



Fraternally Yours®

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

VOL. 106, NO. 7

APRIL 2020

Alleluia!

HE IS
RISEN

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

Fraternally Yours, **ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA®**



ISSN 0897-2958



Fraternally Yours,
ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,

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

Periodical Postage Paid at
Cleveland, OH 44101 and additional entries

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

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

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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Very Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando,
Cathedral of Saint Columba, 159 W. Rayen Ave.,
Youngstown, OH 44503. Residence: (330) 744-5233.
Email: ppolando@youngstowndiocese.org.

PRESIDENT:

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

NATIONAL DIRECTORS:

Jeanette E. Palanca, 304 W. Exchange Street,
Crete, IL 60417. Residence: (847) 770-3508. Email:
jeanetteeve@outlook.com.

Joann Skvarek Banvich, Whiting, IN 46394. Resi-
dence: (219) 322-8785. Email: btvendo@gmail.com.
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LarryG.FCsla@gmail.com.

Patrick Braun, P.O. Box 628, Whitewater,
WI 53190. Residence: (262) 473-1850. Email:
patbraun11345@gmail.com.

NATIONAL TRUSTEES:

Suzanne V. Strohl, 4619C 28th Road South,
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Email: svstrohl@msn.com.

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

NATIONAL AUDITORS:

Dorothy L. Urbanowicz, 27 Crescent Drive,
Monessen, PA 15062. Residence: (724) 684-8243.
Email: doty8613@gmail.com.

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

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

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Susan Moynihan

It's in the Valleys I Grow

by Janet Eggleston

Sometimes life seems hard
to bear,
Full of sorrow, trouble,
and woe.
It's then I have to remember,
That it's in the valleys I grow.

If I always stayed on the mountain top
And never experienced pain,
I would never appreciate God's love
And would be living in vain.

I have so much to learn
And my growth is very slow,
Sometimes I need the mountain tops,
But it's in the valleys I grow.

I do not always understand
Why things happen as they do,
But I am very sure of one thing.
My Lord will see me through.

My little valleys are nothing
When I picture Christ on the cross.
He went through the valley of death;
His victory was Satan's loss.

Forgive me Lord, for complaining
When I'm feeling so very low.
Just give me a gentle reminder
That it's in the valleys I grow.

Continue to strengthen me, Lord
And use my life each day
To share your love with others
And help them find their way.

Thank you for valleys, Lord
For this one thing I know;
The mountain tops are glorious
But it's in the valleys I grow!

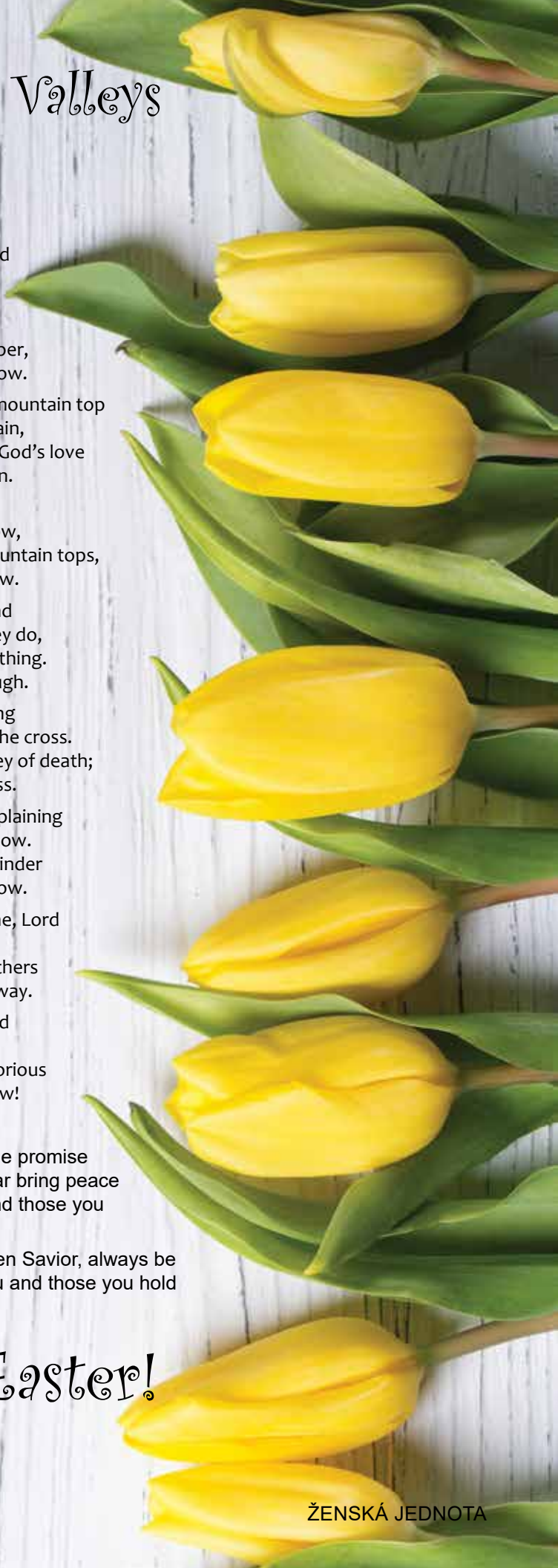
Dear Friends,

May the glory and the promise
of this joyous time of year bring peace
and happiness to you and those you
hold most dear.

May Christ, Our Risen Savior, always be
by your side to bless you and those you hold
dear most abundantly.

Happy Easter!

Until Next Month...
Warmly, Carolyn



SECOND JOYFUL MYSTERY: THE VISITATION

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Our second Joyful Mystery is the Visitation. The Visitation is the visit of Mary, who was pregnant with Jesus, to St. Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist, as recorded in the Gospel of Luke. The spiritual fruit associated with this mystery is love of neighbor. The story of the Visitation gives us a timeless lesson of our need to take care of each other.

At the time of the Annunciation, which was our first Joyful Mystery, we know the Angel Gabriel came to announce to Mary that she had been chosen by God to bear his Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. We also know that initially Mary may have had some doubt as to what was being revealed to her. It was not that Mary doubted the word of God. It was simply that she was filled with fear and astonishment. Sensing this the Angel Gabriel reassured Mary that he spoke the truth by making it known to her that with God nothing is impossible, for God had blessed her cousin Elizabeth by allowing her to conceive a child. Elizabeth had suffered with infertility and was now past her childbearing years but was miraculously in the sixth month of a pregnancy.

Learning of her cousin's condition, the first thing Mary did was prepare to go to Elizabeth, to be of service to her in any capacity needed. She could have considered her own condition since she now too was with child, and not just any child, but the Son of God! Instead Mary was most likely overjoyed at hearing the news about her cousin. And since both were in the same condition and since both were carrying children as a result of God's miraculous intervention, they certainly had much to share between them.

The journey to Elizabeth's home was almost 100 miles. According to the Bible, Elizabeth lived in the hill country

of Judea. It would take four or five days of an arduous trip marked by rough terrain, in some type of rude transportation or perhaps even by foot. Yet Mary had so much love and joy in her heart that she never considered the hardship, only her mission of charity, inspired by her devotion to God.

Upon arriving Mary entered and greeted Elizabeth. "At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit." (Luke 1:41) This was the meeting of their unborn children. One might say that the child Elizabeth was carrying, John the Baptist, was already anticipating his role of preparing the way for the Messiah. At that moment he is sanctified in Elizabeth's womb and cleansed from original sin. The unborn John was filled with the Holy Spirit by Christ himself who Mary had just conceived by the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth then exclaims, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And how have I deserved that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:42-43) By these words Elizabeth recognized and confirmed the Angel Gabriel's message that Mary had indeed conceived the Son of God and that all ages would proclaim Mary blessed as the Mother of God.

The Visitation is one of the sources of the Hail Mary whose words have been prayed many billions of times in countless languages and will go on for ages to come. How appropriate that the Hail Mary is a vital part of the Rosary in which the second Joyful Mystery is the Visitation. With Easter coming this month, may we all continue to pray the Rosary in anticipation. May you and your family reap the harvest of your Lenten tasks as you enter once again into the Paschal Mystery of Jesus.

Happy Easter! Vesele Alleluja!

IMPORTANT 2020 IRA TAX LAW CHANGES

MINIMUM REQUIRED DISTRIBUTION (MRD) – The age requirement to begin minimum required distributions was increased from age 70½ to age 72 for individuals who attain age 70½ after 12/31/19.

CONTRIBUTION AGE RESTRICTION – The maximum age restriction for contributions to traditional IRA's has been removed. Individuals can contribute at any age as long they meet all other criteria including having earned income.

NON-SPOUSE INHERITED IRA – Required distribution rules for non-spousal inherited IRAs have been changed. Please consult with your tax advisor to review these changes.

Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Dear fellow members,

During this season of Lent, we all face our own personal challenges and opportunities to look ourselves in the mirror and try to improve. It is a time for reflection and contemplation, to spend a little time praying for the clear vision to see the promise of the Easter season which is ahead for everyone.

It is a perfect time to review finances and preparing tax returns. With the new Secure Act, it is a good time to consider contributions to traditional IRAs, since the maximum age restriction has been removed. Individuals can contribute at any age as long as they meet all other criteria including having earned income. We may wish to consider purchasing an FCSLA annuity with great crediting rates or adding to our existing annuity. Do not hesitate to contact your local agent, recommender or our home office at 1-800-464-4642, Annuity Department, for more information.

The Easter Triduum is a special time for all of us, including Holy Thursday, where we celebrate the Last Supper, Good Friday, where many of us observe

our traditional devotion of Stations of the Cross, Holy Saturday, the blessing of Easter baskets and the Vigil Mass, and the triumphant Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. It is a special day for our family as we gather together for Mass and afterwards at each other's homes, remembering and singing my family's favorite Easter season hymn for generations, parts of which have been brought to us through the ancient Marion antiphon, the Regina Caeli:

"Christ Is Risen from the dead,
Risen as He truly said.
Praise the Lord with grateful voice
Praise Him now, Rejoice, Rejoice!"

"Resurrexit, sicut dixit
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Alleluia, Alleluia!"

Cynthia M. Maleski
National President (CEO)

Announcement for U-Branches

Henry J. Dende Scholarship Program Available

FCSLA is pleased to announce the Henry J. Dende Scholarship Program is open to all members of U-Branches. This is a special scholarship program in accordance with the merger agreement between FCSLA and Polish Union of North America.

The Henry J. Dende Scholarship guidelines and application are available on our website www.fcsla.org or by contacting us at Scholarship@fcsla.org or 1-800-464-4642 Ext 1054.

The deadline for submission is May 31, 2020. If you are not sure whether or not you are a member in a U-Branch, you may contact the Scholarship Department for confirmation.

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 4/1/2020 thru 6/30/2020.

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.



May this Easter Season
inspire you to new hope,
happiness, and abundance,
all received through
God's divine grace.

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Have a blessed
and wonderful Easter!

Branch W137 Holds Wine Tasting



W137, Cedar Rapids, IA held wine tasting for adults at Cedar Ridge Winery on Sunday, February 16, 2020 from 2-4 p.m. Wine tasting along with pizza and snacks were enjoyed. Everyone went home with gifts.

POSITION AVAILABLE

National Fraternal and Youth Director

The successful candidate will be a critical thinker that can provide key input to the short-term and long-term fraternal plan and programs for the association. This plan will cultivate, develop, contribute to and implement branch and certain member programs, news publications, the FCSLA website, recognition programs and the matching funds program. Working in a collaborative way that encourages teamwork while working on a variety of meetings, event planning, coordination of and making appearances at fraternal events will contribute to success in this position.

The successful candidate will be a self-starter who is able to motivate others using good written or verbal communication skills, provide leadership coordination and organized administrative skills.

A college degree and/or experience in a management role preferred; knowledge of and commitment to fraternalism, relevant workplace experience and volunteer leadership experience. The position is located in the home office and requires travel and some weekend work to support FCSLA activities.

This full-time position is eligible for a competitive employee benefits package that includes health insurance coverage.

Those possessing the above qualifications should send their resume to Karen Jakubowski, Head of Human Resources, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122-5634 by April 20, 2020.



FCSLA Introduces Enhanced Permanent Insurance Products

James Donovan, Pacific Coast/Southwest Regional Sales Manager
John Gonsiorek, Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Regional Sales Manager

Spring is upon us and as we kick off the year 2020 with new and improved permanent life insurance products that protect you, your family and your future, we'd like to give you a brief description of these exciting new FCSLA permanent plans!

Let's start with our Whole Life Plan which can be written on members newborn to age 75. If you wish to accumulate substantial cash over time with insurance coverage that lasts a lifetime, our new Whole Life Plan is for you! Minimum certificate coverage is \$5,000. Where else could you find great guarantees with cash value and no premium increases than in FCSLA's Whole Life Plan!

Do you desire permanent coverage but wish to pay over a shorter period of time? Our 10 Pay Life Plan is your answer. Imagine only having to pay life insurance premiums for ten years – then your policy is paid up forever! No more premium notices! And you have the same benefits as the Whole Life Plan in guaranteed cash values and premiums.

Perfect for the parents accumulating money for their children's college education – and your cash is protected from any Free Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) reporting!

Who is eligible for this 10 Pay Life Plan? Newborn to age 85! Minimum certificate is \$5,000. For the senior crowd, it is a great final expense product (underwriting rules apply).

We mentioned Whole Life Payments; then 10 Pay Life, where you pay for 10 years or 120 months – but how about One and Done insurance?

Our Single Premium Whole Life Plans (SPWL) Traditional and SPWL Plus break the mold of traditional life insurance premium plans with One and Done payments.

SPWL Traditional Product is for everyone – newborn to age 90! Minimum is \$5,000. The one and done concept is great for grandma and grandfather desiring a special and affordable gift for the child's birth, birthday, communion or graduation.

A \$5,000 SPWL premium for a newborn male is \$445. One-time payment and done. No more premium bills just an annual notice that your death benefit and cash value has increased each year!

For the newborn female there is even less premium cost – \$395 – One and Done.

Grandparents should consider SPWL as a final expense life insurance plan for themselves. If they have a CD in the bank or lazy money in a savings account, you can put it to good use with a SPWL plan on yourself! One and Done – no continuing payments for seniors on fixed incomes!

SPWL Plus is a new product for clients or members, ages

45 through 80, who can leverage larger amounts of money into a wealth transfer vehicle with substantial and immediate cash values with life insurance death benefits geared towards wealth management strategies. Minimum death benefit with SPWL Plus is \$50,000.

Are you retiring early? Do you wish to make a charitable gift? Saving for your children's inheritance? Whether you wish to preserve or stabilize your wealth, all these financial strategies have a home with our SPWL products.

Speaking of enhancements, FCSLA also introduces a new way to pay SPWL – yes, I know, One and Done, but with our 1 Pay Life, we give you a year to pay your SPWL Traditional Plan.

You have the option to pay all premiums monthly, quarterly or semi-annually. This plan is for consumers, newborn to age 90, with a minimum of \$5,000.

Remember that all SPWL, 1 Pay Life, and 10 Pay Life certificates are Modified Endowment Contracts (MEC) which means that cash value gains, loans and surrenders may be taxable. Consult your tax professional for advice.

So there you have it – FCSLA's Whole Life Plan, 10 Pay Life, Single Premium Whole Life Traditional and Single Premium Whole Life Plus, topped off by our One Pay Life Plan!

Contact your Regional Sales Managers or your branch recommenders with any questions you may have!

Next month, we'll talk about Next Generation Term, our great youth life product!

Regional Sales Manager – Pacific Coast/Southwest

James J. Donovan, FIC

jim.donovan@fcsla.com

760-440-9905

Regional Sales Manager – Rocky Mountain

Amy L. Hull

amy.hull@fcsla.com

402-310-5688

Regional Sales Manager – Midwest

James M. Morsovillo, FICF

jim.morsovillo@fcsla.com

630-204-0599

Regional Sales Manager – Mid Atlantic/Northeast

John J. Gonsiorek, FICF, CSA, CLTC, LUTCF, CAS

john.gonsiorek@fcsla.com

716-480-4550

Anna Hurban District in Cleveland Ohio Annual Day of Recollection in Honor of Sts. Ann and Joachim



Sponsored by: First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
Anna Hurban District, Cleveland, Ohio

Location: Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine
21281 Chardon Road, Euclid, Ohio 44117

Contact Info: Gianna: 216-468-1021 or gianna@fcscla.com
Cleveland District Fraternal Coordinator

Date: Monday, July 27, 2020

Schedule: 10:00 A.M. Confessions
11:00 A.M. Mass
12:00 P.M. Luncheon in St. Ann's Hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine
2:30 P.M. Benediction and Rosary

Cost: \$25.00 per person

RSVP: RESERVATIONS ONLY - RSVP by July 15, 2020

Make checks payable to: Okres Cleveland District

Mail order and payment to: First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Beachwood, Ohio 44122 - ATTN: Gianna

Bus Pickup Locations:

9:00 A.M. - St. John Bosco.....6480 Pearl Road, Parma Hts., Ohio 44130

9:30 A.M. - St. Monica.....13623 Rockside Road, Garfield Hts., Ohio 44125

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: OKRES CLEVELAND DISTRICT

Please complete the form below & return with payment to:

ATTN: Gianna, c/o First Catholic Slovak Ladies • 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122

RSVP Required: Please respond by July 15, 2020

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY IN CASE WE NEED TO CONTACT YOU REGARDING THIS RSVP

Ordering # _____ Tickets x \$25.00 each = Total enclosed \$ _____

Planning to ride bus - Select Pickup Location: _____ St. John Bosco

_____ St. Monica

FCSLA Donations to Recipients from Quadrennial Convention



A donation check in the amount of \$5,000 was presented by Dorothy Urbanowicz, National Auditor and Convention Donation Committee Chairperson, and presented to Rev. Michael Crookston, Pastor of St. Sebastian Catholic Church in Belle Vernon, PA. The money will be used to update outdoor lighting around the church.



Barb Morrissey, President of Branch W137, in Cedar Rapids, IA, presents a check from the 42nd Quadrennial Convention to Father Kenneth Glaser, pastor of St. Ludmila Catholic Church. Father Ken sends a BIG THANK YOU to FCSLA for the donation toward restoration of the church organ.



Dr. Linda Lucarell Miller, member of FCSLA and Religion Department Chair at Ursuline High School, Youngstown, received a grant of \$4,000 from FCSLA towards annual class retreats. Pictured are Dr. Miller and Rev. Richard Murphy, President of Ursuline High School.



Elaine Samek, Treasurer of Branch W137, in Cedar Rapids, IA, presents a check from the 42nd Quadrennial Convention to Father Kenneth Glaser, President of St. John's Cemetery Board in Cedar Rapids. Father Ken thanks FCSLA for the donation which will be used for the repair and resurfacing of the cemetery roads.



A convention donation check in the amount of \$15,000 is being presented by Dorothy Urbanowicz, National Auditor and Convention Donation Committee Chairperson to Rev. Michael Crookston, Pastor of Epiphany of Our Lord Parish in Monessen. The money will be used to build a storage garage on church property.



St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church of Tabor, SD was the recipient of one of the donations given at the convention. Father Anthony Urban, center, pastor of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Tabor, receives the donation check from FCSLA National Auditor Dennis L. Povondra (right) and FCSLA Branch W093 member Mark Povondra (left).

Frances Jakabcin District of Eastern PA to Host Spring Meeting

The Frances Jakabcin District of Eastern PA will host its Spring Meeting at DeSales University (Dorothy Day Student Center) on Sunday, May 17th at 1:00 p.m. Please R.S.V.P by May 10th to District President, Michele Mrazik Grasso at 610-762-1973.



Additional FCSLA Donation



Virginia Holmes, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association past National Trustee, and treasurer of Sr. Branch 77, presented Rev. Terry O'Connor, pastor of Mary, Mother of God Parish a \$14,000 check that was awarded at the 2019 FCSLA Convention for the Faith Formation of the newly established parish. Attending the presentation were Emily Belchick, youth minister, and Krista Sudyk, family faith formation coordinator. A big thank you for the donation was expressed at a dinner attended by some of the youth and teachers.

WPSCA Scheduled Programs

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association will once again present the Slovak Heritage Programs on the first Monday evening of each month, starting at 7 p.m. at the Mount Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Boulevard, Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228. It is free to both member and non-members.

April 6 – “Summer School in Slovakia” Lee Ann Bryan, a graduate of Duquesne University, is our other 2019 WPSCA scholarship winner. She is anxious to tell us about her wonderful experiences in Slovakia.

May 4 – “Slovak Republic: Current Issues” Marcela Michalkova, Director of the Slovak Studies Program at The University of Pittsburgh, will update us on current issues.

June 8 – “The Immigrant Experience at Ellis Island” Ron Kocur, our past president and frequent presenter, will discuss the experiences that immigrants incurred as they arrive at Ellis Island.

October 5 – “Slovak Nativity Sets” Once again, Larry Kozlowski will make another hands-on presentation. This time he will show us how to make Slovak nativity sets out of paper. Materials will be provided.

Blessing Baskets



The blessing of food baskets on Holy Saturday is a long-standing Central/Eastern European tradition that has been brought to the U.S. by immigrants from Slovakia, Poland, Lithuania, etc. Many times the baskets of food are covered with elaborate, hand embroidered cloths that are only used on Holy Saturday.

The tradition celebrates our joy of the Resurrection. The foods in the basket are our Easter meal and represent fare traditionally abstained from during Lent (in times when Lenten regulations were much more severe than today): meat, butter, rich breads, desserts. The food is placed in a wicker basket and brought to the church on Holy Saturday where it is blessed in a short liturgy.

The rules are relaxed for the modern Easter basket at the pre-feast blessing, but Slovak tradition calls for nine items to be in it.

They are:

Eggs: Brightly decorated eggs are a symbol of new life in the risen Christ.

Pascha, or Easter bread: It's sweet and rich in eggs and butter. It's a symbol of Christ, Christians' "true bread."

Kielbasa: A spicy sausage that indicates God's favor and generosity.

A piece of uncooked bacon, cured with spices: It symbolizes the abundance of God's mercy.

Salt: It reminds people to flavor their dealings with others by Christ's example.

Ham: It was popular with Czechoslovakians because of its richness, and it is symbolic of Easter's great joy and abundance.

Cheese: A custard-style cheese, shaped into a ball and having a bland but sweet taste, indicates the moderation Christians should have in all things.

Horseradish and beets: They symbolize the suffering of Christ, who was put to death on a cross and rose from the dead three days later, defeating the sins of the world.

Butter: It's shaped like a lamb, a small cross or placed in a glass dish. It reminds people to have Christ-like goodness toward all things.

30th Annual Barley Sausage Breakfast

Members of Branch W121 of New Hradec, ND gathered and made over 450 pounds of Barley Sausage on Friday, January 10. On Sunday, January 12, the Branch served over 160 people breakfast. Following breakfast the monthly meeting was held. Many members helped with the making of the sausage and serving breakfast. In addition, during the breakfast many pounds of sausage were also sold. The proceeds from the breakfast will be used to up-grade Catholic Workman Hall.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Branch W093 – Tabor, SD

April 26 – Easter Party, Potluck and Meeting, Beseda Hall, Tabor at 5 p.m.

May 1 – Deadline for Nomination for Fraternalist of the Year

June 7 – Czech Days Float Assembly at Joyce Sestak Shop at 1:30 p.m., volunteers needed

June 19-20 – Czech Days, volunteers needed

July 1 – Deadline for W093 High School Seniors to apply for Branch W093 local scholarships. Contact W093 Officers for application.

July 12 – Monthly Meeting after Mass in Tabor, SD

Slovak Christmas Greetings Sent to Members by Jr. Branch 192

Nancy Clausen, Auditor of Branch J192, Youngstown, OH, served as Chairperson of the Branch's Junior Activity. She decided to again send a religious Christmas card with a specially-made "stamp" that reads "Vesele Vianoce."

She personally signed each card and included a \$5 bill. This mailing went to 130 members living in fifteen states. The eight new members signed up since last Christmas were included. It is the best way for a large branch to keep in touch with its members and it is a joy to read the emails and thank you notes that are received as a result of this activity.



Nancy Clausen holds a Christmas card mailed to J192 members.

2021 Slovak Catholic Federation "Dobry Pastier" Good Shepherd

The Slovak Catholic Federation is accepting articles for its 2021 edition of the "Dobry Pastier" *Good Shepherd*.

The *Good Shepherd* is a collection of literary articles submitted by contributing authors on all things Slovak, Catholic, faith, cultural and heritage, the arts, and personal essays or other topics the writer wishes to share with the readers. The *Good Shepherd* also serves as the only source for contact information for the Church in Slovakia, and those Slovak clergy and religious in the United States, as well as religious congregations and places of worship. The articles come from authors in the United States, Slovakia and the Slovak Diaspora from around the world.

Anyone wishing to submit an article for publication can submit their articles to Sister Barbara Sable, SSCM, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821 or barbarasable@hotmail.com. The deadline for submitting an article is December 31, 2020. The articles submitted need to be double spaced typed. Assisting Sister Barbara Sable with the editing and layout of the *Good Shepherd* is Daniel Tanzone, Editor of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, "Falcon", and the editorial staff at the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Virginia Holmes is Newly Elected President of Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance for 2020

President Joseph Stefka hands over the gavel to Virginia Holmes at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance in Hershey, PA. Virginia will preside as president of the Alliance for 2020.

The Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to

Branch W001 Makes Donation for Veteran's Memorial

Branch W001 of New Prague, MN recently made a donation to the American Legion Post 45 to help in their efforts of constructing a Veteran's Memorial to pay respect to all Veterans that have served in the armed forces with an emphasis to honor those who have been killed in action. The location within New Prague Memorial Park, next to the library, will provide a place within the community to personally observe the dedication and sacrifice of all who have served. In order to pay the greatest respect to those who have sacrificed it all for our Freedom, a wall will be placed commemorating all community members who were killed in action.

Pictured is Frank Bisek, Treasurer of Branch W001 (third from left) presenting the check to committee members.



promoting interest in the Fraternal benefit system while helping others. The PFA is comprised of 44 fraternal societies with a combined membership of over 700,000 licensed to do business in the state of Pennsylvania. The Society's motto is "The Keystone of Fraternals, Joining Hands To Touch Lives".



USE THIS FORM FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND MAGAZINE CANCELLATIONS

CHANGE THE ADDRESS ON ALL FCSLA POLICIES AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR:

☐ INDIVIDUAL — NAME

☐ ENTIRE FAMILY — LIST NAMES

Old Mailing Address

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

New Mailing Address

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Signature Required (Insured, Annuitant, Owner)

Date of Birth _____
(for ID purposes)

Today's Date

☐ CANCEL MAGAZINE

MAIL OR FAX TO:

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122
FAX: (216) 464-9260

2020 Slovakia Heritage Tour September 11-20, 2020

Celebrate the fall harvest and the beautiful culture, history and countryside of Slovakia, up close and personal, on the 2020 Slovakia Heritage ten-day, small group tour. We'll explore age-old cities, medieval towns and historic sites as well as folk-life museums, the Tatry Mountains and picturesque villages. We'll join in the wine and harvest festivals that bring alive Slovakia's long music and craft traditions. Optional genealogical research, and ancestral village and family visits available. For more information: Visit www.slovakiaheritage.com or contact Judith Northup-Bennett, Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com.

Scenes from the 42nd Quadrennial Convention



Scenes from the 42nd Quadrennial Convention



Scenes from the 42nd Quadrennial Convention



MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Branch W093

Memorial Fireworks Bingo



National Auditor, Dennis Povondra, W093 presents the for \$600 check for the Matching Funds Grant to Rich Schild Memorial Fireworks chairman Dean Sternhagen.



Branch W093 members Mark Povondra and his little daughter Emma Lynn getting ready to play BINGO at the Rich Schild Memorial Fireworks fund raiser at Beseda Hall in Tabor, SD.



Branch W093 secretary Joyce Sestak and her family having lunch before the BINGO games started.

Sr. Branch 623

Soup Supper

Branch S623 held a matching funds Soup Supper on January 26, 2020 at St. Vincent Catholic Church in Osceola, NE with over 200 people in attendance.



Junior members Emersyn, Kalisyn and Hudson Prososki are shown at the bake sale table during an event in March for flood victims.



Branch W093

Fireworks Display & Equipment Improvements

Linda Bares on the right (below), manager of Beseda Hall, is presented a \$600 Matching Funds check from National Auditor Dennis L. Povondra, representing the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA), fraternal life insurance company, offers two matching funds activities per year per branch and two per district in the amount of up to \$600 for each project. This year's projects were for the Rich Schild Memorial Fireworks Display during Czech Days and Beseda Hall Building and Equipment improvements.

The FCSLA Matching Funds Program allows its branches to focus on the fraternal side of its programs with the matching of fund raising activities of up to \$600 per activity. This was the second year that the Beseda Hall received a Matching Funds donation for their efforts in matching the Free Will Donation upon entering Beseda

Hall for their Family Fun Night held on New Year's Eve. The evening was spent playing different games, playing cards, eating lunch, door prize drawings, socializing, and dancing to the Kaul Boys Band. Parents were able to bring their children to the Family Fun Night and celebrate the arrival of the New Year as a family.



Sr. Branch 89

Mardi Gras Bingo

On Sunday, February 23, 2020, Hellertown Sr. Branch 89 participated in a matching funds Mardi Gras Bingo at Incarnation of Our Lord Parish in Bethlehem, PA.

Members of Sr. Branch 319 joined the Hellertown Branch to help sell tickets at the Tricky Tray table and to lend a hand wherever help was needed. This is an annual event sponsored and run by the parish's St. Vincent DePaul Society. Funds raised are used to cover the costs of food purchased for their monthly food distribution to the needy. The Society also runs a Parishioner Program which evaluates on a case-by-case basis parishioners who, due to infirmity or financial hardship, request help to cover rent, a car payment, snow shoveling, or a similar need.



2020 Consular Tour of Slovakia and Its Neighbors

Prague - Krakow - Vienna – August 21 to September 5, 2020

Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko has announced his 15th tour of Slovakia!

Visit the historic sites of Kosice, Presov, Bardejov, Levoca, Tatras, Trencin, and Bratislava, including a river cruise, several castles, famous churches, wine tasting, a mock wedding, rafting excursion, and spa treatments in Trencianske Teplice.

In Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, we will enjoy a river cruise, cross the famous Charles bridge, and visit many historic sites.

In Poland, we will visit the famous salt mine, tour Auschwitz, visit the site of the Black Madonna, and shop in Zakopane.

Our full-day tour of Vienna includes a visit to Schunbrunn Palace.

- A private reception with the U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia, Bridget Brink*
- A private reception with the Mayor of Presov (sister city of Pittsburgh), Andrea Turcanova*

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

The total price for this fantastic tour is just \$4,250 per person (double occupancy). This includes round trip airfare

from Pittsburgh, two delicious meals daily, four star hotels, free admission to all the sites, air conditioned bus, a professional guide and more. Compare this itinerary with other tour packages. For a detailed copy of the daily itinerary or more information, contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000.

*Subject to unanticipated change in their official schedule.

Sr. Branch 111 Annual Christmas Meeting and Luncheon

The annual meeting and party included 24 guests. Our members participated in prayer, followed by a great food and fellowship! Deceased members were remembered. Fraternal business was discussed. All were presented with a token from the FCSLA. The meeting ended in prayer.



9th Annual 5K Run/ Walk/Ruck

May 23, 2020 at 8:00 A.M.

Plainfield North High School
12005 S 248th Ave.,
Plainfield, IL 60585

RUN FOR THE BRAVE

RUN FOR THE BRAVE 5K helps us fulfill our mission supporting those who protect our Freedom. They face many challenges returning from deployment, sometimes multiple deployments and often injuries, both seen and unseen. We proudly support all branches of the US Military.



Donations and fundraisers enable us to help Veterans needing our support with: riding lawn mowers, ActionTracker Mobile Wheelchairs, furniture for Wounded Warriors given a mortgage-free home, furniture for Veterans who have been living out of their car and now are given the opportunity to live in subsidized housing, airfare for parents to visit their wounded son/daughter at Bethesda, sometimes food or to help with burial expenses, and many other ways helping those who serve our Country so that we may be free! Please visit OWYH Acts of Kindness on www.welcometheyouhome.org to see how we've helped our Veterans.



USAF TIMED

Visit www.welcometheyouhome.org to register Now!

Operation Welcome You Home, NFP 1750 W. Ogden, #2062, Naperville, IL 60567 Not-for-profit 501(c)(3)

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

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

E-mail: zjbazik@comcast.net

2020 FCSLA FRATERNALIST OF THE YEAR

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

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



GUIDELINES:

- ◆ All FCSLA members are eligible to submit a nominee for this award.
- ◆ The nominee must be a member in good standing of the FCSLA, age 23 and older, with a history of fraternal and community service.
- ◆ National Officers, Home Office Employees and previous recipients of this award are not eligible.
- ◆ Include a head and shoulders photo of nominee.
- ◆ Nomination Form, additional sheet of paper and photo should be mailed to: FCSLA, Katherine Bowes, Interim Fraternal & Youth Director, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122 or email to: katherine@fcsla.com.
- ◆ If you have any questions, please contact Katherine Bowes via email at katherine@fcsla.com or at the home office 800.464.4642.
- ◆ You may also print this form off our website www.fcsla.org.
- ◆ An independent committee will select the winner.
- ◆ **Deadline for Entries is May 8, 2020.**

2020 FCSLA Fraternalist of the Year Nomination Form

PLEASE PRINT!

NOMINEE:

Nominee's Name: _____ FCSLA Branch #: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone #: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Marital Status: ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Widowed

If Married Spouses Name: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer/School: _____

Please review the following categories.

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

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

NOMINATOR:

Name of Nominator: _____ Branch #: _____

Phone #: _____ E-Mail: _____

Signature of Nominator: _____



IN MEMORIAM

Barbara Jean Wrobel, S75



Barbara Jean Wrobel, age 86, died February 15, 2019 in Royal Oak, MI. Barbara was born on New Years Eve of 1932 in Detroit to the late Joseph and the late Edna (nee Kovich) Misukiewicz. As a young lady Barbara would grow up in the Polish community of Hamtramck where she also graduated from Hamtramck High School. Shortly after graduation, Barbara's brother Jim introduced her to Walter J. Wrobel whom she would marry in May of 1955. The young couple continued to call Hamtramck home for just a few more years until eventually moving to Warren in 1958. Barbara worked as a secretary for many years at local companies until finally being offered a position as a secretary for the military defense contractor, TACOM. Barbara was a devoted mother to her two sons. Despite never having a lot of money, she always made sure her boys had what they needed. Later in life she enjoyed walking with her lady friends on their daily excursions. Barb was fortunate to have experienced the trip of a lifetime when she ventured to Cuba, a destination not many people were allowed to visit. Barbara was the loving mother of Joseph W. (Virginia) Wrobel and John P. Wrobel; cherished grandmother of Paulina Wrobel. Memorial donations may be made to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen or the Alzheimer's Association.

Peter J. Nagy, S169



Peter J. Nagy, 64, of Cornersburg, OH, passed away February 15, 2019. Peter was born March 4, 1954, in Youngstown, and was the son of Peter J. Sr. and Loretta Vidis Nagy. He grew up on Bessemer Street on the city's west side and attended Holy Name of Jesus Elementary School nearby, where he was an altar server at the church. Peter was a 1972 graduate of Chaney High School and worked several jobs during his career. He was a hard worker and valued employee at the Moyers Pants Factory, Berkowitz & Sons, and at the Fairhaven Workshop in Niles. Pete enjoyed playing guitar with his friends, fishing with his father, and making his own fishing lures. He was an avid bowler and bowled in the St. Christine League at Wedgewood Lanes. "Uncle Pete" as he was known to his family and friends, carried on the Hungarian tradition of cooking bacon over a wood fire, which he used to make his fantastic bacon bread. He was a big fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers. He was a member of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Holy Name of Jesus Church in Youngstown. Mr. Nagy leaves his father, Pete Sr.; his sister, Teresa Lord (Tim Sheppa) of Austintown; his nephew and godson, Michael (Trisha) Lord of Sumter, SC; his godmother, Rose Kohl; two great-nieces, Ayla and Anoura; and a great-nephew, Alex.

Kenneth Lee Chapek, W053

Kenneth L. Chapek, 72, of Bruno, NE died March 2, 2019. He was born on March 3, 1946, to Adolph and Sally (Skoda) Chapek in Wahoo, NE. Kenny was a long-time self-employed truck driver. He was a member of the Bruno VFD and St. Anthony's Church. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, watching and attending race car events, and spending time with his family. He was a past member of the Nebraska National Guard. Kenny married Glenna Allen on

August 19, 1977, in Lincoln. Kenny is survived by his wife, Glenna; mother, Sally Chapek of Bruno; daughters, Deb (Warren) Jensen of Norfolk, Laurie (David) Hill of Goldsboro, NC, and Julie Devlin of Wilmington, NC; sister, Kathy Ptacek of Bruno; sister-in-law, Gail Chapek; 10 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; as well as several nieces and nephews. Memorials may be made to St. Anthony's Church or Bruno VFD.

Alice (Peroga) Merdich, S156



Alice (Peroga) Merdich, 87, died February 12, 2019 following a short illness. She was born on March 29, 1931 in Struthers, daughter of the late George Kokis and Mary Zelinsky Kokis Spontak. She graduated in 1949 from Struthers High School and she worked for Jet Dry Cleaners, retiring in 1989. Alice loved having company and was a gracious hostess. She was an excellent cook and baker and prepared all of the holiday dinners including the traditional Slovak (Vilija) Christmas Eve Dinner. She enjoyed sitting outside and going for her daily walks. She did her own yard work until she was 86. She looked forward to going to Saturday 4:30 p.m. Mass and praying her rosary daily. Alice belonged to a "500" card club for over 60 years, she attended Struthers High School luncheons and Struthers Northside reunions. Alice spoke Slovak fluently. She enjoyed listening to polka music and especially polka dancing. Alice was very proud of her Slovak heritage. She leaves behind her daughters, Marilyn Porinchak and Nancy (Joe) Mayor and her grandson, Eric Porinchak who she was so proud of. Also surviving are two nephews and numerous cousins she was close to and loved dearly along with her longtime friends she spent time with.

Catherine "Cathy" Prokop, S289



Catherine "Cathy" Prokop (nee Tobin), 49, of Belvidere, IL and formerly of Hoffman Estates, IL, passed away February 17, 2019 after a courageous battle against colon cancer – she was a Ninja! Cathy was born July 10, 1969 in Chicago, IL, the oldest daughter of the late Richard "Dick" Tobin and Francine (Bomersback) Tobin. Cathy was a 1987 graduate of Fremd High School in Palatine; a 1991 graduate of Northern Illinois University, and received an M.S. degree from Seton Montessori Academy. Cathy spent the majority of her working career helping mold young children into strong young people at the beginning of their educational careers. Employed by Montessori Private Academy in Rockford, Ms. Cathy was beloved first teacher to hundreds of children. She is loved and will be missed by her husband, Tom, formerly of Elk Grove Village; son, Joey; daughter, Sarah; mother, Francine of Elgin; brothers, Rich (Julie) Tobin of Des Plaines; Mike (Jenny) Tobin of Palatine; and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins all over the United States. In lieu of flowers, donations in Cathy's name may be made out to the American Cancer Society, 1801 Meyers Rd., Ste. 100, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181, for cancer research.

Ronald Shemon, W054



Ronald Shemon, 62, of Hazel Run, MN passed away on February 20, 2019. He was born on February 22, 1956 to Eugene and Beatrice (Skoblik) Shemon in Marshall, MN. He was baptized and confirmed at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Lucan and attended Wood Lake High School. On January 29, 1977, Ron was married to Rochelle Bartels and to this union two sons were born. Ron worked as a truck driver most of his life and enjoyed anything with a big engine. On February 27, 1981, Ron was united in marriage to Barb Vogel at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Cottonwood. They made their home in Hanley Falls for a few years until moving to their current farm in between Hanley Falls and Hazel Run. Ron enjoyed camping, listening to music, wildlife, bird watching and spending time with his family and friends. He is survived by his wife Barb Shemon of Hazel Run; mother Beatrice Shemon; children Jason (Jen) Shemon of Fergus Falls and Jayme (Lynn) Shemon of Underwood; 4 grandchildren; siblings Janell (Rod) Block, Sharyl (Tom) Kaase, Doreen (Dave) Moscher, Darrin (KayLynn) Shemon, Dean (Kimberly) Shemon, Gary (Nancy) Shemon, Glenn (Rhonda) Shemon, Jim (Bonnie) Shemon, Roxanne (Mark) Soderbeck, Audrey (Barry) VanWinkle, Patti (Dan) Weishaar, and sister-in-law Colette (Jim) Rosenau; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Marie Catherine Rogers Boerjan, W051



Marie Catherine Rogers Boerjan, 93, of St. Ansgar, IA died on February 27, 2019. Marie was born December 15, 1925, the second child and first daughter of Joseph and Mabel (Weinberger) Rogers in Osage, IA. She was "mom, jr." to her eleven other siblings as she attended country school through eighth grade and graduated from Osage High School in 1943. After travel and a government job in Washington, D.C., she married John on November 8, 1950. They bought a farm on the Cedar River and raised eight children there, six of whom survive: Denis (Martha Chancellor), St. Ansgar, Cindy Sams (Joe), Minneapolis, Sheryl Krebsbach (Jim), Stacyville, Lee (Theresa), St. Ansgar, Paul (Donna), St. Ansgar, and Dale, Amery, Wisconsin. She was known for her fabulous cooking skills, generosity, and hospitality. It seems many visitors just happened to show up at mealtime. Her family was especially amazed at and proud of how she kept up with them by utilizing her iPad, FaceTime, the internet, and social media. Those technology tools brought the world to her when she was no longer as able to leave her home. Survivors include her six children and their spouses, a brother, Galen Rogers, sisters Marilyn Doyle, Loraine Prokopec, and Kathleen Prokopec, 19 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

David J. Dyky, S88

David J. Dyky, 67, of Monessen, PA died March 7, 2019. He was born February 23, 1952, in Monessen, to the late John and Ann Talpas Dyky. Dave was a member of Epiphany of Our Lord Roman Catholic Church, Monessen, and the former Most Holy Name of Jesus Roman Catholic Church, also in Monessen, prior to its closing. He graduated from Monessen High School in 1970 and

California State College in 1974. Dave worked locally for Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Company Monessen Plant, prior to its closing in 1986, as well as several other jobs after the plant was closed. He was an active volunteer and EMT for Monessen Historical Society, donating his time, talents and Monessen steel mill memorabilia to the museum. Dave is survived by his brother, Donald J. Dyky of Charleroi; sister and brother-in-law MaryAnn and Michael J. Wood of Raleigh, N.C.; nephew and former U.S. Marine Zachariah J. Dyky of Scenery Hill; aunt Cecilia Talpas Kubik of North Versailles; and numerous cousins and friends. In lieu of flowers, those wishing to make a memorial contribution in Dave's name may do so to Monessen Historical Society at www.monessenhistoricalsociety.com or UPMC-Hillman Cancer Center at www.hillman.upmc.com.

Ann Marie Efflandt, U270



Ann Marie Pycz Efflandt was born May 25, 1967, in Harvey, IL, and departed to her heavenly home March 10, 2019 in Georgetown, TX. Ann was the loving daughter of Mary Pycz and the late Joseph A. Pycz, Sr.; sister to Michael (Donna) Pycz, Joseph Pycz, Susan (David) Sledd, Steve Pycz, Barbara (Paul) Beck, Mary Ann (Sean) McCarthy, John Pycz, Kathy (Michael) Bright, and Nick (Lisa) Pycz. For 31 years she was the devoted wife of Scott L. Efflandt. As a proud daughter, sister and spouse, Ann lived the values most aspire to. Her words to live by: Always Be Humble and Kind. Following graduation from the University of Texas-El Paso, she worked with pleasure as a Speech Language Pathologist specializing in elderly care and rehabilitation. During free time, Ann gave of herself to Army families, the community and the church. Typical of those who choose this life, she moved multiple times, living on two continents, nine states and eighteen homes. All of this enriched her life with thousands of friends, who loved her dearly. Ann requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to either Fort Hood Fischer House (<https://armyfisherhouses.org/#donation>) or Wreaths for Vets (<http://www.wreathsforvets.org>).

Allan J. Doerr, S445



Allan J. Doerr, 87, Comstock Park, MI, passed away on March 21, 2019. Al was born to Albert L. and Edna (Karcher) Doerr in Remus, MI on February 28, 1932. He was a 1950 graduate of Mecosta High School and married his best friend and soulmate Doreen Catherine (Bott) Doerr at St. Michael Catholic Church on January 24, 1953. They were entirely committed to each other for over sixty-two years, raising six children. He worked for Rapid Motor Parts as the manager of automotive parts and sales for over forty years before his retirement in January of 1994. He also served twenty years at Pederson Funeral Home which he considered his ministry. Al was a man of great faith and devotion; was a true gentleman and never said a bad word about anyone. Al was a member of Assumption BVM Catholic Church for sixty years. He tirelessly volunteered in most every position in the church. He and Doreen served as Eucharistic Ministers at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. He was a proud

(Continued on Page 20)



IN MEMORIAM

veteran who served as a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps from 1952 to 1954. He is survived by his loving children Sherry (Scott) DeWitt, Lynn (Craig) Holck, Wayne (Darcy) Doerr, Anne (Clay) Towns, Greg (Kathy) Doerr, and daughter-in-law Sue; thirteen grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and many cherished members of the Doerr and Bott families. Those wishing to offer expressions of sympathy are encouraged to make a memorial contribution to Kent County Military Honor Guard or Assumption BVM cemetery fund.



Richard Gretz, S262

Richard Gretz, age 83, died on March 26, 2019. In many ways, Richard won his battle against cancer because now he can rest. He was a loving husband to his wife of 55 years, Sybil Gretz; a proud father to their son, Richard Jr.; a brother to Barbara Augustine of Downingtown, PA; a brother-in-law to Phyllis Gretz of Punxsutawney, PA; and an uncle to many nieces

and nephews; great-nieces and nephews; and great-great nieces and nephews. He was born in New Kensington, PA, to Mary and Albert Gretz on April 9, 1935. Richard enjoyed golfing, especially with the Great Lakes Senior Golfing organization. He also enjoyed gardening and spending the winter in Arizona. He always loved to take trips back to Pennsylvania to visit with family and friends. Richard proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. In memory of Richard and in lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to a charity of one's choice.



Mary Rogalski, S313

Mary (Hujo) Rogalski, 94, formerly of Natrona Heights, PA passed away March 29, 2019. She was born September 28, 1924, in Natrona to the late Joseph and Mary Holacik Hujo. Mary lived in Natrona Heights most of her life, living at Concordia Haven Apartments in Cabot for the past seven years, where she was an active participant in the social activities. She worked for 30 years at the former G.C. Murphy Co. store in Natrona Heights. She was a lifetime member of Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Parish, Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Natrona Heights, the Ladies Guild and Christian Mothers of the Church, and the Jednota. Mary enjoyed playing bingo and cards, crocheting afghans for every family member and making shawls for residents at the Concordia Lund Center. She was also active at her church, working Monday night bingo and helping with funeral mercy luncheons. Mary is survived by her children, Elaine (Daniel) Barrett, Joan (Blair) Kucinski, Michelle (Rich) Ring and Michael (Peggy) Rogalski; 8 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Frieda Petit, Eleanor Hujo and Marge Hujo; and by several nieces, nephews and cousins. In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Mary may be made to Good Samaritan Hospice Unit at Concordia, 134 Marwood Road, Cabot, PA 16023.

active participant in the social activities. She worked for 30 years at the former G.C. Murphy Co. store in Natrona Heights. She was a lifetime member of Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Parish, Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Natrona Heights, the Ladies Guild and Christian Mothers of the Church, and the Jednota. Mary enjoyed playing bingo and cards, crocheting afghans for every family member and making shawls for residents at the Concordia Lund Center. She was also active at her church, working Monday night bingo and helping with funeral mercy luncheons. Mary is survived by her children, Elaine (Daniel) Barrett, Joan (Blair) Kucinski, Michelle (Rich) Ring and Michael (Peggy) Rogalski; 8 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Frieda Petit, Eleanor Hujo and Marge Hujo; and by several nieces, nephews and cousins. In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Mary may be made to Good Samaritan Hospice Unit at Concordia, 134 Marwood Road, Cabot, PA 16023.

Elizabeth M. Zabkar, S277

Elizabeth M. Zabkar, 92, of Latrobe, PA passed away March 11, 2019. She was born September 26, 1926, in Greensburg, a daughter of the late John and Elizabeth (Harvan) Storkel. Elizabeth

was formerly employed by the Garment Factory in Norvelt and was a waitress at Hillview Manor Restaurant in Greensburg. She was a member of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Youngstown and the Sacred Heart Rosary Altar Society. She loved to play bingo and spend time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is survived by three children, William J. Zabkar (Janet), Linda M. Costello and Rebecca Chilton (Thomas); her brother, John Storkel; two sisters, Mary Louise Vallano and Frances Panetti; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.



Veronica A. "Ronnie" Bazik, S140

Veronica A. "Ronnie" Bazik, 89, of Lansford, PA passed away on April 15, 2019.

She worked as a reading aide and teaching assistant at the former St. Michael's Parochial School, Lansford, and then for the Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit preschool class in Jim Thorpe.

Born in Lansford, she was a daughter of the late Michael P. Serina and Caroline (Cech) Serina.

She was a 1947 graduate of the former St. Ann's Catholic High School, Lansford.

She was a member of the former St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, Lansford, where she was very active as a lector, Eucharistic minister and choir member. She was a current member of St. Joseph Parish of the Panther Valley, Summit Hill. Ronnie was the current district president of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association's (FCSLA) Eastern PA Frances Jakabcin District; current president of local branches S140 and J46 of FCSLA; a former member of the National Court Appeals; member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society; former president of the Panther Valley Golden Agers Club; and former president of the Panther Valley Daughters of Mary.

Surviving are a daughter, Carolyn Bazik of Reading; a son, Michael Bazik, and his wife, Ann, of Drexel Hill; two grandchildren; one great-grandson; a brother, Frank Serina, and his wife, Ann, of Fayetteville; a sister, Mary O'Neill of Allentown; a sister-in-law Eleanor, wife of George Zick of Bethlehem; and many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her name may be made to a charity of choice.

Cyril M. Sloup, W139



Cyril M. Sloup, 96, of Lincoln, NE passed away April 19, 2019. Cyril was born on October 17, 1922, in Saunders County, NE to Edward and Anna (Vidlak) Sloup. He attended school at St. John's Catholic School in Prague and graduated from Prague High School. He farmed in the Prague area until retiring to Lincoln in 1995. Cyril was a member of the Knights of Columbus

in Wahoo and Lincoln. Cyril is survived by his children: Richard (wife Rose) Sloup of Columbus, NE; Leslie (wife Victoria) Sloup of Huntsville, AL; Marge Rose Golden of Castle Pines, CO; Mark (wife Patti) Sloup of Prague, NE; Jan (husband Terry) Polak of Lincoln, NE; sister-in-law Nancy Vasa of Weston, NE; 12 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Gerald "Jerry" Kuhn, W033



Gerald "Jerry" Kuhn, age 78, of Spillville, IA died on April 22, 2019. Gerald Julius Kuhn was born on March 4, 1941 the son of James A. and Alice (Riehle) Kuhn. Jerry attended St. Wenceslaus school and lived on the Kuhn family farm for seventy-five years except for the two years he served in the US Army, November 27, 1963 attaining the rank of Specialist 4th class and was honorably discharged on November 26, 1965. Jerry was a fifty-year member of the American Legion, Post 467, Civic improvement, Holy Name, Cemetery Board and a fifty-year member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. He served as an officer in three of them and was a member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church. He faithfully tried to never miss any nieces and nephews' graduations, weddings and a lot of great-nieces and nephews. He loved visiting with everyone. Jerry and his brother Rich bought the family farm from their parents in 1978. After his dad passed, Jerry lived with his mom and took such wonderful care of her until she went to the Ossian Senior Hospice in 1997. In 2015, Jerry and Rich decided to sell the farm and in 2016 both moved to Spillville. Gerald is survived by three brothers: James R. (Mary Ann) Kuhn, Cresco, IA; Art (Jeannie) Kuhn, Cresco, IA and Richard (Rebecca) Kuhn, Spillville, IA. Three sisters: Alice Barloon, Waucoma, IA, Joanne Hageman, Ossian, IA and Rita (Roger) Fjestul, Calmar, IA; sister-in-law: Helen (Fred) Williams, Mabel, MN along with many nieces and nephews.

Anna T. Stropkay, S176



Anna T. Stropkay, 86, passed away May 1, 2019. Beloved daughter of Paul and Veronica (both deceased); loving sister of Agnes J., John T. Stropki (Pauline) (both deceased), Joseph F. Stropki (deceased), Mary A. (deceased) and Margaret M. Pasciak (deceased) (Frank J.); dear aunt of Janet Wiece (Robert), Richard Stropki, Susan Moynihan (Joseph), Cathy Pasciak, Dan Pasciak, Joan Stys (Marty), and Beth Austin (Jay); dearest great-aunt of Michael Wiece (Crystal), Sandra Capuano (Rob), Deborah Lee (deceased) (Brady), Patricia Pharo (Pat), John Moynihan, Madelyn Stys and Marty Stys and great-great-aunt and friend of many. Anna retired as Senior Vice President of Women's Federal Saving and Loan. She graduated from the Savings and Loan Institute and held a graduate key from the Graduate School of Savings and Loan at Indiana University. Anna was a past treasurer of the Cleveland Chapter of the Altrusa Club and a graduate of Lourdes Academy. She loved to travel and was a longtime devout parishioner of St. Wendelin Parish.

Jim Kosciolek, Z419

James "Jim" Joseph Kosciolek, 66, passed away March 26, 2019. Jim is survived by his wife, Debbie, his daughter Katie deJong and her husband Nick of Atlanta, his son Joe and his wife Lane of Atlanta. Jim is also survived by his sister Christine Stackfleth and her husband Mike and his three nieces Robin Leese (husband Brandon and children Wyatt, Hadley and Charlotte), Kristen Stackfleth and Jill French (husband Courtney and daughter Shiloh). Jim was born and raised in Buffalo, NY. He attended the University of

Dayton and Le Moyne College, where he received his BS degree. He met Debbie in Syracuse while working as a sports journalist at the Herald Journal. They married on September 3, 1977 at Saint Margaret Church in Mattydale, NY. Jim took a sales position with Pass & Seymour, which ultimately brought him and Debbie to Lawrenceville, GA, where they raised their children, living in the same house for thirty years. He worked over thirty years in the electrical/fuse industry, before joining IlSCO as SVP of Sales. Jim recently retired and moved to his dream home with Debbie in Big Canoe, GA. He had a passion for life, good wine, traveling, playing tennis with his Connemara neighbors and cheering on the Buffalo Bills. He never met a stranger and had a long track record of taking care of friends in need. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Alzheimer's Association www.alz.org.

Margaret M. Strzelecki, S114



Margaret M. Strzelecki (nee Mozak), 82, formerly of Lorain, OH died, August 21, 2019, in Daytona Beach, FL, after a brief illness. She was born October 11, 1936, in Lorain, and had been a Daytona Beach resident for the past six years, moving from Lorain. Margaret was a member of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Lorain, Altar & Rosary Society, and St. Ann's Lodge. She enjoyed crocheting and spending time with her family. She is survived by her sons, Joseph P. (Heidi) Strzelecki, of Fairborn, OH, and Michael (Karen) Strzelecki, of Pantego, TX; daughter, Margaret Ann Dana, of Holly Hill, FL; and five grandchildren.

Mary Kaniewski, S37



Mary Kaniewski, 81 died on November 15, 2019. Survived by loving husband of 56 years, John; daughters Kathleen Kaniewski and Karen (Ned) Price; grandchildren Drew and Taylor Price; cousins Idka (Atty. Andrew) Rajec and Dr. Jan (Sandy) Riecan and other relatives and friends both here and in Slovakia. Mary was an only child, born first generation American from her parents who came to this country from Slovakia (Michael Blahowsky and Irene (nee Frastacka) Blahowsky). She graduated from Messmer High School. She loved being Slovak and her Slovak heritage was always a big part of her life. She performed in many Slovak plays and was a dancer in the original Slovak Dance Group in Milwaukee. It was so important to her that her daughters grew up with many Slovak customs such as Fasiangy (Slovak Mardi Gras) and pilgrimages to Holy Hill to honor Mary the Blessed Mother. They were also dancers in the Tatra Slovak Dance Group for decades. Mary was also an active member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish for 31 years and always considered them her second family. She was a member of both the Adult Choir and the Resurrection Choir. Mary loved her family more than anything and was always present for any activity of her daughters and then her grandchildren. The grandchildren called her "Lala" as "grandma" was too hard to say when they were little. They held a very special place in her heart and she was enjoying watching them become amazing adults. In lieu of flowers, the family requests you make donations in Mary's name to your favorite charity.

42nd Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

The Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal, which raises funds to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius to assist with its day to day operations, is progressing well. As of February 29, \$8,197 has been received from 88 donors. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

The Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. A direct mailing asking for donations was sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and previous donors.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2019 Appeal but did not receive a letter 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, 2019 will be credited toward the 2020 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. HvozdoVIC, 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

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2019

ASSETS

Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 29,416,865
Bonds	966,425,901
Preferred Stock	2,033,413
Common Stock	7,471,572
Investment Income Due & Accrued	14,037,640
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	5,008,807
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,373,126
Other Assets	785,650

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 1,027,552,973

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 300,973,557
Annuity Reserves	597,250,441
Death Claims Payable	2,822,416
Unearned Premiums	407,006
Matured Endowments	419,714
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,400,000
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,798,806
Accrued Convention Donations	12,500
Provision for Future Conventions	204,453
Asset Valuation Reserve	9,986,344
Interest Maintenance Reserve	444,739
Other Liabilities	1,946,977

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$ 920,666,952

Surplus

\$ 106,886,021

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

\$ 1,027,552,973

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Eleven Months Ending November 30, 2019

REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 4,874,260
Annuity Premiums	43,265,364
Investment Income	44,880,418
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	114,871
Rental Income	333,729
Other Revenue	140,454
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 93,609,096

EXPENSE

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 2,213,557
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	32,819,023
Insurance Benefits	7,701,642
Annuity Benefits	31,895,493
Commission Expense	1,364,817
Surrender Benefits	3,325,389
Post Mortem Benefits	1,409,657
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	91,195
Matured Endowments	119,974
Donation Expenses	117,096
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	214,500
Convention Expenses	152,649
Bank Service Charges	119,111
Data Processing Service Fees	184,144
Accounting Fees	159,747
Actuarial Fees	299,174
Legal Fees	47,048
Consulting Fees	101,273
Branch and District Funding	715,383
Fraternal Activities	128,806
Official Publications	550,880
Scholarship Awards	253,208
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	527,091
Fees — Directors	151,753
Salaries — Employees	1,867,447
Salaries — Officers	491,696
Interest Expense	321,728
Tax Expense	184,693
Depreciation Expense	222,954
Utility Expense	94,253
Postage and Printing	274,886
Advertising	105,105
Travel Expense	68,614
Insurance Department Fees	82,750
Sales Expenses	133,473
Rental Expense	333,729
Other Expense	582,406
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 89,426,345

Income (Loss) from Operations

\$ 4,182,752

Dividends to Members

1,259,637

Subtotal Income (Loss)

\$ 2,923,114

Capital Gains (Loss)

(183,070)

NET INCOME (Loss)

\$ 2,740,044



Traditional Easter Recipes

HONEY GLAZED HAM

- 1 (5 pound) ready-to-eat ham
- ¼ cup whole cloves
- ¼ cup dark corn syrup
- 2 cups honey
- ¾ cup butter

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Score ham, and stud with the whole cloves. Place ham in foil lined pan.

In the top half of a double boiler, heat the corn syrup, honey and butter. Keep glaze warm while baking ham.

Brush glaze over ham, and bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes in the preheated oven. Baste ham every 10 to 15 minutes with the honey glaze. During the last 4 to 5 minutes of baking, turn on broiler to caramelize the glaze. Remove from oven, and let sit a few minutes before serving.

SLOVAK EASTER PASKA BREAD

- 2 cups milk
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 12 ounces butter (3 sticks)
- 3 (¼-ounce) packages active dry yeast
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 cup warm water (no hotter than 110 F)
- 3 large eggs (room-temperature)
- 8 cups all-purpose flour (divided)
- 1 cup milk (or 1 beaten egg yolk, to wash the dough)

Grease three (7x3-inch) round bread pans and set aside.

In a small saucepan, heat 2 cups milk, ½ cup sugar, salt, and butter over low heat until butter melts and sugar dissolves. Cool to lukewarm and set aside.

Dissolve yeast and 1 tablespoon sugar in warm water placed in a mixing bowl or

stand mixer bowl that has been warmed. Let proof for 5 minutes.

Add eggs, reserved milk mixture, and 4 ½ cups of the flour. With the dough hook attachment, mix on speed 2 for 1 minute.

Continue mixing on low speed, and add remaining flour, ½ cup at a time and mix about 2 minutes or until dough clings to hook and cleans sides of the bowl.

Continue mixing 2 minutes longer or until dough is smooth and elastic. It will be sticky to the touch.

Place dough in a greased bowl, turning to grease top. Cover and let rise in warm place about 1 to 2 hours or until doubled.

Punch down dough and divide into thirds, reserving a small piece of dough from each to make decorations.

Shape each third piece of dough into a round loaf in the prepared pans. Using reserved dough, decorate with a cross in center or braids around the edge. Cover and let rise in warm place, 1 to 2 hours or until doubled.

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Gently brush tops of risen dough with milk or beaten egg yolk. Bake 40 minutes or until golden brown and an instant-read thermometer registers 190 degrees.

Remove from pans immediately and cool on wire rack.

FRESH BEET HORSERADISH

- 2 medium (10 ounce) beets
- One 4-ounce fresh horseradish, peeled
- ¼ cup cider vinegar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon sugar

Scrub beets; trim stems to ½ inch. Place beets in a medium saucepan; add water to cover by 1 inch. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium high; cook at a gentle boil until beets are tender when pierced with a small, sharp knife, 30 to 40 minutes. Remove from heat, drain, and set beets aside until cool enough to handle.

Meanwhile, grate horseradish on small holes of a box grater. Place in a small bowl; stir in vinegar, salt, and sugar.

Peel beets; grate on small holes of box grater. Add to horseradish mixture; stir well to combine. Keep covered to preserve flavor, and refrigerate until needed.

POPPY SEED ROLL

- ½ pound poppy seeds
- ¾ cup white sugar
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- ½ cup hot milk
- 1 (.25 ounce) package active dry yeast
- ½ cup warm water (100 degrees F/38 degrees C)
- 2 tablespoons white sugar

- 2 cups all-purpose flour, or more if needed
- ½ teaspoon salt

- ¼ cup butter

- 1 egg, separated (white reserved)

Place poppy seeds into a food processor and process until seeds are ground, about 1 minute. Mix poppy seeds with ¼ cup sugar, 1 tablespoon melted butter, lemon juice, and hot milk in a bowl; stir to combine. Cover poppy seed filling and refrigerate while making bread (filling will set up and thicken as it chills).

Mix yeast with water and 2 tablespoons sugar in a small bowl. Allow to stand until the yeast forms a creamy layer.

Whisk flour with salt in a bowl; use a pastry cutter to cut ¼ cup butter into the flour mixture until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs.

Pour yeast mixture and egg yolk into flour mixture and stir to make a soft dough.

Turn dough out onto a floured work surface and knead until smooth and slightly springy, about 5 minutes. If dough is too sticky, knead in more flour, about 2 tablespoons at a time.

Cut dough into 2 equal pieces. Roll each piece out into a 12x16-inch rectangle.

Spread half of the poppy seed filling in each rectangle, avoiding the edges.

Roll up (on the long side), pinching to seal the dough, tucking the end underneath and pinching to keep the filling from leaking out.

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper; place rolls seam sides down on the baking sheet. Cover with dish towel and allow to rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Beat egg white in a bowl until frothy; brush the rolls with beaten egg white.

Bake in preheated oven until dark golden brown on top, 30 to 40 minutes. Remove from oven and cover rolls with a clean kitchen towel until cool to keep crust soft. Cool completely before slicing.

PUFFED RICE EASTER BASKETS

- 3 tablespoons dark corn syrup
- 1 tablespoon butter
- ½ cup sugar
- ⅓ cup water
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons vinegar

Boil the above ingredients. Remove from stove and add ¼ teaspoon baking soda.

Place one box of Puffed Rice cereal in large bowl. Pour syrup mixture over top and mix with wooden spoon. Mold while hot in cereal bowls, forming a nest in center.

Color one package of coconut with green food coloring. Arrange coconut in nest for green grass. Add candy chicks and bunnies, and Easter eggs.

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.