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# Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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*Branch 313  
Celebrates Anniversary  
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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



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*Fraternally Yours™*



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# Two Horses

Just up the road from a friend's home is a field, with two horses in it.  
From a distance, each horse looks like any other horse.

But if you stop your car, or are walking by, you will notice something  
quite amazing....

Looking into the eyes of one horse  
will disclose that he is blind. His owner  
has chosen not to have him put down,  
but has made a good home for him.

This alone is amazing. If you stand  
nearby and listen, you will hear the  
sound of a bell. Looking around for the  
source of the sound, you will see that it  
comes from the smaller horse in the field.

Attached to the horse's halter is a  
small bell. It lets the blind friend know  
where the other horse is, so he can fol-  
low.

As you stand and watch these two  
friends, you'll see that the horse with the  
bell is always checking on the blind horse,  
and that the blind horse will listen for the  
bell and then slowly walk to where the  
other horse is, trusting that he will not be led astray.

When the horse with the bell returns to the shelter of the barn each  
evening, it stops occasionally and looks back, making sure that the blind  
friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owners of these two horses, God does not throw us away  
just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or chal-  
lenges.

He watches over us and even brings others into our lives, to help us  
when we are in need.

Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by the little ringing bell  
of those who God places in our lives. Other times we are the guide horse,  
helping others to find their way....

Good friends are like that...You may not always see them, but you  
know they are always there.

Dear Friends,

Please listen for my bell and I'll listen for yours, and remember (espe-  
cially during this convention month) to be kinder than necessary because  
everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.



Live simply,

Love generously,

Care deeply,

Speak kindly.

And leave the rest to God!

For we walk by faith and not by sight.

Until next month — **Warmly, Carolyn**

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



# FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: CHASTITY

**Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain**

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

When I was in the fifth grade at Holy Name of Jesus School, I remember going to the Paramount Theater in downtown Youngstown, Ohio on a Sunday afternoon. My Dad picked up one of my classmates, Tommy Tomko, and we joined the rest of our classmates, schoolmates, and students from other Catholic schools of our area to view a movie for free. It seemed to be a command performance for all us and I do not recall the formal title of the flick. The movie had been just released and centered around the brief life of Saint Maria Goretti. Two memories remain vivid in my memory of that Sunday - Tommy got sick from drinking too much pop and eating too much "movie food", and the other was that it was important for us to remain "pure", whatever that meant to a young person in the fifth grade. I believe that many of us knew why Saint Maria Goretti was killed but we may have been naïve and not have comprehended the depth of her cause of martyrdom. We were around the age of Maria Goretti's death but her depth of virtue was her step to sainthood that may have been far from our perception.

Maria Goretti was born thirty miles from Ancona, Italy in July of 1890. Her father was a farm-laborer and her mother raised Maria and her five brothers and sisters on the meager wages of her father. They moved about and settled in the Roman Campagna where her father died of malaria and left her mother the sole support of the family. Maria seemed to be the inspiration to her mother to carry on after her father's death.

One day during July of 1902, Maria was tending to her daily work when an eighteen year old neighbor boy entered the Goretti home and made sexual advances towards Maria. This was not the first time that this had occurred but the boy was more determined and dragged the future saint into a nearby bedroom and began to accost her. He tore the dress from her body but she would not submit, making the young man angry to the point that he began to stab her with a knife. He inflicted one more wound and then left her in a pool of blood. She was transferred to a nearby hospital where she died one day later.

During her time in the hospital, Saint Maria Goretti attempted to console her mother because of her mother's sorrow of what had happened to Maria. The future saint forgave the young man of his assault and she readily received Viaticum prior to her death. The perpetrator was convicted of his crime and sentenced to thirty years in prison. During that time, he had a dream where Maria gathered flowers and offered them to him and from that time, he converted to an exemplary life of repentance. Blessed Pope Pius XII declared Maria blessed in 1947 and three years later, she was canonized a saint. Her feast is celebrated on 6 July in the Universal Church calendar.

There have been many saints canonized by the Church who have given up their lives rather than to submit to unchaste actions. Two others stand out to me vividly. The first is Saint Agnes. She lived in the early part of the fourth century and refused to subject herself to the sexual desires of the young men of Rome's noble families because of her dedication to her spiritual spouse, Jesus. Although she encountered torments and unjust punishments because of her refusal to submit herself to others' self gratifications, she was beheaded at the young age of thirteen. Her feast is celebrated on 21 January in the Universal Church calendar and because of her chaste devotion to Christ in the early days of the Christian community her name is recalled in the Roman Canon, the First Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass.

In addition to my pastorates of Holy Name of Jesus and Saint Matthias Churches, on 1 August, I became the pastor of our third Slovak parish within the confines of the city of Youngstown, Saints Cyril and Methodius, the primal Slovak parish of the Diocese of Youngstown. I undertook this third Slovak parish with the understanding that the three churches would be merged into one parish, into one building within the near future. The new name chosen of the parish to be established is the Roman Catholic Slovak Church of Christ, the Good Shepherd.

At Saints Cyril and Methodius, they have the tradition of praying a novena on Thursdays after Mass in honor of Saint Dymphna. The saint is the patroness for those who suffer from emotional or psychological problems and lived during the seventh century. According to tradition, she was the daughter of a king and Christian mother. Her mother died while the saint was a child. Dymphna was a mirror image of her mother so much so that as she grew older, her father had passions for his own daughter. With the advice of her confessor, she fled from her father and ended up south of Antwerp where she led a solitary life with her confessor. The king searched for her and found her. He implored her to come back with him but she refused. The king had the confessor killed and ordered that Dymphna be killed as well. His attendants refused to kill the princess that led to the father to behead his own daughter. Her feast day is on 15 May.

Is chastity a viable virtue in our day? I asked one of my secretaries to give me a definition of chastity. She replied sarcastically, "What is that?" She did not disavow the need for a chaste life but I believe she was responding to what is present within our culture - a democratically free society that promotes individual rights and freedoms that at times do not conform to our Catholic understanding of those rights and freedoms in relation to Gospel Tradition. When I asked one of my brother priests recently of a simple, short definition of chastity, he responded, "Chastity is a disposition of respect for the mystery of sexuality as it unfolds in each person".

Living a chaste life for us today is a challenge but as we have seen with the above saints, living the chaste life has been a challenge in every age. Avoiding actions, thoughts, objects, and people that may lead us in unchaste desires directs our minds and hearts to a better respect for the human person and sexuality. With the assistance of the Holy Spirit may we all be aware of this fruit of the Holy Spirit and ask the Holy Spirit to aid us in living chaste lives! Come Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of Your faithful!

# 2011 SLOVAK-AMERICAN OF THE YEAR

## ~ Mary Ann JohaneK ~



The FCSLA is proud to announce that President Mary Ann JohaneK has been chosen to receive the Slovak-American of the Year Award at the Slovak Embassy-Friends of Slovakia Awards Dinner on November 17, 2011, at the Washington Golf & Country Club in Arlington, VA.

Mary Ann is completing her fourth term as President. Under her outstanding leadership the FCSLA has strengthened its financial position by growing organizational assets from two hundred eight million to almost seven hundred million dollars. In addition the organization has successfully acquired and integrated another fraternal into their operations and is licensed to do business in forty-seven states and the District of Columbia. The society has converted its computer systems to become more efficient and user friendly, expanded member services such as direct billing and provided the ability for members to pay their premiums electronically and improved sales in districts and branches through the activity of agents. The society has produced its own Illustration program for producers.

Several branches have been established in new areas. The FCSLA has a website to keep members updated on a timely basis. New products have been presented to better meet the needs of members.

During Mary Ann's terms in office, a new home office was built to improve the society's ability to serve the mem-

bership. Mary Ann was a cofounder of the Slovak Language School for children and has led the FCSLA in the support of the society's many religious traditions and ethnic events. The society's Matching Funds program has been very successful in assisting churches, schools and other charitable institutions by involving many member volunteers to participate in local fund raising activities.

Prior to serving as President, Mary Ann served as Vice President for two terms. She is a graduate of Notre Dame College of Ohio and Cleveland Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University. Mary Ann was engaged in the private practice of law for a number of years before assuming the presidency of the FCSLA. She has been a member of Branch 10 since childhood. Congratulations Mary Ann!

## FCSLA BRANCHES GIVE DONATIONS IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

### Sr. Branch 221 – Hunger and Crisis Center

Sister Corita and Sister Janet Kondrat, SND, along with others, minister the Hunger and Crisis Center at St. Augustine Church in Cleveland, OH.

Sister Janet and Sister Corita said that the branch donation will help with food, clothing, medical aid and crisis intervention for the next few months.

St. Augustine Church also supplies three meals daily to people in need under the supervision of the Reverend Joseph D. McNulty, pastor for many years.



Richard and Susan Talpas, Officers of FCSLA Senior Branch 221, along with Sister Corita Ambro, CSJ



### Branch W033 – Holy Trinity School



Treasurer Rita Fjelstul of Branch W033 presenting Principal James Zajicek of Holy Trinity School in Protivin, IA, a check for a \$100 donation.

**FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH  
DECEMBER 31, 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%.**



## *Helen Benjock Celebrated 101st Birthday in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*



Helen Benjock celebrated her 101st birthday on September 5th at the Crowne Plaza South in Pittsburgh, PA, with her family and friends. Relatives came from as far away as California and New York to help her celebrate her big day. She is a member of Sr. Branch 11 in Munhall, PA.

Born in Czechoslovakia in 1910, she came through Ellis Island with her mother and elder brother John in 1913. She was born to

Veronica and John Stupar and is the eldest of five sisters, with Anna Klinger being her only surviving sibling.

She was married to John Benny Benjock and worked for 25 years at Homestead Hospital. Widowed at the age of 37, she has lived ever since with her daughter Joan and son-in-law Ed Rzepka. She is an aunt to many nieces and neph-

ews and is a grandmother, as well as a great-grandmother to Dante Grecco, age 10.

She is an avid Pittsburgh sports fan watching all the Steelers, Pirates, Penguins and the Pitt Panthers events. She is an excellent knitter and baker and still pursues her hobbies with vigor. She attends mass every Sunday at St. Louise de Marillac in Upper St. Clair where she lives with her family. Her family wishes her many more of God's Blessings!

## **Robert and Alice Bezdicek Observe 60th Anniversary**

The children of Robert and Alice Bezdicek organized a 60th Wedding Anniversary Party for their friends and relatives on July 23, 2011 in New Hradec, ND. The anniversary couple are members of Branch W121. They were married on November 12, 1951.

Special music was provided by their grandsons.



## **Clark and Eleanor Bouch 50th Wedding Anniversary**

Clark and Eleanor Bouch (Branch SZJ0) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at Ciminero's Banquet Center in Niles, OH on August 27, 2011. The party was attended by 200 family members and friends. Guests arrived from several states including Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, West Virginia and Washington.



The couple was married September 2, 1961 at Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Sykesville, PA, and has lived in Ohio since 1962. They have three sons, Joseph (Karen) of Canfield, Stephen (Tawni) of Meyersdale, PA, Andrew (Angela) of North Jackson and two daughters Christine (John Mathews) of Girard and Amy Lynn (Missy) of Brevard, NC. Clark and Eleanor have also been blessed with 8 grandchildren.

The anniversary couple received a trip to Branson, MO from their children and grandchildren.

All of Eleanor's siblings also attended the celebration, Michael Volansky of New Castle, PA, Betsy Woodling of Freedom, PA, and Georgeann Bianco of Howland.

## **FCSLA YOUTH CONFERENCE**

Our Association is investigating the possibility of planning a Youth Conference in the near future for our members ages 18-30. This gathering would give our younger members an exciting opportunity to share their views, ideas and suggestions for the continued growth and success of our Association. What can we do to encourage our younger members to take an active role in the future of FCSLA? We are asking for branch officers and members to respond with their views or opinions.

If you are a member age 18-30 and would like to participate in an FCSLA Youth Conference, we would like to hear from you? All we ask is that you are actively participating in your local branch's and/or district's activities.

Please respond to: Sue Ann M. Seich, Fraternal and Youth Director, 24950 Chagrin Blvd. Beachwood, OH 44122 or email: [sueann@fcscla.org](mailto:sueann@fcscla.org)



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

## 2011 FCSLA CREATIVE CONTEST GOES "GREEN"

Members of all ages are encouraged to use originality and submit a handmade "green"\* article for the contest. Please make sure you read over the guidelines entirely since they have changed slightly from last year. If you have questions please contact Sue Ann, our Fraternal & Youth Director, by calling 1-800-464-4642, Ext 1051 or email her at sueann@fcsla.org.

\*You will earn extra points for all the recycled materials you use for your creation.

## FCSLA CREATIVE CONTEST GUIDELINES

- Contest is open to FCSLA members of all ages.
- Item entered must be handmade between October 1st, 2011 – November 30th, 2011.
- The item should not be too large. (It has to be mailed to the Home Office.)
- Entry for judging is limited to one item per member. Other items may be sent to donate along with the item to be judged. Please mark which item you want judged.
- The entered item may be painted, sewn, knitted, crocheted, carved, etc. The more recycled material you use the more points you will earn. (If you have a question about your item qualifying, please call or email Sue Ann.)
- Item(s) will not be returned. They will be donated to a nursing home, assisted living facility, or area hospitals during the Christmas season.
- There will be three cash prizes in each age category:  
**1st Prize \$50.00    2nd Prize \$25.00  
3rd Prize \$10.00**
- Items must be mailed to the Home Office, postmarked by November 30th, 2011. (Please note: Items received at the Home Office postmarked after November 30th, 2011 will not be entered in the contest and will not be returned. FCSLA is not responsible if items are received broken or damaged.)
- An entry form must accompany your item to be considered for the contest.
- Age Groups**  
Group one — Ages 0-6      Group two — Ages 7-13  
Group three — Ages 14-22    Group four — Ages 23-40  
Group five — Ages 41-65      Group six — Ages 66 plus  
Please select your group number according to your age. You will need to use the Group Number on the entry form you submit with your item.

### FCSLA CREATIVE CONTEST GOES GREEN ENTRY FORM

October 1, 2011 – November 30, 2011

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Group No. \_\_\_\_\_ (According to Guidelines)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

What are you entering? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Where did you get the idea/plans for your item? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe your entry including what recycled material you used and the number of items \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE NOVEMBER 30, 2011 (postmarked)**

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



# Sr. Branch 313 Celebrates 100th Anniversary

National officers celebrated the 100th anniversary of Branch 313 (St. Ann's Society, Natrona, PA.) with more than 170 members and officers from the Pittsburgh District on Sunday, July 31, 2011 after a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Rev. Miro Stelmaszczyk, Pastor, at Holy Family R.C. Church, Creighton, PA.



**National, Pittsburgh District and Branch 313 Officers who attended the 100th anniversary celebration.**

provided during the reception by past Duquesne University Tam-burtizan Mark Stafura and Pittsburgh Slovakian Elizabeth Groch.

Special guests who offered greetings included Archabbot Douglas Nowicki OSB, National President MaryAnn Johaneck, who presented a special monetary gift from the

Officers of Branch 313, Cynthia Maleski (President of the branch and National Trustee), Cecelia Szymkiewicz, Norene Yandura, Suzy Rapp, Barbara Gajdosik, Kate Szymkiewicz and member Elizabeth Groch prepared special touches including a two table exhibit of authentic Slovak folk costumes and branch historical material. These exhibits provided for great photo opportunities during the welcoming reception where a punch service was made available for guests. In addition they



**Judy Fedor, Pittsburgh District President, and Cynthia Maleski, Branch 313 president, officially welcome all guests.**

provided holy cards of St. Ann and Blessed John Paul II and used glass votive light holders and lottery tree centerpieces to decorate the room.

A Slovak-American dinner was prepared and served by branch members from the Micuch family. Strolling Slovak folk music was



**National Officers Steve Hudak, Irene Drotleff, Cynthia Maleski and Mary Ann Johaneck view items from the exhibit with Elizabeth Groch, Branch 313 member.**



**L-R: District officers Jerrie LaFrankie, Judy Fedor, Archabbot Douglas Nowicki OSB, and Marion Gatto.**

Home Office, Judith Fedor, District President, who presented gifts from the District, and representatives of US Congressman Jason Altmire and State Representative Frank Dermody, who presented federal and state proclamations.

Other national officers in attendance were Irene Drotleff, Linda Killeen, Dorothy Urbanowicz, Steve Hudak, Virginia Holmes and Cynthia Maleski. Monetary gifts were also presented to the branch by the officers of the Pittsburgh District, and several branches.

Cynthia Maleski presented donations to St. Vincent's Seminary, Sisters of St. Joseph, Baden, PA, Holy Family R.C. Church, and clergy and religious in attendance.

The local newspaper *TribLive* published a feature story and photo in its next day edition. Feel free to view the story by going to the following link: [http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/email/s\\_749395.html?s\\_icmp=et](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/email/s_749395.html?s_icmp=et). It was an afternoon of joy, thanksgiving and celebration for all. Congratulations to Branch 313 on 100 years of service to God and Country.



**More than 170 members gather to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Branch 313 (Natrona, PA) with national and district officers.**



# MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

## Sr. Branch 81 — Whiting, IN

### Bunco Party for Youth Conference Expenses

Branch members from Sr. Branch 81 held a Bunco Party for the St. John's Youth Group on May 21, 2011. FCSLA members made all the preparations for and helped work the Bunco Party alongside the youth group members. The Bunco Party raised \$1,600 and will help finance the transportation and lodging for the youth to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis, IN in November 2011.



helped the ladies of the church sell the delicious baked goods, delivering them to the tables whenever needed. The young members were helpful and had a great time helping the church while learning the value of being a volunteer with fellowship.

Proceeds from the festival are used to benefit the Epiphany Church in all its endeavors. The festival is not only attended by members of the Epiphany Church, but by people from all over the Monongahela Valley, namely Charleroi, Belle Vernon, Monongahela, Donora and even Pittsburgh. The festival is one of the largest in the area.



Jr. Branch 157 volunteers with Fr. David J. Nazimek, pastor of the Epiphany Church, a member of Sr. Branch 88. Standing in the foreground are two of the 2011 Branch 157 scholarship winners, Leo Iacavangelo and Abby Sitko.



## Jr. Branch 157 — Monessen, PA

### "Support Our Troops" Baked Goods Benefit

On Sunday, August 7, 2011, Jr. Branch 157, took part in a Matching Funds Project for the Epiphany of Our Lord Church in Monessen, PA. The event took place during the Annual Epiphany Church Festival held at the Epiphany Church Chapel and adjoining picturesque grounds overlooking the Monongahela River. Members of Jr. Branch 157 were each given straw bowler hats with red, white and blue trim. A red, white and blue theme was used at the baked goods tables along with signs asking all in attendance to "SUPPORT OUR TROOPS." The members

## Branch W033 — Spillville, IA

### Annual Breakfast and Raffle

Secretary Rebecca Kuhn of Branch W033 presented a \$1,500 check (\$1,000 from our Annual Breakfast and Raffle in March and \$500 Matching Grant from FCSLA) to Rev. Father Donald Hawes of St. Wenceslaus Parish Spillville, IA for St. Wenceslaus Church.



## Sr. Branch 141 — Cleveland, OH

### Garage Sale Fundraiser

Once again, the state of Ohio made more cuts to the funding of Mayle Homes, therefore, members of St. Mary's Branch 141 approved a motion to join with St. Ambrose Renewal Team 11 to conduct a garage sale fundraiser with the approval of the FCSLA Home Office's Matching Funds Program.

Joan Thesling and her St. Ambrose Renewal Sisters met



# MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

every month for the past 25 years. One sister, Marlene Paterson has a son living at Mayle Homes where 80 mentally ill residents are cared for with funds from the state of Ohio.

Due to an \$8 billion deficit in the State's budget, Legislators cut funding to many programs, and Mayle Homes was one of the recipients of the sad news.

Therefore, both St. Mary's Branch 141 and St. Ambrose Renewal Team 11 members advertised and held a double garage sale. The first sale was held on June 15-17 with donated items to sell and money donations accepted.



**Marlene Paterson and Dick Paterson making the presentation of funds to Mark Mayle, Director of Mayle Homes.**

included family members, Retreat and Renewal Sisters and members of St. Ambrose parish who volunteered to help at the sale.

The request went out for good, usable items (no clothes) to sell and the response was overwhelming. Items were picked up, dropped off, and delivered by members of St. Mary's Branch 141 and members of St. Ambrose Renewal Team 11, Marlene's Retreat Sisters, NAMI friends and relatives. A number of FCSLA branches, individual members, friends and relatives donated money to the cause.

Additionally, the furniture needed to be temporarily stored until Marlene and Dick could refinish and refurbish many pieces, and Branch 141's President and Vice President, Mike and Pat Phillips handled that by storing the furniture in their garage for several weeks.

The garage sales brought in \$3,302 in sales and \$900.23 in donations and \$500 from the Matching Funds Program for a grand total of \$4,702.23. Three lovely sets of china are for sale on Craig's List, therefore, the total amount will hopefully increase.



**Barb Sekerak, National Auditor and Branch 141 Financial Secretary, Marlene Paterson and Joan Thesling, Branch 141 Treasurer, helping at the garage sale.**

Due to the fact there was a great deal of beautiful used furniture available, part 2 of the garage sale was held on June 30th and July 1st.

Both garage sales were held at the Paterson's home on Ruby Lane in Brunswick, OH. There were many helpers present which included



**Shoppers at the garage sale, which overflowed onto the driveway.**

When Marlene and Dick made the presentation to the Director, Mark Mayle, he, his staff, and all the residents were thrilled and grateful to everyone who participated in anyway.



**L-R: Carol Wood, Fred Seifert, Joan Thesling, Margitta Seifert, Pat Phillips, Mike Phillips, and Barb Sekerak, all helping at the garage sale.**

## BENEDICTINE MONKS OF SAINT ANDREW SVORAD ABBEY PRESENT BENEFIT

The Benedictine Monks of Saint Andrew Svorad Abbey will present their Abbey Benefit on Sunday, November 6, 2011. "Dedicated Commitment to the Lord", is this year's theme. The benefit will celebrate the fiftieth (50th) anniversary of the profession of Monastic Vows of Rev. Anselm Zupka, OSB, and the thirty-fifth (35th) anniversary of Priestly Ordination of Rev. Dismas Boeff, OSB.

A Mass of thanksgiving will be offered at 12:15 p.m. at the Church of the Assumption, 9183 Broadview Road, Broadview Heights, OH, 44147. A reception, banquet and program will follow at the Parish Center.

Rt. Rev. Abbot Christopher Schwartz, OSB will be the main speaker for the banquet. Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB will be the Master of Ceremonies. He will present recognition in memory of Dorothy Hudac, who volunteered for twenty years as a member of the Benefit Committee.

Entertainment will be provided by Swing City Big Band. Catering will be provided by Billy Hricovec, of Tom's Country Place. Center piece flowers donated by Orban's Flowers. A silent Slovak auction will be held. The event concludes about 4:00 p.m. with the Monks singing the "Benedictine Anthem" — *The Ultima*.

Your support of our Annual Benefit is a very important part of the monks' present and future ministry. Please join in honoring our Monks for their many years of service. If you can not attend, a gift in their honor will be greatly appreciated.

Ticket price is \$65. Additional sponsorships, including \$100 "Honor-a-Monk" contributions, are available. For reservations and additional information please contact Rev. Albert Marflak, OSB at 216-721-5300 ext. 209, Marie A. Golias at 216-228-8179, or Rose Stifter at 216-721-5300 ext. 0. Please make reservations by October 27.



# FCSLA Branches Honor Scholarship Winners

## ■ Sr. Branch 289

## ■ Jr. Branch 184

Sr. Branch 289 and Jr. Branch 184 of Gary, IN, honored their scholarship winners with a gift and a dinner that included their families on June 7, 2011.



L-R: Hunter Ruzbasan (College Freshman National Scholarship winner), Leona Cupka (President S289/J184), Rachel Martin (5th Grade National Scholarship winner) and Lauren Bridgeman (College Junior National Scholarship winner).



L-R: Ann Fedorchak (J184 Financial Secretary), Lori Weed (Auditor S289), Millie Kunas (Vice President S289/J184), Rachel Martin (5th Grade National Scholarship Winner), Bob Martin (Rachel's Father).



L-R: Mary Ann Oresik, Cynthia Oresik (Treasurer J184/S289 Auditor), Lillian Zaborske (Auditor S289), Leona Cupka (President S289/J184), Emma Defenser (Recording Secretary S289/J184).



L-R: Martin Ruzbasan, Elaine Ruzbasan (Treasurer S289/J184), Hunter Ruzbasan (College Freshman National Scholarship winner), Courtnee Owen (guest), and Bob Ruzbasan (Hunter's Father).



## ■ Sr. Branch 45

## ■ Jr. Branch 105



Dorothy Cusatis, President of Branch 45 in Hazelton, PA, presents a FCSLA College Sophomore Scholarship to her grandson David Paul Cusatis.



L-R: Marie Kokinda, Secretary of Branch 45 looks on as President Dorothy Cusatis presents a FCSLA High School Scholarship to Michael Grega, a member of Jr. Branch 105, Hazelton, PA.



## ■ Jr. Branch 364

Jr. Branch 364, Johnstown, PA is

proud to honor and congratulate their scholarship winners. Pictured (below) L-R is Branch Secretary Cathy Popovich, with scholarship winners Joshua J. Beblar and Nicholas G. Piskurich. Nathan Check (above), from Middletown, PA, is also a scholarship winner.



## ■ Sr. Branch 72

Scholarship winner Laura Drake (center), is a member of Branch 72 of Olyphant, PA, was presented with a check from Branch 72 President, Helen Oravec (right). Also pictured is Louise Gregorowicz, Laura's grandmother and Secretary of Jr. Branch 420 of Olyphant, PA.



## ■ Jr. Branch 83

Nicholas Starasinich, member of Jr. Branch 83 was awarded a FCSLA scholarship. He will be entering the 5th grade at Cathedral of St. Raymond School in Joliet, IL.

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



Nicholas, with his family, was honored at the quarterly meeting of the Helen Kocan District. He was presented with a gift from the district and one from Branch 83.



L-R: Rosemary Hamerla, Sr. Branch 53; Nicholas Starasinish, Jr. Branch 83; and Audrey Hornicak, Secretary of Jr. Branch 83.



## ■ Branch W080

Local officers presented a scholarship check for \$1,250 to Eric Ritter of Branch W080, Clarkson, NE. Eric will be a junior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he will study Criminal Justice and Pre-Law.



L-R: Linda Ritter, Tyler Ritter, Eric Ritter, President Don Vrbiek, Vice President Ron Bos, Secretary Sharon Bos.

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

## ■ Branch W149

A \$1,250 National Scholarship from the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA), was awarded to Alexa Rohach during the quarterly business meeting of Branch W149, Vin- ing, IA. Alexa, a sophomore at Simp- son College, is the daughter of Paula and Larry Rohach, Tama, IA.



L-R: Officers, trustees, and family members — Barbara Cibula, Paul Riha, David Dvorak, Peggy Dvorak, Luree Riha, Alexa Rohach, Paula Rohach, Larry Rohach, Marcella Dvorak, and Marvin Hlas.

## Awarded United Slovak Societies Scholarships in Lorain, Ohio

Miss Christine M. Ondeka and Mr. Nicholas R. Jones of St. Ann's Lodge, Branch 114, were awarded 2011 college scholarships from the United Slovak Societies at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH.

Miss Ondeka is a graduate of Marion L. Steele High School, Amherst, OH and plans to attend Kent State University where she will major in fashion mer- chandising. Christine is the daughter of John and Brenda (Keene) Ondeka.

Mr. Jones is a graduate of Elyria High School, Elyria, OH and plans to attend Cleve- land State University where he will major in business administra- tion. Nicholas is the son of Laura Bobek.

Additional winner of the 2011 scholar- ship program include Miss Hailey Dziak a member of the FCSU, Branch 228. After the presentation, recipi- ents and their families along with members of the United Slovak Societies en- joyed a delicious dinner at the American Slovak Club.

The United Slovak Societies consists of members from the local branches of the five national fraternal organisations formed in Lorain, Ohio.

Founded during the 1940's, United Slovak Societies remains committed to promoting Slovak heritage and providing educational opportunities for its mem- bers.



L-R: Michele Mager, secretary United Slovak Societies and Branch 114; Helene Virant, scholarship coordina- tor for United Slovak Societies and Branch 114; Bernie Robertson, president of Branch 114; Nicholas Jones, recipient of scholarship, Branch 114; Len Zilko, vice president of United Slovak Societies; and Christine Ondeka, recipient of scholarship, Branch 114.



# Branches 66 and 470 Honors Scholarship Winners

*The First Catholic Slovak Society awarded six scholarships to students who are attending Catholic schools or college. St. Anne's Branch 66 and Guardian Angel Society Branch 470 took the Scholarship winners to dinner on July 22, 2011 at Chippers Restaurant in Streator, IL.*

**DIRK "JACK" LOCASCIO**, son of Dirk and Debbie (Leskanich) Locascio, is a fifth grader at St. Walter School in Rochelle, IL. Jack participates in the school children's choir, math club, and is an avid chess player, and is part of the local chess club. Jack has been playing the piano for four years and is interested in taking up another instrument in the school band this coming year. Jack enjoys reading, playing baseball, and speed stacking. His family has been part of FCSLA for five generations. Jack was awarded a \$750 scholarship for his tuition at St. Walter School.

**SARAH OLIVIA SMITH**, daughter of Joe and Melissa (Whalen) Smith, is a sixth grader at St. Michael's School in Streator, IL. Sarah is active in school activities such as Student Council, Relay for Life, Mass Server, and is on the volleyball team. Sarah's favorite subjects are religion, science, math, and computers. Sarah was awarded a \$750 scholarship for her tuition at St. Michael's Grade School.



Alexandria Oaks

**ALEXANDRIA "LEXIE" OAK**, daughter of Robert and Sara Oak of Kansas City, MO and Cindy Rhoades of Liberty, MO. Lexie is the granddaughter of Earl and Monika Oak of Streator, IL. Lexie attends St. Pius X High School in Kansas City, MO. Lexie is involved in several activities such as student council, student ambassadors and peer tutoring. She also participates in basketball, volleyball and track. This past month she went to Guatemala on a mission trip with other members of her school. She plans on majoring in Pharmacy in college and continue running track. Lexie was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for her tuition at St. Pius X High School.



Joe Leskanich

**JOE LESKANICH** graduated from Woodland High School this past spring and will be attending Joliet Junior College this fall where he will be part of the Ag. Transfer Program. After Joliet Junior College, Joe would like to transfer to a four year university to pursue a degree in Ag. Production and Management. While attending Woodland High School he was part of FFA, Key Club, President of the National Honor Society, drama club, track, baseball, basketball, and captain of the wrestling team. Joe is the son of Mark and Georgia Leskanich. Joe likes spending time with family and friends. Joe was awarded a \$1,250 scholarship for his college tuition.



Karissa Vilks

**KARISSA LEE VILKS** will be attending Waldorf College in Minnesota to finish her general studies and continue her biology/pre-med track. Karissa plays soccer for the women's program at Waldorf College. She would like to continue her education at medical school to pursue her dream of becoming a pediatrician. Karissa was awarded a \$1,250 scholarship to assist with her college tuition.

**KATIE SPANIOL** is the daughter of Phil and Diane Spaniol and the granddaughter of Ed and Marcy Leskanich. Katie attended Rock Valley College for two years and graduated with an Associate's Degree in Science. She played softball and basketball while attending Rock Valley College. She was captain of the basketball team her freshmen year and captain of the softball team her sophomore year. Her basketball team went to Nationals in 2009, and the softball team won the region tournament and placed fifth in the National Tournament in 2010. She is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society and made the Dean's List all four semesters at Rock Valley College. Katie went to Illinois Valley Community College this past year to complete pre-requisite courses for nursing school and she made the Dean's List and President's Honors while attending this community college. Katie will be attending Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing this fall to pursue a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. Katie received a \$1,250 scholarship to assist with her tuition.



Seated, L-R: Diane Spaniol (mother), Katie Spaniol (recipient), Phil Spaniol (father). Standing: Stephanie Boik, Financial Secretary of Branch 66; Lucille Swain, President of Branch 66; Jane Soltis, Treasurer of Branch 470, and Anna Mae Negray, President of Guardian Angel Society, Branch 470.



Seated, L-R: Joe and Melissa Smith, parents of Sarah Smith, Dirk "Jack" Locascio and mother Debbie. Standing: Stephanie Boi, Financial Secretary of Branch 66; and Lucille Swain, President of St. Anne's Branch 66, and Anna Mae Negray, President of Guardian Angel Branch 470; and Jane Soltis, Treasurer of Branch 470.



# Students in the News

## ASHLEY LOGAR RECEIVES GOLD AWARD



On November 7, 2010, Ashley Logar of Troop 589 in Mechanicsburg, PA received her Gold Award, which is the highest award in Girl Scouting. Ashley has been a Girl Scout for twelve years and has earned her Bronze and Silver Awards leading up to earning the Gold Award.

Her project was called "Showing Them the Way" and it consisted of promoting the "Wildcat Way" at Shepherdstown Elementary School in Mechanicsburg. Throughout the building, in a permanent, fun, artistic and colorful way, Ashley and her volunteers painted wildcats and paws in prominent areas of the school. In addition, she designed a bulletin board at the entrance to the school, developed a brochure detailing the "Wildcat Way" and purchased a brochure rack to display important flyers and information for parents at the entrance to the school.

Girls Scouts has had a huge impact in her life. It allowed her to enjoy camping and other outdoor experiences with her troop and other Girl Scouts from across the country. Additionally, her Girl Scout experiences, both within her troop and individually, have helped her develop leadership skills that she will use for the rest of her life.

Ashley is the daughter of Audrey and Doug Logar of Mechanicsburg, PA. She and her brother Michael are both members of Branch 172, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

## *MiksaneK Family Marks Achievements*

**JACQUELYN MIKSANEK** graduated June 8th from the 8th grade this past school year from Timberstone Junior High School. She received the following awards: Quiz Bowl Award, Energy Team Award and Pride of the Pack Award. She will be going to Sylvania High School. Jacquelyn is a member of Jr. Branch 41, Chicago, IL. Congratulations on your good job.

**JONATHAN MIKSANEK** graduated June 12, 2011 from Sylvania Southview High School. He will be attending Ball State University in Muncie, IN. Jonathan will major in the field of Science. Jonathan is a member of Sr. Branch 181, Chicago, IL. Congratulations Jonathan!

**JAMES (RUDY) MIKSANEK** received a College Junior Award from FCSLA. Rudy will be attending the University of Minnesota this year. Rudy is a member of Sr. Branch 181, Chicago, IL. Good job Rudy!

**ROSEMARY MIKSANEK** a member of Sr. Branch 181 (Chicago, IL) of North Aurora is the proud grandmother of all of these special grandchildren who are all members of FCSLA.

## Jacob Belcik Attains Rank of Eagle Scout

Jacob Belcik, a member of Jr. Branch 354 from Loveland, OH, received his Eagle Scout rank on July 18, 2011, at the age of 16. Less than 4% of scouts ever reach this rank. He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 621 of Loveland, OH.

One requirement to becoming an Eagle Scout is to plan and manage a service project that benefits the community. His Eagle Service Project involved building a table, four benches, and a grape vine arbor for a school gardening program called Granny's Garden. The project serves as a place for students to work on their gardening projects and as a place to rest.

Jacob has participated in many scouting activities and he has helped numerous other scouts with their eagle projects. He has volunteered at Matthew 25 Ministries, and enjoys the many leadership opportunities that scouting offers. He maintains a high honor roll with his studies.

Jacob is the grandson of Marge and Mike Belcik of Poland, OH.



## Benjamin Detwiler Graduates from YSU

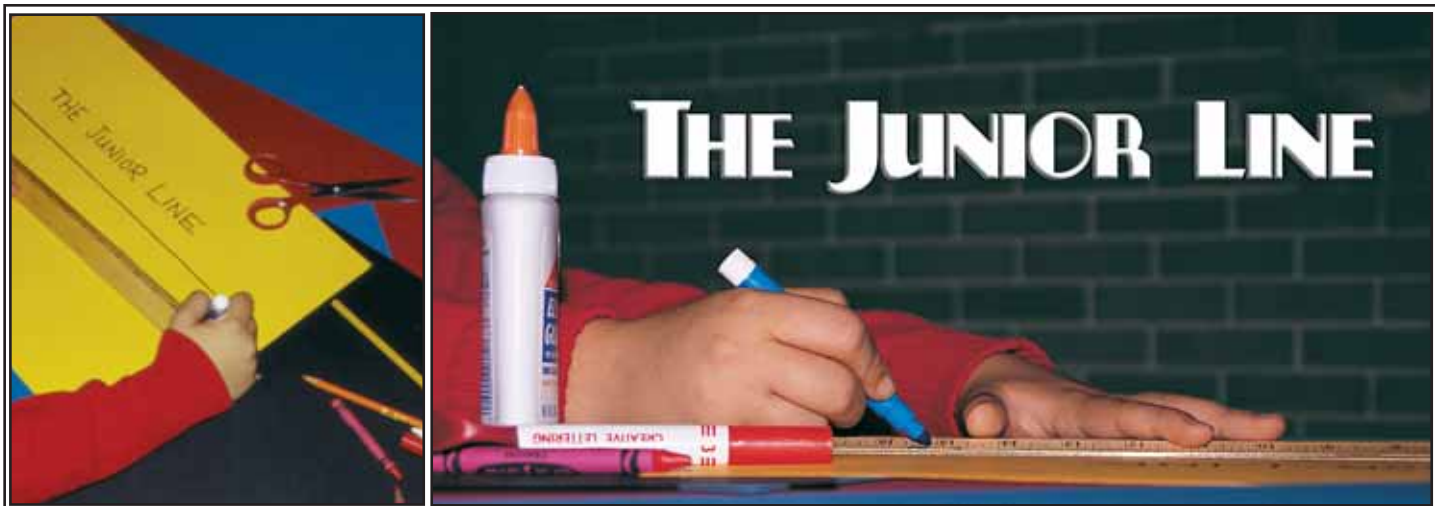


Benjamin Alan Detwiler (Sr. Branch 161) graduated May 21, 2011 from Youngstown State University summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Engineering degree, and summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Accounting) degree.

While at college, he completed three years of undergraduate research in nuclear physics. This fall, Ben will pursue a Ph.D in electrical engineering from Stanford University. He is also a 2010 FCSLA scholarship recipient.

Ben is the son of Sam and Monica Detwiler and the grandson of Martha Antal (Sr. Branch 161) and the late Leonard Antal.





**MISS ALEXA KNAPP**, 5, of Advance, NC competed in the National American Miss North Carolina pageant over the 4th of July and came out on top over 73 other contestants. This was her first time competing in a pageant and she took home seven awards as well as cash prizes and a modeling scholarship. Alexa won most promising model, best talent, runner up in most photogenic, best thank you, and most recommendations. She was also awarded Queen's Court 4th runner up overall and has qualified to compete in Disneyland in California for the National All American Miss title in November. Alexa has had great success since competing in the pageant and has also competed and qualified for the Music City Invitational which will be held in Nashville, TN in December.

Alexa is a member of Jr. Branch 115, Clairton, PA. Her mother, grandmother, and great grandmother are also all members of FCLSA. Alexa is the daughter of Brian and Lena Knapp and a big sister to Ava. She will be starting kindergarten this fall and is really excited! She has had a lot of fun so far and thanks everyone, especially God, who has been supporting and helping her along the way on this wonderful and fun journey!



On June 10 and 11, 2011, **ANDREW** and **JAMES BURGARD**, 14 years old, participated in the swimming match at the Special Olympics, at the University of Southern Illinois in Bloomington, IL.

They both enjoyed competing in the swim match. James and Andrew each won a "Gold Medal".

Both are members of Jr. Branch 370, Chicago, IL. Their parents, sister Samantha and Grandmother Pat were there to see them win. Also, their Uncle Lenny and Aunt Judy Kukulka (Sr. Branch 225) and Cousin Jennifer Robertson (Sr. Branch 225) also attended the event.



**Shelby Hailey Murphy**



**Sloane Nichol Del Medico**

Dolores Sirocky proudly announces the newest members of Jr. Branch 503, Cleveland, OH, her great-grandchildren **SHELBY HAILEY MURPHY** and **SLOANE NICHOL DEL MEDICO**.



## ***Anna Hurban District of Chicago*** **Christmas Luncheon Scheduled**

The FCSLA Anna Hurban District of Chicago is hosting their Annual Combined Branch Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 3, 2011. It will take place at Orland Chateau, 14500 S. LaGrange Road, Orland Park, IL.

The event begins with raffle sales being held at 11:00 a.m. with the luncheon following at 12:00 p.m. (noon). Raffle drawing will be held at 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$18.00 per person.

Please RSVP by November 21, 2011 to Jarmila Hlubocky at 773-776-2167.

## **ANNUAL BREAKFAST MEETING HELD BY BRANCH W080**

Branch W080, Clarkson, NE held its annual breakfast meeting after Sunday morning mass on May 1, 2011. Representative Steve Stempur was present to answer policy questions. Students at St. John Neumann School served another delicious meal to the attendees. Afterward, a short business meeting was held and names were drawn for door prizes. What a great way to start the day!



**REGINA DEMECHKO** shared her First Communion Day in May with her mother, Ruthann, sisters Sydney and Deanna, and father, Mark. The event at Saint Hilary's Church, Copley, OH, included 102 First Communicants. Regina was also honored by winning one of the FCSLA Elementary Level Scholarships. The Demechko family are members of Branch 161/192 in Youngstown, OH, where Grandmother Bernadette serves as Youngstown District President.

## **Chicago Area Junior Branch Christmas Party**

All Chicago area junior members are invited to a Christmas party sponsored by Jr. Branches 174, 322, 339 and 427, on Sunday, November 13, 2011 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at St. Simon Parish Gymnasium, 5135 S. California Ave., Chicago, IL. For more information about this exciting event, please go to the Chicago District Web site found on [www.fcsla.org](http://www.fcsla.org) to view the calendar of events and more.





## IN MEMORIAM

### **BRENDA MALENA** **Branch W080**



Brenda Malena, Branch W080, 45, of Clarkson, NE, died Monday, July 11, at Golden Living Center in Clarkson.

Brenda was born August 25, 1965, in Schuyler, NE, to Robert and Elaine (Bazata) Malena. She attended St. John Neumann Catholic School through the eighth grade, and graduated from Clarkson High School in 1984.

She enjoyed making and selling crafts, and at Christmas time she would make and sell candies and cookies. Brenda was a member of SS Cyril and Methodius Catholic church. She has been a resident of Golden Living Center since April of 2005.

Brenda is survived by her parents Robert and Elaine Malena of Clarkson, NE.

She is preceded in death by a sister Beth Malena who died in 1994, and her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Anton Malena and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bazata.

### **JOSEPHINE J. KRALEY** **Sr. Branch 445**

Mrs. Josephine J. Kraley, age 95, went to be with her Lord on her birthday, July 31, 2011. She was born on July 31, 1916 to Joseph and Amelia (Kubenic) Butas in Muskegon Heights, MI and has been a life resident.

She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and was a member of the Altar Society and First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Branch 445.

Mrs. Kraley was a wonderful caregiver, babysitter, great cook, and enjoyed time with her family. She worked 18 years in food service at Mona Shores Public Schools.

On July 3, 1937 she married John Kraley in Muskegon and he preceded her in death on February 8, 1987.

Survivors include four children, Barbara Bush of Norton Shores, Dolores (George) Knauf of Ravenna, John Kraley of Florida, Renee (Ken) Kraley-Hart of Nunica; 7 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by three brothers, John (Gladys) Butas, Rudolph (Frances) Butas, and Joseph (Frances) Butas and an infant sister, Elizabeth.

### **AILEEN P. (SIMPKIN)** **JELINEK** **Branch W028**



Aileen P. (Simpkin) Jelinek was born November 27, 1925, the daughter of the late Carl and Meda (Blakeman) Simpkin from Jacksonville, IL. She met Alexander Jelinek during World War II in Jackson-

ville and married on February 6, 1944 in a chapel at Chanut Field, IL. They made their home in Pisek in 1946 where they purchased the General Merchandise Store, now the J-Mart, Inc. They raised 13 children there.

The most important things Aileen lived for was her faith and her love she shared with her family. Aileen was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, St. John Nepomucene Altar Society, Pro-Life, Pregnancy Help Center, 3rd Order of Franciscans, and also the Benedictine Order.

Aileen taught religion classes and was involved in youth groups and adult retreats. She was a prayer warrior for anyone in need and a devout Catholic convert. Aileen was an avid reader, artist, seamstress and designer. She loved to restore statues for the church. She taught herself how to play the piano, accordion and guitar.

Our gentle mother is survived by her children: Judy Dunn, Sioux City, IA; Pat (David) Karas, Larimore, ND; Leland Jelinek, Grand Forks, ND; Loy (Ruth) Jelinek, Pisek, ND; Mary Jelinek, Elk City, ID; Teresa (Bill) Brandt, Pisek, ND; Francis (Bonnie) Jelinek, Pisek, ND; Dominic Jelinek, Pisek, ND; Carmel (Brian) Litton, Fargo, ND; Stephen (Irene) Jelinek, Plainsfield, NJ; Bernadette (Jeff) Hanson, Park River, ND; Cynthia (Larry) Schiernbeck, Park River, ND; Germaine (Steve) Heller, Cavalier, ND; 29 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter. Aileen was preceded in

death by her darling husband Alexander in 2005, her parents, one brother Donald Simpkin, sons-in-law: Leonard Dunn and David Shaw, grandsons Travis Dunn and Jeremiah Jelinek, her mother and father-in-law John and Katherine Jelinek and their children.

### **JANICE BOYKO** **Sr. Branch 77**



Less than one year after diagnosis of gastric cancer, Janice Boyko, 59, of Brentwood (Pittsburgh), PA, passed away peacefully on August 29, 2011. Born December 18, 1951, in McKeesport, PA, she was the

daughter of the late Joseph and Martha (Michlo) Boyko. Survived by sister Audrey, brother-in-law Albert, and nephews Jonathan and Derek Podlesny of West Mifflin; also survived by brother Thomas Boyko of Sarasota, FL.

Janice was a graduate of California State Teachers College and Duquesne University. She received additional certifications from Penn State University and was a dedicated South Allegheny elementary school teacher. She retired in 2007 with 34 years service to the students, parents, and communities and remained an active member of the PTA. Janice encouraged others to get involved and started Kane Kids, a program in which the elementary students would regularly visit with the residents at Kane Hospital in McKeesport. She also led teams of students to volunteer at the Allegheny County Special Olympics.

She was the current Vice President of Council in Brentwood and was involved with and served on the board of many civic and social organizations. An avid hiker and runner of road races, trail runs, marathons, and ultra marathons, she was active in various track and running clubs. She used her running to raise thousands of dollars for the Special Olympics, Cystic Fibrosis, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and the American Cancer Society. She was the long-time race director of the Brentwood Firecracker Race and the ACS, Relay for Life, Race for the Moon



and the Stars. She once said of herself that "God gave her a strong Slovak body so helping others only seemed appropriate." She was a lector, youth group and festival volunteer at Saint Sylvester Parish in Brentwood.

Janice also owned a home in Rockwood, PA (Somerset County) and was active with the Laurel Hill State Park Volunteers and the local snowmobile clubs. Janice received many honors for her involvement in the community. A life-time member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, she received a "Fraternalist-in-Action" award from the National Fraternal Congress of America. Donations were made to multiple charities in Janice's memory.

### **FLORENCE P. TALEVSKI** **Sr. Branch 10**



Florence P. Talevski (nee McGregor), age 72, dear mother of Neil (Susie), Stefan and Lara; grandmother of Danielle, Jordan, Stephanie and Matthew; sister of

Carol-Lyn McGregor; companion of Cliff Felden and his children, Andrew and Kevin. died Sept. 2, 2011. Flo was employed by the FCSLA Home Office for 24 years last working on August 30, 2011. Contributions to the Arthritis Foundation or any Animal Protective League would be appreciated.

### **SISTER M. INNOCENT** **LISI, SCN** **Sr. Branch 542**



Sister M. Innocent Lisi, SCN, 92, died peacefully at the Vincentian Home in Pittsburgh, PA, on August 3, 2011. She was born in Duquesne, PA, and entered the Vincentian Sisters of Charity in 1935 from Holy Trin-

ity Parish. She devoted her life in the service of God and others for 76 years.

Sister Innocent received her Bachelor of Education degree from Duquesne University. She taught for 44 years in the Dioceses of Pittsburgh and Greensburg, PA, and Youngstown, OH. After her retirement from teaching, Sister worked 18 years at Assumption Nursing Home, Youngstown, OH, in the business department. In 1997, she retired a second time and tutored, as well as helped in the Vincentian Child Care Center. Sister Innocent's next assignment was with the prayer ministry. She became a resident of Vincentian Home in 2005. Sister is remembered for her quiet ways, bright eyes and cheerful smile.

She is survived by her sister-in-law Phyllis Lisi, nieces, nephews, and her Sisters in Community.

### **SISTER M. FRANCES** **MIHALEK, SCN** **Sr. Branch 542**



Sister M. Frances Mihalek, SCN, 97, died on July 29, 2011. Sister Frances was born in Mt. Pleasant, PA, and entered the Congregation of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity from Holy Trinity Parish, Mc-

Keesport, PA, in 1927 and for 84 years devoted her life to the service of God and others.

Sister received her Bachelor of Education and Master of Education degrees from Duquesne University. During her 55 years of ministry in education, Sister worked in the Dioceses of Pittsburgh and Greensburg as a teacher and principal.

Upon retirement Sister Frances Louise volunteered as Eucharistic Minister at both Allegheny General and North Hills Passavant Hospitals for 15 years. When she was no longer able to continue her work in the hospitals, Sister began her prayer ministry at Lourdes Hall in St. Louise Convent where she spent her final years.

She is survived by her nephew Andrew, relatives, friends and her Sisters in Community.

### **MARY DOMINIC** **RECHTORICK, SCN** **Sr. Branch 542**



Mary Dominic Rechtorick, SCN, died August 8, 2011, at the age of 84 after serving God for 66 years. She was born in New Salem, PA, and entered the community of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity in 1945 from

St. Procopius Parish, New Salem, PA.

Sister earned a Bachelor of Education degree from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, and a Masters degree in Reading from Cardinal Stritch College, Milwaukee, WI.

For 36 years, Sister Mary Dominic taught in the Dioceses of Pittsburgh and Greensburg, PA. Sister then served as principal for 19 years at St. Lawrence School, Monett, MO. (Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau).

Sister Dominic spent part of each summer for 16 years going to Philippi, WV to assist those in need. She had a special love for the poor and underserved. In her teaching ministry, Sister also had a special love for students who presented any type of challenge, always trying to give them every opportunity to change and grow.

Following retirement from teaching, Sister Dominic was the receptionist at the Vincentian Child Care Center for six years after which she became part of the Prayer Ministry. She was a resident of Vincentian Home for the past five years.

She is survived by her brother Stephen, sister-in-law Irene, nieces, nephews and her Sisters in the SCN Community.

### **~ NOTICE ~**

*Fraternally Yours* is now also available on the website as a pdf file. **Please log onto [www.fcsla.com](http://www.fcsla.com)** and click on *Fraternally Yours Magazine* found under Fraternal Tab in the column on the left side of the home page.

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL CELEBRATED 101ST ANNIVERSARY

On July 2, 2011, the Alumni Association of St. John the Baptist School in Whiting, IN, celebrated its 101st Anniversary with a Mass at 4:30 p.m. celebrated by Rev. John Kalicky, an alumni of the school and a FCSLA member. The mass was followed by an outdoor festival.

Forever Blue and Gold, the alumni association of the school had the street between the church and school closed so that huge tents could be erected where about 300 alumni gathered to enjoy available food and beverages, or just sit and reminisce about "the good old days at St. John School." Classes from 1933 to 2011 were represented, therefore, many tall tales were told.



Seated, L-R: Margaret Abildua, and Donnie Sabol. Standing: Annette Markovich and Geraldine Tumidalsky.

Many from these classes were FCSLA members.

A total of \$1,700 was generated to help the school with scholarships, library needs and technology equipment. They also help with other needs of the St. John community.



Seated, L-R: Margaret Abildua, and Geraldine Tumidalsky. Standing: Rebecca Coleman and Dorothy Hoover.

Rev. John Kalicky displaying picture presented to him by the Alumni Association. ►



◀ Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Puplava, president of alumni association and FCSLA members.

## ANNUAL BREAKFAST IN HONOR OF ST. ANN RECENTLY HELD

The annual breakfast in honor of St. Ann was held by Sr. Branch 417, Coaldale, PA, on July 26, 2011. Members gathered at the Beacon Diner in Tamaqua, PA.

Angela Rose Herb, our scholarship winner was pre-

sented with a check from our local branch. Angela and her four sisters and her parents, Frank and Catherine Herb came from Exton, PA to be with her. All present had an enjoyable time.

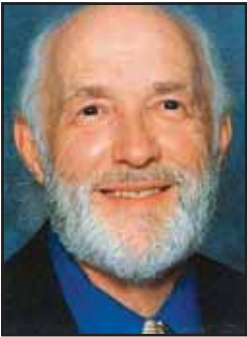


Scholarship winner Angela Rose Herb with Branch 417 officers.





## Jesus Isn't Here Anymore: HE'S LEFT THE BUILDING!



Deacon Robert A. Gagnon  
St. Peter Parish, Antioch, IL

Wow! When I became a fraternal life insurance agent, I saw the chance of fulfilling my Ordination goals. I thought that, by using my life insurance ministry as a method of evangelization, and building a church-fraternal structure, I would accomplish my love for His people. "Why"? and "What's that all about"? you say, and "Why has Jesus left the building"?

Well, I thought that I would apply my personal faith. I'd apply it using my commitment to Diaconal Ordination and increase my love of God's people and myself, using the fraternal system. I thought that, if I could give my faith to the ones that find me inspirational and caring and living a Jesus Image, I would be doing what He created me to do.

I have been working in the Catholic fraternal system since 1986, about 24 years. I am still passionate about getting into Catholic homes and providing answers to financial woes, church questions and doing general ministry of the Word. Whether or not a church member decides to buy insurance and join my fraternal society, I still provide that person with my love and advice. I have baptized children, witnessed unions, and helped families return to the sacraments through my ministry and my fraternal work!

As I became well known in the Chicago Archdiocese and

nationally known as a two time "Teacher of the Year" winner, I wrote books, did symposiums for groups of hundreds of people, and invested in my ministry. Radio and newspapers have interviewed me and carried my stories. Homilies are my passion and my book "Supersize Your Homilies" is in its third printing. I always ask myself how Jesus would rate my performance and whether I am truly doing his work. This is where I run into a problem with the restrictive nature of the FCSLA membership requirements. Because I cannot bring all Catholics into the fold at the present time, I feel stymied in my efforts to do His work!

When I pray to the Holy Spirit before giving a Homily, I wonder what I can do better and how I can portray my passion for my audience's sanctification. What can I say that will make them better Catholics and change their lives for the better this week? The answer always is that I must review the image of Jesus with them and counsel them to follow his forgiving and loving ways.

This brings me to a question. "How would Jesus view our membership requirements?" I think I know the answer. He would invite everyone to participate. He would say, "Celebrate at my table and eat my body and drink my blood."

How about a far-out, but fair, 21<sup>st</sup> century analogy? Let's say that I was speaking to Jesus about becoming a member of the FCSLA. I would ask him the membership questions. I would ask him if he were a current member. He would say "no". I would ask him if he was Catholic. He would say "Well, I founded the church-would that qualify"? I would reply that I would hope so. Then I would ask him if he were of Slav descent. He would say, "No, why do you ask"? I would then have to explain that we can only bring in members of Slav descent. He would say "I'm sorry to hear that. Do you mean to say that many of my millions of followers also cannot join? That's not good! You have missed the point of my teachings. I will have to leave now."

The point is, fraternal brothers and sisters that we MUST come to the FCSLA convention with a determination to change the by-law which restricts our membership. We must open up to embrace all Catholics.

We must have a fraternal society that lets Jesus back into the building. If we can't do this, we will surely fail!

## 38th Annual Slovak Day Held

FCSLA members were well represented, both as volunteers and attendees, at the 38th Annual Diocese of Gary, IN Slovak Day observance on July 17, 2011 at the Salvatorian Fathers' Shrine in Merrillville, IN. Rev. Joseph Vamos celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine at 10:30 a.m. Afterwards, the festivities moved to the air conditioned hall where Slovak and American foods were available for purchase, and the Slovak krcma (bar) featured Zlaty Bazant Slovak beer. Carl and Betty Yurechko, Slovak Day General Chairpersons, drew the 5 winning tickets for the raffle.

The Sarisan Slovak Dancers from Sterling Heights, MI provided the headline entertainment, while the Joe Arendt Quartet played dance music for the rest of the afternoon. Homemade Slovak baked goods and raffle tickets were sold by festival volunteers.



Betty Yurechko presents a check to raffle winner Robert Tapak Magruder, a member of Sr. Branch 81, as Carol Yurechko, Ann Fedorchak, and Agnes Chervenak look on.

## Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble to Hold Fall Gala

The Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble will hold a Fall Gala on Saturday, November 12, 2011 at Pokrova Hall, 6812 Broadview Road, Parma, OH 44134.

Performances will be given by Lucinka Children's Ensemble and special guest *Living Traditions*. Music and dancing will follow by Ralph the Accordion Man and Party Band.

Tickets are \$30 per person. It includes a full-course dinner with a cash bar. Raffles will be held and gift baskets will be awarded during the event. Cocktails at 6:00 p.m. with dinner starting at 6:30 p.m.

For tickets please contact Tom Ivanec at 440/668-7797 or Mary Ann and Dan Dzurec at 440/930-2197. All proceeds to benefit the Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble. Thank you for your support.

# Učené víno

Mária Ďuríčková

*(Please enjoy the English translation of this Slovak fable on Page 21)*

Rozchýrilo sa po krajine: kráľ vraj bohato obdaruje toho, kto mu také víno vystanoví, od ktorého by sa nikto ani neopil, ani by sa bez príčiny nechichotal, ani nijakú garazdu nerobil. Chcel by vraj víno hlbavé vladárskym myšlienkam naklonené. Také, čo by prebúdzalo v srdci radosť a v hlave rozum.

Počul o tom chýre aj starec Radoš z bratislavského Podhradia. Zamyslel sa: takéto čosi žiadať od vína! Veď by to víno muselo byť doslova múdre, priam učené! Koľko sa on už vinič naokopával, koľko sudov nápoja dorobil, hojojój, a o takom víne jakživ neslýchali!

No čím viac nad tým rozmýšľal, tým väčšmi sa mu to v hlave rozležiavalo. Neudalo sa dosiaľ také víno. Neudalo. Ale prečo? Nuž možno aj preto, že ho nik neučil a neškoliť. Lenže potom . . . no pravdaže! Treba skúsiť! Čo keby práve on, starý Radoš? Čo keby sa vo svojom vinohrade prihovárал viniču nielen rukami, ale aj múdрым slovom? Keď je vinič mladý, ktože ho vie, možno si aj zapamätá.

Vysadil on vinohrad mladým viničom a rozprával mu pritom o praotcovi Noemovi, prvom vinohradníkovi všetkých čias. Rozprával mu o robotníkoch vo vinici, aj o tom, ako raz budú prví poslednými a poslední prvými.

Od svitu do mrku pracoval Radoš vo vinohrade. Všetkým, čo vedel od otca a matere, od deda a dedovej, od všetkých múdrych svojho rodu, tým všetkým sa prihovárал mladej vínnej réve. Vystríhal ju, aby nepriniesla víno trpké ani kyslé, tuhé ani slabé, prehké ani pochabé. Nech sa radšej nenáhli, náhlivá práca nebýva trvácia.

Vinič rástol jedna radosť, strapce mu oľazievali. Dovtedy mu už Radoš vyrozprával všetky biblické podobenstvá aj príbehy siedmich múdrych majstrov.

Potom hrozno pooberal a začal ho prešovať. Drevený preš vŕzgal, šŕava sa rinula a Radoš sa jej takto prihovárал:

„Daj si záležať, aby z teba nebol nápoj hocijaký, drapák-zabijak, kočvardina lebo ločprdiná! Nech dúšok z teba srdce rozveselí, smútok odoženie, rozum nezamúti, hlavu neošiali. Tak-tak, veľmi si daj záležať!“

A vtom mu zide na um:

A sud? Či ja môžem dať takéto víno obyčajného suda? To veru nie!

Zašiel on k debnárovi, naďaleko vychýrenému majstrovi Tobiašovi. Všetko mu po pravde vyjavil, o

kráľovskej úlohe mu povedal. A tak sa majster Tobiaš hneď pustil do práce.

Či vám len urobil sud! Ba čo sud! Sudisko! A veľké dno mu krásnou rezbou vyzdobil. Reza spodobovala kráľovskú komnatu, v tej komnate za stolom sedí kráľ, v jednej ruke korbce vína, v druhej erb Bratislavy: hradbami obtočené mesto s troma vežami. Taký to bol sud, krásny a veľký. Zmestilo sa doň všetko Radošovo učené víno.

Keď už potom víno v sude zrelo, chodil starý Radoš okolo neho a vyspevoval mu všelijaké dobré i bodré pesničky o víne, ako napríklad „To vôľu napraví, dá rozum i zdraví“. A také a podobné.

Napokon víno dozrelo. Radoš ochutnal, pozdalo sa mu. Vytiahol z neho za hlobo a pobral sa ku kráľovi, ktorý práve vtedy zavítal do Bratislavy a usídlil sa, podľa svojho zvyku, vo veľkolepom paláci kráľovskej kúrie.

„Nesiem pánu kráľovi víno, aké si žiadal,“ povedal stráži pri bráne a tá ho hneď zaviedla do kráľovej komnaty.

Poklonil sa starký pred vladárom, úctivým slovom ho pozdravil a víno mu podal.

Panovník sa s ním do reči pustil a po našsky sa s ním zhováral, rečou jeho otcov a dedov. Vypytoval sa, akože to starký učil svoje víno múdrosti, a Radoš mu porozprával všetko od začiatku až do konca.

Kráľ až horel od zvedavosti. Nalial si vína a zhlboka sa napil. „Ono je!“ zvolal prekvapene. A ešte raz sa dychtivo napil. „Ono je, ono!“ vykrikoval natešene. „Práve takéto som chcel! Kúpim od teba celú úrodu, starký, aj so sudom ju kúpim. Šafár mi ho dá odviezť do Budína.“

Predal Radoš učené víno kráľovskému šafárovi spolu s vyrezávaným sudom. Šafár dal opachu naložiť na voz a zaviezť do prístavu. Celá stotina vojska pomáhala pri naložovaní. Lenže ťarcha to bola neslýchaná, nuž sa aj stalo, čo sa stalo: sud sa im vyšmykol, dopadol na pobrežné skaly, hneď sa na ňom tri dúžky preborili.

Vytieklo učené víno do Dunaja.

A už nikdy nikomu sa také nepodarilo.

Len vraj sa od tých čias dunajské ryby veľmi premenili. Horko-ťažko ich dostaneš do siete. „Ani čo by im dajaký mudrc rozumu nalial,“ ponosovali sa rybári.

Ten kráľ sa menoval Matej Korvín.



# Clever (Wise) Wine

Mária Ďuričková

The entire country heard the news: The king was going to pay good money for a special wine. Whoever would drink this wine would not get drunk or start laughing silly or do stupid things. The king is looking for a wine that would cause deep and wise thinking. This wine would cause happiness in heart and cleverness in mind.

This news reached Radoš, an old man, who lived near the castle. The old man thought to himself: "How can you expect this from wine?" The old man worked with wine all of his life, but he never heard about this kind of special wine.

But the idea about such a wine was always on his mind. How come such wine does not exist? Why? Maybe the problem is that nobody tried to educate the grape seedlings while they were growing. Somebody should try it. Why not I — Radoš? What if I work with the seedlings, not only with my hands, but also with my mind? When the plants are small, who knows, maybe they can learn. The old man planted seedlings and tried to teach them everything he knew.

From early morning till sunset, Radoš worked with the grapes. He stressed that the wine that the grapes would produce should not be bitter or sour, strong nor weak. The grapes should not grow rapidly because fast work does not last.

The grapes were growing nicely. When they were ripe, Radoš picked them and pressed them. Even then, he still was educating even the juice. He was saying: Let the sip from this wine make the heart happy, the mind clear, and not cause a headache. Radoš was also concerned about the barrel. He was convinced that he needed a special barrel.

He went to see Tobiaš, a famous barrel maker. Radoš explained everything about the king's desire to have a clever wine. Tobiaš started to work on a special barrel. He made an enormous barrel — that had a beautifully decorated bottom that depicted the king's room with the king sitting behind a table with one hand holding a glass of wine and the other holding a seal of the city. The barrel was big enough to hold all of Radoš clever wine.

When the wine was fermented, Radoš had a taste, and he liked it. He filled a flask and went to see the king, in Bratislava Castle.

"I am bringing wine to my king," Radoš said to the guard by the gate. The guard immediately let him in to see the king. The old man bowed in front of the king, greeted him and offered him the wine. The king asked how the old man made the wise wine, and the old man explained everything. From the beginning to the end.

The king was very curious. He poured the wine and drunk. "It is the correct one" he cried, and drank some more. "This is great" he said again. "This is what I wanted!" I will buy everything from you — even this barrel."

Radoš sold everything to the king's servant. Later they loaded everything onto the boat. But the load was very heavy and the barrel slid off the boat and broke on the stones. All of the wine spilled into the Dunaj River. Now they say that from then on the fish in the Dunaj are different. Nobody can catch them. It seems they are very clever. It seems they can think.

The name of the king in this story is Matej Korvín.

## SLOVAK WORDS AND ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

### Activities During a Day

Vstanem	I get up
Umyjem sa	I wash myself
Oblečem sa	I get dressed
Raňajkujem	I eat breakfast
Idem do práce/do školy	I go to work/to school
Pracujem	I work
Čítam	I read
Píšem	I write
Ičím sa	I study
Telefonujem	I talk on the phone
Upratujem	I clean
Varím	I cook
Perem	I wash (clothes)
Pozerám televíziu	I watch TV
Počúvam rádio	I listen to radio
Odpočívam	I relax
Nakupujem	I shop
Rozprávam	I talk
Obeďujem	I eat lunch

Cestujem	I travel
Idem	I walk
Cvičím	I exercise
Hrám	I play
Večerám	I eat dinner
Vyzlečiem sa	I take my clothes off
Sprchujem sa/kúpem sa	I take a shower/a bath
Idem spať	I go to bed
Spím	I sleep

### Question

### Answer

Ktorý deň bude zajtra?	Utorok
What day is tomorrow?	Tuesday
Ktoré dni nasledujú po utorku?	
Which days follow Tuesday?	
Streda, štvrtok, piatok.	
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.	
Ktorý je posledný deň v týždni?	Sobota
What is the last day of the week?	Saturday

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

## SLOVAK HERITAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania recently held its Annual Meeting at the Gus Genetti Hotel and Conference Center, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Following the meeting and dinner, members and guests participated in a "Slovak Sing-Along" with piano music provided by John Simkovich, Hazleton.

The Mission Statement of the Slovak Heritage Society of N.E. PA is "to advance an awareness of the Slovak Heritage and culture among all people by means of education and social interaction." For more information visit the Society website at [www.shsne.org](http://www.shsne.org).



L-R: Newly elected officers and board members for 2011/12. Seated are Secretary Anna Hudock, Wilkes-Barre; Dorothy Sullivan, Nanticoke; Society Chaplain Rev. John Albosta, St. Peter & Paul Church, Plains; Society Chairperson Philip R. Tuhy, Wilkes-Barre; Dinner Chairperson Elaine Plaischak, Plymouth; Membership Chair Mary Migatulski, Wilkes-Barre; and Helen Savinski, Plains. Standing from left are Andrew Sofranko, Hanover Township; Financial Advisor Magdalen Benish, Plains; Joseph Kowatch, Kingston; Michael Stretanski, Kingston; Treasurer Jackson Hendershot, Wilkes-Barre; Andrew Palischak, Plymouth; Corresponding Secretary Bernadette Yencha, Wilkes-Barre; and Public Relations Director William A. Zdancewicz, Edwardsville. Not shown in the photo is Betty Pirnik, Wilkes-Barre.

### Order Christmas Oplatky and Slovak Christmas Cards

Oplatky, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers and Slovak Christmas cards are available from Jankola Library. Orders will be accepted from October 24 until December 16, 2011.

The Oplatky, five per packet, thermal-sealed and securely packaged can be obtained for a donation of \$3.00. The price for one package of 9 Slovak Christmas cards is \$6.75. In addition, shipping and processing has a minimum cost of \$5.75 and upwards. Customized requests can be packaged to meet your needs.

For more information or to place an order contact: Sister Catherine Labouré, SS.C.M. at 570-275-5606 or write to Jankola Library and Slovak Museum, 580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

## REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

### BALANCE SHEET AS OF MAY 31, 2011

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 13,764,711.96
Bonds	614,265,774.26
Preferred Stock	6,580,430.87
Common Stock	710,981.84
Investment Income Due and Accrued	10,216,015.97
Promissory Notes	36,207.28
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	6,698,800.42
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,821,818.77
Other Assets	232,759.81
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 654,327,501.18</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Life Reserves	\$ 192,192,999.08
Annuity Reserves	349,976,179.50
Death Claims Payable	935,611.71
Unearned Premiums	552,743.00
Matured Endowments	315,604.00
Provision for Dividends Payable	2,078,210.00
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,707,914.00
Accrued Convention Donations	780,002.00
Provision for Future Conventions	643,381.65
Asset Valuation Reserve	7,272,456.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,383,944.00
Other Liabilities	1,072,170.09
Provision for Annuity Certain Accounts	4,284,000.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 565,195,215.03</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	
Surplus	\$ 89,132,286.16
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ 89,132,286.16</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ 654,327,501.18</b>

### INCOME STATEMENT

For the Five Months Ending May 31, 2011

<b>REVENUE</b>	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 10,209,264.88
Annuity Premiums	10,611,573.56
Investment Income	14,739,158.13
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	54,578.58
Rental Income	171,795.00
Other Revenue	7,395.36
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 35,793,765.51</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 10,619,999.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	8,213,179.00
Insurance Benefits	1,895,428.94
Annuity Benefits	7,444,497.82
Commission Expense	965,522.55
Surrender Benefits	689,402.31
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	89,260.78
Matured Endowments	4,590.31
Donation Expenses	137,938.00
Convention Expenses	76,604.96
Dividends to Members	875,000.49
Post Mortem Benefits	360,338.41
Bonus to Branches	423,690.00
Fraternal Activities	23,505.12
Bank Service Charges	21,363.94
Data Processing Service Fees	116,068.66
Accounting Fees	20,493.00
Actuarial Fees	70,814.00
Legal Fees	489.30
Consulting Services	57,287.50
Official Publications	146,321.00
Scholarship Awards	(2,500.00)
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	172,150.26
Fees — Directors	46,579.30
Salaries — Employees	613,898.08
Salaries — Officers	182,786.52
Interest Expense	110,958.68
Tax Expense	130,661.22
Depreciation Expense	120,715.00
Utility Expense	37,518.28
Postage and Printing	125,075.20
Advertising	36,971.79
Travel Expense	59,410.84
Insurance Department Fees	42,391.98
Sales Promotion	73,965.32
Rental Expense	171,795.00
Other Expense	189,366.57
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 34,363,539.13</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 1,430,226.38</b>





## STUFFED BELL PEPPERS

4 bell peppers, any color  
Salt  
5 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
1 medium yellow onion, peeled and chopped  
1 clove of garlic, peeled and chopped  
1 lb. of lean ground beef  
1½ cups of cooked rice  
1 cup chopped tomatoes, fresh or canned (if using can, drain of excess liquid first)  
Fresh ground pepper  
½ cup ketchup  
½ teaspoon of Worcestershire sauce  
Dash of Tabasco sauce

Bring a large pot of water to a boil over high heat. Meanwhile, cut top off peppers 1 inch from the stem end, and remove seeds. Add several generous pinches of salt to boiling water, then add peppers and boil, using a spoon to keep peppers completely submerged, until brilliant green (or red if red peppers) and their flesh slightly softened, about 3 minutes. Drain, set aside to cool.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Heat 4 tablespoons of the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onions and cook, stirring often, until soft and translucent, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook a minute more. Remove skillet from heat, add meat, rice, tomatoes, and season with salt and pepper. Mix well. (You may find it easier to put the ingredients at this point into a large bowl and mix together with your hands.)

Drizzle remaining 1 tablespoon of olive oil inside the peppers. Arrange the cut side of the peppers up in a baking dish, then stuff peppers with filling. Combine ketchup, Worcestershire sauce, Tabasco sauce, and ¼ cup of water in a small bowl, then spoon over filling. Add ¼ cup of water to the baking dish. Place in oven and bake for 40-50 minutes (or longer, depending on how big the peppers are that you are stuffing), until the internal temperature of the stuffed peppers is 150-160 degrees. Serves 4.

## SAUSAGE, SPINACH, RICOTTA STUFFED PASTA SHELLS

1 12-ounce package jumbo pasta shells  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
1 cup finely chopped yellow onion  
1 lb. sweet Italian sausage, casings removed  
1 tablespoon minced garlic  
1 large egg  
16-ounces ricotta cheese  
10-ounces chopped frozen spinach, thawed, squeezed dry, chopped further (or 10 ozs. chopped fresh spinach)  
1 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
1 tablespoon chopped fresh basil or 1 teaspoon dried basil  
¼ cup unseasoned bread crumbs  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ teaspoon ground black pepper  
1 28-ounce can tomatoes with herbs, including the liquid, tomatoes broken up (or favorite tomato or pasta sauce)  
2 (9x13) shallow baking dishes

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil (1 teaspoon salt per quart of water). Cook the pasta shells according to the instructions on the package. Drain, rinse in cold water, and set aside.

Heat olive oil in a large skillet on medium high heat. Add the onions and cook until softened, about 5 minutes. Add the sausage to the pan, breaking up the sausage into smaller bits. Cook sausage until cooked through, and no pink remains, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds to a minute more. Remove pan from heat.

Beat the egg lightly in a large bowl. Mix in the ricotta, chopped spinach, ½ cup of the Parmesan cheese, basil, bread crumbs, salt, pepper, and sausage mixture. Fill each cooked pasta shell with some of the ricotta, spinach, sausage mixture.

Spread ½ cup chopped canned tomatoes over the bottom of each of the baking dishes. Arrange the stuffed pasta shells in the dishes. Spread the remaining tomatoes over the top of the pasta shells.

At this point you can make ahead, to freeze (up to four months) or refrigerate before cooking. (If freezing, cover with wax paper, then foil, then wrap with plastic wrap.)

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Cover the pans with foil and bake for 30 minutes, until hot and bubbling. Remove foil and sprinkle with remaining Parmesan cheese, bake uncovered for 10 more minutes. Serves 8.

## BUFFALO WINGS

2 lbs. chicken wings (about 12 wings)  
3 tablespoon butter, melted  
4 tablespoon bottled hot pepper sauce  
1 tablespoon paprika  
½ teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon cayenne pepper  
¼ teaspoon black pepper  
Celery sticks (optional)

### Blue Cheese Dip

½ cup sour cream  
½ cup crumbled blue cheese  
½ cup mayonnaise  
1 tablespoon white wine vinegar or white vinegar  
1 clove garlic, minced

Cut off wing tips (discard or reserve for other use such as making stock). Cut wings at the joint. Put chicken wing pieces in a plastic bag. Set aside.

Create a marinade by stirring together the melted butter, hot pepper sauce, paprika, salt, cayenne pepper and black pepper. Pour all but 2 tablespoons of the marinade over the chicken pieces in the plastic bag. (Reserve marinade for coating after the pieces come out of the oven.) Seal bag and let marinate at room temperature for half an hour. When marinating is finished, drain marinade and discard bag.

Place wing pieces on the rack of a broiler pan. Broil 4 to 5 inches from the heat for about 10 minutes on each side, until chicken is tender and no longer pink. Remove from oven and baste with reserved marinade. Serve with Blue Cheese Dip and celery sticks.

### Blue Cheese Dip

Combine dip ingredients: sour cream, mayonnaise, blue cheese, vinegar, and garlic in a blender or food processor. Blend or pulse until smooth. Cover and chill up to a week.

## BAKED APPLES

4 large good baking apples, such as Rome Beauty, Golden Delicious, or Jonagold (see cooking apple varieties)  
¼ cup brown sugar  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
¼ cup chopped pecans  
¼ cup currants or chopped raisins  
1 tablespoon butter  
¾ cup boiling water

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Wash apples. Remove cores to ½ inch of the bottom of the apples. It helps if you have an apple corer, but if not, you can use a paring knife to cut out first the stem area, and then the core. Use a spoon to dig out the seeds. Make the holes about ¾-inch to an inch wide.

In a small bowl, combine the sugar, cinnamon, currants/raisins, and pecans. Place apples in a 8x8" square baking pan. Stuff each apple with this mixture. Top with a dot of butter. Add boiling water to the baking pan. Bake 30-40 minutes, until tender, but not mushy. Remove from the oven and baste the apples several times with the pan juices. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream on the side. Makes 4 servings.

10/11

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