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Fraternally Yours, ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

JULY 2008

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We
hold these truths
to be self-evident, that
all men are created equal, that
they are endowed by their Creator
with certain unalienable Rights, that
among these are Life, Liberty and the
pursuit of Happiness.

The Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776

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10 SURPRISING FACTS ABOUT THE FOURTH OF JULY

Everyone loves Independence Day, the quintessential American holiday, full of parades, picnics, and ... surprising facts? You bet! Be the life of the party — share a few of these tasty nuggets of knowledge with your fellow picnickers this year.

1. Independence Day commemorates the formal adoption of the **Declaration of Independence** on July 4, 1776. However, it was not declared a legal holiday until 1941.
2. **Fireworks** were made in China as early as the 11th century. The Chinese used their pyrotechnic mixtures for war rockets and explosives.
3. **Uncle Sam** was first popularized during the War of 1812, when the term appeared on supply containers. Believe it or not, the U.S. Congress didn't adopt him as a national symbol until 1961.
4. There are many precise rules for taking care of the **American flag**. And speaking of flag traditions, we're sorry to report that contrary to legend, historical research has failed to confirm that Betsy Ross sewed the first flag.
5. Not all members of the **Continental Congress** supported a formal Declaration of Independence, but those who did were passionate about it. One representative rode 80 miles by horseback to reach Philadelphia and break a tie in support of independence.
6. The first two versions of the **Liberty Bell** were defective and had to be melted down and recast. The third version rang every Fourth of July from 1778 to 1835, when, according to tradition, it cracked as it was being tolled for the death of Chief Justice John Marshall.
7. The American national anthem, the "**Star-Spangled Banner**," is set to the tune of an English drinking song ("To Anacreon in Heaven").
8. The iron framework of the **Statue of Liberty** was devised by French engineer Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel, who also built the Eiffel Tower in Paris.
9. The patriotic poem "**America the Beautiful**" was published on July 4, 1895 by Wellesley College professor Katharine Lee Bates.
10. Father of the country and architect of independence **George Washington** held his first public office at the tender age of 17. He continued in public service until his death in 1799.



We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

The Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

Planning Ahead, Making a Difference

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At the end of May and the beginning of last month, ten of my friends and family members had the opportunity to vacation with each other in Italy. We began the planning process for this excursion last year, carefully deciding what cities we desired to visit and what sights were primary to see while in those particular areas. But no matter how much effort that we made to have the "perfect" itinerary, there are and were variables that entered into the scenario which placed a "glitch" into our vacation journey.

One of those glitches was the weather. Although most of the days were warm and sunny, there were three days out of eleven that were dampened by rain. We all had our rain gear with us, but the rain slowed us down a bit and we did not get in all that we wanted to on those days. We had to adjust our schedule and in one instance, were able to visit the ancient ruins in Rome with more time than had been previously anticipated. The enthusiasm of the younger members of our crew to see more of the Roman heritage of antiquity made the rain "disappear".

Another thing that one could never have the best insight on is the place chosen for the hotel. Although there might be a four or five star rating, someone out of eleven people will not like an element about the place — not a good view, elevator not running, no hair dryer (not so much a problem for me!), not enough towels, etc. But when push comes to shove, the places in which we stayed were quite good and we were able to have a decent night's rest at each location.

All in all, we had a wonderful trip, crowned with being in the Piazza of Saint Peter Basilica and attending an audience with Pope Benedict XVI on June 4, 2008. And when we returned back home to the United States, somewhat tired, we realized that all of our planning and expectations came to an awesome fruition!

As I reflected on this crossing the Atlantic Ocean, I thought that planning for



something greater should always be in the forefront of my schedule, namely the Kingdom of God. That type of "planning" should be on my daily schedule; not that it is not, but maybe it could be more predominant. The author of Psalm 143 declares: "I remember the days that are past: I ponder all Your works. I muse on what Your hand has wrought and to You I stretch out my hands. Like a parched land my soul thirsts for You. Lord make haste and answer; for my spirit fails within me. Do not hide Your face lest I become like those in the grave. In the morning let me know Your love for I put my trust in You. Make me know the way I should walk: to You I lift up my soul" [5-8].

Everyday that I awaken, I have a set schedule of what I will be doing, who I will be seeing, and where I will be going. And an important piece of that daily itinerary is making sure that there is enough time for myself with God. The time with God each day makes the journey easier when I encounter a difficult situation and a more joyous event in the ongoing relationships with others. There could never be enough future planning when it comes to traveling with God. God will make us know the ways we should walk so that our souls will always be lifted up to Him. And when we come to the end of this earthly journey, somewhat tired of all that we have accomplished, may all of our plans and expectations come to awesome fruitions in the Kingdom of God!

Licensed Insurance Agents Needed

Do you know a licensed insurance agent in your area? Maybe he or she would be interested in selling for FCSLA, bringing new members to your branch. Why not recommend this person to the FCSLA Home Office to be contracted with the Association. Your recommendation will help build your branch membership and contribute to the success of FCSLA. We have a lot to offer professional agents and they have a lot to offer us. Please call Patrick Braun, National Sales Manager at 800-464-4642 ext.1018 with the name and phone number of your candidate. Patrick will do the rest. Thanks in advance for your help!!

EVERYONE NEEDS AN ESTATE PLAN



Patrick Braun

A common misconception is that estate planning is something that only the rich or the elderly need. The fact is that **everyone** should have an estate plan. While the estate planning process may be viewed as unpleasant, the family of the deceased will have to address the estate administration whether or not it has been planned for. Planning and having the proper documents makes it easier, quicker, and less costly.

Here are the basic documents everyone should have to protect themselves and their families:

- Will and/or trust agreement
- Durable financial power of attorney (addresses financial issues if you are incapacitated)
- Health care power of attorney (addresses medical decisions in case you are incapacitated)
- Declaration of a desire for a natural death (often referred to as a living will)

In the event that you do not have one or more of these documents, I suggest that you make an appointment with an attorney that specializes in estate planning and start the process.

In addition to estate documents, it is also important to address life insurance needs. Policies bought in the past may not be adequate today. A thorough review by a life insurance professional will help you determine whether you have the right kind and the right amount of life insurance to meet current and future needs. The cost of final expenses and family income needs have increased dramatically over the years and will continue to increase. **Having an adequate amount of life insurance is one of the most important estate planning strategies you can have!** FCSLA has several types of permanent life insurance which will bring liquidity to your plan.

You may be aware that the effect of the federal estate tax has been lessened and, with no changes, will disappear

in two years for one year. But there is a "sunset" provision in that legislation and, without renewal, the estate tax can reappear in full force the very next year! With a different congress in power and the huge budget deficits, you can be sure that the federal estate tax will be back in some form and, for those individuals who have accumulated some wealth, good estate planning will be critical to preserve that wealth for their families.

Aside from the avoidance of taxes, there are other good reasons to have an estate plan. Planning for disabled relatives, protecting family members who may be taken advantage of when inheriting assets, and passing sentimental items to specific family members are just a few. **When should you start the estate planning process? I would say that right now is as good a time as any!**

Pat Braun, FIC, CLU, LUTCF
National Sales Manager

FCSLA SALES LEADERS FOR 2007

Face Amount of Life Insurance

Steven Flaten	Eau Clair, WI	\$7,232,874
Darin Sterup	Osceola, NE	1,872,559
Gerald Bender	Nebraska City, NE	1,655,607
Ted Miller	Madison, WI	1,429,320
Kirk Harrington	Loup City, NE	1,182,367
Thomas Young	Beaver Park, PA	950,440
Mark Whitsett	Spring Park, MN	933,078
Lucille Kremlacek	Malmö, NE	766,000
Frank Cesarek	Rockford, IL	762,220
Kenneth Lee	Fergus Falls, MN	753,162

Total Certificates

Lucille Kremlacek	Malmö, NE	57
Dorothy Urbanowicz	Monessen, PA	42
Darin Sterup	Osceola, NE	40
Ted Miller	Madison, WI	35
Steven Stemper	Omaha, NE	29
Ronald Paseka	Prague, NE	26
Karen Ruby	Council Bluffs, IA	25
Kirk Harrington	Loup City, NE	22
Mark Whitsett	Spring Park, MN	21
Bill Liptak	Streator, IL	21

New Members

Lucille Kremlacek	Malmö, NE	36
Ted Miller	Madison, WI	29
Dorothy Urbanowicz	Monessen, PA	26
Karen Ruby	Council Bluffs, IA	22
Steven Stemper	Omaha, NE	21
Kirk Harrington	Loup City, NE	17
Darin Sterup	Osceola, NE	16
Mark Whitsett	Spring Park, MN	16
Wayne Klein	Britt, IA	11
Name Withheld		11



A SILVER CELEBRATION IN MILWAUKEE

On April 12, the Louise M. Yash District of Wisconsin held a party at the Venice Club to celebrate its 25th anniversary. The district is named after a National President of FCSLA who served from 1976 through 1983. Our district was established in early 1983 with four branches. Today we have nine branches, and sales last year were over 10 million dollars. We are proud of our accomplishments, excellent standing in membership and insurance sales and commendable involvement in local and ethnic activities.

Nearly 100 members and guests came to enjoy an afternoon of fraternalism. Our guests of the day were Mary Ann Johaneck, our National President; Irene Drotleff, National Secretary; and Rosemary Mlinarich, First Vice-President. Also present were Pat Braun, Joe Ledvora, and some of our friends from the Indiana and Illinois Districts.

The participants enjoyed a tasty lunch, a yummy dessert, and music by the Beverly White Orchestra. At the conclusion of the festivities, everyone was presented with a copy of the District's cookbook with its member's favorite recipes. Some lucky individuals also won beautiful angel lamps that were the centerpieces. Our district will continue to be an active, productive entity of fraternalism. We pray God will continue to bless our Louise M. Yash District and our beloved FCSLA!



L-R, front row: Mary Jo Noyes, Rosemary Mlinarich, Mary Ann Johaneck, Irene Drotleff. Back row: Betty Novak, Pat Braun, Mary Kebisek, Fred Forrest, Virginia Sedlacek, Joe Ledvora, Bob Budjac, and Kathy Valent.



From the Desk of the Fraternal and Youth Director

Just a note to let you know how much our society appreciates all those who have returned information forms or participated in the following activities:

- ❖ Branch Questionnaire
- ❖ Fraternal Activity Report
- ❖ National Volunteer Week
- ❖ Fraternalist of the Year Program
- ❖ Join Hands Day
- ❖ Youth Activities in the Magazine or on our Website
- ❖ The Youth Challenge

Everyone has many obligations in their busy daily lives so when you make an effort to reply with your ideas, suggestions, or information, it is greatly appreciated. As your new Fraternal and Youth Director, it is very exciting receiving mail from our membership. I am impressed when I read the letters or forms that are returned stating all the time and energy our membership puts in their volunteer efforts. Our society appreciates all that you do. In the future, I will have an article sharing some of these good

works. You may want to share your story of where you volunteer with our membership? If you do, kindly send it to the Home Office, to my attention and I will include your volunteer efforts in the article.

We have many informative articles, events, and news to share on our website, **FCSLA.ORG**. The pages on the website are designed to inform, entertain, and alert our members and prospective members with updated information concerning our organization. Your branch has the opportunity to submit your event by clicking on the **SUBMIT YOUR EVENT LINK**, on the **CALENDAR PAGE** or sending the information and photos to the Home Office.

May God watch over you, protect you, and love you, every day of your life.

Fraternally,
Sue Ann M. Seich



Sue Ann M. Seich

Celebrates Golden Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Carda, Branch W093 of Tabor, SD celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on July 2, 2008.

Darlene Kozak and Lawrence Carda were married on July 2, 1958 at St. Wenceslaus Church in Tabor, SD. Joining them in their celebration are their four daughters and spouses and grandchildren: Claudette and Ray Johnson of Fort Sill, OK; Carmen and John LaCava of Quakertown, PA; Christine and Mark Young of St. Cloud, MN; Crystal and Kevin Gerry of Tea, SD. They have 11 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. May God Bless our anniversary couple!

60th Anniversary Observed



A Mass and Open House celebrating the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Leo and Theresa Doll of Perham, MN was held on Sunday, June 1, 2008, at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, Rush Lake, MN. It was hosted by their children, Michael, Stephen, Patricia, Judith, Ronald, Dorothy, Elaine, Joan and Joseph, their 28 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. They were married June 2, 1948 at St. Henry's Catholic Church, Perham, MN. Leo is a member of Branch W500. May God Bless our anniversary couple!



Graduates with Master's Degree

Heather Kopeck Stupay, Branch 485 of Naperville, IL received her Master's Degree in Commerce from DePaul University in May 2008. Heather graduated magna cum laude from Robert Morris College with a Bachelor's Degree in Business and was a 1998 recipient of a FCSLA scholarship as well as a scholarship from Robert Morris College.

Heather is the daughter of Colleen Kopeck, Financial Secretary-Treasurer of Branch 382. Her grandmother Margaret Gaba and Aunt Deanna Hull are Secretary and President of Branch 485 respectively. The families of the above mentioned are all members of the FCSLA as well! Congratulations Heather!!

WEST POINT GRADUATE

Members of FCSLA Branch 452, Whiting, IN are proud of Lt. Stephen Felicichia, a recent graduate of the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY.

Stephen has been a member of Branch 452 since birth; in fact, the entire Felicichia family are FCSLA members. Lt. Felicichia is the great-nephew of Mary Blake and Elizabeth Dedinsky, President and Secretary-Treasurer of Branch 452.



MARY SEMANCIK CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY



Mary Margaret Semancik, celebrated her 100th birthday on June 23, 2008. Mary was born in Hecla, PA in 1908, and she married Andrew Semancik (deceased) in August 1925. They raised their six children, Margie, Delores, Andy, Tom, Bette and Patrick in Clarksville, PA.



Mary has 10 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. There was a small birthday reception at Richardson's Rest Home, where she now resides.

Branch News from Tabor, South Dakota

On December 2, Branch W093 celebrated Christmas with a potluck dinner and cookie exchange. We also honored our 50-year members, two of whom were in attendance, Monica Dwyer and Terry Sestak. 50-year members unable to attend the celebration were Ron Koupal, Jean Cimpl, Thomas Kortan.

Dennis Povondra was also honored as our Branch "Fraternalist of the Year," as well as being the FCSLA's "Fraternalist of the Year."



Donna Adam, former treasurer of Branch W093.

Donna Adam was given special recognition for her many years of serving as our branch treasurer. Donna not only kept the books for the branch, but also purchased the door prizes and other supplies for our holiday parties and special events.

A short meeting was held following the dinner. Afterwards bingo was

played and refreshments were enjoyed. St. Nicholas also visited and everyone was given a bag of Christmas treats to take home.

On December 30, we celebrated the "Feast of the Holy Family" with mass and potluck brunch afterwards. We also honored our 2007-2008 scholarship winners.

Receiving our branch scholarship this year was Mark Povondra, son of Dennis and Sherry Povondra. Mark is a freshman at Dakota State University in Madison, SD. Receiving the FCSLA national scholarships were Chris Thoene, a senior at South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD, Curtis Thoene, a sophomore at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, NE, sons of Ken and Mary Thoene, and Paul Sestak, a sophomore at Lake Area Vocational Institute, Watertown, SD, son of Terry and Eileen Sestak.

Unable to attend was Ronda (Burbach) Mayrose, national winner who is a junior at the University of South Da-

kota, Vermillion, SD. Ronda is married to Bryce Mayrose and they have two children. Ronda's parents are Ron and Janet Burbach.

Sadly, Ronda's twin sister Janelle was to also receive a national scholarship, but passed away in June 2007 following a brief illness. Janell was an active youth member and her cheerful and energetic personality was an inspiration to us all. Janelle would also have been a junior at the University of South Dakota.

Congratulations to these fine people!

Vincentian Sisters of Charity to Host Sister Survivors Program

In 1992, when the U.S. Catholic bishops asked for Sisters to volunteer to help rebuild the church in Central and Eastern Europe after the fall of Communism, Sisters Margaret Nacke and Sister Mary Savoie of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kansas were among the 200 that responded. They were assigned to Romania to help with curriculum development in the Catholic School of Nursing. During their one-month stay there, they decided to focus on the education of the Sisters. From 1993 to 2000, Srs. Margaret and Mary made nine trips to Romania. They led workshops for formation directors, established the Romanian Leadership Conference for Women Religious and continued to hear stories of sisters living under communism.

In 2003, they began visiting other Eastern European countries for the purpose of collecting oral stories. Working through the leadership conference for women religious in each of the seven countries: Lithuania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Hungary, Ukraine, Romania, and the Czech Republic, Sisters Margaret and Mary first interviewed the older Sisters and then those of the women who entered as "secret Sisters" during communism. They were amazed at how willing the Sisters were to share information. Sister Margaret thinks it is because when you go through a horrific experience, it is important to know that someone cares. Hearing others share their stories, often gives another the courage she needs to talk, thus starting the healing process.

The two American Sisters planned and facilitated a conference in Ukraine: "Our Common Mission and Commitment-Lessons from Sister Survivors of European Communism" that brought together Sisters from former communist countries to share with each other.

Twenty-three participants representing sixteen congregations and ten countries, each speaking a different language shared their stories with the help of translators. When asked by the participants why Sisters from America care about them, Sister Mary answered, "Because you are our Sisters."

Sister Margaret feels that North Americans can learn much from hearing these survival stories. "The Sisters kept



L-R: Dennis Povondra, Monica Dwyer, and Terry Sestak.

continued on page 15

Youth Challenge #3

Learning Slovak



You will earn the third piece to the puzzle by completing, "I am learning 'SLOVAK' challenge." Depending on your age, your challenge is to find the English translation to the Slovak words in your section. You will notice that each section gets a little more difficult. The younger ones will have less to do and the older ones will have more sections to do in order to complete the challenge. Remember, the younger ones will need assistance but this brings families together, working together, having fun and enjoying each other's company.

Of course, we are counting on you to use your investigative skills to find the translation to the words or phrases. (HINT!!) There are books at the library, websites, or family members that may be able to help you. If you cannot find help, make a phone call to Sue Ann at 1-800-464-4642, EXT. #1051 or E-mail her at: sueann@fcsla.org, she will be happy to give you some hints.

After you finish filling in your required sections on page 9, simply fill in the form below and mail it in to Sue Ann. Keep in mind that this challenge is meant to be fun, but also to learn some of the words or phrases in our "native tongue". Why not use some of these words you learned in this challenge and impress your family? I know you can make this challenge an enjoyable one!



NAME _____ AGE _____ BRANCH _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

WHAT RESOURCES DID YOU USE? _____

DID SOMEONE HELP YOU? YES ☐ NO ☐ IF YES, WHO HELPED? _____

DID YOU HAVE FUN? _____ WILL YOU USE SOME OF THESE WORDS? YES ☐ NO ☐



Youth Challenge #3 Learning Slovak

Mail form to:

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

Deadline: AUGUST 25, 2008

Let's Learn Slovak



Make sure you do the SECTIONS for your age group!!

AGES 0-5 (This section only.)

MATKA _____

OTEC _____

PROSIM _____

DAKUJEM _____

AGES 6-9 (The section below and the one above.)

STARA MATKA _____

STARY OTEC _____

DOBRE _____

ZLE _____

AGES 10-14 (The section below and the two above.)

SESTRA _____

BRAT _____

HORUCI _____

ZIMNY _____

RANO _____

NOC _____

AGES 15-18 (The section below and the three above.)

TETKA _____

STRYK _____

OTAZKA _____

ODPOVED _____

MOKRY _____

SUCHY _____

BOZK _____

VODA _____

AGES 19-21 (Entire Page)

POZDRAV _____

PAMAT _____

MODLIT' SA _____

ESTERAZ _____

PISOMME _____

RODINA _____

L'UDSKE PRAVA _____

PREHLASENIE NEODVISLOSTI _____

PO SLOVENSKY _____

PO ANGLICKY _____

DOBRY DEN! AKO SA MATE? _____

DOBRU NOC _____

BOH JE DOBRY _____



Hint!

Some of the words above have to do with family feelings, and every day happenings. **ENJOY!!**

Branches 46 and 140 Joins Hands with Our Lady of the Angels Academy

Junior Branch 46, Senior Branch 140 and the students from Our Lady of the Angels Academy, Lansford, PA worked together as partners to improve their community by planting vegetables in the garden of a special needs group home. This effort will provide some extra special food, but will also allow the guests of the house to watch and take care of the plants.



Vice President Mary Ciganek and President Veronica Bazik along with students from OLAA pause for a moment while planting vegetables and flowers at the Spectrum Manor in Lansford, PA.



Students of OLAA and branch officers joining hands while planting vegetables and flowers at Spectrum Manor.



Students from OLAA pause to visit with residents and staff at the Spectrum Manor.



President Veronica Bazik presents a plant to one of the residents of the Spectrum Manor while Mary Ciganek, VP and branch members Tootsie Orsulak and Mike Bazik look on.



Join Hands Day Project Assists Mission Efforts in The Dominican Republic

Our Lady of the Angels Academy, the local elementary Catholic school in Lansford, PA joined together with FCSLA Junior Branch 46 and Senior Branch 140 and requested that each grade gather a product that could be used by the people of the Dominican Republic. Father George Winne of Marian Catholic High School will accompany two Catholic high school girls for the two-week stay this summer. These young people will then distribute the goods to the locals. Sister Lisa Valentini M.S.C. a graduate of Marian High School, will oversee this venture and also assist the youths in building and renewing some projects that are important to the local community. The response was tremendous and the FCSLA branches also gave Fr. Winne a check to help offset the shipping costs. In the past years our branches have sponsored young people to travel with Father Winne to the Dominican Republic to do missionary work. Fraternalism is alive and well in Lansford, PA.



L-R: Officers and members of Branch 140 present Fr. George Winne with a donation for the missionary project in the Dominican Republic. From L-R: Louise Dunstan, Michael Bazik, Fr. George Winne, Veronica Bazik and Mary Ciganek.

Branch W077 Brings Bingo to Nursing Home

Nine members of West Branch W077 along with thirty-seven residents of West Haven Nursing Home enjoyed playing bingo in a Join Hands Day project. All residents of the Nursing Home were able to participate in at least one game of bingo. The residents and volunteers had an enjoyable time.



**HAVE YOU SIGNED UP
A NEW MEMBER THIS MONTH?**



Yankee Stadium NEW YORK

Pope Benedict XVII

April 20, 2008



Through a Diocesan lottery drawing, one hundred lucky Clevelanders were privileged to win tickets to attend Pope Benedict's Mass at Yankee Stadium. Among the attendees was Fr. Jerome Lajack, President of Branch 408; Colette Peters, a member of Branch 408; and Mary Maher, an employee at St. Wendelin Parish.

On the day of Pope Benedict's Mass at Yankee Stadium, the gates opened at 9:00 a.m. As the congregation streamed in under very tight security, there was a feeling of great excitement and anticipation in the air.

The outfield walls were draped in white with purple and yellow bunting. A large white altar was located by second base, and the papal seal covered the pitcher's mound. A security guard maintained that the umpire's locker room was turned into a suite with new carpeting, gold curtains, fresh flowers, and candles for the pope to prepare for the celebration of mass.

At noon the stadium was effectively sealed for security reasons. A two hour musical performance entertained the crowd of approximately 60,000 people. Among the performers were the Harlem Gospel Choir; the Irish tenor, Ronan Tynan; the Italian tenor, Marcello Giordani; Puerto Rican singer and guitarist, Jose Feliciano; soul singer, Stephanie Mills; and jazz and pop singer, Harry Connick Jr.

At 2:00 p.m., Pope Benedict XVI entered the stadium. The crowd rose to its feet and began roaring like a wave. They cheered, clapped, and waved white and yellow handkerchiefs as the pope walked to the popemobile. As the popemobile slowly carried Pope Benedict around the outer perimeter of the ballpark, there were joyfull cheers and shouts, "Benedicto, we love you, Benedicto!" The pope reached out to the crowd. It appeared he was trying to touch everyone from the box seats to the bleachers. As he made his way to the altar, he held the 19th century cross of Pope Pius IX.

"Most Holy Father, welcome to New York," said Cardinal Egan as the mass began, and the crowd cheered once again as the pope rose from his chair and waved. The mass lasted two hours and fifteen minutes. During his homily, the pope told the congregation that the United States was a land where Catholics found freedom to practice the faith, and participate in civic life to the fullest extend. "The gospel teaches us that true freedom, the freedom of the children of

God, is found only in self-surrender which is part of the mystery of love. Only by losing ourselves, the Lord tells us, do we truly find ourselves."

Five hundred and thirty priests and deacons distributed Holy Communion. At the closing of the mass, Pope Benedict conferred his apostolic blessing on all those present. As he journeyed around the stadium to bid farewell, strains of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" filled the air. People lingered in the stadium long after Pope Benedict had departed. It seemed that they were reluctant to leave the place where so much peace and joy filled the air and their hearts. His visit touched the lives of so many on that cool but sunny April day! It was truly an uplifting and unforgettable experience!

5th Generation Member

Alec Joshua Novotney became the 5th generation to hold FCSLA membership. Alec's family includes great-grandmother Mary Chistoff; grandmother Maryann Pedelty; grandfather Scott Novotney, all of Streator, IL. Alec was born on December 12th, 2007 to proud parents Josh and Sonja Novotney of Aurora, IL.



L-R: Maryann Pedelty, Josh Novotney holding Alec Novotney, Scott Novotney, and Mary Christoff.

Branch 376 Spring Meeting Recently Held

On Saturday, April 19th, members of Branch 376 in Milwaukee, WI gathered for their Spring Meeting at Klemmer's Banquet Center. Vice President Mary Jo Noyes officiated at this meeting and warmly welcomed our new Secretary/Treasurer, Richard Bozek, who entertained everyone with a few jokes.

Our 50-year member, Mary Petersen, was honored but, unfortunately, was unable to attend. Mary is a founding member and coordinator of the Slovak Tatra Dancers, who toured Slovakia again in 2007. Branch 376 donated \$2,000 to the Tatra Dancers to help fund that trip; and Mary had recently sent a note of thanks to the branch. Members also voted to sponsor Pat Roth for her Walk for the American Cancer Society with a \$100 donation.

All were reminded to mark their calendars for the up-

coming meetings for 2008: Fall Meeting on September 20th and Christmas Meeting on December 13th (call Richard Bozek at 262-251-9372 for reservations-no charge for members). Volunteers signed up for helping at the Slovak Picnic on July 13th at Croatian Park and for Join Hands Day on May 17th at the Veterans Hospital. Members were also reminded to sign up for the bus trip to Indiana for St. Ann's Day on July 26th through the Louise M. Yash District. We wish all a wonderful and relaxing summer!

Branch & District Bits



LUNCHEON MEETING HELD IN OREGON — Pat Braun, our National Sales Manager, recently attended a Branch W139 meeting in Scappoose, OR. Currently, this is the only FCSLA Branch in Oregon and members are working hard to build their branch. Pat introduced a new General Agent Mr. Hibbler and the group of 20 members exchanged ideas with Pat and enjoyed a delicious luncheon!



Virginia Holmes, National Trustee, recently presented the XXXIX Convention's \$10,000 donation to Rev. Thomas Sparacino, pastor of St. Martin de Porres, McKeesport, PA, after Mass.



Whiting, Indiana Branch 81 Celebrates Mother's Day

On Wednesday, May 7, 2008, the Mural Room at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church School was full with members from Branch 81. This celebration was in honor of all the mothers in our branch.

President of Branch 81, Florence Hovanec conducted the meeting along with her officers and welcomed everyone.

Prayer was given by President Hovanec with a lunch following. The menu included salad, bread, fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy and Italian green beans. Dessert included cream puffs and chocolate sauce.

Margaret Abildua, President of the Helen Kocan District and Treasurer of Branch 81, held a memorial for all the deceased mothers of our branch. A table was decorated in typical May fashion with a statue of the Madonna in the center. Poems were read for the occasion by Dorothy Hoover, Auditor of Branch 81 and Becky Coleman, Treasurer of Jr. Branch 58.

Ed Bach, our agent for the Helen Kocan District, was also present and discussed plans for our Join Hands Day.

A raffle was conducted with prizes of share-the-pot and various door prizes. Also each table was decorated with a flower centerpiece which was given away to one member at each table. In honor of this occasion, a rose was presented to each mother, which ended this joyous celebration. This was an old tradition Branch 81 celebrated in the past and the current officers are glad to see this tradition brought back.



L-R: Dorothy Hoover (Branch 81 Auditor), Marge Strbjak (Branch 58 Auditor), Florence Hovanec (Branch 81 President).



L-R: Ann Okerstrom (Branch 58 Financial Secretary), Ed Bock (Agent), Ann Ruff (Branch 81 Auditor).



L-R: Donnee Sabol (Branch 81 Secretary), Dorothy Hoover (Branch 81 Auditor), Marjorie Strbjak (Branch 58 Auditor)



The Markovich Family.

Interesting Facts About Slovakia

- ❖ The official name of Slovakia is the Slovenska Republika (The Slovak Republic).
- ❖ Slovakia is situated in Central Europe and spreads over an area of approximately 49,000 sq km.
- ❖ The official language of Slovakia is Slovak. However, Hungarian, Romani, Ukranian, Czech and German are also spoken there.
- ❖ The currency of Slovakia is Slovenska koruna (Slovak crown).
- ❖ The women of Slovakia, along with Lithuania and Poland, marry the youngest (at around 24 years) in the European Union.
- ❖ It is estimated that in 2008, Slovakia will be the biggest per capita car producer in the world.
- ❖ Slovakia has plans to adopt Euro as its currency on 1st January 2009.
- ❖ Štefan Banič, a Slovak, invented the first actively used parachute, patenting it in 1913.

Vincentian Sisters of Charity to Host Sister Survivors Program

continued from page 7

faithful — that was what sustained them. They tried to maintain a close connection with the local priests and to find ways to have religious services in secret. Prayer and community life gave them much courage and strength.”

Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, a member of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, PA is a member of the Resource Council for this project. Thousands of Sisters were in Europe during the communist regime, says Sister Barbara, and since the communist fall, they have continued their work. Today in Romania, for example, there are 55 orders of Catholic religious. The founding Sisters of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity who came to Pittsburgh, PA in 1902, were Slovak Sisters whose Motherhouse was located in Szatmar, Romania.

On Tuesday, July 8, 2008, Sisters Margaret and Mary will present “Sister Survivors of European Communism: Witnesses to Faith,” at the Vincentian Sisters Motherhouse, 8200 McKnight Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15237 at 2 p.m. The public is invited.

For information on other presentation sites contact Sister Mihalchick at 724-438-7149.

To make a donation to the project, send contributions to Sisters of St. Joseph, 602 20th St., Belleville, KS 66935.

GUIDELINES FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

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

Carolyn M. Bazik

Ohio Fraternal Congress 2008 Scholarship

The Ohio Fraternal Congress annually awards two (2) college scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

Scholarship applications may be obtained from:

Call Barbara Sekerak at 216.676.9332
Completed applications must be received
by August 1, 2008

Scholarship Applicant Requirements

1. Applicant must be an Ohio resident and a member of a fraternal society belonging to the Ohio Fraternal Congress. (Exception: United Commercial Travelers members' children who are 17 years old or less may apply).
2. Applicant must be a 2008 high school graduate.
3. Applicant must submit a 200 word essay entitled: The Role of Volunteerism in America
4. Completed application must be mailed to the attention of:

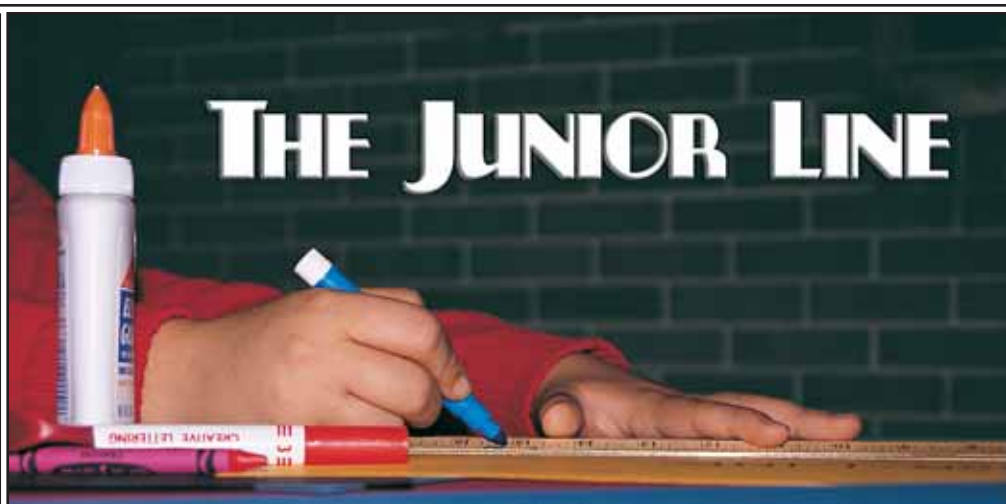
Ohio Fraternal Congress Scholarship
c/o Barbara A. Sekerak
6312 Elmdale Road
Brook Park, Ohio 44142

Bishop David Zubik Honored

A commencement dinner was held recently at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, PA, honoring Bishop David Zubik of Diocese of Pittsburgh with an Honorary Degree. Our National Trustee Cynthia Maleski presented Bishop Zubik with a monetary gift from FCSLA.



L-R: Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki, Frank Hromyak, Bishop David A. Zubik, Mary Lipovsky, Joann Molscan, Andrew Breznai, National Trustee Cynthia Maleski, Agnes Farcosky, Jane Hudock and seated Margaret J. Breznai (on far left President of St. Vincent College, H. James Towey).



DALLAS JACQUELINE NOVAK of East Long Meadow, MA recently received her First Holy Communion. She is pictured with proud mother Anne (center) and her sister Katie (right). All are members of Branch 529. Dallas is the goddaughter of President Ralph Szubski and niece of Branch Officer Kathy Novak.



Bowling Party a Success!

FCSLA Branch W001 of New Prague, MN held a Youth Bowling Party on Sunday, April 20, 2008 at Strike Force Bowl in New Prague. The youth and their families enjoyed bowling, pizza and soda. Door prizes were also awarded to all the youth attending.



OWEN A. BANSEK received his First Holy Communion on May 4 at the Church of St. Peter in Lorain, OH, where he is in the second grade.

Owen and his brother, Ethan, are members of Branch 198 in Lorain. They are sons of Edward and Paula Bansek, both members of St. Ann's Sr. Branch 114.



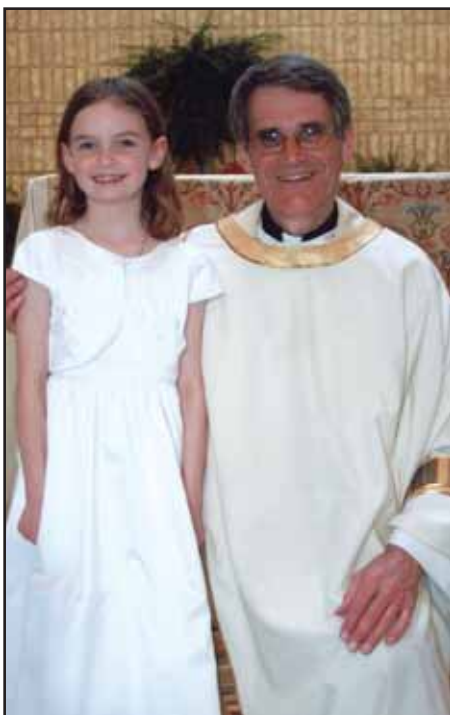
JESSE ELIZABETH SIMENDINGER was Confirmed and received her First Holy Communion on April 6, 2008, at Mount Saint Peter's Church, New Kensington, PA. She is the daughter of Timothy and Diane Aiken Simendinger.

She is in the second grade and plays the piano and softball.

Jesse and her sister Leah are members of Jr. Branch 56.



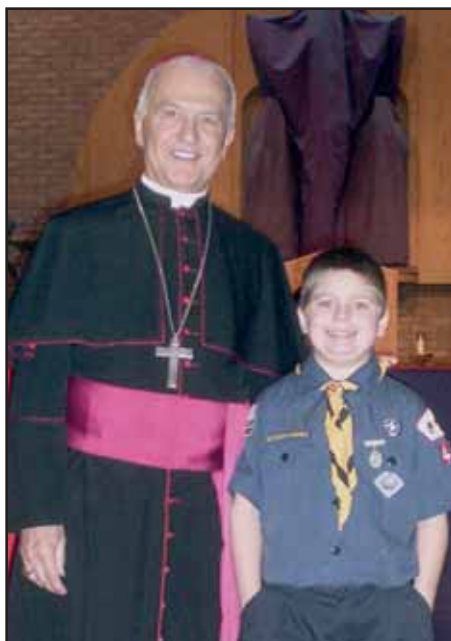
Front row, L-R:
Chloe Coldagelli
and Julia Bisk.
Back row: Josh
Bisk, Sammi
Bisk, Michael
Coldagelli, Andrew
Maruska, and
Amanda Maruska.



ERIN KATHLEEN KROTZ, Branch W045 of Cedar Rapids, IA, received her First Communion on April 26, 2008 at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Mound, MN. Erin is in the 3rd grade and enjoys reading, animals and ice hockey. She is the daughter of Paul and Kathy Krotz of Maple Plain, MN and granddaughter of Wayne and Mary Ellen Krotz of Cedar Rapids, all members of Branch W045. Pictured with Erin is Father Stan Mader.



REAGAN J. KLAPAK met former President Bill Clinton at a rally for his wife, Senator Hillary Clinton that was held on May 1, 2008 at the Whiting High School gym. Reagan is a 7-month-old member of Jr. Branch 58. His proud Mother Jennifer and Grandma Carol Lukasik are members of Sr. Branch 81.



PATRICK OLENIK of Jr. Branch 432 had the opportunity to meet Bishop Dale Melczek at a Mass celebrating boy scouts who earned religious medals. Patrick, a 2nd grader at St. Mary's Catholic Community School in Crown Point, IN, is a member of Pack 45. He received his Light of Christ medal this year. Patrick is the son of Mark and Sherry Olenik of Hebron, IN, the grandson of Mike and Peggy Szany, and great-grandson of Joe and the late Dorothy Szany, a former branch secretary.

ABIGAIL MARIE WITULSKI received her First Holy Communion at St. Joseph's Church, Beatrice, NE, on April 20, 2008. She is the daughter of Susan and Mike Witulski.

Abigail is in the 2nd grade. She enjoys dance, gymnastics and art.

She and her sister Madison and brothers Parker and Preston are all members of Branch W187.



BEAU WALSH made his First Holy Communion in April 2008 at St. Joseph Parish Church in Vancouver, WA.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Trevor Walsh of Vancouver and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Novacek (Yvonne Liska) of Portland, OR. They are all members of Branch W139 of Scappoose, OR.



JONATHAN ROBERT TAPOCIK was born September 29, 2007. He is the son of Jonathan Edward and Kristen Tapocik, grandson of Edward and Margaret Tapocik, and great-nephew of Virginia Holmes, National Trustee. Jonathan is the fifth generation of his family to become a FCSLA member.

Officers and members of McKeesport Branch 32 welcome Jonathan and congratulate his proud parents.





IN MEMORIAM

LAWRENCE JAMES BOUC **Branch W187**

VALPARAISO, NE—Lawrence J. Bouc, died in a roll-over accident involving a farm implement he was driving on May 16, 2008. He had been President of Branch W187 going back to the Catholic Workman days before they were acquired by the FCSLA in 2005. Larry worked hard to not only sustain, but to increase the number of FCSLA members and activities available at Branch W187. Under his leadership, Branch W187 initiated a branch scholarship program and other fundraisers which benefited the local parish as well as religious orders with members from the parish.

Lawrence Bouc was born on July 6, 1936 in Wahoo, NE to George Sr. and Blanche (Pekarek) Bouc. Larry and his brother George boarded with family while he attended St. Wenceslaus School in Wahoo through the 10th grade. He graduated from Ceresco High School in 1954 and continued the family farming operation until he was called to serve in the Air National Guard from 1961 to 1964.

Larry was united in marriage to Therese Vrbka on October 3, 1964 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Ulysses, NE. They made their home on a farm northwest of Ceresco where Larry raised livestock and various crops. Larry always held a special fondness for Allis Chalmers tractors.

Larry was a parishioner at Sts. Mary and Joseph Catholic Church in Valparaiso, NE where he served as a lector. In addition to his branch duties for the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, he was on the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Chapter of the Nebraska Czech Language Club, a member of the Lincoln Chapter of Nebraska Czechs; a member of the Knights of Columbus Council #8625, served two terms on the Ceresco Coop Board, was on the Board of School District #118, and was a member of American Legion Post #244.

He is survived by his wife, Therese, who acts as the Secretary/Treasurer of Branch W187, daughters and sons-in-law, Kathy McIntosh, Karen and Tom Dul, Cheryl and Patrick Walla, sons and daughter-in-law, Mark, Jason and Cyndi, eight grandchildren, brother and sister-in-law, George and Carol Bouc, and nephew Brian Bouc.

His leadership, guidance and zest for life will be greatly missed by his family and friends at Branch W187!

JOSEPH G. LUKES **Branch W039**

WATERLOO, IA—Joseph Lukes died March 29, 2008 at Allen Memorial Hospital in Waterloo, IA. He was 89 years of age.

Joseph Godlove Lukes was born on July 26, 1918 in Utica Township, Chickasaw County, IA, south west of Protivin, the son of Godlove G. and Cecelia T. (Novak) Lukes. He was baptized and confirmed in his faith at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church, where he remained a member his entire life. Joe received his education in the rural school near his home. Following his education, he returned to the farm, which besides his wife, remained the love of his life.

Joe entered the U.S. Army on August 22, 1942 and received his training in the operation of high technical anti-aircraft automatic rapid fire weapons. He was stationed in Bakersfield, CA. Joe was discharged on April 23, 1944 and returned to Protivin to live and farm.

On June 20, 1944, Joseph G. Lukes was united in marriage to his sweetheart, Eleanor Zahasky, who had been his neighbor, in the Holy Trinity Church at Protivin, IA, by the Rev. Wenceslaus Hradecky. They started their married life on Joe's uncle's farm in Howard County, where they lived for the next twenty years and raised their two children. Then Joe and Nora purchased the farm in Chickasaw County, where they had lived until they entered the Western Home Assisted Living Facility in

Cedar Falls, IA in 2005, to be closer to family.

Joe loved to fish, bowl, and visit with neighbors and friends and above all, he loved his family, his parents, and his siblings.

Joe was a lifetime member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus Council #2744, and the American Legion Post #605. He served on the County Extension Board and on the Executive Board for the Catholic Workman Society for 20 years and as a Treasurer and agent on the local branch level for 40 years. Joe was also an Eucharist Minister of his church for 25 years.

Surviving Joe are his wife Nora of Cedar Falls, IA; one daughter Judy (Jean) Cogdall of Sterling, IL; one son Steve (Sharon) Lukes of Waterloo, IA; a brother Bob of Mason City, IA; sisters-in-law Helen and Anne Lukes; four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Godlove and Cecelia Lukes; one sister Helen Pechota, and three brothers, Daniel, Arthur and Wilmer Lukes.

Services were held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Protivin, IA, officiated by Rev. David M. Beckman. Interment was in Holy Trinity Cemetery in Protivin, IA.

ELIZABETH STASKO **Branch 230**

CEDARBROOK, PA—Elizabeth "Betty" Stasko, 97, of Cedarbrook, South Whitehall Township, and formerly of Hokensauqua, died on April 22, 2008 in Cedarbrook.

In her earlier years Elizabeth was a textile factory worker. Afterwards, she worked as a domestic for many years. She enjoyed gardening, long walks, visiting with friends and playing bingo.

She was predeceased by her Slovak immigrant parents, Andrew and Anna (Dill) Stasko, six brothers and three sisters. She was a member of St.

Andrew's Catholic Church, North Catasauqua.

Survivors include several nieces and nephews.

Services were held at the O'Donnell Funeral Home followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at the church. Interment was in St. Andrew's Cemetery, North Catasauqua.

IRENE M. KOEHLER **Branch 230**

WHITEHALL, PA—Irene M. Koehler, 98, of Whitehall, formerly of Catasauqua, passed away April 1, 2008, in Fellowship Manor in Whitehall. She was the wife of the late Paul J. Koehler. Born in Hokensauqua, Irene was a daughter of the Kostantin and Mary Patrouch. She was a member of St. Andrew's Catholic Church in North Catasauqua. For many years, Irene volunteered at the Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown.

Survivors include several nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Andrew's Catholic Church.

ANNA VIDA **Branch 295**

BERWYN, IL—Anna Vida, 100, passed away December 28, 2007, in her home.

She was born on April 20, 1907 in Dolna Suca, Slovakia to Ondrej and Mary Kucera Michalik the second of 5 children and the oldest daughter. She immigrated to America when she was 22 years old to join cousins who were here.

In 1934, she married Martin P. Vida in Chicago, IL, whose family also was from Slovakia and he preceded her in death in 1976.

She was a sales associate in the clothing industry for many years and active in the Slovak Athletic Association of Chicago and was president of Sr. Branch 503, now defunct. An accomplished cook and baker, par excel-

lance, she missed being able to continue these activities.

She is survived by her daughter, Mary Ann (John) Gardelka, three granddaughters, 2 great-granddaughters, and one great-grandson, and many nieces and nephews in America and also in Slovakia.

She was preceded in death by her beloved son Fred (Kathleen) Vida, daughter Pauline (Palmer) Cleveland and brothers and sisters in Slovakia.

A 63-year member of St. Leonard Church in Berwyn. Interment was in Resurrection Cemetery in Justice, IL.

JOHN S. "GUS" GOLIAS **Branch 490**



John Golias was born May 4, 1923 in Johnstown PA. He died February 27, 2008.

He was the husband of the late Helen L. Golias, National Treasurer FCSLA 1976-1997.

He was a veteran of World War II.

Mr. Golias is survived by children JoAnn (Mike) Youngblood, Kathy (John) Stedronsky, John, Therese, and Gary (Rose); a brother Steve (Kit) Glass of Tustin, CA, and Verna Pocta of Virginia Beach, VA; grandchildren Sara Stedronsky, Jackie and Greg Golias.

Proceeded in death by brothers Charles, Michael, Thomas and George, and sisters Mary, Genevieve, and Margaret Rominske.

Funeral was at the Church of the Assumption in Brecksville OH.

RICHARD A. KAMAN **Branch 161**

NORTON, OH—Richard A. Kaman, 51, passed away Tuesday, April 8, 2008 while visiting his daughter in Columbus.

He was born July 21, 1956 to Andrew and Dorothy (Hreha) Kaman in Akron, Ohio. He attended the University of

Akron and graduated from Ohio State in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry. He was employed by the Ohio Department of Health, Ricerca Research as an analytical chemist, AIM Research in Wilmington, DE and then for Dupont Chemical.

He was a member the American Chemical Society, FCSLU, Sokol, the NRA and the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.

He enjoyed the outdoors, golf, camping, fishing, boating, swimming, skiing and backpacking. He was a gourmet cook and loved Ohio State, Notre Dame, the Browns, Cavs and Indians.

Richard, in addition to his parents, is survived by his children, Jacquelin Marie (Jeremy) Burns of Columbus, OH and Allen Kaman of Dayton, OH; grandchildren, Elaina and Audrey Burns; brother and sisters, Mary Beth (Dr. Michael) Emming of West Chester, OH, Andrew P. Kaman of Akron, OH and Elaine (David Tibbals) Kaman of Rye, NY; aunts, Margaret Hreha of Cuyahoga Falls, OH, Theresa Dirx of Akron and Ameilia (Joseph) Kolar of Johnstown, PA; many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Augustine Catholic Church. Interment was in Holy Cross Cemetery.

WILLIAM FEJFAR **Branch W093**

TABOR, SD—William E. Fejfar, 94, of Tabor, SD, passed away early Wednesday, February 13, 2008, at the George S. Mickelson Center for the Neurosciences Care Center, Yankton, SD.

Bill was born June 21, 1913 on the family farm at Janousek, 6 miles east of Tabor, to George and Anna (Vavruska) Fejfar. He attended Peterka School, Utica High School, and Yankton High School.

He married Helen Sestak on September 15, 1936 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Tabor, SD.

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90th Anniversary of the Pittsburgh Agreement

On May 31 the Slovak community worldwide celebrated the 90th anniversary of the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement. It was on May 31, 1918 at the Loyal Order of Moose Building in downtown Pittsburgh, following a great manifestation of Slovak solidarity in which more than 10,000 took part, that Thomas G. Masaryk, who was to become the first president of Czecho-Slovakia, composed the document which was to guarantee the rights of the Slovaks within the political framework of the newly proposed Czecho-Slovak State.

Thomas Garrigue Masaryk was born in Moravia in 1850 of a Slovak father and Czech mother. In 1878, he married Charlotte Garrigue, the daughter of an American business executive, then studying in Europe. In 1916, together with the Slovak, General Milan R. Stefanik and another Czech, Eduard Benes, Masaryk organized the Czecho-Slovak National Council which sought the liberation of the Czechs and Slovaks from Austro-Hungarian domination. The Slovaks had been part of Hungary for nearly a thousand years, while the Czechs came under Austrian domination in the seventeenth century.

While the Slovak and Czech languages were closely related, the two peoples did not share a common history. The Czechs, and Masaryk proved an outstanding example, promoted an essentially rationalist philosophy while the Slovaks were conservative. Czechs have less respect for tradition while Slovaks have great respect for it.

With Allied victory assured, President Woodrow Wilson promoted the establishment of new nation states on the territory which had been Austria-Hungary. The movement for Czecho-Slovak liberation gained great strength among the Czechs while the Slovaks were less enthusiastic. It was the Slovak community in the United States, numbering about 600,000 in 1918, which led the cause of liberation for their brethren in their ancestral homeland. President Wilson had given his support for the establishment of a Czecho-Slovak state in the heart of central Europe. Masaryk needed Slovak support to convince Wilson of the plausibility of such a common state. On May 5, 1918, Masaryk and his movement for Czech liberation received an enthusiastic welcome in Chicago by a crowd of over 150,000. He was hailed as a liberator of the Czechs. He however needed Slovak support and thus made plans to greet the Slovaks in Pittsburgh which at the time had the largest concentration of Slovaks in the United States. Slovaks sought to learn of their plight in the new Czecho-Slovak Republic, since numerically, Czechs outnumbered them two to one.

The Pittsburgh Agreement detailed the rights of the Slovaks within the newly proposed state. The document was written in the Slovak language and included the terms of the agreement whereby the position of Slovakia and the Slovaks would be part of Czecho-Slovakia. Signators included the representatives of the Slovak League of America, the Czech

National Federation and the Czech Catholic Alliance. In the agreement, Masaryk who signed not as an individual, but as head of the Czecho-Slovak Republic, avoided the term "nations" but instead spoke of Czechs and Slovaks. Masaryk himself believed that the Czechs and Slovaks were part of one nation which spoke two dialects of the same "Czecho-slovak" language. In the Pittsburgh Agreement, he did spell the proposed new state as Czecho-Slovakia with the hyphen and he did promise the Slovaks home-rule in the form of their own Diet, administration, courts and schools. The agreement said that it approved a political program aiming to unite the Czechs and Slovaks into an independent State comprising the Czech lands and Slovakia. The new Czecho-Slovak State would be a republic and its constitution would be democratic.

Masaryk received a tremendous welcome in Pittsburgh on May 30 where he was welcomed at a huge rally and was then escorted through the city. More than 10,000 Slovaks, Czechs and other Slavs, who promoted the emancipation of the Slavic nations from Hapsburg rule participated. On May 31, Masaryk met with the Slovak and Czech leaders and signed the preliminary manuscript of the Pittsburgh Agreement. Slovak and Czech leaders in the United States were signators. Among the Slovaks who signed the document were Albert Mamatay, president of the Slovak League of America; Michael Bosak, Rev. Joseph Murgas, Gejza H. Mika, Rev. John J. Kubasek, Rev. Pavel J. Siska and others. Masaryk later signed the calligraphed copy of the agreement on November 14, 1918 in Washington, D.C. just before returning to Europe. On that very day, he was elected by the revolutionary government in Prague as president of Czecho-Slovakia. Thus the head of state of the new country approved and signed the Pittsburgh Agreement and it would therefore be binding. When the agreement had been calligraphed, the printer mistakenly placed May 30, 1918 on the copy while in fact the original had been signed in Pittsburgh on May 31, 1918.

Unfortunately, when Masaryk returned triumphantly as Czecho-Slovakia's new president, he completely negated the promises made in Pittsburgh regarding Slovak autonomy. Msgr. Andrew Hlinka, the champion of Slovak autonomy believed that the Pittsburgh Agreement was the "Magna Carta" of the Slovak people. When Hlinka once confronted Masaryk as to why the promises regarding the Slovaks made in the Pittsburgh Agreement had been disavowed, Masaryk told him that the Pittsburgh Agreement was meant to pacify a small group of Slovaks in America.

In 1920, the unelected Prague parliament drafted a constitution emphasizing a strong central government, ignoring the promises of autonomy for the Slovaks in the Pittsburgh Agreement. That same constitution spelled the new nation as Czechoslovakia without the hyphen and spoke of a non-existent "Czechoslovak" language and nation.

The Slovak League of America continued the American Slovak community's effort to see the provisions of the Pittsburgh Agreement respected. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the signing of the agreement, the Slovak League led a delegation of American Slovaks with the original copy of the agreement. Dr. Peter P. Hletko, then president of the Slovak League, displayed the original of the agreement at a huge manifestation before a crowd of more than 100,000 in the main square of Bratislava on June 6, 1939. Finally, that October, the American Slovak community rejoiced when the provisions of the Pittsburgh Agreement had finally been accepted and implemented by the Parliament in Prague and the name of the country was changed to Czecho-Slovakia.

War clouds soon appeared on the horizon and the plight of the Slovaks would be affected by the Second World War. Following the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia in early 1939, Slovakia declared its independence on March 14, 1939. Unfortunately, the Slovak State enjoyed but a brief period of independence. Following the war, the Slovaks once again became a part of Czechoslovakia and a new centralist government again prevailed. And after 1948, Communism took over the country.

With the fall of Communism in 1989, the Slovaks and Czechs found themselves again at an important juncture in their history. What had been known as "The Velvet Revolution" which brought down Communism in Czechoslovakia evolved into "The Velvet Divorce." To the delight of all peace-loving people, during the summer of 1992, the Czechs and Slovaks agreed to peacefully split. On January 1, 1993, Slovakia and the Czech Republic declared their independence.

The evolution of that historic moment had to a great extent had been guided by the wisdom of the provisions of the Agreement signed nine decades ago in the great American city of Pittsburgh. Some Monday morning quarterbacking might elude to the fact that had the provisions of the Pittsburgh Agreement been respected and implemented, perhaps Czecho-Slovakia might have lasted until today. In any event, the American Slovak community respectfully recalls the 90th anniversary of the agreement's signing with great pride. There is little doubt that the Slovaks who settled in America in the later decades of the nineteenth century and the first years of the twentieth century were inspired by American political thought. They in turn wanted their brethren in their ancestral homeland to share in that same philosophy of freedom and justice.

Last year, the Slovak League of America presented the original copy of the Pittsburgh Agreement to the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center. The September 9, 2007 event brought together the representatives of the Slovak fraternal organizations which had originally supported and encour-

aged the spirit of truth and equality which gave birth to the Pittsburgh Agreement of May 31, 1918. Through the kindness of the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center, the original of the Pittsburgh Agreement once again traveled to Slovakia where it will be featured at a special exhibit in the Slovak Parliament sponsored by the U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia, the Hon. Vincent Obsitnik.

(Daniel F. Tanzone, president of the Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry, resides in Yonkers, N.Y.)

IN MEMORIAM

continued from page 19

He farmed and worked for Archer Oil Co. until 1945 when they purchased a bar in Tabor, which later was known as Bill's Bar. During this time he also owned and operated the Tabor Theatre. In 1955, the bar was sold; he then worked for the Tabor Lumber Coop and sold feed and seed out of his home until 1964. From 1964 until his retirement in 1983, he worked as a custodian for the Tabor Public Schools. Bill drove the Tabor School Bus for almost 30 years. He also operated a printing business from his home for over 30 years. He served as a Tabor fireman for 33 years. Bill served on the School Board, the Town Board, B-Y Electric Board, was a member of the Tabor Chamber of Commerce and served on the Czech Days Committee. He also drove the Tabor ambulance for many years.

He was a member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, FCSLA W093, the Catholic Sokol Social Club, the Czech Heritage Society and Tabor Senior Citizen Center. Bill was a 25 year member of the Yankton Moose Lodge.

He is survived by seven sons, Adolph (Erika) of Niceville, FL; Donald (Rita) of Tabor, William Jr. (Laura) of Yankton, Joseph (Jan) of Kansas City, MO; Edward (Karen) of Schuyler, NE; John (Ione) of Custer, SD; Charles (Virjean) of Sioux Falls, and one daughter, Anne (Daryl) Mello of Yankton; 27 grandchildren, 44 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen in 2007, his parents, six sisters, four brothers, a daughter, Florence, in 1998, a granddaughter, Susan in 1978, a great-granddaughter, Helen Ann Bernard in 2002 and a daughter-in-law, Joan Fejfar in 2005.

Mass of Christian Burial was held February 16, 2008 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Tabor, with Rev. Joe Puthenkulathil and Msgr. Carlton Hermann officiating. Burial was in the parish cemetery.

Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Tabor, is in charge of arrangements.

TOUR OF SLOVAKIA

September 7-23, 2008

Our tour of Slovakia will visit Kosice, Bratislava, Modra, Pezinok, Nitra, Levoca, Banska Bystrica, Stry Smokovec, Martin, Cicmany, Presov, Slovak Bethlehem — a large carving that took 15 years to complete. Raft ride down the Dunajec River, a cultural performance in Krakovany with a folklore wedding enactment. A visit to Piestany — a spa town. See a number of Slovak Castles, churches and cathedrals such as St. Stephen's in Vienna, St. Martin in Bratislava, St. James in Levoca. See Schoenbrunn Palace in Vienna. A visit to Krakow, Poland with a visit to Wadowice — the birthplace of Karol Wojtyla, the late Pope John Paul II, visit the Wielicyka Salt Mine. A visit to Auschwitz — the biggest Nazi concentration camp. Visit the Shrine of the Divine Mercy. In Kosice see Elizabeth's Cathedral, visit the folk village of Zdiar. We will have a visit to Slovakia's Little Rome — Trnava. Visit Prague Czech Republic and visit Prague Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral, Charles Bridge, old Town Square and Vladeslav Hall.

Tour participants will have the opportunity to invite friends and relatives to the cultural performances.

The tour cost also includes 15 nights lodging at first class hotels, air-conditioned bus for touring, an English speaking guide, two meals daily and air fare departing from Pittsburgh. Airfare from other cities is available.

John Mago along with the Slovak guide, will help make arrangements for transportation and translator for anyone wishing to contact relatives.

For a brochure and further information call or write: John's Tours, P.O. Box 154, Vandergrift, PA 15690. Phone (724) 567-7341 or 1-800-260-8687.

Branch W008 Chicken Dinner

The officers of FCSLA Branch W008 of Dodge, NE will be hosting a Chicken Dinner on Sunday, August 3, 2008 at 12:00 noon at the Bank-Quit located on Main Street in Dodge. All members and their spouses as well as children who are members are invited to attend. Please make reservations by calling either: Marcella Chudomilka (402) 693-2632 or Alice Maresh (402) 693-2600 by July 21, 2008.

State Officers To Host Picnic

The Nebraska State officers will once again host a picnic on Sunday, July 13, 2008 at the North Bend City Park at 12:00 noon. Each family is requested to bring one meat dish as well as one side dish plus your own table service. All hot and cold drinks will be furnished, as well as swimming tickets for all youth members. Please plan to attend — it will be a good chance to see old friends and met some new ones!

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF MARCH 31, 2008

ASSETS	
Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 16,695,157.56
Bonds	487,823,725.48
Preferred Stock	8,374,825.87
Common Stock	1,477,121.96
Investment Income Due and Accrued	7,761,667.48
Certificate Loans and Accrued Interest	1,218,833.94
Promissory Notes	108,677.62
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	9,029,494.44
Other Assets	275,652.66
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 532,765,157.01
LIABILITIES	
Life Reserves	\$ 155,179,019.08
Annuity Reserves	271,268,317.10
Provision for Annuity Certain Accounts	2,071,000.00
Death Claims Payable	578,401.83
Unearned Premiums	598,499.56
Matured Endowments	117,172.95
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,649,729.38
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,327,187.32
Provision for Future Donations	245,000.00
Provision for Future Conventions	69,837.40
Asset Valuation Reserve	4,727,222.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,539,565.00
Other Liabilities	1,232,346.72
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 442,603,298.34
SURPLUS	
Surplus	\$ 90,161,858.67
TOTAL SURPLUS	\$ 90,161,858.67
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 532,765,157.01

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2008

REVENUE	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 999,040.55
Annuity Premiums	4,041,326.35
Investment Income	7,641,893.85
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	17,211.00
Other Revenue	134,036.24
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 12,833,507.99
EXPENSES	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 1,068,019.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	3,655,317.00
Insurance Benefits	928,807.62
Annuity Benefits	3,721,854.21
Commission Expense	101,528.64
Surrender Benefits	227,537.26
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	18,045.04
Matured Endowments	2,000.00
Donation Expenses	143,604.95
Convention Expenses	45,000.00
Dividends to Members	375,000.00
Post Mortem Benefits	223,363.02
Bonus to Branches	276,339.00
Fraternal Activities	17,365.00
Bank Service Charges	8,738.23
Data Processing Service Fees	108,771.69
Accounting Fees	24,882.00
Actuarial Fees	48,696.00
Legal Fees	15,926.16
Consulting Services	53,687.50
Official Publications	85,501.00
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	70,311.88
Fees — Directors	27,100.08
Salaries — Employees	240,190.27
Salaries — Officers	106,250.01
Interest Expense	43,884.75
Tax Expense	70,994.33
Depreciation Expense	108,609.00
Utility Expense	23,247.85
Postage and Printing	88,065.55
Advertising	26,459.42
Travel Expense	26,513.48
Other Expense	215,677.98
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 12,197,287.92
NET INCOME	\$ 636,220.07



ANGEL FOOD CAKE

- 1½ cups egg whites (10-12 large), room temperature
- 1½ cups superfine sugar, divided
- 1 cup sifted cake flour
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoon vanilla extract or vanilla paste
- ½ teaspoon almond extract

Preheat oven to 325F. In a small bowl, whisk together ¾ cup sugar and the cake flour. Set aside. Beat egg whites until frothy, then add cream of tartar and salt. Beat until fully incorporated then begin to add the remaining ¾ cup of sugar 1-2 tablespoons at a time. When sugar has been added, beat egg whites to soft peaks. Add the vanilla and almond extracts and beat for a few seconds to evenly distribute.

Sift the flour/sugar mixture over the egg whites in 6-8 additions, and gently fold it in after each addition. Do this slowly so as not to deflate the egg whites.

Spoon batter into an ungreased 9-inch tube pan with a removeable bottom.

Bake for 50-60 minutes, until the top springs back when lightly pressed. Remove from oven and invert pan over a bottle. Allow to cool completely or overnight.

Gently run a thin knife around the sides, then around the bottom, of the pan to release the cake. Serve with fresh strawberries.

FRIED CHICKEN

- 2 (2 pound) whole chickens, cut up
- 2 cups milk
- 1 egg
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons salt
- 2 teaspoons pepper
- 3 cups shortening
- 2 teaspoons salt

Rinse chicken with cold water; pat dry, and set aside. Whisk together milk and egg in a bowl. Combine flour, 2 tablespoons salt, and pepper in a heavy-duty zip-top plastic bag. Dip 2 chicken pieces in milk mixture. Place in plastic bag; seal and shake to coat. Remove chicken; repeat procedure with remaining pieces. Melt shortening in a Dutch oven over medium heat; heat to 350 degrees. Fry chicken, in batches, 10 minutes on each side or until done and golden brown. Drain on paper towels. Sprinkle evenly with 2 teaspoons salt.

GRILLED GARLIC POTATOES

- 6 medium baking potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 large white onion, sliced
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh parsley
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Preheat an outdoor grill for high heat. Place potato slices on a large piece of aluminum foil, and separate evenly with onions and butter. Top with garlic, and season with parsley, salt, and pepper. Tightly seal vegetables in the foil, and grill 20 minutes, turning once, until potatoes are tender. Sprinkle potatoes with Cheddar cheese, reseal foil, and continue cooking 5 minutes, until cheese is melted.

FOIL WRAPPED VEGETABLES

- 2½ pounds new potatoes, cut into ¼ inch thick pieces
- 1 large sweet potato, cubed
- 2 Vidalia onions, sliced ¼ inch thick
- ½ pound fresh green beans, cut into 1 inch pieces
- 1 sprig fresh rosemary
- 1 sprig fresh thyme
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- salt and pepper to taste
- ⅓ cup olive oil

Preheat an outdoor grill for high heat. In a large bowl, mix new potatoes, sweet potato, Vidalia onions, green beans, rosemary and thyme. Cover with olive oil, salt and pepper. Toss to coat. Using 2 to 3 layers of foil, create desired number of foil packets. Brush inside surfaces of packets liberally with olive oil. Distribute vegetable mixture evenly amongst the packets. Seal tightly. Place packets on the prepared grill. Cook 30 minutes, or to desired doneness.

GRAHAM CRACKER REFRIGERATOR DESSERT

- 1 small package lemon Jello
- 1 cup hot water
- 1 cup pineapple juice
- 2 egg whites
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 pint heavy cream
- 1 can crushed pineapples
- 7-8 bananas, cut into pieces
- 1 box crushed graham cracker crumbs

Dissolve Jello in water by stirring until dissolved. Add pineapple juice, and let stand to thicken. When thick beat until light and fluffy. Beat egg whites stiff and add sugar. In separate bowl whip cream. Mix egg whites and cream together, then add to Jello. Add crushed pineapple and bananas.

Line bottom of 12 inch x 8 inches x 2 inches deep pan with crushed graham cracker crumbs. Pour mixture on graham crackers and add more cracker crumbs on top. Let set in refrigerator at least 2 hours or until firm.



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