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Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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Wishing You a Glorious and Blessed Easter!

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

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Fraternally Yours™



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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,

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EDITOR: Carolyn Bazik

P.O. Box 1617, Reading, PA 19603

E-mail: zjbazik@comcast.net

Phone (610) 373-2743 • Fax (610) 375-8333

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OFFICE HOURS — HOME OFFICE

Monday through Friday — 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Phone: (216) 464-8015 • Toll Free: 800-464-4642
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Fifty Dollars

A well known speaker started
off his seminar by holding up a
\$50 bill. In the room of over 200,
he asked, "Who would like this
\$50 bill?"

Hands started going up. He said,
"I am going to give this \$50 to
one of you — but first, let me do
this."

He proceeded to crumple the 50 dollar note up. He then asked.
"Who still wants it?" Still the hands were up in the air.

"Well," he replied, "what if I do this?" He dropped it on the ground
and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up,
now crumpled and dirty. "Now, who still wants it?"

Still the hands went into the air.

"My friends, you have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter
what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not
decrease in value. It was still worth \$50."

Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into
the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come
our way. We feel as though we are worthless; but no matter what
happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value.

Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to
the one who created you in his likeness and image and to those who
love you. The worth of our lives comes, not in what we do or who we
know, but by . . . WHO WE ARE.

Dear Friends, I felt this story was most appropriate as we
celebrate the Easter Season. It is a most blessed time for us to
remember the life, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ. He died so that we might live. . . . The resurrection
gives our life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start
over no matter what our circumstances "You are special — don't
ever forget it."

Happy Easter!

Until next Month,
Warmly, Carolyn





*Rejoice
in the
Resurrection
He is
with you
always.*

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*Radujte sa z jeho Zmŕtvychvstania.
On je s vami navždy.*

FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: GENEROSITY

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

There is an activity during the Advent season at both of my parishes — Holy Name of Jesus and Saint Matthias in Youngstown — that may be similar to one in which the parishioners of your church participate each of the four Sundays. We call it “The Advent Giving Tree”. The Giving Tree outwardly expresses the sharing of our resources to those who are in need. We are called to respond through prayer and material contribution. During the Advent Season, we are encouraged to spiritually prepare ourselves and our homes for the celebration of Christmas. The secular society insists that expensive gifts for family members are important and traditional foods are in abundance during this time of the year. But our Christian thought should transcend secular notions in order to allow Christ’s Message to prevail. Jesus’ Gift to us is His Food — Word and Sacrament! These enhance our relationship with God when we love our God through our love for one another, especially for those who are in need.

The weekend prior the Sunday of Advent to be celebrated, notice is given to the parishioners of what will be collected and who to pray for the following weekend. Generally the four components are: *First Sunday, a second offertory collection for the Retirement Fund of the Women and Men Religious of the United States; *Second Sunday, a second offertory collection for the Saint Vincent de Paul Societies of the parishes; *Third Sunday, food and non perishable items for gift baskets to the needy; and, *Fourth Sunday, dry goods and personal hygiene items for the Dorothy Day House, a place where those in need can get a shower and a hot meal at supper.

The word that stands out in my mind when I view what has been donated on those four Sundays is *generosity*. Both parishes are not as large as other churches in our diocese but for our sizes, the parishioners are most generous at that time of the year. The monies collected for the Religious Retirement Fund usually exceeds the prior year’s collections. And the offerings for the Saint Vincent de Paul Societies fund their works for the entire following year. Food is brought to church, at times by the boxes, for the baskets distributed at Christmas. And I am so amazed at the

amount of dry goods and hygienic items that are brought in, many of them of high quality, designer brands, by the bagfuls!

The humbling part of all this *generosity* is the thank you notes sent to and shared with the parishioners after the holidays! When I read them during the cold, snowy, sunless days of January, they warm me up and brighten up my day. And I am sure that this is the same with all the parishioners as well. In one respect, the notes encourage us to give as much if not more the following year for there are people out there that really are in need. It also gives us a little boost that we are attempting to be Christ to one another!

The Dorothy Day House in Youngstown has been in existence for over a year now and is operated by Sister Ann McManamon, H.M. The older house that she has taken under renovation was considered “large” in its heyday. But the age of the house had taken its toll and the years of neglect made it inhabitable. Through her persistent guidance and the many hundreds of hours of volunteer people hours, she has brought the facility up to snuff. Suppers are served there Mondays through Thursdays from 5:00 p.m. through 6:30 p.m. A prayer service is held on Wednesdays and presently people are afforded the opportunity for a shower on Thursdays. In January, Sister discussed and decided with her group of people that it would appropriate to have Mass celebrated once a month. Ceil Schlosser, a member of FCSLA, approached me about being the first priest to have the first Mass celebrated there on a monthly basis. She stated that there were several other parishes and priests who have taken the same interest that my parishes and I had taken in this effort. The group thought it would be a grateful gesture to ask us to celebrate the Eucharist. How humbling! And yet how eye opening!

That evening over 125 dinners were served. The broad range of people who prepared, served, and cleaned up after the dinner was amazing — younger and older, retired persons and people who obviously came right after work. Their contributions lasted well after 8:30 p.m. that evening. How *generous* this group of fifteen to twenty people was with their time and talent!

Well, the *generous* gifts of the Advent Giving Tree are still being put into a vast array of works. Now, you and I have been immersed into another season of preparation, the Season of Lent that began on 9 March 2011. There are three major goals of Lent that we strive towards each year, namely, *fasting and abstinence; *extra time for prayer; and, *almsgiving. These goals are manifested to us by Christ the Lord in the Gospel of the Mass on Ash Wednesday (Matthew 6:1-8, 16-18). Not only are they the goals of the Season of Lent, but also our daily goals throughout the year. They are accented in this sacred season so that we may make them more predominant everyday of this season! These goals command us to *generosity*.

Time each day seems to be so precious with all the tasks that need to be accomplished. One does not have to be in the work force to know that often there are not enough hours in the day. Some retired people cannot find the time to do all they want because of the multiplicity of tasks. But taking extra time to pray and be in communion with God will give us the *generosity* of God’s grace to complete our work here on earth. Extra prayer is the key to a better and loving relationship with God and one another.

There are very few of us who can say we do not need to fast and abstain. Even if we are not required by the Canon Law of the Church to include ourselves in these activities, we should do so to align ourselves with the starving of the world. And besides the traditional notion of abstaining from meats on those appointed days, there are those other activities that we overly enjoy that we can abstain from in order to better discipline our lives. The monies that would have been spent from our abstinence should be given *generously* to the poor that leads to the final goal.

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta stated: *You see the Face of God in the faces of the poor*. Our call to discipleship commands that we look after the needs of the poor. Many of us cannot do this actively but we can respond to it by our *generosity* in the giving of alms. May our *generosity* reflect God’s love for us and our love for God, Face to face.

Happy Easter! Vesele Aleluja!

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

40th National Convention Announcements

■ **DELEGATE FORMS:** Forms have been sent to the branch secretary. Delegates should be staunch supporters of the association and its ideas. They should be active within their branches (attend meetings, contributed to the branch growth), have an understanding of the scope of the organization and be willing and able to travel to Baltimore, Maryland from October 8-13, 2011. **Completed forms must be returned to the Home Office by June 2, 2011.**

■ **DONATIONS:** The FCSLA will consider applications from those seeking donations for programs/projects that are in keeping with the . . .

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION VISION STATEMENT

- Promote the temporal and spiritual welfare of 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

Applications are available by calling the Home Office at 1-800-464-4642, Ext. 1034, or by visiting our website www.fcsla.org and clicking on the link to the 2011 National Convention Page. **Completed applications must be in the Home Office by June 13, 2011.**

■ **BYLAW CHANGE:** Anyone wishing to submit a bylaw change for consideration must do so in writing to the attention of Mary Ann S. Johaneck, National President, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, Ohio 44122. All submissions must be signed, however if the submission is coming from a district or branch **it must be signed by all officers.** Deadline for submissions to be considered by the Bylaw Committee is **June 13, 2011.**

■ **CONVENTION BOOK:** The organization **will not** solicit ads for the convention book. The Board voted to forgo ads and instead publish a condensed book which will be paid in full by the Association.

■ **CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL OFFICE:** As per the by-laws any delegate with the intent of aspiring for National Office at the convention and **knowing that they have suitable qualifications for said position** must obtain an intent form from National Secretary, Irene J. Drotleff, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, Ohio 44122. The completed form along with a brief resume and appropriate fee must be mailed to: Mary Ann S. Johaneck, National President, at the above address by **August 11, 2011.**

■ **GUESTS:** Please note that guests are allowed to attend the convention, but are responsible for all their expenses (travel, room, food). More information will be forthcoming.

GUIDELINES FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

- Send information by regular mail to my post office box — including photos that are clearly marked with member's names and branches.
- If you want your regular photos returned please be sure to

Applications Available for Scholarship Program

The United Slovak Societies at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH has applications available for their scholarship program. It is open to graduating high school seniors who are entering college and carry at least a 3.5 average. The student must be a member in good standing of St. Ann's Lodge, Branch 114 of FCSLA for the last five years. Applications can be obtained from the branch by contacting Margaret Thomas, Financial Secretary. She can be reached by phone at 440-204-8356; by e-mail at marcarl@centurytel.net or by writing to 2235 East Erie Ave. Lorain, OH 44052. Deadline for applications is May 30, 2011.

note that in your correspondence. Kindly highlight the proper address for safe return of the photos.

- Pictures should be colored, CLEAR and glossy finish, if possible. No Polaroid photos can be used for reproduction in *Fraternally Yours*.
- Send articles by email and/or email attachment (Microsoft Word is preferable).
- Digital photos in JPEG format taken with at least a 4 mega pixel camera are the easiest to work with. Again, please be sure that names and branches are included when you send the photos by email.
- I will do my best to publish information I receive in a timely manner. Deadline for copy is the 5th of the preceding month you want the article to appear.
- You may also fax information to me at 610-375-8333.
- If you do not see your submission appear within 3 months please call or email me as often items may be lost in cyberspace or regular mail. Remember I depend on you our members for news!!

National Editor Carolyn M. Bazik



The Members' Corner

Your questions and your interest in our society are very heartening! Your ideas for discussion are not only stimulating, but show how concerned you are about what is in the best interest of our society. Please continue to be involved because we all benefit from it. There were a number of questions about how the bylaw change proposed at our Special Convention would affect the structure of our society and how it would operate. It's a good question since so many societies have adopted that form of governing themselves or are in the process of doing so. Should we?



Why should we change how we make important decisions such as choosing managing officers? Is it a "power grab" by certain persons or groups?



Over many years of operation it is clear that we are not opposed to making changes when it is in the best interest of the society. We certainly do not serve our members in the same manner as our early officers did when we were much smaller, had far fewer regulations that we needed to follow and had much less money at risk. Now that we have over six hundred million dollars in assets, it is time to look at adding more accountability to the way we handle our members' money.

Under the plan that was proposed, everyone, at all levels of operation, would be accountable for his/her participation in our society. The members of the board, the most important positions in the society, would be accountable to the delegates, representing our membership. The delegates would have the awesome responsibility of choosing the most important people in our society — the board members.

The members of the board would not only choose the president, but would hold the president accountable for carrying out the decisions of the board. The president could choose the secretary or treasurer only with the approval of the board. Unlike our current system, everyone would be accountable to someone for their actions. This hiring body would, periodically, evaluate the performance of the person who was hired. If the board decides that the president is not performing his/her job in a satisfactory way, that person can be replaced without excessive delay, expense and disruption to the company. Maybe that is why the system is attractive to so many societies.

tion to the company. Maybe that is why the system is attractive to so many societies.



Isn't it possible to hire the wrong person even if the society adopts the bylaw change that was proposed?



As we all know, nothing in life is perfect — no system, no person. However, if the person who is hired performs poorly, that person can be replaced a lot more easily than having to wait for another convention that could be years away and does not guarantee a change in the officeholder. In the meantime, the society can suffer serious setbacks. Part of the fiduciary obligation of the society to its members is to do what it can to keep the members' money as secure as possible.

Let's keep this conversation going! I enjoy hearing from our members!

Mary Ann S. Johanek

Direct line: 216.468.1011

Email: maryann@fcsla.org • Fax: 216.464.9260

SAVE THE DATE

- ◆ **Sunday, July 17, 2011** — Gary, Indiana **DIOCESAN SLOVAK DAY** will be held at the Salvatorian Fathers in Merrillville, IN — more details to follow.
- ◆ **Tuesday, July 26, 2011** — **ST. ANN'S DAY** celebration will be held for FCSLA Districts Helen Kocan, Indiana; Louise Yash, Milwaukee and Anna Hurban Chicago at St. John's Church in St. John, IN — more details to follow.

4 Generations of the Yurechko Family



L-R: Andrew Carl (great-grandson), Jason (grandson), John Paul (son), Carl Joseph (grandpa) — are all proud members of Branch 184/289 in Gary, IN.



Deborah Brindza, M.D.

IN 2011 WE RESOLVE TO IMPROVE THE WORLD — ONE STEP AT A TIME

*From the desk of Deborah Brindza, M.D., National Medical Examiner
and Sue Ann M. Seich, Fraternal & Youth Director*



Sue Ann M. Seich

SAY “NO” TO PAPER AND PLASTIC

When you plan a trip to the grocery store, do you often make a list of the items you need to purchase? At the bottom of your list add one more reminder, “take recycling bags”. This way when you are asked paper or plastic, you can reply, “I brought my own, thank you”. If you do not have recycling bags, there are many types and sizes you can purchase that are very inexpensive. Many stores now offer these types of bags for you to buy which has their particular store logo on them. Some bags are insulated and may have zipper closures that are great for keeping perishables and frozen items cold. These bags are very important to keep in your car during those especially warm days of summer when it doesn’t take very long for frozen items to thaw. Some food chains will give

you a credit of five cents per bag used for your order.

If you use recyclable bags, it is very important to occasionally wash them. If you don’t wash them often enough they can be a source of bacteria and may contaminate your groceries, especially in hot weather. The monthly articles we submit in our magazine are meant to give you, our member, information to think about and possibly make a difference in your life. We are always open to suggestions and welcome them. You may have ideas of how to improve our world — one step at a time. Care to share? Mail it in to our Home Office to the attention of the Fraternal Department or email it to: sueann@fcsla.org. If your suggestion or idea is used you will win a prize.

Sister Antonia Klausner Honored Recently

Sister Antonia Klausner, CSFN, R.N., M.S.N. Coordinator, Standards and Education, SSMC and Branch President of Sr. Branch 180, Chicago, IL, was presented the Woman of the Year Award by the Women’s Auxiliary of Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center (SMEMC), Chicago, IL. She has served Saint Mary of Nazareth Hospital for 65 years. She is also a member of the Renaissance Council, a group charged with leading the philanthropic efforts of the hospital.



The Auxiliary was formed by 21 women in 1904 to “lighten the work of the institution and financially help the hospital” (Saint Mary of Nazareth Hospital Archives). Its fundraising efforts included the hospital gift shop which opened in 1953. With more the \$777,780 raised since 1936, the Auxiliary has provided funding for Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Radiology, Respiratory Therapy, Food Service, Coronary Care, Anesthesia and Tele-Communication.

Congratulations Sister Antonia our “FCSLA family” is proud of you!

Celebrates 90th Birthday

Helen (Kmet) Petrisko of Dearborn, MI, wife of the late Edward, Sr., celebrated her 90th birthday on September 3, 2010. She has been a member of Sr. Branch 334 for approximately seventy years.

Her son Ron and wife Wanda hosted a dinner party in her honor on September 19, 2010.

Included among the 125 guests were her grandson, Steven, the son of her deceased son Ed Jr., three step-grandsons, and eight step great-grandchildren.

Helen was presented with a plaque from Mayor John O’Reilly of Dearborn, MI honoring her 90th birthday. His wife Christine was also present at the dinner-party.

Everyone had a wonderful time and her FCSLA family wishes Helen much happiness and health during this special year!



MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Sr. Branch 88

Monessen Public Library Fundraiser

Branch 88 of Monessen recently sponsored a 75th birthday party at the Monessen Public Library. Since state funding has been drastically cut for the library, numerous major repairs have become an issue.

The branch sponsored the party with a theme of "Love Your Library". Red hearts for magazine subscriptions were placed on a tree and visitors were able to purchase these subscriptions for the library. In addition, 1/2 take tickets were sold and baskets were provided for a Chinese auction. Visitors were treated to Valentine-themed food which included finger sandwiches, a chocolate fountain, valentine cookies and cake. The day-long celebrations included crafts for children in all grade levels, hourly door prizes, a silent basket auction, old films and movies featuring Monessen and a story hour at noon. The library recently lost its



district center status and is now a stand-alone facility operating as part of the Westmoreland County Federated Library System.

Branch 88 is pleased to report that the profit for the day amounted to \$2,552. Members of the branch would like to thank all who took part in this worthy cause.



Jr. Branch 362/ Sr. Branch 172

Food Pantry Benefits from Bake Sale

Saint Vincent de Paul Food Pantry of The Catholic Community of North East Wilkes-Barre was the recipient of a 2010 FCSLA Matching Funds Project. The Community includes the parishes of Sacred Heart of Jesus-St. John, Saint Stanislaus Kostka, and Holy Saviour. Funds were raised in the amount of \$905 from a bake sale and matched with \$500 from the FCSLA Home Office, for a grand total of \$1,405. A heartfelt THANK YOU was received from Reverend Kenneth Seegar, pastor of the Community.



L-R: Barbara Jean Ceklosky, Jr. Branch 362 treasurer; Theresa Ceklosky, Jr. Branch 362 secretary; Anna Hudock, FCSLA member and Pantry representative; Father Seegar, Magdalen I. Iskra, Sr. Branch 362 president; Bernardine V. Kalna, Sr. Branch 172 auditor; Bernadette Yench, Sr. Branch 172 secretary; and Martha A. Iskra, Sr. Branch 172 treasurer.



Sr. Branch 620

Pirohi Time

Members from our new Sr. Branch 620 held a Pirohi Sale at the All Saints Church in Hammond, IN on December 3, 2010. Members took orders and sold to parishioners and community members. The "Pirohi Time" Sale raised \$515 and was donated to the All Saints Church.



BRANCH W045 SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED



Molly Chairpar

Branch W045, Cedar Rapids, IA proudly announces its local branch scholarships for the 2010-2011 school year. Each winner received a \$300 award. Two of the seven awards selected by Xavier High School are given in memory of former long-time pastor at St. Wenceslaus Church, Msgr. Anthony Chihak. The winners pictured are:

Molly Chairpar, Sophomore, attending Iowa State University

Sarah Synovec, Freshman, attending Iowa State University

Megan O'Connell, Freshman, attending Kirkwood Community College

Jordan Johnston, Freshman, attending Kirkwood Community College

Gary Bannister, Freshman, attending Mount Mercy University



Sarah Synovec



Megan O'Connell



Gary Bannister

Jordan Harrelson, Junior, attending Loras College

Elizabeth Welch, Junior, attending Iowa State University (Elizabeth is spending her 2nd semester studying in Singapore)



Jordan Johnston



Jordan Harrelson



Elizabeth Welch

Pittsburgh Folk Festival Scheduled

This year's annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival will be on May 13, 14 and 15. It will be held at the Monroeville Convention Center. The festival will feature continuous ethnic music and dances featuring over 20 nationalities. In addition, there will be a diverse menu of international dishes which will be sold as well as cooking demonstrations. They will also be selling items from many countries and a crafts workshop.

Admission tickets are \$10 at the door. Children under 12 will be admitted free.

CONVENTION CAMPAIGN

In anticipation of our 2011 convention, FCSLA is announcing an outstanding Convention Campaign. Every Life Insurance Certificate approved from January 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011 will generate a chance in a drawing at the convention*. **The prize in that drawing will be a brand new 2011 Ford Fusion!**

We hope that every single Recommender, Sales Representative and General Agent will take advantage of this unprecedented opportunity to win the NEW CAR, by placing (approved and premium paid) at least one new life insurance certificate with the Association. Every placed life insurance application earns you another entry into the drawing. As the saying goes "YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT"! Obviously the more life insurance certificates a producer sells, the better his or her chance of winning the car.

In addition to the big drawing for the car, producers will have the ability to earn bonus money throughout the year. Checks will be sent out at convention time. A report will also be put in the convention material showing the names of bonus winners.

Here's how the bonuses will work: There will be five bonus levels. Each month stands on its own. There are three possible ways to qualify for each level. All monthly bonuses will be totaled for a final payout at convention time.

Here are the levels:

- Level 1:** Two life applications OR \$500 annualized premium OR \$10,000 single premium dollars, during the month, qualifies for a \$25 bonus.
- Level 2:** Four life applications OR \$1,000 annualized premium OR \$25,000 single premium dollars, during the month, qualifies for a \$50 bonus.
- Level 3:** Six life applications OR \$2,000 annualized premium OR \$50,000 single premium dollars, during the month, qualifies for a \$100 bonus.
- Level 4:** 10 life applications OR \$3,000 annualized premium OR \$100,000 single premium dollars, during the month, qualifies for a \$250 bonus.
- Level 5:** 15 life applications OR \$5,000 annualized premium OR \$250,000 single premium dollars, during the month, qualifies for a \$500 bonus.

- ♦ Two Super Youth Term applications with a premium amount of at least \$28 each will count as one application for both the monthly bonus and the drawing for the car.



Note: All state licensing requirements and rules will be strictly observed.

* All life insurance certificates must be submitted by a licensed agent or a member in a state with fraternal exemption.

RIGHT TO LIFE MARCH IN WASHINGTON, DC

The Right to Life March in Washington, DC was held on January 24, 2011. The FCSLA with a generous contribution from First Catholic Slovak Union, sponsored two buses. Many members along with Benedictine, former Regina Coeli and Villa Angela/St. Joseph High School students and chaperones traveled to our nation's capital in support of the Pro-Life Movement. Our National Officers: Chaplain Msgr. Peter M. Polando, President Mary Ann S. Johaneck, Secretary Irene J. Drotleff and Auditor Barbara A. Sekerak led our group in the march up Constitution Avenue to the Capital. God blessed everyone with a beautiful day and a safe journey. On the ride home everyone shared in a meal compliments of the Cleveland District. All of the students and members who took advantage of this generous opportunity were very grateful and expressed their appreciation. Mark your calendars for next year's march. It will be held on January 23, 2012.



Margaret Samo Celebrates 90th Birthday

Margaret (Vyrostko) Samo born December 16, 1920, in Johnstown, PA, celebrated her 90th birthday with her family. The fourth of seven children to Peter and Mary (Kvarta) Vyrostko, she is the last surviving member of her family. She is a member of Sr. Branch 40, Johnstown, PA. She is the mother of Paulette Grove, Gary Samo and Georgia Lehman and has five grandsons: Tom, Paul, Shawn, Christopher Lehman and James Grove and great-grandson Zachary Grove.



FCSLA 2011 FRATERNALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD



The **First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association** is once again announcing its **Fraternalist of the Year** program. The award is given to an outstanding volunteer on the local level for church, branch, and community involvement*. The FCSLA selection will be submitted as a nominee for the American Fraternal Alliance's (formerly the National Fraternal Congress of America) Fraternalist of the Year Award.

All officers and members are eligible to **submit** a name for this award. The nominee must be a member in good standing of the FCSLA with a history of fraternal and community service. **National Officers, Home Office Employees and previous recipients of this award are not eligible.** Please submit their name, branch, and a brief statement below describing why your nominee should be considered for the **2011 Fraternalist of the Year Award**. An Independent Committee will select one nomination and submit that name to the **American Fraternal Alliance**. If you should have any questions, please feel free to call Sue Ann at the Home Office, 1-800-464-4642, Ext. 1051 or email her at sueann@fcsla.org.

THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2011.

All entries should be mailed to:

Sue Ann M. Seich, FCSLA, Fraternal & Youth Director
24950 Chagrin Boulevard
Beachwood OH 44122

Signature of person submitting name

Branch Number

Phone number or email information

**Again this year – only activities of the nominees within the past 12-month period will be considered.*

Nominee's Resume:

If more room is needed for nominee, please use a separate sheet.

THANK YOU!

Degrees of Success: A Family Celebration for Members of Sr. Branch 406 in Washington, PA

Her mother's compassionate soul was always an inspiration to Chris Beros. It also made Beros very thankful, and determined to make worthwhile Susan Goga Kavolak's many sacrifices for her family.

Earlier this year, Chris, 54, graduated from California University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor of science in nursing, and less than three weeks later, her oldest daughter, Alexis, graduated from Washington and Jefferson College with a bachelor's degree in business administration and a minor in economics. Chris has been a licensed practical nurse since 1977 and is a nursing instructor at Washington Area Career and Technology Center. Both are members of Sr. Branch 406.

Their degrees, are a reflection of her mother's strong educational values, and serve as a tribute to Susan, whose dream was to one day be a teacher, a dream never realized because her mother had no money to go to college.

Susan, daughter of immigrants from Czechoslovakia, was a 1939 honors graduate of Trinity High School, where she was voted the "Spirit of Service" winner and belonged to many service and scholastic organizations. She also was one of 10 siblings, and she was needed at home. Her mother died when Susan was 7 years old, and her father died when she was 17.

But her faith never wavered, and she, along with her husband, Carl, who was a son of immigrants from Yugoslavia, instilled in their three children a strong work ethic and the importance of helping others. Both were members of Sr. Branch 406, Washington, PA.

In addition to being a full-time mother, Susan took in laundry and worked for more than 30 years in the credit department at Sears. She belonged to Catholic Daughters of America, Slovenian Women's Society and Washington Business and Professional Women.

Chris recalls the time Susan bought a single mother some clothing, even though Susan owned just two dresses, alternating between the two every other day.

It was always fascinating to Chris to see what people could do with themselves without an education. Her mother did so much for the community. People had tremendous respect for her.

In 2002, Susan was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, and less than a year later, her husband also was diagnosed. He died in 2005, and Susan died in 2006.

Now, Chris and her family are Alzheimer's advocates, participating in awareness walks and raising research money.

Still, it's their educations — and how they achieved them — of which they are most proud. Alexis, for instance, worked four part-time jobs while attending W&J. She now travels frequently as the assistant director of admissions at the college. Her sister, Taylor, is a junior at Ohio University, where she is pursuing a degree in secondary education.

We congratulate Chris and Alexis — their story of success is in a way the story of the First Catholic Ladies As-

sociation . . . At a time when women were almost considered second class citizens, nine Slovak immigrant homemakers, under the leadership of Mrs. Anna Hurban of Cleveland, OH, began laying the foundation for

a fraternal benefit society . . . the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Union (FCSLU). These women realized there had to be provisions made for death and injury benefits that would protect families from the hazards and toll of industrial labor. Uneducated, yet wise their vision laid the foundation for what we have become. Today, (119 years later) we are America's largest Slovak Catholic Fraternal Benefit Society.



Newests Members of Branch W187

LEAH DIANE HANSELING, pictured with great-grandparents, Jim and Darlene Blazek is the newest member of Branch W187, Valparaiso, NE. She was born December 20, 2010 and the daughter of Jon and Nicki Hanseling. Leah is the 17th member of the Blazek family belonging to FCSLA Branch W187. Her mother Nicki is a member and her great-grandmother Darlene is the president of Branch W187.



Two additional new members are one-year-old cousins

AIDEN MASEK, son of Curtis and Michelle Masek and **OLIVIA PIERCE**, daughter of Aaron and Katie Pierce. Both are great-grandchildren of long-time member Dorothy Masek.



ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



FCSLA 2nd ANNUAL YOUTH RECOGNITION AWARD

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association is announcing its second annual Youth Recognition Award. There are countless young FCSLA members who participate in many service projects in their church, school, branch or community. This year we are once again asking for your assistance in recognizing a young individual for his/her volunteer activities. In all our branches there are individuals who stand out in a crowd because of their achievements. This is your opportunity to nominate an outstanding young member from your Senior or Junior Branch.

FCSLA'S YOUTH RECOGNITION AWARD GUIDELINES

1. Nominee must be an FCSLA member for at least three years.
2. All family members of the Home Office Staff and National Officers are eligible to be nominated. Previous recipients of this award will not be considered.
3. A nominee must be between the ages of 6-22 years. (Received date will determine the age eligibility.)
4. Service projects/volunteerism must be between June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011.
5. A paragraph of 250 words or less should describe what the individual has done to deserve being nominated for this award.
6. The entry form must be completed entirely and be at the Home Office by June 30th, 2011.
7. The winner will be featured in our magazine and awarded a \$100.00 prize.
8. An independent committee will select the winner.

2011 FCSLA'S YOUTH RECOGNITION AWARD

Signature of nominator

Branch Number

Phone number or email information

Nominee's Name _____ Birth Date _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

School/College/University _____

On a separate sheet of paper please describe in 250 words or less, all the volunteer efforts of your nominee and why he/she deserves this award.

Mail to: Sue Ann M. Seich, FCSLA, Fraternal & Youth Director
24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122

ENTRY DEADLINE IS JUNE 30th, 2011.

Questions please call Sue Ann at 1-800-464-4642, Ext. 1051 or email sueann@fcsla.org.



IN MEMORIAM

JOSEPH BENEDICT ISKRA Sr. Branch 172



On the Feast Day of Saint Joseph the Worker, Saturday, May 1, 2010, Joseph (Jozef) Benedict Iskra passed into the Hands of God with his family by his side at his home in

North Fort Meyers, FL.

Born on March 29, 1927 in Wilkes-Barre, he was the eldest of nine children born to the late Joseph Stephen Iskra and Mary Scholastica Kamenicky Iskra. He received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. He graduated from Sacred Heart Elementary School and Coughlin High School.

Following his tour of duty with the Navy during World War II, he married Adrienne Spak in Sacred Heart Church and moved to Iselin, NJ. After many years working as a machinist for the National Can Company in Edison, NJ, he retired to Florida. He was an avid fisherman and gardener. He was devoted to his wife of 58 years, Adrienne Iskra and to his children and grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Charles and Methodius Iskra. Surviving are his wife, Adrienne; five children, Donna (Anthony) Godleski, Joseph D. Iskra, Daniel (Roberta) Iskra; Adrienne (Robert) VanDoren and Diane (Michael) Peppe. He is also survived by his sisters, Magdalen and Martha Iskra, Mary Matrisciano, and Theresa Matrisciano; and his brothers, Cyril Iskra and Francis Iskra; his five grandchildren, Desiree Godleski, Daniel Iskra, Jr., and his wife, Kelly; Nicole Iskra, Joseph D. Iskra, Jr., Kailea Iskra, and numerous nieces, nephews and relatives.

The Rite of Committal was held at the family lot in Sacred Heart Cemetery in Dallas, PA with military honors.

SOPHIE IRENE (KOVAL) RAK Branch SZJ0

Sophie Irene (Koval) Rak of Whitehouse Station, NJ formerly of Harrison, NJ died on January 21, 2011 in Hunterdon Medical Center, Flemington, NJ. She was predeceased by her husband of 46 years

Robert Francis Rak who died on July 1, 1989 and son, Bobby John Rak, age 13, who was killed in a tragic automobile accident on December 14, 1968 when he and his Dad were returning home after buying a Christmas tree for his room. She was also predeceased by brothers, John and Andrew, and sisters, Anna, Mary, Margaret, and Helen.

She was born September 24, 1917 in Wilkes-Barre, PA, the daughter of the late John and Mary (nee Chek) Koval. She and Bob were united in marriage at Sacred Heart Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA on February 20, 1943. They moved to Harrison, New Jersey the following year.

Sophie had a loving personality and enjoyed being around people. She devoted her life to her family as a caring wife, mother, grandmother, homemaker and friend. She was a member of the Rosary Society and Cancer Guild at Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ and the Readington Seniors in Whitehouse Station, NJ. She was employed by Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Prudential of Newark, NJ.

Left to cherish her memory are her daughter, Arlene and husband, Bill, of Whitehouse Station, NJ, with whom Sophie lived with for the past nine years, grandson Bill and his wife Alison of Flemington, NJ, grandson Bobby and his wife Bridget of New Hope, PA, and grandson Dan and his wife Carolyn of Doylestown, PA. Also surviving are five great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews.



CHARLES J. VOLESKY Branch W121

Charles Jerome Volesky passed away January 25 at St. Joseph's Hospital and Health Center in Dickinson, ND.

He was born August 29, 1924 on the family farm in Billings County to Joseph and Mary (Karsky) Volesky.

In June of 1943, Charles enlisted in the United States Army. He served in the Pacific Theatre in the Ryukus Islands, on the Islands of Okinawa and Le Shima and remained there until the war ended.

After his military service, Charles attended Dickinson State College for a period of two years. In March of 1948, he accepted the position of field man with the Billings County PMA.

On July 23, 1951, Charles married the love of his life, Patricia Mary Roth, at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Belfield.

Charles later became manager of the Billings County Office until his transfer to Farmers Home Administration in July of 1954. In August of 1957, Charles was appointed as the executive director of the Stark County ASCS office until his retirement in 1983.

Charles was an active member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Dickinson. He served on various committees and parish councils including parish trustee. Charles was also one of the first members to be appointed as lecturer, reader and Eucharistic minister.

Charles is survived by his wife, Patricia; son Mark (Vickie) Volesky of Lake Park, MN; daughters, Valery (Dave) Campbell of Riverton, WY, Vaune (Jack) Cripe of Dickinson and Jill (Jay) Reddon of Riverton; six brothers; four sisters; five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to Dickinson Catholic Schools, 810 Empire Road, Dickinson, ND 58601.



**THE REVEREND
MARTIN J. KOPCHIK, MSFS
Sr. Branch 289**

Father Martin J. Kopchick was born on February 16, 1949 in Gary, IN, and baptized on March 17, 1949. He made first religious profession on August 15, 1982 in the religious congrega-



-tion of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and was ordained a priest on May 19, 1986. He held a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy and a Master's Degree in Theology and studied sacred scripture at the Catholic University of America.

Father Kopchik worked in pastoral ministry as Associate Pastor in the following parishes in the Archdiocese of Atlanta, GA: St. Patrick's Church, Norcross, St. Lawrence Church, Lawrenceville and St. Jude the Apostle Church, Atlanta. He also worked as Pastor at St. Patrick's Church, Norcross, GA.

Father Kopchik was Superior of the American Mission of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales for 12 years with offices at Villa Luyet in Lawrenceville, GA and later in Loganville, GA. He was appointed Vocation Promoter, Director of Formation and Superior of the Local Community at Villa Luyet when the American Mission of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales was raised to the status of Region in the USA. He was also Director of the Fransalian Center for Spirituality in Loganville, GA and later in Snellville, GA. He held these offices with dedication and remained faithful to these responsibilities to the last days of his life. He offered many classes in spirituality, offered many retreats and guided many on their spiritual journey.

Father Kopchick, breathed his life into the hands of his Heavenly Father on Saturday November 6, 2010. He was a very cheerful, humble, simple, gen-

erous, prayerful and faith-filled person. May he rest in peace.

He is survived by his mother Josephine Marie Kopchik from Crowne Point, IN also a member of Sr. Branch 289.

**IGNAC F. SEDLACEK
Branch W013**

Ignac F. "Ig" Sedlacek, 90, of Prague, NE, died December 16, 2010 at A.J. Merrick Manor in Fremont.

He was born October 23, 1920 to Ignatz and Mary (Belik) Sedlacek in Raymond. He grew up in Raymond and graduated from Raymond High School. He farmed prior to joining the United States Navy. He served during World War II on the USS Admiralty from March 6, 1942 to December 8, 1945. After his discharge from the service he continued farming near Prague while working for Kingery Construction of Lincoln. He moved into Prague in 1994.

He married Fidelis Ladenburger on July 29, 1947 in Prague. He was a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Prague, the former Catholic Workman, now known as the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, and American Legion Post 254 of Prague.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, David Sedlacek; four brothers, William, Leonard, John and Robert Sedlacek; and three sisters, Irene Dokulil, Frances Krondak and Helen Mach.

He is survived by his wife; sons and daughters-in-law, Donald and Marlene Sedlacek of Overland Park, KS, Daniel Sedlacek of Lakemoor, IL and Dwayne and Kim Sedlacek of Prague; a daughter and son-in-law, Dianne and Ken Kielniarz of Omaha; daughter-in-law, Katherine Sedlacek of Hickman; a brother and sister-in-law, Ray and Eva Sedlacek of Malmo; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Burial was at St. John's Catholic Cemetery in Prague with military honors conducted by the American Legion Post 254 of Prague.

**ANNA (KORMANEC) LISIK
Sr. Branch 154**

Anna Lisik (nee Kormanec), age 98, loving wife of the late John J. Lisik, dear mother of John, deceased (Audrey Grace of Akron) Lisik, Elizabeth (Steve) Zahuranec of Fairview Pk., Margaret (William) Panik of Elyria, Mary (John) Basalla of Fairview Park; cherished grandmother of ten and great grandmother of nine; dear sister of Sr. Mary Kormanec, SC of Cincinnati, entered into rest Thursday, Dec. 23, 2010, at her home. She was preceded in death by seven brothers: John, Joe, Andrew, George, Michael, Stephen, David and Edward.

**HELEN KATHERINE
POMPER
Sr. Branch 445**

Helen Katherine Pomper, Sterling Heights, MI (formerly of Muskegon), age 90, passed away in Troy, MI, January 22, 2011 following a brief illness.

She was born in Muskegon Heights on January 4, 1921 to Anton and Katherine (Kazimir) Jurick and was a graduate of Muskegon Hts. H.S.

Helen married Mr. Rudolph "Rudy" W. Pomper, Jr. in Muskegon on June 20, 1942 and he preceded her in death on January 9, 1982.

Rudy and Helen owned the Pomper Hardware in Muskegon Hts. for many years. Helen was employed as manager of Selective Services of Ottawa County and retired in 1982 from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. She was a life-long member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and was a 50 year member of the Altar Society.

Mrs. Pomper moved to Sterling Heights in 1986 to be close to her children and became a member of St. Rene Catholic Church. She served as a Eucharistic Minister at Cherrywood Nursing Home, enjoyed golfing with friends and the special relationship she had with her granddaughters. Helen is survived by two daughters, Maureen

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IN MEMORIAM

(Frank) Dierwa of Troy, MI and Jane DeHart of Auburn Hills, MI; one son, Rudy (Marlene) Pomper III of Troy and Seoul, Korea; four granddaughters, Laura and Kristin Dierwa and Larissa and Melanie Pomper; and sister-in-law, Edna (Harry) Nedeau.

She was also preceded in death by brother, Joseph (Alice) Jurick; and two sisters, Mary (Willard) Dion and Francis (Rudy) Butas.

JOSEPH 'JOE' RYANT Branch W033

Joseph "Joe" Anthony Ryant, age 84, of Spillville, IA, died on January 25, 2011 at the Cresco Care Center.

Joseph "Joe" Anthony Ryant, was born on March 1, 1926, the son of Frank and Mary (Pizinger) Ryant, on a farm near Fort Atkinson, IA. At one year of age, the family moved northwest of Spillville. He attended rural country school for two years and then St. Wenceslaus Catholic School through the eighth grade. He farmed with his father for several years. After the early death of his father, he and his mother farmed together.

Joe married Romana Zeien, on October 17, 1950. Together they farmed for thirty-seven years and moved into Spillville, IA in 1988. Joe served on the Winneshiek County Extension Council for two terms. He was the first farmer in the area to own a round baler and was the first to introduce Charolais cattle to the area.

Joe was a member of Branch W33 of the FCSLA, formerly the Catholic Workman and served as president for six years. He also sold insurance for them for many years. Joe and Romana were sales representatives for Furst McNess for twenty years.

Joe's survivors include his wife, Romana Ryant of sixty years, Spillville; three daughters, Pat Pinter, Cresco, Judy (Richard) Jessen, Ankeny, and Karen (Michal) Hutzel, Mason City; three sons, Francis (Donna) Ryant, Cresco, James (Denise) Spillville, and

Gary (Jane) Ryant, Ridgeway; sixteen grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

LEO G. FORMANEK Branch W051

Leo G. Formanek, 75, of Clear Lake, IA, died January 11, 2011. He was the son of Frank Cyril and Rose Marie (Schoun) Formanek and was born July 28, 1935 at Mason City, IA.

He received his education at Garfield Township country school and Garner High School, graduating in 1955. Leo served his country in the U.S. Army Reserves.

On June 12, 1961, he married Mary Pat Tarr at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Duncan. They made their home in Duncan until 1991 when they moved into Garner. Mary Pat died on August 19, 1993. Leo had farmed, worked for Zrostlik Tire Service, Glen's Auto Sales, Ollenburg Motors and Pritchard Auto Company.

On July 23, 1999, he married Eddie Lee VerSteeg Peterson at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Garner. He enjoyed auto detailing, card playing, gardening and playing the German accordion.

He was member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church and the FCSLA, Branch W051 (formerly the Catholic Workman), Duncan, IA.

He is survived by his wife, Edwina Formanek, of Clear Lake; three sons, Randy Formanek (Chris) of Garner, and their two children, Ashley and Chelsey, Steve Formanek of Garner, and his two children, Kortney and Rachel, and Rick Formanek (Renae) of Clear Lake, and their three children, Kelsey, Sara and Andrew; step children, Eric Peterson (Amy), Kurt Peterson and Stacie Peterson; and a sister-in-law, Mary Lou Tusha (George) of Garner.

GEORGIA CODR Branch W013

Georgia Codr, 92, of Prague, NE, died January 16, 2011 at the St. Joseph's Villa in David City, where she

had been a resident for about three months.

She was born June 9, 1918 to Henry and Katherine (Ourada) Gruntorad at Overton. She attended school at Overton through the fourth grade and then attended rural School District 43 in Dawson County and rural school districts 78, 19 and 80 in Saunders County.

She married George E. Codr on November 16, 1937 at Cedar Hill Catholic Church and they farmed in the Linwood, David City and Brainard area until 1955 when they moved to Prague. They owned and operated George's Bar and Grill from 1966 to 1969. They also operated George's Supermarket in Prague.

She was a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, St. John's Rosary Society, Pink Ladies of Lincoln and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

She was preceded in death by her husband, granddaughter Janice Prohaska; great-granddaughter Brenda Strizek; great-great grandson, Remy Etherington; seven brothers; and three sisters.

She is survived by four daughters and sons-in-law, Lucille and Edward J. Prochaska of Prague, Janice and Rudy T. Vanek of Wahoo, Marilyn and Keith Hanke of Prague, Loretta "Lori" and Robert Dael of Malmo; two sons and daughters-in-law, Daniel and Renee Codr of Prague and David and Pamela Codr of Weston; 16 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren.

Memorials were given to Cedar Hill Cemetery or St. John's Catholic Church.

Have You
Signed Up a
New Member
This Month?

Fraternal Insurance Word Search

E F P A G N X A W G E A Z D G B X F O W C H V X Y L T C G H
Q B R E T A C I F I T R E C Y C D S T A B I L I T Y U A J K
B D Y H D I X C D G R E E T N U L O V X G H W A J A G I R J
E F M I N O I G C N K C J B I C F D Y N O I T A C I L P P A
C G X H V V G W B L B S M C L F O K Z A B C M B V B K B U X
D S T E A W T E R M Y E D F E B H M D O C N E F I L L D Q D
Y E U L V G B V I T A U T N I G A P M D Z I D M A D G Q P S
B T S W B D D U I N D F S Y E V D B U U V B L N O G P O M S
Z Z G D X C M L N Q T R T J Q D J T D E N C H O X B S N U R
H G I A Y Z I U P S S I K A A H I S A D F I G Y H W B C I C
C G L B D B I O E N L L B T D B K V B P E Z T D F T M B M T
J G A N I T N C M I D R I J U S M C I Q C R T Y D U A Q E R
K M K G Y P U O B D Q F I C T L O H N D P N P R F C S C R V
P O I R Q R S A C P O B C I T G S G B G E F O A B D S L P H
L L S R I C R A X R W A F C S R H E F N A N C I A E O A I A
E T Q T T U R P P O U E N M A R E Q A M C K E C B H C D J A
Y U Y S S A S R Q B N V B L L C L M P B F B J I I F I K F C
C A X N V U O C P E K Z O F D F R O C O A P D F A F A Q B C
T W I A W F T G B O Y H K B N E C E N H S D F E R E T C I F
U X K J T H E J E Y C J D M P L A M A G A Z I N E C I D A T
V L A O I I E N C S J D B I C A M Z E P C Y C E E W O X H G
Z W N H A E A G A Z K L R H Q M H B S T X D Z B Y F N Y V U
G M I V X H Y Z G T N E M T S E V N I W B U E Z V D X F G W

ANNUITY
APPLICATION
ASSOCIATION
BENEFICIARY
BENEFITS
CATHOLIC
CERTIFICATE
COMMUNITY

DIVIDENDS
ELIGIBILITY
ETHNIC
INSURABILITY
INVESTMENT
LIFE
MAGAZINE
NOT FOR PROFIT

PERMANENT
PREMIUM
SCHOLARSHIP
SECURITY
SLAVIC
STABILITY
TERM
VOLUNTEER

Find the hidden words in this Word Search Puzzle and mail it to the Home Office, c/o Sue Ann M. Seich, Fraternal & Youth Director, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122 and you will win a prize!

The puzzle is available online at www.fcsla.org. Deadline for entries is May 1, 2011.

10th Consular Tour to Slovakia

Joe Senko, the Slovak Honorary Consul and his wife, Albina, have arranged their 10th tour to Slovakia including a visit to Vienna. The 14-day trip will begin on July 31, and return to the USA on August 13. It will include visits to Bratislava, Piestany, Martin, Tatras, Presov, Kosice and other historical sites. The activities will include two wine tours, a wedding performance, rafting, visit of a cave, sightseeing, castles and shopping.

The tour includes top hotels, breakfast and dinner each day, all admission fees, air-conditioned bus and English speaking guide. It does not include tips and insurance. The total cost per person (double occupancy) from Pittsburgh is \$3,450. For a copy of the daily itinerary, contact Joe Senko at (412) 531-2990 or jsenko@aol.com, or Manor Oak Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

WPSCA OFFERS SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP

For the sixth consecutive year, WPSCA is offering a scholarship to attend the three week Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. This year's award is \$3,000.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a full time student in the U.S.
- Must be of Slovak heritage
- Must not have previously attended the program
- Must apply to Comenius University for acceptance
- Must be willing to attend WPSCA events when requested to discuss the program.

The SAS Summer School is the oldest summer language school in Slovakia and is designed to enable students to improve and extend their Slovak language competency as well as increasing their level of expertise in Slovak literature and culture. Every year more than 150 participants from more than 25 countries study at this academic institution, taking advantage of its Slovak Studies courses. Those leading the seminars and lectures at SAS are professional teachers and lecturers, expert in teaching Slovak as a foreign language and experienced in teaching both in Slovakia and abroad.

For further information or for an application, contact Joe Senko at (412) 531-2990. All completed applications must be received by WPSCA on or before May 1, 2011 at its office at Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

WPSCA Annual Spring Meeting

WPSCA's 11th Annual Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 2, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Czechoslovak Nationality Room in the University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning. This year's speaker is Rich Kocur who will discuss "History of Slovak Hockey."

MAGDALEN I. ISKRA DISTRICT HOLDS PARTY FOR JESUS

A Christmas Party sponsored by the Magdalen I. Iskra District of Wilkes-Barre, PA, for members of Junior Branches 42, 168, 211, and 362, their friends, and family was held in Genetti's Convention Center to celebrate the 2010 birthday of Jesus. The party began with registration of all in attendance, a welcome greeting, introduction of branch officers, followed by the Prayer before Meals, lead by Jr. Branch 362 member, Meredythe Baird.

A meal of hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken fingers, macaroni and cheese, French fries, soda, and an ice cream sundae was served. Everyone was delighted to receive the wonderful gifts donated by the Home Office. The program included a raffle of 27 items, door prizes, special gift certificates for merchandise to one award winning junior branch member from each branch, and a visit from Santa, bringing a gift for each child.

Special guests were Reverend Mr. Joseph De-Vizia, Deacon; Sisters Carol and Martina, members of the Congregation of Sisters of Ss. Cyril and Methodius. Invitations to the party and the program were prepared by Bernadette Yencha, secretary of Sr. Branch 172. A sing-along of Christmas carols by the children was under the direction of Bernadette Yencha and Martha Iskra, district treasurer.



The Babula family.



Baird and Biros families at the Christmas party.



Sisters Carol and Martina, SSCM, with Ann Dougher's grandchildren.



The Grobinski, Hudock, Yencha, Hendershot, and Sabol families.



The Chapple and Koval families.



Party sing-along with directors, Bernadette Yencha and Martha Iskra, branch officers.



The Ceklosky family.



Junior Branch 42, 168, 211, and 362 Officers.



Chairman of party raffle, Ann Dougher and family.



The Molitoris, Kalinowski and Mack families.



The Guth family.



The Ceklosky family.



The Pehala family.



Tomascik, Dinis, Graham, Choman families.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY AND MEETING

Members of St. Catherine's Society, Branch 111 in Charleroi, PA gathered December 5, 2010 at the Salantino's River House Café.

They were welcomed by Branch Secretary/Treasurer Grace Popson for their Annual Meeting and Christmas party.

The tables were decorated with Christmas floral arrangements which were then given as door prizes.

Following grace before meals a delicious family style meal was served.

Following dinner Grace Popson reported on FCSLA activities and gave a branch report. Donations approved by the members were given to religious orders and religious schools. Christmas fruit baskets were approved for distribution to shut-ins. The branch also gave donations to Coats for Kids and the Rosary makers group.

The deceased members of the branch were remembered at the Christmas Memorial Mass at Mary Mother of the Church in Charleroi, PA.

Each member received a chocolate Christmas tree along with a monetary donation from the branch and a lighted key chain from the Home Office. Door prizes were also awarded and as the meeting/party adjourned all living and deceased members were remembered in prayer.

Members of Jr. Branch 170 also of Charleroi, PA were also remembered with a Christmas monetary gift.

NSS Heritage Museum Presents Programs

The National Slovak Society is conducting a series of hands-on events to have participants learn more about Slovak traditions. Scheduled programs are as follows:

June 11 — Painting on Glass; Pagac

July 9 — Medovnický (honey cakes); Paint Glass Ornaments

All of the programs will be conducted at the Heritage Museum at 351 Valley Brook Road in McMurray, PA from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The fee is \$20. Call 1-800-488-1890 for reservations.

FCSLA ANNOUNCES NEW FEATURES ON WEBSITE

The Chicago District and its branches are now live on the web. Go to www.fcsla.org, click on the "District Pages" link on the left hand side to view the latest news and upcoming events happening in the Chicago District.

The Home Office plans to work with other districts to create pages of their own.

SLOVAK WORDS AND ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

Street Direction:

Ktorým Smerom:

Can you show me on the map where I am?	Môžete mi ukázať na mape, kde som?
Where is the nearest town?	Kde je najbližšie mesto?
You're on the wrong road/street.	Ste na nesprávnej ceste/ulici.
Go back to . . .	Choďte naspäť . . .
Go straight ahead.	Choďte rovno.
It's on the left.	Je to naľavo.
It's on the right.	Je to napravo.
How far is it?	Ako je to ďaleko?
Which is the road to . . . ?	Kde je cesta do . . . ?
Draw me a map, please!	Nakreslite mi mapu, prosím!

Take me . . .

. . . there/here

. . . police station

. . . doctor/hospital

Quickly!

Come here!

Come quickly!

Zoberte ma . . .

. . . tam/sem

. . . policajnú stanicu

. . . k lekárovi/do nemocnice

Rýchlo!

Poďte sem.

Poďte rýchlo!

Accidents:

May I use your telephone?

Call a doctor, quickly!

Call an ambulance!

Please call the police!

Nehody:

Môžem použiť váš telefón?

Zavolajte lekára, rýchlo!

Zavolajte sanitku!

Volajte políciu, prosím!

Vzkriesenie Lazára

Bohuslav Zeman SSP

Čítam

Jn 11:1, 5, 19-27, 32-36, 38-45

V Betánii býval Lazár spolu so svojimi sestrami: Martou a Máriou. Ježiš ich mal rád. Raz Lazár ochorel a zomrel. Keď sa Ježiš o tom dozvedel, odišiel do Betánie. Marta mu vyšla naproti.

– Pane, keby si bol býval tu, môj brat by nebol umrel – povedala.

– Tvoj brat vstane z mŕtvych – odpovedal jej Ježiš.

– Viem, že vstane z mŕtvych v posledný deň pri vzkriesení mŕtvych – povedala Marta.

– Ja som vzkriesenie a život. Kto verí vo mňa, bude žiť, aj keď umrie. Veríš tomu? – opýtal sa jej Ježiš.

– Áno, Pane! – odvetila Marta. – Verím, že ty si Mesiáš, Boží Syn, ktorý mal prísť na svet.

– Kde ste ho pochovali? – opýtal sa Ježiš.

– Pane, poď sa pozrieť!

Ježiš zaplakal. Vtedy ľudia, ktorí tam boli, povedali:

– Pozrite, ako miloval Lazára.

Ježiš sa zachvel a pristúpil k hrobu. Bola to jaskyňa uzavretá kameňom. Preto prikázal:

– Odvalte kameň!

Odvalili teda kameň. Vtedy Ježiš pozdvihol oči k nebu a začal sa modliť:

– Otče, ďakujem ti, že si ma vypočul. A ja som vedel, že ma vždy počuješ. Keď to povedal, hlasno zavolať:

– Lazár, poď von!

A mŕtvy vyšiel z hrobu. Ruky a nohy mal ovinuté plátnom a tvár obviazanú šatkou.

– Porozväzujte ho a nechajte ho odísť! – rozkázal Ježiš.

Mnohí z tých Židov, ktorí prišli k Márii a videli, čo Ježiš urobil, uverili v neho.

The Raising of Lazarus

Bohuslav Zeman SSP

I Read

John 11:1, 5, 19-27, 32-36, 38-45

Lazarus lived with his sisters, Mary and Martha, in the village of Bethany. They all were friends of Jesus. One day, Lazarus fell ill and died. When Jesus learned about it, he went to Bethany. Martha went and met Him.

'Lord,' she said, 'if You had been here, my brother would not have died.'

'Your brother will rise again,' Jesus said to her.

Martha said to Him, 'I know that he will rise again the the resurrection on the last day, together with all the dead people.'

'I am the resurrection and life. Those who believe in Me, even though they die, will live. Do you believe in this?' asked Jesus.

She said, 'Yes, Lord, I do believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one expected to come to the world.'

'Where have you laid him?' Jesus asked.

'Lord, come and see,' they answered.

Jesus began to weep. Then, those who were there, said, 'See how He loved him!'

Then, Jesus greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

'Take away the stone,' Jesus ordered.

And the stone was taken away. Then Jesus looked upwards and began to pray.

'Father, I thank You for having heard Me,' He said.

When He had said this, He cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'

And the dead man came out of the tomb, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth.

'Unbind him, and let him walk,' Jesus ordered.

Many of the Jews who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in Him.

SLOVAK WORDS AND ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

I am ill.	Som chorý.
I am wounded.	Som ranený.
I do not feel well.	Necítim sa dobre.
Where is it?	Kde je to?

Exam/Skúška

1. Banka je _____ .
2. Ako sa volá toto _____ .
3. Kde je najbližšia _____ ?
4. Ona je veľmi _____ .
5. Máte _____ ?

Possible answers: 1. nemocnica, 2. naľavo, 3. chorá, 4. mesto, 5. mapu.

Animals:

Zvieratá:

ant	mravec
bat	netopier
bear	medveď
bird	vták
bug	chrobák
butterfly	motýl
cat	mačka
cow / bull	krava / býk
deer / doe	jeleň / srna
dog	pes
duck	kačka / kačica
eagle	orol
elephant	slon
fish	ryba
flea	blcha
fox / vixen	lišiak / líška
frog	žaba
giraffe	žirafa
goat	koza
goose	hus
hedgehog	jež
rooster / hen	kohút / sliepka
hippopotamus	hroch
honeybee	včela
horse	kôň
lion / lioness	lev / levica
lizard	jašterica
mole	krt
monkey	opica
mouse	myš
owl	sova
rabbit	zajac
raccoon	mýval
rat	potkaň
rhinoceros	nosorožec
ram / sheep	baran / ovca
snake	had
spider	pavúk
squirrel	veverka
tiger	tiger / tigrica

turtle	korytnačka
wasp	osa
wolf	vlk
worm	červ
yellow jacket / hornet	sršeň
zebra	zebra

Exam/Skúška

1. Ktoré zviera je vo vode _____ ?
2. Najlepší priateľ človeka je _____ ?
3. Veľké zviera je _____ ?
4. Malé zviera je _____ ?
5. Pekné zviera je _____ ?
6. Ktoré zviera lieta _____ ?
7. Ktoré zviera žije v lese _____ ?
8. Ktoré zviera je hnedé _____ ?

Possible answers: 1. líška, 2. ryba, 3. medveď, 4. pes, 5. vták/motýl, 6. slon, 7. žaba/blcha, 8. mačka.

PILGRIMAGE OF FAITH 2011

Sponsored by the Slovak Catholic Federation

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2011

Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, PA

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

11:00 a.m.

Arrival of Pilgrims – Welcome by SCF National President Fr. Philip Altavilla; and Archabbot Douglas, OSB. Rosary led by representatives of the Conference of Slovak Religious

12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch at Fred Rogers Center. \$10.00 per person includes pear half with shredded cheddar and dried cranberry; hand-tossed caesar salad; chicken marsala; whipped potatoes with gravy; green bean casserole; pasta asiago; raisin bundt cake.

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Campus tours available including the following: Saint Vincent Archabbey, Saint Vincent Crypt, Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve, Fred M. Rogers Center, McCarl Coverlet Collection, Saint Vincent Art Gallery, Archabbey Studios.

3:00 p.m.

Confessions

4:00 p.m.

Pontifical Mass in the Archabbey Crypt, Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, D.D. Celebrant and Homilist (* This Mass fulfills your Sunday obligation. *)

DEADLINE FOR PILGRIMS!

*** All those wishing to attend this Pilgrimage of Faith, either by bus (the bus leader informs Dolores) or if traveling as an individual/ family by car, MUST call Dolores Evanko (570) 454-5547 or email: jje@intergrafix.net no later than AUGUST 22nd with the number of those attending.**

Youngstown Sister Cities Sets Slovakia Tour

Youngstown Sister Cities' 14th Heritage Tour to Slovakia has been set for July 4-18, 2011. The tour includes Vienna, Austria; Bratislava; Trencin; Tatry Mountains; Levoca; Kosice; and Spisska Nova Ves.

Special features include Mass in Lendak where villagers still wear Slovak kroj (costumes) to Mass; Kezmarok Street Fair where local artisans sell their homemade items at booths and where one can sit and enjoy Slovak folk music and dancing which is performed all day on stage (while you eat delicious Slovak food); the Piestany Spa; Slovak wood-carving of the complete scene of Bethlehem; gondola lift ride up the side of a Tatra Mountain and dinner at a genuine koliba (shepherd's hut), raft ride on the Dunajec River, tour many old churches, museums and castles. A special tour event is a champagne breakfast at the Town Hall hosted by the Mayor of our Sister City, Spisska Nova Ves.

One day in Levoca is reserved to visit friends and relatives — English speaking guides (chauffeurs) will be available for personal visits (for a fee). Jim and Kay Bench who have been guides on many of the YSC trips are knowledgeable about tours and sites to be seen during the 13-day stay.

Total cost per person (airfare from Pittsburgh-Washington-Vienna) is approximately \$3,500 which includes airfare, thirteen nights in first class hotels, two meals per day and an air-conditioned bus with an English speaking guide for the entire tour.

For information contact Jim/Kay at cell (724) 858-5843 or jmbench@yahoo.com or Adventure International Travel Service (800) 542-2487 or Paul@aits.webmail.com or bdemechko@aol.com, Secretary, Youngstown Sister Cities.

SLOVAKIA TOURS FOR 2011

This year John's Tours will schedule two tours to Slovakia and surrounding countries. A 12-day tour: June 25-July 7 — to visit Bratislava, the capitol of Slovakia, Cicmany, Rajecka Lesna, the village of the unique wooden Bethlehem wooden carving — 15 years in the carving. Stops in Levoca, Spania Dolina, Castle Lubovna, Stara Lubovna village, Banska Steavnica, Poprod, Nitra, Trnava, Piestany, Spissky Hrad "Castle" it consists of 3 castles, upper, central, and middle. Dunajec River rafting, 2 day visit to Krakow, Poland with a visit to Auschwitz — the Nazi Concentration Camp of World War II. Visit the Old Town Market Place, Royal Castle of Wawel with a visit to Czestochowa to visit the Shrine of the Black Madonna in Jasna Gora Monastery, one of the most precious Polish relics.

Included in the tour will be two (2) meals daily, an English speaking guide, bus transportation with restroom and air conditioning, all admits to the sights, rooms in 3 or 4 star hotels all with private bath. Air transportation as a group, this way we can give you a better price and save you the hassle.

If you are interested in the above tour please call or write for a complete day-by-day itinerary and price.

The 17-day September tour: September 4-20 — will cover Slovakia, Vienna, Austria, Krakow, Poland, Czech Republic, Prague. Visits in Slovakia to Bratislava, Levoca, Spania Dolina, Presov, Banska Steavnica, Stara Lubovna, Poprod, Nitra, Kosice, Trnava, Piestany, Spissky Hrad, Dunajec raft ride, Rajecka Lesna.

John's Tours, PO Box 154, Vandergriff, PA 15690. Call (724) 567-7341 or (724) 568-3215, or toll free at 1-800-260-8687.

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2010

ASSETS	
Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 14,572,183.26
Bonds	591,011,849.80
Preferred Stock	7,279,630.87
Common Stock	710,981.84
Investment Income Due and Accrued	9,869,035.24
Promissory Notes	43,667.70
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	6,748,186.23
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,681,937.41
Other Assets	244,457.05
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 632,161,929.40
LIABILITIES	
Life Reserves	\$ 183,641,323.08
Annuity Reserves	340,721,518.10
Death Claims Payable	490,956.84
Unearned Premiums	569,208.00
Matured Endowments	311,636.00
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,814,695.54
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,645,762.34
Accrued Convention Donations	638,891.00
Provision for Future Conventions	555,000.00
Asset Valuation Reserve	6,630,623.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,460,833.00
Other Liabilities	1,884,108.90
Provision for Annuity Certain Accounts	3,081,000.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 545,445,555.80
SURPLUS	
Surplus	\$ 86,716,373.61
TOTAL SURPLUS	\$ 86,716,373.61
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 632,161,929.40

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Eleven Months Ending November 30, 2010

REVENUE	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 13,446,840.56
Annuity Premiums	31,063,205.41
Investment Income	31,490,122.72
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	117,055.00
Rental Income	359,719.00
Other Revenue	40,191.41
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 76,517,134.10
EXPENSES	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 14,999,323.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	25,990,518.00
Insurance Benefits	3,027,602.81
Annuity Benefits	16,174,694.45
Commission Expense	1,724,547.43
Surrender Benefits	2,578,667.16
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	74,194.80
Matured Endowments	9,068.98
Donation Expenses	360,705.53
Convention Expenses	237,432.63
Dividends to Members	1,718,427.54
Post Mortem Benefits	753,864.51
Bonus to Branches	861,870.00
Fraternal Activities	110,215.83
Bank Service Charges	70,616.87
Data Processing Service Fees	306,526.11
Accounting Fees	91,726.00
Actuarial Fees	152,182.00
Legal Fees	137,022.61
Consulting Services	120,040.86
Official Publications	307,996.35
Scholarship Awards	240,358.75
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	362,808.06
Fees — Directors	102,714.46
Salaries — Employees	1,267,372.89
Salaries — Officers	401,440.87
Interest Expense	238,013.34
Tax Expense	257,940.70
Depreciation Expense	257,533.00
Utility Expense	75,743.34
Postage and Printing	327,303.67
Advertising	95,799.99
Travel Expense	134,864.85
Insurance Department Fees	75,648.92
Sales Promotion	139,997.86
Rental Expense	359,719.00
Other Expense	412,651.25
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 74,557,154.42
NET INCOME	\$ 1,959,979.68



Easter Traditions!

HOT CROSS BUNS

- 1 package (¼ ounce) active dry yeast
- 1 tablespoon plus ½ cup sugar, divided
- 1 cup warm milk (110 degrees to 115 degrees)
- ¼ cup butter, cubed
- ¼ cup raisins
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 3½ to 3¾ cups all-purpose flour

ICING:

- ⅔ cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon butter, softened
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 to 3 teaspoons milk

In a large bowl, dissolve yeast and 1 tablespoon sugar in milk. Let stand for 5 minutes. Add the butter, raisins, egg, salt and remaining sugar; beat until smooth. Stir in enough to form a soft dough.

Turn onto a floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic, about 6-8 minutes. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1¼ hours.

Punch dough down. Turn onto a lightly floured surface; divide into 12 portions. Shape each into a ball. Place in a greased 13-inch x 9-inch baking pan. Cover and let rise until doubled, about 45 minutes.

Bake at 375 degrees for 25-30 minutes or until browned. Remove from the pan to a wire rack to cool.

For icing, combine the confectioners' sugar, butter, vanilla and enough milk to achieve a piping consistency. Pipe an "X" on top of each bun. Makes 1 dozen.

APRICOT-GLAZED HAM

- 1 boneless fully cooked ham (6 pounds)
- 2 teaspoons whole cloves
- 2 cups apple cider or juice

- ¼ cup apricot preserves
- 3 tablespoons mango chutney
- 3 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 1 cup packed brown sugar

Place ham on a rack in a shallow roasting pan. Score the surface of the ham, making diamond shapes ½ inch deep; insert a clove in each diamond. Pour cider into pan.

In a small saucepan, combine the preserves, chutney and mustard. Cook and stir over medium heat until preserves are melted; brush over ham. Press brown sugar onto ham.

Bake, uncovered, at 325 degrees for 2 to 2½ hours or until a meat thermometer reads 140 degrees, basting occasionally with pan drippings. Cover loosely with foil if ham browns too quickly. Let stand for 10 minutes before slicing. Serves 18.

PASKA

- 2 packages (¼ ounce each) active dry yeast
- 1 teaspoon plus ⅓ cup sugar, divided
- 4 cups warm water (110 to 115 degrees), divided
- 1 cup nonfat dry milk powder
- 13½ to 14½ cups all-purpose flour, divided
- 6 eggs, beaten
- ½ cup butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon salt

EGG GLAZE:

- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons water

In a large bowl, dissolve yeast and 1 teaspoon sugar in 1 cup warm water. Let stand for 5 minutes. Add remaining water. Beat in the milk powder and 5 cups flour until smooth. Cover and let rise in a warm place until bubbly, about 20 minutes. Add eggs, butter, salt and remaining sugar; mix well. Stir in enough remaining flour to form a soft dough. Turn onto a floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic, about 8-10 minutes. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1 hour.

Punch dough down. Turn onto a lightly floured surface; divide in half and set one portion aside. Divide remaining portion in half; press each portion into a well-greased 10-inch springform pan. Divide reserved dough into six balls. Shape each ball into a 30-inch rope; make two braids of three ropes each. Place a braid around the edge of each pan, forming a circle. Trim ends of braids, reserving dough scraps. Pinch ends of braids to seal. Shape scraps into two long thin ropes; form into rosettes or crosses.

Place one decoration on the center of each loaf. Cover and let rise until doubled, about 1 hour.

In a small bowl, beat egg and water; brush over dough. Bake at 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool. Makes 2 loaves.

SCALLOPED POTATOES

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 1½ cups fat-free milk
- ½ cup shredded reduced-fat cheddar cheese
- 1¾ pounds potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced (about 5 medium)
- 1 medium onion, halved and thinly sliced

In a small nonstick skillet, melt butter. Stir in the flour, salt and pepper until smooth; gradually add the milk. Bring to a boil. Cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from the heat; stir in cheese until blended.

Place half of the potatoes in a 1½-qt. baking dish coated with cooking spray; layer with half of the onion and cheese sauce. Repeat layers.

Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes. Uncover; bake 10-15 minutes longer or until bubbly and potatoes are tender. Serves 6.

EASTER FRUIT SALAD

- 1 can (20 ounces) unsweetened pineapple chunks
- ¾ cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped
- 1 can (11 ounces) mandarin oranges, drained
- 1 package (10½ ounces) pastel miniature marshmallows
- 1 jar (10 ounces) maraschino cherries, drained and chopped

Drain pineapple, reserving juice; set pineapple aside. In a heavy saucepan, combine the sugar, flour, eggs, lemon juice and reserved pineapple juice until smooth. Cook and stir over medium-low heat until mixture is thickened and reaches 160 degrees. Cool to room temperature.

Fold in whipped cream. In a large bowl, combine the oranges, marshmallows, cherries and reserved pineapple; fold in cooked dressing. Refrigerate until chilled. Serves 12.

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