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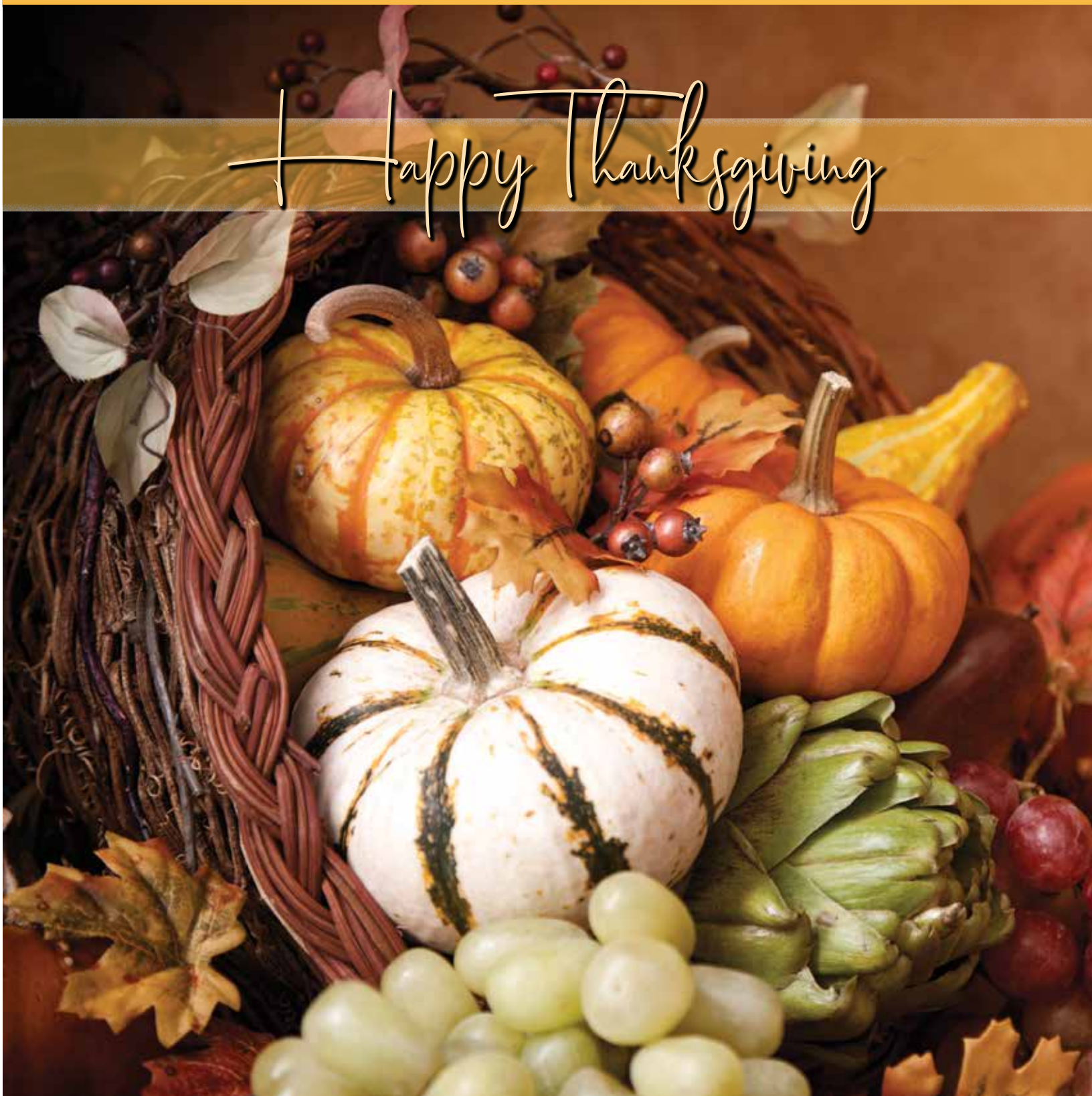
Fraternally Yours®

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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NOVEMBER 2020

Happy Thanksgiving



Fraternally Yours, ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA®



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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

VIENNA COBB ANDERSON

God of all blessings,
source of all life, giver of all grace:

We thank you for the gift of life:
for the breath that sustains life,
for the food of this earth that nurtures life,
for the love of family and friends
without which there would be no life.

We thank you for the mystery of creation:
for the beauty that the eye can see,
for the joy that the ear may hear,
for the unknown
that we cannot behold filling the universe with wonder,
for the expanse of space that draws us
beyond the definitions of our selves.

We thank you for setting us in communities:
for families who nurture our becoming,
for friends who love us by choice,
for companions at work,
who share our burdens and daily tasks,
for strangers who welcome us into their midst,
for people from other lands
who call us to grow in understanding,
for children who lighten our moments with delight,
for the unborn, who offer us hope for the future.

We thank you for this day:
for life and one more day to love,
for opportunity and one more day
to work for justice and peace,
for neighbors and one more person to love
and by whom be loved,
for your grace and one more experience of your presence,
for your promise: to be with us,
to be our God, and to give salvation.

For these, and all blessings,
we give you thanks, eternal, loving God,
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Dear Friends,

During this month of Thanksgiving here are a few questions to reflect on —

Can you think of five things you are grateful for in your life?

Who do you need to thank for helping you get where you are?

Who can you reach out to in order to renew a friendship?

Is there a family member or friend you can forgive or ask forgiveness of?

When was the last time you thanked someone?

Remember the words of Br. David Steindl-Rast ... "The greatest gift one can give is thanksgiving. In giving gifts, we give what we can spare, but in giving thanks we give ourselves."

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Until Next Month,
Warmly, Carolyn

THIRD LUMINOUS MYSTERY: THE PROCLAMATION OF THE KINGDOM

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Jesus' Proclamation of the Kingdom of God with a call to conversion is our third Luminous Mystery of the Rosary. The spiritual fruit associated with this Mystery is "Desire for Holiness and the Coming of God's Kingdom on Earth." This Luminous Mystery represents the three years of Christ's public ministry when Jesus, the Word made Flesh, brought the power and glory of Heaven into this world.

Our Catholic Catechism makes several references to the kingdom of God. It states, "Everyone is called to enter the kingdom (543)...To become a child in relation to God is the condition for entering the kingdom. For this, we must humble ourselves and become little (561)...The kingdom of heaven was inaugurated on earth by Christ...The Church is the seed and beginning of this kingdom. Its keys are entrusted to Peter" (567).

After the first public miracle at the wedding feast at Cana, Jesus spent the active years of his ministry preaching to proclaim the Kingdom of God. After John the Baptist had been arrested, Jesus

went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the gospel saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:14-15). Through Christ's public ministry of healing and miracles, people began to believe and follow him. They began to feel the true presence of God. Sadly many of these same people accepted Jesus when their lives improved because of his physical healing but abandoned him when he was condemned for what he preached. How many of us praise God when things are good but abandon Him when something bad happens to us or when things do not turn out as we hoped? It is those difficult times when we need more than ever to work on preparing ourselves to receive God's kingdom in our lives.

By calling us to conversion, Jesus asks us, just as he did the people in Galilee, to put aside our sinful and worldly ways and truly embrace his teachings of goodness and mercy. It is up to us to prepare ourselves to embrace the power and glory that can only come through God. First, we must have a humble spirit and not

let our pride get in the way of living as God asks us.

Secondly, if we really want to receive God's kingdom we need to repent and seek reconciliation. Our sins lead us away from God causing us to continually search for happiness. Through the Sacrament of Confession the kingdom of God is here with us now as God invites all of us to celebrate in His grace. Only with God in our hearts are we truly happy.

Finally, as we recite the Rosary and the Our Father, we say, "Thy kingdom come" but the next part demands something of us: "Thy will be done." By resolving to act as true Christians through our actions, words and deeds, we proclaim that the kingdom of God is at hand just as Jesus proclaimed in those three years of his public ministry. Let us resolve to treat all people as brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray for them, even when they are disrespectful or inconsiderate or even sinful.

Certainly there may be times when we fail these challenging tasks, but through the grace of God and guidance from the Holy Spirit, God's Kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven" is attainable.

The Problem with Lazy Money

When we hear the word 'lazy' we do not usually have favorable thoughts. We think of someone sitting on our couch, watching our television, and eating our food instead of doing something productive!

Many of our members may have money that also is not being productive. We can help them get their money off the couch!

Our members may have wisely saved money for emergencies or future needs. Likely they will never need it because they have good incomes from a variety of sources or are even still working. Ultimately this money is destined to go to their heirs at the time of the member's death.

It is great that they have saved – it is where that money is stored that is the problem. Often, we find these funds in low interest CDs, money market accounts or even in bank accounts. This is the equivalent of their money sitting on their couch and not even keeping up with inflation, therefore losing money every year!

FCSLA may have a solution that can energize their savings while keeping it safe and accessible should they ever need some of it. Our producers can help our members with insurance products that may provide better returns, safety, and accessibility. When the time comes to transfer these funds to their heirs, our products may be able to provide an efficient way to accomplish their wishes.

Please encourage our members and the public to talk to our producers about these opportunities.

Paul Smithers, National Sales Manager



Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Dear fellow members,

To date 2020 has been a memorable year, to say the least. We continue to face the many challenges of everyday life, compounded by this COVID-19 pandemic. Times like these bring out our character and integrity – are we able to identify people and events in our lives for which we are thankful?

I am sure you can find many, just as I can. Focusing on our

blessings can get us through the rough times.

We are all blessed with our faith and the ability to pray. In these times, our prayer life becomes even more important than ever and gives us a chance to become closer to God and focus on what is really important in this life and beyond. It is essential that we pray for a good day at the beginning of each day and thank God for the blessings and trials of the day at the end of the day.

We can easily enter into prayer with others through common prayer or the rosary at specific times of the day, as well. There is a special mystical force leading directly to heaven when we enter into common prayer with others.

At our board, district and branch functions, we always begin and end our meetings in common prayer. Have you read the beautiful prayers at the back of our bylaws book recently?

I am sure that we all can relate how members of our families interweave their prayer lives with their everyday lives – from school children, to housewives,

to factory workers, and everyone praying together at times of celebration or sadness, and facing the challenges of our lives.

We all know that prayer is a powerful force to help us cope in this world and provides us with a walkway in our journey through life.

Pope Francis has said “Prayer always changes reality, let us not forget that it either changes things or changes our hearts, but it always changes.”

As we celebrate Thanksgiving in this great country of ours, the United States of America, let us reach out to one another in common prayer for the intention of our members, families and friends! Let us be grateful for our lives together.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

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 10/1/2020 thru 12/31/2020.

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.

Memorare

Remember, most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession, was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you, Virgins of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me.

FCSLA Accepting Applications for National Treasurer Position

Due to the future retirement of National Treasurer, Stephen C. Hudak, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association is accepting applications from qualified individuals to prepare for succession planning. The successful candidate will possess the skills to monitor the financial conditions of the Association, oversee the Association's finances and investments on a full-time basis and reports to the National President. All candidates must have either a CPA or MBA in finance or related fields from an accredited college or university and shall have ten years or more experience in the fields of business, finance, or related fields. This position is based in the home office in Beachwood, Ohio. Please see the posting on our website: www.fcsla.org.

Interested parties meeting the above qualifications should submit a detailed resume and cover letter to:

Eric Vecchiola

President | Senior Consultant

GENERAL PLACEMENT SERVICE

O: 724-836-2302 | C: 724-252-7879

Email: info@generalplacement.com

Please make submissions no later than November 11, 2020.

Attends Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh Banquet



ATTENDEES AT FSGP BANQUET HONORING GREG FELTON FROM NSS LIFE – Attendees from FCSLA were: Front Row (L-R): Maggie Golofski, National President Cynthia Maleski, PFA President Virginia Holmes and Debbie Dubinsky. Back Row: FCSLA Director Larry Golofski, Andrej Groch and James Dubinsky.

FCSLA's Complimentary Family Records Guide is Available Now!

The Family Records Guide is a convenient and valuable resource that provides details on what family and friends need at the death of a member. It offers a well-organized template for listing:

- Life Insurance Policies
- Bank Accounts and Investments
- Social Security Information
- Loans
- Cars
- Mortgage
- Online Profiles
- Tax Returns
- Final Arrangements
- Last Wishes
- Inheritances Personal Notes/Thoughts
- Who to Notify
- Special Wishes

This ensures that the member's family doesn't need to spend time and energy searching for some of the most important items needed at the death of a loved one.

The Family Records Guide is complimentary and a free life insurance review from an FCSLA financial professional is available as well.

Contact agent@fcsla.com

or call 800.464.4642 ext. 1029

for your Family Records Guide today!

WELCOME FCSLA'S NEW SALES MANAGER



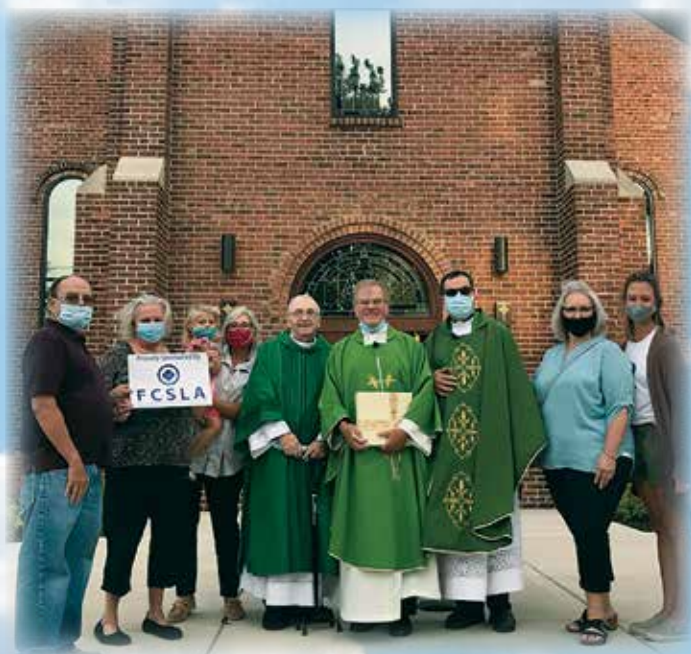
Paul Smithers comes to FCSLA with over 20 years of insurance experience. He has worked as an agent for New York Life, a Brokerage Manager for John Hancock and both a Field Sales Manager and Regional Sales Manager at Encova Insurance in Columbus, OH.

Paul is a graduate of the University of Toledo and has earned the Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU) and Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC) designations from The American College of Financial Services.

Paul and his wife have recently moved to the Cleveland, OH area and they have a married daughter who lives in Colorado.

Bell Dedication at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Coal City, Illinois

Ruth Dillon, President S53 & J83 (Joliet, IL) shared that 200 parishioners of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Coal City, IL, compliant with all Covid guidelines, attended the Bell dedication on September 29, 2020. The original bell from 1889 was sent to The Verdin Company in Ohio for refurbishment, then returned to the steeple. A new electronic bell system was added into the new steeple with the refurbished bell, which rang for the first time on September 26, 2020.



Members of Joliet Branch 53 of the Helen Kochan District, attended the event and are photographed holding the FCSLA sign. L-R: Frank and Lee Sitar, Ruth Dillon, Deacon Bevin, Fr. Robert Noesen, Fr. Raed Bader, Karen Wojnarowski and Jenna D'Orazio.



Clergy presiding over the dedication are: Fr. Raed Bader, pastor, Fr. Robert Noesen, returning pastor, and Deacon William Bevin.



Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parishioners are thankful, from the bottom of their hearts, for the generous donation that allowed this project to be completed. During the course of this year-long project, multiple bulletin articles naming FCSLA were released.

Two Sister-In-Laws Across The Miles Have A Spirit Of “Pay It Forward” and Celebrate their 90th Birthdays

By Janet Berkemeier

Seated from left to right in “Sangria y Tapas” Restaurant at Detroit Street/Dover Center in Westlake, OH are my (Aunt Millie) Mildred Gaydos Roth (Westlake, OH) who turns 90 on October 12, 2020, myself, Janet Gaydos Berkemeier (Jackson, MI), and (my mother) Geraldine Hovanec Gaydos (Elkhart, IN) who turns 90 on November 29, 2020. Millie and Geri, are not just sister-in-laws, they are lifetime friends and kindred spirits, who live across the miles ever since Aunt Millie was a bridesmaid in the wedding of her brother John J. Gaydos and Geri Hovanec’s wedding in Chicago on July 31, 1954. Millie is the youngest of her siblings who grew up in Westlake, OH, who are her older late sister Josephine Gaydos Traylor and older late brother John J. Gaydos. Millie married the late Robert Roth and together they raised four children: Rob, Jr. (Lynn) Larry, Lora (Nino Saric) and Paul (Jill).

Before raising her family, Millie was employed about six years as the private secretary in the Estate Trust Department of National City Bank, and after her youngest child, Paul, started 6th grade, she secured employment as a secretary in the Westlake Police Department for 12 years.

Millie Gaydos Roth is a life time member of FCSLA and bought policies for her children and grandchildren originally with branch Sr. Branch 141 (Brook Park, OH) but they recently transferred to branch Sr. Branch 456 (Lansing/Jackson, MI) to support her niece / their cousin Janet Gaydos Berkemeier who is the new president of this revitalized branch in Michigan Sr. Branch 456.

Geri Hovanec Gaydos grew up in Gary, IN, so that explains her affiliation with the Hobart Sr. Branch 289, which originated in Gary! Geri graduated from Bishop Noll High School in Hammond, IN in 1948, then from Loyola University in 1953. John and Geri married, stayed in Chicago for John’s further schooling, but eventually moved to and lived in Elkhart, IN for 50 years. Geri taught English and 4th grade at St. Thomas Catholic School after her youngest child of five children, Julie, started Kindergarten. We think that John told Geri that she could not enroll the boys, John C. and Jeffrey, but only enroll the girls Janet, so with the encouragement of her cousin, Joe Hovanec’s wife, Florence Hruskavich Hovanec, the Gaydos girls were enrolled in Sr. Branch 81 (Whiting).

On this past weekend of Labor Day 2020 Weekend Kick-Off celebration of Geri’s 90th birthday party, Geri offered as a birthday gift to purchase small annuities for her sons John C. and son Jeff/his wife Patricia, sons-in-law Ray and Steven for all to join Sr. Branch 456 because their sister/sister-in-law Janet is president.

About the same time this Pay it Forward was going on,



Aunt Millie decided to purchase small annuities for her son-in-law Nino who was never a member of FCSLA. Millie feeling the spirit of giving and bought annuities for his family.

Although John and Geri Gaydos family spent 50 years in Elkhart, IN, Geri, had been a lifetime member of Sr. Branch 289 (from Hobart, but originated in Gary) until recently

when Geri, Janet and her two sisters Joanne and Julie all transferred to Sr. Branch 456, which is mainly an offshoot of Sr. Branch 81, to help build up Sr. Branch 456 the newly revitalized branch in Michigan.

Last September, 2019, Janet drove with her mom, Geri Gaydos, to Westlake, OH to visit her Aunt Millie Roth (Geri’s sister-in-law) about two years after Geri’s husband John had passed away. On that auspicious day in September, 2019 following that delicious Italian dinner at the quaint Sangria y Tapas, the trio drove a few miles to see Kenneth Ludwig’s Comedy of Tenor’s play at Clague Theater, The Four Tenors.

That was one special evening for me to accompany these two wonderful women who still remain in my life, my Aunt Millie and my mom, Geri Gaydos. This picture says it all and explains how providential it was that just a year ago, these ladies could go out on the town without masks, eat a fancy dinner and enjoy theatre before Covid-19 hit.

Sr. Branch 114 Christmas Party/Meeting

All members of FCSLA Branch S114 in Lorain, OH are invited to attend our Annual Meeting and Christmas Party. It will be held on Sunday, December 13th at 1:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club in Lorain. A meeting and Christmas lunch will be held in the downstairs banquet hall to allow for social distancing. (Elevator is available)

Please make your reservations by December 8th. Please call Bernie at 440-960-2605 or email Marge at mugsann@gmail.com. Please be sure to leave a phone number should there be a corona surge and we have to cancel everything. Looking forward to seeing everyone.



Monessen Sr. Branch 88 Contributes to Restoration Project

Monessen Sr. Branch 88 joined with the American Legion and VFW to raise funds for restoration of the two War Memorials in Monessen. Due to Covid-19 the in-person project was forced to become a mail project. The branch made address labels, copied letters to mail to businesses and residents, folded and stuffed envelopes.

The WWI Memorial is located as one enters the City of Monessen and the WWII, Korean War, Lebanon Granada, Panama, Persian Gulf and Vietnam Memorial is located along the walking track at the city park. Some of the wear is due to years of residents visiting the sites. Trees planted near the memorials also contributed to the dirt and have since been removed. The memorials needed to have some bricks replaced and repaired, some needed repaired and resealed. A trust had been established several years ago to maintain the memorials, but projects over the years had depleted the balance.

The matching funds project was extremely successful raising more than \$25,500 in donations.

On Sunday, September 29, 2020, a rededication of the memorials was held at the walking track memorial. A crowd of residents attended the celebration. Master of Ceremonies was Honorable Wayne Vlasic. Invocation was presented by Branch 88 member, Rev. Michael Crookston of Epiphany of Our Lord Parish. National Anthem was led by Quenten Zboyovsky, Pledge of Allegiance was led by Branch 88 member and American Legion Commander, John A. Dudas, Welcome was presented by Mayor Matt Sharrow. Vlasic

introduced Branch 88 President, Dorothy Urbanowicz who presented the matching funds check from FCSLA along with a check from Branch 88. Remarks were made by Ron Chromulak of the VFW, Congressman Guy Reschenthaler, State Senator Pat Stefano and State Representative Eric Davanzo. "God Bless America" was led by Quenten Zboyovsky and Benediction was presented by Rev. Jack Howell.

All involved with the project were extremely happy with our involvement, Memorial Trust John A. Dudas-Chairman, Ron Chromulak-Vice Chairman, Matthew Rhome, Jack Howell and James Billick-Trustees.



L-R: John A. Dudas, Dorothy Urbanowicz, Branch 88 President and Ron Chromulak at the check presentation.



WWII Memorial before restoration.



WWII Memorial after restoration (left) and WWI Memorial (right).

Branch W137 Fall Activity

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Branch W137 had to be a bit more creative for its fall events. Instead of our September Fest and October hay ride events, we had an Oktoberfest drive over – delivering pumpkins and adult beverages to those who would have attended our two events. Children were able to choose pumpkins from our "Pumpkin Patch" trunk. Everyone also received a bag of candy. Adults received an adult beverage since we did not have our September fest beer tasting.



Iris and Cecilia Upah show their pumpkin choices.



Branch W137 President Barb Morrissey visits the Pumpkin Patch at Bass Farms to select pumpkins for our branch members.



Devin and Hallie Samek make their pumpkin picks.

Claybaugh Receives Scholarship Award

Maria Claybaugh, 20, of Dunlevy, PA is a recipient of the 2020 scholarship award. Maria is a junior at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, PA. She is working toward a Bachelor's Degree in Communication with a Minor in Marketing. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA and has been named to the Dean's List each semester at SVC.

Maria is involved in the Student Government Association as well as multiple clubs and activities. In the photo (below), presenting her with the award is S111 Branch representative and her grandmother, Elaine Weiss.

Maria is a 4th generation member of the FCSLA.



Charleroi Senior Branch 111 Annual Christmas Luncheon

Branch members are invited to join us on Sunday, December 6, 2020 at 12 p.m. at Dunlevy Recreation Center, 4 Walnut Street, Dunlevy, PA.

In order to take COVID-19 precautions, we will be hosting a short meeting followed by a takeout reception.

Please RSVP to Elaine Weiss at 724-326-4315 by November 13, 2020. A \$15 deposit is required and will be refunded upon arrival at the meeting.

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



Four Generations of FCSLA Members at Baptism

During this pandemic on July 12, 2020 this Baptism was held in Ann Arbor in the courtyard of St. Mary Student Parish, Ann Arbor, MI, with the reception held outdoors near the creek that runs nearby the basement apartment of Andrea and Ben Brelje with their newborn, Louise Magdalena Brelje. Front row, seated (L-R): (mother) Monica Berkemeier DelMedico holding Francesca Grace, (great-grandmother) Geraldine Gaydos, (mother) Andrea Berkemeier Brelje holding Louise Magdalena. Back row: (grandmother) Janet Gaydos Berkemeier, (father) Franz Berkemeier holding Antonia Elizabeth. Everyone is from Sr. Branch 456.



Sr. Branch 26 Members Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

John and Carol (Poydence) Hollenbaugh of Apollo, PA celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on September 19, 2020. Due to the COVID-19, their party was cancelled, and they had a quiet celebration at home where they were unexpectedly surprised by their pastor, Fr. Vincent Zidek, who arrived to pray over them and offer an anniversary blessing.

They were married on September 19, 1970 at St. James Catholic Church in Apollo, and are currently members of Our Lady, Queen of Peace Catholic Church in East Vandergrift. Mrs. Hollenbaugh is a member of the church choir, the Christian Mothers, and the Fish Fry Committee. She is retired from PNC Bank and enjoys reading, working crossword puzzles, and dancing.

Mr. Hollenbaugh is an Usher at their church. He is retired from Joy Mining Machinery and enjoys working Sudokus and crossword puzzles.

They are members of Sr. Branch 262 in East Vandergrift as well as their three sons, Brian, John, and Eric. Their seven grandchildren are all members of Jr. Branch 126 in East Vandergrift.

Mrs. (Poydence) Hollenbaugh's grandparents, parents and thirteen siblings were all members of Branch 262.



CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH FCSLA CHICAGO!

Since we cannot be together in person, let's share our favorite Thanksgiving or Christmas memory!

Send us your favorite holiday photo, drawing, or description of your family's favorite tradition. You can even color your favorite coloring page and send it in!

Submissions will be posted on our FCSLA Chicago Facebook page, and District website throughout the holiday season.

All submissions will be eligible for a random drawing to win one of twelve \$50 Amazon gift cards. The random drawing will be held on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020.

Send your submissions to fcslachicagodistrict@gmail.com. Include your name, branch #, and phone number or email, so we may contact you if you win a gift card!

Contact the Chicago District email fcslachicagodistrict@gmail.com with questions.

Attention Chicago District Members and Friends

The annual Junior branches and Senior branches Christmas parties scheduled for the end of this year have been cancelled. Due to the current COVID 19 situation, and in the interest of the health and safety of our members, we regretfully needed to cancel these annual events. Look for our flyer on how to "Celebrate Christmas with FCSLA Chicago" virtually which will be posted on the FCSLA Chicago District Facebook page, District website and in *Fraternally Yours* (on this page).



Anna Hurban Scholarship Fund

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

24950 Chagrin Boulevard
Beachwood, OH 44122
800-464-4642 • www.fcscla.org

Get Involved. Make a Donation.

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

Sincerely,
Cynthia M. Maleski
National President and CEO

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

Your Contribution Information

Donor Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Amount _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

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

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

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

District Holds Card Shower for Nursing Home Residents

The Jakabcin Eastern PA district branches have been busy during this past summer. Members reached out to area nursing homes in their respective neighborhoods and sent out cards, drawings and goodie packages to the residents. While some FCSLA members did not know the people, others had personal relationships with them. For those who were already friends, birthday cards were mailed to commemorate their milestones.

Nursing home residents looked forward to receiving the correspondences. They admired the decorative cards and were appreciative of receiving mail.

This simple act of kindness shows patients they are thought of and not forgotten. It is a great way to forge friendships between generations. So far, close to 300 cards have been sent out! Junior and Senior branches are already working on sending out a second round of good wishes. We hope to continue this project throughout the year.

Placing a Memorial in *Fraternally Yours*

A memorial for a deceased member may be placed in *Fraternally Yours* at the request of the family. They are published as space allows and include up to 250 words and a head shot photo. There is no fee associated with publication of the memorial.

To submit information you may: send a link to the online memorial to zjbazik@comcast.net; memorials are edited to 250 words or less; email a head shot and your own edited version of what you would like to appear keeping it to 250 words or less to zjbazik@comcast.net or send a hard copy of the information to: Editor, PO Box 1617, Reading, PA 19603-1617.

CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR SR. BRANCH 319 AND JR. BRANCH 187

December 12, 2020 ~ 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Location: St. John the Baptist Slovak
Catholic Church Social Hall

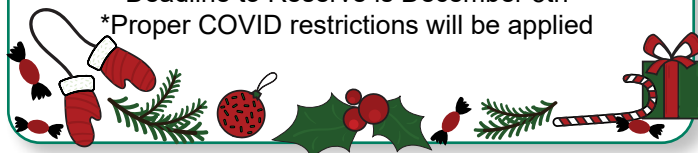
924 N. Front Street, Allentown, PA

Members: Free • Non-Members: \$25.00

Call Branch President Michele Mrazik Grasso
(610) 762-1973

Deadline to Reserve is December 5th

*Proper COVID restrictions will be applied



Henry Berkemeier Graduates from Purdue University

On May 11, 2019 Henry's immediate family joined in celebration for his graduation in Industrial Engineering. Starting off the program singing for the College of Engineering in the Elliott Hall of Music, was the Glee Club, but Henry Berkemeier, a senior member of the Glee Club soloed the premier song "This is the Moment" from the musical Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde in front of an almost packed Elliott Hall which has the capacity of holding 6000 people.

Henry is now the third generation of Purdue graduates from the extended

Gaydos family. Henry was working for Ford Motor Company in Data Analytics headquartered in Dearborn, MI, commuting from Royal Oak, but since Covid-19 hit, he moved temporarily and works for Ford remotely from his parents' home. In his free time, he golfs or helps out coaching basketball with his statistical knowledge at a nearby small college. Missing from this picture, but smiling down on us is Grandpa John J. Gaydos, BSEE 52 who started the Boilermaker tradition. Pictured are 14 out of 16 people from Sr. Branch 456.



L-R: Colonel Ray Plagens, Nick and Monica Berkemeier DelMedico, Frank and Janet Berkemeier BSIM 82, Melia and Franz and Antonia Berkemeier, Henry BSIE 2019, Grandma Geri Gaydos, Joanne Gaydos Daniel BSBio 85, Andrea Berkemeier Brelje, Morgan Plagens, Gretchen, Julie Gaydos Plagens BSChE 93, and Geraldine Berkemeier.

Godas' Celebrate 60th Anniversary

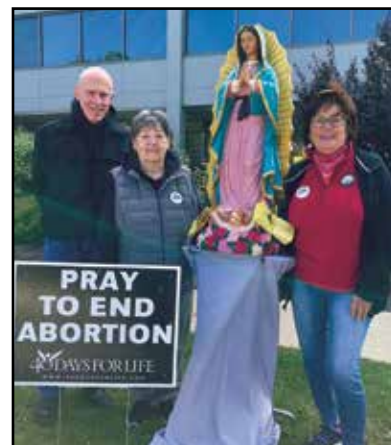
Michael and Mary Goda of Branch 177 in Clairton, PA were married on October 8, 1960 at Ascension of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church in Clairton, PA. They met on Slovak Day two years prior. They have two children: Mary Ann and Tom Goda; three grandchildren: Lena (Brian) Knapp, Marquis (Rachel) Johnson, and Devin Goda. They have been blessed with four great-grandchildren: Alexa, Ava, Adalyn Knapp, and Sienna Johnson. May God Bless them and grant them many blessed years.



PRAY TO END ABORTION

Donna Oros, President of Branch 557 joined by two members of her parish, St. Anthony of Padua in Parma, OH, prayed in front of Preterm, an abortion clinic during the 40 DAYS FOR LIFE Campaign which ran from September 23rd - November 1st. The campaign focuses on Prayer and Fasting, Community Outreach and Peaceful Vigil. On his way to a confirmation, Bishop Roger Gries saw them and stopped to give them a special blessing.

On the first Saturday of the month, St. Andrew Abbey, which is nearby holds a morning mass in its monastery chapel dedicated to the salvation of unborn children. (Currently mass has been suspended). It's followed by several hours of praying in front of Pre-term that attracts 35-40 members from Northeast Ohio parishes.



Frank and Janet Berkemeier Family Awarded St. Francis de Sales Award

On May 4, 2019, Lumen Christi Catholic School presented the St. Francis de Sales award to the Frank and Janet Berkemeier family for outstanding contribution and service to the schools over the course of 20 years that their six children attended from grades Kindergarten - 12 in Jackson, MI. Both Janet and Frank and Geraldine Gaydos, Janet's mother, are members of the St. Francis de Sales Society which used to cost \$600 per year, but has recently increased to \$750 per year. Geri's granddaughter, Geraldine Berkemeier, is now

a junior at Purdue University studying BioChemistry. Since Geraldine was in grade school, she remembers that her dad, Frank, taught them to be good stewards and would collect money from each child to contribute to the fundraiser at that time, in addition to the parents' contribution, such as Lumen Christi Catholic Schools or St. Mary Church Heritage Fund drives, so it truly was a family effort. Frank remembers growing up that his own father would collect a few dollars from each child to give to their Catholic church or school. Even if each child only started giving \$20 they learned to be generous with their hard earned money. Everyone pictured is a member of the newly revitalized Sr. Branch 456.



L-R: Gretchen, Henry, Andrea, Geraldine, Frank, Janet, baby Antonia, Melia and Franz, Geri Gaydos, and Monica Berkemeier DelMedico. Geraldine Berkemeier, standing center with the yellow dress is a graduating senior in this photo.

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.



Branch W133 member, Julie Huber is pictured donating funds to be used to restock the local Blessings Box in La Crosse, KS. The Blessing Box contents are free of charge and available to anyone in need of food, toiletries, diapers, etc. Donations were also made to the local Food Bank, Catholic Charities and Sunflower Diversified, a non-profit dedicated to helping those with developmental difficulties.

With many suffering the consequences of COVID-19, all donations are especially appreciated.



St. Ann Society Christmas Dinner 2020

St. Ann Society S140 of Lansford, PA is cordially inviting all members to the annual Christmas dinner which will be held December 6, 2020 in Macaluso's – The Lantern, Nesquehoning, PA. The meal will be served at 1:30 p.m.

Reservations are required and guests will be charged \$30.00. Deadline is November 22, 2020. Masks are required and we will be socially distant. Please call Louise Dunstan at 570-645-4354.

Blessed Christmas to all!



IN MEMORIAM

Agnes Rose Simpson, U405



Agnes Rose Simpson, 95, of Morehead City, passed away April 2, 2019. Agnes honorably served her country in the United States Army during World War II. Her loving care and attention to detail made her an excellent nurse, allowing her to help many wounded soldiers. It was in the military that she met and married the love of her life, James. Her main focus throughout her years was her church and her family. She

enjoyed St. Egbert's Catholic Church where she was a devoted and faithful member. Agnes will be remembered as an amazing and selfless wife, mother and grandmother. She was preceded in death by her husband, James Harry Simpson; parents Matthew and Edna Sisco; daughter, Aileen Marie Norman; sons, Larry Douglas Simpson and David Allen Simpson; sister, Lillian Froncek; and brother, Eddie Simpson. She is survived by her sons, James Matthew Simpson and wife Janita of Fleming Island, FL and Joseph Simpson and wife Tomy of Morehead City; 4 grandchildren; and 8 great-grandchildren.

Ralph Petrik, W093



Ralph Petrik, 81 of Sioux City, passed away September, 18 2019. He was born on February 12, 1938 in Tyndall, SD to Edward and Lillian (Faltin) Petrik. He went on to attend Southern State Teachers College in Springfield, SD where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Teaching / Music in 1960. Ralph then went on to receive his Masters from The University of South Da-

kota, Vermillion. During and after college he was a member of the Army National Guard in Springfield, SD. He was called up for duty in 1962 during the Cuban missile crisis but never saw action. He was united in marriage to Judy Grubel on May 24, 1985. His professional life started as a band instructor in Crofton, NE. He then became the music / band instructor for Sergeant Bluff Schools where he taught for many years. Ralph's passion and skill as an actor was well known and he was involved in the Sioux City Community Theater for over 40 years. Ralph enjoyed attending all of his children and grandchildren's events which included many hockey, football, baseball games and various musical events. Those left to honor his memory include his wife Judy Petrik, Sioux City; sons: Craig (Michele) Patrick, Hudson, WI, Scott (Vivian) Patrick Sergeant Bluff, IA; son in law: Jeff Greig, Overland Park Kansas; nine grandchildren; sisters-in-law Alice and Wilma Petrik, Maxine Grubel and Joanne Rowe; numerous nieces and nephews.

Anthony T. DeFino, W149



Anthony T. DeFino, 96, passed away December 30, 2019, Ankeny, IA. Anthony was born November 17, 1923 in Des Moines to Dominic and Rose (Lavia) DeFino. He was a graduate of Lincoln High School. Anthony served in the United States Army Air Corp during WWII. He retired from the Des Moines Fire Department in 1986, after 35 years of service. Anthony was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church and Bellizzi MacRae American Legion Post #659.

He was a carpenter at heart and also loved to cook. Anthony is survived by his daughter, Rosemary Brady; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; in-laws, Frank Colosimo, Charlie (Carolyn) Colosimo and Isabelle Marturello; as well as a host of extended family and dear friends.

Marion Lillian Skluzacek, W056



Marion L. Skluzacek, age 84, of Lonsdale, MN passed away on January 10, 2020. Marion was born to Frank and Mary (Schoenbauer) Tupy on November 8, 1935 at her home in Hazelwood. She attended Most Holy Trinity School in Veseli. She met her husband Norbert and worked at Queen of Peace Hospital while waiting for him to return from his service in the Army. They were united in marriage on August 30, 1955. They farmed together for thirty-two years on a dairy farm north of Lonsdale. Marion

treasured her Catholic faith, family, friends, her Czech traditions and culture. Her favorite trip was exploring Europe, especially the roots of her Czech heritage in the Czech Republic. She had the gift of making people feel welcomed and loved. She was an active member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Council of Catholic Women, Immaculate Conception Choir, Fatima Prayer Group, and American Legion Auxiliary. Marion is survived by her children GERALYN Sticha and Rick Burns of Veseli, Greg and Deanna Skluzacek of Lonsdale and Jim and Cheryl Marek of Northfield; her ten grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. Surviving siblings include Fritz (Karen) Tupy, Clarence (Joanie) Tupy, Gene (Dorothy) Tupy and Ken (Sally) Tupy all of New Prague. Her in-laws include Jeanette Sticha of Lonsdale, Loretta Hauer of Apple Valley, Bernie (Bo) Bissonette of Mapleton, Eleanor Skluzacek of Lonsdale, Valeria (Bob) McHale of Woodstock, VA, Sister Marilyn Skluzacek, OP of Sinsinawa, WI and John (Jane) Skluzacek of Lonsdale. She is also survived by 55 nieces and nephews and many other relatives and friends that were dear to her heart.

Fr. Ildephonse Skorup, O.F.M., S225



Fr. Ildephonse Skorup, O.F.M., a Franciscan friar of the Sacred Heart Province, died January 23, 2020 in Manitowoc, WI, at the age of 89. Edward Skorup was born on March 18, 1930, in Chicago, IL, to Aemilian Skorup and Anna (Litviak) Skorup. Edward was received into the Franciscan community as a novice on July 4, 1952, and given the name Ildephonse. He professed solemn vows on July 5, 1956, and was

ordained a priest by Bishop William O'Connor on June 24, 1959. After ordination, Fr. Ildephonse studied at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH, pursuing a degree in Education. He taught at Padua Franciscan High School in Cleveland, OH, for two years. For the next six years, he was a pastoral minister in two Missouri parishes. Education was his first priority, so he went back to teaching at St. Francis de Sales High School in Chicago, IL, for seventeen years. After a much-needed sabbatical, Fr. Ildephonse changed ministries and became the chaplain for the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Frankfort, IL. He retired in 2013 and moved to Blessed Giles Friary in Manitowoc. He is survived by his brother, Emil of Orland Park, IL; a niece, Madeleine (Thomas)

Kwiatowski; two nephews, Mark (Karen) Skorup and Emil David Skorup; 8 great-nieces and nephews and several great-great nieces and nephews, and his Franciscan family.

Elizabeth M. Wascak, S149



Elizabeth M. Wascak, 95, of E. Gore Rd., Erie, PA, formerly of Corry, passed away on January 27, 2020. She was born August 3, 1924 in Rossford, OH, the daughter of the late Michael and Caroline (Sramcik) Stolar. Elizabeth was raised and educated in Rossford, OH, graduating from Rossford High School in 1942. In 1944 she enlisted into the United States Navy where she was stationed in Illinois and Texas. In 1946 her plans were to re-enlist in the Navy until she

attended a wedding in Corry, PA, where she met the man who would become her husband and love of her life, John Wascak. They married six months later on November 23, 1946 in Toledo, OH. She then moved to Corry where she raised and cared for her family. Elizabeth belonged to St. Thomas Roman Catholic Church in Corry where she was very active with children's activities, cooking for fund-raisers and events. She also belonged to the Altar Rosary Society and Catholic Daughters of America, holding many offices including Regent and District Deputy. Faith was an important part of her life. She prayed daily and said the Rosary every night. She enjoyed traveling, visiting her children, grandchildren and her family in Ohio. She was a huge sports fan and was an avid Atlanta Braves fan. Elizabeth was well known for having a great sense of humor. Elizabeth is survived by a daughter, Carol Huffman and her husband Darrell of Erie, PA; two daughters-in-law, Barbara Wascak of Mentor, OH and Joan Wascak of Manassas, VA. Also surviving are three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Edward Fred "Ed" Melichar, W045



Edward Fred "Ed" Melichar, 77, of Cedar Rapids, IA died January 28, 2020. Edward was born February 24, 1942 in Cedar Rapids, the son of Joseph and Blanche (Terpkosh) Melichar. A hard-working man best describes Ed, who throughout most of his years of employment, worked both a full time, as well as a part time job while also fulfilling his military obligations.

Ed proudly served his country in the U.S. Naval Reserve and was on active duty during the Vietnam Era. He was stationed aboard the USS Maloy when it took part in the Naval blockade of Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Ed was a member of the following organizations: Fleet Reserve Association Branch 216 where he served as treasurer; Post 298 of the American Legion in Marion and the Cadets of St. George Branch W045, FCSLA (formerly Catholic Workman) where he served as vice-president. Ed has been a member of Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church since his marriage to the former Janet Jakoubek on February 23, 1963. Following the flood of 2008, Ed volunteered many months, along with other volunteers, on the restoration of St. Wenceslaus Church. Ed also served on the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Parish Council. By far, Ed's greatest joys were family oriented. Family trips, events and activities, especially those involving his three granddaughters whom he adored. Ed is survived by his wife of 56

years, Janet; daughters, Lori (Ryan) DeCamp and Sheri (David) Johnston, all of Cedar Rapids; three granddaughters, and great-great-granddaughter. Also surviving is a sister, Janice Ashbacher of Solon; sisters-in-law, Sharlene Melichar and Beverly Thole both of Cedar Rapids; brother-in-law, James (Melva) Jakoubek of Cedar Rapids and many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Agnes P. Gecik, S553



Agnes P. Gecik (nee Klucho) was born on January 13, 1926 and passed away on January 18, 2020 at the age of 94. She was beloved wife of John J. for 70 years; loving mother of Marie T., John F., late Gerard J. (Cynthia), and Leonard T. Gecik and Rosanne M. (Thomas P.) McGuire; dearest grandmother of Matthew G. and Rachel C. Gecik and Dr. Meredith R. Mc-

Guire; dear sister of Claire Jubak, Joseph Klucho; Aunt of many and Friend of many.

Patricia Martonik Ross, S464



Patricia Martonik Ross, 79, died January 29, 2020, in Phoenix, AZ. The family lived on the Ross homestead for 30 years in Arizona after arriving from their hometown of Pittsburgh. Born March 17, 1940, Patty was raised by a strong Slovak Catholic. Patty attended Tarentum High School. At one enchanted dance at St. Joseph High School in Natrona in 1956, she met a youth

baseball and prep basketball star named Jakey Ross. Patty moved to Nashville to work as a stewardess for American Airlines. She met two friends for life in 1959, Kathy Stenson Behr and Connie Scott, who cared for her in her final days in Phoenix. Patty returned to Pittsburgh and ran into Jake Ross again at a party. The two married in June 1964 in Patty's home church in Tarentum, and moved to Washington, D.C. Patty continued to fly with American. They returned to Pittsburgh in 1970 to raise their family. Eventually they moved to Phoenix, joining her parents, aunts and uncles who had retired in the Valley of the Sun. Patty continued her loving role as a mother to Jay and Craig. Their friends cherished her dinners at the Ross ranch. After her boys graduated high school, Patty volunteered with the Heard Museum, a museum of Native American culture and history in Phoenix, and for Hospice of the Valley, where she provided comfort to ailing friends for 25 years. Her family includes husband, Jacob; son, Jay son, Craig and his wife, Danielle; two grandchildren; brother, Martin Martonik Jr. and his wife, Nancy, of Butler; and Aunt Frances Kupcik.

Keith F. Konopacky, U155

Keith Konopacky passed away on April 8, 2020. He was 58 years old. Keith was born in New Brunswick, NJ and lived the remainder of his life in Edison. He was an HVAC technician and was a member of Plumbers and Pipefitters UA Local 9 in Englishtown and was also a member of the National Nostalgic Nova Club of Harrisburg, PA. He is survived by his parents Bronislaw and Joan (Holtz) Konopacky of Monroe Twp., two siblings Karen Konopacky of Piscataway, and Donna Adinolfi and her husband Dean of Jobstown, and three nieces, goddaughter, Marisa, and Lisa, and Teresa.

Continued on page 20

90th Birthday Kick-Off Celebration for Geraldine Hovanec Gaydos

Two matching funds events occurred on Sunday, September 6th at the home of Colonel Ray and Dr. Julie Plagens, located on the St. Joe River in Elkhart, IN. Ray and Julie are the son-in-law and daughter of Geraldine Gaydos and the late John J. Gaydos, who is turning 90 on November 29th. In lieu of gifts, Geri asked for donations to either Birthline Pregnancy and Parenting Center of Jackson, MI or VHL Alliance



John J. Gaydos graduated from Purdue in 1952, her five children and daughter-in-law and now a grandson have all graduated from Purdue, there is a Catholic connection to St. Tom's Student Parish. All three charities have met their goal of \$600. Thank you to everyone's generosity and thoughtfulness! God bless us all!



Von-Hippel Lindau Alliance for Cancer Research (VHL) FCSLA Matching Fund Events / Anna Hovanec Family Reunion at Geri Gaydos' 90th Birthday



(Von Hippel-Lindau) headquartered in Boston. Geri's son-in-law Frank Berkemeier, a new member of FCSLA, has volunteered at Birthline for over 40 years as their legal counsel and board member. Janet and Andrea and Geraldine have all volunteered for Birthline. Geri's granddaughter Andrea was diagnosed with VHL when

she was 12 years old. Since Geri's birthday party over Labor Day, a third and ongoing FCSLA matching fund event was established in Geri's honor for Purdue University St. Thomas Aquina (St. Tom's) Student Parish. Since Geri's husband,



Special guest Anna Hovanec, and sister-in-law to Geri Gaydos, drove in from Lake Station, Indiana, with her good friend Ralph Larson to celebrate Geri's 90th birthday and fund raising event. Anna was married to the late John Hovanec, who was Geri's older brother from Crown Point. John and Anna Hovanec had five children and all five were present at this party: John Hovanec, Jr. and children from Indianapolis, Myfawny and Mark Elijah and children from Hebron, Regis Hovanec from Denver, Jeanne from Marlborough, MA, and Annie from Chicago. Anna made the nut kolachi for dessert for the guests.



L-R: sisters Myfawny Hovanec Elijah, Annie Hovanec and Jeannie Hovanec Adams;



Continued on page 17

Anna Hovanec Family Reunion (Cont.)



All the Plagens and Hovanec cousins on the upper deck overlooking the St. Joe River.



L-R: Geri Gaydos, Dr. Joanne Gaydos-Daniel, Anna Hovanec, Ralph Larson, Colonel Ray Plagens.



L-R: Anna Hovanec, Ralph, John Hovanec, Jr., Regis Hovanec, Geri Gaydos.



Michalec Family Reunion at Geri Gaydos' 90th Birthday Party

Special guest Steven Michalec, and brother-in-law to Geri Gaydos, drove in from Highland, IN with his daughter, Andrea (Michalec) Carberry, of Valporaiso. Steven, age 96 and lifetime member of FCSLA wouldn't miss this opportunity to celebrate this 90th birthday and raise money for the charities Birthline and VHL in honor of his sister-in-law, Geraldine Hovanec Gaydos. Steve was married to Geraldine's older sister, the late Mary (Hovanec) Michalec. Together Steve and Mary Michalec had six children who were also members of FCSLA.



L-R: Geri's grandson-in-law Ben Brelje, granddaughter Andrea Berkemeier Brelje holding great-granddaughter Louise Magdalena, Geri Gaydos sitting together with Steve Michalec, nephew Paul Michalec, son John C. Gaydos and niece Andrea (Michalec) Carberry.



More relatives traveled from afar to celebrate with their "Aunt Geri" Gaydos for her 90th birthday!



L-R: Mary and Phil Berkemeier from Jackson, MI, and Joe and Judy Hovanec from Deerfield, IL also from S81.

Continued on page 18

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Branch 313

28th Annual Spartan Scramble

Saint Joseph High School, Natrona Heights, PA, has served students and families within Branch 313's community for over 100 years. On Friday, September 18, 2020, our members sponsored SJHS's 28th Annual Spartan Scramble. This annual fundraiser brings together students, parents, alumni, and friends in support of Saint Joseph High School, allowing SJHS to maintain its tradition of academic excellence, while keeping tuition as affordable as possible. This day of fun and fellowship began with 18 holes of golf and ended with dinner. FCSLA members helped to ensure the success of this event through their involvement with planning and promotion. On the day of the event, members assisted with various activities, especially the Best Spartan Putting Contest. The event raised approximately \$20,000 in total, with the Best Spartan Putting Contest accounting for \$750.

Branch 313 has been a sponsor for a number of years and this has been a matching funds for a number of years. All COVID-19 practices were used, the event was held outside and the dinner was boxed to take home. Several other branch officers and members served on the committee for the event.



FCSLA member Tom Kaniecki and other Branch 313, Natrona Heights, PA members.

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 with your updated information.

Please Stay Safe and Healthy!

Branch W006

Quilt Raffle

Holy Trinity Branch W006 (Heun, NE) did a matching grant with the children of Howells Community Catholic School with a quilt raffle! Holding the FCSLA sign is Christi and Justin Mastny and Andy and Molly Cada. The event along with the Fun Fest is an annual fundraiser for the school.



Gerri Gaydos' 90th Birthday *(Continued)*



L-R: Tom Hovanec, from Indianapolis, IN, Frank Berke-meier from Jackson, MI, Mark Elijah from Hebron, IN, and Steve Daniel from Murfreesboro, TN.



Regis Hovanec from Denver, CO, with brother John Hovanec, Jr. from Indianapolis and second cousin Joe Hovanec, (son of the late Florence Hovanec, S81) from Deerfield, IL.

FORMATION OF NOUNS BY MEANS OF PREFIXES

The meaning of nouns can be altered by means of the prefixes:

proti-: *protiklad* (contrast), *protiútok* (counter-attack), *protiváha* (counter-weight);

medzi-: *medziposchodie* (mezzanine), *medzivládie* (interregnum);

ná-: *nálet* (air-raid), *nácvik* (drill), *nález* (find);

nad-: *nadčlovek* (superman), *nadpis* (title), *nadporučík* (lieutenant), *nadvýroba* (overproduction);

pod-: *poddôstojník* (non-commissioned officer), *podhradie* (outer bailey), *podnebie* (climate), *podpredseda* (vice-president);

pred-: *predmestie* (suburb), *predpis* (prescription), *predpoklad* (assumption), *predseda* (chairman);

pra-: *prajazyk* (proto-language), *prales* (primeval forest), *pravek* (prehistoric times);

pa-: *paroh* (antler), *pazvuk* (alien tone);

sú-: *súbeh* (competition), *súčasník* (contemporary), *súčet* (sum), *súhlas* (agreement);

pre-: *preklad* (translation), *prebytok* (excess), *prehľad* (survey), *presun* (shift), *prestavba* (reconstruction);

bez-: *bezvedomie* (inconsciousness), *bezvládie* (anarchy).

FORMATION OF NOUNS BY COMBINATION

By combining roots and stems compound nouns are formed. The two elements are most frequently joined with the help of the vowel -o-, e.g. *tlakomer* (manometer), *teplomer* (thermometer), *liehovar* (distillery), *Bielorus* (Byelorussian).

Here also belong compounds whose first element has a meaning close to a prefix, e.g.:

polo-, *pol-*: *pologuľa* (hemisphere), *polotma* (semi-darkness), *poldeň* (half-day), *polhárok* (half-sheet), *polmesiac* (crescent), *polnoc* (midnight), *polostrov* (peninsula), *polrok* (half-year);

spolu-: *spoluhláska* (consonant), *spolupráca* (cooperation);

veľ-: *veľnoc* (the Great Power), *veľtrh* (fair),

veľvyslanec (ambassador), *veľryba* (whale).

Less often the compounds are formed by a simple connection of two forms (one of them is in the genitive or in some other case), e.g. *zemeguľa* (globe), *kníhtlačiareň* (printing-house), *pravdepodobnosť* (probability), *nocľah* (night-shelter).

VOCABULARY

ako – how

alebo – or

(byť) dlho hore – (to be) long up

bývať – to live; iterative of **byť** – to be usually

celý – all, whole

cez – during, through, across

cez (deň) – during (the day)

čas – time

číslo – number

človek, ľudia – man, people

desať – ten

deväť – nine

dlho – long

dobré – well, good

doma – at home

dva – two

hoci – though, although

hore – up, upstairs

hra – play, game

chodiť – to go

iný – other, another, different

ísť domov – go home

izba – room

ja – I

každý, á, é – each, every, everybody

konať – to do, to act

môj – my

my – we

naš – our

nechávať – to leave

neskoro – late

niečo – something

niekedy – sometimes, some day

no – but

obyčajne – usually

on – he

ona – she

oni (ony) – they

päť – five

poriadok – order, discipline, neatness

poznať – to know

práca – work

presne – precisely, punctually, accurately

pretože – because, since, as

prichádzať – to come, to arrive

mať rád, a, o – to like

ráno – morning, in the morning

rozličný, á, é – various

rozprávať sa – to speak, to chat

rýchlo – fast, quickly



IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth A. "Betty" Grudzinski, W006



Elizabeth A. "Betty" Grudzinski, 88, of Ashton, NE died February 1, 2020. Betty was born to Anton C. and Frances I. (Badura) Stobbe on September 27, 1931, on a farm southeast of Ashton. The family later moved to their home in Ashton, and she graduated from Ashton High School in May of 1949. She was united in marriage to Eugene Grudzinski on June 21, 1949, at the St. Francis Catholic Church in Ashton, holding the wedding reception at the home of her parents. Betty had a passion for farm life and was involved in every aspect of it. Her personal joys were raising pigs, milking cows, raising chickens and baking the most wonderful big cinnamon rolls for her family. Her hobbies were embroidering, polka dancing, playing 10-point pitch and occasionally gambling. Later in life, she and Gene traveled to Alaska, Las Vegas and points in between. She was a member of St. Josaphat's Catholic Church and its Council of Catholic Women. She is survived by her six children, Cindy Gappa of Ashton, Steve and Sheila Grudzinski of Loup City, Morrie Grudzinski of Grand Island, Scott Grudzinski of Ashton, Brian and Kayleen Grudzinski of Rockville, and Carrie and Alan Petska of Ord; ten grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Aileen Zeleski of Loup City; and many nieces and nephews.

Eleanor Walters, U258



Eleanor M. Walters was born on February 14, 1925 in Chicago, IL to John and Jennie (nee Rybarski) Wojtalik. She died February 11, 2020 in Arlington Heights, IL. Eleanor worked as a bookkeeper for many small businesses over the years. Her math and organizational skills helped her manage raising seven children on a shoestring budget. Eleanor loved to cook for her family and friends. Her pierogis were renowned (if you were fast enough to grab one) and eagerly awaited every holiday season. Her favorite things to do were to plan, shop, and cook for a crowd. Even when she lived alone later in life, she always made a huge pot of soup that could serve an entire sports team. Eleanor's life was marked by a positive attitude, her strong faith, and love of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Eleanor is survived by her children Chris (John Walker) Martin, Janet (Michael) Romito, John (Jennifer) Walters, Mary Ellen (Louis) Posedel, Thomas (Carrie) Walters and Michael (Susan) Walters; her 13 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; and several loving nieces and nephews.

Edna V. Hynoski, U320

Edna V. Hynoski of Chalfont, PA died on March 19, 2020, she was 95. Edna was the loving wife of the late Elmer W. Hynoski. Born in Old Forge, PA, she was the daughter of the late Stanley and Eva Pavloski Jacobs. She was a devoted member of St. Stanislaus Church in Austin Heights until its closing. Edna spent most of her life in Old Forge, where she worked until retirement as a secretary for the Old Forge School District. She relocated to Chalfont in 2009 to be with her daughter and family and quickly became an active parishioner of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Hilltown, where she was a member of the senior group.

In her younger years, Edna was a (very amateur but avid) golfer, music lover, gardener, and traveler with her husband. In Hilltown, she enjoyed playing cards (especially rummy) with other members of the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Senior Group, and she dearly loved spending time with all her four-legged friends. Above all else, Edna will be remembered for her steadfast love and devotion for her family who will miss her dearly. Her appreciation and joy for the simple things in life will be remembered fondly. Surviving are Edna's daughter, Carol Knopp and her husband, Arthur, of Chalfont; her grandchildren, Maria White (Michael) and Michael Knopp; and her brother, Stanley Jacobs (the late Bonnie). Also surviving are treasured extended family members and friends.

Robert J. Bobish, S196



Robert J. "Bob" Bobish, 86, of Shenandoah Heights, PA passed away March 22, 2020. Born Jan. 16, 1934, in Shenandoah, he was a son of the late John and Olive (Witkowski) Bobish. He was a 1952 graduate of the former Shenandoah Catholic High School. Robert was a decorated Air Force Korean War veteran, having served his country from 1952 until 1956. He received the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He was a life member of Shenandoah AMVETS Post 7, where he served as post commander from 1975 until 1976. Prior to his retirement, Bob was a truck driver for Reading Anthracite. He was a member of Divine Mercy Parish, Shenandoah, formerly St. Stephen Church. Bob loved his family, church and country. He was often seen taking his daily walks in downtown Shenandoah and visiting the former Adoration Chapel at St. Casimir Church. Surviving are his sister, Elizabeth "Bettie" Coyle and her husband, James "Jim," of Bluffton, SC; nieces and nephews, Allison McCann and her husband, Sean, Coleen Huff and her husband, Ken, James J. Coyle, Shannon Kingston and her husband, Bryan, Kevin Bobish and his wife, Lori, John Bobish and Jackie Bobish; great-nieces and-nephews; a cousin, Jim Kelly; his caregiver for the past three years, Rose Lawson.

Rosemary Yurko Munshower, Branch S030



Rosemary Munshower passed away peacefully on September 30, 2020. Her two devoted sons, Ed and Karl, were by her side, and she was surrounded by the prayers and love of her family and friends. Rosemary was born in Youngstown, OH on May 3, 1928, the daughter of George and Mary (Kramer) Yurko. She attended Holy Name Grade School and graduated Ursuline High School, Class of 1946, where she was a majorette and crowned Snow Ball Queen. She pursued her love of nursing at St. Elizabeth School of Nursing and worked as a registered nurse at St. Elizabeth Hospital. She continued her nursing career at West Palm Beach Hospital in Florida and at Case Western Hospital in Cleveland, OH. In May 1957, Rosemary married her loving husband Edward Munshower in Youngstown and they later moved to Florida and then Pennsylvania. Rosemary will be remembered as a loving and devoted wife, mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. She leaves her loving son Edward, his wife Linda, and their daughter Mary; her loving son Karl, his wife Colleen, and their children Ryan and Kate.

2021 Slovak Catholic Federation "Dobry Pastier" Good Shepherd

Rosemary's husband, Edward, passed away in 1991. Rosemary was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Rev. Augustine Yurko, O.S.B., Rev. William Yurko, John Yurko, and Thomas Yurko; and sisters, Sister Mary William Yurko, O.S.U., Jeanette Rigelsky, and Loretta Ann Kosar.

Irene Michalina Sawa, Z752



Irene Michalina Sawa, 90, of Leisure World Seal Beach, CA, passed away on March 29, 2019. She was the wife of the late Michael Stanley Sawa. Born in Woonsocket, RI, she was the daughter of the late Walter and Helen (Sak) Tokarczyk. She graduated from Woonsocket High School and attended Bryant College of Business Administration. Irene worked as a bookkeeper

for various businesses in Woonsocket, RI and in Manhattan, NY, and as an office clerk with Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in South Gate, CA. She went on to employment as a general clerk in accounts receivable with National Biscuit Company (Nabisco) of Vernon, CA, where she remained for 32 years. Irene was actively involved with the Holy Family Catholic Church Little Flower Guild Altar Society and the Magic Red. Her greatest love was her family and the closeness they shared. Irene is survived by her daughter, Michele Swanson-Wolcott and her husband, Denis of Long Beach, CA; her son, Michael W. Sawa and his wife Jeanette of Dallas, TX; three grandchildren; sister-in-law, Dorothy W. Tokarczyk of Westborough, MA, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mildred Chopko, S161



Mildred (Fabian) Chopko, age 91, of Newton Falls, OH passed away on April 3, 2020. She was born on July 7, 1928, in Youngstown, OH the daughter of the late Michael and Petronella (Friedman) Fabian. After graduation from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1946, she worked for Strouss Department Store and the Cost Department at US Steel in Youngstown. Mildred married Albert R. Chopko on August

25, 1951 and moved to Newton Falls. She worked with her husband as a licensed insurance agent at Chopko Real Estate & Morgan Insurance Agency from 1973 to 1989. Mildred was a member of the St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church for over 65 years and was a member of the Ladies Guild in which she served as a secretary for 7 years. She was also a member of 2006 Renewal Group (Outreach Ministry), choir member, member of the Ladies Golf League at Riverview Golf Course for many years. She was an avid reader, a talented painter, and cross stitcher in which she received many awards. Mildred was also a volunteer of the Newton Falls 2006 Bicentennial; the Senior Art Group of Youngstown, and the Silver Sneakers of Newton Falls. Memories of Mildred will be carried on by her loving family; her children Robert A. (Marsha) Chopko of Baldwinsville, NY; Joan E. (Don) Lubonovic of Newton Falls; daughter-in-law Diane Chopko of Akron; seven grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.



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**FIRST CATHOLIC
SLOVAK LADIES
ASSOCIATION**

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.

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REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF JUNE 30, 2020

ASSETS

Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 38,078,097
Bonds	975,105,067
Preferred Stock	2,254,918
Common Stock	5,902,664
Investment Income Due & Accrued	13,889,795
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	4,883,921
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,300,139
Other Assets	991,475

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 1,043,406,077

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 302,108,095
Annuity Reserves	611,737,411
Death Claims Payable	2,992,847
Unearned Premiums	448,051
Matured Endowments	382,817
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,400,000
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,844,378
Accrued Convention Donations	112,500
Provision for Future Conventions	140,611
Asset Valuation Reserve	10,525,825
Interest Maintenance Reserve	383,400
Other Liabilities	1,737,647

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$ 936,813,582

Surplus \$ 106,592,495

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS FUNDS

\$ 1,043,406,077

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Six Months Ending June 30, 2020

REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 1,989,783
Annuity Premiums	19,809,065
Investment Income	23,797,870
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	40,083
Rental Income	180,255
Other Revenue	19,949

TOTAL REVENUE

\$ 45,837,006

EXPENSE

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 925,095
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	12,649,376
Insurance Benefits	3,929,255
Annuity Benefits	18,807,276
Commission Expense	575,299
Surrender Benefits	1,669,564
Matured Endowments	(14,670)
Interest Expense	189,411
Salaries — Employees	342,403
Tax Expense	27,322
Sales Expense	25,617

LIFE AND ANNUITY EXPENSES

\$ 39,125,948

Revenue Less Life and Annuity Expenses

\$ 6,711,057

Bank Service Charges	75,073
Data Processing Service Fees	91,968
Accounting Fees	113,855
Actuarial Fees	175,607
Legal Fees	39,604
Consulting Fees	39,526
Employee Benefits	286,143
Fees — Directors	96,826
Salaries — Employees	606,810
Salaries — Officers	281,645
Temporary Office Expenses	41,626
Tax Expense	75,501
Depreciation Expense	125,690
Utility Expense	46,566
Postage and Printing	99,670
Advertising & Marketing	22,572
Travel Expense	19,508
Insurance Department Fees	53,389
Sales Expense	67,097
Rental Expense	180,255
Building Expense	74,636
Insurance Expense	23,389
Office Equipment & Supplies Expense	70,253
Dues & Subscriptions	36,758
Human Resources	14,754
Other Expense	9,528

SALES & OPERATING EXPENSES

\$ 2,768,247

Revenue Less Sales & Operating Expenses

\$ 3,942,811

Post Mortem Benefits	774,853
Misc. Member Benefits	41,815
Donation Expenses	38,269
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	75,000
Convention Expenses	93,750
Branch and District Funding	381,690
Fraternal Activities	43,015
Official Publications	269,352
Scholarship Awards	142,000

DIRECT FRATERNAL EXPENSES

\$ 1,859,744

Income (Loss) from Operations

\$ 2,083,067

Dividends to Members 699,406

Subtotal Income (Loss)

\$ 1,383,661

Capital Gains (Loss) 1,010,409

NET INCOME (Loss)

\$ 2,394,070

SLOVAK WORDS AND ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

Color:

dark
black
blue/azure
brown
gray
green
light
orange
pink/rose
red
violet/purple
white
yellow
What color?
What color do you like?

Farba:

tmavý
čierny
modrý/belasy
hnedý
sivý/šedý
zelený
svetlý
oranžový
ružový
červený
fialový
biely
žltý
Akej farby?
Akú farbu máte radi?

Translate into Slovak and then vice versa:

In the morning I get up very early. I start the day like every other man. Because I live quite far away, I go by train. The teacher demands neatness and accurate work. We also like to be neat and tidy. We do our work accurately and quickly. I am in school all day. But that does not mean that I don't go out in the fresh air. At school we also have time for various games. When I have free time I read. At home we talk.

Ráno vstávam veľmi skoro. Deň začínam tak, ako každý iný človek. Pretože bývam dosť ďaleko, chodievam vlakom. Učiteľ žiada poriadok a presnú prácu. Ale dobrý poriadok máme radi aj my. Každú prácu konáme presne a rýchlo. Celý deň som v škole. Ale to neznamena, že nevychádzam na vzduch. V škole máme čas aj na rozličné hry. Keď mám voľný čas, čítam. Doma sa rozprávame.



FLAVORS OF FALL

SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

3 pounds sweet potatoes (about 8),
peeled and cut into 1-inch chunks
Coarse salt and ground pepper
½ cup whole milk
4 tablespoons butter
½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
2 cups mini marshmallows

or chopped regular marshmallows
Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Place sweet potatoes in a large saucepan, and cover with cold water by 1 inch; salt generously. Bring to a boil; reduce to a simmer, and cook until easily pierced with the tip of a paring knife, 15 to 20 minutes. Drain, and return to pan. Heat over medium, stirring, until liquid has evaporated and a thin film covers bottom of pan, about 2 minutes.

Remove pan from heat; add milk, butter, and nutmeg. Mash until smooth; season with salt and pepper. Transfer sweet-potato mixture to a 2-quart baking dish. (To make ahead, refrigerate, up to 1 day.)

Top casserole with marshmallows; bake until center is warmed through and marshmallows are lightly browned, 15 to 20 minutes.

KAPUSTNICA (SAUERKRAUT SOUP)

1 lb. smoked pork or ham, or ham hocks
¼ teaspoon allspice or nutmeg
1 bay leaf
½ teaspoon caraway seeds
1 cup sauerkraut
1 small onion, sliced thinly
2 teaspoon paprika powder
1 clove garlic, minced
1 lb. dried mushrooms
1 Hungarian or Polish-style smoked sausage (1 small or ½ large)
½ cup dry red wine

½ teaspoon sugar
½ tablespoon vinegar
½ teaspoon dried marjoram
Sour cream (for garnish)

Add smoked ham, 4 cups water, bay leaf, pepper, allspice, and ½ teaspoon salt to a pot. Bring to a boil, turn heat to low, cover with lid and simmer for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, slice onions thinly. In a separate frying pan, heat 1-2 tablespoons oil and sauté onions until translucent, but not brown for about 5 minutes.

Mix in 2 teaspoons paprika and stir into onions. Remove from heat. Add sauerkraut to the pot, with a little bit of the juice.

Next stir in the onions, mushrooms and garlic. Cover with lid and simmer for another 30 minutes.

Remove ham from soup. Cut meat from bone (if any) and trim any thick pieces of skin. Chop up the meat into small pieces.

Return ham to pot and simmer another 20 minutes. Add wine.

Cut up sausage and add it to the pot along with the vinegar, sugar and marjoram.

Cook for another 5-10 minutes. Add a little more vinegar, salt, pepper, and/or sugar to adjust to your taste. Serve with a dollop of sour cream over top.

HALUŠKY

2 medium potatoes
1 cup flour
1 teaspoon salt
6 oz. smoked or regular bacon (block, cubed)
½ tablespoon vegetable oil
4 oz. bryndza or other soft cheese like feta, goat or cottage
2 oz. whipping or heavy cream (optional)
Grate the potatoes and place in a bowl.

Mix flour and salt with potatoes until you get a thick, sticky dough. It should easily stick to your spatula or spoon. If not, add a few more tablespoons flour until it does.

Chop bacon into small cubes and fry in ½ tablespoon oil on low heat until crisp and brown. Meanwhile bring a large pot of water to a boil and add some salt to it.

Test a small spoonful of the halusky mix in the boiling water. It should cook into a soft dumpling in 3-4 minutes. If the mix seems like it's not holding together, add more flour to thicken.

The traditional way to make the halusky is to put the batter on a cutting board and cut small dumplings directly into the boiling water. If you have a special halusky (or spaetzle) sieve or press, you can use that too.

Drip several halusky dumplings in at a time. They will sink to the bottom so give them a quick stir.

Cook halusky until they float to the top and have changed color. Strain out with

a slotted spoon, hand strainer and place into a colander to drain. Repeat the boiling process until all the batter is cooked.

Once all halusky are cooked, let drain for 2-3 minutes.

Transfer to a large bowl and mix with the cheese until evenly coated. If you like it extra creamy, mix in some whipping or heavy cream.

Divide halusky onto plates and top with the fried bacon.

PUMPKIN CREAM PIE

For the Pie

1 Basic Pie Crust, rolled and fitted into a 9-inch pie plate
1 can (15 ounces) pure pumpkin puree
2 large eggs
¾ cup packed light-brown sugar
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon, plus more for serving
1 teaspoon pumpkin-pie spice
½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup heavy cream

For the Topping

1 teaspoon unflavored gelatin, (from a ¼ oz. envelope)
1½ cups heavy cream
¼ cup granulated sugar

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Press a sheet of aluminum foil onto crust, draping over rim of pie plate. To blind-bake: Fill with dried beans or pie weights. Bake until edge of crust is firm, about 20 minutes. Remove beans and foil; let crust cool completely, and set aside.

Reduce heat to 350 degrees.

Make filling: In a medium bowl, whisk together pumpkin, eggs, sugar, cinnamon, pie spice, vanilla, and salt; whisk in cream. Pour mixture into cooled crust; place pie plate on a rimmed baking sheet. Bake until filling is set, about 1 hour. Let cool on a wire rack, 1 hour; refrigerate to cool completely, about 2 hours.

Make topping: Place 3 tablespoons cold water in a small saucepan; sprinkle with gelatin, and let soften, about 5 minutes. Place pan over very low heat; stir until gelatin dissolves. Let cool slightly. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat cream and sugar until very soft peaks form. While beating, slowly add gelatin mixture; continue to beat until soft peaks form.

With a rubber spatula, mound topping in center of chilled pie. Refrigerate at least 1 hour more (or up to 1 day). Sprinkle with more cinnamon before serving.



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.