



Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

VOL. 100, NO. 3

DECEMBER 2013

*The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
Board of Directors wishes a Very Blessed and
Merry Christmas to all our Members*



ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

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Fraternally Yours™



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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,

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Remember Christmas...?

Do you remember a time when packages under the tree held real treasures, presents with love, and thought, and personality in them? When you could smile and say "Merry Christmas" without worrying about offending anyone or being viewed as a religious fanatic? When you went to gatherings to enjoy the friends and family who were there, not merely to fulfill an obligation? When each shop had something different and homemade Christmas cookies really were homemade? When you got something you didn't really want but you treasured it so much anyway just because of who gave it to you? When the cards in your mailbox had simple greetings of peace and joy and children in school would sing about baby Jesus in a manger and no one hurried downtown to file a lawsuit?

Remember Christmas when it was filled with real magic and miracles? When people didn't rush back to the stores on December 26th to exchange everything they had received? When a single bright star in the clear, cold night sky filled you with a sense of God's pure and endless grace? When you truly felt a part of something bigger than yourself; you felt connected to those around you, to life, to creation and to our Creator.

Remember Christmas, when you heard the story of that first Christmas so long ago and so far away, and it seemed so near and so present and so meaningful in your own life? The Christmas you most fondly remember was real. It still is, and will always be. Would you like to feel its miraculous power again? Take heart my friends YOU have the power to make it all meaningful and real again.

Start with remembering the real reason for this season. God sent his Son into the world as a Christmas present for everyone! So smile and proudly say "Merry Christmas" and don't worry about what anyone may think. Take delight in finding new ways to be generous and kind. Look up at the night sky and find that star. It's still shining bright, even to this day. Give away gifts that come from your heart. Make donations to a local charity in the name of your family and friends.

And take some time to lovingly think of the awesome, immeasurable gift of life you have been given, a gift renewed in every moment, transcending all boundaries and existing beyond time itself. Remember the magic of Christmas? It's here. It's now. It's alive in you. And what a joy it is.

Dear Friends,

Always remember that the greatest gift you will ever receive will never be found under a Christmas tree. It is far too valuable to be stored in any other place but in the depths of your heart. Have a Blessed, Merry Christmas and let the living light of the Christ Child born this Christmas morning shine brightly in you always.

Until Next month,
Warmly, **Carolyn**



SOME PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR OF FAITH, THE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON 2013

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

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Since this past February, my monthly columns have been reflections on the various documents that were promulgated during the sessions of the Second Vatican Council. The Council commenced in October 1962 and concluded in December 1965. I will continue those reflections in my columns during 2014. Our Holy Father Emeritus, Benedict XVI, proclaimed that the period between 11 October 2012 and the celebration of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, 24 November 2013, as the *Year of Faith*. At that juncture of his papacy, the Holy Father Emeritus reminded the faithful throughout the world to renew their Faith in Almighty God as purported in the Catholic Church. He stated, "Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy. It makes us fruitful, because it expands our hearts in hope and enables us to bear life-giving witness: indeed it opens the hearts and minds of those who listen to respond to the Lord's invitation to adhere to his word and become his disciples" (Benedict XVI, Apostolic Letter, *Porta fidei*, paragraph 7). During the *Year of Faith*, I challenged our membership to observe this Year in the following ways.

*Spiritually. Our Faith is rooted in the sacraments with the Eucharist as the center of the other six sacraments. During the *Year of Faith*, did we take advantage of the grace that was afforded us each Sunday as we gathered for the celebration of the Mass? When we sinned, did we take advantage of the grace and forgiveness that we are able to receive when we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Each day, did we renew the love that we share in the Sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders in word and action? When seriously ill whether physically, psychologically, and/or emotionally, did we seek the healing powers of the Holy Spirit that can be received in the Sacrament of the

Anointing of the Sick? Did we possess a better relationship with God by knowing God in the Sacred Scriptures? Did we participate more fervently in the spiritual and corporal works of mercy to guide us to a better understanding of our Faith?

*Education. 11 October 2012 was the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the twentieth anniversary of the issuance of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. During the *Year of Faith*, did we review the teachings of the Church by reading the sixteen documents that were promulgated at the Second Vatican Council and renew our understanding of our Faith by reading the *Catechism*? Did we explore a deeper appreciation of our Faith by praying the Apostle's Creed or the Nicene Creed each day? Did we read the lives of the saints, the writings of the Fathers of the Church, the history of the Church, liturgical documents, etc., so that they may have opened the doors of our minds and souls to the rich tradition of our Faith?

*Evangelization. On their website concerning the questions and answers about the *Year of Faith*, our bishops' responded to how the *Year of Faith* and Pope Benedict's *New Evangelization* were linked. They wrote, "The New Evangelization is a call to each Catholic to deepen his or her own faith, have confidence in the Gospel, and possess a willingness to share the Gospel. The Year of Faith, just like the New Evangelization, calls Catholics to conversion in order to deepen their relationship with Christ and to share it with others" (USCCB, *Year of Faith - Questions and Answers*). During the *Year of Faith*, did we make it a time to renew ourselves in our personal efforts to proclaim the Good News? Did we fervently share the Good News with others?

Hopefully, we attempted to capture the sense of the values of the above in our understanding of our Faith. We ask the Lord to assist us in our efforts to evangelize others in the New Year and

beyond, to educate those around us about Jesus, and by our example, be Christ to one another.

With the First Sunday of Advent, we find ourselves in the New Year of the Church's Year. Šťastlivý Nový Rok! May our observance of the Advent Season keep us calm through prayer, fervent in hope as we contemplate the coming of the Lord, maintain our minds focused on the Solemnity we are about to celebrate, and keep our hearts wide open to the love of Christ so that we may share His love with others.

Christmas Eve is such a beautiful night for those who share our Slovak/Slavic ancestral customs: the signing of the Cross on each family member with honey, eating the oplatky and honey, bobalky, mushroom soup, pirohy, and the reciting of the vinč. As with the Easter Vigil, I take great joy in celebrating Holy Mass at Midnight on Christmas especially when I intone, "Narodil sa Kristus Pan". Although I will miss being at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish at Saint Matthias Church (and Holy Name of Jesus and Saints Cyril and Methodius Churches, too!) this Christmas Eve, I will cherish my memories and only enjoy all the more my Christmas Eve celebration at the Cathedral Church.

For those in our membership who did not know, my bishop, George V. Murry, S.J., asked me to become the rector of our Cathedral in the Diocese of Youngstown. I took on the responsibility on 22 March 2013 and was formally installed rector by the Bishop on 23 May 2013. This was a bitter/sweet decision on my part - bitter insofar of leaving those churches I was pastor of for seventeen years, six years, and one year respectively until it became one parish in 2012 and pastor of the newly established Slovak parish on 31 May 2012; sweet because of being the new rector of the Mother Church of the Diocese. I ask that you pray for me in my new ministry and adventure!

**Vesele Vianocel!
Merry Christmas!**

Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI

Disaster Relief Fund Drive Raises Outstanding Amount for West, Texas!



On behalf of our board of directors and members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, a big THANK YOU is extended to all districts, branches and individuals who helped our members and families in need in West, Texas. Your gift is part of another chapter of this great history and represents a unified branch and association effort to help our members in need.

I wish to especially thank the members of the Philanthropic and Scholarship Committee of our board

of directors who developed guidelines for distribution of the funds and allocated funds to those members who responded to requests for information based on those guidelines. Members of the committee are Virginia Holmes (Chair), Irene Drotleff (notetaker), Msgr. Peter Polando, John M. Janovec, Sue Ann Seich and Dorothy Urbanowicz, besides myself. The Philanthropic Committee was established in 2009. The goal of the Committee is development of evaluation meth-

PHILANTHROPIC & SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

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John M. Janovec
Cynthia M. Maleski
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ods to guide and aid in charitable giving. The Committee creates specific plans for use of philanthropic dollars, strives to increase impact of philanthropic giving in the Catholic Slovak/Slavic community and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors. As needs arise, the Association may assist members or others who have suffered hardships due to natural disaster or like circumstances. It was the committee's honor to guide the West, Texas relief efforts!

As you know, on April 2013, an explosion at a fertilizer plant in West, Texas killed 15 persons, injured over 200 and many homes were destroyed and damaged. Nearly half of the town's 2,800 residents were forced to evacuate.

Our branch W077 is located in West. A number of our members had physical and property damage, including total homes destroyed. Many people were forced to evacuate the town for a long time.

We received an overwhelming response to our call for assistance, with the districts, branches and individuals named below giving a total of \$65,953.00. As your National President, I personally received notes from district and branch leaders, expressing how proud they are to be connected to and be associated with such a benevolent society which would extend itself in a humanitarian way to our fellow members in need.

In the spirit of the Christ Child at this time of year, let us join together in celebrating the true meaning of Christmas as we share with our brothers and sisters in their time of need. I am proud of this unified association effort as we move forward to the joys and challenges of 2014!

Fraternally,

Cynthia M. Maleski, National President

LIST OF DONORS FOR THE DISASTER RELIEF FUND DRIVE

Donor	Location	Donor	Location	Donor	Location
* Branch J-012	Windber, Pennsylvania	* Branch S-046	Chicago, Illinois	Branch S-172	Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania
Branch J-013	Scranton, Pennsylvania	* Branch S-049	Mount Olive, Illinois	* Branch S-172	Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania
Branch J-018	Homestead, Pennsylvania	* Branch S-053	Joliet, Illinois	* Branch S-176	Cleveland, Ohio
Branch J-046	Lansford, Pennsylvania	Branch S-055	Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania	* Branch S-177	Clairton, Pennsylvania
Branch J-058	Whiting, Indiana	Branch S-070	Scranton, Pennsylvania	* Branch S-180	Chicago, Illinois
Branch J-083	Joliet, Illinois	* Branch S-072	Olyphant, Pennsylvania	Branch S-181	Chicago, Illinois
* Branch J-106	Chicago, Illinois	* Branch S-077	Mckeesport, Pennsylvania	* Branch S-182	Windber, Pennsylvania
Branch J-124	Dunmore, Pennsylvania	* Branch S-081	Whiting, Indiana	Branch S-184	Carteret, New Jersey
Branch J-126	East Vandergrift, Pennsylvania	Branch S-084	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Branch S-200	Glassport, Pennsylvania
Branch J-138	Natrona, Pennsylvania	* Branch S-086	Kingston, Pennsylvania	* Branch S-218	Braddock, Pennsylvania
* Branch J-158	Catasauqua, Pennsylvania	* Branch S-088	Monessen, Pennsylvania	Branch S-221	Cleveland, Ohio
* Branch J-198	Lorain, Ohio	* Branch S-089	Bethlehem, Pennsylvania	Branch S-225	Chicago, Illinois
Branch J-209	Graceton, Pennsylvania	Branch S-090	McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania	Branch S-230	Catasauqua, Pennsylvania
* Branch J-231	Youngstown, Ohio	Branch S-094	Hostetter, Pennsylvania	* Branch S-238	Cleveland, Ohio
Branch J-339	Chicago, Illinois	* Branch S-096	Sheppton, Pennsylvania	Branch S-248	Chicago, Illinois
Branch J-364	Johnstown, Pennsylvania	* Branch S-098	United, Pennsylvania	Branch S-258	Chicago, Illinois
* Branch J-420	Olyphant, Pennsylvania	* Branch S-101	St. Louis, Missouri	Branch S-262	East Vandergrift, Pennsylvania
Branch J-534	Buffalo, New York	Branch S-107	Duquesne, Pennsylvania	* Branch S-267	Nanty Glo, Pennsylvania
* Branch S-001	Cleveland, Ohio	Branch S-111	Charleroi, Pennsylvania	Branch S-269	Brownsville, Pennsylvania
* Branch S-007	Streator, Illinois	* Branch S-114	Lorain, Ohio	Branch S-274	Chicago, Illinois
Branch S-009	Cleveland, Ohio	* Branch S-128	Lakewood, Ohio	* Branch S-278	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Branch S-010	Cleveland, Ohio	Branch S-140	Lansford, Pennsylvania	* Branch S-281	Bridgeport, Connecticut
* Branch S-011	Homestead, Pennsylvania	* Branch S-141	Cleveland, Ohio	Branch S-283	Dunmore, Pennsylvania
* Branch S-013	Braddock, Pennsylvania	* Branch S-150	Phoenixville, Pennsylvania	Branch S-287	Chicago, Illinois
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* Branch S-038	Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania	* Branch S-161	Youngstown, Ohio	* Branch S-313	Natrona, Pennsylvania
Branch S-045	Hazleton, Pennsylvania	* Branch S-169	Youngstown, Ohio	Branch S-317	Graceton, Pennsylvania

* Denotes a donation of \$500 or more.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND DRIVE

Donor

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* Branch S-334	Detroit, Michigan
* Branch S-343	Swissvale, Pennsylvania
* Branch S-350	Shamokin, Pennsylvania
* Branch S-376	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
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* Branch S-484	Egypt, Pennsylvania
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* Branch S-490	Cleveland, Ohio
* Branch S-522	Cleveland, Ohio
* Branch S-524	Lakewood, Ohio
* Branch S-553	Cleveland, Ohio
Branch S-555	Cleveland, Ohio
* Branch S-557	Cleveland, Ohio
* Branch S-563	Cleveland, Ohio
* Branch S-590	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
* Branch S-615	Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania
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* Branch W-086	Munden, Kansas
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* Denotes a donation of \$500 or more.

May the Infant Savior Born on that
First Christmas Day, Fill your
Lives with Love, Hope and Faith,
This Christmas Season and Always



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Carol Yurechko

*Nech malý spasiteľ, ktorý sa narodil v prvý
deň vianoc naplní vaše životy láskou,
nádejou a vierou tieto i budúce vianoce*

Why is Jesus Better Than Santa Claus?



Santa lives at the North Pole...**JESUS is everywhere.**

Santa rides in a sleigh...**JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.**

Santa comes but once a year...**JESUS is an ever present help.**

Santa fills your stockings with goodies...**JESUS supplies all your needs.**

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited...**JESUS stands at your door**

and knocks, and then enters your heart when invited.

You have to wait in line to see Santa...**JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.**

Santa lets you sit on his lap...**JESUS lets you rest in His arms.**

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what is your name?"... **JESUS knew our name before we were born, not only does He know our name, He knows our address too.**

He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly...**JESUS has a heart of full love.**

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO ...**JESUS offers health, help and hope.**

Santa says "you better not cry"...**JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you".**

Santa's little helpers make toys...**JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.**

Santa may make you chuckle but...**JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.**

While Santa puts gifts under your tree...**JESUS became our gift and died on a tree...The cross.**

We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about. We need to put Christ back in CHRISTmas.

JESUS is still the reason for the season.

Yes, JESUS is better, He is even better than Santa Claus.

Merry CHRISTmas!

~ Author unknown

I came across this poem and loved it! Both Jesus and Santa need to be in our lives! Without Jesus there would be no Christmas and therefore no Santa – he is Jesus' helper. Wishing you and your family a very Merry & Blessed Christmas! I hope Jesus and Santa bring you everything you want for Christmas!

FCSLA Connects . . .

By Patrick Braun

Life Insurance — A Gift of Love



Patrick Braun

Today I received a very attractive brochure from a popular dinner theater located in Wisconsin. On the front it had Christmas ornaments and a picture of a gift card to the theater. It had the words "This Holiday, Give the Gift That's Meant For Sharing!" It is a very attractive sales piece! It made me think of all the ways in which life insurance is truly a gift of love whether the certificate (policy) is purchased for someone else OR if it is purchased to benefit someone.

Parents buy life insurance on themselves to guarantee that their children will have the advantages which only money can buy; a home to live in, proper nutrition, educational opportunities, etc. This is a gift of love!

Parents or grandparents buy life insurance on children or grandchildren to protect insurability in case the child loses his or her health and becomes uninsurable. This is a gift of love!

A husband or wife buys insurance on himself or herself to guarantee that their spouse, to whom they have committed a life partnership, will be financially taken care of in the event of his or her death. This is a gift of love!

At this time of the year we will all be buying gifts for loved ones. Let's remember that giving the gift of life insurance will outlast all of the other gifts we might give and may, ultimately, be the very best gift of all!

From OCTOBER 1 through DECEMBER 31, 2013,
older FCSLA annuities (issued prior to 2005)
with a guaranteed minimum rate of

4.50%

will earn a yield of 4.6025%.

NEWER FCSLA ANNUITIES (issued 2005 and after)
with a guaranteed minimum rate of

3.50%

will earn a yield of 3.5618%

while those with a guaranteed minimum rate of

3.00%

will earn a yield of 3.0453%.

Sr. Branch 161 and Jr. Branch 192 Awards Scholarships

The ten members of S161 and J192 who were awarded First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Scholarships were honored individually when the Youngstown District hosted a scholarship dinner in August at the Elm Tree, Struthers, OH.

Each winner was given a FCSLA cookbook and monetary gift from S161 and J192. President, Virginia DeLuca, introduced the winners who spoke briefly and Treasurer, Melanie Leonard, presented the gifts. Senior winners were Deanna Demechko, Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron, OH; Jacob Zaluski, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH and junior winners were Mya Agee and Brooke Chandler, Holy Family School, Poland, OH; Jacob Sebest, Ursuline High School, Youngstown, OH; Justin Viau, St. Pius X School, Baltimore, OH; and Mara Bahmer, Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron, OH. Unable to attend were Nick Markovitch, Canfield; Jacob Zarny, Ohio State University, and Francesco DeMayo III, University of Chicago. Jacob Sebest and Brooke Chandler won the Katherine L. Sedlacko Family Trust Scholarship which was presented to them by family representative Agnes Lisko. President Bernadette J. Demechko announced that Francesco DeMayo III won the Youngstown District Scholarship but was already at school and unable to attend.



Standing, L-R: Virginia DeLuca, President; Mara Bahmer, Jacob Sebest, Jacob Zaluski, Melanie Leonard, Treasurer. Seated, L-R: Loretta Ekoniak, Senior Auditor; Mya Agee, Bernadette Demechko, District President; Justin Viau II, Brooke Chandler and Deanna Demechko.

Branch 409 Christmas Party East Chicago, IN

DATE: December 8, 2013

PLACE: Our Lady of Consolation Church Hall,
8303 Taft St. (Rt.55), Merrillville, IN

RSVP by: December 1, 2013

TO: Agnes Chervenak (219 865-6396)
Jeanette Bramer (219) 397-6890

From the Desk of the National Secretary

Sue Ann M. Seich



When you think of Christmas what comes to mind first? Think about it for a second! As I sat typing this I thought about all the wonderful memories of Christmases past when I was a little girl, about a hundred years ago. On Christmas Eve we had sour mushroom soup, pierohy, bobalky and stinky fish (no meat in those days), at my grandparents' house. As soon as we finished dinner,

Dzedo (grandfather) had all of us grandkids singing "Here Comes Santa Clause" as he came down the stairs from his bedroom where he hid all the presents. We giggled and screamed in delight as he handed out the gifts. I couldn't wait to see what he and Baba got me. Now, as I think back in time, it really wasn't the gift that I opened on Christmas Eve that was that important, it was the gift of being part of a loving family. Now after all these years I still look forward to our family getting together to share the Christmas "Spirit" and make new memories.



Times have changed and things are not like they used to be. We can't bring back those years, but we can look to the future. All of us, working together can make the future brighter and better for future generations. Are you up to the challenge?

Working together we can build a stronger, brighter and more successful future for "our" Association.

It has been a pleasure to serve you as your National Secretary for another year. I look forward to the events that will bring us together in 2014. I enjoy celebrating and sharing special occasions with you.

May you and your family enjoy the loving presence of the Christ Child as we celebrate Christmas and plan special events in the New Year. I fraternally wish you a very "Merry Christmas" and a very healthy "Happy New Year" from my family to yours.

Until next time, may God keep you happy, healthy and loved, **Sue Ann.**

~ NOTICE ~

Sr. Branch 88 and Jr. Branch 157 of Monessen, PA, will award a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2014/2015 school year. Branch members may contact Dorothy Urbanowicz, 724-684-8243 or Rosemary Betza, 724-684-9778 for more information.

FCSLA 2014-2015 Scholarship Program

More than \$248,250 in Scholarship Awards!

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association is pleased to announce its 2014-2015 Scholarship Program which is in fulfillment of one of the objectives of the organization. This year more than \$248,250 will be awarded to young members of the Association, which includes \$42,000 being awarded to elementary school applicants.

These elementary school awards are a benefit recently passed by the FCSLA Board of Directors. In this day of promoting education, one of the best means of offering assistance is by the Scholarship Program.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE \$1,250 EACH AND GRADUATE AWARDS ARE \$1,750 EACH

58 Freshmen • 27 Sophomores • 16 Juniors
16 Seniors • 16 Full Time Graduate Awards

32 HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS AT \$1,000 EACH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:

8 Freshmen • 8 Sophomores • 8 Juniors • 8 Seniors

28 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AWARDS AT \$750 EACH WILL BE AWARDED AS FOLLOWS:

7 for Grade 5 • 7 for Grade 6 • 7 for Grade 7 • 7 for Grade 8

28 EARLY ELEMENTARY AWARDS AT \$750 EACH 7 for Grade 1 • 7 for Grade 2 • 7 for Grade 3 • 7 for Grade 4

In addition, two (2) Theresa Sajan Scholarships are awarded to graduate students.

An eligible candidate for a FCSLA Fraternal Scholarship Award shall be a member of good standing for at least three years prior to date of application and hold a \$1,000 legal reserve certificate, a \$5,000 term certificate or have an annuity certificate. If applying for a Seminary or Deacon Scholarship it is necessary to complete all documents.

Winners will be chosen by a committee of impartial judges from the educational field and based on the following: Academic standing 50%, Family membership 15%, Leadership 20%, and extenuating circumstances 15%.

All applications and supporting documents must be completed and submitted to the Home Office no later than March 1, 2014.

Applications and further details for this program may be obtained by calling the Home Office, your local Branch Officer, or by visiting our website at www.fcscla.com or by completing the form on this page and mailing it to:

**First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association —
Scholarship Department
24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Beachwood, OH 44122-5634**

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST

Please send me a scholarship application form.
(PLEASE PRINT)

Branch No. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Application requested for following award:

- ☐ College ☐ Graduate ☐ High School ☐ Grades 5-8
☐ Seminary or Deacon Scholarship ☐ Grades 1-4

65th Wedding Anniversary Celebrated

John (S13, Brad-dock, PA) and Agnes Havrilla of Lysle, IL celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary at a reception given by their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren on Sunday, August 10th, 2013 at the Bohemian Garden Restaurant, Downers Grove, IL. They also celebrated John's 90th birthday later that day. The couple was married on May 8, 1948 at St. Agatha's Church in Chicago, IL.



90th Birthday Celebration for Helen Humlicek



Helen Humlicek, Lincoln, NE, formerly of Prague, NE, celebrated her 90th birthday with an open house on Saturday, November 9, 2013 in Prague. Helen Riepl was born November 8, 1923 near Malmo, NE and graduated from Malmo High School. She and the late Leonard C. Humlicek were married over 53 years. Helen has 8 children, 12 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. Helen is a long time member of St. John's Catholic Church, Prague. She is a member of the W013 FCSLA Branch in Prague, NE. Cards can be sent to Helen Humlicek, 825 No Cotner, #201, Lincoln, NE 68505. She requests no gifts.



Branch 114 Christmas Party and Annual Meeting

St. Ann's Lodge Branch 114 in Lorain, OH invites all of its members to the Annual Meeting and Christmas Party. It will be held on Sunday, December 15th, at 1:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway. Please make your reservations by Tuesday, December 10th by phoning Bernie Danevich at 440-960-2605 or Margaret Thomas at 440-288-1492.

Farewell and Best of Luck on Your Retirement(s)

Kelly Shedlock, Fraternal Director

Tears were shed, goodbyes were said as the Home Office bid farewell to four (4) ladies who have retired from their journey at FCSLA. Margie Jandrokovic, Pat Schultz, Pam Boyarsky and Dorothy Szumski begin the next phase of their lives with new journeys and memories. They will be missed more than they know. They have touched many lives throughout the years. We are all better for having worked with them day in and day out. Combined they have 71 years at FCSLA. A wealth of knowledge is leaving with them. Thank you to each and every one of you for all you have done for FCSLA.



MARGIE JANDROKOVIC — Office Manager, started at FCSLA in 1980 and retired on April 2013. She opened the office every single morning at 7:00 a.m. and got it up and running for the rest of the staff. Being the office manager, she always had to deal with the problems of the office, from no heat to too much air, to the flag being stuck to the flag pole. You name it she had to deal with it. I'm sure at times we were a difficult bunch.

Thank you, Margie for putting up with all of us!



PAT SCHULTZ — Dividends Department, started in 2003 at FCSLA and retired June 2013. Pat always has a smile on her face and is willing to help you in any way she can. She is such a good listener and always willing to give you a hug if you are having a rough day. Pat always sees the good in people. She could explain things over the phone and in person about dividends in a simple way so you can understand it (She can probably still explain it, but I bet in a few

months she will forget it all. Ha! Ha!) Pat, Thank you for being YOU!



PAM BOYARSKY — Cash Surrender Department, started in 1996 and is a former school teacher. Pam started after teaching for 32 years. She retired in October 2013. Pam always gives you a straight answer. When in doubt ask Pam! She had her own way of explaining and answering questions in layman terms with unique analogies that made it easy to understand and put into perspective. She was always willing to help. Knowing her "jobs" so well things would

be done before they came up. We will be losing a LIBRARY of knowledge. Pam, Thank you for always being willing to "teach" us.



DOROTHY SZUMSKI — Administrative Assistant to the National President and National Secretary. Started in 2002 and retired November 2013. Dorothy is always so sweet, caring and willing to do anything for everybody. She was the right hand of the National President and National Secretary for 11 years. She did so much "behind the scenes" too numerous to mention. But a few that come to mind are all the gifts you get at your branch activities – she ordered all of

them, the scholarships – the hundreds and hundreds that come in every year, stacks upon stacks – she kept them all organized and what would the past few National Conventions have been like without her? Dorothy, Thank you for keeping FCSLA "running"! Everyone in the noon lunch group is going to miss your laugh at the lunch table.

We will miss you all! Best of luck for a wonderful, joyful retirement!

Finally, to quote lyrics from the Sound of Music (remember to sing the following) ... "So long, farewell Adieu, adieu, adieu, to you and you and you. So long, farewell goodbye, goodbye, goodbye, goodbye."

P.S. Ladies, I'm sorry if I made you cry.

Branch W033 Members Enjoy Trip to Grotto

Ten members of Branch W033 (Spillville, IA) took a day trip to the Grotto of the Redemption in West Bend, IA on Monday, September 30. Jenae Kuennen safely drove the rented van for the day. The group had a wonderful tour of the Grotto, visited the museum and the beautiful Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church where the Christmas Chapel was built in 1927. Everyone enjoyed lunch in the Grotto Café and spending time in the gift shop.



Front row, L-R: Adella Kuhn, Alice Klimesh, Joanne Hagerman and Becky Kuhn. Back row, L-R: Martha Klimesh, Victor Kovarik, Julius Frana, Patricia Zajicek, Rita Fjelstul and driver Jenae Kuennen.

**HAVE YOU SIGNED UP
A NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?**

Servant Leadership Awards Presented in Danville, Pennsylvania



On October 27, 2013, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA awarded the Servant Leadership Award to 37 outstanding high school juniors and seniors from the dioceses of Harrisburg, PA, Scranton, PA and Pittsburgh, PA. The ceremony took place at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville. Over the past 11 years, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius have honored nearly 675 teens in the Dioceses of Bridgeport (CT), Charleston (SC), Chicago (IL), Gary (IN), Harrisburg (PA), Milwaukee (WI), Pittsburgh (PA), St. Louis (MO), Scranton (PA), and Syracuse (NY) with the Servant Leadership Award.

The Servant Leadership Award recognizes distinguished high school juniors and seniors who are joyful witnesses, compassionate proclaimers, and enthusiastic builders of the Kingdom of God. The focus of the award is on teens who remain active in their faith and parish beyond Confirmation, and who actively serve in their parish, school and community.

At the ceremony, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius also honored four adults who received the Father Jankola Lifetime Commitment to Servant Leadership Award in the ministries of evangelization, education, eldercare and ecumenism. Father Jankola was a priest from the Diocese of Scranton who was instrumental in recognizing the need for religious sisters to educate children and founded the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in 1909.

The 2013 Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Commitment to Servant Leadership Award went to:

Evangelization: Mr. Daniel Tanzone (S002) from Yonkers, NY was recognized for his 30+ years as Editor of the *Slovak Catholic Falcon*, the newspaper for the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Under his direction, the publication encourages active participation in parish life, supports religious communities of Slovak heritage, furthers charity and benevolence, and supports the Catholic Bishops in the Slovak Republic.

Education: Cyril Stretansky was recognized for the many years he has spent as professor of music and director of choral activities at Susquehanna University, and for his service as the artistic director and principal conductor of the International Music Festival in Italy where he conducted festival choirs at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, the Cathedral of Florence, St. Mark's Basilica in Venice, and the Cathedral of Milan. Closer to home, on several occasions he brought the Susquehanna University Choir and the Susquehanna Valley Chorale to the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville.

Eldercare: Attorney Cynthia Maleski (S313) from Natrona Heights, PA, was recognized for her work in Elder Law, and her service as Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner and Cabinet Secretary under the late Gov. Robert P. Casey, where she was unanimously confirmed by the State Senate. She has served as officer for many national organizations and foundations promoting service and leadership, and is currently on the Pennsylvania Board of Governors for the Saint Thomas More Society. A practicing attorney for 30 years, Cynthia is a nationally known expert in health and elder law. Currently she serves as National President of the FCSLA.

Ecumenism: Mrs. Elizabeth Yurechko (S289) from Crown Point, IN, was recognized for her 32 years of service to students at Andrean High School in Merrillville IN, and for her involvement in the creation of the Midwest Slovak Cultural Society's Annual Slovak Day in 1973 and her 40 years of service in annually organizing this festival of faith, heritage and culture. Indiana State Representative Peter J. Visclosky in the Indiana House of Representatives, in an official statement recognizing the festival organizers, noted that the festival has played an important role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana.

The ceremony ended with a reception at Maria Hall.



ATTENTION!
YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!
BRANCH OFFICERS
IT'S HERE!!!

Your very own Branch Officers Section
on the FCSLA website: www.fcsla.org!!!

A special section where branch officers can log in and find "tools" that will help you make your branch a big success. You will be able to access Monthly Newsletters, Matching Funds Guidelines and Forms, Join Hands Day Information and much, much more!

To obtain a log in password, contact the
Fraternal & Youth Director,
Kelly Shedlock by email kelly@fcsla.org
or phone 800-464-4642 EXT 1051.

Dual Roles for Branch 200 Member Audra Lewis

As the placekicker for the South Allegheny Gladiators and a majorette for the marching band during the past two seasons, Audra Lewis (S200, Glassport, PA) has become quite adept at switching in and out of uniforms during each game.

Recently, the starting varsity senior swapped her football helmet and twirling baton for a tiara and sash when the student body selected her to be this year's Homecoming Queen at South Allegheny High School.

Lewis was accompanied onto the field for the homecoming ceremony by her cousin, Anthony Lewis, 17, because her regular escort — quarterback Ty Cook — had to participate in pre-game warm-ups and drills with the team.

The 5-foot, 4-inch, 140-pound kicker demonstrated her dedication in the moments after she was crowned when she cut short an interview with reporters to get ready to play some football.

Lewis' quick-change routine typically involves dressing in her majorette uniform to perform in the marching band's pre-game show. She then heads to the locker room to suit up in her football uniform, leaving her majorette uniform on underneath.

As halftime approaches, she peels off her jersey and pads to perform again. At the conclusion of the show, Lewis suits up again and gets her mind back in the game.

While Lewis' dual role has received a considerable amount of attention, she credits her teammates with helping to achieve her goals.

Lewis said she plans to attend Point Park University, Downtown, in the fall to study public relations or psychology.

High School Principal Jeff Solomon said Lewis has demonstrated exceptional qualities.



Amanda Siedschlag Interns at the University of Oregon

Amanda Siedschlag worked this summer in Professor Geraldine Richmond's chemistry lab at the University of Oregon, as part of the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program supported by the National Science Foundation. Amanda's project involved research into developing more efficient thin-film solar cell materials. The research builds upon well-established silicon solar cell technology, but uses thin film absorbers to enhance the conversion efficiency of sunlight to electricity. During her 10 weeks in the Richmond lab, Amanda focused on fabricating thin films and developing synthetic methods to make films that work more efficiently. She made significant contributions to the project, which will be published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal sometime this winter. It is anticipated that she will report her results at the 247th American Chemical Society (ACS) National Meeting in Dallas, TX in March 2014.



Amanda is a 2010 graduate of Tri-County High School, Plainfield, WI. She is in her senior year at Viterbo University in La Crosse, WI, and will graduate in May 2014 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and a minor in Mathematics (www.viterbo.edu). Last year Amanda interned at the chemistry lab for Trane in LaCrosse, WI.

Amanda is an FCSLA Scholarship winner from the 2011-2012 Scholarship Program and a member of S485 (Chicago) along with her mom, dad, brother, aunts and numerous cousins. Amanda is the grandniece of S485 Sr. Financial Secretary, Lydia Berry and the cousin of Chicago District President/S485-J382 Recording Secretary, Mary Therese Tylus.

Sr. Branch 169 Member Jenna Hamrock Receives Degree

Jenna Lynn Hamrock graduated from The University of Akron on August 17, 2013 and received her Master of Science Degree in Nursing – Nurse Anesthesia.

Previously in May 2008, Jenna received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from Youngstown State University. She is a 4th generation member of S169 in Youngstown, OH and a past FCSLA scholarship recipient.

She is presently employed as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) at The Surgical Hospital at Southwoods. Jenna is the daughter of Bonnie and Jim Hamrock of Poland, OH.



St. Ann's Feast Day and Scholarship Luncheon Held

On July 21, 2013 members of S114 and J198 held their St. Ann's Feast Day and Scholarship Luncheon at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH. A business meeting was held welcoming all present, followed by reports from the senior and junior branch. During the meeting, President Bernie Danevich introduced the FCSLA scholarship winners from the senior branch. They were with their studies:

Michael Butorec – Environmental Science

Kaitlyn Knick – Pharmacy

Amanda Majer – Integrated Science for Adolescence

Samantha Solak – Accounting

They were congratulated and presented with a check from the senior branch and wished success for the future.

There was also an Elementary Scholarship winner from the junior branch, Jacob Shutic, who was given a check by junior treasurer, Betty Boone along with congratulations from the branch. All scholarship winners received gifts from the FCSLA Home Office.

A luncheon was served to all in attendance with cake included. The meeting ended with a raffle and a prayer.



Betty Boone, J192 Treasurer with Elementary Scholarship winner Jacob Shutic.



Scholarship winners with President Bernie Danevich and parents representing the 2 winners who could not attend.

**COMING
IN
2014**

4 Different Contests for 4 Different Age Groups

*Be on the lookout
for your age group.*

January – Ages 5 and under

February – Ages 6-22

March, April & May – Ages 23 – 64

June, July, August, September & October – Ages 65+

* Only submit completed contest for your age group. You will be ineligible if you submit for an age group other than yours.

ATTENTION

CLEVELAND DISTRICT BRANCH MEMBERS

~ MARK YOUR CALENDARS! ~

**SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2014 –
Tip off at 3:00 P.M.**

**YOUR CLEVELAND CAVS
vs. Indiana Pacers AT THE Q**



Seats are in the 200 sections

\$15.00 ticket includes

\$5.00 food/beverage voucher

Members Contact your branch officer
to see if your branch is participating.

*Be on the lookout for your invitation in the mail
and all the details!*

Visclosky Honors Slovak Events

Congressman Peter Visclosky, House of Representative for the state of Indiana honored two Slovak events: Slovak Day, held on July 21, 2013 (40th anniversary) and The Slovak Club of Merrillville, IN, (100th anniversary) on September 28, 2013 with congressional letters read on the House floor. Representative Visclosky believes it is important to keep your heritage alive!

Slovakia to Bid on Winter Olympics for 2022

Slovakia is planning to bid on hosting the XXIV Winter Olympics for 2022. The Winter Olympics are held every four years. They will be held in Russia in 2014 and Korea in 2018. The Winter Olympics generally consist of 15 sports in three main categories: ice sports, Alpine skiing and snowboarding and Nordic events. If Slovakia were successful in its bid, some of the events would be held in Poland.

Over the years, various international sporting events have been held in the Tatras, including European ice hockey championships on the lake. Strbské Pleso has had nine World Cup ski jump events, 11 World Cup Nordic skiing events and seven Continental Cup Nordic skiing events.

CLEVELAND DISTRICT CELEBRATES ST. ANNE'S DAY

The Cleveland District celebrated St. Anne's Day on Friday, July 26th at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Euclid, OH. St. Anne blest us with an absolutely gorgeous day, which led to a turnout of 200 members celebrating St. Anne's Day!

Not only was it St. Anne's day, it was also St. Joachim's Day, husband of St. Anne. Anne and Joachim were the parents of Mary and the grandparents of our Lord.

We honored Sts. Anne and Joachim with the celebration of a beautiful Mass in the chapel. Bishop Roger Gries, O.S.B. was the celebrant and was assisted by Cleveland District Chaplain Fr. Gerard Gonda, O.S.B., and guest clergy Frs.

Jerome Lajack, Richard Burchell, Anthony Stebja, Robert Marva, O.F.M., Joachim Pastirik, O.S.B., and Brothers Gabriel Balazovic, O.S.B., and Thomas Sanders, O.S.B. Offertory gifts were presented by FCSLA National President Cynthia Maleski, Past President Mary Ann Johaneck and Cleveland District President Joyce Lechman. Ruth Novak and the choir from St. Wendelin Church provided the music for the Mass and Benediction.

Lunch was served in the dining hall followed by the recognition of the FCSLA 2013 scholarship winners from the Cleveland District who were in attendance, namely, Sara Stedrosky, Rene Kraft, Brynne Naughton, John Lally, and Jozef

Sekerak. We did not make them sing for their supper; however, we did put them to work assisting with the very popular raffle. Thank you to all the branches that so generously donated all the wonderful gifts! Congratulations to all the winners!

The celebration ended with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary and Benediction led by Fr. Gerard Gonda, O.S.B.

A big "Thank You" to all the District Branch Officers and members who worked so hard to make this St. Anne's Day celebration so enjoyable.

Please see more photos on the Cleveland District webpage.



SLOVAK STUDIES PROGRAM

The FCSLA, along with our brother and sister Slovak fraternal, is one of the sponsors of The Slovak Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh. There are four courses scheduled for the Spring Semester 2014: elementary, intermediate and advanced language, and film. The times and rooms are listed at the Slovak Studies Program website: <http://www.pitt.edu/~votruba> under "Current information" with links to details of the courses and to information about how people aged 50+ can register to attend them with minimal charges.



IN MEMORIAM

IONA M. COVAL **Sr. Branch 45**



Mrs. Iona M. Coval, 87, of Harrisburg, PA, died peacefully on July 12, 2013, at The Jewish Home of Greater Harrisburg following a brief illness. She was born

on February 2, 1926, in Hazleton, PA, to the late Lewis J. and Mary A. (Miko) Maylath.

She is survived by John L. Coval, her husband of 60 years, and two daughters, Karen M. Hurley and her husband, Terry, of Harrisburg, and Mary Ann Coval, of Alexandria, VA. She is also survived by her brother, Lewis A. Maylath, of Wallingford, PA, and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by five sisters and two brothers.

She was a graduate of Hazleton High School and McCann School of Business. Mrs. Coval retired after 36 years of service as Secretary of Saint Margaret Mary School, Penbrook. Generations of students and parents experienced her thoughtfulness, attention to detail, and spirit of generosity.

She was an active member of Saint Margaret Mary Parish, especially involved with organizing Project Easter Basket, the Christmas Craft Bazaar, and helping with the Parish Festivals. She served in a variety of leadership roles with the Parish Council of Catholic Women and led fundraising efforts to build water tanks to benefit African villages. She was a devoted wife and mother. She was a wonderful homemaker and enjoyed preparing traditional Slovak food with her daughters. Her hobbies included gardening, crocheting, knitting, crossword and jigsaw puzzles.

HELEN V. BABIK **Sr. Branch 28**



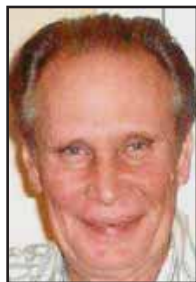
Helen V. (Laco) Babik, 92, Johnstown, PA, entered eternal life on November 3, 2012. Born October 24, 1920, in Johnstown, daughter of Stephen and Maria (Kucera) Laco.

A 1939 graduate of Johnstown High School, Helen retired from Glosser Bros. and Gee Bee Stores.

Preceded in death by her parents; husband, Michael R. Babik; son, Timothy; brothers, Stephen, Nicholas and Cyril Methodius Laco; and sister, Louise Varnecky.

She is survived by her children, Eugene Babik, Pittsburgh; Gregory married to the former Susan L. Griffith, Johnstown; and Michelle, wife of Thomas L. Beblar, Johnstown; eight grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Helen was a former member of St. Stephen Catholic Church, where she was a founding member of the Ladies Guild. She served for 60 years as secretary/treasurer of Lodge 28; Jr. Branch 364, FCSLA; Turners Auxiliary; and Band Hall Auxiliary.

KENNETH ERIC KUSHNIR **Sr. Branch 156**



Kenneth Eric Kushnir entered into eternal rest surrounded by his family on August 21, 2012. He was born May 11, 1948 in New Bedford, PA, son of the late Stephen and Yolanda Novak Kushnir.

He served in the U.S. Army during Vietnam receiving the National Defense Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal. He later worked at Youngstown Sheet & Tube Company and Mahoning Valley Electric Service before he retired.

He was a member of St. James the Apostle Church in New Bedford, PA. He was a "Classic Car" enthusiast and loved rebuilding them. He loved spending time with his family, coaching his youngest daughter's softball team, being outdoors, especially taking care of his farm in Forest County, PA. He was an avid Cleveland Browns fan. He will always be remembered by his family, friends and neighbors for his compassion and generosity, and for always being there for them.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his son Kenneth Kushnir, Jr. in Aurora, CO, daughters, Tami Kushnir and son-in-law Marco Torres of Campbell, OH, Jennifer Kushnir and son-in-law Jason Kalasky of

Boardman, OH and Michelle Cruppi and son-in-law Corey Cruppi of Aurora, CO, three grandchildren; sister Rose Gotch and brother-in-law James Gotch, mother-in-law Grace Dyce, nephew Vincent Hill along with three others nephews and two great-nieces and his best friend in the world, Mark Waller as well as many other family members. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Judith Anne Dyce Kushnir and a brother Stephen Kushnir, Jr.

FATHER WILLIAM DANIEL **"BILL" REISTETER** **Sr. Branch 89**



Father William "Bill" Daniel Reisteter, a resident of Sacred Heart Senior Living in Saucon Valley, died on April 29, 2013 after a long struggle with

Parkinson's disease.

Father Bill was the son of the late Joseph and Suzanna Reisteter of Bethlehem, PA. A graduate of Bethlehem Technical High School, he received his B.S. in industrial engineering from Pennsylvania State University. He received a commission in the Air Force on graduation after ROTC training there and served in the Korean War. He was employed by Bethlehem Steel Corporation at the Bethlehem and Buffalo plants.

In 1966, he made the decision to enter the Order of Friars Minor. In August of 1970, he made his solemn vows as a Franciscan Friar. In 1971 he was ordained a priest at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Bethlehem. Father Bill's first assignment was to Saint Francis Retreat House in Easton, PA working in retreat ministry. In 1982 he was elected provincial superior and moved to Holy Family Friary in Pittsburgh. Returning to Easton in 1992 as director of Saint Francis Retreat House, Father Bill began a two phase construction project to expand the retreat house. Health issues forced him to retire from active ministry but he remained in residence at Saint Francis. In 2008 he moved to Sacred Heart Senior Living in Saucon Valley.

Father Bill is survived by his brother Franciscans living throughout the world;

his sister Margaret; his brother George and sister-in-law Mary; his sister-in-law Lorraine; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his sisters Agnes, Anne, Sophia and Mary and his brothers John, Joseph, Stephen and Andrew.

ARNOLD HEJLIK **Branch W051**



Arnold Hejlik, 72, of Rockwell, IA, died July 2, 2013, at the Rockwell Community Nursing Home. He was born April 20, 1941, the son of Raymond and Marie (Drabek) Hejlik in rural Britt, IA. He attended rural county school and gradu-

ated from Britt Community High School in 1959. After graduating he worked at the Britt Co-Op Elevator and helped his father farm and milk cows. He joined the Army Reserves at Garner, IA, in 1962.

On August 24, 1963, he married Bette Krause at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church by the Right Rev. Monsignor W. Hradecky in Duncan, IA. In March 1964, they moved to the Dougherty (Cartersville) area where he farmed for 19 years. He discontinued farming in 1982 due to his disability of multiple sclerosis. He thanks his father and God for giving him those years on the farm. In 1990, he and Bette moved into a handicapped-accessible home in Rockwell.

Arnold is survived by his wife, Bette, and three children: Cheryl (Tom) Peterson, Ponte Vedra, FL, Daniel (Teresa) Woodlands, TX, and Karl (Erica) Washington, D.C. He has six grandchildren and one great-grandson. Arnold is also survived by two sisters: Kay (Don) Kopacek, Britt, IA, and Mari Batty Rockford, IA; three brothers: Ronald (Mary) Nashville, IL, Darryl (Mali), Mason City, IA, and Jerry of Clear Lake, IA. His in-laws surviving him are Jerold (Hoa) Layton, UT, Joanne Myers (Donal) Austin, TX, Duane (Sharon) Britt, IA, Max (Carolyn) Kanawha, IA, and Donald (Carol) Little Egg Harbor 1, NJ; as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins. His parents preceded him in death.

JOYCE MUELLER **Sr. Branch 23**

Joyce Mueller, 81, of Random Lake, WI, passed away at her residence on July 4, 2013 surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Sheboygan on November 23, 1931, daughter of Oscar Junge and Elsie Gessert Junge.



Joyce grew up in the Random Lake area, graduating from Random Lake High School in 1949. On August 28, 1954 she married Harold Mueller at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Random Lake. She was a member of Our Lady of the Lakes Parish in Random Lake and Ascension Parish in Fort Myers Beach. She enjoyed splitting her time between her home in Random Lake and her home in Fort Myers Beach, FL.

Joyce wanted everyone's life to be as plentiful and joyful as her own by sending cards, giving greetings of hugs and kisses, thoughts and love and many other generousities. She celebrated life to its fullest by never saying "no" to a dance and always faced life with a positive attitude.

Joyce is survived by her seven children: Ronald, Ronda (Roger) Goetsch, both of Random Lake, Lori (Jeff) Kohl of Alden, MI, Jeff (Cindy) of Cascade, Jack of Bellflower, CA, Jill (Jesse) Anklam, of Random Lake, and Mark (Charles Martinez) of Washington, D.C. She is further survived by eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; her brother Jerome (the late Annette) Junge of Silver Creek, sisters-in-law Joan (Ron) Janssen of Oregon, WI, Carol (the late Allen) Mueller and Audrey (the late Earl) Mueller both of Random Lake, nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends. She is preceded in death by her husband Harold, grandson Dion, daughter-in-law Debbie Mueller, grandson-in-law Roy Rennhack and two brothers Merlin and Wallace Junge.

JOHANNA "HANNAH" **THERESA WESESKY** **Sr. Branch 154**

Johanna "Hannah" Theresa Wesesky, 94, of Munson died January 22, 2013.

Born November 5, 1918, in Munson, she was a daughter of the late Charles and Ann (Radosky) Wesesky.

Johanna was a member of St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church, Morrisdale, and the FCSLA Sr. Branch 154.

She was a 1935 graduate of the Morris Township High School, a 1939 graduate of Lock Haven University with a Bachelor of Science degree in education, and a 1945 graduate of the Pennsylvania State College with a Master of Education degree. She also had attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania for one year and the University of Delaware.

She had held teaching positions as a Latin and English teacher for the Morris Township High School, Mays Landing High School of New Jersey, and the Mount Pleasant Senior High School of Wilmington, DE.

She was a member of the Delaware Retired Teachers Association, Penn State University Alumni Association and the Lock Haven University Alumni Association.

She was the last of her generation. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one sister, Marie L. Long; and four brothers, Joseph, Charles, John and Andrew Wesesky.

EDWIN FRANK MOTAL **Branch W077**



Edwin Frank Motal passed away on July 17, 2013. He was 68. Edwin was a business owner of Damaged Freight Sales for the past thirty five years. He loved golf, traveling and spending time with family. Survivors

are his wife, Cynthia Motal of Corpus Christi, TX, son, Gregory Motal of Wills Point, TX, daughter, Lori Motal Guillory of Corpus Christi, TX, three grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, and sisters, Patricia Neely and Martha Gonzalez, both of Corpus Christi, TX.





We Want to Hear From You!

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

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



ALEXIS PAIGE HUTSKOW (Jr. Branch 32, McKeesport, PA) received her First Holy Communion on April 7, 2013 at St. Michael Church in Elizabeth, PA. Father Thomas Wager was celebrant. Alexis's parents, Anthony and Jennifer Hutschow are members of Sr. Branch 77 in McKeesport, PA.



JENNA GRACE GUIHER (JZJ0) made her First Holy Communion on May 4, 2013 at St. Joseph & John Church in Strongsville, OH. She entered the third grade at school this fall. Her proud grandmother is Mary Koscinski, Douglasville, GA (SZJ0).



KEVIN AND KEITH MCHUGH made their First Holy Communion on May 4, 2013 at St. Joseph Church in Austintown, OH. They are the sons of Lucille and Mark McHugh. They are grandsons of Lucille and the late Edward Hlas. Kevin and Keith are holding rosary given to them by their grandmother Lucille Hlas which she brought back from her trip to Italy.



Pictured above is **KRISTINA ELAINE SKVAREK**, Bishop Dale Melczek of the Gary, Indiana Diocese, and Joann Skvarek Banvich, her aunt and confirmation sponsor. Kristina (J348, Whiting, IN), the daughter of Joseph and Debra Skvarek (S348, Whiting, IN) was confirmed at St. Maria Goretti Church in Dyer, IN this past spring. Kristina has just started her sophomore year at Lake Central High School where she is a JV competitive cheerleader.

Kristina's grandmother, Betty Skvarek along with her aunt, Joann Skvarek Banvich, are both officers in Sr. Branch 348 of Whiting, IN. Her uncle, Allen Banvich and brother, Michael Skvarek are also FCSLA members.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Starting with the January issue of Fraternally Yours Branch activities will be limited to 4 pictures per story and District activities will be limited to 10. Additional photos (up to 50) can be sent to the Home Office for uploading to your District web page. If you do not have an active web page please contact the Home Office to find out how you may use this valuable tool to reach your members and share your good news!

In addition due to the volume of memorials received they will be limited to 150 words and a small photo.

At the discretion of the editor some exceptions may be made!

MCKEESPORT JUNIOR BRANCH 32 HALLOWEEN PARTY

Members of Branch 32 tried something a little different this year. On October 19, everyone gathered at Monster Mini Golf in Monroeville. They were taken to a party room upstairs that looked strangely similar to a room in a haunted castle. The kids enjoyed magic tricks performed by a scary witch with a green face who also made them balloon animals. They received a



Witchie making balloon animals for the kids.



Watching the magic in Dracula's dining room.

goodie bag with candy and favors from the home office. After a lunch of pizza and Halloween cookies, the whole group was taken to the golf course by Shawn, our host, who led them through the scary course with lots of neon obstacles. The vote was unanimous. We'll be back next Halloween!



Back row: Brady Matta and our host, Shawn. Front row, Jimmy Fedor, Parker Matta and Cassie Fedor, Jr. Helper.



Virginia Holmes, Judy Fedor and Marian Greenland - officers scared by the witch!



SYDNEY ELIZABETH MACKAY made her First Holy Communion on May 5, 2013 at St. Paschal Baylon Catholic Church in Highland Heights, OH. She is now a 3rd grader at St. Paschal Baylon. She likes to play soccer and softball. Sydney is the daughter of Kathy and Grant Mackay. She has twin sisters that will be attending Beaumont High School in Cleveland Heights and a brother that attends Notre Dame Cathedral Latin in Chardon. All four are members of Jr. Branch 464. Her grandparents are Don and Eleanor Mackay. Her great-grandfather John Korecko was a Slovak immigrant. Her great-great-grandfather, John Majher, also a Slovak immigrant, was one of the 32 original members of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Lawrence Roberts Accepted for Membership



After 25 years working as a professional neutral arbitrator, conducting formal hearings, accepting and analyzing evidence and testimony of

witnesses under oath, then submitting written binding decisions, Lawrence Roberts, (SZJ0) of South Union, PA has been accepted for membership with the National Academy of Arbitrators. In a letter dated June 13th Mr. Roberts was notified that his application for membership will be conferred in October and Roberts will be presented to the membership on October 19 in St. Louis. According to Roberts he will be only one of two people in Fayette County who have been approved for membership in the Academy of Arbitrators.

Roberts has worked as a self-employed arbitrator for more than 25 years, he has conducted hundreds of hearings followed by written binding decisions. Many of his decisions have been published by Commerce Clearing House and the Bureau of National Affairs. In addition to his membership with the National Academy Roberts is professionally listed with the American Arbitration Association, the Federal Mediation Service, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor, the National Mediation Board and several other professional organizations. He has conducted arbitration hearings across the United States, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.



Youngstown District National Scholarships Winners Honored

Youngstown District winners of national scholarships, the Anna S. Granchay and Katherine B. Sedlacko scholarships were honored at a dinner at the Elm Tree Catering Center the last Sunday in August. Twelve of the twenty-three national winners were present. Those unable to attend had relatives present to represent them. The dinner was hosted by Dr. Mary Lou DiPillo, President and members of Branch 30, Youngstown, OH.

With autumn quickly approaching, the table centerpieces featured a fall theme – sitting scarecrow each holding a \$10 bill. The 161 attendees were given miscellaneous educational gifts such as magic markers, pens, notepads, etc. donated by Headquarters. Potted autumn flowers were the door prizes. Youngstown District President Bernadette Demechko introduced Mary Lou who thanked the parents and grandparents for purchasing insurance for these students years ago. Now they are receiving additional benefits with opportunities for scholarships they can win from first grade through graduate school.

Bernadette introduced two new officers: Nancy DeWitt who will be president of Branch 202 in Campbell (past president, Agnes Escaja, passed away in December) and Sophie Piowski who will be president of Branch 422 replacing Michelle Kubicina who resigned for personal reasons.



Justin Viau talks about his activities at Piux X School in Baltimore, OH.

There was no meeting, so the event began with prayers, followed by a delicious meal. All winners and their families were guests of their individual branches. The president then called forward branch presidents, individually, who in turn, introduced their branch winners.

Each winner was asked to speak briefly about the school/college he/she was attending, goals, and any other items of interest. Each winner received a monetary gift from his/her branch and a monetary gift from the District, presented by the District Treasurer, Shelly Zura.

Mary Lou DiPillo, president of Branches 30/29, introduced college scholarship recipients: Derek Bodo and Robert Campati and elementary winner Vincent Pezzuto.

Lucille Hlas, Branch 156 (filling in for Pat Granchay, president) introduced graduate level scholarship winner Sean Andrew Petiya.

Ginny DeLuca, president of Branches 161/192 introduced college winner, Jacob Zaluski; high school winners Deanna Demechko, Mara Bahmer and Jacob Sebest and elementary winners Brooke Chandler, Mya Agee and Justin Viau.

Sophie Piowski, president of Branch 422 introduced Jessica Yuricek.



Scholarship Winners: Seated, L-R: Vincent Pezzuto, Branch 29; Mya Agee, Branch 192; President Bernie Demechko; Justin Viau and Brooke Chandler, Branch 192; Deanna Demechko, Branch 161. Standing, L-R: Jessica Yuricek, Branch 344; Mara Bahmer and Jacob Sebest, Branch 192; Jacob Zaluski, Branch 161; Derek Bodo and Robert Campati, Branch 30, Sean Petiya, Branch 156.

Winners who were unable to attend, but had representatives present or else sent a letter to be read to the group included: Scott Allen Clarke and Erika Hripko, Branch 30; Jenna Wise, Branch 156 and Samuel Schwager, Branch 66, Francesco DeMayo, III, Nicholas Markovitch, Jacob Zamary, Branch 161; Jenna Hallapy and Lauren Kim, Branch 169; Brooke Merrell, Branch 257; and Mary Jean Surace, Branch 422.

The President announced the winner of the Anna S. Granchay Scholarship was Francesco Mayo, III, who was already at school. He is a member of Branch 161 and sent an

email thanking the group for their financial assistance.

Agnes Lisko, representative of the Katherine L. Sedlacko Family Trust, presented the award to two local recipients on the elementary school level: Brooke Chandler, Holy Family School, and Jacob Sebest, Ursuline High School. Both are members of Jr. Branch 192.

The president spoke of members who are perpetuating their heritage through involvement in Slovak affairs. Kimberly Root scholarship winner in 2006 ran for Miss Czech-Slovak Queen in Nebraska several years ago and came in second. Since then she has returned to Youngstown for both the Simply Slavic Fest downtown and SlovakFest at our Lady of Sorrows Parish and greets everyone in the kroj (Slovak) dress she wore when she was in the contest.

Brothers John and Dave Slanina, FCSLA members, teamed up with Ken Shirilla and other young people who are interested in perpetuating their heritage to initiate the Simply Slavic Fest three years ago. They also began a Simply Slavic Club at Youngstown State University. These are good examples of how our members can continue to perpetuate their heritage.

She stated that although all these scholarship winners only worry about A's on tests and papers, they should also remember the F's (not failure) but family, friends, fraternalism, Faith and forefathers (and mothers). She also noted how proud we are of them for their success thus far and knows that they will continue to excel in the future.



L-R: Regi Demechko, Rudi Demechko, Ed Demechko, Melanie Leonard, Theresa Leonard and Mark Demechko.

ONE . . . TWO . . . THREE . . . STRIKES

"You're Out At the Old Ball Game . . ." and so they were. Saint Cecilia Jr. Branch 192 members and their families, Youngstown, OH, enjoyed an evening of Class A baseball when the Mahoning Valley Scrappers played the Hudson Valley Renegades at Cafaro Field on Friday, August 9, 2013. Jr. Branch President, Virginia DeLuca, and treasurer Melanie Leonard,

stood by the Box Office holding the "Sponsored by First Catholic Ladies Association" signs and directed J192 members/families to Nancy Clausen, Junior Auditor, Chairperson of the event. Nancy had envelopes prepared for the families which contained Box Seat tickets (\$13.00) for each family member (compliments of the Branch); a coupon for each from the

Scrappers for a free drink, hot dog, and potato chips; and a \$5 bill for each member.

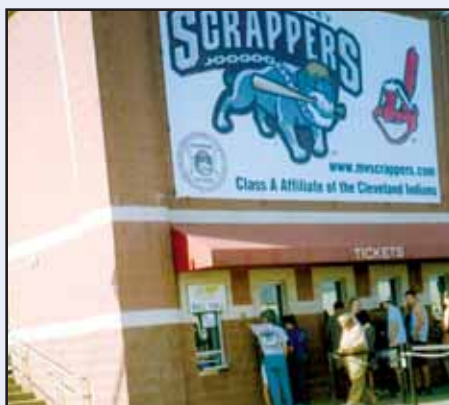
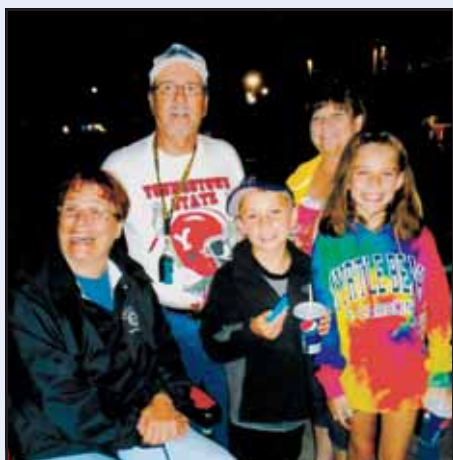
Flyers printed by the Scrappers, were sent to 72 FCCLA Junior Branch households in a 30 mile area of Youngstown, by Nancy and Junior Order Secretary Bernie Demechko, who also took reservations for the event. Fifty members/relatives attended the game.

It was a lucky night for FCCLA families, Paul Armour and son Paul, watched as mom Shelley Armour, caught a rolled up Scrappers t-shirt which the ushers threw up into the crowd. Recording secretary, Millie Kust, had her name called over the loud speakers as she was chosen from a random drawing of attendees. She received two box seats for a future Scrappers game.

Brian Sturgeon, Marketing Department of the Scrappers, paid a visit to the group's section to thank them for their continued support. He made sure Scrapple, the grey furry dog who is the mascot of the team, came to the section so the children could pet him and take photos with him.

Senior Auditor Loretta Ekoniak was happy to have her niece and family, Michelle and Dennis Minotti attend the event from Baltimore, OH. Their children have both received FCCLA scholarships; Anastacia last year and Justin this year.

Going into the 9th inning the Scrappers were losing but they had three hits in the ninth inning to win the game 3-2. It was a "walk-off" victory and the cheering has not yet subsided when the stadium grew dark and the crowd was treated to an outstanding fireworks display. Guess what the J192 Junior event will be for 2014?



Karen Visocan Named One of Cleveland's Top Rated Lawyers



FCCLA's Compliance Officer, Karen Visocan, has been honored again as one of Cleveland's Top Rated Lawyers in the areas of Business Law and Corporate Bankruptcy. The list, Legal Leaders' Cleveland's Top Rated Lawyers, was compiled by Martindale-Hubbell and ALM and was published, in part, in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and *The Wall Street Journal*. The list is also featured in full on Law.com. Karen has been practicing law for 20 years and has held an AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating, the highest Peer Review rating available by Martindale Hubbell, since 2005.

Fewer than 5 percent of all attorneys nationwide are awarded the AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating.

Karen has served FCCLA in the Home Office as its Compliance Officer since 2007. Karen has been a lifelong member of FCCLA, being introduced to FCCLA by her grandmother, Helen Visocan, who was a long time branch officer in Solon, OH. Karen was also a past FCCLA scholarship winner and has a husband, Tim, and daughter, Meghan, who are also active FCCLA members.

Bowling Party Held for Branches 58 and 348

The Officers of J58 and 348, Whiting, IN combined their efforts and held a back to back school bowling party on Saturday, August 17, 2013 at the Whiting Community Center.

This event started at noon. There were eight lanes open for the members and their parents. The last two lanes had bumpers for the younger bowlers. The Officers set out some pizzas, chips and drinks buffet style. Desserts were made by the J58 officers. The officers enjoyed watching the children bowl. They got just as excited and the kids when one of them got a strike. At the close of the party all members received an FCSLA backpack filled with some school supplies and special goodies. There were plenty of great scores and everyone had a wonderful time!



MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Branch W187 — Valparaiso, Nebraska

Luncheon & Ice Cream Social

Branch W187, Valparaiso, NE held a luncheon – ice cream social on August 17, 2013 after the 4 p.m. Mass held in the

church hall. It was a free will offering event for Sts. Mary & Joseph Church and Rectory landscaping project. The branch raised \$600 as part of the matching funds program.



Predvianočná Noc

Clement Clarke Moore

Bola to noc pred Vianocami, keď po celom dome bolo ticho veru aj myš sa skryla.

Vianočné ponožky viseli na krbe a deti dúfali, že skoro príde Mikuláš. Deti teraz spali hlbokým spánkom a asi snívajú o sladkostiach. Mama mala šatku na hlave a ja čiapku a chystali sme sa ísť spať. Keď zrazu vonku som počul veľký hluk, vyskočil som z postele, aby som videl čo sa robí. Podíšiel som k obloku, odhrnul som záclony, mesiac svietil jasno na čerstvo napadnutý sneh.

V diaľke som videl malinké sánky a osem srncov čo ťahali sane. Na saniach sedel živý a veselý človek a ja som hneď vedel, že je to Mikuláš.

Srnce leteli ako orly a on ich volal po menách. Tak poďme Dasher! Dancer! Prancer a Vixen! Comet! Cupid! Donner a Blitzen! Poďme na vrch tej strechy, na verandu a ponáhľajte sa rýchlo, rýchlo. A ako blesk počul som ich kopytá na streche. Naklonil som hlavu, aby som mohol lepšie počuť a vtedy som počul ako sa Mikuláš šmýka dolu komínom. Mal oblečený kožuch a bol celý špinavý od sadze a prachu. Mal veľké vrece plné hračiek a podobal sa na predavača.

Jeho oči sa smiali ako aj celá tvár, líca mal ako ruže, nos ako čerešňu, ústa ako malú mašľu a brada bola biela ako sneh. Mal fajku a dym mu krúžil okolo hlavy. Mal širokú tvár a okrúhle bruško ktoré sa triaslo ako huspenina. Bol tlstý ale veselý s úsmevom na tvári.

Nič nepovedal a hneď sa dal do práce. Naplnil vianočné ponožky, pozrel na mňa, prst si dal na ústa znak, aby som bol ticho a potom sa stratil v komíne.

Posadil sa na sane, zahvízdal a sane ťahané srncami sa rýchlo vzdalovali. Ale ja som ešte počul z dialky ako želel každému: Veselé Vianoce a Peknú Svätú Noc.

Dary na Vianoce

Presents for Christmas



Bábika	Doll
Khiha	Book
Auto	Car
Lopta	Ball
Počítač	Computer
Šaty	Dress
Sveter	Sweater
Papuče	Slippers
Kocky	Blocks
Náhrdelník	Necklace
Prsteň	Ring
Peniaze	Money
Macko	Teddy Bear
Cukríky	Candy
Čokoláda	Chocolate
Hračky	Toys

The Night Before Christmas

Clement Clarke Moore

(Please enjoy the English translation of this Slovak poem)

Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there. The children were nestled all snug in their beds. While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads.

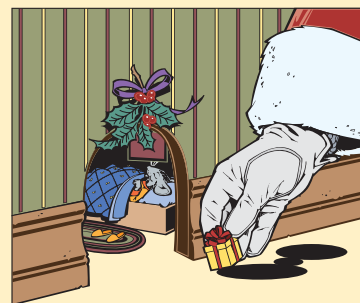
And Mama in her kerchief, and I in my cap had just settled down for a long winter's nap. When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter. I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash. Tore open the shutter and threw up the sash. The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow gave the luster of midday to objects below. When what to my wondering eyes should appear, but a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer — with a little old driver so lively and quick. I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick. More rapid than eagles his courses they came, and he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name: "Now Dasher! Dancer! Prancer and Vixen! On Comet! Cupid! Donner and Blitzen! To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall! Now dash away! Dash away!"

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof the prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my head ... Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound! He was dressed all in fur and his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot. A bundle of toys he had flung on his back and he looked like a peddler. His eyes -- how they twinkled.

His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow. And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow. He had a broad face and little round belly, that shook when he laughed like a bowl full of jelly. He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work. And filled all the stockings and laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose!

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle and away they all flew. But I heard him exclaim ...

**"Happy Christmas To All
And To All A Good Night!"**



WANTED: Catholic Religious Items!

MISSALS, PRAYER BOOKS, SCAPULARS, MEDALS, HOLY CARDS, STATUES, CRUCIFIXES, AND ROSARIES

If you are considering "cleaning out" please do not throw these Catholic items away! Help send them to Catholic Missions in Third World countries that they may be used once again and spread the Holy Catholic faith.

Please send to Peter Gaidos, P.O. Box 494333, Garland, TX 75049-4333.

Do not send old Christmas Cards or Mass Enrollment Cards. Thank you.

May Jesus and Mary most abundantly bless and reward you for your kind generosity to those who have so very little!

Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius Jubilee Celebration

The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius observed the anniversaries of their members with a special day of celebration recently. A Jubilee Liturgy was celebrated in the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius on the Villa Sacred Heart Motherhouse grounds in Danville, PA. Sisters, friends and family traveled from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Illinois, Indiana, South Carolina, Texas, Connecticut and New York for the event. Reverend David Kalert, O.M.I. from the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX was the Principal Celebrant. Reverend Rocky Grimard, O.M.I. from Immaculata Retreat Center in Willimantic, CT was the Homilist. The Liturgy was followed by a meal for the celebrants and their friends and families at Villa Sacred Heart, and at the Meadows Community Center at Maria Joseph Manor.



Celebrants included: (Seated, L-R) Sister Mary Gilbert Dluhy, 65 years; Sister M. Cabrini Steber, 65 years. (Second Row, L-R) Sister Michael Ann Orlik, General Superior of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius; Sister M. Brigid Fasiang, 60 years; Sister Julia Knazik, 60 years, Sister M. Catherine Laboure Bresnock, 60 years; Sister M. Cyrilline Biel, 60 years; Sister M. Lydia Benyish, 55 years; Sister Mary Anne Nemec, 55 years; Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, 55 years. (Third Row, L-R) Sister Jeanne Ambre, 45 years; Sister Susan Marie Hazenski, 25 years; Sister Margaret Dubas, 50 years; Sister M. Michaelette Lennartz, 50 years; Sister Susan Pontz, 25 years; Sister Martina Hanrahan, 20 years. (Celebrants not in photo: Sister M. Teresita Iskra, 55 years; Sister M. Zoe Zollar, 50 years)

YOUNGSTOWN SISTER CITIES SCHEDULES 2014 TOUR

Youngstown Sister Cities has set July 6-20, 2014, for its 17th Heritage Tour. For further information contact Jim and Kay Bench, tour guides, at (724) 858-5843 or Adventure International Travel, Paul Hudak, (800) 542-2487. Group will be flying from Washington Dulles Airport to Vienna, Austria.

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF JULY 31, 2013

ASSETS

Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 16,861,403
Bonds	701,687,484
Preferred Stock	3,630,553
Common Stock	4,661,634
Investment Income Due and Accrued	11,160,943
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	6,186,643
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,542,000
Other Assets	162,945

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 746,893,604

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 250,508,181
Annuity Reserves	390,567,624
Death Claims Payable	789,237
Unearned Premiums	566,459
Matured Endowments	348,463
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,288,702
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,995,938
Accrued Convention Donations	363,000
Provision for Future Conventions	315,000
Asset Valuation Reserve	7,454,862
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,173,939
Other Liabilities	1,249,331

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$ 658,620,736

Surplus

\$ 88,272,868

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

\$ 746,893,604

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Seven Months Ending July 31, 2013

REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 3,431,740
Annuity Premiums	14,153,537
Investment Income	22,476,514
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	52,274
Rental Income	239,977
Other Revenue	9,396

TOTAL REVENUE

\$ 40,363,438

EXPENSE

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 3,680,181
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	11,847,160
Insurance Benefits	3,231,401
Annuity Benefits	11,825,872
Commission Expense	556,268
Surrender Benefits	1,525,898
Post Mortem Benefits	737,024
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	38,687
Matured Endowments	9,322
Donation Expenses	169,364
Convention Expenses	133,000
Bank Service Charges	12,952
Data Processing Service Fees	188,189
Accounting Fees	65,233
Actuarial Fees	112,841
Legal Fees	28,263
Consulting Fees	63,721
Bonus to Branches	525,000
Fraternal Activities	83,180
Official Publications	278,614
Scholarship Awards	140,000
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	235,708
Fees — Directors	75,075
Salaries — Employees	816,246
Salaries — Officers	260,461
Interest Expense	141,928
Tax Expense	155,698
Depreciation Expense	171,521
Utility Expense	56,580
Postage and Printing	111,618
Advertising	50,780
Travel Expense	58,463
Insurance Department Fees	70,073
Sales Promotion	73,810
Rental Expense	239,977
Other Expense	276,054

TOTAL EXPENSE

\$ 38,046,162

Income (Loss) from Operations

\$ 2,317,275

Capital Gains (Loss)

1,243,997

Subtotal INCOME (LOSS)

\$ 3,561,273

Dividends to Members

725,750

NET INCOME (Loss)

\$ 2,835,523



REINDEER TRACKS COOKIES

- 2 $\frac{1}{3}$ all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup butter, softened
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup granulated sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup packed brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 package (12 oz.) white vanilla baking chips (2 cups)
- 1 package (8 oz.) unwrapped mini chocolate-covered peanut butter cup candies
- 1 cup coarsely chopped small pretzel twists

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly spray cookie sheets with cooking spray. In medium bowl, mix flour, baking soda and salt. In large bowl, beat butter and both sugars with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs and vanilla until blended. On low speed, gradually add flour mixture to butter mixture until blended. Stir in baking chips, peanut butter cup candies and pretzels.

Onto cookie sheets, drop dough by rounded tablespoonfuls 2 inches apart. Bake 9 to 11 minutes or until lightly browned. Immediately remove from cookie sheets to cooling racks. Makes 48 cookies.

WHITE CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATE MACAROON COOKIES

- 1 pouch (1 lb. 1.5 oz.) sugar cookie mix
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 egg
- 1 cup flaked coconut
- 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ cups white vanilla baking chips
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon coconut extract
- 1 teaspoon shortening

Red and green decorating sugars
Coarse white sparkling sugar

Heat oven to 375 degrees. In large bowl, stir cookie mix, butter, egg, coconut, 1 cup of the baking chips and the extract until dough forms. Drop dough by rounded teaspoonfuls 2 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake 9 to 11 minutes or until golden brown around edges. Cool 1 minute before removing from cookie sheet; cool completely, about 20 minutes.

In small microwavable bowl, microwave remaining $\frac{2}{3}$ cup baking chips and the shortening on High 30 to 60 seconds or until mixture can be stirred smooth. Drizzle over cookies; sprinkle with sugars as desired.

Makes 3 dozen cookies

HAZELNUT CRINKLE COOKIES

- 1 jar (13 ounces) Nutella
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup shortening
- 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup 2% milk
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups chopped hazelnuts, toasted, divided
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup confectioners' sugar

In a large bowl, cream the Nutella, shortening and sugar until light and fluffy, about 4 minutes. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Combine the flour, baking powder and salt; add to creamed mixture alternately with milk, mixing well after each addition. Fold in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup hazelnuts. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes or until firm.

Finely chop the remaining hazelnuts. Place hazelnuts and confectioners' sugar in separate shallow bowls. Roll dough into 1-inch balls; roll in hazelnuts, then sugar. Place 1 inch apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 375 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until set and surface is cracked. Cool for 1 minute before removing from pans to wire racks. Makes 7 dozen.

GLUTEN-FREE ALMOND COOKIES

- 1 can (8 ounces) almond paste
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar
- 2 egg whites
- $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon salt

In a large bowl, beat almond paste and sugar until crumbly. Beat in egg whites and salt until smooth. Drop by scant tablespoonfuls 1 inch apart onto parchment paper-lined baking sheets.

Bake at 350 degrees for 15-18 minutes

or until lightly browned. Cool for 1 minute before removing from pans to wire racks. Store in an airtight container. Makes 2 dozen.

PEANUT BUTTER POPCORN

3 quarts of popped popcorn—set aside in a large bowl

Then add to a saucepan:

- 1 cup of sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of honey
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of corn syrup

Bring to a boil these three ingredients, and boil hard for two minutes longer. Remove from stove.

Add in:

- 1 cup of peanut butter
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla

Stir till blended and smooth.

Pour over popcorn and stir till all coated. Then spread it out on sheets of waxed paper to cool down.

Optional additions: 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of peanuts or almonds.

CHRISTMAS BREAD

- 1 packet active dry yeast
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups warm milk
- 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups all-purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- 2 large egg yolks (keep the whites for a glaze)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (1 stick) softened butter
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup raisins
- Zest of $\frac{1}{2}$ lemon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sliced almonds (optional)

In a small bowl, mix together yeast, 2 tablespoons sugar and warm milk and set aside for 15 minutes.

In a large bowl or stand mixer, combine flour, sugar and salt. Add the egg yolks, softened butter, raisins and zest, and yeast mixture. Using a dough hook or by hand, knead until dough is smooth and elastic. Transfer to a greased bowl, cover with greased plastic wrap and let rise in a warm place until doubled.

Punch down dough and knead until all the air pockets are removed. Divide the dough into at least three strands. Cover and let rest another 15 minutes. Braid the strands and tuck the ends under. Place on a parchment-lined sheet pan. Cover with greased plastic and let rise until almost doubled.

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Bake for 30 minutes. Reduce heat to 325 degrees. Lightly brush bread with beaten egg whites and sprinkle with almonds, if using. Bake an additional half hour or until an instant-read thermometer registers 190 degrees. Remove from oven and let cool completely on a wire rack.

The FCSLA Mission Statement

Established in 1892, the FCSLA provides financial security to its members nationwide through its premier life insurance and annuity products. Sales of these products allow FCSLA to serve both its members and the community with fraternal and charitable opportunities that promote Catholic and Slavic traditions.

The FCSLA Vision is to:

- *Promote the temporal and spiritual welfare of the members through fraternal and charitable activities in our communities*
- *Promote our Slovak Catholic values and traditions and all Slavic cultures*
- *Be a premier Fraternal Benefit Society that offers quality financial products and benefits*