



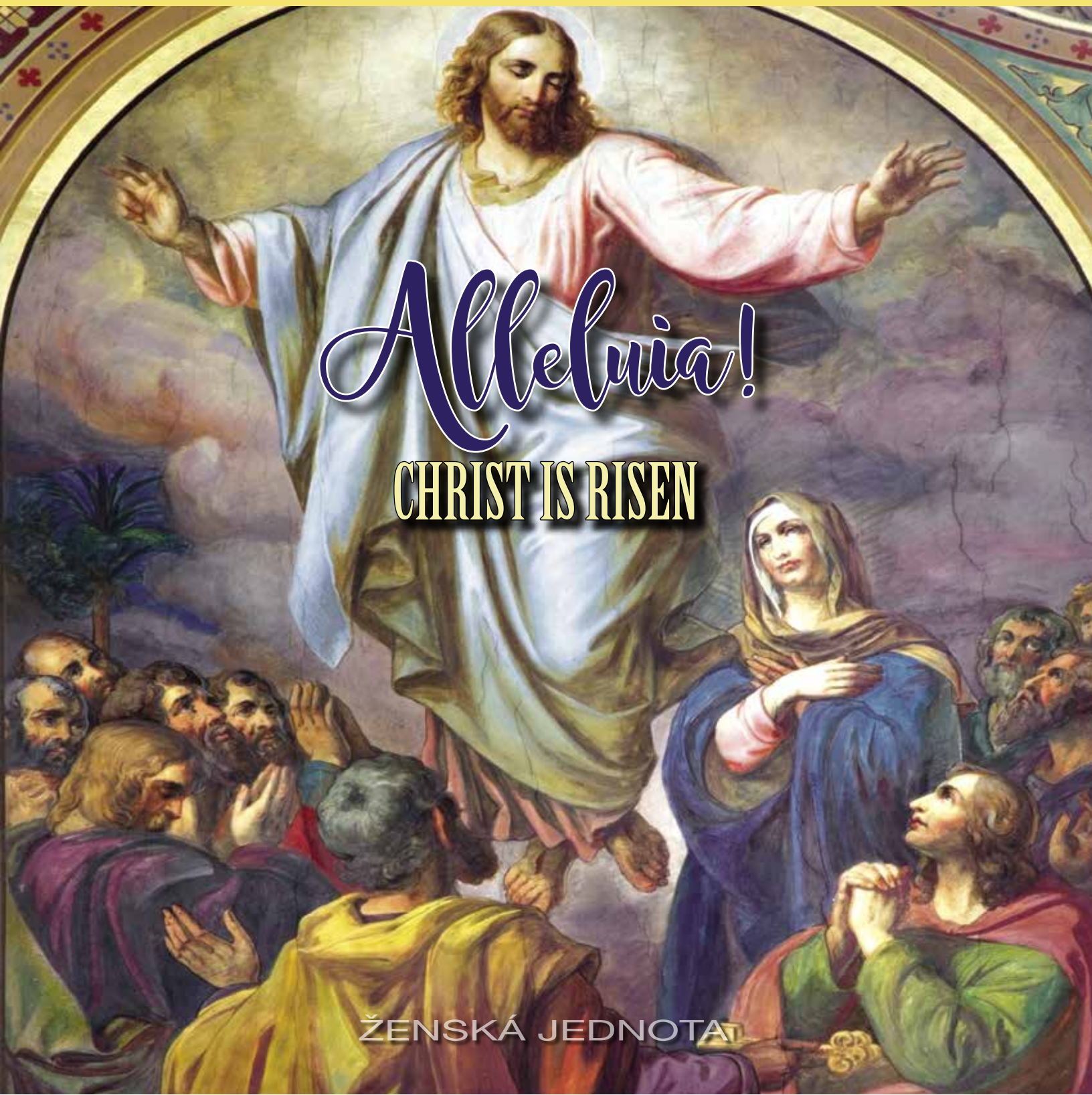
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# Fraternally Yours®

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

VOL. 107, NO. 7

APRIL 2021



## Alleluia!

### CHRIST IS RISEN

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



## Fraternally Yours, ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA®



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# The Easter Lily

For many, the beautiful trumpet-shaped white flowers symbolize purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life—the spiritual essence of Easter.

History, mythology, literature, poetry and the world of art are rife with stories and images that speak of the beauty and majesty of the elegant white flowers. Often called the “white-robed apostles of

hope,” lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ’s agony. Tradition has it that the beautiful white lilies sprung up where drops of Christ’s sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow and deep distress. Churches continue this tradition at Easter time by banking their altars and surrounding their crosses with masses of Easter Lilies, to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and hope of life everlasting.

Since the beginning of time, lilies have played significant roles in allegorical tales concerning the sacrament of motherhood. Roman mythology links it to Juno, the queen of the gods. The story goes that while Juno was nursing her son Hercules, excess milk fell from the sky. Although part of it remained above the earth (thus creating the group of stars known as the Milky Way), the remainder fell to the earth, creating lilies. Another tradition has it that the lily sprang from the repentant tears of Eve as she went forth from Paradise.

The pure white lily has long been closely associated with the Virgin Mary. In early paintings, the Angel Gabriel is pictured extending to the Virgin Mary a branch of pure white lilies, announcing that she is to be the mother of the Christ Child. In other paintings, saints are pictured bringing vases full of white lilies to Mary and the infant Jesus. St. Joseph is depicted holding a lily-branch in his hand, indicating that his wife Mary was a virgin.

The legend is told that when the Virgin Mary’s tomb was visited three days after her burial, it was found empty save for bunches of majestic white lilies. Early writers and artists made the lily the emblem of the Annunciation, the Resurrection of the Virgin: the pure white petals signifying her spotless body and the golden anthers her soul glowing with heavenly light....

A mark of purity and grace throughout the ages, the regal white lily is a fitting symbol of the greater meaning of Easter. Gracing millions of homes and churches, the flowers embody joy, hope and life. Whether given as a gift or enjoyed in your own home, the Easter Lily, along with other Easter blooms, serves as a beautiful reminder that Easter is a time for rejoicing and celebrating.

*The following poem by Louise Lewin Matthews captures the spiritual essence of the Easter Lily:*

*Easter morn with lilies fair  
Fills the church with perfumes rare,  
As their clouds of incense rise,  
Sweetest offerings to the skies.  
Stately lilies pure and white  
Flooding darkness with their light,*

*Bloom and sorrow drifts away,  
On this holy hallow’d day.  
Easter Lilies bending low  
in the golden afterglow,  
Bear a message from the sod  
To the heavenly towers of God.*

Until next Month,  
Warmly, Carolyn

# Happy Easter!

# *The Third Sorrowful Mystery:*

## THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

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

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

In reflecting on the Passion and Crucifixion of Jesus, which are also the subjects of the five Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, it is not easy to fathom the suffering of Our Lord. Yet at the same time it serves to give us a clear perspective of all that Jesus endured because of his love for all of us. We have already reflected on the Agony in the Garden and on the Scourging. The third Sorrowful Mystery is the Crowning with Thorns. The Spiritual Fruit is "Moral Courage."

After the scourging at the pillar when the crowd was not satisfied with the torture Jesus had already endured, they shouted to crucify him. Pilate conceded

to their wishes and Jesus was led away by the Roman soldiers. Jesus was already condemned to be crucified but before that would occur the Roman soldiers would play the "king game." Dice were thrown to pick out a mock king from among those prisoners who were condemned. This prisoner would become the candidate for this game of humiliation in which the crowning of thorns and shrouding with a purple cloak would be a part. For the Roman soldiers, Jesus was a perfect target. His own people turned against him. Even the disciples were nowhere to be found.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we read, *"And they stripped him and put on him a*

*scarlet cloak; and plaiting a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed into his right hand; and bending the knee before him they mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!'"* (27: 28-29) After the soldiers placed the reed in Christ's hand as if it were a scepter and drove deep into his head with the crown of thorns, they spit in his face and mocked him. Jesus was innocent but did not defend himself. Faced with hatred Jesus remained strong. He could have made everyone know that he was the Son of God. Instead Jesus gave himself totally to his Father's will and allowed himself to be brutalized beyond imagination so that we might have eternal life. The soldiers may have used a crown of thorns to mock Jesus as a king, but Jesus would rise again and reveal himself to be the true King and Savior of the world.

How do we react when we feel humiliated or when we are hurt by someone's cruel words? How many times have we failed to show mercy to those who have sinned against us, especially within our own family. The next time we say the Rosary and the Our Father, think about these words: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." When we pray these words we are asking God to treat us with the same mercy that we have shown to others.

Although we are in the midst of reflecting on the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary which encompass the Passion of Our Lord, the glorious feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord is upon us on April 4. I wish to extend to all of you and your loved ones special greetings and all of God's blessings on this holiest day in Christendom.

***Požehnanú veľkú Noc!***

**HAPPY EASTER!**

**ALLELUIA!**





# Message from our National President

## CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Dear fellow members,

We are celebrating the wonderful season of Easter with the hope and promise that it brings to all of us in our journey in life. Each of us has a life story. Our faith, family and heritage build the foundation of this story.

At FCSLA, our board and key stakeholders are in the 2nd phase of a long-term strategic planning process. With this plan, we are excited about moving our society forward over the next ten years with pride, joy and the promise and hope for the future, building on our story of our faith, family and heritage. We are a beacon of hope for our members and our communities for over 129 years and stand TALL and PROUD with grit, integrity, and perseverance.

WE have been true to our values, dreams and struggles over time. We are authentic – the REAL DEAL! We understand the story of our ancestors, grandmothers, and mothers and how they have impacted each of us by becoming more self-aware and more aware of the needs of those around us, while

discerning how we can truly find inspiration to make an impact on our world.

In this issue of our magazine, we unveil our new look, one that we hope you will embrace. These products are the culmination of a number of focus group sessions, where many of our leaders have voiced their opinions, with our board choosing the new name and supporting the rebranding process.

Our legal name remains as it is: First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association of the United States of America and our corporate purpose is rock solid as it has been for 129 years. Our mission to provide financial security to our members, while embracing our Catholic values and Slovak traditions, is constant and strong.

We are excited about this new look. I encourage you to read the announcement on page 14 of this issue explaining the story of FCSLA Life and our new look. Thank you to our National Secretary Kim Graham and the entire FCSLA team for moving this rebranding effort forward.

At FCSLA Life, we are all about the vitality, promise and hope of affirming life from its beginning to its end and beyond, and celebrating our journey in this life with love and respect for every person!



### Branch Number Correction



Members of Branch S313 decided to reinvent their annual meeting by asking their members to drop off nonperishable food items to their local food pantry Allegheny Valley Association of Churches. Pictured dropping off food are Cynthia Maleski Groch and her husband Andrzej Groch and a food bank worker. A matching funds event was also held with the food bank and Guardian Angels Parish Ladies of Charity.



## **Lilian Marie Lyons of Jr. Branch 11**

### *2020 Youth of the Year Honoree*

There are countless young, caring FCSLA members who participate in service projects in their branches, churches, schools, and communities. They are individuals who stand out in a crowd because of their positive attitude, achievements, and leadership. As one of those youth standouts, FCSLA is proud to announce that Lilian Marie Lyons is the recipient of the 2020 Youth of the Year award!

As a student at Nipher Middle School in Kirkwood, MO, Lilian organized a Recycle for Ronald McDonald Pull Tab Fundraiser where she created and distributed flyers for the event, dropped off collection boxes, and personally collected thousands of pull tabs. She also was a member of her school's "Power of One" class whose mission is to show the difference one person can make in the world. As a member, Lilian participated in writing Christmas cards and helping with a party at a center for the homeless, writing letters to seniors in a local nursing home, maintaining a food pantry, and filling Christmas gift bags for over 300 people. She also served others as a counselor at her church's Vacation Bible School and assisted with the Breakfast with Santa church fundraiser.

Lilian has received several awards for her achievements and leadership. She earned the Gold N award, the highest scholastic award that can be earned at the middle school level in her school district. She was awarded a School Award Medal from The American Legion who recognized her as having its six qualities of good character and citizenship: Courage, Honor, Leadership, Patriotism, Scholarship and Service. As a Girl Scout, Lilian has earned the Silver Award, the highest honor a Cadette Girl Scout can achieve. To earn the Silver Award, Lilian had to complete a series of leadership challenges and a community service project.

Additionally, Ms. Lyons is always willing to lend a helping hand during branch events. At the annual branch Business and Holiday Luncheon, Lilian can be seen helping set up the buffet, distributing giveaways, handing out special awards to the octogenarian members, and serving as hostess along with other junior members.



Lilian is the oldest child of Margaret (S101) and Brian Lyons. She shares the household with two younger brothers, Lukas and Lincoln, who are also members of J011. She was nominated by her grandfather, Joseph Miklovic, Branch Secretary of J001 and S101, St. Louis, MO.

Congratulations, Lilian! First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association is proud to have such an accomplished and compassionate young woman as its 2020 Youth of the Year recipient. You exemplify the ideals of FCSLA in all your leadership roles, volunteer hours, and caring spirit. We wish you the best in your future endeavors!

## **Brothers are Newest Members of Jr. Branch 41**



**Pictured are L-R: Henry, Anthony, William and Alex Socha.**



## 90.6 DURING THE PANDEMIC

If you guessed that this article is about someone's temperature since there is always a person coming at you with a thermometer everywhere you enter, you are incorrect.

During June of 1930, our First Catholic Slovak Lady member Betty Skvarek was born in Indiana. This December she was 90 years and 6 months old; of all times during one of the world's worst pandemics.

When the Covid 19 numbers hit its lowest volume of positive cases, her son and daughter decided to have a surprise birthday party with a minimal guest list of family and immediate friends on June 28, 2020. Betty was shocked to see her great-nieces and nephews who came from Chicago, IL and other parts of Indiana.



Betty is an Auditor in Branch 452, Whiting, IN and a former Secretary of the Helen Kocan District of Lake County, IN and Joliet, IL. Until the closing of Im-

maculate Conception Church in Whiting a few years ago, Betty was active in the Rosary Society, St. Ann Society, and was one of the HOLY ROLLERS. (They were the ladies who made nut and poppy seed roles and noodles for many years and many matching fundraisers.)

This year she looked forward to all of the FCSLA meetings and events and was disappointed that everything was cancelled.



Her son Joseph and his children, Michael and Kristina can be seen in the birthday cake picture with Betty and her daughter, Joann Skvarek Banvich, National Director.

Everyone followed CDC Guidelines, enjoyed the party and fortunately stayed healthy.

The Teibels' Restaurant, which is owned and managed by the third generation of the Teibel family from Austria were very aware of how to distance everyone to keep them safe. We are all grateful that Our Lord blessed us to be able to celebrate this wonderful event.



### 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](mailto: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](mailto:zjbazik@comcast.net) or send a hard copy of the information to: Editor, PO Box 1617, Reading, PA 19603-1617.

*May the Joy of  
Christ's Resurrection  
Live in Your Heart  
Today & Always*

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Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance

2021

**SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM**

The Scholarship Committee of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance is announcing that the 2021 applications are now available for the annual Scholarship Program.

Applications can be obtained through eligible members of a Fraternal Benefit Society belonging to the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance or by contacting the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Secretary-Treasurer at [Theresa@lpscu.org](mailto:Theresa@lpscu.org) or 888-834-6614.

**APPLICANTS MUST:**

- Be a resident of Pennsylvania and a member of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a member of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance.
- Be a 2021 high school graduate attending an accredited college, university, trade school, etc. in the summer/fall of 2021 as a full-time student (twelve semester credits).
- Obtain a recommendation letter from their Fraternal Benefit Society.
- Submit a 500-word essay on: ***"What does fraternal mean to you? What would you do to increase the relevance of fraternalism to you and your peers?"***

Return the completed application, essay and letter of recommendation, postmarked no later than September 1, 2021.

At least one \$500 scholarship will be awarded. Additional scholarships may be awarded depending upon available funds.

If you or your society has not received the information on the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Scholarship, please contact Bernadette Luketich-Sikaras (412) 843-0380 or e-mail [bluketichsikaras@croatianfraternalunion.org](mailto:bluketichsikaras@croatianfraternalunion.org).





# Benjamin Franklin's Most Famous Quote

**Paul Smithers, CLU, ChFC, National Sales Manager**

We all know Ben Franklin's famous adage from 1789 "...but in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

It's tax season...again! Every year we get to pull out all our records and go through everything in detail to make sure we never get a visit from the IRS! As Mr. Franklin stated, taxes are inevitable and it is our duty as good citizens to pay them.

Mr. Franklin also says that death is inevitable..more inevitable than paying taxes! While you have your important papers and records out, I would like to suggest that you review some other important documents.

It is important to periodically review your life insurance

policies. There is a third inevitability in life and that is change. Things change in our lives, sometimes important things that require a review of life insurance coverage.

Changes in our lives, even over a short period of time, can require that we adjust our life insurance policy or policies to reflect our new situation. A review of your life insurance coverage can help to make sure that the following are correct:

- Beneficiaries
- Your coverage amounts and type of coverage
- Ownership of the policies

A review can also uncover any potential tax liabilities given any changes in tax law and identify any pending lapses of coverage you may not be aware of.

Life insurance companies change their product offerings periodically as well. This review may identify a new or different product that may better suit your needs.

A life insurance review could be very beneficial to you and those you love. I can guarantee it will be less painful than paying taxes!

If you currently work with one of our agents or recommenders please contact them to review your coverage. If you are not currently working with someone who represents FCSLA please contact the home office or one of our sales managers for assistance:

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## *Announcing* our **43<sup>rd</sup> Quadrennial Convention**

JW Marriott Indianapolis  
October 5-8, 2023





# 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.

## SR. BRANCH 267 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

The following students were the recipients of the winning scholarships. All three are from Council Bluffs, IA.

**Macee Perry** (right) – Age 23, a student at Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, IA. She is studying to be an RN. She was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.



**Michael Wailes** (below left) – Age 18, a freshman at Midland University, Fremont, NE. He is studying computer science. Michael was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

**Nicholas Wailes** (below right) – Age 22, a junior at the University of Nebraska – Omaha. He is studying cyber security. Nicholas was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.



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**FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK  
LADIES ASSOCIATION**

**24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122**



# 2020 Photo Contest Winners



**Critters – 1st Place**  
Ronda Cordell, SZJO



**Critters – 3rd Place**  
Terese Rentmeester, S023



**Holiday – 3rd Place**  
Susan Bartos, S202



**Critters – 2nd Place**  
John Setter, S273



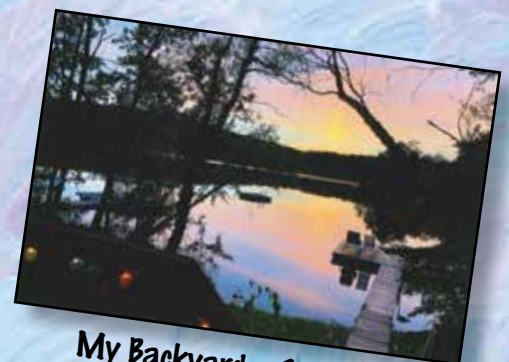
**Holiday – 1st Place**  
James Mitcheson, S262



**My Backyard – 1st Place**  
Charles Haitmanek, S234



**Holiday – 2nd Place**  
Abigail Pazdon, S140



**My Backyard – 3rd Place**  
Bianca Reno, Z288



# 2020 Photo Contest Winners



**My Backyard – 2nd Place**  
Emily Csider, S011



**Skylines – 2nd Place**  
Lynda Adams, S053



**Still Life – 2nd Place**  
Tina Marie Gray, S149



**Skylines – 3rd Place**  
Joseph Wollet, S423



**Skylines – 1st Place**  
Erin Young, U189



**Still Life – 1st Place**  
Vito Dellibovi, S035



**Still Life – 3rd Place**  
Francis Petrek, S053





# 2020 Photo Contest

“Photography takes an instant out of time,  
altering life by holding it still.”

— Dorothea Lange (American documentary photographer and photojournalist)

Nothing stops FCSLA members from submitting great pictures for our annual photo contest not even COVID-19! We received almost 200 entries in the following categories: Critters, Holiday, My Backyard, Skylines, and Still Life. We are recognizing all our outstanding entrants for 2020 in the list below:



|                          |      |                             |      |                            |      |
|--------------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|
| Lynda Adams.....         | S053 | Grace Clements.....         | S180 | Megan Hricovec.....        | S524 |
| Mya Agee.....            | S161 | Donna Connolly.....         | S141 | Macie Hricovec.....        | S524 |
| Katey Ahern.....         | S225 | Ronda Cordell.....          | SZJO | Anna Hudock.....           | S172 |
| Jill Allevato.....       | S334 | Cynthia Crissman.....       | S077 | Suzanne Louise Hudson..... | Z451 |
| Michele Ancin-Duris..... | S016 | Emily Csider.....           | S011 | Cynthia Imbrogno.....      | S278 |
| Joyce Anderson.....      | W001 | Nicole Csider.....          | S011 | Martha Iskra.....          | S172 |
| Deborah Anne.....        | Z805 | Ann Csider.....             | S011 | Jeanann Kahley.....        | S350 |
| Gwen Ann Arbuckle.....   | S081 | Tim Csider.....             | S011 | Patricia Karel.....        | W022 |
| Elaine Archer.....       | S169 | Sarah Csider.....           | S011 | Jane Kascak.....           | Z060 |
| Candice Arriola.....     | Z786 | Cheryl Deeks.....           | S114 | Mark Kastan.....           | S013 |
| Gloria Ashworth.....     | S221 | Vito Dellibovi.....         | S035 | Christin Kehler.....       | S410 |
| John Bagay.....          | S088 | Diane Dellibovi.....        | S035 | Lena Knapp.....            | S177 |
| Lisa Bailey.....         | S200 | Marybeth Dellibovi.....     | S035 | Marie Knieper.....         | W500 |
| Candace Barczyk.....     | S114 | Jennifer Demler-Clipse..... | S202 | Rosa Knizner.....          | S287 |
| Susan Bartos.....        | S202 | Michael DeVore.....         | S409 | Adrienne Koncerak.....     | S250 |
| Elaine Beck.....         | Z721 | Sarah DeVore.....           | S409 | Cecilia Koncerak.....      | S011 |
| Megan Berger.....        | W121 | Michelle DeVore.....        | S409 | Anna Kostrej.....          | S011 |
| Vickie Bodner.....       | S522 | Joseph Dintino.....         | S202 | David Krahle.....          | S140 |
| Mary Ann Bohmer.....     | S149 | Margaret Dintino.....       | S202 | Damon Krall.....           | S140 |
| Sharon Bos.....          | W080 | Caroline Dougherty.....     | S172 | Rose Marie Krulac.....     | S141 |
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| Audrey Chromy.....       | W013 | Rita Foran.....             | S435 | Paula Langston.....        | S161 |
| Kiera Ciolkos.....       | Z499 | Gwendolyn Frank.....        | S522 | Kurt Lesnansky.....        | S161 |
| Cheryl Clements.....     | S180 | Patty Freany.....           | S524 | Susan Leu.....             | SZJO |
| Noah Clements.....       | S180 | Maria Giannelli-Vrabel..... | S230 | Linda Lewandowski.....     | S421 |
|                          |      | Laura Gibson Kelly.....     | S287 | Julie Lewandowski.....     | S421 |
|                          |      | Tina Marie Gray.....        | S149 | Rose Lewis.....            | S066 |
|                          |      | Marianne Guidos.....        | S156 | Loretta Liguore.....       | S169 |
|                          |      | Charles Haitmanek.....      | S234 | Andrew Lukus.....          | Z221 |
|                          |      | Elizabeth Hall.....         | SZJX | Susan Lynch.....           | S410 |
|                          |      | Mark Hanis.....             | S211 | Margaret Lyons.....        | S101 |
|                          |      | Christopher Harvilla.....   | S319 | JoAnn MacEwen.....         | SZJO |
|                          |      | Nancy Harvilla.....         | S319 | Christopher Majdecki.....  | S421 |
|                          |      | Elizabeth Hickle.....       | S525 | Denise Malagisi.....       | S030 |
|                          |      | Stephanie Holowaty.....     | S111 | Sarah Mastrull.....        | S172 |



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# 2020 Photo Contest

|                                |      |                           |      |                              |      |
|--------------------------------|------|---------------------------|------|------------------------------|------|
| Steven Matura .....            | S452 | Patricia Schuch.....      | S295 | Catherine Truskolawski ..... | Z598 |
| Susan Miklovic.....            | S101 | Ronald Scribner.....      | S627 | Joseph Unger .....           | S618 |
| Joseph Miklovic .....          | S101 | Monica Scribner.....      | S627 | Charles Urbanowicz .....     | S088 |
| Ann Marie Miklovic Wright..... | S101 | Barbara Sekerak.....      | S141 | Dorothy Urbanowicz .....     | S088 |
| James Mitcheson.....           | S262 | Michael Semego.....       | S011 | Katherine Valent .....       | S376 |
| Joseph Moorman.....            | S001 | John Setter .....         | S273 | Amber Vander Heyden .....    | S023 |
| Laurie Muffler.....            | S023 | Edward Shubeck .....      | S140 | Jeanette Venker.....         | S101 |
| Eileen Myers.....              | S088 | Eileen Singel.....        | S005 | Diane Vesely-Robb.....       | W014 |
| Ed Norton .....                | SZJO | Luke Siskoff .....        | W001 | Jennifer Villegas .....      | S053 |
| Thomas Oslick.....             | S088 | Warren Siskoff .....      | W001 | Yvonne Vodzak.....           | S233 |
| Linda Oslick.....              | S088 | Jacqueline Smith .....    | Z721 | Rosemarie Vogel.....         | W133 |
| Marian Parker.....             | S088 | Barbara Smith.....        | S117 | Renee Walleth.....           | S421 |
| Victoria Parsons .....         | Z450 | Cynthia Sostakowski ..... | S128 | Jovonna Walseman .....       | S627 |
| Traci Parsons .....            | Z450 | John Spinelli .....       | S410 | Roberta Wavrek.....          | S088 |
| Abigail Pazdon.....            | S140 | Cindy Spinelli.....       | S410 | Geraldine Wemhoff.....       | S627 |
| Caitlyn Pazdon .....           | S140 | Michael Srencik .....     | S081 | Scott Winn .....             | S615 |
| Joseph Pazdon.....             | S140 | Jennifer Stamper .....    | Z769 | Joseph Wollet.....           | S423 |
| Francis Petrek .....           | S053 | Cindy Stanek .....        | Z348 | Catherine Vos.....           | S248 |
| Mary Pike.....                 | S524 | Emily Strobel .....       | S410 | Erin Young .....             | U189 |
| Bianca Reno.....               | Z288 | Patricia Sukits.....      | Z221 | Maryann Yurchak.....         | S410 |
| Terese Rentmeester .....       | S023 | Judy Taylor .....         | S007 | James Zawojski .....         | S088 |
| Sophie Richnavsky .....        | S153 | Carla Tedeschi.....       | Z060 | Andrea Zelinsky.....         | W121 |
| Christine Rueger.....          | S590 | Claudia Thomas .....      | S218 | Laurie Zielinski.....        | Z189 |
| Rita Schallau .....            | W130 | Janel Tirpak .....        | S140 | Bethany Zielinski .....      | Z189 |
| Darlene Schmitt.....           | Z562 | John Toth.....            | S023 | Aidan Zielinski .....        | Z189 |



## First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

Lansing Branch S-456/J-368

### JOHN & GERALDINE GAYDOS SCHOLARSHIP

The **Lansing Branch S-456/J-368** of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association is pleased to announce its annual **John and Geraldine Gaydos Scholarship** award.

**Catholic High School Award: \$500. University/Graduate School Award: \$1000.** The award shall be used toward tuition for both fall and spring semesters of the 2020 - 2021 school year. One award is allowed per student per category.

Students must be enrolled in an accredited Catholic high school (9th-12th grade) or accredited college/graduate school at either a public or private university.

**ELIGIBILITY:** The applicant must be a member of FCSLA in good standing owning an FCSLA insurance policy or annuity for at least two years and a member of S-456.

#### *For more information and to obtain an application contact:*

Mrs. Janet G. Berkemeier  
FCSLA Lansing Branch S-456/J-368  
1203 W Washington Avenue  
Jackson, MI 49203  
Cell phone (517) 917-7171

**All applications and supporting documentation must be POSTMARKED by JUNE 30, 2021.**

# FRESH

NEW NAME. NEW LOOK.  
SAME GREAT COMPANY.

*presenting*



The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association was formed over 129 years ago, and as we continue to grow and support our membership, we have found the need to update and modernize our look and logo. We are proud to share that we have become FC SLA Life—with the emphasis on “life.” This clarifies that we sell life insurance and annuities, as well as sharing that we are a part of our members’ lives and communities.

Our mission to provide financial security to our members while embracing our Catholic values and Slavic tradition remains the same. As our vision of becoming the premier fraternal benefit society, offering quality financial products and benefits continues to evolve, so must our messaging and brand. Some of you participated in our focus groups as we worked to find the right messaging. We listened to what you had to say, and we think you’ll find our new brand is an exciting change!

The new look and logo communicate our traditional values in red, white, and blue colors that symbolize both our Slavic and American heritage. The three tributaries inside the circle of life—which shows we affirm life from birth until death and beyond—were designed to represent Family, Faith, and Financial strength, working in harmony and support of each other. We are here to support you as you move through your family’s life cycle--and nothing is more important than preserving and protecting the lives those we love. This is an historical time here at First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, and FC SLA Life is here for you.





# The Miracle of Compounding Interest

James Donovan, Western & Southwest Regional Manager

Many of our members are familiar with the miracle of Lourdes and many Eucharistic miracles that have occurred since Christ's resurrection.

There is also another earthly miracle. A mathematical miracle not everyone is familiar with.

It can be a great tool for you and something to teach your children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren.

It is called the **Principle of Compounding Interest**.

A colleague of mine uses a story that takes this financial principle and makes it easy for all of us to understand.

Here we go: in 1492 as Columbus sailed the ocean blue to the Americas he decided to plan for his retirement. He had one penny and he knew he could earn 3 percent every year on his money.

**So, he put the penny in his left pocket and placed the interest (\$0.01 times 3 percent=\$0.003) into his right pocket for safe-keeping.**

Christopher never added anything to his original penny in his left pocket, yet the interest accumulated year after year in his right pocket.

Columbus is a very healthy guy. He has lived 515 years! Chris decides to retire and cash out. He takes the penny from his left pocket while adding up the simple interest in his right pocket.

Well, the interest in his right pocket added up to only 15 cents. Along with the original penny in his pocket he retires with 16 cents in his pockets.

Chris made a mistake and used 'simple' interest for his retirement plan which was clearly not effective for him.

**Let's now take a look at what would happen if Mr. Columbus harnessed the miraculous power of compound interest! Let's say that he started an annuity with FCSLA that also provided an interest rate of 3%.**

Let's assume Columbus only needed a penny to start an annuity with us. **Instead of putting interest in his right pocket, he places it in his left pocket with the original penny; just as in the previous example he never adds any more of his own money.**

Over the years he would have earned the same 3 percent interest on the original penny and the accumulated interest now in the same pocket as his original penny.

At the end of year one, Chris had \$0.013 in his left pocket (the original penny plus the earned 3 percent interest). At the end of year two, he had \$0.0139 (the original penny and the interest from year one earning 3 percent interest) and in year three, he had \$0.0147 (the original penny and the interest from years one and two all earning 3 percent interest).

This process is called **compounding interest**.

It continues to add up for Chris for 515 years.

How much is in Columbus' FCSLA retirement fund at retirement?

After 515 years of compounding interest, without adding any additional money, the original penny at 3 percent compounded interest, Chris has accumulated **\$53,887,820,107.78 (that is 53 billion, 887 million, 820 thousand, 107 dollars and 78 cents.**

**That is a lot of pocket change!!! And imagine what that number would be if he continued to fund that pocket every month!**

Of course, none of us will live 515 years, but all of us have more than one penny to invest on a monthly basis and the ability to use compound interest to your advantage with FCSLA's annuity products. Whether you choose to put your money into a regular (non-qualified) annuity or an actual retirement plan (qualified annuity – Traditional or Roth IRA) you can also take advantage of tax-deferred growth of your money inside your FCSLA annuity.

In conclusion, someone much smarter than most of us, Albert Einstein, is reputed to have said – **Compound interest is the eighth wonder of the world. He who understands it, earns it...he who doesn't pays it.**

Now that you understand the miraculous concept of compound interest you and your family for generations to come can earn it and not pay it. Teach your children and yourself well! Get smart with FCSLA!

If you currently work with one of our agents or recommenders please contact them for more information about our products. If you are not currently working with someone who represents FCSLA please contact the home office or one of our sales managers for assistance:

**Jim Donovan** – RSM for Pacific Coast/Southwest region  
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**Amy Hull** – RSM for Rocky Mountain region  
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**FCSLA Home Office – 800-464-4642**

# A Polish Easter

Mary Louise Ellena, Member of Branch Z721

Traditionally, Easter is not only the commemoration of the Crucifixion and the celebration of the Resurrection of the Son of God, but it is also a time of renewal and hope in anticipation of spring. After six weeks of fasting and prayer during Lent, Easter in Poland is truly a family affair.

The holy season begins with *Tłusty Czwartek*, or Fat Thursday, when people traditionally enjoy a variety of *paczki* and mark the winding down of *Karnaval*, the Polish equivalent of *Mardi Gras*. Lent officially begins on *Ash Wednesday* or *Sroda Popielowa*. Included among the traditional liturgical Lenten celebrations of Stations of the Cross (*Droga Krzyzowa*), Poles pray the *Gorzkie Zale* or Lamentations, a combination of prose, verse, chanting, reading, prayer and meditation on the passion, death, and redemption of Christ.

A time of both fasting and celebration, Holy Week (*Wielki Tydzien*) begins with Palm Sunday. The faithful carry pussy willows to church rather than the tropical palm typical in the United States. Holy Thursday (*Wielki Czwartek*) commemorates the Last Supper with the washing of feet. Traditional among Polish Americans is the visitation of Seven Churches where time is spent in prayer before the Eucharist in repose. Good Friday or *Wielki Piatek* is characterized by participation in solemn services commemorating the passion and death of Jesus Christ, followed by time spent at the decorated *Bozy Grob*, or grave of Christ crucified.

Holy Saturday marks the end of Lent, usually with the ringing of church bells at noon and the blessing of the Easter baskets. Typically, a beautifully decorated basket filled with food for the Easter morning breakfast is taken to church for a special blessing by the priest. The basket usually contains *kielbasa*, ham, hard-boiled eggs, butter, sweet bread, a *babka* (pound cake), rich *mazureks* and anything else to be eaten at the meal. This ritual is called *Swieconka*. On Easter Sunday, *Wielkanoc*, following Mass, extended family members gather together for breakfast, sharing the hardboiled eggs with each other in a ritual similar to the sharing of the *Oplatki* on Christmas Eve. The egg sharing comes with a wish for God's blessing on each family member.

Unlike children in the United States, children in Poland do not receive baskets from the Easter Bunny containing



jelly beans and chocolate peeps and marshmallow eggs. To prepare for Easter Sunday, Poles create *pisanki* or *kraszanki*, dyed eggs, elaborately decorated with Polish Easter symbols such as pussy willows, crosses and lambs. While small chocolate eggs are often a part of the dessert menu, candy is not a main focus of a Polish Easter. After breakfast, families linger, relaxing and enjoying each other's company.

Easter Monday, also called *Dyngus Day*, is a time of fun, especially for children. It is a holiday from work and school. Everyone enjoys sprinkling water over each other using a water gun, a cup or a bucket! *Dyngus* actually means ransom. Traditionally, in exchange for a promise not to throw water at them, girls give boys a ransom of Easter eggs or candy. If a boy throws water at a girl, it means that he likes her! The water brings good luck and a fruitful planting season!

Easter is still a time for tradition among Polish Americans; we have adapted many of the old world customs to fit our contemporary lifestyle. This recipe for sweet bread is part of our family Easter tradition. My *babcia* (grandmother) Helen Nitowski Modzelewski typically used 25 pounds of flour when she made this bread, baking enough to share with family, friends and neighbors. This version makes about 6 loaves, depending upon the size of the pan. Try it; you'll like it!

## Babcia's Paska

(Helen Modzelewski)

1 quart whole milk, scalded  
1 ½ large cakes of yeast (found in the dairy section)  
1 ¼ pounds plus 1 teaspoon granulated sugar  
18 eggs, separated  
1 Tablespoon pure vanilla extract  
4 ½ pounds bread flour  
1 ½ teaspoons salt  
1 pound unsalted butter, melted, plus extra for greasing plastic wrap.  
Raisins, dark or golden, plumped in hot water and drained

### Process:

Heat milk and place 1 cup in small bowl. Add yeast to small bowl with 1 teaspoon sugar and dissolve. Set yeast mixture aside.

Combine egg yolks and sugar with electric mixer. Add vanilla, flour, salt and remainder of milk and combine. Add butter and stir to combine. Add yeast mixture, kneading until all flour is combined, adding additional flour as necessary. (Humidity, size of eggs and other conditions may affect the amount of flour needed.) Add raisins and knead until dough is smooth and not sticky.

Place kneaded dough in a pan. Cover the dough with buttered plastic wrap and a clean dish towel. Let rise in a warm, dry place until doubled in size. Punch down and let rise again. Measure 1 ½ to 2 pounds of dough (depending upon the size of the bread pan) and form into individual loaves. Place in greased bread pans; cover, and let rise again.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Beat egg whites with fork until foamy and brush onto tops of loaves. Bake for approximately 45 minutes until golden brown and hollow sounding when tapped. Baking times may vary with the individual oven.

Cool in pan for ten minutes. Run a knife around the rim of the bread pan, turn the bread out and cool completely on a wire rack before bagging securely in a plastic bread bag. Enjoy!



# FCSLA

# FRIENDS & FAMILY

## • REWARDS PROGRAM •



**We value and appreciate our Members!**  
**Thank you for telling everybody you know about us!**

**A valid referral meets ALL 3 of these requirements:**

- Has completed contact information including address & phone number
- Is interested in FCSLA and is not yet a member
- Is willing to meet with an FCSLA representative

**Each Valid Referral Earns You \$25!**

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*Submit this form by mail, fax or email*

FCSLA                      Fax: 216-464-9260  
 24950 Chagrin Blvd.      Email: [heather@fcsla.com](mailto:heather@fcsla.com)  
 Beachwood, OH 44122   Website: [www.fcsla.org](http://www.fcsla.org)

**A valid referral meets all 3 of these requirements. Each valid referral earns you \$25!**

- Has completed contact information including address & phone number
- Is interested in FCSLA and is not yet a member
- Is willing to meet with an FCSLA representative

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

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

Prospective Member: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of your FCSLA Representative

*If you do not know an FCSLA Representative, leave blank and the National Office will find the right Representative for you.*



# IN MEMORIAM

## Leonard E. Paca, W051



Leonard E. Paca, 97, of Garner, IA passed away September 18, 2019 in Garner. The son of Frank and Emma (Brcka) Paca, he was born June 21, 1922. Leonard served his country during WW II in the South Pacific Theatre. He was among one of the first troops to land in Japan when they dropped bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima. When the war ended, he remained in Japan where he met General Douglas McArthur and his wife. After his honorable discharge, he

returned home and farmed with his father. Leonard always had an interest in flying and took flying lessons at the Garner airport upon returning home from Japan. On April 25, 1951, he married Monica Wellik at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Duncan. They moved to an acreage south of Duncan where they farmed and raised their family. In 1988, they retired and moved into Garner. Leonard and Monica enjoyed wintering in Texas for 20 years. He enjoyed his family, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and going to all of their activities. He was a lifelong member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Duncan where he served as a eucharistic minister and was a member of the church council and a fourth degree Knight of Columbus. He also was a member of REA, Britt American Legion, Liberty Township trustee, served on the board of directors of the Farmer's Coop in Britt and member of Polka Dance Club and POLKA Royalty. His three greatest loves were his faith, family, and farming. Leonard is survived by his wife, Monica; seven children, Thomas (Jeri) Paca of Norwalk, Jane (Vance) Johnson of Britt, Doris (Kurt) Dallman of Garner, Eileen (Denny) Plathe of Wesley, Kevin (Lynn) Paca of Britt, Bonnie (Mike) Johnson of Kanawha, and Daniel (Chris) Paca of Sibley; 18 grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; his brother, Kenneth (Dianne) Paca of Garner; brothers-in-law, Joe (Gloria) Wellik, Marvin (Kay) Wellik, Jerry (Kathy) Wellik; sisters-in-law, Vivian (Bill) Pritchard and Millie (Paul) Horstman; and many nieces and nephews.

## Leona M. (Pavelka) Hrubes, W051



Leona M. (Pavelka) Hrubes, 92, of Britt, IA passed away November 26, 2020. Leona Marie Pavelka was born August 1, 1928 to Joseph and Alice (Zebransky) Pavelka. She and siblings Jim, Margaret, Joe and Paul were raised in rural Hancock County. Leona was united in marriage to Joseph Hrubes on January 28, 1948 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Duncan. The couple made their home on a farm south of Duncan, where the couple shared farming

duties, including raising livestock. Leona's life centered on her faith and her family, she was a very devoted wife and mother, and was very dedicated in her prayer life. She taught her children the importance of prayer, leading them in the Rosary nightly and with regular church attendance. Leona enjoyed cooking for her family, baking cookies, bread and various Czech treats and canning meat, along with vegetables and fruit from her large garden. Leona and Joe entertained the residents of area nursing homes and retirement centers for a number of years with their music. Leona will be remembered for her friendly smile to others, her unselfish and loving nature, for caring and going out of her way to help others in need, and for her faithful and unconditional love of her family.

Leona is survived by her children Tom Hrubes of Mason City, Dennis (Brenda) Hrubes of Britt, Dale Hrubes of Livermore, and Ron (Deb) Hrubes of Britt; sister-in-law Sheryl Pavelka; brother-in-law Clarence Hrubes; grandchildren Brandon (Kelsey) Hrubes and their children Sasha, Sveta, Ivan and Silas, Andrea (Tom) Welter and their children Millie and Graham, Nathan Hrubes, step-grandchildren Rick (Jennie) LaGue and their children Ricky Jr. and Layen, Kristine (Joey) Mohr, David (Amanda) LaGue and their children Tenley and Mayley; along with many nieces and nephews.

## Sister Mary Paul Kurator, SS.C.M., S289



Sister Mary Paul (Lucy Kurator) died on February 10, 2021. Born in Gary, IN, she was the daughter of Paul and Mary (Pavlov) Kurator. She attended Holy Trinity School in Gary, IN, and graduated in 1949 from St. Cyril Academy, Danville, PA. She entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville on February 2, 1950, was received as a novice on August 10 of that year and professed her vows on August 13, 1952. Sister Mary Paul completed her B.A. in 1961 at Marywood University, Scranton, PA, and earned an M.A. in Latin at Notre Dame University, Notre Dame, IN. She also studied at Villanova and LaSalle Universities in PA. Her first teaching assignment was at the Villa Elementary School where she taught Grades 3, 4 and 5. Subsequent teaching assignments led her to Blessed Sacrament School, Charleston, SC where she taught Grades 3, 4 and 7. Sister also taught in parish schools in Whiting, IN, where she taught Grade 7 and Berwick, PA, and Perth Amboy, NJ, where she taught Grade 8. Later she taught at her Alma Mater, Saint Cyril Academy in Danville, where she taught Religion, Latin and English. Sister Paul's longest assignment lasted 42 years at Andrean High School in Merrillville, IN. Sister Mary Paul was also recognized by Inland Steel, Gary, IN, as the Outstanding High School Teacher of 1984. In 2017, Sister Mary Paul retired to Maria Hall, Danville, PA, where she was involved in the Ministry of Prayer and Hospitality. Donations in memory of Sister Mary Paul can be made to the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821.

## Sister M. Cyrilline Biel, SS.C.M., S452



Sister M. Cyrilline (Bernardine Biel) died on January 25, 2021. Bernardine Biel was born in Whiting, IN, the daughter of Stephen and Mary (Chomistek) Biel. Bernardine entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA on September 8, 1950, and was received as a novice on August 9, 1951; she professed her first vows on August 13, 1953. Sister Cyrilline received a B.S. in Education from Marywood University, Scranton, PA, and an M.A. in Business Education from Catholic University, Washington, DC. Her initial ministry in education spanned from 1953 to 1961 when she taught in the elementary schools in Hazleton, PA, Chicago, IL, and Torrington, CT. Sister Cyrilline taught business classes at Andrean High School in Merrillville, IN. In 1973, Sister Cyrilline was appointed Directress of Novices in Danville, PA. The community called upon her in congregational administrative positions from 1980 to 1988, and from 1992-1999 during which time



she also served as General Secretary for three years. In 2000-2001 Sister Cyrilline did clerical work at St. Catherine Labouré School in Harrisburg, PA. Returning to Danville in 2001, Sister Cyrilline performed General Duties, served as Local Coordinator and Director of Candidates. In 2018, Sister Cyrilline retired to Maria Hall, Danville, PA. Going peacefully to God without fuss or fanfare was certainly in keeping with Sister Cyrilline's pattern in life. She will be greatly missed. Sister Cyrilline is survived by two sisters, Stephanie Dick and Mary Ann Biel, and a brother, Stephen, as well as several nieces and nephews. Donations in memory of Sister Cyrilline can be made to the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821.

### Therese L. Gyure, S452



Therese L. Gyure (nee Hanish), age 91 of Crown Point, IN passed away December 24, 2020. She was born on October 3, 1929. She is survived by her children: Steve (Pat) Gyure, Thomas (Sue) Gyure, and Susan (Gyure) Kloss; brother, Joseph (Pat) Hanish; cherished grandchildren: Stephanie, Ryan (Brooke), Allison, Myles, Kayleigh (Brendan), Matthew, Chelsea, and Siena; treasured great-granddaughter, Leah Therese; nieces, Andrea (Arnie) Latham, Janice Gyure, and Joyce (John) Pavlina; and numerous grandnephews, great-grandnephews, nieces, and cousins. Therese was born and raised in Whiting, a graduate of George Rogers Clark High School, class of 1947. After high school, she went to St. Francis College and graduated with a degree in accounting, then onto Purdue University Calumet where she earned her Master's in education. Shortly thereafter, Therese began teaching at St. Thomas More, focusing on the 4th grade for her last 25 years at the school. Therese was a devoted member of St. Thomas More Church, and then later Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Winfield, where she was an active member of the Hospitality Ministry. Devoted to God, family, and friends, Therese will be sadly missed, but forever remembered by all who knew and loved her.

### PFC Andrew S. "Drew" Westfallen, U378



PFC Andrew S. "Drew" Westfallen, 20 of Chicago and Woodstock, IL died May 3, 2020. Andrew was born on March 28, 2000 in Park Ridge, IL to Stephen Westfallen and Robyn Carpenter. Andrew was a 2018 graduate of Taft High School in Chicago. Upon graduation, Andrew attended basic training at Fort Benning, GA, having joined the Illinois Army National Guard. Andrew earned the rank of Private First Class in his brief time with Delta Company based out of Woodstock, IL. He wore his Blue Infantry Cord with pride—INFANTRY. He recently attended McHenry County College with plans of transferring to NIU to pursue a career in dentistry. A career path which started while working several years at his Aunt's orthodontics office. Andrew loved to ride his motorcycle and working on his and others' cars. He was the family 'go-to' car guy. He had an unquenchable thirst for, and love of life and so he lived every moment to its fullest. Andrew is survived by his father, Stephen (Diana) Westfallen of Chicago, his mother Robyn (Joe) Carpenter of Woodstock. His paternal grandparents, Ronald Westfallen and

Rosemary Westfallen. His maternal grandparents, Greg (Debbie) Citko, and Joyce (Michael) Tracy; older sisters Starr Covarrubias and PFC Daphne Westfallen, younger brother PFC Matthew Westfallen and step-siblings Joshua and Kayla Carpenter, nephew Aiden Covarrubias as well as loving aunts, uncles, cousins, his Army family and countless friends. He will be received in Heaven by his great-grandparents. Andrew loved the phrase "I want to die with memories and not dreams". He did just that. There are no speed limits in Heaven and the track is endless. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Operation Wild Horse, 605 S. Valley Hill Road, Bull Valley, IL 60098.

### Mary B. Mager, S114



Mary Barbara Mager (nee Mariotti), 92, of Amherst, OH, passed away in peace at the Cleveland Clinic, Avon on January 3, 2021. Her daughters, Sandra and Susan were by her side. Mary was born in Lorain, OH on August 15, 1928, daughter of Zaccario and Marie (nee Cherubini) Mariotti. Mary was the youngest of seven children. She graduated from Lorain High School class of 1946-B, where she played saxophone in the orchestra and marching band. Mary married Paul S. Mager in 1950. They owned Subway Coal and Builders Supply in Lorain. Together they raised six children. The joy of Mary's life was taking care of her family. She was a devoted mother with a strong commitment to family. Mary was a parishioner at Holy Trinity Church in Lorain until its closure. She was a member of St. Ann's Branch 114 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. Mary enjoyed traveling, astrology, casino bus trips, musicals, and concerts. She leaves behind her children, Marie Mager-Prager and son, Matthew of Portland, ME, Susan and Robert Goldstein and daughter, Rachel of Westport, CT, Sandra Mager and Paulette Mager of Amherst, OH, Paul and Lisa Mager and daughters, Sara, Amanda and Jessica, all of Amherst, OH.

### Dorothy J. Uher, S485



Dorothy J. Uher, age 90, was called home into the loving arms of Jesus on August 18, 2020. Dorothy was the beloved daughter of the late Rudolph and Mary Uher, born on May 7, 1930. She was the loving sister of Bernice (late Connie) Jeropke, the late Ruth (Bill) Bunchak, the late Edna (George) Alles, brother Frank (Frances) Uher and the late John (Dorothy) Uher. She was a loving aunt to many nieces and nephews whom she called "her" children. She lived a beautiful life with family and friends and enjoyed traveling before her retirement. Family get-togethers, especially Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years', birthdays and anniversaries were always celebrated at her home that she shared with her mom and dad. She was originally from Chicago, but spent many years after her retirement at the Franciscan Village in Lemont, IL where she'll be remembered by her Franciscan family. She was a woman of faith. She had a loving heart, a beautiful spirit, and she had a commitment to family. She was loved by all. She is deeply missed and she'll forever live in our hearts.

*More obituaries on page 20*



# IN MEMORIAM

## Margaret E. Bogusko, U406



Margaret Bogusko, 93, of Wilkes-Barre Township, PA, passed into eternal life on March 23, 2020. Her loving husband of 67 years, Aloysius J. Bogusko (an honorary director of the Polish Union of USA), passed away on December 19, 2016. Margaret was the daughter of Stanley and Della (Bartlomowicz) Solack. She was a graduate of the former Marymount High School and attended Wilkes-Barre Business School. A devoted homemaker most of her life, Marge was employed by Acme Bakery and for 22 years at Andrea Bogusko Music Company. Marge was a devout Catholic and proud member of Saint Mary Maternity Church (Our Lady of Hope Parish) and the Confraternity of Christian Mothers. Marge loved music and was a talented pianist/accordion player. She cherished life and time spent with her husband, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren – a 100% Polish Union of USA family. Her family, cousins, friends, nieces and nephews were always welcome at her home. She was our loving matriarch. Marge is survived by her four daughters: Anita Sirak (Richard), Andrea Bogusko Yorkonis, Margo Lukacinsky, Judy Katra; son-in-law Matthew Yorkonis; grandchildren: April Yorkonis Fernandes (David), Aaron Yorkonis (Tracy), Lukas Lukacinsky, Kellan Katra, Kyle Katra; great grand-twins Andi Grace and Arden Aaralyn Yorkonis. She was predeceased by sons-in-law, Anthony Katra and Bill Lukacinsky; brother Chester Solack; sister Theresa Solack. Although Marge will be deeply missed, she leaves behind treasured memories for all. She passed peacefully, content and surrounded by love. Marge always said, "I had a good life."

## Delphine "Dolly" Elizabeth Huneycutt, Z132



Delphine "Dolly" Elizabeth Huneycutt (nee Fic), age 82, passed away on January 23, 2021. Dolly was a resident of East Chicago for 76 years. She was an active member in the community and St. Stanislaus Parish: president of the PTO, member of the St. Cecilia Choir, and served as President of both the St. Stanislaus Rosary Sodality and the Group 132 Polish Women's Alliance. She was a member of the Happy Timers Club, Knights of Columbus Wives Club, and St. Stanislaus Parish picnic coordinator for many years. Dolly was the President of the Polish Women's Alliance of America from 2011-2015, and President of the Polish Women's Alliance of America Charitable and Education Fund through 2020. She took great pride in her Polish heritage. She enjoyed traveling to different states to meet members of the PWA, coordinating annual Polish Christmas Wigilia dinners at the Munster Carmelite monastery, and her trips to Poland. Professionally, Dolly was a secretary for over 30 years at Graver and Union Tank Car Company. In retirement, Dolly enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, vacationing in Florida, annual trips to Holy Hill, WI, the casino, and her appreciation for a beautiful flower. She touched the lives of many through her infectious smile and kind heart. Her selflessness and faithful soul will be missed by many. She is survived by daughter Dessie (James) Kammer of Schererville, son John Huneycutt of Valparaiso, and three grandchildren Hayden, Jordan, and Greyson Kammer of Schererville. Sister Maryann (Edward) Tomczuk of Crestwood, IL; seven nieces and nephews: Helen Tomczuk, Stanley Tomczuk,

Edward (Joanne) Tomczuk, Dolly Carson, Joanne Colclasure, Marianne (Roman) Soltys, Barbara (Frank) Grygus, and eleven great-nephew and nieces.

## Larry and Marty Mach, W013



Lawrence "Larry" J. and Margaret "Marty" A. Mach of rural Weston, NE, entered into eternal rest together in an auto accident on September 25, 2020 in Wahoo, NE. Larry and Marty were married on September 22, 1979 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Ulysses, NE. They were members of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church in Plasi, NE and they both were very active in their community and held many positions throughout the surrounding area. Marty was born on March 24, 1954 in David City, NE to Wilbur M. and Hilda Olga (Prochaska) Coleman. She graduated from David City Aquinas High School in 1972. Through the years, Marty worked as a CNA at South Haven, Saunders Care Center and St. Joseph Villa. Marty was a member of Catholic Daughters of America, the American Legion #254 Auxiliary and the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Rosary Society. She enjoyed entertaining family and friends, baking kolaches and yodeling.

Larry was born November 22, 1948 in North Bend, NE to Anton and Helen (Sedlacek) Mach. He graduated from Prague High School in 1967. He served his country in the U.S. Navy until he was honorably discharged. Larry worked for Goodyear for forty years until his retirement. Larry was a member of the Knights of Columbus #1833 and the 4th Degree Assembly. He was a member of American Legion #254 and he was currently serving as Senior Vice Commander for the State of Nebraska American Legion. Larry was currently serving on the Saunders County Board of Supervisors; he was a member of the Nebraska Cattleman Board of Directors and part of the Blue River Gang. He was a member of the Saunders County Livestock Association Board of Directors, 40/8 Voiture #1018, Eagles Aerie #1834, Vice Chair of the Seedstock Council and Nebraska Classic Board of Directors. They are survived by children, Ross (Emily) Mach of Columbus, NE, Ryan (Ashley) Mach of Gilbert, AZ and Wendy Mach of Weston, NE; grandchildren, Brady, Bennett, Ensley and Wyatt; Marty's siblings, Ray (Elaine) Coleman, Marie (Dan) Pallat and Steve (KayLynn) Coleman; Larry's siblings, Roger (Kami) Mach, Dale Mach, Joe (Julie) Mach and Lyle (Linda) Mach; Marty's sisters-in-law, Betty Coleman and Joanie Coleman; Larry's brother-in-law, Paul Plybon; many nieces and nephews.

## Dolores Ann (Macuga) Hrinda, S250



Dolores Ann (Macuga) Hrinda, of Whitaker, PA, died on November 25, 2020, age 74. Daughter of the late George and Mary (Soychak) Macuga; beloved wife of 56 years to Richard Hrinda; mother of Lorraine (James) Clark, Yvonne Hrinda, Charlotte (Hugo) Belanger and Marsha (Gary) Galiyas; sister of Marlene Vavrek and Dorothy Day; loving Gram of James, Joshua, Kiley, Gary, Logan and Angelina. Dolores was a member of the FCSLA and served as Auditor for Sr. Branch 250. She loved family gatherings, spending time with her family, playing bingo, going to her card club with her friends, traveling and house sales.





# FCSLA

## Slovak-American Cook Book



**\$9.00**

The Slovak American Cookbook still contains your favorite traditional Slovak recipes that were first published in the original edition over a half of century ago. We are proud to say with over a quarter million sold, the cookbook is in it's 26<sup>th</sup> printing. FCSLA offers the cookbook as one of the ways we promote and preserve our Slovak heritage and culture among our members and community.

The cookbook sells for \$9.00 each, U.S. funds or \$11.00 U.S. money order for each cookbook ordered in Canada. Make payable to: **FCSLA**. Please do not send cash. We do not ship books C.O.D.

Individual book orders will ship via media mail (3rd class). Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. If you would like your order to ship 1st class for quicker delivery, please add to your order cost \$1.00 for each book shipped. If your order is for a full carton of cookbooks, the carton will be shipped via FedEx and will arrive in 1-2 weeks.

.....  
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## Anna Hurban Scholarship Fund

### First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

24950 Chagrin Boulevard  
Beachwood, OH 44122  
800-464-4642 • [www.fcsla.org](http://www.fcsla.org)

**Get Involved. Make a Donation.**

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

Sincerely,

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

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

### Your Contribution Information

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

# REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

## BALANCE SHEET AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2020

### ASSETS

|                                      |               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Cash & Short Term Investments        | \$ 37,165,103 |
| Bonds                                | 992,197,126   |
| Preferred Stock                      | 2,466,648     |
| Common Stock                         | 6,888,124     |
| Investment Income Due & Accrued      | 14,012,254    |
| Property Plant & Equipment, Net      | 4,840,642     |
| Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest | 2,084,086     |
| Other Assets                         | 823,808       |

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 1,060,477,791

### LIABILITIES

|                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Life Reserves                    | \$ 302,582,482 |
| Annuity Reserves                 | 625,572,064    |
| Death Claims Payable             | 4,056,911      |
| Unearned Premiums                | 402,270        |
| Matured Endowments               | 400,356        |
| Provision for Dividends Payable  | 1,400,000      |
| Accumulated Dividends & Interest | 4,903,215      |
| Accrued Convention Donations     | 175,000        |
| Provision for Future Conventions | 208,736        |
| Asset Valuation Reserve          | 11,225,124     |
| Interest Maintenance Reserve     | 351,870        |
| Other Liabilities                | 1,932,116      |

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$ 953,210,144

Surplus \$ 107,267,648

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS FUNDS \$ 1,060,477,791

## INCOME STATEMENT

For the Eleven Months Ending November 30, 2020

### REVENUE

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Insurance Premiums                           | \$ 3,780,156 |
| Annuity Premiums                             | 34,982,455   |
| Investment Income                            | 43,838,979   |
| Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve | 67,200       |
| Rental Income                                | 337,786      |
| Other Revenue                                | 30,773       |

TOTAL REVENUE \$ 83,037,349

### EXPENSE

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Increase in Reserves — Life    | \$ 1,399,482 |
| Increase in Reserves — Annuity | 26,484,029   |
| Insurance Benefits             | 8,239,974    |
| Annuity Benefits               | 30,272,113   |
| Commission Expense             | 1,073,151    |
| Surrender Benefits             | 2,760,647    |
| Matured Endowments             | 39,533       |
| Interest Expense               | 361,671      |
| Salaries — Employees           | 636,018      |
| Tax Expense                    | 49,058       |
| Sales Expense                  | 47,066       |

LIFE AND ANNUITY EXPENSES \$ 71,362,743

### Revenue Less Life and Annuity Expenses

\$ 11,674,606

|                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Bank Service Charges                | 136,456   |
| Data Processing Service Fees        | 189,396   |
| Accounting Fees                     | 197,034   |
| Actuarial Fees                      | 213,669   |
| Legal Fees                          | 62,589    |
| Consulting Fees                     | 86,411    |
| Employee Benefits                   | 551,948   |
| Fees — Directors                    | 173,964   |
| Salaries — Employees                | 1,154,845 |
| Salaries — Officers                 | 522,874   |
| Temporary Office Expenses           | 42,105    |
| Tax Expense                         | 135,469   |
| Depreciation Expense                | 235,327   |
| Utility Expense                     | 106,911   |
| Postage and Printing                | 175,680   |
| Advertising & Marketing             | 51,330    |
| Travel Expense                      | 23,752    |
| Insurance Department Fees           | 85,487    |
| Sales Expense                       | 103,345   |
| Rental Expense                      | 337,786   |
| Building Expense                    | 123,178   |
| Insurance Expense                   | 50,340    |
| Office Equipment & Supplies Expense | 121,682   |
| Dues & Subscriptions                | 62,236    |
| Human Resources                     | 104,499   |
| Other Expense                       | 11,518    |

SALES & OPERATING EXPENSES \$ 5,059,832

### Revenue Less Sales & Operating Expenses

\$ 6,614,774

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Post Mortem Benefits                   | 1,650,229 |
| Misc. Member Benefits                  | 90,232    |
| Donation Expenses                      | 74,364    |
| Change in Accrued Convention Donations | 137,500   |
| Convention Expenses                    | 173,875   |
| Branch and District Funding            | 713,776   |
| Fraternal Activities                   | 76,459    |
| Official Publications                  | 493,440   |
| Scholarship Awards                     | 263,533   |

DIRECT FRATERNAL EXPENSES \$ 3,673,408

### Income (Loss) from Operations

\$ 2,941,366

Dividends to Members 1,261,409

Subtotal Income (Loss) \$ 1,679,957

Capital Gains (Loss) 1,010,409

NET INCOME (Loss) \$ 2,690,366

## MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

### Sr. Branch 88

#### COVID 19 Shot Distribution

Coming from a family of volunteer firemen, Dorothy Urbanowicz soon realized the need to help the Monongahela Fire Department. The Fire Department made their Social Hall available for the distribution of Covid 19 shots.

The shots were administered by Dierkens Pharmacy of Monongahela. When Dorothy called the officers of Sr. Branch 88 of Monessen they were more than willing to make a donation to the Fire department to help defray utility expenses.

Dorothy is seen presenting a check from Sr. Branch 88 to Chief Aaron Leezer.







## Easter Traditions!

### HONEY MUSTARD GLAZED HAM

- ¾ cup brown sugar firmly packed
- ½ cup honey
- ¼ cup Dijon mustard
- ½ cup water
- 10 cloves
- 10 lb. spiral cut ham

In a small saucepan add the brown sugar, honey, mustard, water and cloves and bring to a boil stirring occasionally. Cook for about 5 minutes over medium heat.

Place the ham in a large roasting pan. Pour over glaze. Cover with a lid or with foil. Bake at 325 degrees for 15-20 minutes per pound. The internal temperature should read 140 degrees when it's done.

Baste the ham every half hour. Remove lid or foil the last 10 minutes to let the exterior crisp.

### PASKA - SLOVAK EASTER SWEET BREAD

#### For Starter

- 1 package Active Dry Yeast (2¼ teaspoon)
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 cup water, warm (about 110 degrees)
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 ½ cup milk, scalded and cooled
- 2 cups bread flour

#### For Dough

Add to above starter...

- 3 large eggs beaten
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 cup Crisco shortening
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 5-6 cups bread flour
- 2 cups white raisins

Place the raisins in very warm water with about a cup of dissolved sugar (not included from

above ingredients) to soften for about 30 minutes before using.

#### Proof Yeast

Into 1 cup of warm water dissolve 1 teaspoon sugar with the yeast in a mixing bowl until frothy.

#### Dough

Scald 1½ cups of milk then dissolve ¼ cup of sugar in the hot milk.

Allow to cool then add milk mixture to yeast mixture and add 2 cups of flour.

Mix well, cover, and allow to proof for 60-90 minutes or until almost doubles.

After the dough doubles, stir in the beaten eggs, ½ cup sugar, Crisco, and salt. Then slowly add the remaining 5 cups of flour.

Reserve a cup of flour if needed.

Knead well to form a soft dough.

#### Rising And Baking

Cover with loose plastic wrap to prevent drying, then top with a towel.

Allow to rise until doubled about 1-2 hours.

Deflate and fold in drained raisins.

Divide into 2 or 3 balls, shape, place in greased and floured bowls.

Let rise until doubled about 45-60 minutes.

Brush tops with an egg wash. Bake at 350 for 30-50 minutes or until internal temp is 190 degrees.

Allow to cool before removing from the baking bowl.

### SLOVAK EASTER CHEESE (CIRAK)

- 2-3 medium piece of cheesecloth
- White twine
- 2 cups whole milk
- 6 eggs
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 whole black crushed peppercorns

In a large microwavable glass bowl mix all the ingredients with a hand-mixer making sure the egg yolks are incorporated in the mixture.

Microwave the mixture on high for 15 to 20 minutes. During that time, remove from microwave and stir well with a whisk every 5 minutes.

Continue cooking and removing every 2-3 minutes to stir, until the mixture resembles curds of scrambled eggs, making sure not to overcook.

Immediately fill each cheesecloth bag. Do this quickly, before the mixture settles. The cheese is very hot, so carefully use towels to twist the loose end of the cheesecloth, squeezing out as much of the liquid as possible while forming into a ball.

Use a piece of twine to tie and secure the

cheesecloth close to the cheese ball. Hang to finish draining and to cool for an hour, or until room temperature.

Carefully remove the cheese from the cloth and place in a bowl. Set in the refrigerator for about an hour. Remove and wrap each cheese ball with plastic wrap. Leave in the refrigerator overnight before serving.

This cheese is very perishable and should be consumed within a day or two. Serve chilled.

### GRATED HORSERADISH BEETS

- 1 teaspoon white vinegar
- 1 teaspoon brown sugar
- 2 cups grated fresh horseradish root or purchased horseradish
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 pound beets (cooked, peeled, cooled, and grated).

In a large bowl, mix vinegar, brown sugar, horseradish, and salt until well combined.

Add grated beets and mix thoroughly.

Place in jars and store in the refrigerator.

### LEMON PUDDING JEMS

- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3 tablespoons all purpose flour
- 3 large eggs, separated
- ¼ cup butter unsalted, melted
- 1 tablespoon lemon zest
- ½ cup lemon juice freshly squeezed
- 1½ cups milk 2%

#### Berries

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Butter 6 individually sized ramekins.

In bowl, combine together the sugar and flour; set aside.

Place egg whites in a medium sized bowl and beat on high speed for 4 to 5 minutes or until stiff peaks form.

In another bowl, add the egg yolks and beat on medium-high speed until thick and lightened in color. Add the butter, lemon zest and juice; beat for 1 more minute on medium speed. Alternately beat in flour-sugar mixture and milk, making 5 additions of flour and 4 of milk.

Fold in the egg whites with a spatula. Transfer to the prepared ramekins. Place ramekins in large shallow roasting pan. Add hot water to half way up side of ramekins.

Bake in the center of oven for 35 to 40 minutes, until the cakes start to lightly brown on top. Cool for 5 minutes. Top two-thirds will be cake consistency and bottom third will be pudding consistency.

Garnish: These can be served warm or chilled. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and serve with berries.

## 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.