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Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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SEPTEMBER, 2011

LABOR DAY

September 5



PATRIOT'S DAY

September 11



CITIZENSHIP DAY

September 17



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

September 21

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

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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

Fax: (216) 464-9260 • Website: www.fcsls.com

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Once upon a time, two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side-by-side, sharing machinery and trading labor and goods as needed without a hitch.

Then the long collaboration fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference and finally, it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days' work," he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there I could help with? Could I help you?"

"Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor. In fact, it's my younger brother! Last week there was a meadow between us. He recently took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll do him one better. See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence an 8-foot fence — so I won't need to see his place or his face anymore."

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you."

The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day — measuring, sawing and nailing. About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job.

The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped. There was no fence there at all.

It was a bridge .. A bridge that stretched from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work, handrails and all! And the neighbor, his younger brother, was coming toward them, his hand outstretched.

"You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done."

The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and then they met in middle, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox onto his shoulder.

"No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother.

"I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but I have many more bridges to build."

Dear Friends, this month instead of building fences resolve instead to build more bridges in your interactions with one another. Life is short — make the most of it! Be fraternal and remember these words found in Matthew 22.36-40

Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

Until next month — **Warmly, Carolyn**

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: MILDNESS

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Throughout my life and my priestly ministry, I have encountered so many people who I have believed to be examples of living Faith by whom I should model my own Catholic Faith life. You know the people I am speaking of — those we have thought to be ones we should be able to imitate and follow in order to make our Faith more of a reality. I look to the popes of my era: Pius XII, John XXIII, Paul VI, John Paul I and John Paul II. These were spiritual, powerful men who led the Church through the challenging times in the Church and throughout the world. I admire religious figures like Archbishop Oscar Romero and Mother Teresa of Calcutta who had the courage to stand up for the dignity and rights of the ones in whom they were entrusted to serve. What personalities we have experienced who had the ability to live their Faith so ardently in the Name of Jesus.

These internationally known Catholic figures of the immediate past history of the Church became endeared to those of us in the Church and people outside the Church not only because of their outstanding leadership but also what Gift of the Spirit they attempted to live to the best of their abilities, i.e., mildness, or what we also call humility. These noble servants walked among us and before God and humbly did the work of the Lord. Although we were unable to be physically in touch with them, they were and are spiritual guides for us in walking our journey of Faith humbly before the Lord. There are those who do live among us that are examples to assist us in a life of humility.

Primarily, I look to Jesus. He is among us and He teaches us humility. The author of the *Gospel of Matthew* writes: "On one occasion Jesus spoke thus: 'Father, Lord of heaven and earth, to you I offer praise: for what you have hidden for the learned and cleaver you have revealed to the merest children. Father, it is true. You have graciously willed it so. Everything has been given over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son but the Father, and no one knows the Father but the Son — and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. Come to me all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart. Your souls will

find rest for my yoke is easy and my burden light" [11:25-30]. What words the Saviour gives us as a direction for our lives. Our ability to know the Father is through Jesus and to know Jesus is through the Father. But to do so, we know them as children in humble knowledge and acceptance. Through this humble knowledge and acceptance, we learn to do the Father's will by being like Jesus — taking up our burdens of the Cross that we share with Him and humbly accept them as did He. He will show us that although the Cross may be difficult to bear, He will be there to make it easy and light. We are called to be servants just as Jesus was called to be servant to the Father for us.

I look to the people with whom I minister and to whom I minister the Gospel as models of mildness to me. They are not as distant as the Apostles and saints that have gone before us or like those holy personalities of our immediate past history of our Church. These that I think of and rely on are living models for me to place my life in the proper perspective of being a humble servant before the Lord and humanity.

I am awestruck by the men and women of my parishes who serve faithfully at our Saint Vincent de Paul sponsored soup kitchen for one week in the spring and one week in the fall. There is no need for me to organize who will go when or if there are enough people to serve and cleanup each week. They make their schedules among themselves, their time and talents and their names are not widely known in the parish. They perform this corporal work of mercy because it is important to humbly serve the needs of those so less fortunate than ourselves. In doing so, they appreciate all the more what the Lord has given to them. They desire to share the Cross of the less fortunate in this manner of humble service.

I appreciate the many people hours parishioners give to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ by sharing their message with others in our parishes — educators in our parish grade schools and schools of religion, youth ministry programs, education sessions, the RCIA and the list may go on and on when it comes to bringing the Gift that has been handed down. In mildness, they share it with others and make sure our young people and Faith searching adults understand the precious

gift that is in our midst through the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

Although they may not view their activities as mildness to the parish family and beyond, our parish organizations serve the needs of the parish through the charism that each one has as their goal. In most instances, their work is accomplished in the humility of Christ. Whether it is for the better of liturgical celebrations, the assistance of parishioners and neighbors in need, the building up of Christian unity, the financial needs of the parish, helping fellow parishioners in the time of death, etc., I am humbled by their commitment to Almighty God and the Church.

But I am most humbled by the women and men who regularly commit themselves to our God in their lives of prayer, especially in the weekly celebration of the august sacrament of the Eucharist. What we do in that celebration on Sundays reminds us of what Catholics have done for two thousand years in their commitment to Jesus Christ — acknowledging Him as our Lord and Resurrected Saviour. What we take from that celebration each week, is to be Him to others all the other days of the week. How we have performed in our humble service to the Lord and one another, is the Gift and need of forgiveness we place before the altars of His Word and Sacrament. We thank God humbly for what we have done; we humbly seek grace-filled strength to do more.

Our ultimate model of mildness is Jesus. Saint Paul reminds us of who Jesus is for us as that model of humility. In his *Letter to the Philippians* he writes, "Though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at. Rather, he emptied himself and took the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men. He was known to be of human estate, and it was thus that he humbled himself, obediently accepting even death, death on a cross! Because of this, God highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name above every other name. So that at Jesus' name every knee must bent in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God the Father: Jesus Christ is Lord! [2:6-11] Let us be humble servants of our God!



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

ENERGY FREE FAMILY NIGHT

We live in a fast paced world that keeps using more electronics and energy. Families are not sitting down to dinner together or spending time as a family like we used to in our grandparents' day. Did you ever try a "Family Night" without using any electricity?

Here is a list of suggestions for a Family Fun Night without electricity:

- ◆ Plan your meal to use a charcoal or propane grill.
- ◆ Buy vegetables and fruits locally grown that will be fresh.
- ◆ Ask the entire family for meal suggestions and a healthy desert.
- ◆ Give every family member something to do.
- ◆ For entertainment plan activities such as board games, card games, or use your imagination to try something creative.

- ◆ Find a book that the family will enjoy and take turns reading.
- ◆ Use candles and flashlights when it starts to get dark.
- ◆ Safely plan a fire outdoors, if it is practical, for the family to sit around and make up stories or share past experiences.
- ◆ Whatever you plan, it should be a family affair.

If the evening is enjoyable your family will not miss the electricity and will look forward to another "Family Night". We will look forward to hearing from you about the night your family planned and maybe send us a few pictures. We will share your experience with our members in a future issue of our magazine, "*Fraternally Yours*". Happy Planning!

FCSLA 2011 YOUTH RECOGNITION AWARD



Our FCSLA Youth Recognition Award goes to 16 year old Luke A. Matulewicz. He lives in Whiting, IN with his parents, Lorie and Al, and one sister, Emily. Luke is a member of Sr. Branch 452.

Luke is an active volunteer in his senior branch and also assists the new junior branch. He is especially helpful when the branches are doing a Matching Funds Project. He helps without even being asked.

Luke's home parish is Immaculate Conception Slovak Church. As a member of his parish, he was chosen to be the youth representative on the Parish Council and to represent the youth of his parish on the Diocesan Board in Gary. He has attended the Diocese of Gary's Youth Retreat, which is called CYX (Catholic Youth

eXperience). He played Pontius Pilot on Good Friday for the Living Stations of the Cross. Luke will be attending NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) being held in Indianapolis, IN in November.

Luke has been involved for three years with the PHYRE (FIRE) Ministry. This ministry is the Youth Group for the Whiting/Roberstale Cluster Parish. PHYRE is an acronym for Peers Helping Youth Reach Enlightenment. He is their Technology Manager. PHYRE assists churches, ministries and fellowship groups in learning to present the Gospel and equip willing people to share Christ, anywhere with anyone.

At Whiting High School, Luke is part of the National Honor Society, Booster Club, Spanish Club, the A/B Honor Roll and the Science Olympiad team. He mentors elementary students preparing for the Science Olympiad. In June, he was recognized as the Northwest Indiana's Catholic Youth of the Month.

FCSLA congratulates Luke for being chosen as our 2011 Youth Recognition Award winner. We are very proud that he is an active member of our association. FCSLA officers and members wish him a successful future.



The Members' Corner

The convention is just around the corner. It is an exciting time for us. We have passed the 650 million dollar mark for our assets. Let's celebrate! Let's keep our conversation going.

Q As a member, I have recently heard that we will lose our power to choose our own candidates for the managing officers with the current proposed Board's bylaw change. Is this true?

A No, you will not lose your power in the selection of qualified candidates for the positions of the managing officers. In the Board's bylaw proposal from last year, specific qualifications would be determined to fit the unique responsibilities of the different positions of these managing officers. These criteria will reflect the individuality of the positions within our own society. Your power will continue because you will be in charge of putting into office the most important people — those who will assess the performance of the persons in these key positions.

Q If changes to the way we choose our managing officers are approved according to the Board proposal presented in the Special Convention, when will they become effective?

A According to Robert's Rules of Order (RRO), an amendment to the bylaws goes into effect immediately upon its adoption unless the motion to adopt specifies another time for its being effective.

Q I often see the terms "revisions" and "amendments" in reference to bylaws. Is there any difference?

A Great question! They are actually very different. A revision is the name given to a complete reworking of the bylaws and (according to Roberts Rules of Order) is undertaken only when **authorized** by a Board of Directors or a Convention. RRO directs the appointment of a large subcommittee to prepare a first draft to be further reviewed and critically examined by the full committee to make certain that all

groups within the organization are included and served. **Only** when the finished bylaws, through this revision, have been thoroughly analyzed by the full committee should the document be presented to the convention and discussed section by section before it is submitted for approval by that body.

An amendment, on the other hand, is a change to a limited portion of the bylaws document. Unlike a revision, a committee does not need to be appointed to review the document and the amendment can be presented and handled in much less time. When the amendment is presented, the pros and cons are discussed and a vote is taken on that one item.

As we approach the time of the convention, allow me to thank you for your genuine interest in our society's future, demonstrated by the flow of thought provoking questions over the past few months. I truly appreciate the time you took to prepare questions and send them to me.

Please know that I am always glad to hear from you. As questions may arise in your mind over the next few weeks, feel free to call me directly or email me.

Mary Ann S. Johanek

Direct line: 216.468.1011

Email: maryann@fcscla.org

Fax: 216.464.9260

Fall Meeting to be Held

The Eastern PA Francis Jakabcin District will hold a fall meeting on Sunday, September 25, 2011 at 1:00 PM at the Northampton Memorial Community Center, 101 Laubach Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067. Please RSVP to President Veronica Bazik at 570-645-5253 by September 12th.

**FROM JULY 1 THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 30, 2011,
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 10 MEMBER EARNS BUSINESS PROMOTION



James V. Fakult (Sr. Branch 10, Cleveland, OH) was recently promoted to president of Maryland Operations for FirstEnergy.

Jim joined the company in 1987 as an associate marketing representative with Ohio Edison. Following a series of marketing-related promotions, he was named director, Sales, in 1999. In 2001 he was named director, Large Commercial & Industrial Segments. In 2004 Jim was promoted to director, Customer Support.

In 2008 he was named general manager, Regional Operations Support, for Ohio Edison. Jim was promoted to his current position in February 2011.

He earned a bachelor's degree in marketing from Cleveland State University and a master's degree in business administration from Ashland University.

Jim and his wife Peggy and their six children are all members of Sr. Branch 10 or Jr. Branch 386, Cleveland, OH. Jim is the son of Jim and Frances Fakult and the nephew of National Secretary Irene J. Drotleff.

Lucille Swain's 90th Birthday Celebrated in August

Lucille Swain (Sr. Branch 66, Streator, IL) celebrated her 90th birthday on August 3, 2011. She was born to the late Anna and John Ondek, Sr. She attended St. Stephen's Grade School and graduated high school with the class of 1940. She married James Swain on October 1, 1946. She has three daughters Cheryl (Ralph) Pollett of Watauga, TX; Jane (John) Soltis and Diane (Mike) Pouk both of Streator, IL. She has five grandchildren, one great-grandson and one deceased grandson.



Lucille worked 29 years in the La Salle County Treasurer's office. She is President and Treasurer of Branch 66 where she brought many members into the Association. She enjoys playing Euchre and Bingo. She is a member of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church.

A party was held at the Knights of Columbus Club Room hosted by her daughters.

Betty Kush Celebrates 90th Birthday with Family and Friends



Betty Kush of Sharpsville, PA (Sr. Branch 153, Sharon, PA), celebrated her 90th birthday on July 19. A dinner for family and friends was held on Sunday, July 17, in her honor. In attendance were sons Raymond (Lorraine) of Lockport, NY; Richard (Barbara) of Chandler, AZ; and Robert (Cindy) of Gilbert, AZ, as well as numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives, neighbors, and friends.

Jr. Branch 370 Welcomes New Member

Philip and Dolores Glomb, Officers of Sr. Branch 225 and Jr. Branch 370 of Chicago, are proud to present their great-grandson and newest member to Jr. Branch 370 – Nathan Patrick. Nathan was born on November 25, 2010 and was baptized



on June 12, 2011. He is the son of Patrick and Jillian Glomb and grandson of Gregg and Kathleen Glomb, all of who are members of Sr. Branch 225.

FOUR GENERATIONS OF FCSLA MEMBERSHIP



FOUR GENERATIONS OF THE BRIDGEMAN FAMILY — L-R: Mother Lauren Bridgeman, and son Tyler Bridgeman Kozy; Grandmother Carol (nee Miterko) Bridgeman; and Great-Grandmother Stephanie (nee Sudicky) Miterko. All are members of Branch 289 or 184 in Gary, IN.

FCSLA 2011 FRATERNALIST OF THE YEAR

— *Bernadette M. Robertson* —



The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association is proud to announce the selection of Bernadette Robertson (Sr. Branch 114, Lorain, OH) as our association's 2011 Fraternalist of the Year. Her profile has been sent to the American Fraternal Alliance to be considered for national recognition. The 2011 American Fraternal Alliance's Fraternalist of the Year Award will be announced and honored at the

125th Annual Meeting to be held in Denver, CO in September.

Bernadette and her husband, Albert, a Marine Veteran have been married for 56 years. They have four children, one son Edward who lives in Los Angeles, CA and three daughters, Ellen, Karen and Janet who live in the Lorain, OH area. She also has three grandchildren, Michael, Mitchell and Emily. She has two brothers, Rev. Edward J. Luca, J.C.D. of the Cleveland diocese and Raymond of Springfield, VA and a sister Marceline who lives in Lorain. Bernadette is a very compassionate caregiver to her 15 year old grandson, Mitchell, who is autistic and nonverbal.

Bernadette is President of Sr. Branch 114 and Jr. Branch 198. She has served in these positions for 12 years and previously served as Vice President for 11 years. She tries to bring awareness of our Slovak heritage to all her members.

Bernadette organizes many fraternal activities for the benefit of her members. She has participated in many of our association sponsored contests and challenges. She has

encouraged her branch members to become involved in all FCSLA activities.

Bernadette serves on the Board of Directors of the American Slovak Club. She is an active member of the United Slovak Societies, FCSU and The Democratic Women's Club. She has been a poll worker for 40 years.

Bernadette has served close to 19 years as a volunteer at Mercy Regional Center Hospital's Thrift Shop. She was awarded a special 15 year pin for her dedicated service of more than 1,000 hours. All Thrift Shop profits are donated to the hospital.

Bernadette easily draws people of all generations to her with her ready smile and listening ear. She encourages members in her family, church, and societies to become active. She also encourages them and allows them to take charge for the experience they will need to one day take over her many responsibilities.

She devotes time to help in her new parish community, Church of St. Peter where she volunteers as a member of the Seniors Group and the Holy Name Society. She had been a member of her former parish, Holy Trinity Slovak Church for 79 years until it closed. Bernadette belongs to the Mar-Win Club, a group of ladies that was formed in her high school days. These ladies have met for over 60 years and support each other through their lasting friendships that have stood the test of time.

FCSLA congratulates Bernadette Robertson for receiving this well deserved recognition. She is a wonderful example of our "fraternal spirit" as she continues to make a difference in her family, the FCSLA, church and community. We are very proud to have Bernadette represent us as our "2011 Fraternalist of the Year".

Alyssa Zewe Graduates from Florida State University

Alyssa Roselle Zewe (Branch SZJ0, Beachwood, OH) graduated Cum Laude from Florida State University (FSU) in Tallahassee in April 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts and Science degree with a major in English Literature with Education and Spanish minors.

During her sophomore year, she volunteered as mentor and tutor for Fairview Middle School working with students who were struggling inside the classroom. The summer before her senior year, she was selected as a counselor for FSU's Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement program, where she was responsible for helping 350 incoming students transition into college life. These students were first generation college students, like her, and as such, faced unique challenges. She lived in the residence hall with the students, serving as not only a resource, but a mentor.

A 2009 recipient of a FCSLA scholarship, Alyssa is currently employed by Florida State University as a Graduate Assistant in the Student Activities Center for Student Organization Services. She was awarded this coveted 2-year assistantship while planning to pursue her Masters Degree in Higher Education this fall.

A lifelong member of FCSLA, Alyssa is the daughter of Roselle Stanko-Colapietro (former FCSLA member) and granddaughter of Robert (deceased) and Evelyn Stanko (FCSLA members).



MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Jr. Branch 339, Oak Lawn, IL

French Toast Breakfast and Raffle

Chicago's Jr. Branch 339 sponsored a matching funds event "French Toast Breakfast and Raffle" for St. Bruno Parish's Boy Scout Troop 42 on Sunday, March 6, 2011, to assist in raising funds that will promote the troops' summer camping activities. The Branch collected over \$1,600 through its breakfast and raffle ticket sales with approximately 200 people attending this delicious event.

Jr. Branch 339 received donations from local vendors and retailers, which provided attendees the chance to win one of 75 raffle prizes, composed of gift cards and sports collectibles. Jr. Branch 339 President, Joyce Kelly, and Sr. Branch 287 President, Judy Tybor-Knizner, were greatly pleased with the wonderful turnout and most importantly, the hard work of the boy scouts who cooked and served breakfast to the attendees.



L-R: Jr. Branch 339 President - Joyce Kelly, Jr. 339 Member Addison Gillen, Stephen Yu - Assistant Scout Leader; Standing: Sr. 287 President Judy Tybor-Knizner with Jr. Member 339 Carter Gillen



St. Bruno Parish Scout Troop #42 with Jr. Branch 339 Member Addison Gillen; Sr. Branch 287, Judy Tybor-Knizner, and Jr. Branch 339 President Joyce Kelly.



Branch W051, Britt, IA

Avery Theatre Gala Fundraiser

Branch members from W051 held a Gala Ball Fundraiser for branch and community members of Britt, IA, on April 2, 2011. The event was to help raise funds to restore the Avery Theatre to its original condition. At the Gala, the branch put together a Silent and Live Auction to help raise funds. The Gala raised \$15,000, which was donated to this cause.



Branch W013, Prague, NE

Bake Sale for New York City Mission Trip

Branch W013 held a bake sale to benefit Saint John the Baptist Church Youth Group during the weekend of May 21-22, 2011. Branch members and youth group members each donated three to four dozen baked good for the sale. The event raised \$500 and was donated to the Youth Group for their mission trip to New York City.



L-R: Stephen Yu, John Merkel, Robert Alanis, Jr. Branch 339 President Joyce Kelly, and Sr. Branch 287 President Judy Tybor-Knizner.



FCSLA and Boy Scout Troop #42 Cooks.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Sr. Branch 177 and Jr. Branch 115, Elizabeth, PA

Walk for a Healthy Community Fundraiser

Members from both branches, Sr. Branch 177 and Jr. Branch 115, formed a team for the second year in a row to walk for the benefit of Womansplace in the Annual Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community on May 21, 2011. The Womansplace provides shelter to abused women and children. Members received pledges to walk and collected a total of \$1,300. All funds raised will be donated to Womansplace to allow them to continue providing this service to women and their children.



Sr. Branch 410, Nesquehoning, PA

Fish Dinner Fundraiser

Branch members from Sr. Branch 410 held a fish dinner at St. Francis of Assisi Parish on April 1, 2011 to help raise funds for the Parish. It was a group effort from the branch members, the Pastor and parish volunteers to help make this matching funds project a success. The event raised \$2,450 and was donated to the church.



Sr. Branch 35, Branchburg, NJ

Bake Sale

Members from Sr. Branch 35 assisted by parishioners from St. Joseph Church held a bake sale during the weekend of May 22-23, 2011. Branch members were asked to help bake goodies for the sale to sell after the masses. The event raised \$639. All proceeds were donated the church for its 100th Anniversary celebration.

Sr. Branch 621, David City, NE

Game Night

FCSLA Branch 621 in David City, NE worked with St. Mary Church, David City and Assumption Appleton parishes on a game night held March 19, 2011.

FCSLA branch members assisted with the parish raffles and they also held an additional raffle which raised \$1,221 which qualified for an FCSLA matching fund grant of an additional \$500 for St. Mary Parish.



L-R: Fr. Bernard Kimminau, pastor and chaplain, with FCSLA members Barb Dehner and Joan Riha.

Colonel Francis Gabreski Honored



L-R: Dr. Andrzej Groch, Peter Obst, Elizabeth Groch, National Trustee Cynthia Maleski, Scott Frankowski (representing State Senator Jim Ferlo of the PA Historical and Museum Commission) at Unveiling of Historical Marker Honoring Colonel Francis "Gabby" Gabreski in Oil City, PA on June 25, 2011. Col. Gabreski was born of immigrant parents and was the top American air ace of WWII in the European Theatre and again became an ace in the Korean War. Later on, Col. Gabreski served as president of the Long Island Railroad.

~ FRESH FIT FOR FCSLA ~

In the August Fraternally Yours 'Members Corner', a question was asked about a different bylaw proposal than was presented at the special convention. There is an alternative. The idea was submitted to the bylaw committee by several members, branches and districts, including the Pittsburgh District and accompanied by in excess of 200 signatures.

The new proposed amendment came about because we recognize the strong desire within our membership, to participate to the fullest extent possible, in selecting our leadership. Also, the plan presented at the special convention had deficient and incompatible language which was un-workable.

We all agree that it takes qualified people to carry out FCSLA's operations. However, there is no 'One Size Fits All' plan for every fraternal. Thus, board members Bernadette Demechko, Virginia Holmes, Linda Killeen and Dorothy Urbanowicz prepared an amendment, with suggestions from the District Presidents of Illinois, Indiana, Pittsburgh and Youngstown.

This proposed amendment has the following changes:

- 1) Requires qualifications for managing officer and Board of Director positions.
For example, it stipulates that relevant work experience is essential; the National Treasurer is required to be a CPA; the National President must have a college degree. These qualifications are shown in the bylaws for transparency.
- 2) Entrusts the Board of Directors to screen the 'Intent to Run' applications of the managing officers (ie. President, National Treasurer, and National Secretary). The Board of Directors will ensure that candidates for these positions meet the pre-established qualifications.
- 3) **The convention will retain the power to elect** managing officers and the Board of Directors, from a 'slate' of qualified candidates.
- 4) It removes the managing officers from the Board of Directors. This will allow the Board of Directors to make un-biased evaluations of management's performance, and makes management directly accountable to the Board.
- 5) It creates a 'Non-Voting Delegate'. This gives all qualified members of the Society, the opportunity to seek office. Qualified members will not be prevented from running for office simply because a branch nominates only friends and family members to be convention delegates.

The Ohio Department of Insurance recommended that our fraternal take steps to establish pre-requisites for officer nominees, which demonstrate they have the background, knowledge and experience to direct and manage the Association's operations. The plan presented at the October 2010 Special Convention, had no qualifications for the President, Treasurer, and National Secretary. Nor did it have qualifications for the Board of Directors who would be

responsible for selecting, hiring and evaluating the managing officers.

At our upcoming October convention, we must make a decision on how to acquire and place qualified people into all governance positions. A bylaw change will need the approval of two thirds of the convention delegates. Hopefully, this revised plan can bring the majority of delegates together in an agreement to move forward on the governance issue.

Fraternally,

Bernadette Demechko, National Vice President (3rd)

Virginia Holmes, National Trustee

Linda Killeen, National Vice President (2nd)

Dorothy Urbanowicz, National Auditor

40th National Convention Announcements

■ **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.

FCSLA Convention Donations Budget

We are all aware of the difficult economic climate that has existed the past few years. FCSLA has not been immune to these challenging economic times. As a result, the proposed donations budget at the upcoming convention in Baltimore in October is not as high as it has been in the past. However, we are pleased to announce that a substantial sum of money has still been allocated for these convention donations. Based on a formula passed at a meeting of the Philanthropic Dollars Committee, the proposed convention donations budget for this year is approximately \$880,000.

Sr. Branch 376 Holds Meeting/Luncheon

On April 9, 2011, Sr. Branch 376, Milwaukee, WI, held its Spring Luncheon and Meeting. The meeting started with prayers for our 50-year members Susanne Bean, Marie Stanford, Joseph Filo, and Peter Holtman; and prayers were also said for Ken Horihan, who passed away.

Sign-up sheets for Join Hands Day (June 18), the Slovak Picnic (July 24 - volunteers and bakery), and St. Ann's Day in Indiana (July 26) were passed around. It was announced that the remaining meetings in 2011 would be September 17 and December 10. A drawing was held for the Easter bunnies, chicks, jellybean candy jars and Spring flowers that decorated the tables. Branch 376 wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable summer!



St. Catherine Sr. Branch 225 Hosts Luncheon

St. Catherine Sr. Branch 225 of Chicago, IL held a luncheon on June 11, 2011 at PaPa Joe's Restaurant in Orland Park for its branch members and friends. The branch was fortunate to have Ken Wzorek, FCSLA Sales Manager and Patrick Braun, FCSLA National Sales Manager in attendance who shared with the members important information and answered questions from those present about our various products. All enjoyed the company, camaraderie, and fraternal spirit with one another.



JR. BRANCH 11 JOINS IN THE COLLECTION OF U.S. FLAGS

When the United States flag (Old Glory) becomes worn, torn, faded or badly soiled, it is time to replace it with a new flag, and the old flag should be "retired" with all the dignity and respect befitting our nation's flag.

On July 4th members of Jr. Branch 11, St. Louis, MO, assisted the St. Mary Magdalen BSA Troop

115 by collecting worn, tattered flags and otherwise unserviceable flags which will be respectfully destroyed during the Veterans' Weekend Ceremony on November 12th. The flags will be placed on a ceremonial pyre and set ablaze.

The event was chaired by FCSLA Secretary of Sr. Branch 101 and FCSU President Joseph G. Miklovic.



L-R: Ann Miklovic, Branch Vice-President, and junior members Sam, Audrey and Frances Miklovic.



JOIN HANDS DAY 2011

Recently fraternalists and non-fraternalists once again came together for JOIN HANDS DAY — to make a difference in their communities through helpful projects that connected youths and adults.



SR. BRANCH 409/JR. BRANCH 317

FCSLA Sr. Branch 409 (Crown Point, IN) and Jr. Branch 317 (Hammond, IN) recently teamed up with the William Penn Association for a Join Hands Day Project. The group met at Holy Trinity Hungarian Catholic Church, East Chicago, IN for a delicious lunch of haluski with cheese and bacon bits, ham and bean soup, fried chicken and dessert, all prepared by Marie Kovacs of the William Penn Association. After lunch and car pooling to their destination, members began their yard cleaning project. Everyone took part in raking leaves, weeding, planting and cutting bushes. The group has plans to return because they were unable to complete all they had hoped to do.



L-R: Maria Kovacs, Joseph Kovacs, members of William Penn Association; FCSLA members Elie Anderson, Agnes Chervenak, President of Sr. Branch 409, Colin Anderson, Grandma Mary Widiger, Sara Anderson and Dad Anderson.



L-R: Elie Anderson with Grandma Mary Widiger, Agnes Chervenak and Mom Sherry Anderson.

SR. BRANCH 88/JR. BRANCH 157

Members of Sr. Branch 88 (Monessen, PA) and Jr. Branch 157 (Monongahela, PA) Advisory Board recently "joined hands" and planted flowers at the Holy Name (Slovak) Cemetery. The advisory board was established to help with activities that would be of interest to those between 11 and 15 years of age in the Jr. Branch.



Front Row, L-R: Katelyn Beneci, Rachell Funtal, Natalie Bialon and Alice Bialon, Branch 88 Recording Secretary. Back Row, L-R: Dorothy Urbanowicz, National Auditor and Rosemary Betza, Branch 88 Auditor.



SR. BRANCH 140/JR. BRANCH 46

Our Lady of the Angels Academy students in Lansford, PA, together with Jr. Branch 46 and Sr. Branch 140, both of Lansford, PA, collected 11 boxes of snacks, comics, toothpaste, dental floss, soaps and other items to send to troops in Afghanistan. Each grade made a card to tuck into the boxes, and posters all as part of this years "Join Hands Day" project.

The project was prompted by Patti Gerber, whose son, eighth-grade student Nick Barron, makes sure kindergarten student Andre Velez stays safe at the bus stop when Velez' maternal grandmother, Louise McLaughlin, cannot be there due to her work schedule.

McLaughlin is caring for Andre while his parents, U.S. Marines Louise and Victor Velez, are away on duty. Victor is serving a tour of duty in Afghanistan and Louise is based at Quantico, VA.

"We had to do something," Gerber said. "Andre is like my second son."



Victor Velez contacted the chaplain at his base to find out which soldiers were in need of the care boxes. The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, local branches Jr. Branch 46 and Sr. Branch 140, helped to pack the boxes and paid the postage to send the boxes to Afghanistan. The branches are based at St. Katharine Drexel Church, next door to the school.



L-R: Our Lady of the Angels Academy student Lauren Nietz, Nick Barron, Andre Velez, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association local president Veronica Bazik, vice-president Mary E. Ciganek and financial secretary/treasurer Louise Dunstan with the boxes of snacks and grooming items ready to be sent to Afghanistan.



LOUISE M. YASH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

On June 18th members of the junior and senior branches spent the morning at the convent of The Sisters of Notre Dame, sharing laughs and playing bingo, with prizes of candy, notepads, etc.

Members also shared a lunch of Polish favorites with the sisters, a song of thanks, and a blessing sung in beautiful harmony by the sisters. Everyone enjoyed the morning of fun and fellowship.



DISTRICT ANNA HURBAN OF CHICAGO

Nineteen Senior Members from the District Anna Hurban of Chicago met on Saturday, May 21, 2011 for its fourth annual "Join Hands Day" event at the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital.

The members spent the afternoon with twenty-five of the resident veterans playing several rounds of serious bingo games. Prizes for the first time winners were a gift voucher to the commissary with second and third time winners receiving socks, tee-shirts, and other toiletry-type prizes.

This VA Hospital located in Maywood, IL is the largest of the Chicago-area Veterans' Hospitals and is well-known for its many programs and specialties including: blind rehabilitation, spinal cord injury, neurosurgery, radiation therapy, cardiovascular surgery, and serves as a Polytrauma Center for severely injured veterans with skilled medical professionals who treat patients with traumatic brain injuries.

It truly was an afternoon of fun for all and a great way for our members to say thanks to these veterans who have given so much for our American freedom.



Veterans (Seated) L-R: Ed Zielinski and Howard Hunt with members of the Anna Hurban Chicago District.



Veterans (Seated) L-R: Lamont Poloston, Morito Moreno, Sam Stive, Albert Atkocaitis, and Jeff Boerman. Standing in the background are Chicago District members.

ANNA HURBAN DISTRICT OF CHICAGO HOLDS ITS ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS LUNCHEON

The Chicago Anna Hurban District hosted its annual scholarship awards luncheon for its fifteen Chicago District Scholarship winners on Saturday, June 18, 2011 at the Royal Palace Restaurant in Chicago Ridge, IL.

The scholarship winners and their guests were congratulated by both their District and Branch Officers. Anna Hurban District of Chicago President, Joe Ledvora, reported to all in attendance that this year the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association awarded scholarships to 227 FCSLA members in the amount of \$258,750 of which \$16,250 went to fifteen Chicago District members comprising of four elementary, two high school, and nine college (ranging from freshman to senior year). The fifteen scholarship winners are: Raquel E. Adams (J106), Mary E. Braun (J106), Natalie Rose Kalata (J174), Tyler DeYoung (J322), Cassandra M. Duck (J96), Nicholas P. Anglin (J106), Rachel J. Martinez (S181), Marylena F. Lehocky (S485), Taryn Paige Belak (S308), Amanda Siedschlag (S485), Jori L. Gillen (S287), Michelle Claypool (S485), James R. Miksanek (S181), Kaitlyn A. Klausner (S180) and Deborah M. Uhrina (S258).

The Chicago District is proud of all of these scholarship

winners and wishes them continued success in their studies. (To see additional photos from this event go to: <http://www.fcsla.org/district/chicago/gallery.php>)



Front Row, L-R: Natalie Rose Kalata, Michelle Claypool, Marylena F. Lehocky, and Rachel J. Martinez; Back Row, L-R: Kaitlyn A. Klausner, Tyler J. DeYoung, and Jori Knizner-Gillen.



Front Row, L-R: Natalie Rose Kalata, Kaitlyn A. Klausner, Michelle Claypool, Marylena F. Lehocky, and Rachel J. Martinez. Back Row, L-R: Joseph Ledvora, Helen Ledvora, Tyler J. DeYoung, Jori Knizner-Gillen, Irene Zittman, Judy Tybor-Knizner and Jarmila Hlubocky.

Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar to be Held

The Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar, under the auspices of the Slovak Catholic Federation, will take place on Sunday, October 2, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Casimir, 2601 W. Marquette Road, Chicago, IL.

Father John Jamnicky will speak on "Journey's of a Slovak-American Priest." After a question and answer session, attendees will enjoy a delicious catered meal.

For more information, call John Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810 or Geri Hletko at (708) 387-7812.

Named YMCA Family of the Year

The Hudson family was named a 2010 Family of the Year for the Lake County, West End YMCA in Willoughby, OH. Kim and Scott Hudson have been Lake County YMCA members for 15 years, and their two children, Kaley, age 11, and Sara (Jr. Branch 527), age 6, both started in the gym and swim program as infants — a program both Kim and Scott feel is a great confidence builder, and offers a unique experience for both parent and child.



Today, Kaley enjoys Camp Fitch, swimming with the Wildcats and the synchronized swim team for the past 4 years. Sara likes her Minnows swim class and especially loves gymnastics and the Rollers gymnastics classes. Scott enjoys using the pool and fitness areas while Kim participates in many of the fitness programs offered. Scott also serves on the Y Improvement Committee, and he and Kim volunteer and participate in the West End Run and Ironman Challenges.

As a family practice physician and junior high science teacher, both Kim and Scott love that their whole family is active almost every day in a safe, fun environment and appreciate the dedication of the staff and coaches and the values the West End Y provides.

Kim is a former FCSLA scholarship winner and is the daughter of Frank and Cheryl Garren (Sr. Branch 180) and the granddaughter of Joseph and Rosemary Saus (Sr. Branch 616).

Members Receive First Holy Communion



On May 1, 2011 **RORY REBECCA KUENNEN** made her First Holy Communion at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Little Turkey, IA as part of the "Christ Our Hope" six parish cluster Communion Celebration. She is a member of St. Luke Church in St. Lucas, IA and is the daughter of Scott and Jenae Kuennen. Rory, her two sisters; Shayla and Alayna, and her mother are members of Branch W033 in Spillville, IA. Her "Nana" Rebecca Kuhn has been Branch W033 Secretary for 20 years and her "Papa" Richard Kuhn has been the director for 28 years.



SAVANNAH JAYNE FURLONG made her first Holy Communion on May 1, 2011 at Corpus Christi Parish in McKeesport, PA. Savannah is in the second grade at St. Joseph's Regional School in Port Vue, PA. She is a member of McKeesport Jr. Branch 32.



CLARE KENNEDY FERENCAK, Jr. Branch 126, made her First Holy Communion on May 7, 2011 at St. Dominic Church in Cincinnati, OH.



KATIE ANN MACCARELLA a member of Jr. Branch 7, Philadelphia, PA, daughter of John and Michelle Maccarella received her First Holy Communion at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Mullica Hills, NJ on April 30, 2011.



JENNIFER ROSE KIST, (Jr. Branch 260) made her First Holy Communion on May 1, 2011 at St. Clements Church in Johnstown, PA. She is the daughter of Frank and Cynthia Kist. Her mother Cynthia and her grandmother Helen Klanchar are members of Sr. Branch 5.



Congratulations are in order for **CAROLYN OLIVER**, a St. Mary's third grader whose art work you see depicted at left. Carolyn is a member of Jr. Branch 46, Lansford, PA.

The kindergarten through fourth grade art program at St. Mary's Elementary School, in Annapolis, MD, gives younger students the opportunity

to visually express themselves through a variety of media. Students explore the world of art and art history and gain an understanding and appreciation of art through many different learning experiences. In addition, religious themes are incorporated into selected projects as a way of supporting and enhancing the spiritual goals of the school.



IN MEMORIAM

MARY ANN (HAZUKA) CORDES Branch W002



Mary Ann Cordes, 90, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on May 20, 11 in South St. Paul. She was born December 24, 1920.

Mary Ann was preceded in death by husband, Lawrence R. Cordes; parents, John and Josephine Hazuka; parents-in-law, Frank and Edna Cordes; sister, Lillian Muehlegger; brothers, John Hazuka and Raymond Hazuka; sisters-in-law, Blanche Hazuka, Joan Hedberg, Donna Stanton, Adeline Cordes, Mona Cordes, and brothers-in-law, Albert Black, Joseph Muehlegger, Donald Stanton, Marvin Cordes and Richard Cordes.

She is survived by children, Gregory (Kimberly) Cordes and Anita (Mark) Williams; grandchildren, Jessica (Steven) and Devin; great-grandson, Andrew; sister, Emily Black; sisters-in-law, Dolores Hazuka, Joyce (Richard) Zywiec; brother-in-law, Clarence (Louise) Hedberg, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Mary was very strong in her faith and continued to pray the rosary until her last days. Her sweet smile and sense of humor made everyone feel loved and comforted. Mary was very generous and always put others before herself. She supported many religious and social organizations through prayer, gifts, and especially her time.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at The Church of Holy Trinity. Interment was in Oak Hill Cemetery, SSP.

JOHN NOVACEK Branch W032

John Novacek, a long time member passed away January 27, 2011. He was born July 15, 1922 in Dwight, NE, to John A. Novacek and Mary Hamsa. He grew up in Dwight and was a graduate from Assumption High School.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Esther, Constance and Edith Kudlacek, children James and Joyce.

He is survived by his wife, daughters

Eloise Schwartz, Mary Kaye Kost, sons David, Donald and Clair, brothers Alfred and Francis.

He joined the Navy during WWII. He married Laurine Divis in 1951. He was Secretary/Treasurer of the Dwight Coop Credit Association for many years, and also operated and owned a Real Estate, Insurance and Auctioneer business.

He was involved in many community organizations including the Fire Dept., American Legion, Community Club, Czech Festival, and the parish.

He held many offices in the former Catholic Workman organization. Locally he was President of the branch, a State officer and a National Director for two terms.

SYLVESTER J. KUSKIEWICZ Sr. Branch 615

Sylvester J. Kuskiewicz, 82, formerly of East Grove Street, Nanticoke, passed away May 19, 2011, at Heritage House, Wilkes-Barre, PA.



He was born in Nanticoke, on October 23, 1928, and was a son of the late John and Frances Hudzik Kuskiewicz. After graduation from Nanticoke High School, he elected to join the U.S. Army and served during the Korean Conflict as a tank operator. He also was a member of the former St. Stanislaus Church, the American Legion Post 350, Nanticoke, and was treasurer for Polish Falcons of America Nest 91. Sylvester also owned and operated Kuskiewicz's Market on East Grove Street, Nanticoke, for many years. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed many fishing trips to Canada with his close friends.

Sylvester was preceded in death, in addition to his parents, by sisters, Arlene Golobek and Jean Kuskiewicz; and brothers, John, Walter and Edward Kuskiewicz.

Presently surviving are a sister, Bernadine Yench, St. Petersburg, FL; nephews, John Kusk and David Golobek; nieces, Linda Sisolak, Pam Novakoski and Francine Yench; as well as many grandnieces and grandnephews.

LISA M. MUSEL-McCOY Branch W137



Lisa M. Musel-McCoy, 44, of Cedar Rapids, died March 9, 2011, at Mercy Medical Center, Cedar Rapids, surrounded by family, friends, and loved ones.

Survivors include her husband, Doug McCoy; her parents, Fran and Kathy Musel of Cedar Rapids; brother, Tim Musel of Orlando, FL, sister, Laurie Smejkal, brother-in-law Dave McGrath of Cedar Rapids; father-in-law; David McCoy, Sr. of Ottumwa, IA; sisters-in-law, Kim (Mike) Naber of Dysart, IA and Bobbi McCoy of Cedar Rapids; brother-in-law, David McCoy, Jr. of Ottumwa; nieces and nephews, Madison, Cassie, Cole, Jon (Joann), Jake, Jessie (Jeremy), Michael, Matt, Brie, and Jordan; and several grand nieces and nephews.

Lisa was born December 2, 1966, in Cedar Rapids, the daughter of Fran and Kathy (Hrabak) Musel. She graduated from LaSalle High School in 1985, and attended Kirkwood Community College. Most recently she worked for PS Air.

Lisa loved spending time with her family and friends, especially the camping trips. She enjoyed caring for animals, including her five birds and one dog. Lisa kept a very clean house and aspired to learn to play the piano.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Ken and Louise Hrabak and Joseph and Vlasta Musel; and her mother-in-law, Marilyn McCoy.

Memorials will be directed to animal rescue organizations or St. Ludmila Catholic Church.

VALERIA M. ERICKSON Sr. Branch 300

Valeria M. "Val" Erickson, age 90, of Rensselaer, IN passed away at her home on June 10, 2011. She was born in Ludrova, Czechoslovakia on January 15, 1921, the daughter of Ladislav Kivon and Margaret (Sirko) Kivon. She attended school in Youngstown, OH.

On January 31, 1944, Valeria enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving as a Photographic

Specialist until her discharge on January 11, 1946. In Chicago, IL.

Valeria was married on February 8, 1948, to Wayne M. Erickson and they moved to Rensselaer, IN, later that year. Wayne passed away February 9, 2009. A homemaker, Valeria was a member of the St. Augustine Catholic Church and was a St. Joseph College Fellow. She was a member of the Tri-Kappa Sorority and the Curtis Creek Country Club. Valeria was an avid bridge player and enjoyed playing bridge and golf with her many friends. In her later years, she enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her loving family, daughters, Christine (Don) DeLuke, Schenectady, NY, Karen (Mike) Tiede, Rensselaer, Valerie (Gerald) Lasko, Culver, IN and Kimberly (Robert) White, Rensselaer; nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; a brother, Frank Kivon, and a sister, Margaret (Donald) McMurray, both of Youngstown, OH.

Valeria was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and an infant granddaughter.

HELEN VISOCAN Sr. Branch 221



Helen (Piskura) Visocan, 99, passed away on Friday, June 3, 2011 in Cleveland, OH. Helen was predeceased by her husband of 66 years, Stephen Visocan. Helen served as a branch officer of Branch 221 for numerous years, taking the position over from her mother, Helen Piskura. Helen and Steve were charter parishioners of the Church of the Resurrection in Solon, OH where they volunteered countless hours, served on numerous committees and were active members of the R.T.O.C. (Resurrection Old Timers Club).

Helen carried on her Slovak heritage through her cooking. Helen worked with a group of women catering weddings and other special events making, among other things, traditional Slovak food and bakery. Even well into her later years, she would make a full Slovak Christmas Eve

meal for the entire family. Every Easter she made nutrolls, poppyseed rolls and paska for the Easter baskets and then would accompany the children to the Church's basket blessing. Helen will be remembered by all for her great devotion to her family. Helen is survived by her three children, Lucille Davidson (husband James), Richard (wife Janet, deceased) and William (wife, Patricia), nine grandchildren, sixteen great-grandchildren and one step great-great grandchild.

MARY LOUISE MILLER Sr. Branch 325

Mary Louise Miller, 79, passed away peacefully at home on June 14, 2011. A Phoenix resident since 1968, Mary Lou was born in Youngstown, OH to John and Anna Rigelsky.

She moved to Scottsdale in 2004 to be closer to her children. A loyal Walgreen



employee until her retirement in 2002, she regularly took advantage of sales to purchase items for families in need. She was a loving, giving person always willing to help others. Her strength was evident as she

helped her husband, John, through 14 years of illness before his death in 1989. She will be remembered for her laughter and her unwavering willingness to let her grandchildren decorate for every holiday.

Mary Lou is survived by her son, Tom; daughter, Mary Ann; daughter-in-law, Sandy; special nephew/son Frank Rigelsky Jr.; grandchildren Amy, Dan (Jessica), Katie and Tommy; sister Helen, and numerous nieces and nephews whose birthdays she never forgot. We will miss her.

SLOVAK WORDS AND ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

Months:	Mesiace:	Months:	Mesiace:
January	január	July	júl
February	február	August	august
March	marec	September	september
April	apríl	October	október
May	máj	November	november
June	jún	December	december

Happy Easter!
Merry Christmas!
Happy New Year!
Good luck!
Happy Birthday!
Happy namesday!
I love you!

Question

Ktorý deň je dnes?
What is today?
Čo bolo včera?
What was yesterday?

Note: The days of the week are not capitalized in Slovak.

Veselá Veľká Noc!
Veselé Vianoce!
Šťastlivý Nový Rok!
Veľa šťastia!
Všetko dobré k narodeninám!
Všetko dobré k meninám!
Lúbim vás/ta!

Answer

Pondelok
Monday
Včera bola nedeľa.
Yesterday was Sunday.

“Simply Slovak” Festival Held in Youngstown, Ohio

This June 18th saw the first ever Simply Slavic Heritage Festival held in downtown Youngstown. This event was organized in order to showcase the many different Slavic groups that helped to populate the Mahoning Valley. In addition to the Slovaks, the Polish, Ukrainian, Serbian, Carpatho-Rusyns, and Slovenians had heritage tables set up to display information about their groups. One of the most popular parts of the heritage tables was the display of famous Slovak-Americans. So for instance, the Slovak booth had pictures and information about people such as Angelina Jolie (Slovak great-grandfather), William Hartack, 5 time winner of the Kentucky Derby and son of Slovak immigrants, Jon Bon Jovi (his father was half Sicilian and half Slovak) and John Hertz (immigrated to the USA at age 5 and founded the Yellow Cab Co. and Hertz Rent-A-Car).

There were ethnic foods for sale like pirohy, kolače, halubky, haluški and klobassi sandwiches, cevapcici among much more from 10 booths. There were even five imported Slavic beers and of course, slivovice! Ethnic crafts, tee-shirts, crystal, and books were also available for purchase from a dozen different vendors.

The festival started off with an ecumenical blessing and parade of flags, followed by a blessing of the various food



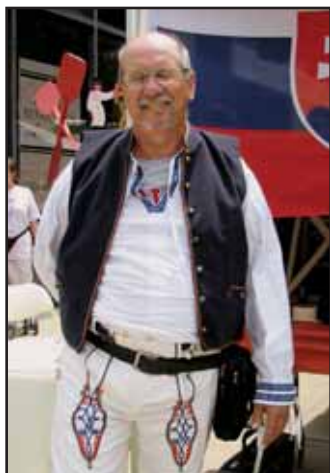
booths. Music was continuous throughout the day with performances by the Del Sinchak orchestra from Youngstown, OH and the Mikey Dee orchestra from McKeesport, PA, along with ethnic dance groups Krakowiaki Polish

Folk Circle, Living Traditions Folk Ensemble, and the Ukrainian Folk Ensemble. There were also polka and kolo dance lessons! The evening ended with a Slavic Disco featuring modern dance music from the present day Slavic countries.

All in all, the day represented a wonderful show of cooperation and fellowship between the various Slavic groups that are in the Mahoning Valley and showed what can happen if everyone works together. Many compliments were received and comments like “we should have had something like this long ago!” were heard.



This will absolutely be a recurring festival and we hope to have even more groups represented next year so watch for information next spring and join us for a great time!



Omaha Branch W018 Salutes Service

Branch and company loyalty are something we read about in business journals, but the same is true for FCSLA. Branch W018 of Omaha, NE, honored its 2011 50-Year members at an informal luncheon at the Bohemian Café in Omaha on Sunday, April 10.

Several honorees were able to attend and remarked that they had been FCSLA members since birth. Their loyalty and membership are appreciated.



Branch W018 honorees at the 50-Year Luncheon.

CHICAGO JUNIOR BRANCHES ATTEND MINIATURE GOLF OUTING

With temperatures in the 90's, the Chicago Junior Branches hosted their second miniature golf outing on July 10, 2011 at Novelty Golf in Lincolnwood, IL.

The members were paired into "four-somes" with the option of wearing a colorful animal golf visor to protect their young eyes from the sun.

The Junior Branches provided an extra surprise to the attendees with a visit from a face painter. Faces were painted to look like a members' favorite animal, while others chose a dragon or to have only hearts or flowers with a little glitter. A few arm tattoos boasted snakes and turtles.

After the round of golf, the attendees and their chaperones were treated to

hot dogs, french fries, and pop provided by the District. For dessert the golfers feasted on cupcakes.

At the end of the event, the participants were given goodie bags filled with age appropriate gifts, and gifts from the Home Office bearing the FCSLA logo.

"A wonderful time was had by all, including the adults in attendance and many are looking forward to our next event," District Vice President and Event Coordinator, Judy Tybor-Knizner reported.

Stay tuned for next summer's Junior Branch event by periodically checking our website at fcsla.org/district/chicago and sign up for our District e-mail alerts. (To view all of the photos from this

event go to <http://www.fcsla.org/district/chicago/gallery.php>)



Jr. 157 Scholarship Dinner in Monessen, Pennsylvania

Scholarship winners of Jr. Branch 157 and their families were honored at a dinner held at the New Alpine in Monessen, PA.

President Dorothy Urbanowicz welcomed all in attendance and Abbey Elizabeth Sitko gave the invocation.

The students were introduced and congratulated for their accomplishments. Those receiving scholarships were Jason Bialon, Jr., Leo Iacovangelo and Abbey Elizabeth Sitko.

Jason will be entering 6th grade at St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School. He is the son of Jason and Marie Bialon. He has been involved in the school Chess Club and Readers Theater. Jason earned the "Arrow of Light" award in Cub Scouts and recently entered Boy Scout Troop #1543 at St. Sebastian Church. He enjoys fishing.

Leo will be entering 4th grade at St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School. He is the son of Kevin and Vicki Iacovangelo. He is involved with soccer and Mustang baseball. Leo participated at a baseball tournament in July at Walt Disney World, FL.

Abbey will be entering 7th grade at Geibel Catholic Middle-High School. She is the daughter of Linda Sitko. Her love for the arts is expressed in many years of dance classes and singing in the past four school musicals. She performed with California University of Pennsylvania in "A Christmas

Carol" and "The Nutcracker". She has also performed "The Nutcracker" with Ballet Lafayette. Her love for action is shown on the volleyball court, as an outside hitter, and as a basketball player. She is a Girl Scout and has participated in the National American Miss Pageants where she was crowned Pennsylvania Spokesmodel for 2010. She also won the Volunteer and Service awards for 2010. Abbey is an altar server for the Connesville churches and has received many other awards at school. Abbey was a team coordinator for Lee Denim Day which was to help raise money for research and treatment of Breast Cancer.

Students were reminded at which levels they can again apply for FCSLA scholarships.

They were presented with gifts from the branch and the Home Office.

BRANCH W137, CEDAR RAPIDS, IA NEWS



Branch W137 held a family bike ride on Saturday June 25, 2011 at Sokol Park. Members rode whatever distance they chose. Many rode to the end of the trail, about a 20 mile round trip. Lunch and prizes followed the ride.



Nine branch members attended the Iowa District Meeting of the FCSLA in Spillville, IA on Sunday, July 31, 2011.

Branch W137 held its September Fest on Sunday, September 11, 2011 from 2-4 p.m. at St. Ludmila Social Hall. It was an adults only event.



L-R: Dorothy Urbanowicz, Abbey Elizabeth Sitko, Alice Bialon, Jason Bialon, Jr., Rosemary Betza and Ruth Bielawski.



L-R: Alice Bialon, Ruth Bielawski, Brian Salak, Dorothy Urbanowicz and Rosemary Betza.

Branch 23 Members Attend 3rd Annual Brewers Game

Branch 23 held its third annual Milwaukee Brewers Game and Catered Tailgate Party on July 8. The game was the Brewers vs. the Reds.



THE FEAST OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

The Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ was celebrated Sunday, June 26, by the Whiting, IN / Robertsedale Catholic Community. The spiritual event, hosted by Immaculate Conception Parish, included the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, an outdoor procession with banners and singing, and Benediction.

Reverend John Kalicky, C.P.P.S. of Sr. Branch 81 is pictured leading the Litany of the Precious Blood. The setting is at the Immaculate Conception Grotto. Youngsters that had recently received the sacrament of Holy Communion were invited and encouraged to wear their First Communion clothing.

Responding to each petition was Ken Kusbel, of Sr. Branch 452. Ken is the choir director for Immaculate Conception, and a fixture at most FCSLA activities.

Leading the procession of the Blessed

Sacrament was Deacon Joseph Manchak, followed by Father John. The selections were: Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All; and O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine.

Following along the procession route were Mary Ann Domisich, Pat Chilla, and Mrs. Evanich.

After the spiritual time, pastries and punch were provided by St. Ann's Sodality of Immaculate Conception, the Faith Enrichment Group of the Community, and of course, the "Nut Roll Crew" of Sr. Branch 452.



SCF MID-YEAR ANNUAL APPEAL REPORT

Since 1978, the Slovak Catholic Federation has been conducting the annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal, which begins each year in the month of February during the closest weekend to the Feast of SS. Cyril and Methodius. The appeal continues during the entire calendar year. Now in its 33rd year, this appeal has primarily been taken up in parishes of Slovak heritage in the United States and Canada. To date, I am happy to report that **\$22,111.64** has been collected for the 2011 appeal.

As we are all very much aware, "ethnic parishes" are becoming a thing of the past. More and more Slovaks reside in different parts of the country and no longer claim to belong to a parish of Slovak heritage. For this reason, many Slovaks may not have the opportunity to hear about, let alone participate in, this annual appeal. If it were not for the Slovak Catholic fraternal societies and their publications, communication to American and Canadian Slovaks would not be possible. In recent years, we have seen an increase in individual donations apart from the parish collections. Also, most of the Slovak fraternal societies have also been making contributions to this collection from their national board of directors, along with a number of local branches, wreaths, assemblies, and lodges.

As many of you know, this appeal assists the Church in Slovakia by supporting the training mission of the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Rome, Italy (formally known as the Slovak Institute or *Ustav*). In addition, funds are distributed to those religious communities of both men and women that share a counterpart which belongs to the Slovak Conference of Religious. These communities include the Vincentian Sisters of Charity (*Ruzomberok*), Dominican Sisters (*Dunajska Luzna*), School Sisters of St. Francis (*Zilina*), Daughters of St. Francis (*Bratislava-Prievoz*), Byzantine Catholic Sisters of St. Basil the Great (*Secove and Presov*), Franciscan Friars Minor (*Bratislava*), and House of St. Benedict (*Bacurov*).

As various groups will be holding summer picnics and/or national conventions, I ask that consideration be given to kindly taking up a collection in support of the Slovak Catholic Federation Appeal. All donations are tax deductible. In 2010 this annual appeal raised **\$58,229.89**.

Individuals, groups, organizations, etc., are all welcome to make a donation to this appeal. Please make all checks payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation and send them directly to National Secretary-Treasurer Dolores Evancho, 173 Berner Avenue, Hazleton, PA 18201.

I pray that Almighty God reward all of us who participate in the support of the Church in Slovakia through the Slovak Catholic Federation's 33rd Annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal.

Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic, Appeal Chairman
National 1st Vice President,
Slovak Catholic Federation

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF APRIL 30, 2011

ASSETS	
Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 15,232,494.01
Bonds	609,342,227.85
Preferred Stock	6,580,430.87
Common Stock	710,981.84
Investment Income Due and Accrued	10,211,603.58
Promissory Notes	37,471.43
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	6,717,667.92
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,813,872.49
Other Assets	237,815.26
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 650,884,565.25
LIABILITIES	
Life Reserves	\$ 190,424,847.08
Annuity Reserves	349,093,418.50
Death Claims Payable	664,153.20
Unearned Premiums	558,811.00
Matured Endowments	309,550.00
Provision for Dividends Payable	2,021,307.00
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,701,781.88
Accrued Convention Donations	757,335.00
Provision for Future Conventions	630,000.00
Asset Valuation Reserve	7,218,857.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,394,855.00
Other Liabilities	1,009,897.96
Provision for Annuity Certain Accounts	4,284,000.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 562,068,813.62
SURPLUS	
Surplus	\$ 88,815,751.64
TOTAL SURPLUS	\$ 88,815,751.64
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 650,884,565.25

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Four Months Ending April 30, 2011

REVENUE	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 7,955,505.21
Annuity Premiums	9,763,335.24
Investment Income	11,763,736.89
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	43,661.58
Rental Income	126,859.00
Other Revenue	6,348.36
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 29,659,446.28
EXPENSES	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 8,851,847.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	7,330,418.00
Insurance Benefits	1,190,900.76
Annuity Benefits	6,468,819.83
Commission Expense	657,618.71
Surrender Benefits	528,237.89
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	82,385.78
Matured Endowments	4,750.31
Donation Expenses	110,528.00
Convention Expenses	61,604.96
Dividends to Members	700,000.02
Post Mortem Benefits	266,469.01
Bonus to Branches	348,690.00
Fraternal Activities	12,444.36
Bank Service Charges	19,164.60
Data Processing Service Fees	90,914.89
Accounting Fees	20,493.00
Actuarial Fees	42,882.00
Legal Fees	0.00
Consulting Services	47,692.50
Official Publications	119,305.00
Scholarship Awards	(1,875.00)
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	138,128.23
Fees — Directors	37,423.44
Salaries — Employees	496,401.93
Salaries — Officers	146,307.35
Interest Expense	88,501.22
Tax Expense	106,282.73
Depreciation Expense	96,412.00
Utility Expense	27,874.78
Postage and Printing	90,078.77
Advertising	30,668.44
Travel Expense	39,511.21
Insurance Department Fees	34,002.07
Sales Promotion	46,613.85
Rental Expense	126,359.00
Other Expense	141,496.78
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 28,599,353.42
NET INCOME	\$ 1,060,092.86



PEAR AND GREENS SALAD WITH MAPLE VINAIGRETTE

Vinaigrette:

- ¼ cup real maple syrup or maple-flavored syrup
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- ½ teaspoon Dijon mustard
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- ¼ cup canola or vegetable oil

Salad:

- ⅓ cup pecan halves
- 8 cups torn mixed salad greens
- 3 medium pears, peeled, cut into wedges
- ⅓ cup sweetened dried cranberries

In small bowl, mix all vinaigrette ingredients except oil with wire whisk. Beat in oil until well blended.

Place pecans in 1-cup glass measuring cup. Microwave on high 2 minutes to 2 minutes 30 seconds, stirring every 30 seconds, until browned.

Divide salad greens among 6 serving plates. Arrange pear wedges on greens; sprinkle with pecans and cranberries. Drizzle vinaigrette over salads. Serves 6.

GRILLED FISH WITH TANGERINE & MARJORAM

- 2 (1¼) pound whole porgy, gray snapper, or branzino, cleaned
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

- 8 sprigs fresh marjoram plus 1 tablespoon marjoram leaves
- 2 tangerines or small oranges, peeled, separated into segments, seeded
- 2 tablespoons olive oil

Prepare a medium-hot fire in a charcoal grill, or heat a gas grill to medium-high. Make 3 diagonal slices spaced about 1½" apart on each side of fish. Season skin and cavity with salt and pepper. Stuff each fish with 4 herb sprigs and segments from ½ tangerine. Rub each fish with 1 tablespoon oil.

Grill fish until skin no longer sticks, 3-4 minutes. Using a metal spatula, carefully turn fish and grill until cooked through, about 3-4 more minutes. Transfer to platters and garnish with remaining tangerine segments and marjoram leaves. Serves 2-4.

MINIATURE CRAB CAKES WITH MUSTARD MAYONNAISE

For crab mixture:

- ½ cup minced red bell pepper (about 1 small)
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- ⅓ cup mayonnaise
- 1 large egg yolk
- 1½ tablespoons stone-ground mustard
- 1 to 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- ¾ teaspoon dried tarragon, crumbled
- 1 pound jumbo lump crab meat, picked over
- 1½ cups panko (Japanese flaked bread crumbs)

For mustard mayonnaise:

- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 2½ teaspoons stone-ground mustard
- ¼ teaspoon fresh lemon juice, or to taste
- ½ stick (¼ cup) unsalted butter, melted

Crab mixture:

In a small non-stick skillet sauté bell pepper in oil over moderately high heat, stirring, 2 minutes, or until softened and golden. In a bowl whisk together mayonnaise, yolk, mustard, lemon juice, tarragon, and bell pepper and stir in crab and salt and pepper to taste gently but thoroughly. Chill crab mixture, covered, at least 1 hour and up to 1 day.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large shallow baking pan spread panko bread crumbs in even layer. Toast panko, stirring occasionally, until golden, about 10 minutes, and cool. (Panko may be toasted 1 week ahead and kept in an airtight container at room temperature.)

Form rounded teaspoons of crab mixture into slightly flattened 1-inch rounds and gently coat with panko, transferring

to a shallow baking pan. Chill crab cakes, loosely covered with wax paper, at least 2 hours and up to 4.

Mustard mayonnaise:

In a small bowl whisk together mayonnaise, mustard, and lemon juice. (Mayonnaise may be made 3 days ahead and chilled, covered.)

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Drizzle a scant ¼ teaspoon butter on each crab cake and bake in middle of oven until crisp and cooked through, about 15 minutes.

Serve crab cakes with mustard mayonnaise.

CHERRY TOMATO PIZZA MARGHERITA

- 1 13.8-ounce tube refrigerated pizza dough
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 12-ounce bag cherry tomatoes, stemmed
- 1 garlic clove, pressed
- ½ teaspoon fennel seeds, coarsely crushed in plastic bag
- ¼ teaspoon dried crushed red pepper
- 1 4-ounce ball fresh mozzarella in water, diced
- 4 ounces whole-milk mozzarella, diced
- ⅓ cup chopped fresh basil leaves plus small leaves for garnish

Position rack in top third of oven and preheat to 425 degrees. Unroll dough on heavy large baking sheet; pull to about 12x8-inch rectangle, pinching any tears to seal. Fold over edge of dough to make border.

Heat large skillet over high heat 2 minutes. Add oil, then tomatoes; sprinkle with salt and pepper. Sauté until tomatoes are charred and beginning to break down, about 5 minutes. Transfer to large bowl. Mix in garlic, fennel, and crushed red pepper. Using back of fork, crush tomatoes in bowl, leaving large chunks intact. Season mixture with salt and pepper. Toss cheeses and chopped basil in medium bowl.

Sprinkle cheese mixture evenly over dough, right up to border. Spoon on tomato mixture in dollops, leaving some cheese uncovered. Bake pizza until crust is crisp and brown, 25 to 30 minutes.

Loosen pizza with metal spatula and slide onto serving tray. Garnish with basil leaves.



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