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# Fraternally Yours®

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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SEPTEMBER 2020



“...and all at once,  
summer collapsed into fall.”

– Oscar Wilde

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



## Fraternally Yours, ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA®



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## In the Spin Cycle

An old story tells of a little boy who went into a grocery store and asked for extra strength laundry detergent. As the clerk was finding it, he asked the boy what he wanted to use it for. He said he wanted to give his pet rat a bath.

The clerk replied, "Well, I think that this detergent is a bit strong for a rat. I'm not sure that I would use it."

The child said that he believed it would be all right and the grocer added, "Just be careful. This is awfully strong detergent."

About a week later, the boy came back. When asked by the grocer how his rat was, he said, "Well, he just sort of walks around in a daze."

"I'm sorry to hear that," sympathized the clerk. "But I did tell you that the detergent was probably too strong."

"Oh, I really don't think it was the detergent," the boy replied. "I believe it was the spin cycle that did it."

Do you ever feel as if you have been through the spin cycle? Maybe even hung out to dry? Living through pain and suffering is like going through the spin cycle. Often our pain is physical, the result of illness or injury.

But more often we suffer from emotional pain like loss, fear, worry, rejection, loneliness, guilt or depression. In either case, sometimes we feel as if we have been through the spin cycle.

We sometimes long for a world with no pain, no problems, no obstacles, no disappointments, no hurts, no handicaps, no troubles. We wish our bodies might always run like fine-tuned machines – no permanent breakdowns, no serious illness – purring along forever, or at least until they quickly and painlessly cease to function altogether (and, of course, at the time of our choosing). We might crave a world where loss is unknown, loneliness unheard of and all things unpleasant somehow banished.

But the truth is, we live in a world with pain. And we all experience our share. We can run, but we can't hide from suffering. It will always find us. And should we even try to run from it? For as much as we hate going through tough times – the spin cycles of life – even hardships help us to grow. It's amazing, but our most difficult times can serve this valuable purpose.

Helen Keller, without sight or hearing, suffered her share of pain. But after many years of anger and hostility toward her "solitary confinement," she was eventually able to say, "I thank God for my handicaps. For through them, I have found myself, my work and my God."

Dear Friends,

I don't know if you can give thanks for your sufferings, but this month can you try to accept them as the indispensable teachers they are? Can you embrace trouble as a necessary (albeit unwelcome) part of life?

The spin cycles we inevitably go through are not the problem; getting stuck in them is the real problem. Find your way through and you just may come out stronger than ever.

Until Next Month,  
Warmly, Carolyn

Adapted from an article by Steve Goodier – <http://www.LifeSupportSystem.com>

# FIRST LUMINOUS MYSTERY: THE BAPTISM OF JESUS IN THE RIVER JORDAN

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Originally there were three sets of Mysteries of the Rosary: the Joyful Mysteries, the Sorrowful Mysteries and the Glorious Mysteries. In Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Letter of October, 2002, entitled *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, he introduced the five Mysteries of Light or Luminous Mysteries. Last month we concluded the Joyful Mysteries which covered the time period beginning with the Annunciation, that Mary had been chosen to be the mother of the Messiah. The Joyful Mysteries ended with the finding of Jesus in the Temple at twelve years of age. Remember that after the finding of Jesus in the Temple there is a period of eighteen years before the gospels once again continue with the life of Jesus. As such the Luminous Mysteries focus on the public ministry of Jesus which began when Jesus was 30 years old. They illustrate some amazing and miraculous events in Christ's life. The Luminous Mysteries shed "light" on who Jesus was and that he was indeed "The Light of the World."

The first Luminous Mystery is Jesus' Baptism in the River Jordan which marked the beginning of Christ's public

life. The spiritual fruit of this Mystery is Openness to the Holy Spirit, the Healer. This first Luminous Mystery also reminds us to live our baptism promises and to be grateful for the gift of faith. This event in Jesus' life is described in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

Before his baptism in the Jordan, Jesus led a normal life as any other young man. His divinity was not on public display. It would be at his baptism that Jesus was revealed to be the "Son of the Father" and one of the Trinity. We know John the Baptist was the son of Elizabeth, cousin of Mary. The special relationship between John and Jesus had begun at the Visitation when Mary came to visit Elizabeth while both women were pregnant. John was meant to be God's appointed messenger whom God used to preach and prepare the way for Jesus' future work. The Holy Spirit raised up John to bring out among the Jews those who longed for the gospel of the kingdom of heaven and who looked forward to the arrival of the Savior. John had been traveling around, prophesizing to the people throughout the regions of Jerusalem and Judea. He called people to prepare for the Messiah's coming and to repent and be baptized.

Jesus had no sin. He did not need to be baptized. But the act of baptism was part of Christ's mission in coming to earth. At the same time Jesus was endorsing John the Baptist's ministry of baptism. When Jesus came to the Jordan, he joined the line of others seeking baptism. John recognized Jesus as the Lamb of God. He felt unworthy and reluctant to baptize Jesus, telling him that it was he that needed to be baptized by Jesus, not the other way around! John consented to do so only when Christ assured him that this baptism was necessary to do the will of God.

As Jesus came out of the water, the heavens opened up and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove. A voice from above said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Mt 3:17). The doctrine of the Trinity was expressed at that very moment when God the Father spoke from heaven, God the Son was baptized, and God the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove. Afterwards Jesus would go into the desert for forty days, to fast and pray in preparation to begin his ministry. His first miracle would take place in Cana, which is next month's Mystery.



National President Cynthia Maleski presents a check awarded by the Donations Committee at the Quadrennial Convention to Mr. Thomas Ivanec, President of Lucina. Young performers and members of FCSLA Cleveland District are present.

# Message from our National President

## CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Greetings to all fellow members and friends!

We are quickly moving into September 2020 as all of us continue to confront and live with the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and well being of our members, employees, producers and friends are of utmost importance to us as we all strive to fulfill our

personal mission in our world.

September is LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH! Due to the pandemic, this awareness becomes even more important and we need to talk to everyone about life insurance NOW. We have come face to face with the reality that the unexpected can happen to any of us at any time. Nationally, only 54 percent of households have life insurance. Forty four percent of people believe they would struggle to pay living expenses within six months of a primary wage earner's death.\*

We know about the benefits of life insurance and the risks of going without it, but even so, many of us are underinsured. There are many myths about life insurance including that it may be too expensive, how it can be used and that purchasing it can wait. The key is to talk to one of our producers about the reality of life insurance and why it is a good financial decision for you and your loved ones.

During this time as well, we are pleased to welcome Mr. Paul Smithers of Columbus, Ohio as our new National Sales Manager. After college and being part of a family business which grew over

a ten year period, Paul began his life insurance career, working his way up from agent at New York Life, to John Hancock and then to Motorist Life as a field sales manager and then regional sales manager. Paul has Chartered Life Underwriter and Chartered Financial Consultant designations from the American College and has been active in NAIFA & Society of Financial Planners

Paul is married to his wife Lesley for 33 years and they have a daughter who is also married.

Please welcome Paul to FCSLA!

\*2020 Insurance Barometer Study, Life Happens/LIMRA

## FCSLA Annuity Rates

*Rates for our deferred  
Elite Annuities:*

**SILVER ELITE (5 YEAR)**

**2.75% APY\***

**GOLD ELITE (7 YEAR)**

**3.00% APY\***

**PLATINUM ELITE (10 YEAR)**

**3.25% APY\***

*\*This rate is in effect 7/1/2020 thru 9/30/2020.*

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 2020 is 2% APY and for the Platinum Elite is 2.5% APY.

Scan this Code  
with your mobile phone  
to get more information  
about our Insurance  
Policies!



# *FCSLA Honors Saint Ann for Her Special Feast Day*



*July 24, 2020*

National President Cynthia Maleski presented a wreath today honoring our patron, Saint Ann. Saint Ann has been the Patron Saint of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association since 1892. The wreath was presented on behalf of all living and deceased members of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and was placed at the restored statue of her image in the recently renovated courtyard on our home office grounds. National President Cynthia Maleski led a small gathering including officers Kim Graham, National Secretary and Stephen Hudak, National Treasurer and several employees in reciting a special prayer to Saint Ann. The wreath presentation was done in accordance with CDC guidelines and Ohio advisories and orders during this COVID 19 pandemic.




*Tradition has it that Saint Ann and Saint Joachim were married for 20 years, but didn't have any children. They prayed to God for a child and promised that if He granted their wish, they would dedicate this child to God.*

*According to age old traditions, while Saint Joachim was living with shepherds, an angel came to him and promised, "Your wife will bear a daughter and you will call her Mary. She will be filled with the Holy Spirit from her mother's womb." An angel also appeared to Saint Ann at the same time and related the same happy news to her.*

*Saint Ann and Saint Joachim's trust in God gave them the strength and perseverance necessary to be model parents and grandparents. Their lives are an example for all of us.*

*The feast day of Saint Ann and Saint Joachim is July 26. It has been traditionally held that Saint Ann is the patron saint of expectant mothers, mothers, housewives and coal miners; Saint Joachim is the patron saint of fathers and grandfathers.*

*Excerpt from the website of Saint Ann's Shrine, Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, Cleveland, OH  
Image: Education of the Virgin by Charles-Antoine Coypel, c1735-37, Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY*



# The Time is NOW! Life Insurance – It's On My List . . Eventually

No one really *wants* to think about life insurance. But if someone depends on you financially, it's a topic you can't avoid. In the event of a tragedy, life insurance proceeds can:

- Pay for funeral costs
- Help pay the bills and meet ongoing living expenses
- Pay off outstanding debt, including credit cards and the mortgage
- Continue a family business
- Finance future needs like your children's education
- Protect a spouse's retirement plans

FCSLA has a variety of life insurance products to fit your needs. One product in particular is very attractive. **Single Premium Whole Life** (ICC12-SPWL0412) can be issued up to age 90 with a minimum death benefit of only \$5,000!

Single Premium Whole Life is a kind of life insurance in which a sum of cash is paid into the insurance policy in exchange for a death benefit that is fully guaranteed to remain paid-up until death as long as the cash value is not accessed through a certificate loan.

Not only is the policy fully paid up with the one payment it also gains cash value quickly. Depending on your age, gender and health you could see the amount of cash value equal or even exceed the amount of premium you paid in just a few years. This can help you build a cash value that is accessible if needed while also providing life insurance coverage.

If you are wondering where you could find the money to

fund a Single Premium life insurance certificate, look where you have easily accessible money that you likely will not need for a few years: certificates of deposit you have at the bank, low interest money market funds or money just sitting in a bank account.

These assets may be able to provide a greater benefit to you and potentially your beneficiaries if utilized to purchase life insurance.

\*There may be tax implications involved with a single premium type life insurance plan depending on your intentions. Your agent or recommender can explain these to you, but they are not qualified tax advisors. Please consult a qualified tax advisor for actual tax advice for your individual situation.

Contact the Home Office or one of the Regional Sales Managers to determine which Life Insurance Product is best for you!

## PRAYER TO SAINT ANN

*O glorious Saint Ann,  
you are filled with compassion  
for those who invoke you,  
and with love for those who suffer.  
Heavily burdened with the weight of my troubles,  
I cast myself at your feet  
and humbly beg of you  
to take the present intention,  
which I recommend to you in your special care.*

*Please recommend it to your daughter,  
the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
and place it before the throne of Jesus,  
so that He may bring it to a happy issue.*

*Continue to intercede for me  
until my request is granted.  
But above all obtain for me the grace one day  
to see my God, face to face,  
and with you and Mary and all the saints  
to praise and bless him for all eternity. Amen.*

*Our Father; Hail Mary; Glory be.*

*Saint Ann, help me now  
and at the hour of my death!  
Good Saint Ann, intercede for me!*

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## First Project from Convention Donation Completed in Indiana

During the 2019 FCSLA Convention in Tampa, FL, various members and friends of the Helen Kocan District of Lake County, IN and Joliet, IL were awarded donations based on their individual requests submitted to the Convention Donation Committee. The first recipient to complete the purchase and installation of their project awarded was Camp Lawrence located in Valparaiso, IN. After seeing current signage in 2018 of Camp Lawrence, Joann Skvarek Banvich told the Most Rev. Donald J. Hying the Bishop of the Diocese of Gary that it amazed her that these were the exact same signs that were there in the 1960s when she spent a week at camp. Upon decid-



ing on 13 new custom engraved stones with the entrance to be a large boulder, the proposal with an agreement to acknowledge the donor on the selected signage along with required request and documentation was sent to Beachwood, OH. This project was completed by the Diocesan and Camp Staff and installed in early 2020 prior to the COVID shut down in Indiana.

Recipients of various awards received their donation checks that were presented by Joann Skvarek Banvich and other Branch Officers during December 2019 and January 2020 and can be seen in photos on this page. Other awards were received throughout the District but the recipients were not available for photos.

All of the recipients were very thankful to the FCSLA for their generosity during the 2019 convention.



**Branch S81 officers – L-R: Nancy Dunn, Annette Markovich, Becky Coleman, Rev. Mark Peres (St. John the Baptist Church Pastor), Judy Vrhin, and National Director, Joann Skvarek Banvich.**



**ANDREAN HIGH SCHOOL – L-R: Liz Metz (staff); Kathy Yurechko (S289 member and staff); Jaycob Knazur (Principal); Joann Skvarek Banvich; Agnes Chervenak, S409.**



**L-R: Betty Ortiz, S452; Rev. Kevin Scalf, C.P.P.S (Director of Mission Effectiveness); Ester Diaz (Director of Institutional Advancement); Dr. Amy McCormack (Calumet College of Saint Joseph President); Joann Skvarek Banvich, National Director; Agnes Chervenak, S409.**



**CAMP LAWRENCE – L-R: Michael Wick (Chief of Staff of the Diocese of Gary); Joann Skvarek Banvich; Judy Holicky (S452 member and staff); Kathy Tomasek (CFO).**

## Jr. Branch 483 Members Brighten the Day for Nursing Home Residents

For Easter, Jr. Branch 483 bought and delivered a huge shipment of flowers from Trader Joes to Light of Hearts Villa (the nursing home where the Cleveland District has their meetings). While at Trader Joes, they asked what the branch was doing with all of the flowers. The branch shared they were bringing them to a nursing home. Trader Joe's staff told them that if they were going to the nursing home again at a later date, the branch was welcome to come and pick up their old flowers that they can no longer sell (because they are not perfect) to take to the nursing home. So the next week Karen Visocan, secretary S522, and her daughter Meghan, J483, went back and took another three large bins of flowers to the nursing home. This then turned into a weekly project where Meghan visited all of the nursing homes close to them (Light of Hearts Villa, Anna Maria, Arden Courts, Hamlet) and took turns bringing them bins full of flowers to cheer up the staff and residents. Then she started getting other kids in the neighborhood to help her write letters to the residents to drop off with the flowers. She also went to the Dollar Store and Jr. Branch 483 bought crossword puzzle books and word find books to bring as well.

Meghan has been doing this since Easter and will keep doing it as long as Trader Joe's gives the Branch their left-over flowers. Sr. Branch 522 also gave Light of Hearts Villa a monetary donation to help the residents during the pandemic.



### Clarification

On page 10 of the August issue, Paula Dalpiaz's title was stated as Insurance Manager in the Scholarship Awards article. Her correct title is Insurance Manager & IT Coordinator.

## Celebrates 101st Birthday

Anna Rabatin (Sr. Branch 84, Philadelphia, PA) celebrated another milestone in her life on June 20, 2020, her 101st birthday, surrounded by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Throughout her long life, Anna has shared many Slovak traditions with her family. Her family is blessed and continues to enjoy listening to her life stories of times gone by. We wish Anna peace, love, and joy and may God keep her close to Him and his Mother in the coming days.

*(Heaven received another angel when Anna passed away on July 7, 2020 – may she rest in peace.)*



## First Holy Communion



Anna Mae Baker (Branch 184) made her first Holy Communion at Our Lady of Consolation in Merrillville, IN, on Saturday, July 11. Anna Mae and her brother Paul also received high awards from the Boy Scouts of America for Religious participation. They are both altar servers and are active in their parish and community.

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## ESSENTIAL WORKERS

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*Frank and Janet Berkemeier, S456 submitted this story to highlight their essential workers and how they adapted to life under COVID 19 restrictions.*

Our eldest daughter Monica Berkemeier Del-Medico is our Essential Employee and Family Hero! She is a certified Physician Assistant and has worked for an urgent care center in Lansing and its surrounding cities for almost four years. Monica and husband Nick both received their formal education at two rival schools in Ohio, (Dayton and Miami) but ended up here in Michigan for Monica's work. Nick started Arden Recruiting and could work from home, but also works for the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. Monica and Nick (DelMedico) were married in 2017 and were blessed with their first child, (our second grandchild), Francesca Grace, in November 2019.



After Monica's brief pregnancy leave, Francesca was driven to daycare at age 3 months so Monica could continue full time as a Physician Assistant. Fortunately, their daycare stayed open for essential employees. The daycare staff was not only required to take their temperature before each work day, but they wore a mask the entire day, and

routinely sanitized their hands and toys. The risk of Monica or the baby bringing home Covid-19 to the family always existed, but by the grace of God, their family remained healthy and virus free.

It took several months for us to visit each other even though we lived only 45 minutes away. While Monica was working 12 hour shifts, she quarantined so as not to risk being near my mom at age 89. On a few of Monica's days off, she scheduled Zoom face time for our family who was spread out across several cities and states. Monica saw almost ten Covid-19 patients during this time period with some needing hospitalization. Screening the patients for the virus and sending them to the ER was the most rewarding part of her job during this stressful time. Monica had to suit up if the patient presented a temperature or symptoms of the virus. When she worked on weekends Nick held down

the fort and took care of Francesca, now 7 months old. We are really proud we can claim we had such a dedicated Essential Worker in our family! Congratulations Monica! We love you and are so proud of you!

In addition, for several months we did not see our daughter Gretchen, Mechanical Engineer for CMS Energy, who was working from her apartment in Grand Rapids, during this pandemic. In her free time, she was learning some wood working techniques and has created several pig cutting boards at her boyfriend's woodshop, and staying in touch by Zoom.

My family always reminded me to minimize my trips to the grocery stores, wear a mask in public, and not to bring germs home to my 89 year old mother. My husband, Frank, a farmer during his retirement, travels two 25 mile round trips a day to our farm in Rives Junction, to feed and water our goats and cattle, and repair farm equipment. Seven calves were born, and now Frank and the workers are in haying season. Frank also changes the sign at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church and learned to use Zoom for his Board meetings for Madonna University as a trustee, and for Birthline as Legal Counsel.

Last, but not least, our daughter Andrea would have been another one of our Essential Employees as an M3 student at the University of Michigan. Because the Covid-19 positive patients were escalating, the M1, M2 and M3 med students were removed from their clinical duties to reduce their exposure to the virus and to conserve the personal protective equipment. Andrea, worked from the home front by providing tele-health visits for the student run free clinic, served remotely on the hospital's ethics consult service, and researched with a faculty psychiatrist on the ethical provision of healthcare for prisoners. The M4 students were required to work at the "U" and relieve staff who either got sick or burned out. We feel this was a huge blessing that Andrea was not directly exposed to the virus in the hospital because she and her husband Ben, a PhD student, were expecting their first child early June. Andrea's scheduled baby shower evolved into a Zoom Shower. For the guests who won the baby games, we made donations to charitable organizations like Alternatives (of Kalamazoo), Birthline (of Jackson), and Arbor Women of Ann Arbor. Andrea is our family's unsung hero in healthcare. She proved being a real trooper by giving birth to her first child during this pandemic (our third grandchild), Louise Magdalena Brelje, on June 12, 2020 at 4:30 a.m. Only Ben, her husband, and one other adult were allowed in the hospital room. I finally saw Andrea, Ben and baby Louise three days later when she returned to their apartment. Andrea has about a month to recuperate before she starts another rotation. We just heard from our Bishop Boyea that at St. Mary Student Parish in Ann Arbor, Ben will finally come into the Church this Saturday, July 11, and little Louise will be baptized outdoors in the courtyard followed by a picnic in the park to celebrate with the entire family – both momentous occasions!

## FCSLA 2020 Photo Contest

### Contest Eligibility:

- Open to all FCSLA members age 18 and older
- Photos must have been taken between January 1, 2019 and November 12, 2020

### Entry Deadline:

- **Entries must be received by FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020**
- Mailed entries only, no emails: FCSLA Fraternal Department  
24950 Chagrin Blvd  
Beachwood, OH 44122

### Contest Rules and Information:

- The photo must be taken by the member entering it.
- Limit of **ONE** entry per member.
- No professional or studio photos will be considered. This is an amateur photography contest.
- Photo may be in color or black & white.
- Photo must be **4x6**, unmounted, no digitally enhanced photos permitted.
- Photo must be on **photo paper**.
- **Photo must be accompanied by a completed entry form (below).**
- Previously winning photos are not eligible.
- Do not write on the front or back of the photo.
- Entries will be judged on artistic expression, creativity, and quality of the image by a panel of non-FCSLA affiliated judges. The judges' decision is final.
- Winners will be notified via a letter through the USPS.
- Questions? Email [fraternal@fcsla.com](mailto:fraternal@fcsla.com) or 800-464-4642 x1051

### Categories

- ☐ Critters
- ☐ My Backyard
- ☐ Skylines
- ☐ Holiday
- ☐ Still Life

### Category Prizes

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Place | \$75.00 Gift Card |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place | \$50.00 Gift Card |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place | \$25.00 Gift Card |

Winning photographs will be published in *Fraternally Yours*,  
on [fcsla.org](http://fcsla.org), and on the FCSLA Facebook page!

All entrants will be acknowledged in *Fraternally Yours*.

## FCSLA 2020 PHOTO CONTEST

Entry must be received by FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Branch # \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### **PHOTO CATEGORY (check one):**

- |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Critters    | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My Backyard | <input type="checkbox"/> Still Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skylines    |                                     |

When taken \_\_\_\_\_ Where taken \_\_\_\_\_

## Pandemic Breathes NEW LIFE in Michigan Sr. Branch 456 & Jr. Branch 368

### A Birth • A Conversion • A Baptism • A 35th Anniversary!

Andrea Berkemeier Brelje was ending her third year of medical school at the University of Michigan during the pandemic while giving birth to Louise Magdalena on June 12, 2020.

One month later, July 11, 2020, after a long, patient wait, Andrea's husband Ben Brelje, came into the Catholic Church at a private ceremony inside St. Mary Student Parish in Ann Arbor, MI.

The following day, July 12, 2020, Fr. Joe baptized Louise Magdalena outside in the courtyard of St. Mary Student Parish in Ann Arbor while the group of 25 including immediate family with Godparents and Confirmation sponsor watched the ceremony all wearing their masks!

A catered Indian/Syrian celebratory luncheon and Danish cake was served at the pavilion all in walking distance of Andrea/Ben's apartment. A great turnout of FCSLA members of both S-456 and J-368 with the newly baptized Louise Magdalena Brelje being our newest and youngest member!

The next day, Monday, July 13, 2020 was the 35th wedding anniversary of Frank and Janet Gaydos Berkemeier, the proud grandparents of Louise Magdalena. We told Ben that we were still able to celebrate the Triduum.



## Zachlin Earns Eagle Scout Rank

Stephen Zachlin (Branch S009) has earned his Eagle Scout Rank from the Boy Scouts of America. The Eagle is the highest honor in scouting, and only 4% of scouts attain it. To achieve Eagle Scout Rank, Stephen had to earn a minimum of 21 merit badges (he earned 26) and plan and complete a service project helping the community in some way.

His project entailed renovating the baseball field behind Our Lady of Peace Church in Cleveland, OH. He hoped local children might enjoy it, and it would increase the number of ways parishioners could connect at events. He planned the amount of dirt needed to haul in, and the number of man-hours needed to dig up grass and fill everything in. His troop and family worked for an entire day last September, and Stephen dedicated the field a few weeks later. He hopes the children of his community and fellow parishioners will have fun with it for years to come.



Stephen at the World Scout Jamboree in 2019.

## Prayer to Our Mother of Sorrows

Our mother of sorrows, with strength from above you stood by the cross, sharing in the sufferings of Jesus, and with tender care you bore Him in your arms, mourning and weeping.

We praise you for your faith, which accepted the life God planned for you. We praise you for your hope, which trusted that God would do great things in you.

We praise you for your love in bearing with Jesus the sorrows of His passion. Holy Mary, may we follow your example, and stand by all your children who need comfort and love.

Mother of God, stand by us in our trials and care for us in our many needs. Pray for us now and at the hour of our death.

# MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

## Branch W137

### Benefit Golf Outing Benefit

On Sunday, June 7th, 2020, Branch W137 participated in a matching funds Golf Outing to benefit St. Ludmila Catholic Church, Cedar Rapids, IA.

Branch members solicited hole sponsors, advertised the event by email to members, met with parish organizers, baked 45 dozen kolaches as a thank you to hole sponsors and golfed in the outing. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there could be no group photos or gatherings.



FCSLA W137 sign welcomes golfers to the St. Ludmila Golf Outing.



Branch W137 members assist in kolach baking.



Branch W137 members Beth, Rick, Matt and Amanda Samek wait to tee off on Hole #1.

## Jr. Branch 14

### Christmas Gift-Giving Program

In December 2019, Jr. Branch 14, Cleveland, OH, together with St. Leo the Great Parish sponsored a successful matching funds activity. Parishioners and other branch members donated more than 500 gifts and \$2,240 to the "Adopt a Child for Christmas" gift-giving program for needy Cleveland area children. Gift recipients included children at St. Aloysius School, Malachi Center and Maggie's Place. Junior branch members would like to thank the FCSLA for the \$600 matching funds contribution. A big "Thank You" also from Jeanne Sabol, program coordinator, and John Sabol, both from Sr. Branch 141, grandparents of all the Sabol children in photos below.



Volunteers gather with Jeanne and John Sabol, son David Sabol and granddaughters Louisa and Emily Sabol (Jr. Branch 14), all centered in picture.



Jr. Branch 14 members, left to right: Brady Mullen, Andrew Sabol and Jackson Mullen packed a truck with gifts for St. Aloysius School.



Sammy and Evan Sabol (Jr. Branch 14) help load a car for Malachi Center families.



## Branch W033

### Breakfast and Raffle

Branch W033, Spillville, IA held their Matching Funds Breakfast and Raffle, Sunday, March 1, 2020 at St. Wencleslaus School Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with 151 in attendance. Sausage, scrambled eggs with toppings, toast, regular and cinnamon rolls, coffee, tea, juice, and milk were served.

# MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Everyone enjoyed the food and fraternal fun. The raffle included gift certificates, homemade maple syrup, kolaches by the dozen, a homemade lap quilt, fish-fry tickets, bird seed and more. Winners enjoyed taking home their prizes.



Taking care of the raffle, L-R: Aaron Maldonado and Mark Balik. Buying tickets is Wanda Cole.



L-R: Roger Shatek, Kurt Klimesh, and Tom Novak, ready to dish out sausage and scrambled eggs.



Branch W033 Treasurer Rita Fjelstul presenting a check during the Matching Funds Breakfast, for \$1,000 to South Winneshiek 1st Responders Joe Ward and Alvin Herold for a Lucas Chest Compression Machine. The branch thanks them and all who serve in an way as essential workers and volunteers for their service, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Taking tickets and helping with the raffle are L-R: Jenae Kuennen, Alayna Kuennen, and Shayla Kuennen, members of Branch W033.



Janice Klimesh making toast for the breakfast.



Serving cinnamon rolls, orange juice, and milk are Lori Shatek (standing) and Kristy Tlusty (sitting).



Enjoying their breakfast are L-R: Two brothers, Rev. Donald Hawes and Monsignor Cletus Hawes. Rev. Donald Hawes, took care of ministering to St. Wenceslaus Church in Spillville, IA and St. Aloysius Church, Calmar, IA from 1997 until 2015. Monsignor Cletus Hawes had St. Francis De-Sales Church in Ossian, IA.

## Branch W137 Holds Annual Bike Ride



W137 held their annual bike ride for all ages. Hot weather and COVID kept our numbers lower than usual. Everyone enjoyed lunch whether they rode or not.



## IN MEMORIAM

### Dorothy Wagner, S156



Dorothy (Joseph) Wagner, 91, passed away on November 11, 2019. She was born on September 30, 1928, daughter of the late Andrew and Martha (Hovan) Joseph. She was a 1946 graduate of Struthers High School. Dorothy was very proud of her Slovak Struthers roots. She could still speak, pray and loved singing in Slovak. She was a member of Christ our Savior Parish, Holy Trinity Church. Dorothy was a very devoted Catholic. She was a very intricate part of the Holy Trinity family. She was President for many years of the Holy Trinity Infant Jesus of Prague Guild, her devotion was strong and she led the weekly Novenas even when it was just her alone. She prayed the Rosary daily and lead it every day in May and October at the Lady of Fatima Shrine, rain or shine, till she could no more. She was active in the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, (FCSLA) Branch 156 where she held office for many years, attending quarterly meetings and conventions. Her Slovak cooking was unsurpassed with every holiday at her home with a place at the table for anyone who needed one. Dorothy will be remembered lovingly by her four children: three sons, Michael "Chip" (Anita) Wagner, Kenneth "Leo" (Phyllis) Wagner and Ronald (Kim) Wagner and daughter, Karen (Frank) Kowalczyk. Dorothy was known as "Baba" to her seven grandchildren who will especially miss her; along with her three great-grandchildren; she also leaves her sister, Mary Lou (Pete deceased) Kasper and many nieces and nephews from the Wagner and Kasper families who loved Aunt Dorothy and will always remember her smile.

### Brady Jakob Hunker, S044



Brady Jakob Hunker, 18, born May 6, 2001, of Mt. Pleasant Township and Grove City, PA was received into the loving arms of Jesus on, November 25, 2019, after a three-year battle with Ewings Sarcoma. Brady is a 2019 graduate of Mt. Pleasant Area High School, graduating in the top two percent of his class. Brady attended Grove City College as a member of the Trustee Scholar program majoring in mechanical engineering until the progression of his illness forced him to stop classes. Brady received many academic and athletic scholarships. Brady loved playing hockey and began playing at the age of five as part of the Allegheny Badgers Ice Hockey Association. He became passionate for inline hockey playing for the Inferno travel team, Mt. Pleasant Viking hockey, and Hempfield Spartan hockey, where he served as team captain. After his diagnosis in 2016, Brady became very active in Childhood Cancer Awareness, speaking at many fundraising events for Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Oncology Department and Relay for Life. He is known for his comedic personality, and most importantly, his love of Jesus. He is a lifelong member of New Stanton Church. Brady served in many ways as praise team pianist, youth praise guitarist, youth ministry team mission chairperson and a member of New Stanton Church Amp's Student Ministry. Brady is survived by the love of his life and his soulmate, his wife, Mollie Landman Hunker, whom he married July 20, 2019, a day that allowed their dreams to come true. Mollie was by his side and was his "Mollie medicine" every step of his battle. Brady is also survived by his parents, Chris and

Jen Hunker; his sister, Laney Hunker; his grandparents, "Nanna and Pap-Pap," Barry and Mary Lou Shaw and his "Grammy" Lorie Hunker, all of Scottdale; his aunt and uncle, Vickie and Adam Mates, of Jackson, WY; his father and mother-in-law, Pastor Randy and Dawn Landman, of West Newton; sisters-in-law, Malorie and Mylie Landman, of West Newton; grandma-in-law, Vera Dolan, of Fairchance; and his Godparents, Mike and Jennifer Barrick, of Mt. Pleasant. Also surviving are all his great-uncles, aunts and his fur brother, Badger, who would never leave Brady's side for hours at a time. Brady requested donations in his memory be made to Jumonville Camp and Christian Center at [jumonville.org/contribute](http://jumonville.org/contribute).

### Joseph Gerard Horejsi, W056



Joseph G. Horejsi, 56, of Webster, MN passed away November 13, 2019. Joe was an avid dairy farmer and thoroughly enjoyed farming with his children and his father. He also worked as a milk hauler, a school bus driver, and mechanic. He was a member of the Webster township board, Rice county board, and Knights of Columbus. He was a hard-working man that was deeply passionate about helping anybody in need. He loved riding his motorcycle, snowmobiling, and hanging out with family and friends in his shop on the farm. He also enjoyed traveling to new places with family on his motorcycle and loved to repair and restore old tractors. Joe was the kind of man that everybody felt good just being around, and he will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. He is survived by his wife Bernice; children, Joe J. (April), Gerard, Russell (Kayla) and Linda (fiancé Alex Dubruiel); five grandchildren; siblings, Adeline (Bob) Bradford, Mary Ann (Walter) Hug, John (Mary) Horejsi, Marge (Kenny) Sticha, Shirley (Duane) Theis, Laurie (Marvin) Skluzacek; also by other loving family and friends.

### Edward D. Kremlacek, W017



Edward D. Kremlacek, 88, of Malmo, NE, entered into eternal rest on November 17, 2019. He was born October 14, 1931 in Prague, NE to Jerry and Agnes (Maly) Kremlacek. On September 13, 1955, Edward was united in marriage to Lucille Koranda at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church in Plasi, NE. Edward was a lifelong farmer who loved trees and always put his family first. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a military police officer during the Korean War. He was a lifetime member of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church where he was a choir member for many years. Edward was a member of American Legion #232, FCSLA W017, Nebraska Czechs of Saunders County and the Nebraska Nut Growers Association. He is survived by wife of 64 years, Lucille Kremlacek; daughter, Christine (Douglas) Kavan; seven grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; sister, Marjorie Urban; many nieces, nephews, other family members and friends.

### Gary J. Badinger, S075

Gary Joseph Badinger, 74, died on December 2, 2019. Born in Reading PA, and living in Port Charlotte, FL since 2014, Gary is survived by his wife of 54 of years, Alana (Geesaman) Badinger, daughter Jill Felbeck Jones of Casper, WY; son, Craig Badinger

of Port Charlotte, FL; grandchildren, Morgan Felbeck and Seth Felbeck of WY, and brother Ronald Badinger of Reading, PA. Gary was a member of the UA Local 420 Steamfitters Union in PA and had a career of HVAC system maintenance with Honeywell. Gary had a remarkable independent streak, an infectious laugh, and loyal heart. He was loved and will be missed.

### Raymond J. Prohaska, W051



Raymond J. Prohaska, 88, of Clear Lake, IA died on November 30, 2019. Raymond John Prohaska, the son of Leonard and Caroline (Rayhons) Prohaska, was born September 2, 1931 on a farm in Garfield Township, Hancock County. He graduated from Garner High School in 1949. Ray served his country in the U.S. Army in Germany from 1953 to 1955. On August 25, 1954 he married the love of his life, Marlene Clasen, at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Duncan. They lived on a farm north of Garner where they raised their six children. Besides farming, Ray also worked for O's Gold Seed Company. In 1975, Ray and Marlene moved to Parkersburg where he continued to work for the seed company in various management positions. Ray taught his children to respect and appreciate the Iowa farmland they were raised on. Ray's dedication to his family, faith and the values of his rural upbringing will live on through his family legacy. Ray is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Marlene, presently of Huxley; 6 children Michael (Gay) Prohaska of Huxley; Kevin (Julia) Prohaska of Wayzata, MN; Sheryl (Curt) Moore of Camdenton, MO; Joan (David) Becker of Parkersburg; Jane (Lu) Jansen of Bella Vista, AR; Greg (Sherry) Prohaska of Cumming; 15 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; a sister, Marian Haaf of Denver, IA; two brothers, Arnold (Thelma) Prohaska of Clear Lake and Robert (Doris) Prohaska of Garner; a sister-in-law, Marlene Prohaska of Garner; and many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association, National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI of Iowa) or the Knights of Columbus St. Patrick's Council #7898.

### Julius Frana, W033



Julius Frana, 79, of Fort Atkinson, IA, died on December 2, 2019, in LaCrosse, WI. Julius Frana born on December 5, 1939 to Adolph and Otilia (Pecka) Frana in Decorah, IA. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Spillville, IA. Julius married Sonja Halverson on October 16, 1971 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Spillville. Julius lived on the family farm until 2012 when he moved to his apartment in Fort Atkinson. Julius worked various jobs including: Calmar Foods from 1995-99, working for Spectrum and farming for other farmers around the area. Julius enjoyed going out to eat, going to parades around the area, going for rides and he loved watching Everybody Loves Raymond on TV. Julius is survived by Sister: Georgina Frana, Minneapolis, MN. Brother: Marc Frana, Charles City, IA. Sisters-in-law: Elaine Frana, Decorah, IA and Lois Frana of Ossian, IA. Brother-in-law: Roger Halverson, Decorah, IA. Special friend: Sandy Folstad.

### Barbara Millen Wolcott, S524



Barbara Wolcott passed away on December 2, 2019 at the age of 87 after a long life well-lived. One of seven children of John and Pauline Millen, her early years on a farm in Ohio set the stage for a varied and rich life that included marriage to husband John for over 60 years, raising a family together, working for Crocker Bank, Community Action Council, and International Rescue Committee, receiving her BA in journalism at age 53, volunteering in a leadership role with Toys for Tots, and authoring many books and articles. Barbara was gifted at teaching everyone around her the important lessons that we all need to become complete human beings. Her true gift was an ability to relate to anyone, find common interests, and tap into and reward their strengths. She was a gifted and passionate writer, baker of cookies and sourdough bread, gardener, and knitter. All were welcomed at her table, including strangers she found at the beach without a place to go for Thanksgiving. Her curiosity and creativity were boundless, and only overshadowed by her loving devotion to her husband and family. She leaves a family that is deeply rooted and compassionate, with iron wills. She is deeply missed. Barbara was born in Cleveland, OH and passed away in San Luis Obispo, CA. She is survived by her children Peggie Harris, Michael Wolcott (Lynne), Jeff Wolcott (Cindy), Christy Wolcott, Marti Kessler (Fred), Jerry Wolcott (Lori), as well as 16 grandchildren, and 22 great-grandchildren.

### Bronislawa "Bernice" Lesinski, Z185

Bronislawa "Bernice" Lesinski, 89, of West Hartford, CT died on December 8, 2019. She was born in Lipniki, Poland on September 6, 1930 to Teofil and Mary (Popielarczyk) Kowalczyk. She came to the United States at age 16. In May 1951, she married Kazimierz Lesinski. Kaz and Bernice raised three boys, Richard, Henry and Stanley in West Hartford. They owned Acadia Restaurant in Manchester where she cooked her famous Veal Parmesan. She also worked at Cedarcrest Hospital and UCONN Health Center. One of her joys during retirement was swimming at Cornerstone Pool where she made many swim buddies. She was a lifelong member of SS Cyril and Methodius Church where she was active in the Ladies Guild. She is survived by son Richard and his wife Deborah Watkins of New Hartford, CT, son Henry and his wife Elizabeth of Brooklyn, NY. She also leaves behind three grandchildren, two great-granddaughters. Memorial donations may be made to SS Cyril and Methodius Church, 55 Charter Oak Ave, Hartford, CT 06106.



## Palmer Steinmetz Hits Hole-In-One

Palmer Steinmetz, Branch W199 hit his first Hole in One (the day after his 11th Birthday) on June 29th, 2020.

He is the son of Darcie (Branch W199) and Toby Steinmetz.

He was playing the 100 yard, fourth hole with his sandwedge at the Vintage Golf Course in Otsego, MN.



Palmer loves playing golf but he also plays baseball and basketball.

### *Happy First Birthday Logan Rosenbaum*

Logan Rosenbaum, turned one year old on April 7th. He is a member of J184 and the great-grandson of the late National Auditor Betty Yurechko; the grandson of Patty Yurechko-Bielak (S289); and son of Amanda Bielak-Rosenbaum (S289, Gary, IN).



## Celebrated 70 Years of Marriage

Frank and Shirley Ann (Studer) Wellik celebrated seventy-years of marriage on August 1, 2020. Congratulations and may God Bless them and their family; 4 sons, 4 daughters, 19 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren; with peace, joy and love in the days ahead.



## *Celebrated 50th Wedding Anniversary*

Monica and Ronald Scribner, Omaha, NE Branch celebrated their 50th wedding Anniversary on August 8th, 2020. They are members of Branch S627.



## Monessen Sr. Branch 88 Holiday Party

Members of Sr. Branch 88 are invited to our Annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 6, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse Grille, Cedarbrook Country Club, 215 State Rt. 981, Rostraver, PA.

Please send a \$15.00 deposit per member to confirm reservation. List all member's names and phone number. Deposit is refundable at the door if you attend.

Cedarbrook has assured us that they will maintain social distancing if required by Pennsylvania at that time. Make check payable to Sr. Branch 88 and mail to Dorothy Urbanowicz, 27 Crescent Dr., Monessen, PA 15062. Reservations are due by November 16, 2020.



## Miriam Schroeder Receives First Holy Communion

Miriam Dolores Schroeder received her First Holy Communion on Sunday, August 9, 2020 at St. Joseph Church, Hays, KS. She and her entire family are members of Branch W133, Timken, KS.

Miriam is the daughter of Gordon and Mary Schroeder and has seven siblings Rebekah, Samuel, Jacob, Paul, Zipporah, Peter, and Benjamin. Miriam is first pictured with Fr. Brian Lager and with her entire family.



## ATTENTION!

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

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

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

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

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



## Saint Ann

Saint Ann was the grandmother of Jesus Christ. She was born from the House of David, the line which was prophesied to give birth to Christ. In Hebrew, her name was quite possibly Hannah, as Ann is the Greek derivative of the name Hannah.

Saint Ann is the mother of Mary, the woman who gave birth to Jesus by Virgin Birth. The Angel Gabriel came to Mary and told her that she would give birth to the Son of God.

## Saint Ann as a Mother

In the Gospel of James, which is part of the Apocrypha, you will find the story of Saint Ann. She and her husband Joachim were unable to conceive a child, even though they tried to do so and really wanted a baby. However, one day an angel came to them and told them that they would have a child. Since she was so overjoyed, Saint Ann promised that she would dedicate this baby's life to the service of God. Their daughter Mary was born.

Saint Ann produced an extraordinary child, as she was born free from original sin. Being born free from original sin is known as an Immaculate Conception. Therefore, part of the reason why Saint Ann is so famous is because she produced a child born of Immaculate Conception.

Saint Ann read the scriptures to Mary when she was a very small child.

Saint Ann had promised that she would give her child to the service of God, and she kept her holy vow. When Mary was three years old, her parents brought her to the Temple and gave her to the service of the Temple. They did not see her again.

Although she had wanted a child so badly, Saint Ann knew that she had to honor her promise to the Lord. Saint Ann and Joachim would not be able to raise the child since Mary needed to be raised in order to become the mother of Jesus Christ.

Excerpt from [biography.yourdictionary.com/articles/](http://biography.yourdictionary.com/articles/)

## 9th Annual Run For The Brave 5K Run/Walk/Ruck

### July 11, 2020 – A Day to Celebrate Our Participants and Sponsors!

The 9th Annual Run for the Brave 5K Run/Walk/Ruck held on May 23, 2020, was a little bitter-sweet this year as it was our 1st Virtual 5K. We can proudly say it was a success for many reasons.

The loyalty of our continued participants, sponsors and in-kind donations including volunteers were all who made it a super successful event. A special "thank you" to S053, Joliet for being one of the event sponsors.

The Swag Day Pick Up was filled with smiles and gratitude, thanking Operation Welcome Home, NFP for not postponing the 2020 5K Run/Walk/Ruck as for some it was their very first 5K, some honoring their military heroes by running, walking, ruckin – some to support the past, present and future Veterans and many more for the love of our USA.

Many asked if registration is open for 2021 yet. This question is very heartfelt and fills us with joy because we know participants are already enthusiastically looking forward to next year.

We are excited to announce that 2021 will be our 10th Annual Run for the Brave, Run/Walk/Ruck with a special ceremony, so stay tuned for details.

God bless everyone that is serving and made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the United States of America. We "Thank You"!!



**Cody Columbus one of the registrants for the 5K.**



*Today, May 23rd, 2020, I participated in the annual Operation Welcome You Home: Run for the Brave 5K (Ruck) with a 20 pound weighted vest. I set out to complete my first race ever. This opportunity was one that I will never forget . . . not just because it was virtual but it's for a cause that should never go unnoticed.*

*The Operation Welcome You Home states, "Since 9-11, 2001, over 32,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Coast Guards and Marines have been injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. Operation Welcome You Home, NFP (OWYH) wants to make sure these honorable and dedicated young men and women, and all of our past warriors who served including WW II, Korean and Vietnam Veterans, are not forgotten by those they swore to protect . . . the Citizens of the United States of America. As such, OWYH is sponsoring a 5K race from which all proceeds will benefit our Illinois Veterans needing our support – Past, Present and Future".*



**Raffle winners of the Slovak Cookbook.**

## ATTENTION Branches, Districts and Other Slovak Organizations

We know since the COVID-19 Pandemic schedules have changed – event listings, festivals, celebrations, and sporting events that we have for publication might no longer be correct. Please email us your revised information so we can keep our members up to date with the latest current events and cancellations.

Please email National Editor Carolyn Bazik at [zjbazik@comcast.net](mailto:zjbazik@comcast.net) with your updated information.

***Please Stay Safe and Healthy!***

# *FCSLA Quadrennial Convention Flashback Memories*

41st National Convention

2015 – Louisville, KY



## 42nd Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal Update

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 42nd year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day to day operations. The Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry.

**As of July 14, \$20,173.50 has been received from 145 donors.** This amount includes donations received from Branch 2, Branches S10 and J386, Branches S107 and J38, Branch S301, Branch 313, Branches S408 and J385, Branch S414, Branch S475, and the Magdalen I. Iskra District. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2020 Appeal but did not receive a letter in January asking for a donation is asked to fill 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. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2020 will be credited toward the 2021 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

*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.*

### 42nd 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  
National First Vice President, SCF  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
120 Jefferson Street  
Swedesburg, PA 19405

## SLOVAK WORDS AND ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

### GRAMMAR

Slovak nouns are divided onto 12 groups according to their endings.

Gender	Nominative Singular	Example
<b>MASCULINE</b>		
Animate	Not ending in -a Ending in -a	chlap (fellow) hrdina (hero)
Inanimate	Ending in hard consonant Ending in soft consonant	dub (oak) stroj (machine)
<b>FEMININE</b>		
Ending in -a	Preceded by a hard consonant Preceded by a soft consonant	žena (woman) ulica (street)
Ending in	-j, -z, -ň, -ž, -č, -š, -ď, -ľ, -dz, -sť, -r, -c, -s, -p, -v, -sť	dlaň (palm)  kost' (bone)
<b>NEUTER</b>		
Ending in	-o -e -ie  -a, -ä	mesto (town) srdce (heart) vysvedčenie (certificate) dievča (girl)
<b>Nominative plural</b>		
chlap-i	žen-y	mest-á
hrdin-ovia	ulic-e	srdc-ia
dub-y	dlan-e	vysvedčen-ia
stroj-e	kost-i	dievčat-á

### Translate into Slovak and then vice versa:

Excuse me, please, is this Nová street? Where is the main station? Bratislava is a nice town. I need some flowers. This building is big. What do you see there? Do you see the river? I have a small garden. Do you know any Slovak villages? We need new machines. Do you know that picture? He has a new car. The little boy has nice pictures. We have a large garden, you have a small one. What kind of book has John got? What are we looking for? We are looking for the main station. Where is the child? What kind of flowers has Eva?

Prepáčte, prosím, je toto Nová ulica? Kde je hlavná stanica? Bratislava je pekné mesto. Potrebujem nejaké kvetiny. Táto budova je veľká. Čo tam vidíte? Vidíte rieku? Mám malú záhradu. Poznáte niektoré slovenské dediny? Potrebujeme nové stroje. Poznáte tento obraz? On má nové auto. Malý chlapec má pekné obrazy. My máme veľkú záhradu, vy ju máte malú. Akú knihu dostal Ján? Čo hľadáme? Hľadáme hlavnú stanicu. Kde je dieťa? Aké kvetiny má Eva?



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FIRST  
CATHOLIC  
SLOVAK LADIES  
ASSOCIATION

# FCSLA Transition Meeting – Outgoing Executive Committee

Home Office, Beachwood OH • January 27, 2020

## Call to Order/Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance

National President Cynthia M. Maleski called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m. at the home office, Beachwood, Ohio. National Chaplain Monsignor Peter M. Polando was asked to open the meeting with prayer.

## Opening Business

### **Roll Call**

National Secretary Kimberly A. Graham was asked to call the roll. Members present were:

Cynthia M. Maleski	National President
Jeanette E. Palanca	National Director
Lawrence M. Golofski	National Director
Barbara Novotny Waller	National Trustee

National Trustee Virginia A. Holmes and National Chaplain Monsignor Peter M. Polando joined via phone. Secretary Kimberly A. Graham and National Treasurer Stephen C. Hudak were also in attendance.

## National President's Comments

President Maleski thanked all of the executive committee members for taking the extra time that is needed to continue to develop the role of the executive committee and use the executive committee in its role as a sounding board for matters moving forward within the time frames between meetings. It is a good developmental process and a good governance process for this board. President Maleski also thanked everyone for the additional time as a consultative body after the board meetings and after the specific committee meetings for those of us who persevered and formulated various strategies and ideas about moving forward on certain topics such as the district guidelines and fraternal plans. As we know, various executive committees take a lot of actions in the interim between board meetings. If in fact, in the future we would like to do that, it would require an action by the full board either through a motion or resolution. We can investigate the concept if this board so desires to move in that direction. We would then move forward in a more agile and quicker fashion. President Maleski continues to bring forward different governance ideas for the full board to consider which may be in the best interest of the association.

President Maleski also applauded Virginia Holmes who has been on the executive committee for many, many years and Barbara Waller who is in her initial term on the executive committee because the input that both of them have provided us in developing positive recommendations for us to move forward on an on-going basis. We appreciate their in-depth knowledge and ability to look at complex information and put it together like a puzzle and figure out what the next steps are for appropriate recommendations moving forward for board consensus and approval. President Maleski stated we appreciate their input and leadership. President Maleski noted to her friend, Virginia Holmes in terms of them coming up to the home office together when they were on the executive committee together and how she appreciated

each other's comments and President Maleski stated she has taught her a lot so President Maleski appreciates that. Again, President Maleski said she can also say that about leaders as well including Barb Waller. President Maleski stated both Virginia Holmes and Barbara Waller are different in their communication and leadership styles, however God has blessed us with their leadership gifts for the overall benefit of our association. President Maleski stated that she hopes that she has been able to nurture those gifts to the best of her ability given all the other dynamics of this association. President Maleski stated that we appreciate all they have done, and we hope they continue to help us in different ways as time goes on. Thank you again.

### **Approval of National President's Report**

Director Jeanette E. Palanca moved to accept the National President's report and seconded by Director Lawrence M. Golofski.

**APPROVED**

### **Approval of the Minutes**

President Maleski noted the minutes were distributed in advance and if there are no corrections, then the minutes will stand as approved.

**APPROVED**

## New Business

### **Annuity Interest Yield**

Treasurer Hudak passed out the yield curve as of today. Treasurer Hudak recommended that the Executive Committee recommend to the board that credit rates remain the same for the second quarter of 2020. President Maleski entertained a motion to accept Treasurer Hudak's recommendation. Chaplain Monsignor Polando moved and seconded by Trustee Virginia A. Holmes to accept Treasurer Hudak's recommendation.

**Supplement 1  
MOTION ADOPTED**

### **Executive Committee Meeting Dates**

First Quarterly Meeting – TBD  
Second Quarterly Meeting – TBD  
Third Quarterly Meeting – TBD  
Fourth Quarterly Meeting – TBD

## Adjournment

Chaplain Monsignor Polando moved and Director Golofski seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m. with prayer led by Chaplain Monsignor Polando.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

Cynthia M. Maleski, President  
Kimberly A. Graham, Secretary

### **ATTEST:**

Monsignor Peter M. Polando, Chaplain  
Jeanette E. Palanca, Director  
Lawrence M. Golofski, Director  
Virginia A. Holmes, Trustee  
Barbara Novotny Waller, Trustee

# REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

## BALANCE SHEET AS OF APRIL 30, 2020

### ASSETS

Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 43,635,415
Bonds	965,209,368
Preferred Stock	2,254,927
Common Stock	6,013,500
Investment Income Due & Accrued	13,848,835
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	4,922,851
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,359,414
Other Assets	795,590
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,039,039,901</b>

### LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 301,991,448
Annuity Reserves	607,739,158
Death Claims Payable	3,481,464
Unearned Premiums	446,884
Matured Endowments	384,103
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,400,000
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,835,333
Accrued Convention Donations	87,500
Provision for Future Conventions	109,361
Asset Valuation Reserve	10,255,905
Interest Maintenance Reserve	396,789
Other Liabilities	1,660,791
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 932,788,734</b>
Surplus	\$ 106,251,168
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ 1,039,039,901</b>

## INCOME STATEMENT

For the Four Months Ending April 30, 2020

### REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 1,324,402
Annuity Premiums	13,738,091
Investment Income	15,896,294
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	26,723
Rental Income	102,707
Other Revenue	9,554
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 31,097,770</b>

### EXPENSE

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 808,448
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	8,651,123
Insurance Benefits	2,539,964
Annuity Benefits	13,237,520
Commission Expense	394,668
Surrender Benefits	1,283,249
Matured Endowments	(25,537)
Interest Expense	115,722
<b>LIFE AND ANNUITY EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 27,005,157</b>

### Revenue Less Life and Annuity Expenses

Bank Service Charges	\$ 48,686
Data Processing Service Fees	59,925
Accounting Fees	54,942
Actuarial Fees	143,793
Legal Fees	28,860
Consulting Fees	30,570
Employee Benefits	190,738
Fees — Directors	66,078
Salaries — Employees	628,390
Salaries — Officers	187,438
Temporary Office Expense	41,626
Tax Expense	69,895
Depreciation Expense	83,786
Utility Expense	29,656
Postage and Printing	69,698
Advertising & Marketing	15,962
Travel Expense	18,190
Insurance Department Fees	32,973
Sales Expenses	70,211
Rental Expense	102,707
Building Expense	30,968
Insurance Expense	13,744
Office Equipment & Supplies Expense	48,151
Dues & Subscriptions	20,063
Human Resources	9,328
Other Expense	2,023
<b>SALES &amp; OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 2,098,401</b>

### Revenue Less Sales & Operating

Post Mortem Benefits	\$ 484,449
Misc. Member Benefits	27,500

Donation Expenses	30,579
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	50,000
Convention Expenses	62,500
Bonus to Branches & Districts	266,668
Fraternal Activities	35,393
Official Publications	179,883
Scholarship Awards	189,333
<b>DIRECT FRATERNAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,326,305</b>

### Total Income (Loss) from Operations

Dividends to Members	\$ 503,813
<b>Subtotal Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 164,094</b>
Capital Gains (Loss)	1,010,409
<b>NET INCOME (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 1,174,503</b>

## BRANCH WO18 NEWS

This article begins with Christmas 2019 in the hopes that the effects of COVID-19 will be on their way out by Christmas 2020. Branch W018's celebration was held December 8th at Dave and Busters, the location of our celebration this year, we hope. In addition to talking to Santa and posing for pictures and singing Christmas carols and eating dinner, the Branch members always remember the underserved in our community by donating canned goods and cash to the St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Bank.

In 2020, Branch W018 had to cancel three of its most popular social activities due to the coronavirus – the Annual Picnic, the Scholarship Dinner and the Adult Activity. We missed seeing our fellow members, but were able to turn our disappointment into warm hearts. Remembering our commitment to those in Omaha who do not have the resources to feed their families and provide other necessities, the



**They Still Believe! Colin and Nate Zuroske help Santa advertise Christmas and FCSLA!**

Branch donated the money usually spent on those three cancelled activities. Donations were made to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and to the Papillion Community Foundation. Both organizations provide food, masks, counseling and other services to people who were adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic. We are very happy our donations will help ease the burdens of others.

Branch W018 sends our sister branches prayers and good thoughts, as well as the reminder to stay safe and healthy by practicing social distancing, wearing masks, avoiding large crowds, and washing hands!!! Take care of yourselves and others. God bless us and keep us well!



## What Are We Grilling?

### HONEY GARLIC SHRIMP

3 tablespoons honey  
1 tablespoon reduced-sodium soy sauce  
¼ teaspoon crushed chili flakes (optional)  
1 teaspoon fresh ginger, minced  
2-3 cloves of garlic, minced (about 1 tablespoon)  
¾ pound medium uncooked shrimp, peeled & deveined  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
salt, to taste  
ground black pepper, to taste  
cooked brown rice (to serve)  
broccoli or other veggies (to serve)

Whisk honey, soy sauce, chili flakes (if using), ginger, and garlic, together in a medium bowl. Set aside.

In another medium bowl, add shrimp and olive oil. Season the shrimp with salt and ground pepper and toss to coat.

Heat a pan over medium-high heat. Place the shrimp into the pan in an even layer. Cook the shrimp on one side until nicely seared, about 1-2 minutes. Flip the shrimp over and cook for another minute or until they're just cooked but still a little translucent in the center.

Pour in the honey garlic marinade and cook until the shrimp is cooked through, about 1 minute more. If desired, remove the shrimp from pan so they don't overcook, and reduce the sauce a little to thicken it (keep an eye on the sauce while reducing, the honey makes the sauce easy to burn if you forget about it on the stove).

Serve the shrimp with the reduced sauce over brown rice and veggies.

### HONEY CHICKEN KABOBS

¼ cup vegetable oil  
⅓ cup honey  
⅓ cup soy sauce  
¼ teaspoon ground black pepper  
8 breast half, bone and skin removed  
skinless, boneless chicken breast  
halves – cut into 1 inch cubes  
2 cloves garlic  
5 small onions, cut into 2 inch pieces  
2 medium red bell peppers, cut into 2 inch pieces  
12 each skewers

In a large bowl, whisk together oil, honey, soy sauce, and pepper. Before adding chicken, reserve a small amount of marinade to brush onto kabobs while cooking. Place the chicken, garlic, onions and peppers in the bowl, and marinate in the refrigerator at least 2 hours (or over night).

Preheat the grill for high heat. Drain marinade from the chicken and vegetables, and discard marinade. Thread chicken and vegetables alternately onto the skewers.

Lightly oil the grill grate. Place the skewers on the grill. Cook for 12 to 15 minutes, until chicken juices run clear. Turn and brush with reserved marinade frequently.

### GRILLED ZUCCHINI

1 large zucchini, cut into ½-inch rounds  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
¼ cup pizza sauce  
½ cup chopped red onion  
½ cup chopped roasted red pepper  
½ cup chopped fresh mushrooms  
¼ cup crumbled goat cheese  
2 ounces shredded mozzarella cheese  
1 clove garlic, minced  
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning

Preheat grill for medium heat and lightly oil the grate.

Brush one side of each zucchini round with olive oil; brush the opposite side with pizza sauce. Evenly divide red onion, roasted red pepper, mushrooms, goat cheese, mozzarella cheese, garlic, and Italian seasoning over each zucchini round.

Grill zucchini pizzas over preheated grill until zucchini is tender, about 10 minutes.

### GRILLED PINEAPPLE

1 fresh pineapple  
¼ cup rum  
¼ cup brown sugar  
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon  
½ teaspoon ground ginger  
½ teaspoon ground nutmeg  
½ teaspoon ground cloves

Peel the pineapple and, leaving it whole, cut out the center core. Slice into 8 rings, and place them in a shallow glass dish or resealable plastic bag. In a small bowl, mix together the rum, brown sugar, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, and cloves. Pour marinade

over the pineapple, cover, and refrigerate for 1 hour, or overnight.

Preheat grill for high heat. Lightly oil grate.

Grill pineapple rings 15 minutes, turning once, or until outside is dry and char marked. Serve with remaining marinade.

### CRISP PEACH COBBLER

6 large fresh peaches, pitted and cut into eighths  
1 lemon, zested and juiced

#### Batter:

½ cup unsalted butter, at room temperature  
1¼ cups white sugar  
1⅓ cups self-rising flour  
⅓ cup rolled oats  
⅔ cup whole milk

#### Glaze:

¼ cup white sugar  
2 tablespoons cold water, or as needed to wet topping sugar

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Place a baking sheet on the rack under the middle rack to catch drips. Generously butter a 2-inch deep (2-quart) baking dish.

Place peach sections into prepared baking dish. Sprinkle with lemon juice and zest.

Stir butter and sugar together in a mixing bowl. Mix until creamed and resembles a sugary, buttery paste, 4 to 5 minutes. Add oats and flour; stir until flour and oats are incorporated into the butter-sugar mixture and mixture resembles coarse crumbs, 4 to 5 minutes. Pour in milk; stir until mixture is wet and creamy, like a thick spreadable batter, 3 to 4 minutes.

Drop batter by spoonful on top of the peaches. Spread batter evenly over the surface of the peaches. Sprinkle ¼ cup sugar on the batter. Spritz with water until sugar is wet and surface glistens.

Bake in preheated oven on middle rack until browned and crispy, about 45 minutes. Let cool at least 30 minutes before serving.

### S'MORES KRISPIE TREATS

3 tablespoons butter, plus more for pan  
1 (12-oz.) package mini marshmallows  
7 cups Golden Grahams cereal  
3 Hershey's milk chocolate bars, broken into pieces

Grease a 9" x 13" pan with butter. In a large pot over medium-low heat, melt butter. Add all but 1 cup of mini marshmallows and stir until melted and smooth.

Remove from heat and quickly stir in Golden Grahams until evenly coated. Press into pan and top with chocolate pieces and remaining 1 cup mini marshmallows.

Heat broiler, and cook until marshmallows are toasted, about 2 minutes.

Let set at least 30 minutes before slicing.

## **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.