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Fraternally Yours

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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JANUARY 2009



*The First Catholic
Slovak Ladies Association
Board of Directors
Extend our Sincere Wishes
of Peace, Love and Hope.
Wishing You and Your Family a Happy,
Healthy, and Prosperous 2009.*

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Fraternally Yours,

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



ISSN 0897-2958



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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,

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*As the New Year begins . . .
here's an inspirational poem to remind us
to take time for the things that really matter.*

*Often, we rush through life, and forget
to "fill our gas tanks". So in 2009 my wish
for each of you is to — Take Time . . .*

Take time to think —

It is the source of all power.

Take time to read —

It is the fountain of wisdom.

Take time to play —

It is the source of perpetual youth.

Take time to be quiet —

It is the opportunity to seek God.

Take time to be aware —

It is the opportunity to help others.

Take time to love and be loved —

It is God's greatest gift.

Take time to laugh —

It is the music of the soul.

Take time to be friendly —

It is the road to happiness.

Take time to dream —

It is what the future is made of.

Take time to pray —

It is the greatest power on earth.

Take time to give —

It is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to work —

It is the price of success.

Warmly, Carolyn

*Happy
New
Year!*

Special Licensing Assistance Offered

The FCSLA is offering special assistance to those FCSLA members who wish to become fully life insurance licensed in their states. The FCSLA Home Office will order and pay for the training materials, pay for any pre-license classes required and also any required continuing education required, providing the member agrees to sell only for FCSLA. If you, or someone you know, wishes to become life insurance licensed, please contact Patrick Braun, National Sales Manager at 800-464-4642 ext 1018.

Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

Dear Friends,

Stastlivy Novy Rok! Happy New Year! My prayer is that your celebration of the Birth of Jesus at Christmas was filled with hope and happiness! To those of you who were fortunate to celebrate the season with families and to those who celebrated quietly without the pleasure of visiting family members, may the blessings and grace of the Virgin's Child be upon you and your loved ones throughout 2009! May all of us, through the intercession of the Mother of God, come closer to and obtain a better relationship with her Son, Jesus Christ, through our love for our benevolent God and for one another.

I believe that it is so appropriate that we begin the New Year with the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God on 1 January. The Blessed Mother played such an important role in the history of salvation and her place is so honored throughout the ages. In recalling her sacred motherhood at the beginning of the new calendar year, we are reminded to make her Son the center of our new year as she made Jesus the center of her motherhood all the years of His earthly life.

In chapter eight of the Second Vatican Two Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen gentium*), the Fathers of the Council explained the importance of the motherhood of Mary and her trust in God. They reminded us that, "This maternity of Mary in the order of grace began with the consent which she gave in faith at the Annunciation and which she sustained without wavering beneath the cross. This maternity will last without interruption until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect. For, taken up to heaven, she did not lay aside this saving role, but by her manifold acts of intercession continues to win for us gifts of eternal salvation" [paragraph 62]. The mother

of Jesus nurtured her Son and believed in Him to the end of His earthly life. In her life in heaven, the Mother of God continues to nurture the Church by calling the Body of Christ to a more intimate union with her Son until our earthly lives come to an end.

In the revision of the Roman calendar after the Council, the oldest celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary was to be revived and was placed on 1 January but not to detract from the circumcision of the Lord or from the giving of the name of the Lord - *Jesus*. The gospel of the Mass for the solemnity portrays the continuation of the birth of Christ and the humble and obedient spirit of the Mother of Jesus: "So the shepherds went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb" [*Luke 2:16-21*]. We, too, are called to lives of humbleness for the sake of the Gospel and obedience to that Good News by not only treasuring it in our hearts but by living it out in word, thought, and action each day. We are called to glorify and praise God for all we have heard and seen from Mary's Son each and everyday of this New Year.

Mary is not only the Mother of God but also our Mother and the Mother of the Church. She is *the* model of the Church. In paragraph 63 of *Lumen gentium*, the Fathers wrote: "Through the gift and role of divine maternity, Mary

is united with her Son, the Redeemer, and with His singular graces and offices. By these, the Blessed Virgin is also intimately united with the Church. As Saint Ambrose taught, the Mother of God is a model of the Church in the matter of faith, charity, and perfect union with Christ. For in the mystery of the Church, herself rightly called mother and virgin, the Blessed Virgin stands out in eminent and singular fashion as exemplar of both virginity and motherhood."

Through the intercession of the Mother of God, may all mothers of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association both living and deceased be entrusted into her care. May they see in the Blessed Mother the love and support she has for them and may all mothers, in turn, continue to love and support their own children through their own prayers, both in heaven and on earth. May the Mother of God intercede for all of us, her children, to be better members of the Mystical Body of Christ. May we, who are the Church, strive to build the Kingdom of her Son on this earth, all for the honor and glory of God in this New Year 2009 with the assistance of the Blessed Virgin Mary's prayers.

At the end of the Night Prayer of the Church, a prayer is used to invoke the Mother of God and many times it is the same prayer used by one who is leading the Prayers for the Dying. Usually that prayer is the one familiar to all of us: Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us, and after this exile show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God! That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ!

FCSLA IS FEELING FINE IN 2009!

*With Deborah Brindza, M.D. and
Sue Ann M. Seich, Fraternal & Youth Director*

Resolve To Have A Healthy New Year!

The beginning of a new year brings many thoughts of new resolutions. Many times ambitious promises are made, but after a few weeks they are broken and forgotten. Why not make a single healthy resolution and work hard to make it part of your daily routine. Small steps are more likely to be successful. Rather than setting a goal of a large weight loss, resolve to lose 5 percent of your weight over the next year. That small loss will add up to a large difference in your health! Rather than resolving to train to run a marathon, resolve for 20 minutes of exercise at least 3 days a week. Then reward yourself for doing extra days. That way your New Year resolutions will be kept and your health will improve! Rather than going on a strict diet that is impossible to keep, resolve to eat more fruit and vegetables, or only eat fast food one time a week or less. By giving up a few calories every day, the weight will slowly come off and be more likely to stay off. Making a resolution that is small but smart will be more likely kept for the whole year, and leave you healthier!

Deborah Brindza M.D.
National Medical Director, FCSLA

Challenge Yourself To Follow Through!

When you make your resolutions think of the suggestion from Dr. Debbie; do not overwhelm yourself. Here are a few suggestions on how to stick to those resolutions:

- Write it down. Have a special calendar/chart dedicated to keeping the resolution. Each day mark the calendar/chart with **yes** (I stuck to it) **no** (I forgot).
- Dedicate some time in your busy schedule to carry out your resolution. We, at every age, are so preoccupied with the many demands in our daily life, we never take time for some of the things that can benefit our health, disposition or attitude. Even a few minutes a day can make a difference.
- Make it easy on yourself when choosing a resolution. The harder the resolution, the easier it is not to accomplish it and give up after a few weeks.
- Put the calendar/chart by the side of your bed on a night stand or somewhere easy to see before you go to bed at night. Make sure to mark that day's accomplishment or oops I have to do better tomorrow.
- Reward yourself weekly, monthly or at the end of the year. You be the judge.
- If you forget, don't be hard on yourself. Start again. You will succeed, I have faith in you. But most of all, **make it "FUN"!!**

FCSLA BOARD ANNOUNCES NEW PROGRAM

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce a Matching Funds Program for 2009.

Here are the highlights:

- Senior or Junior Branches may apply for the matching funds program twice in the calendar year.
- The **charitable activity** must be approved by the Home Office **prior** to the event.
- The **pre-approved charitable activity must be planned by a FCSLA Senior or Junior Branch** although a church or community group may work together in sponsoring an approved event in conjunction with the branch. Branches may work together on the approved activity!
- A Join Hands Day Activity will not qualify under this program.
- Direct donations from a branch will **NOT** qualify for matching funds.
- The Branch's Fraternal Activity will not qualify for matching funds because it is already reimbursed by the Home Office.
- The maximum amount to be matched per activity will be capped at \$500.00 and \$20,000 has been dedicated to the program for the year!
- Contact the Home Office if you wish to apply for the matching fund program. This program will be reviewed annually to determine its effectiveness.

HAVE A NEW ADDRESS?

If you belong to a household receiving two or more magazines or if you have recently moved and have a new address, you can alleviate both situations simply by using the form on page 24 and mailing to the home office address. We ask that one magazine per household be sufficient.

St. Cyril Academy's Class of 1967 41st Reunion

St. Cyril's Academy's class of 1967 had an unconventional 41st reunion in fabulous Las Vegas, NV. Convent boarding schools pride themselves in small class size, and that bond even reached to two "day hops" who shared their unique perspective on teen life away from home. From the moment the planes arrived, until the hurried goodbyes, the Cyrilites never missed a beat. There was never an awkward moment even though they had not kept in touch since high school.

Columbus Day weekend was a blur of activities from shows to dinners. A bit of gambling, shopping, tree hugging at Red Rock Canyon and a flood of conversations, reminiscing about the past, catching up to the present, and promises of more frequent reunions made this get together pretty near perfect. Cyrilites of every generation just do it. You'll have a whole new appreciation for closure.



L-R: Seated, Constance Gordon, Janine Corbett, Ellen Kerr Ryan, Grace Zaretti Conti and Patricia Pachence Gaebel. L-R: Standing, Eileen Kusbel Schneider (S452), Kathy Hritz Briant (S088), Bette Ryan, Margie Baran (S089) and Carol Kessler DeSilva.

Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress in Hershey



National Officers and Pat Braun with Ms. Reese.



National Officers and Sales Manager, Pat Braun attend Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress in Hershey, PA.

Clara E. Woytko Celebrates 90th Birthday

A festive family gathering was held for Clara E. Woytko on Sunday, August 10, 2008 to celebrate her 90th birthday at the home of her sister Rita Woytko Hart. Those who came to help her celebrate included four nieces and nephews and their spouses, two great-nieces and nephews and two great-great-nieces and nephews. Family members came from Virginia and California. She also received cards from the members of a club that started when they were in 8th grade. After the party, her comment was "I have a lot to be happy about. I never expected anything so grand."

At the party, everyone had great fun talking about the things that Auntie Clara had done with them. She always bought a station wagon to haul around her nieces and nephews. Many summers were spent at a cottage that she rented at Chippewa Lake. She took the gang to every amusement park in Ohio, and to Washington D.C.

Clara is a daughter of the late Paul and Anna Woytko. Her Zenska Jednota involvement was certainly acquired from her mother, who served in various branch offices for more than 70 years. Anna was a branch president at the time of her death at age 97.

Clara was elected to the position of National 1st Vice-President in 1968. She was president of Sr. Branch 176, served as Financial Secretary of Jr. Branch 6 for 17 years and Financial Secretary of the Cleveland Anna Hurban Okres for 20 years.

Clara was a career government worker. During World War II, when her friends were in Washington D. C., she still chose to remain in Cleveland. She traveled extensively, visiting Europe many times, always including Rome. In her youth, Clara and her brother, Paul, were active members of the Sokols Athletic Group and won many medals. Clara is still an ardent supporter of the Cleveland Sport teams. She follows their schedules and watches as many games as she can. Last summer an outing was organized to attend a Cleveland Indians game at which she saw the Indians clinch the division pennant.



Pittsburgh Okres Meeting

The October meeting of the Pittsburgh Okres was hosted by Branch 277 of Greensburg, PA. Members gathered at the Lamplighter restaurant. President Dorothy Urbanowicz welcomed members and led the group with the pledge to the flag followed by "God Bless America." Rev. Vincent Zidek then gave the invocation.



The Hosting Branch 277

Following a delicious meal, minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved and roll call was taken by Judy Yates. The financial report was presented by Marian Gatto. Dorothy then presented the hosting branch with a check from the district to aid in the cost of the meals and a check for Mass for the members.

Updated by-law books were distributed and President Dorothy thanked Margaret Golofski for printing and assembling the books.

She then informed the group the training held for the district proved to be a very productive venture. Patrick Braun presented the training and answered numerous questions for the group. Members were then updated on the district sales quota's and were encouraged to try to increase sales so that we can meet our goal.

Cynthia Maleski presented the National Officers Report and Rev. Joseph Grosko then let the group with Intercessory Prayers of the Faithful. Rev. Micah Kozoil was introduced and he then gave the Benediction.

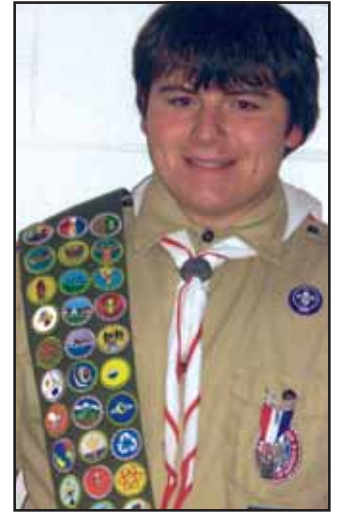
Share of the Wealth, Lottery Tree and Door Prize drawings followed. Meeting was adjourned followed by "Hej Slovaci."



District Officers

CRISTIAN SMITH EARNS EAGLE SCOUT DISTINCTION

Cristian Smith, son of Donald and Deborah Smith of Penfield, NY, has earned the Eagle Scout Award, the highest rank in Boy Scouting. He is a member of Troop 310 of Penfield and Otetiana Council.



Cristian is a senior at Penfield High School. He has earned 36 merit badges as well as participated in many summer scout camping activities. His Eagle Scout project was to design and construct shelving in the Church of the Assumption basement. While doing this, he cleaned out and organized the storage room, making materials more accessible.

Cristian is an active member of the FIRST Robotics Team 1511 of his school, where he serves as the lead electrician and computer programmer. He has received several awards, both team and individually, for his contribution to the team.

Cristian is an active member of Life Teen Youth Ministry at Assumption Parish, where he serves as an usher, youth leader and volunteer.

He is a member of Branch 350 and the godchild of Rita Kcenich, President of the Branch.

5.00%
Annual Yield on FCSLA Annuities/IRAs

From January 1 through and including March 31, 2009, all Annuities/IRAs will pay a yield of 5.0% based on a 4.8793% rate of interest compounded daily. Members choosing the interest only option will earn 4.6025% (APR 4.50%) while those selecting a settlement option during this period will earn a yield of 4.75% (APR 4.6409%).

For more information please call 800-464-4642

Have You Signed Up A New Member This Month?

Branch & District Bits

The Nebraska and Western Iowa Old-Timers Baseball Association honored **BRANCH W018 PRESIDENT BOB HLADIK** for his efforts promoting baseball. In addition to a beautiful plaque he was inducted into the mythical Nebraska Navy. Hladik was a teacher, coach and administrator in the Omaha area Catholic schools before becoming a college instructor.



Admiral Hladik (center) and some of his crew.



Some of the members of Pittsburgh Okres attended a Sales Training seminar presented by Sales Manager, Patrick Braun. Pat presented complete sales information to the attendees. He reviewed procedures for completing the applications. He also clarified qualifications for membership. Numerous questions were answered for the group. All felt that this was a very enlightening presentation.



BRANCH W137 held a Halloween party October 19, 2008 at St. Ludmila's Gymnasium. Many members, young and old, came in costume.



Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center Emergency Medicine Physician Eric Stern, M.D., Sister Antonia Klausner, CSFN, R.N., President, **CHICAGO BRANCH 180** of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA) and Director, Emergency Department Geraldine Kentgen, R.N. pose with the Pediatric Crisis Mannequin. Funds to purchase the mannequin were awarded by FCSLA at the 39th National Convention. The mannequin is used in training medical center personnel in the Emergency Department and hospitalwide to treat pediatric respiratory and cardiac arrest.



On September 13, St. Mary Magdalene Lodge, **BRANCH 169 OF YOUNGSTOWN, OH** hosted a wine and cheese party after the 4:00 p.m. Mass at Holy Name of Jesus Church.

On September 14 a continental breakfast consisting of donuts, juice, milk and coffee was held the next morning after 9:30 a.m. Mass. About 140 members and parishioners attended the two socials. Those attending enjoyed the fellowship and food. The non-members became a little more acquainted with the local Branch of the FCSLA.



L-R: Committee consisted of Branch 169 members Geri Mazzone, Vickie Long, and Branch 169 Officers — Helen Sonoga, Treasurer; Ann Dama, President; Dolores Songa, Vice-President; and Msgr. Peter M. Polando, Branch 169 member and National Chaplain.



Attends Fred Rogers Center Tour

Fred Rogers was the creator and host of Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, the longest-running children's program in television history. He is remembered by millions of children and families throughout the world as "the conscience of children's television." Today his legacy lives on through the work of the Fred M. Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media at St. Vincent's College in Latrobe, PA.



National trustee Virginia Holmes and her husband Jerry attend the preview opening of the Fred Rogers Center.

The Center serves as an advocate for the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development of children through the use of media. Today children around the world face a variety of life-threatening challenges. Fred Rogers understood the important role that television media could play in helping children and families respond to those challenges.

Fundamental to Fred Rogers' 50 years of work in children's media was the principle that learning best takes place in the context of love. One of his theme songs, "There Are Many Ways To Say I Love You," underscores the importance of loving relationships for children's early learning and healthy development. Throughout his storied career Fred Rogers never gave in to the pressure to exploit his relationship with children and families by using the media for personal gain. In many ways he became a "father figure" for the entire nation.

The Fred Rogers Center at St. Vincent College will welcome children and families from throughout the nation to come to a deeper understanding of the life and mission of Fred Rogers.

On Wednesday, August 13, 2008 members of the FCSLA were invited to the Center for a private tour which concluded with a luncheon. An interesting fact revealed during the tour was that the doors and trim on the newly built center were finished with wood that had been cut and stored for a century in the basement of the Basilica. This walnut wood added a beautiful touch to the Center.



Archabbot Douglas Nowicki, talks with members at the St. Vincent's College and Seminary Fred Rogers Learning Center.



L-R, standing: Rev. Joseph Grosko, Br. Mecnsch. Sitting: Bernard and Patricia Nowicki, Cynthia Maleski, Norene Yandura.

WPSCA Dinner Successful

Over 200 guests attended the fourth biennial Testimonial Awards Dinner sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association last month at the Radisson Hotel in Greentree, PA.

The Slovak achievement awards are presented to those who by distinguished leadership and service have enriched our Slovak culture.

This year's recipients were:

- Frederick Frank, Director of the Slovak American Enterprise Fund — WPSCA Business Award
- Gregory Fajt, Chief of Staff for Governor Rendell — WPSCA Government Award
- Rudy and Sue Ondrejco, Western PA Slovak Radio Hour and Pittsburgh Slovaks — WPSCA Heritage Award
- David Blazek, President of National Slovak Society — WPSCA Lifetime Achievement Award
- Most Reverend David Zubik, Bishop of Pittsburgh Diocese — WPSCA Religion Award

The keynote speaker for the evening was Charles Dougherty, President of Duquesne University. Greetings from the Slovak government were presented by Igor Pokojny, Slovak Consul General from New York. Musical entertainment was provided by Andrei Pidkivka and Friends.



L to R: David Blazek, Bishop David Zubik, Frederick Frank, Sue Ondrejco, Rudy Ondrejco, and Greg Fajt.

Whiting Branch 81 Holds Annual Fall Luncheon

On Sunday, September 21, the Officers of Branch 81 and Jr. Branch 58 held its fall annual luncheon at the St. John the Baptist Panel Room. As the members and guests arrived and signed in, they were handed a ticket for which they would be eligible to win cash prizes being given away by Branch 81.

As these 104 members and guests mingled, appetizers and punch were being offered. Some officers passed out mementos from the Home Office and other officers were busy selling tickets, checking in guests and seating our guests.

The festivities began with President Florence Hovanec welcoming all members and guests. Father John Kalicky, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Pastor gave the invocation. The tables were decorated to fit in with the fall season. The centerpieces were candle holders with flickering candles that changed to match the fall colors.

The luncheon was served family style, salad, bread, chicken, stuffed cabbage, mashed potatoes, Italian green beans and coffee were plentiful at each of the 15 tables.

As dessert was about to be served the son of President Florence Hovanec, approached the microphone and announced that it was his Mother's birthday, and it was a very special milestone birthday! But being a true gentleman, Florence's age as not disclosed. President Hovanec's grandchildren then rolled out a large cake full of candles! Cake, ice cream and kolacky were served.

Auditor Dorothy Hoover took over the microphone and announced the winners of our 50/50 raffle. The other half

of the prize money went to St. John the Baptist Church.

Helen Kocan District President Margaret Abildua, then took over the microphone and gave away a total of \$300.00 in cash and many door prizes. The centerpieces were then given to the person at each table who had a dot under the tablecloth where they sat. A grand time was had by all, thanks to the cooperation of all the Officers of Branches 81 and 58, and also Carol Vargo and the St. John the Baptist panel room helpers.



Christmas Ornament Contest

On pages 10 and 11 you are able to view the outstanding workmanship and originality of the participants in our FCSLA 2008 Christmas Ornament Contest. The ornaments proved to be a beautiful addition in decorating our Christmas tree at the Home Office. The contest revealed the many talents our members possess.

I sincerely thank those who participated and took the time to create the ornaments. Our judges had a difficult decision to make in all of the categories. I am so thankful I did not have to judge them, each one would have gotten first place.

If you have a minute send a note to our home office, call or email me, if you think we should do this contest again this year. I would like to hear from those who participated in 2008 or if you did not create an ornament last year would you like the opportunity to participate in 2009.

May your New Year be filled with good health, happiness and many blessings.

Sue Ann M. Seich

1-800-464-4642 Ext. 1051

sueann@fcscla.org

~ FCSLA 2008 ORNAMENT CONTEST WINNERS ~

ORIGINAL

1st PLACE — Frank Rozum

S-525 • North Royalton, OH - O-#2

2nd PLACE — Marie Knieper

W-500 • New Lothrop, MI - O-#3

3rd PLACE — Anna D. Golofski

S-13 • Pittsburgh, PA - O-#4

COLORFUL

1st PLACE — Leona Cupka

S-289 • Hobart, IN - C-#3

2nd PLACE — Elaine Walters

S-35 • Neshanic Station, NJ - C-#1

3rd PLACE — Mary Hicar

S-490 • Strongsville, OH - C-#2

UNIQUE

1st PLACE — Patricia & Richard Cline

S-278 • Pittsburgh, PA - U-#5

2nd PLACE — Frank Rozum

S-525 • North Royalton, OH - U-#3

3rd PLACE — Barbara Macuna

S-578 • North Olmstead, OH - U-#4

INTRICATE

1st PLACE — Marcia Krull

S-81 • Whiting, IN - I-#3

2nd PLACE — Lawrence Carda

W-93 • Tabor, SD - I-#2

3rd PLACE — Elaine Walters

S-35 • Neshanic Station, NJ - I-#1

ETHNIC

1st PLACE — Cecelia T. Garland

S-74 • Whitehall, PA - E-#3

2nd PLACE — Rose Pinalto

W-74 • Hutchinson, KS - E-#2

3rd PLACE — Elaine Walters

S-35 • Neshanic Station, NJ - E-#1

ORIGINAL Category Prize Winners



Original — 1st Place



Original — 2nd Place



Original — 3rd Place

COLORFUL
Category
Prize Winners



Colorful — 1st Place



Colorful — 2nd Place



Colorful — 3rd Place

UNIQUE
Category
Prize Winners



Unique — 1st Place



Unique — 2nd Place



Unique — 3rd Place

INTRICATE
Category
Prize Winners



Intricate — 1st Place



Intricate — 2nd Place



Intricate — 3rd Place

ETHNIC
Category
Prize Winners



Ethnic — 1st Place



Ethnic — 2nd Place



Ethnic — 3rd Place



Nine Branches Attend Fall Celebration and Give Thanks

Nine Ohio Junior Branches in the Cleveland area held a Fall Celebration party. Junior Branches 6, 57, 143, 386, 453, 457, 458, 475 and 529 gathered together on Sunday, November 16, 2008 for an afternoon of fun. The party was held on a snowy afternoon at Light of Hearts Villa, in Bedford, OH. A lunch of pizza, hot dogs and soda were enjoyed by all.

We were entertained by Ralph Szubski, the Accordion Man who was also our MC for the afternoon. The children enjoyed dancing to many popular songs. FCSLA Fraternal Director, Sue Ann Seich is also involved in Jr. Branch 143. Sue Ann had many games and activities for the children to participate in, including a "find your shoe" game and a foot-ball toss.

Several contests were sponsored and we had great results. Children five and under were sent a picture of a turkey to color and return. \$5.00 prizes were awarded to: Alyssa Picciano, Lauren Nieporte and Jake Nieporte.

Each of the following essay contests had cash prizes of \$25, \$15, and \$10.

Here are the winners:

Ages 6-9, "How to Cook a Turkey" – Sarah Fakult, Nicole Picciano, Anna Pullen

Ages 6-9, "What Thanksgiving Means to Me" – Josh Lazanich, Ashley Talpas, Sam Pullen

Ages 10-12, "What Thanksgiving Means to Me" – Emily Ternka, Luke Fakult, John Moynihan

Ages 13-15, "What Thanksgiving Means to Me" – Megan Fakult, Ryan Lagzdins

All were treated to a dance performance by the Lucita Slovak Folklore Children's Ensemble. Residents of the Villa were invited to the auditorium to participate in lunch and watch or participate in the festivities. It was a wonderful experience reaching out and bringing the young and the not-so-young together.

Light of Hearts also sponsors a food pantry for needy elderly residents in the Bedford, OH area called the "Seton Safety Net." We asked that all attendees of the party bring at least one non-perishable food item for the food pantry. Party-goers were very generous with the canned goods and Branches J458/S525 donated \$200 to the food pantry. A donation of \$200 was presented to Light of Hearts from all of the nine branches that participated. Gift bags filled with toys and goodies were given to each child as they left.





BRANCHES 452 AND 348 CELEBRATE 84TH ANNIVERSARY

On August 10, 2008 FCSLA Sr. Branch 452 and Jr. Branch 348 celebrated their 84th Anniversary at the home of Elizabeth Dedinsky, Secretary/Treasurer.

The day began with a Mass celebrated by Father Stanley Dominek at the Immaculate Church in Whiting, IN. The Mass was offered for the living and deceased members of the branches. After Mass members enjoyed a



David Dedinsky chief cook at the 84th anniversary.

brunch prepared by Elizabeth Dedinsky and the main chef David Dedinsky along with help from the celebration committee.

The committee for this anniversary celebration was Mary Blake, President; Betty Skvarek and Marge Vrlík, Auditors; Ann Matura, Betty Ortiz, and David Dedinsky. The day was special and enjoyed by all in attendance!



Branch 452 and 348 members.



Members Barbara Michniewicz, Ann Matura and Agnes Wintzcak.



Branch 452 members Pauline Kunkel and Mary Hric.

Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar In Chicago

FCSLA members turned out in force for the Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar in Chicago. The Midwest District of the Slovak Catholic Federation sponsored the seminar, which took place September 28, 2008 at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Casimir.

Professional filmmaker Susan Marcinkus showed her film, "Pictures of the Old Country," which documents her search for her ancestral roots in Slovakia, and has been shown on PBS stations nationwide. Afterwards, she answered questions from the audience.



SCF Midwest Chapter Board of Directors with speaker Susan Marcinkus.

Attendees then enjoyed a delicious buffet luncheon.



FCSLA members Lorraine Vasek, Doris Lehocky, and Geri Hletko serve on the Board of Directors of the Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar.



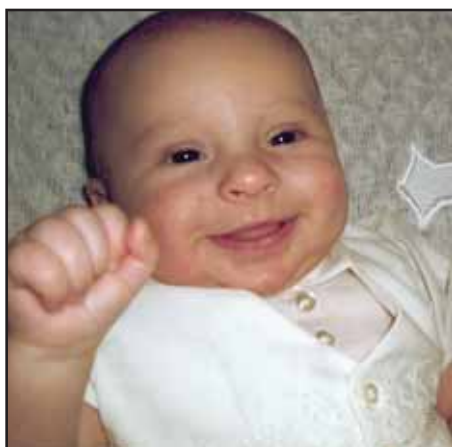
National Vice President Rosemary Mlinarich and Alice Nemcek of Branch 258.



Branch 452 members Frances Kunkel and Joe Skvarek.

MEMBERS ONLY, PLEASE!

NOTE TO MEMBERS AND CONTRIBUTORS: Please remember *Fraternally Yours* is for news items of **MEMBERS ONLY**. We are a fraternal publication for the FCSLA and space is scarce. If your loved ones want space in our publication, make them our members.



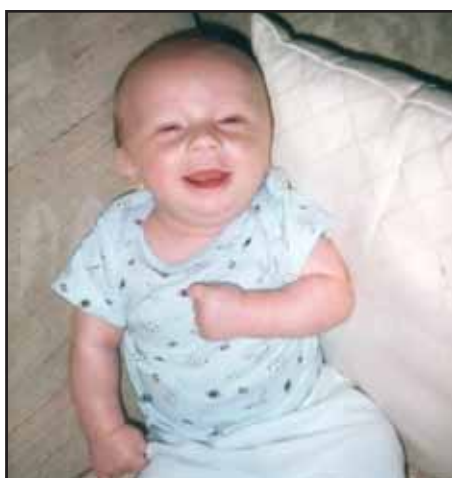
Wearing the baptismal outfit worn by his father 34 years ago, **BENJAMIN MICHAEL ODDIS** smiles after his christening, August 25, at Saint Charles Church, Boardman, OH. Joe and Donna Sedzmak were godparents for Benjamin, their first great-nephew. Parents are Will and Kris Oddis. Benjamin is a member of Jr. Branch 192, Youngstown, OH.



ALEXANDER JOSEPH SPINDLER received his First Holy Communion on May 10, 2008 at St. Alexander's Church in Palos Heights, IL. He is the son of Edmund and Mary Kay Minelli Spindler. Alex is a member of Branch 339 along with his sister Grace and brother Eric. Alex's grandmother Emily (Martinek) Minelli, aunt, uncle and many cousins are all members of Sr. Branch 287 or Branch 339 in Chicago, IL.



SYDNEY CLAIRE VEDECCHIA made her First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 17, 2008 at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, Chester Springs, PA. She is in the third grade this year at Uwchlan Hills Elementary School, Downingtown, PA and enjoys soccer and basketball. Sydney and her brother Christian are members of Jr. Branch 46 in Lansford, PA and their grandparents Joann Protivnak and Alfred Giannangeli are members of Sr. Branch in Lansford, PA.



EDWARD JAMES OZIMINSKI IV was born on August 7, 2008 to proud parents Edward and Amanda Oziminski. He is already a member of Branch 58 in Whiting, IN. His great-grandmother is Ann Bakondi a member of Branch 81 also in Whiting, IN.





IN MEMORIAM

MARY ANN (KOTLARCIK) CHOPAK Branch 408

PARMA HEIGHTS, OH—Mary Ann Chopak, 83, passed away on Monday, June 2, 2008 with her daughter Cheryl at her side. She was born October 12, 1924 to Anthony and Barbara Kotlarcik of Lakewood, OH. Her loving husband, Ralph preceded her in death in 1971. She was the mother of Cindy (Al) Brucker, Craig (Shelley) Chopak and Cheryl (Rick) Williams. Mary enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, Amanda, Kelly, Melanie, Rachel and Kade. Survivors also include her sister, Betty Burkhardt of Akron.

Mary was an active member at St. Bridget Church in Parma Heights, where she served in running the Bingo Program to help raise funds for the school. She also enjoyed sewing and making craft items for gifts and church bazaars. She was a member of FCSLA Branch 408.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Bridget Church, interment was in Holy Cross Cemetery.

CHERYLL A. HOPKO MAULORICO Branch 141

PARMA, OH—Cheryll A. Hopko Maulorico, who died of complications of cancer August 17, 2008 at age 63, was one of only four Ohio women to become licensed embalmers in 1970. That same year, she began her career as a funeral director at Hopko Funeral Home, which was founded by her grandfather in 1913.

She helped manage the home at East 93rd Street on the south east side of Cleveland until 1975, when she joined the staff at the family-owned funeral home's Parma location.

As a youngster growing up in the family living quarters above the funeral home in Cleveland, Hopko Maulorico did cleaning, answered the phone and assisted at funerals.

She graduated from Notre Dame

Academy in 1963 with the last class to graduate from the school's Ansel Road location before it relocated to Chardon. The former Catholic girls school now is a coeducational school known as Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School.

Hopko Maulorico, a 1969 graduate of the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, belonged to the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Lake Erie Veterans of Foreign Wars Post.

Hopko Funeral Home of Parma handled arrangements.

MILDRED J. ZMOLEK Branch 130

TOLEDO, IA—Mildred Josephine Zmolek, age 86, of Toledo, entered into eternal rest early Monday morning, October 20, 2008, surrounded by her family at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, MN.

Mildred was born on March 16, 1922, in rural Clutier, the daughter of John T. and Mary (Parizek) Nachazel.

She received her education at rural Carroll Township #5 School.

On April 27, 1948, she was united in marriage to Charles F. Zmolek at St. Wenceslaus Church in rural Clutier. She was a homemaker and farm wife in rural Toledo, and moved to town a few years after her husband's death. Mildred was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Tama. She enjoyed spending time in her vegetable and flower gardens, baking, playing cards, traveling, crocheting afghans and making quilts for her family. Her greatest joy was spending time with her family.

Survivors include her children, Allan Zmolek of Toledo, Doreen Hayek (Tom Reed) of Cedar Falls, Sherry (David) McFarland of Rochester, MN, Yvonne (Jonathan) Diller of Ames, Randy (Barbara) Zmolek of York, PA, LeRoy Zmolek of West Branch, Cynthia (Robert) Hill of Tama, Roxanne (Kurt) Pierce of Victor, and Jane (Baker) Hughes of

Burleson, TX; seventeen grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one brother, Milo (Lillian) Nachazel of Dysart; and numerous nieces and nephews. A memorial fund has been established.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Tama, IA, with Father Michael Mescher officiating. Interment was at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Tama.

EDWARD TYBOR Branch 287



OAK LAWN, IL—Edward R. Tybor, 90, a funeral director for more than 60 years, died October 6, 2008 at his home in Oak Lawn.

Mr. Tybor, nicknamed "The Digger," was a member of many organizations, including three groups that were related to the funeral directing business; and he was a former chairman of the board for Damen Federal Bank & Savings.

He was also a member of Royal Order of the Moose 44, Johnson-Phelps VFW Post 5220, St. Michael the Archangel Golden Agers, Slovak Catholic Sokols, Catholic Order of Foresters, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, and Teamsters Local 727.

He was also an usher for more than 40 years at St. Michael's Slovak Church.

Mr. Tybor was an accomplished musician, proficient with the saxophone, violin and clarinet.

Mr. Tybor, a World War II Army veteran, is survived by his daughter, Judy Knizner; sons, Edward R. and Terrence; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sister, Anne Tisoncik; many nieces and nephews; and many great-nieces and great-nephews.

Services were held from Robert J. Sheehy & Sons Funeral Home (Kubina Tybor Directors) to St. Linus Church. Interment was at Our Lady of Sorrows Cemetery.

SISTER ELISABETH ANN RECHKA

Sister Elisabeth Ann Rechka, of Delhi Township, OH, Sister of Charity of Cincinnati, died October 16, 2008, at the age of 85, in Mother Margaret Hall, at the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati Motherhouse, Mount St. Joseph, OH. She was born Veronica Agnes Rechka on September 30, 1923, in Cleveland, OH. She earned the Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College, Cleveland, OH, in 1952, and the Master of Science in Education in 1972, from the University of Akron, OH. A Sister of Charity for 70 years, she was a member of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity of Bedford, OH, from 1938 until 2004, when they merged with the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. Sr. Elisabeth Ann served the dioceses of Cleveland and Youngstown, OH for more than six decades. In 1980, Sister joined Villa Sancta Anna Home for the Aged, Beachwood, OH, as administrator ministering for more than 18 years. During this time, Sister earned health care certifications through the American College of Health Care Administrators. In 1997, Sr. Elisabeth Ann was awarded Distinguished Administrator from this college. In 1998, Sr. Elisabeth Ann began ministering at the Vincentian Motherhouse as a consultant to the Mount St. Joseph Nursing Home. Sr. Elisabeth Ann is survived by her sister Marian Ainsworth of Maple Hts., OH and nephew Kenneth Ainsworth.

Memorials may be made in Sr. Elisabeth Ann Rechka's name to the

Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati Retirement Fund, 5900 Delhi Rd., Mount St. Joseph, OH 45051.

ALICE J. JURICK Branch 445

Alice J. Jurick, age 86, passed away on November 1, 2008. She was born July 9, 1922 in Detroit, MI to William and Ina (Frans) Primmer. She moved to Muskegon Heights in 1938. On November 20, 1954 she married Joseph A. Jurick in Muskegon Heights. He preceded her in death on March 25, 1994.

Alice was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, where she sang in the choir and was a life member of the Altar Society. She loved reading books and spending time with her grandchildren. She was employed as a bookkeeper for Morton Manufacturing for 18 years.

Survivors include her daughter, Katherine (Thomas) Buday of Norton Shores; a son Anthony Jurick; 3 granddaughters; her sister-in-law, Helen Pomper; also many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her daughter Amy in 1981; her parents and two brothers, William and Max Primmer.

Memorial contributions may be made to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 150 E Summit Ave., Muskegon Heights, MI 49444.

ALVINA SOUKUP Branch W109

Alvina Soukup, 96, of Wagner passed away on October 24, 2008 at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton, SD.

She was born on June 8, 1912, in Geddes, SD. Her parents were Joseph and Emma (Rados) Slaba. She married Edward (EJ) on November 20, 1939 and took up residence on the farm 13 miles south of Wagner. Alvina cared for their children and worked the farm with EJ until his death in 1967.

Alvina moved into an apartment in Wagner in 1972 where she enjoyed baking fresh breads, kolaches or pies that she shared with visitors, friends, and family. She was also well known for her embroidery skills and loved to play cards and games.

Alvina is survived by her children, James and his wife Shirley of Sioux City, IA; Edward and his wife Therese of Wagner, and Ann and her husband Galen Jordre of Pierre. She had eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister Mary Rezac of Dante, two sisters-in-law, Viola Soukup of Wagner and Theresa Slaba of Geddes; and many nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband EJ; her parents; brothers Oscar and Charlie; twin brother Alvin and infant sister Maggie.

BRENDA RICKE Branch W051

GARNER, IA—Brenda Sue Ricke, age 41, of Garner and formerly of Osage, died on Friday, October 3, 2008.

Brenda was born July 22, 1967, in Osage, the daughter of Dean and Elsie (Gerdes) Nuehring. She graduated from Osage High School in 1985. She mar-

POLICY CHANGE FOR PUBLISHED OBITUARIES

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2009 ALL OBITUARIES PUBLISHED IN *FRATERNALLY YOURS* WILL BE LIMITED TO 250 WORDS OR LESS. A small photo (digital in jpeg format or hard copy) may still be submitted for publication with the death notice. Honoring our members that have entered into eternal rest is an important part of our publication; however, due to the volume of death notices received it is becoming more difficult to publish them in a timely manner. When submitting your death notices please edit the entry to no more than 250 words. Any notices that exceed the word limit will be edited to comply with this change.

IN MEMORIAM

continued from page 7

ried Randy Ricke on September 30, 1989, in Garner, and they lived in the Garner area.

Brenda was employed at Principal Financial in Mason City. She was a member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Duncan, where she was a member of the Slovak Ladies Group. Brenda served on the Garner Park and Rec Board. She was also active in the Garner Sports Booster Club, Music Booster Club, and the Garner Post Prom Committee.

Brenda is survived by husband, Randy Ricke of Garner; three children, Amber, Stephanie and Alex Ricke of Garner; father, Dean Nuehring and wife Dorothy of Osage; sisters, Avon (Jerry) Rurup of Titonka, Donna (Marloe) Ellingson of Joice, Nancy (Neal) Hirota of Osage, Janet (Gerard) May of Osage, Ronda Olson of Rose Creek, Minnesota, sister-in-law, Sharon Nuehring Mihm of Mason City, and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Elsie Nuehring; a brother, Dennis Nuehring; and her mother-in-law Eleanore Ricke.

Arrangements were by Champion-Bucheit Funeral Home, Osage, Iowa (641)732-3706.

FRANCIS D. SAZALSKY Branch 262

Francis Domenick Sazalsky, 56, of New Kensington, formerly of Vandergrift, PA, passed away on September 13, 2008, in Alle-Kiski Medical Center, Harrison.

Born July 25, 1952, in Natrona Heights, he was the son of Frank M. and Rose Grandi Sazalsky, of Vandergrift.

Francis was a 1971 graduate of Kiski Area High School and worked in the purchasing and receiving department of Citizens General Hospital, New Kensington from 1972 until 2003 before being transferred to Alle-Kiski Medical Center.

Francis married his high school sweetheart Cynthia Billock on April 28, 1973 and together they raised three children. He enjoyed attending Pirates games with his son Stephen; watching Steelers football, listening to oldies music and classic cars.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years Cynthia Billock Sazalsky; three children, Caroline (Darrell) Coscarelli, of Allegheny Township, Stephen (Holly) Sazalsky, of Vandergrift and Francine (Michael) Garrone, of West Leechburg; his parents, Frank M. and Rose Sazalsky, of Vandergrift, a brother James Sazalsky, of Washington Township, five grandchildren, several aunts, uncles and a special friend Ted Brocious.



ATTENDS INDIANA FRATERNAL CONGRESS

The Indiana Fraternal Congress met in Lafayette, IN on September 26 and 27, 2008. Those in attendance enjoyed the delicious luncheon, auction and speakers. The key speaker was David Huber, member of the Presidents Section of the NFCA and Sheila Klinker, State Representative from Lafayette District. The next day members went to help tear down a house for Habitat for Humanity in Lafayette.



L-R: Rosemary Mlinarich, Andrew Sacek, Sheila Klinker, Indiana State Representative, Lafayette District; Carl Yurechko.



L-R: Betty Yurechko, former auditor of FCSLA, Financial Secretary of Branch 289 and Secretary/Treasurer of Helen Kocan District; Agnes Chervenak, Branch 409 officer; Carl Yurechko, Branch 289; Rosemary Mlinarich, National Vice President of FCSLA; Andrew and Ruth Sacek, officers of Branch 409.

2009-2010 FCSLA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

More than \$248,250 in Scholarship Awards!

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association is pleased to announce its 2009-2010 Scholarship Program which is in fulfillment of one of the objectives of the organization. This year more than \$248,250 will be awarded to young members of the Association, which includes \$42,000 being awarded to elementary school applicants.

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

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

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

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

8 Freshmen • 8 Sophomores • 8 Juniors • 8 Seniors

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

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

28 EARLY ELEMENTARY AWARDS AT \$750 EACH

7 for Grade 1 • 7 for Grade 2 • 7 for Grade 3 • 7 for Grade 4

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

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

Winners will be chosen by a committee of impartial judges from the educational field and based on the following: Academic standing 50%, Family membership 15%, Financial need 20%, Leadership 10%, and extenuating circumstances 5%.

All applications and supporting documents must be completed and submitted to the Home Office no later than March 1, 2009.

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

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

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST

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

Branch No. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Application requested for following award:

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

Jeleň s čiapkou

Rudo Moric

– To, čo vám teraz rozpoviem, – začal ujo svoj posledný príbeh o jeleňoch, – pritrafilo sa mi iba raz v živote, aj to už pred tridsiatimi rokmi.

Práve som sa plietol po záhrade, keď dobehol jeden z mojich horárov. Ledva lapal dych a pot sa mu cícerkom lial z čela.

„Pán revírnik,“ habká milý Kaška. „Videl som jeleňa s čiapkou!“

„Aleže netáraj! Čerta rohatého si ty videl, nie jeleňa s čiapkou,“ smejem sa vyjavenému horárovi. Veď naozaj, ktože to slýchal, vraj jeleň s čiapkou!

Kaška sa začal veriť, dušovať, že tam a tam v smrekovej siatine sa mu mihol jeleň, ktorý namiesto parohov mal na hlave akúsi čiapku.

„Bežal som vám pozrieť na stopu, a tá ako od kravskej paprčky, taká poriadna bola,“ vykladal horár ďalej, keď sa už bol trochu upokojil.

Nijako mi nešlo do hlavy, že by bol na svete najaký jeleň s čiapkou. Ale ani Kaška nezvykol tárať dve na tri. Nuž vari predsa len na tom čosi môže byť.

Odkiaľže sa, paskuda jelenia, mohol sem zatúláť? hútam. Bolo to pred rujou a vtedy jelene vandrujú z miesta na miesto. Nuž aj tento, ak sa to len Kaškovi nesnívalo, musel odkiaľsi k nám prísť, lebo veď som si poznal revír ako vlastnú dlaň.

Ihneď som sa vybral na lesnú správu, reku, čo s tým ohavníkom urobiť. Iba čo mi revír špatí! . . . A na správe rozhodli zaraz usporiadať na jeleňa s čiapkou poľovačku.

Ja som doviedol strelcov, Kaška zase pozháňal honcov. A vybrali sme sa na miesto, kde horár zbadal toho čudáka. Pred obedom už sme tam boli.

Vietor sme mali priaznivý, jeleň nás zvetriť nemohol.

Začal som zostavovať strelcov, horár zase viedol honcov na ich stanovištia. Všetko sa muselo diať opatrne, aby nám korisť nevykľzla z pasce.

Sám som si vybral miesto powyše potoka, kde podľa mňa náš jeleň sotva pôjde. Nech si reku páni z správy strelia.

Zatrúbil som a poľovačka sa začala.

Deň bol krásny. Obloha bez jediného obláčika a slnko až nemilosrdne pražilo.

Honci kdesi vpredu prečesávali húštiny. Ja som sa uvelebil pod vysoké bučisko. Guľovnicu som oprel o strom a sám som sa pohodlne natiahol do trávy. Veď aj tak tadeto jeleň nepotiahne.

Ušla čajsi polhodinka, keď zrazu počujem dupot. Čo to? Zdvihnem sa na lakte a hľadím k potoku, odkiaľ sa to ozýva. Ale nič. To len srna aj s dvoma mláďatami presadila cez potok. Prebehli, a zas bolo ticho . . .

Z dlhého času som pozoroval pestrofarebné pávie oko, čo sa usadilo na blízky kameň, rozprestrela krídelká a kúpalo sa v slnečných lúčoch. Tak sa minula ďalšia polhodina.

„Už ho my veru nedostaneme,“ prestávam dúfať. „Iste prešiel inde, kým sme sa sem vyštverali.“

Zapálím si cigaretľu, lebo sme mali stále dobrý vietor, a sediačky dumám o tom nezvyčajnom jeleňovi. Čo to len mohol mať na hlave miesto parohov?

A iba keď počujem, ako kdesi predou mnou druždí haluzie. „Ej, to musí byť kusisko,“ myslím si. Už podľa zvuku som vedel, že to nebude inšie ako jeleň.

Nastala chvíľka napätého ticha.

Zatiaľ som vstal, pripravil sa guľovnicu a čakám, opretý o buk.

Teraz sa družgot ozval zblíža.

Div si okále nevyočím. Najradšej by som nimi aj tie húštiny prevítal.

A naraz sa vám na zvieracom chodníku objaví silný, vysoký jeleň. Osruta! A div sa svete – bol to on, jeleň s čiapkou. Naozaj, čosi ako čapica mu sedí na hlave.

Nemal som veľa času na obzeranie. Zalícim, už len kohútik stisnúť. A vtom sa jeleň postaví za stromy a pozoruje okolie. Srdce mi búcha, akoby to sám jeleň kopytami dubasil. Ani nedýcham . . .

Konečne sa neobyčajný jeleň pohol a zamieril do starej hory. Stále sa obzeral dozadu, iste začítal honcov. A ako sa tak obzerá, v tom momente som ho zložil. Na prvý výstrel sa zviezol na zem.

Bežím k nemu, ale už aj ostatní, keď začuli výstrel, nečakali na svojich miestach.

„Ale je to opacha!“ híkali všetci.

A neozaj! Podľa zubov a prepadnutého brucha jelenisko mohlo mať dobrých pätnásť rokov.

Potom sme začali obzerať tú jeho čiapku. Vlastne to ani nebola čiapka, iba zdaleka sa tak zdalo. Jeleň namiesto parohov mal akési taniere, ktoré mu padali až nad oči. Na okrajoch boli akoby očipkované a bohato perlené. Naozaj, neobyčajný prípad!

– To sa stalo tak: jeleň musel byť poriadny zurvalec – bitkár. Nuž po zhodení parohov zaiste narazil hlavou do čohosi tvrdého a poškodil si pučnice, viete, tie vypukliny, odkiaľ vyrastajú parohy . . . No a z poranených pučníc už nevyrástli parádne parohy, ale takéto čudá.

Deer With a Hat

Rudo Moric

“The story I am going to tell you now,” my uncle started his last story about a deer; “happened to me only once in my life-time and this was 30 years ago! I was working in my garden, when one of my forest workers came running towards me. He had a hard time catching his breath and sweat was pouring from his forehead. “Boss, boss” said Kaška; “I saw a deer with a hat!”

“Do not talk nonsense. You saw a devil with horns and not a deer with a hat.” I was laughing at the forest worker. Who ever heard about a deer with a hat!

Kaška started to swear that in the pine forest he saw a deer who, instead of a rack, had a hat.

He said that he went to check for hoof prints and they seem to be from a big animal — my worker was saying when he calmed down a little bit. I could not believe that a deer with a hat

Pokračovanie na str. 21

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

Deer With a Hat

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

could exist. But Kaška usually told the truth, so maybe just maybe . . . from where could such a deer come? I was thinking — this was before mating season and this is the time when male deer travel. So this one, if Kaška is not dreaming, appeared from somewhere, because I knew my forest very well. Immediately I went to the office to find out what should be done. I wanted only healthy animals. So we decided to hunt this deer. I found hunters, Kaška found helpers. We left to look for this unusual deer. We found the place before lunch. The wind was on our side, so the deer could not smell us.

I placed the hunters and the forester placed helpers in the right spots. Everything had to be organized so the deer would not escape.

I took my place near the stream. I did not believe that the deer would come this way, I wanted the other people to take the shot.

I sounded the horn and the hunt started. The day was beautiful. The sky did not have one cloud, and the sun was shining.

The helpers were going through the bushes. I sat under a big oak tree. I put my rifle against the tree and I laid in the grass. The deer would not come this way.

Half an hour went by, I hear hoofs running. What is it? I sat and I looked towards the stream, where the noise was coming from. Nothing. I see only doe with two little ones crossing the stream. They disappear and it is quiet again.

I was looking at a multi-colored butterfly that was sitting on a rock and enjoying the sun rays on its wings. Another half an hour passed.

We are not going to get him — I lost hope. For sure he went somewhere else. I started to smoke, the wind was gently blowing and I continued thinking about the unusual deer. What is it on his head instead of a rack. And then I hear something in front of me.

It must be something big, I think to myself. It must be a deer. It was very quiet, all of the sudden I stood up, got my rifle and I waited by the oak tree.

The noise got closer. I tried to focus my eyes. I want to see what is in the forest.

All of a sudden I see a big, strong deer. Monster — and it was the one with a hat on his head. Really something like a hat is sitting on his head. I did not have too much time. I got ready to shoot. But the deer hid behind some trees and he looked around. My heart was beating fast, I was not breathing.

Finally the unusual deer moved and went towards the old forest. He was looking behind him, surely he felt danger. In that moment I fired and the deer fell.

I ran towards the deer, the other hunters heard the shot and also came running. "It is a monster" — everybody was saying. Really! When I checked him, he probably was 15 years old.

We were curious about his hat. It was not a hat, it only looked like one from a distance. Instead of a rack, the deer had some kind of plates that were just above his eyes. The edges were like a fancy lace. Really — quite different.

I speculated that this deer was very aggressive. Probably after shedding his rack, he hit something hard with his head and damaged his new growing rack, from the damaged rack grew something like a hat.

SCF Announces 31st Annual SS.C.M. Appeal

When our ancestors came to these shores more than a century ago, they brought with them few monetary assets. Their most precious possession was their faith. The seeds of this faith were nurtured by the Slovak priests who came with the immigrant people and helped build our Slovak Catholic fraternals, religious communities of men and women, and nearly 300 Slovak parishes. In response to this legacy, the Slovak Catholic Federation will sponsor the **31st Annual SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal**.

The Church in Slovakia has enjoyed a great renaissance since the fall of Communism in 1989. We in America and Canada take pride in the fact that the Slovak Catholic fraternals, our parishes, and individuals of Slovak ancestry have responded generously to assist the Church in our ancestral homeland. The 2009 Annual Appeal begins during the month of February in churches of Slovak descent across the United States and Canada and will continue to the end of the year.

The 2008 Appeal collected \$60,000. Since its inception, this Appeal has raised \$2,130,658.40.

Funds raised from the Appeal will aid the priest-graduate students at the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril & Methodius. These fine priests are being called upon to be the future leaders of the diocesan churches in Slovakia both as vicars and bishops, in addition to providing qualified instructors/professors for the seminaries that educate future priests. As well, funds benefit those religious communities of both men and women which share a counterpart which belongs to the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Slovak Conference of Religious. These communities include: 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).

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 under the spiritual leadership of Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the Slovak Catholic Federation is to federate individuals of Slovak origin under one banner for cultural, religious, and educational needs. Serving as National President is Rev. Philip Altavilla, V.E., Episcopal Vicar for the Northern Pastoral Region of the Diocese of Scranton. The Episcopal Moderator is the Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, D.D., Bishop of Altoona/Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The National First Vice President, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic, pastor of the Church of the Epiphany, Sayre, Pennsylvania, and the Church of Saint Ann, Bentley Creek, Pennsylvania, is the coordinator for this Annual Appeal.

In our Church today, we are finding more and more individuals of Slovak descent/background do not attend traditionally founded Slovak parishes, for a number of reasons. Because of this reality today, the monies raised for this Appeal come both from the collections taken in our Slovak parishes as well as from individual donors.

Your tax-deductible donation, made out to the **Slovak Catholic Federation** (and please note it's for the *Annual Appeal*), can be sent directly to the National Secretary/Treasurer of the Slovak Catholic Federation: Dolores Evanko, 173 Berner Avenue, Hazleton, PA 18201.

As always, thank you for your generosity!

SLOVAKIA ADMITTED TO VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

by Joseph T. Senko, Slovak Honorary Consul

Effective November 17, 2008, Slovaks traveling to the United States will no longer need a visa under certain conditions. Slovaks will be allowed to travel to the U.S. for 90 days or less, for business or pleasure (but not work or study) without a visa.

To be eligible under the new Visa Waiver Program, you must fulfill several requirements. First of all, you must have a biometric Slovak passport. All Slovak passports issued after January 15, 2008 are now biometric. Secondly, you must fill out an ESTRA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) application on-line.

Go to the ESTA website at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> and complete the simple, on-line application in English. A traveler must provide name, birth date, passport details, and travel plans. A friend, relative or travel agent may file an application for someone else. A Slovak-language ESTA form will be introduced as soon as possible. Applications may be submitted at any time before travel; however, Department of Homeland Security recommends that applications be submitted no less than 72 hours in advance. In most cases, travelers will receive a response within seconds. Responses will be one of the following three:

- 1. Authorization Approved:** Travel is authorized, no further paperwork necessary.
- 2. Authorization Pending:** Check the ESTA website for a final response within 72 hours.
- 3. Travel Not Authorized:** Traveler must obtain a visa at the U.S. Embassy before traveling to the U.S.

An approved ESTA is not a visa. Individuals who possess a valid visa will still be able to travel to the U.S. on the visa for the purpose for which it was issued. Individuals traveling on a valid visa will not be required to apply for an ESTA. ESTA is valid for up to two years or until the traveler's passport expires, whichever comes first, and is valid for multiple entries into the U.S. For future trips or changes, applicants can easily update addresses or itineraries through the ESTA website. An approved ESTA is not a guarantee of admissibility to the U.S. at a port of entry. Border control officers make the final decision at the border.

The Visa Waiver Program cannot be used by those who plan to study, work or remain more than 90 days in the United States. Also, it cannot be used by people who have previously been refused a visa, or arrested (even if the arrest did not result in a criminal conviction); those with criminal records; those with certain serious communicable illnesses; those who have been refused admission into, or have been deported from the United States; and those who have previously overstayed on the Visa Waiver Program, even by only one day. Such travelers must apply for visas at the U.S. Embassy.

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

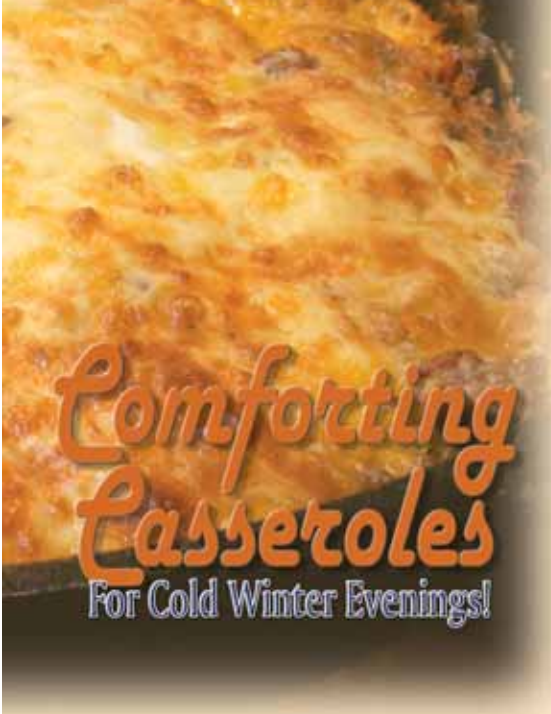
BALANCE SHEET AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

ASSETS	
Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 10,335,339.81
Bonds	506,191,345.62
Preferred Stock	8,374,825.87
Common Stock	1,362,197.11
Investment Income Due and Accrued	8,241,833.16
Promissory Notes	103,861.31
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	9,015,977.18
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,245,385.97
Other Assets	224,725.99
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 545,095,492.02
LIABILITIES	
Life Reserves	\$ 158,315,455.08
Annuity Reserves	278,040,349.10
Death Claims Payable	1,440,531.83
Unearned Premiums	576,733.00
Matured Endowments	117,172.95
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,562,671.41
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,401,574.14
Accrued Convention Donations	305,000.00
Provision for Future Conventions	162,084.40
Asset Valuation Reserve	4,956,902.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,510,156.00
Other Liabilities	1,673,141.48
Provision for Annuity Certain Accounts	2,071,000.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 454,132,771.39
SURPLUS	
Surplus	\$ 90,962,720.63
TOTAL SURPLUS	\$ 90,962,720.63
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 545,095,492.02

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Nine Months Ending September 30, 2008

REVENUE	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 4,203,126.43
Annuity Premiums	11,888,882.75
Investment Income	23,436,163.65
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	67,987.00
Other Revenue	363,943.04
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 39,960,102.87
EXPENSES	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 4,204,455.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	10,427,349.00
Insurance Benefits	3,711,645.38
Annuity Benefits	11,464,251.50
Commission Expense	429,858.39
Surrender Benefits	691,281.73
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	69,172.01
Matured Endowments	5,283.56
Donation Expenses	238,273.75
Convention Expenses	139,625.00
Dividends to Members	1,129,019.58
Post Mortem Benefits	607,646.99
Bonus to Branches	720,758.82
Fraternal Activities	50,036.94
Bank Service Charges	28,012.49
Data Processing Service Fees	243,516.96
Accounting Fees	88,432.00
Actuarial Fees	120,738.00
Legal Fees	33,543.91
Consulting Services	143,405.34
Official Publications	281,543.00
Scholarship Awards	246,250.00
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	232,685.43
Fees — Directors	81,350.24
Salaries — Employees	744,752.43
Salaries — Officers	318,750.03
Interest Expense	134,564.84
Tax Expense	203,335.02
Depreciation Expense	325,827.00
Utility Expense	59,891.44
Postage and Printing	241,782.91
Advertising	70,133.01
Travel Expense	122,095.16
Other Expense	684,073.98
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 38,293,340.84
NET INCOME	\$ 1,666,762.03



SAUSAGE, TOMATO AND MOZZARELLA CASSEROLE

- 1 pound bulk Italian sweet sausage
- ½ cup chopped shallots
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- ½ cup chopped drained oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes
- 4 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
- 5 large eggs
- 3 large egg yolks
- 1 cup half and half
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 2 cups grated mozzarella cheese
- ½ teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 375. Butter 13 x 9 x 2-inch glass baking dish. Sauté sausage in medium nonstick skillet over medium heat until brown and cooked through, breaking up with back of fork into small pieces, about 10 minutes. Add shallots and garlic and sauté 3 minutes. Add sun-dried tomatoes and 2 tablespoons parsley; stir 1 minute. Spread sausage mixture in prepared dish. (Can be made 1 day ahead. Cover and refrigerate.)

Whisk eggs, egg yolks, half and half, whipping cream, 1½ cups cheese, and salt in large bowl to blend well. Pour egg mixture over sausage mixture in dish. Sprinkle remaining ½ cup cheese and 2 tablespoons parsley over. Bake until top of casserole is golden brown and knife inserted into center comes out clean, about 30 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

BAKED BLUEBERRY CASSEROLE

- 24 slices bread cubed
- 1 lb. cream cheese, cut into cubes

- 2 cups blueberries
- ¼ cup orange zest
- 24 large eggs
- 1 qt. milk
- 1 cup maple syrup

Sauce:

- 3 cups sugar
- ⅔ cup cornstarch
- 3 cups water
- 3 cups blueberries
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 3 tablespoons butter

Place half the bread cubes on the bottom of a spray-coated 12 x 20 x 2-inch pan. Scatter cream cheese, 2 cups blueberries, and orange zest over bread. Place remaining bread cubes over blueberries.

Mix together eggs, milk, and maple syrup. Pour evenly over entire pan. Cover and refrigerate 4 hours or overnight.

Preheat oven to 350°. Bake covered for 40 minutes. Uncover, bake an additional 30-40 minutes, or until puffed, browned, firm and thoroughly cooked. Cut into 24 squares and keep warm.

Sauce: In a large pot, thoroughly blend sugar and cornstarch. Stir in water. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally, until mixture boils, thickens, and turns clear, about 7-8 minutes.

Stir in blueberries and simmer until berries burst. Remove from heat and stir in butter and lemon juice. Keep warm.

Serving: Pour about a quarter to half cup of sauce over each portion and serve hot.

POTATO BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

- 3 large russet potatoes, peeled & thinly sliced
- Salt and pepper
- 8-oz. sausage, cooked & crumbled
- ⅓ cup roasted red pepper, thinly sliced or ½ (2-oz. jar) sliced pimentos, drained
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 3 tablespoons chopped green onions
- ¼ teaspoon dried thyme
- Salsa and sour cream, optional

Butter 8 or 9" square baking dish. Arrange half of potatoes in dish. Season to taste. Cover with half of sausage. Arrange remaining potatoes over sausage; season again. Top with remaining sausage.

Beat eggs, milk, onions and thyme until blended. Pour over potatoes.

Cover dish with foil and bake at 375° 45-50 minutes or till potatoes are tender. Uncover and bake 5-10 minutes longer.

Serve with salsa and sour cream.

May substitute 6-oz. of crumbled

cooked bacon or finely diced ham for the sausage if desired. Serves 4-5.

CHEDDAR BACON CASSEROLE

- 2 cups plain croutons
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese (8 oz.)
- 4 slices bacon crisp, crumbled
- OR 1-2 cup diced, fully cooked ham
- 2 cups milk
- 3 eggs beaten
- ½ teaspoon prepared mustard
- ⅓ teaspoon onion powder
- 1 dash pepper

In a medium bowl, toss together the croutons, cheese and bacon or ham.

Turn into and 11 x 7 x 2 inch baking dish OR 6 individual 5 inch round baking dishes.

In another bowl, beat together the milk, eggs, mustard, onion powder and pepper.

Pour the mixture over the croutons mixture in the baking dish. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Bake, uncovered in a 350 degree oven for 45 minutes (15 minutes for individual dishes), or until knife inserted near center comes out clean.

Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

ASIAGO BAGEL CASSEROLE

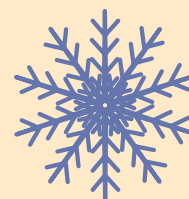
- 8 eggs
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 cups milk
- 1 tablespoon fresh tarragon chopped
- ¼ teaspoon paprika
- 6 ounces grated Monterey Jack or Cheddar cheese
- 6 ounces grated Asiago cheese
- 4 Asiago Cheese or Plain bagels

In a large mixing bowl, beat together the eggs, salt, milk, tarragon and paprika. Add fresh ground pepper to taste. Mix the grated cheeses together in a bowl.

Cut the bagels into small bite-size pieces. Grease a 2-quart souffle or casserole dish and, starting with the bagel pieces, place them in the dish in alternating layers with the grated cheese.

Pour the egg mixture evenly over all, cover the dish and place it in the refrigerator overnight.

Bake it uncovered, in a preheated 350 degree oven for 1 hour, until the top is golden brown. Serves 8.



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