional agents are available to meet with you to discuss a policy that will meet your objectives. Grandparents beginning a policy on a young one (grandson/daughter, niece or nephew), parent beginning a new policy on their children, husband or wife beginning a policy to protect their spouse, whatever the purpose, FCSLA is there to help.

A permanent cash value life policy on a young child can cost as little as \$120.00 a year. A policy on a young adult can be started for as little as \$15.00 a month. A husband or wife can begin a policy on each other with a face amount of over \$100,000.00 for the cost of a monthly meal out at a family restaurant.

It has been said a Life insurance policy is a love letter. A few drops of ink and a promise to pay provide a true statement of love, caring and affection.

Please contact the FCSLA representative you are now working with or contact the home office and we will be happy to arrange a representative to meet with you.

We can be reached by calling: 800-464-4642, ask for the Life Department. THANK YOU!

Convention Donation Information is Available on Our Website

Information regarding requests for convention donations is available to print out from our website (fcsla.org) under the Quadrennial Convention tab. It must be **completed in full** in order to receive consideration for financial assistance at our 42nd Quadrennial Convention in October 2019.

The request must be submitted on your stationery and received at the national headquarters (address below) by April 27, 2019.

Convention Donation Committee
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
24950 Chagrin Blvd.
Beachwood OH 44122

If you received a convention donation from our 41st Quadrennial Convention in 2015, your Status Report from that donation must be on file at the national headquarters in order to apply again.

The Philanthropic & Scholarship Committee, with the approval of the board of directors, has determined the budget for convention donations will be based on 10% of net income for the four calendar years preceding the convention or 1% of surplus at the year-end prior to the convention, whichever is greater, with a cap of \$1 million.

If you have any questions, please contact Jayne at the national headquarters: (800) 464-4642 ext. 1034 or jneelon@fcsla.org.

Attention Branch Secretaries

Our first 2019 Quadrennial Convention mailing went out certified mail the first week of January. If for some reason you did not receive the mailing or have questions please contact Jayne at 1-800-464-4642, Ext. 1034.

FCSLA INITIATES FIRST ALASKAN SENIOR/JUNIOR BRANCHES

Many of us are familiar with the television series, "Alaska, The Last Frontier", but did you know that FCSLA kicked-off its first Alaskan senior and junior branches dedicated to the patron saint of the 49th state, St. Therese the Little Flower?

Like a snowball smacking you in the face, you know now!

A hardy group of young families, who are dedicated to football, hiking, family fraternalism and God have jump-started the branch with the help of Alaskan FCSLA agents Jim and Megan Davis. The St Therese of Lisieux branch (S643 and J-544) is located in the city of Anchorage, which takes in Eagle River, Wasilla and Palmer, Alaska.

"We looked for a fraternal society that mirrors our own beliefs," said Jim Davis, an independent agent. "FCSLA fits the bill as a fraternal organization that gives back to the community. And the insurance products are perfect for young families."

These new members have come from all over the country and world, California, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, and the Philippines who now make Alaska their home.

Rachel Ruskamp, the branch financial secretary, likes the fraternal concept of insurance. "I'm very familiar with fraternal societies being that I'm from Nebraska," said Rachel. "The idea that families form a group with common interests and charitable intent is what FCSLA is all about and we buy into this."

Rafael (Ralph) Nunez is originally from the Bronx, New York, his wife, Jennylynn is from the Philippines. FCSLA appealed to this couple for its insurance products. "To be protected from financial distress is important to me and Jennylynn," explained Ralph. "The agent did a great job in explaining to me how life insurance works and how it helps my family and FCSLA."

New branch President Haylee Donovan and Financial Secretary Ruskamp have not wasted time as officers. "We already received a matching funds request from Saint Therese branch," according to FCSLA Fraternal Director Kelly Shedlock. "It has been approved. It is so awesome that a brand new branch is already doing a matching funds project."



Branch W018 hosts Annual Youth Member Christmas Party

Branch W018 hosted its annual Youth Member Christmas Party on Sunday, December 2, 2018 at Dave and Buster's in Omaha, NE. The only cost requested by the Board was a canned food donation from each attendee. Vice-president Tom Jelinek, Jr. delivered 96 pounds of canned goods and a monetary donation to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry after the party concluded.



Two members with their "Christmas loot" after playing the games.

Santa made his greatly anticipated appearance after a delicious meal, and he visited with each child – no matter his/her age – and posed for pictures taken by proud parents.

After Santa departed for the North Pole to see how the elves were doing and make sure he had everything he needed for his world trip on December 24th, each attendee received a game card and families recessed to the game room where they enjoyed the rest of the afternoon.



Youth members playing a game of skill at Dave and Busters.



The Popelka family with Santa at the celebration.

Iowa Branch W045 Celebrates the Season

Branch W045, Cedar Rapids, IA held their adult Christmas Party on Sunday, December 16, 2018 at St. Wenceslaus gym building. Over 60 members and guests enjoyed cocktails, hors-d'oeuvres, roast beef, or ham, party potatoes, fruit and kolaches. Chances were sold for multiple drawings of cash. All money collected was given back in the drawings. Everyone had a good time enjoying good food and socializing with each other!



Eastern PA District Meeting

Hosted by S417/J318 of Coaldale, PA

Sunday, March 31, 2019 @ 1:00 p.m.

CAPRIOTTI'S PALAZZO

One Banks Avenue
McAdoo, PA 18237

RSVP to Louise Dunstan @ 570-645-645-4354
or lmrp@ptd.net by March 21, 2019

FCSLA 42nd Quadrennial Convention

Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina
Tampa, Florida

October 3–6, 2019

SR. BRANCH 409 OF EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA HOSTS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual Christmas Party was celebrated on a beautiful Sunday afternoon on December 2, 2018, at Our Lady of Consolation, in Merrillville, IN. Members and guests were greeted by officers of Branch 409: Agnes Chervenak (President), Jeanette Bramer (Financial Secretary) and Janice Vasquez (Jr. Branch 317 Financial Secretary).

Janice Vasquez (Jr. Branch 317 Financial Secretary) and her sister Karen Bramer were in charge of various crafts for the junior members.

Festivities started with grace being said by Helen Weber (member of Gary

Jr. Branch 184). Following guests were treated to a delicious dinner of chicken and roast beef. Jim Wagner, father of Jr. Branch 317 members, Olive and Sophie Wagner, brought homemade pumpkin roll and apple slices. There were also cakes, cookies, veggies and refreshments.

Jr. Branch 317 members Elie Anderson, Ava and Brynne Widiger and Barbie Trelo sang a few Christmas carols. All members joined in caroling under the direction of Sherry and Sara Anderson (Branch 409).

Of course, the main event of the

afternoon was a visit from Santa (Mike DeRolf). He distributed gifts of toys to guests ages 1-9. Ages 10-16 were given gift cards. Christmas hand towels, wine and Christmas candy were given to adult guests. Gifts from the home office were also distributed to all of our guests.

A big "THANK YOU" to our setup and cleanup crew Joe and Keri Chervenak, Hal and Lyn Noftz, Betty Ortiz, Joan Skvarek Banvich, Sherry and Sara Anderson, Aggie and Mike DeRolf and Geraldine Tumidalski.



Words may be found up
and down, side to side,
diagonally or words
may share letters.

Police K-9



L U S J B G D I N B N B A D H T T N S S
M A K I N O Y L P I A V R H R D R A R I
T M B O O O M X O S G E N A L E A R A N
N H R R T N Y B S H H O C G S Q I C E G
Q T E S A Y I E D P D K B O V P N O Y L
S D L H X D T L E E I N P T O H D T T E
E J D G A H O H A N T R A L I T A I H P
T L E I O N S R G M U E I E Q C I C G U
C U G U X N D S R P N C C K T E L D I R
E K N A A L U L L E E A W T Z I Y E E P
P D E M E S V A E D T O I M I R B T O O
S Y R U P B U B O R A R J G A O L E T S
W E V E Q D P G Q Y D T I G L L N C X E
G W C L L E M S F O E S N E S E E T I L
D T I N T E L L I G E N T T V P B I S A
S K E E W N E T B R A V E E T E S O O M
R E L D N A H H T I W S E V I L R N Z E
M I S S I N G P E R S O N S I G R Y V F
W P D T U Z O Z W T P E R J W F C N J B
Z B R Q A A R D D C I P S J Q S O Y E P

BASSET HOUNDS
BITE AND HOLD
DUAL PURPOSE
INTELLIGENT
MALE
POLICE DOG
SIX TO EIGHT YEARS (years work)
THE HANDLER (police officer)

BEAGLE
BOMB DETECTION
FEMALE
LABRADOR RETRIEVER
MISSING PERSONS
SENSE OF SMELL (amazing)
STRONG
TRACKING SUSPECTS

BELGIAN MALINOIS
BRAVE
GERMAN SHEPHERD
LIVES WITH HANDLER
NARCOTIC DETECTION
SINGLE PURPOSE
TEN WEEKS (initial training)
TRAIN DAILY

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Branch: _____ Phone # _____

PUZZLES MUST BE IN THE HOME OFFICE FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2019!
YOU MUST BE A FCSLA MEMBER TO QUALIFY.

200 WINNERS WILL BE RANDOMLY DRAWN FROM ALL THE ENTRIES RECEIVED.

Mail to: FCSLA Fraternal Department, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122

Branch W033 Holds Annual Holiday Celebration

Branch W033, Spillville, IA held its annual Christmas Party and meeting at St. Wenceslaus School Hall on Sunday, December 2, 2018. The weather was not the best with snow and wind, but 31 adults and 8 children braved the weather and had a wonderful time. After a delicious pot-luck dinner with the branch supplying ham, hot dogs and buns, the table settings, refreshments and lots of decorations, an annual meeting followed. During the meeting Jenae Kuennen took the children to the lunch room where they made Christmas crafts. At the meeting four (\$500) donations were presented

to local fire departments by President Dan Silhacek: Aaron Brinks of Calmar FD, Mark Carolyn of Ridgeway FD, Ron Franzen of Fort Atkinson FD, and Brad Moudry of Protwin FD, all expressed gratitude on behalf of their respective departments. Four (\$250) college scholarships were given out by Vice-President Jerry Kuhn to Ron and Elaine Stika, parents of winners Karissa and Rachel Stika; also to Rota Fjelstul, grandmother of winners Kayleann Fjelstul and Sara Opat. After other discussions the election of officers followed with all retaining their offices with the

exception of Vice-President Jerry Kuhn who after 15 years in office and on the state scholarship committee wanted to retire. A motion was made and passed to elect Tom Novak as the new Vice-President. Jerry Kuhn was thanked for his many years of dedicated service! The meeting was adjourned with a prayer. Santa Claus arrived bringing two bags of goodies for all in attendance to share, easily leaving in his sleigh in the 3 inches of snow that had fallen. Everyone enjoyed sharing time together, playing games of Bingo and of course Santa's treats.



Pictured are President Dan Silhacek and Secretary Rebecca Kuhn reading the minutes from last year's annual meeting with pretty boxed door prizes on the stage behind them.



Vice-President Jerry Kuhn presents scholarships of \$250 to Ron and Elaine Stika, parents of winners Karissa and Rachel Stika.



Vice-President Jerry Kuhn presents scholarships of \$250 to Rota Fjelstul, grandmother of winners Kayleann Fjelstul and Sara Opat.



L-R: Aaron Brinks of Calmar, Mark Carolyn of Ridgeway, Ron Franzen of Fort Atkinson, and Brad Moudry of Protwin Fire Departments receive \$500 donation checks from President Dan Silhacek.



Pictured finishing their Christmas crafts are Caleb, Jaxon, and Konner Parr.



Pictured with the Christmas crafts they made are Kaitlyn and Natalie Klimesh.

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/ Z District or FCSLA.ORG/ U District

Youngstown Branches 29 and 30 Hold Christmas Gathering

Sr. Branch 30 and Jr. Branch 29 (Youngstown, OH) held their Christmas Party in conjunction with the Maria E. Grega Okres Christmas Party on November 18, 2018.



Louise, Bill, Anna, and Jessica Joerndt of Sr. Branch 30.



Lori, Jeffrey, and Vincent Pezzuto from Sr. Branch 30 and Jr. Branch 29.



Helen and Tony Krispinsky of Sr. Branch 30.



Andrea and Randy Osiniak of Sr. Branch 30.



James and Jimmy Zouck of Sr. Branch 30 and Jr. Branch 29.



Tracey, Lauren, and Taylor DeProfio of Sr. Branch 30.



Kristen Italiano, Kristen Osiniak, and Ryan Patrick of Sr. Branch 30.



Celebrates 65th Wedding Anniversary



Ervin (W130) and Irene Hanus celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on January 5, 2019. They were married at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waterloo, IA. Their family has grown to include 5 children, 18 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. They retired to Sunrise Assisted Living in Traer, IA. God Bless them on this very special occasion.

Sr. Branch 262 Holds a Velija Supper

Sr. Branch 262 of E. Vandergrift, PA, held a Velija Supper on December 9, 2018. Over 100 members and guests enjoyed a traditional meatless meal, music, and a visit from Saint Nicholas (performed by National Director Larry Golofski).



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
- E-mail us at 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

Family Game Night(s) with FCSLA Cleveland District!

2 FOR 1 – BUY CAVS TICKET – GET FREE MONSTERS TICKET!

Cavs Game – Larry Nance, Sr. Bobblehead Giveaway

Friday, March 22, 2019 @ 7:30 p.m. Game Time

- vs - Los Angeles Clippers

Ticket Cost - \$20.00 (Sections 228 / 229)

Upgrade for additional \$25.00 (Sections 100 / 101 / 116 / 117)

Monsters Games – 1-2-3 nights (\$1 Soda, \$2 Hot Dog, \$3 Beer)

Friday, March 29, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m. Game Time

- vs - Lehigh Valley Phantoms

Friday, April 12, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m. Game Time

- vs - Charlotte Checkers

Location: Quickens Loan Arena

One Center Court, Cleveland OH 44115

~ SPONSORED BY FCSLA BRANCHES ~

S001, S141, S408, S423, S490, S522, S524 & J001, J014, J385, J440, J381, J453, J457, J386

CONTACT INFO: Gianna Picciano – Phone: 216- 468-1021 • Fax: 216-468-8003 • Email: gianna@fcsla.org

FCSLA Guest: Choose preferred CAVS section and your Monster game date.

Guests who wish to attend will be extended our Special Group Rate of:

\$20.00 for Sections 228 / 229 or \$45.00 for Sections 100 / 101 / 116 / 117

PAYMENT MUST BE INCLUDED

*FLASH SEAT Tickets will be EMAILED to you prior to the game
with a follow-up phone call to confirm receipt of tickets.*

Please complete the form below & return in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

MAGAZINE
ORDERS

R S V P REQUIRED – PLEASE RESPOND BY FEBRUARY 10, 2019

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY (FLASH SEAT TICKETS - WILL BE SENT TO THE ABOVE EMAIL)

Tickets for: Sections 228 / 229 _____ x \$20 / person = _____ amount

Tickets for: Sections 100's _____ x \$45 / person = _____ amount

FREE MONSTER'S GAME — CHOOSE 1 Date Only: ☐ March 29, 2019 ☐ April 12, 2019

_____ Total Enclosed

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: FCSLA Sr. Branch 522

MID-ATLANTIC EMMY WINNER

Hilary (Wavrek) Totin, a member of Branch S088 (Monessen, PA), has recently received a Mid-Atlantic Emmy for "Best Morning Newscast-Larger Market" for her submitted newscast of severe weather coverage earlier this year. Hilary is a lead morning news producer at WTAE. A native of Monessen, PA, Hilary is the daughter of Ron and Roberta Wavrek of Monessen, PA and older sister of Monica Burgman of Florida. Hilary graduated from Monessen High School in 2010 as co-Valedictorian, and continued her education at Point Park University, where she graduated in 2014 with a dual major in Broadcast Production and Sport, Art and Entertainment Management. Hilary recently married Derek Totin in November, and resides in Pittsburgh, PA.



Jr. Branch 192 Sends Slovak Greetings

Nancy Clausen, Auditor of J192 in Youngstown, Ohio, prepares to sign religious Christmas cards sent to the Branch's 145 members living in 19 states. Nancy who is Chairman of J192 Junior Activity purchased a special stamp that says "Vesele Vianoce" and it is stamped in each card to remind young members of their Slovak heritage. Included in each card is a \$5.00 bill. Thank you emails and notes indicate some members ask their parents "What are the strange words in this card?" It is an easy way to begin the dialogue of one's ancestry and Slovak traditions.



St. Isidore District 11 Holds Annual Christmas Party

St. Isidore District 11 (Nebraska) held their annual Christmas party on Monday, December 2, 2018 at the Prague, NE parish hall. Twelve branches were represented even though the weather was wintry. After a lovely meal (pork, sauerkraut, dumplings, corn, rye buns, coffee and tea) which was topped off with crème de mint sundaes, an annual report was given by President Cecilia Hall. Officers were introduced. We were doubly blessed by the presence of our Chaplain Fr. Bernard Kimminau and parish priest Fr. Benjamin Rynearson. Secretary Clarice Sabata then had the group play Left-Right and Bingo. The evening concluded with the awarding of door prizes – poinsettias and wine.



Branch W137 Holds Family Christmas Party

Branch W137 (Cedar Rapids, IA) held their family Christmas Party at Happy Joe's on Sunday, December 2, 2018. Members enjoyed pizza, desserts and games, especially bingo. Everyone went home with a small gift bucket.





IN MEMORIAM

Dorothy M. Slemmons, S156



Dorothy M. Slemmons, age 84, passed away peacefully on August 15, 2018 at Heritage Manor in Youngstown, OH. Dorothy was born July 13, 1934 in Hubbard a daughter of Aloysius A. and Christina I. Lesnak Madeline. She was a 1952 graduate of Hubbard High School and worked as an Accounts Payable Clerk for General Fireproofing. Dorothy was a lifelong member of St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church

and worked the church festival for many years. She dedicated her life to her family, and loved spending time with her grandchildren, enjoyed cooking and was devoted to her church and said the rosary every day. Dorothy will be sadly missed by her family; her husband Leonard J. "Ben" whom she married December 11, 1954, and her children Cheryl Williams of Girard, L. Greg (Paula) Slemmons of Canfield, Dr. Howard G. (Audrey) Slemmons of West Middlesex, and her seven grandchildren and her four great-grandchildren. She also leaves her sister Donna J. Harder of Akron, and her brother Robert A. (Carole) Madeline of Hubbard and several nieces and nephews.

Kathryn Loretta Oxberry, S281

Kathryn Loretta (Michlovic-Wolski) Oxberry, age 97, of Massapequa Park, NY passed away on April 26, 2018. She was buried in St. Michael's cemetery in Stratford, CT. Kathryn, the first of six children, was born to Elizabeth and Victor Wolski, of Bridgeport, CT. She was a member of Saint Cyril and Methodius Parish and this church was originally Bridgeport, CT's Slovak national parish. She wed William Charles Oxberry in May of 1945. He died in 1952 and Kathryn raised her three children on Long Island where William was employed at Grumman Aircraft Corporation. Knowing that her family saved her at the time of her husband's death, she and the entire family dedicated themselves to their traditions of the Slovak faith. She worked at Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY as the departmental secretary of the Biology Department for over 30 years. She is survived by her sisters, Elizabeth Rabatin of Reno, NV, Teresa Kuba of Milford, CT, Mary Joan Marus of Stratford, CT and her brother, Bernard Wolski of Waterford, CT. She is survived by her two children, son, Dr. Brett Oxberry and his wife Kathleen of Plymouth Meeting, PA, (deceased son, William C Oxberry of Rockville Centre, NY) and his wife Debra Oxberry and her daughter, Cindy C. Oxberry of New York, NY. Her five grandchildren survive her as well; they all loved her dearly and saw her often. She is also survived by her four great grandchildren – they all brought a smile to her face.

Gerald "Jerry" Hamerlik, W500



Gerald F. "Jerry" Hamerlik, 88, of Grand Forks, ND passed away on April 11, 2018. Jerry was born on September 1, 1929, in Breckenridge, MN to Frank and Mary (Kadlec) Hamerlik of Brushvale, MN. He attended NDSU (then NDAC) and earned a B.S. degree in Education. After serving honorably in the U.S. Air Force, he taught and coached in Crosby, ND for five years. He attended the University of North Dakota in summers and completed his Doctorate in 1963. On August 12, 1957, he married a fellow Crosby teacher, Agnes Berg, in Williston, ND. Jerry was

active in his community, including Crosby Jaycees, Sioux Boosters, Grand Forks United Way, Grand Forks School Board (1969-1978), Grand Forks City Council (1994-2012), Altru Hospital Board (1976-1992) and the Union Lake Improvement District, among others. He was appointed twice by Gov. Art Link to the North Dakota Teachers Professional Practices Commission. He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church for over 55 years, and was active in many church organizations, including the Men's Club and St. Mike's Park Board Committee. He was a continuous member of the Knights of Columbus from 1947 until his passing. Survivors include his wife of over 60 years, Agnes, children Kari (Paul) Kolstoe, Mike (Beth) Hamerlik, and Maria (Scott) Hennen; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Rita Ann Irene Peterson, S196



Rita Ann Irene (Monick) Peterson passed away at age 75 on July 20, 2018. She was born in Philadelphia, PA, on January 28, 1943, to Peter and Mary (Ponisciak) Monick, moved to Falls Church, VA, for grade school, and then to West Palm Beach, FL. Rita went on to earn her Associates degree from Palm Beach Junior College and then attended George Washington University in Washington, D.C. She left GW to work for NASA from 1963-1968 during the Gemini program and enjoyed being a part of space exploration. While living in Washington, Rita met Dennis "Pete" Peterson bowling with the local Catholic Youth Organization. They were married on May 11, 1968. After honeymooning in the Poconos, they started their life together in Erie, PA where she worked at Hamot Hospital and was also the bookkeeper for Pete's construction business. In 1985 they moved to Palm Beach Gardens to be near Rita's parents and sister. She continued to be the bookkeeper for Peterson Construction and also worked in the front office of William T. Dwyer High School. Rita volunteered at her children's schools and her church and loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-nieces and nephews. She is survived by Pete, her dedicated husband of 50 years; her children Eric (Deon Johansen) of Wellington and Kathleen (Paul) Dean of Alexandria, VA; four grandchildren; her sister Martina (Jon Schmid); nieces and nephews; great-nieces and nephews; and a large and loving extended family.

Sister Mary Enid Lodding, BVM, S181



Sister Mary Enid Lodding, BVM, 91, died on Friday, July 27, 2018 in Dubuque, Iowa. Sister Enid was an elementary teacher at St. Agatha in Chicago and a pastoral associate at Our Lady of the Wayside in Arlington Heights. She taught in Addison, Rock Island and East Moline, Ill.; Muscatine, Davenport, and Iowa City, Iowa; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Seattle, Wash.; and Portland, Ore. She was a pastoral minister in Iowa City. Sister Enid was born in Chicago on March 14, 1927, to Edward and Lillian Lenick Lodding. She entered the BVM congregation Sept. 8, 1944, from St. Joseph Parish, Chicago. She is survived by the Sisters of Charity, BVM, with whom she shared life for 73 years.

(Continued on Page 16)



IN MEMORIAM

Joseph Steven Firment, S161



Joseph Steven Firment, 57, departed this life July 9, 2018. He was born March 29, 1961, in Youngstown, to Francis and Helen (Susa) Firment. Joseph worked for Indalex Aluminum for 24 years and seven years at Spectrum Metal finishing. He was a very hard working and loving husband and father. Joe was of the Catholic faith. Joseph was an avid outdoorsman. He loved his dog, Hunter, bird watching, hunting and fishing. He leaves to cherish his memory, his

wife, Kimberly (Catauro) Firment; his parents, Francis and Helen Firment; son Joseph Michael Firment; daughter Courtney Firment; brothers John (Janet) Firment and Jim Firment of Florida; a sister, Theresa (Ted) Ball also of Florida; and one grandchild.

Ronald A. "Ron" Sestak, W93, Court of Appeals



Ronald Sestak, age 69 of Tabor, SD passed away unexpectedly, November 7, 2018 doing what he loved most, farming. He was born April 27, 1949 to Robert and Lillian (Petrik) Sestak in Yankton, SD. Ron grew up just south of Tabor on the family farm. He attended Tabor Public High School. After High School, Ron attended University of South Dakota – Springfield where he received his associate's degree. After college he took over the family farm. Ron married the

love of his life for the past 47 years, Joyce Loecker on May 8, 1971 at St. Boniface Church in Menominee, NE. They made their home south of Tabor on the family farm. During his life, Ron had various jobs while in school. He worked at the Tabor Coop, B-Y Electric, and local area farms until he took over the family farm in 1969. He loved working the land and raising the various animals. However, when you couldn't find Ron on the farm machinery, you would find him on the bleachers or sidelines cheering on and supporting his children and grandchildren in their events. He loved farming, but his children and grandchildren were the light of his life. They always brought a smile to his face. He liked to hunt, developed a talent in cooking and liked trying new recipes. Ron was a proud member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association W093/ Catholic Workman, Farmer's Union, Foresters, Czech Heritage, Tabor Coop and St. Wenceslaus Parish. Ronald is survived by his wife, Joyce of Tabor, SD; son, Daniel (Lisa) Sestak of Tyndall, SD; daughter, Bonnie (Joe) Vavruska of Tabor, SD; son, Joe (Tracie) Sestak of Tabor, SD; son, Mike (Claire) Sestak of Tabor, SD; 12+ grandchildren; Foster Grandpa to Willow and William; brother, Robert (Louanne) Sestak; sister-in-law, Marilyn Sestak and many nieces and nephews.

Elaine Jean Loeffelbein S408



Elaine Loeffelbein of Williamsburg, MI and Jensen Beach, FL passed away August 8, 2018 in Michigan in the loving care of her family after a 3-year courageous fight with cancer. Elaine was born August 25, 1943 in East Detroit, MI to the late Julia and Arthur Gavin. On September 12, 1964 Elaine married the love of her life, the late Roger Charles Loeffelbein at St. Veronica Catholic Church in East Detroit. Together they

lived in Michigan, Connecticut, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Mississippi, and Maryland before Roger's retirement from the Sara Lee Corp. They faithfully attended Catholic Church wherever they lived. Elaine was a devoted mother and loving wife. Her early career was mainly in pediatrics nursing in both Detroit and Traverse City. Throughout her life, she devoted time to fundraising and volunteering, especially with charities benefiting underprivileged infants and children. Roger and Elaine were passionate supporters of organizations working with special needs citizens such as GTI (previous employer of their retired son Mark). She also loved to play bridge, travel, read and play board games especially with her grandchildren. Elaine is survived by her loving children; Mark Loeffelbein and Diane (Matt) Miller and her two beloved grandchildren; brother, Art (Mary Ellen) Gavin; sister, Carol (Stan) LaDuke; and sister-in-law Valerie (Roger) Matthews; along with several beloved nieces and nephews.

Marilyn A. Hudspeth, W01



Marilyn A. Hudspeth, age 71, of New Prague, died peacefully in the presence of her loving family on August 19, 2018. Marilyn was born on October 23, 1946 in Algona, IA, to Le Roy and Alma (Grandgenett) Stoffel. She graduated from Bishop Garrigan High School and following business school, worked at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. She married Thomas A. Hudspeth on June 14, 1969 at St. Cecelia's Catholic Church in Algona and the couple eventually settled in New

Prague. Marilyn was an active member in St. Wenceslaus Church, coordinating the altar server program, serving as an Eucharistic minister, providing support during Capital Campaigns, and active in the discipleship program, Befrienders, and Hope House. Her volunteerism spread into the community as well with her dedication to Habitat for Humanity and commitment to Unbound. She took pride in being a homemaker, creating a home filled with traditions that was warm and loving and continued until she took her final breath. She was a woman of deep faith, inspiring others to come back to church and finding their faith. The greatest joy in her life, however, was her grandchildren, Marilyn is survived by her children, Jim (Anh) Hudspeth of Shakopee, Ann (Jamie) Jerdee of Northfield, Katie (Dave) Bohn of Shakopee, Mary (Chris) Darling of Eagan, John Hudspeth (Jessica Feeney) of Fairmont; brother, Bob (Sue) Stoffel of Algona, IA; sisters, Shirley (Tom) Tuggle of Monterey, CA, Barb (Ron) Plathe of Rochester, MN, Jan (Denny) Thompson of Algona, IA; 11 grandchildren.

Gabriela Szablowski, Z579



Gabriela Szablowski passed away peacefully on August 29, 2018, surrounded by her children at Parsons House in Omaha at the age of 90 years. Born in Poland, she immigrated to the United States with her beloved husband, Henryk. The two were blessed with two children. Gabriela was devoted to her family as well as her Catholic faith. Gabriela is survived by her

children Richard (Maria) and Rita (Jack) Hoffman; a sister Kristina Czerwinski; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, and many friends.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Jr. Branch 362

Designer Bag Bingo

FCSLA Branch J362 sponsored a Designer Bag Bingo for the benefit of Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Mark #1097. The Bingo was held indoors on Saturday, September 15, 2018 from 7-10 p.m. at St. Mark Parish Hall, 1024 Radcliffe St., Bristol, PA. Branch 1362 sponsored the kitchen and ticket sales. Local members of the Magdalen I. Iskra District and Branch 172 staffed these areas. This was the second year that CDA Court St. Mark #1097 held a Designer Bag Bingo. Last year we generated a profit of approximately \$3,900 with 120 attendees. This year, we had approximately 190 people attend and made a profit of approximately \$6,150. Tickets were \$25 in advance, or \$30 at the door. There were 40 raffle prizes, a 50/50, and a Second Chance Bag raffle.



FCSLA signs were hung up around the parish hall, and FCSLA was listed as a sponsor in the program.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas were founded in 1903, and is one of the largest organizations of Catholic Women in the Americas. This year they celebrated their 90th anniversary at St. Mark Church in Bristol, PA. There are currently 25 members. One of the members is Sarah Mastrull, from FCSLA Branch 172 and is the niece of Magdalen and Martha Iskra of Branch 172 in Wilkes-Barre, PA.



Sr. Branch 630

Golf Tournament Proceeds

Buffalo Branch S630 recently sponsored a golf tournament at Chestnut Hill Country Club to benefit the School Scholarship Fund at St. Gregory the Great Parish in Williamsville, NY.



L-R: Branch President Lynn Zakowicz, FCSLA Regional Sales Manager and golf tournament Chairman John Gonsiorek, and golfer Mary Jane Schichtel.



L-R: FCSLA Branch President Lynn Zakowicz, St. Amelia's Parish Parochial Vicar Rev. Peter Santandrea, St. Gregory the Great Parochial Vicar Rev. Paul Cygan, and FCSLA Regional Sales Manager and golf tournament Chairman John Gonsiorek.



Jr. Branch 534

Golf Tournament Proceeds

Proceeds from a golf tournament and a miniature golf contest resulted in a \$1,200 check donation to the School Scholarship Fund at St. Gregory the Great Church in Williamsville, NY. The check represents \$600 raised by the Sr. Branch 630 and Jr. Branch 534 of Buffalo, NY and a matching contribution from the FCSLA national headquarters.



L-R: FCSLA Regional Sales Manager John Gonsiorek; Parochial Vicar at St. Gregory the Great Church Rev. Paul Cygan; and Pastoral Associate Sister Shawn Czyzycki representing Pastor Leon Biernat.



Sr. Branch 88

Poultry Bingo

On November 18, 2018 Sr. Branch 88 participated in a matching funds activity with the Confraternity of Christian Mothers and Ladies of Seven Dolors Church in Yukon, PA. Approximately 75 people attended the Poultry Bingo held in the church hall. An assortment

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

of hot foods and delicious desserts were available. All in attendance had a great time playing Bingo for turkeys and chickens.



L-R: Joann Krance-Treasurer, Rose Govi-Secretary, Toni Cosalter-President of Seven Dolores Church; Cindy Pawelec-SR 88 Auditor, Flora Funtal-SR 88 Recording Secretary.



L-R: Mary Kelly-Chairperson, Bernadine Brewer-Co-Chairperson of Seven Dolores Church; Cindy Pawelec-SR 88 Auditor, Flora Funtal-SR 88 Recording Secretary, Rachael Funtal-branch member.



Jr. Branch 14

Christmas Gift-Giving Program

Jr. Branch 14, Cleveland, OH, together with St. Leo the Great Par-



Volunteers Amanda and Allison Paganovsky help sort and pack gifts.

ish had a very successful Matching Funds activity during December 2018. More than 500 gifts and \$2,400 were donated by parishioners and other lodge members to the "Adopt a Child for Christmas" gift-giving program for needy children in the Cleveland area. Junior branch members would like to thank the FCSLA for the \$600 matching funds contribution.



L-R: Jr. Branch 14 members – Brady and Jackson Mullen, Evan, Sammy, Andrew, Emily and Louisa Sabol. The Sabols are grandchildren of Jeanne Sabol, Sr. Branch 141, program coordinator.



Jr. Branch 207

Toy Bingo

A fabulous toy bingo was held with J207, Shamokin, PA as one of the sponsors, to benefit St. Andre Bessette Parish in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Once again this popular event was sold out



Pictured in the front row are (L-R): Gavin Kravulski and Sophia Bellanca. Back row (L-R): Rev. Kenneth Seegar, pastor of St. Andre Bessette Church; Anna Hajala, branch auditor; Rita Kcenich, branch president; Florence McCabe, branch secretary; and Patricia Baran, coordinator.

as participants enjoyed vying for super prizes while having an array of ethnic foods to choose from for their dining pleasure! In addition door prizes and basket raffle were available to be sure everyone left the bingo as a winner!



Gavin Kravulski, is enjoying a break from bingo and is having a great time playing with the spinner gift from FCSLA. Four special games were offered with a value of \$500 each. The church community came together with donations and many hours of volunteer labor including members of J207, to have this successful event.



Sr. Branch 81

Pancake Breakfast & Christmas Candy Sale

The Christmas Season has begun at St. John School in Whiting, IN with students and parishioners taking orders for the Fannie May Candy Sale. FCSLA members/officers from Branches 58 and 81 with a few other volunteers, checked orders and submitted them to Fannie May for processing and delivery. On December 2nd, FCSLA officers hosted a chocolate booth with select items at the Annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa. Customers were able to pick up last minute gifts for that special someone. Excitement was in the air and showed on the faces of all those attending. To add to the fun, FCSLA sold out of candy! All profits benefit the needs of St. John the Baptist School. The proceeds from the orders and pancake breakfast sale were approximately \$2,400. Since this was a matching funds event, an additional \$600 from the home office will be given to the school. God bless our children who benefit from Catholic education and for all those who support our endeavors.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Sr. Branch 81 *(Continued)*

Pancake Breakfast & Christmas Candy Sale



Sr. Branch 81

Pre-Holiday Party and Raffles

FCSLA Sr. Branch 81 (Whiting, IN) hosted their annual Pre-Holiday Luncheon on November 4th at beautiful Andorra Banquets and combined it with a Matching Funds Project. Donations totaling nearly \$1,000 were generated with a Share the Pot Raffle, a Basket Raffle, Diaper Donations and a Free Will Donation Jar, all of which was presented to the Nazareth Home in East Chicago, IN, when a tour of the Home was taken by the officers of Branch 81 on December 11th. The luncheon was highlighted when two young children arrived from the Nazareth Home along with two staff members and one volunteer to personally express their gratitude for our support. Nazareth Home was founded in 1993 by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ as a caring response to a large population of abandoned babies with HIV/AIDS. Nazareth Home now cares for children born at a disadvantage such as parental neglect, abuse, fetal alcohol abuse, exposure



President Margaret Abildua greets a young guest and staff from the Nazareth Home.

to drugs in the womb and other severe medical and developmental disabilities. These babies are cared for until they can go home with a loving forever family.



Guests from the Nazareth Home with President Margaret Abildua viewing the collection of diapers generated by the matching funds project.



Group of diners viewing the collection of diapers collected at the luncheon for the Nazareth Home.



L-R: Lorraine Strbjak, Maryann Strbjak, Becky Coleman, Dorothy Hoover, and Pat Summers.

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS FOR PUBLICATION

TO: Carolyn M. Bazik, National Editor @ PO Box 1617, Reading, PA 19603 or by email to zjbazik@comcast.net.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

St. Mary's PCCW

Co-Sponsored Bake Sale

On Sunday, December 9, 2018, S621 and St. Mary's PCCW co-sponsored a bake sale at the grade school. There were three tables full of a variety of baked goods. Four girls from Aquinas High School planning to attend the SEEK Conference in Indiana in January helped with the sale. SEEK 2019 is a 5 day leadership conference hosted by FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) that brings to-gether thousands of young adults and over 40 inspiring Catholic speakers and entertainers as we gath-er to ask the big questions about life, love and how to discover true happiness. All of the matching funds and some of the bake sale proceeds will help to offset their expenses.



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.

Jr. Branch 157 Hosts Halloween Bowling Party

Jr. Branch 157 of Monessen, PA hosted a Halloween Bowling Party on October 21 at Brunswick Lanes, Belle Vernon, PA. The children were greeted by Ruth Todd, chairperson of the event, and directed them to the lanes to begin bowling.

Ruth's daughter, Jamie, helped the children with the line-up as they waited for their turn to bowl. When their games were completed, they proceeded to the Party Room which was decorated with ghosts, goblins and various orange and black decorations. They enjoyed a lunch consisting of chicken fingers, French fries, pizza and a beverage followed by a Halloween cupcake. A Candy Bar with a variety of treats enabled the children to choose their favorite sweets. Upon leaving, the children received a treat bag.

Enjoying the afternoon with the children and guests were President Dorothy Urbanowicz and fellow officers Rosemary Betza, Flora Funtal, Ruth Todd and Cindy Pawelec.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS HONORED

Winners of FCSLA scholarships were honored by their Branches S161 and J192 at a dinner, in August, at Avion on the Water Catering Center, Canfield, OH.

President of the Branches, Melanie Leonard, called each winner forward where he/she spoke briefly. J192 member, Reggi Demechko, is attending Hoban High School in Akron and stated she plays baseball for the high school and also is in a traveling league. Patrick Brooke, J192, said he was very excited about being in third grade at Holy Family School, Kent, OH.

Members of S161 included Sara Bahmer, who represented her brother Jack, S161, who was already in Texas studying Oceanographic Engineering at Texas A & M University. Donna Bard, spoke for daughter, Katelyn, who was out west volunteering as an EMT at Yosemite National Park during semester break.

She will resume Graduate classes at the Medical School, Ohio University, in the Fall. Emily Lyons, Graduate student at Gannon University, was unable to attend.

Melanie presented each winner with a FCSLA cookbook and monetary gift from their Branch.

Branch members who had applied for the FCSLA Scholarship, but were not winners, were mailed a note with a monetary gift wishing them success in their studies and suggesting they apply for the scholarship again next year.



L -R: President of S161 and J192, Melanie Leonard, Reggi Demechko, Sara Bahmer, Patrick Brooke, and Donna Bard.

Sr. Branch 161 Installs Corresponding Secretary

Rosanne Pritchard, newly installed Corresponding Secretary of Branch S161, Youngstown, OH, with President, Melanie Leonard, when Rosanne was introduced at the Youngstown District Christmas Party in November. Melanie replaces Millie Kust who retired after serving as Secretary for twenty years.



Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Thank you to everyone who made any contribution, large or small, to the 2018 Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. Funds raised go to the Bishop Grutka Fund, which is used to support 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.

Donations to the Appeal are received from leadership gifts from the four Slovak Catholic fraternal benefit societies (First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, First Catholic Slovak Union, Slovak Catholic Sokol, and Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union), their districts and branches, clergy of Slovak heritage, collections from Slovak parishes, and individual gifts. Over \$2.5 million has been received in the 40-year history of the Appeal. The 2018 Appeal received \$32,698.81 from 181 donors. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

A direct mailing for the 2019 Appeal is being prepared and will be sent to leaders of fraternal branches and districts, clergy of Slovak heritage, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and others who have made donations to the Appeal in the past. Donations to this year's Appeal may be made by filling out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the **Slovak Catholic Federation** to the address provided. All donors receive an acknowledgement for their gift. Thank you for your goodness and generosity. Donations received after November 30, 2019 will be credited toward the 2020 Appeal.

The Slovak Catholic Federation, founded in 1911, 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. Hvozdo, 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.

41st 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 SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

ASSETS

Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 17,280,816
Bonds	936,995,367
Preferred Stock	2,212,846
Common Stock	7,150,165
Investment Income Due & Accrued	13,260,590
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	5,155,344
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,748,493
Other Assets	2,900,300
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 987,703,922

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 298,249,687
Annuity Reserves	561,271,329
Death Claims Payable	3,372,056
Unearned Premiums	459,563
Matured Endowments	319,012
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,400,000
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,670,493
Accrued Convention Donations	735,000
Provision for Future Conventions	445,037
Asset Valuation Reserve	8,538,578
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,201,032
Other Liabilities	1,657,580
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 882,319,367
Surplus	\$ 105,384,555
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 987,703,922

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Nine Months Ending September 30, 2018

REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 2,890,635
Annuity Premiums	28,045,958
Investment Income	34,576,917
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	173,259
Rental Income	275,213
Other Revenue	453,166
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 66,415,149

EXPENSE

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 611,687
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	21,477,807
Insurance Benefits	6,052,979
Annuity Benefits	22,909,563
Commission Expense	874,730
Surrender Benefits	3,239,403
Post Mortem Benefits	1,153,962
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	87,211
Matured Endowments	13,621
Donation Expenses	83,736
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	189,000
Convention Expenses	150,003
Bank Service Charges	73,425
Data Processing Service Fees	177,747
Accounting Fees	144,978
Actuarial Fees	211,885
Legal Fees	32,874
Consulting Fees	99,670
Branch and District Funding	609,327
Fraternal Activities	83,067
Official Publications	359,910
Scholarship Awards	219,497
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	374,581
Fees — Directors	121,727
Salaries — Employees	1,500,905
Salaries — Officers	386,405
Interest Expense	304,916
Tax Expense	154,686
Depreciation Expense	165,772
Utility Expense	78,388
Postage and Printing	178,711
Advertising	74,098
Travel Expense	75,420
Insurance Department Fees	86,183
Sales Promotion	155,617
Rental Expense	283,788
Other Expense	513,609
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 63,310,886

Income (Loss) from Operations

Dividends to Members	\$ 1,025,668
Subtotal Income (Loss)	\$ 2,078,595
Capital Gains (Loss)	1,333
NET INCOME (Loss)	\$ 2,079,928



Valentine Specials

MARYLAND CRAB CAKES

- 1 pound small-size fresh crabmeat, such as special or claw
- 1 pound large-size fresh crabmeat, such as jumbo lump or backfin
- ½ cup light mayonnaise
- ½ cup fresh flat-leaf parsley, chopped
- ¼ cup fresh lemon juice (from 2 lemons), plus wedges, for serving
- 1 large egg
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon Old Bay Seasoning
- Coarse salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1 cup fine saltine crumbs (from about 30 crackers)
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

Heat broiler, with rack 4 inches from heat. Line a rimmed baking sheet with aluminum foil; set aside. Keeping each pound of crabmeat separate, turn out onto paper towels; pick through to remove any shells or cartilage.

In a large bowl, stir together mayonnaise, parsley, lemon juice, egg, mustard, Old Bay, 1 teaspoon coarse salt, and ¼ teaspoon pepper.

Add crumbs and small-size crabmeat to mayonnaise mixture; stir well to combine. Gently fold in large-size crabmeat to mayonnaise mixture just until combined. Dividing evenly, form mixture into 8 cakes.

Place cakes on prepared baking sheet; drizzle with melted butter. Broil until golden brown and warmed throughout, 12 to 15 minutes (move to lower shelf if tops brown too quickly). Serve with tarter sauce and lemon wedges.

TARTAR SAUCE FOR CRAB CAKES

- 1 cup light mayonnaise
- 4 cornichon pickles, minced
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 shallot, minced
- Coarse salt and ground pepper

Mix together all ingredients in a small bowl; season with salt and pepper. Refrigerate until ready to use.

ROASTED BEEF, MUSHROOM, AND BARLEY SOUP

- 1 pound sirloin steak, cut into ½-inch pieces
- 1 pound cremini or button mushrooms, stems trimmed and caps halved
- 2 shallots, coarsely chopped
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- Coarse salt and ground pepper
- 4 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- ½ cup quick-cooking barley
- Chopped fresh parsley (optional)

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. In a roasting pan or rimmed baking sheet, toss together steak, mushrooms, shallots, and olive oil; season with salt and pepper. Arrange in a single layer and roast until beef and mushrooms are browned, about 30 minutes. Transfer to a medium pot and add broth and barley. Bring mixture to a boil over medium-high, then reduce heat and simmer until barley is soft, about 12 minutes. To serve, season to taste with salt and pepper and top with parsley, if desired.

SEAFOOD MAC & CHEESE

- Coarse salt and ground pepper
- 1 pound elbow macaroni
- 6 tablespoons butter
- ½ medium onion, finely chopped
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- ⅓ cup all-purpose flour (leveled)
- 3 cups whole milk
- ⅛ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 pound coarsely chopped cooked lobster, shrimp, crawfish, or crabmeat, or a combination
- 4 cups (1 pound) mixed grated cheeses, such as Parmesan, Cheddar, Swiss, and Fontina
- ½ cup panko breadcrumbs

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a large pot of boiling salted water, cook macaroni 2 minutes less than al dente. Drain; rinse with cold water. Set aside.

While pasta is cooking, melt butter over medium in a large saucepan. Transfer 2 tablespoons melted butter to a medium bowl, and reserve. Add onion and garlic to pan; cook until softened, 3 to 5 minutes. Add flour; cook, stirring, 1 minute. Add milk; whisk until smooth. Bring to a boil; reduce to a simmer, and cook until sauce has thickened, 2 to 3 minutes. Season with ¾ teaspoon salt, ½ teaspoon pepper, and nutmeg.

Remove pan from heat. Fold in seafood, macaroni, and cheese; transfer to a shallow 4-quart baking dish. To bowl with reserved melted butter, add breadcrumbs and Creole seasoning; toss, and scatter over macaroni mixture. Place baking dish on a rimmed baking sheet. Bake until topping is golden and sauce is bubbling, 15 to 20 minutes. Let cool 5 minutes before serving.

RICE PUDDING

- 6 cups milk, (full fat, low fat or skim)
 - 1 cup medium grain rice
 - ¼ cup white granulated sugar
 - 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
 - 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
 - ¼ cup raisins
 - ½ cup condensed milk (optional)
 - 2 tablespoons unsalted butter (optional)
- Combine the milk, rice, sugar, cinnamon, vanilla and raisins in a large saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, mixing occasionally.

Reduce heat to low and cook, stirring occasionally while scraping the base and sides of the pan with a wooden spoon, until thick and creamy (about 15-20 minutes).

Once rice is soft and cooked through, mix in the condensed milk and butter. Add ¼ cup extra milk *only* if needed to achieve your desired consistency.

Pour the rice among serving bowls; sprinkle with extra ground cinnamon (or cinnamon sugar), and raisins. Serve immediately.

OOEY GOOEY LEMON COCONUT BUTTER BARS

- 1 box (16 oz.) Yellow Cake Mix
- 1 large egg
- 1 stick unsalted butter, melted
- FOR THE FILLING:**
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ cups fresh lemon juice
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 stick unsalted butter, melted
- FOR THE TOPPING:**
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 cup sweetened coconut flakes
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- ¼ cup flour

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9 x 13 inch pan and set aside.

In a large mixing bowl add the cake mix, egg, and melted butter and stir together until incorporated. Press into the bottom of a 9 x 13 inch pan. Set aside.

Filling: In a large mixing bowl beat the cream cheese until smooth. Add eggs one at a time and continue to beat until smooth. Add vanilla, lemon juice, powdered sugar, and melted butter. Pour over the cake mix.

Topping: In a medium sized bowl combine the brown and white sugar. Mix in the coconut and stir in the butter and flour. Sprinkle on top of the filling.

Bake in preheated oven for 35-40 minutes. You want the center to be gooey but set, and the top is lightly brown. Allow to cool before cutting into squares.

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.