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Fraternally Yours, **ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA**

SEPTEMBER 2008

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IN YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Hosted by Maria E. Grega District
June 29 - July 1, 2008



National Secretary Irene Drotleff presented the District Officers, pictured at left, with a small token of our appreciation for all their hard work.



National Officers attending the opening liturgy of the Annual Board Meeting at St. Matthias Church, Youngstown, OH

1st Row, L to R: National Trustee Virginia Holmes, National Secretary Irene Drotleff, National Auditor Barbara Sekerak, National President Mary Ann Johaneck, National Chaplain Msgr. Peter M. Polando, National Vice President Bernadette Demechko, National Auditor Dorothy Urbanowicz. 2nd Row: National Editor Carolyn Bazik, National Treasurer John Janovec, National Auditor Steve Hudak, National Trustee Cynthia Maleski, National Vice President Linda Killeen.

Fraternally Yours,

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Self Esteem

This month, as the summer is drawing to a close and the new school year is beginning, I thought I would concentrate on the topic of self-esteem. It is a good time for us to renew our commitment to becoming healthier and happier and then encouraging our family and friends to do the same. Remember that actions always speak louder than words!

How Can A Person Build Self-Esteem?

The process is simple, but putting it to work is difficult. Self-esteem is built upon the experience of success. Think of it as a circular process. When people experience success, they grow in self-confidence. As self-confidence grows, they feel empowered to face new challenges. As they succeed in confronting each challenge, they develop the capacity to cope with whatever life throws their way. That feeling leads to further growth of self-confidence, self-reliance and self-esteem.

To Maintain Healthy Self-Esteem . . .

- Celebrate your strengths and achievements.
- Forgive yourself for your mistakes.
- Don't dwell on your weaknesses, every human has them.
- Change the way you talk to yourself — stop putting yourself down!
- Be sure that you are not judging yourself against unreasonable standards.

People With High Self-Esteem Are . . .

- Able to accept and learn from their own mistakes.
- Not devastated by criticism or overly defensive when questioned.
- Not easily defeated by setbacks and obstacles.
- Unlikely to feel a need to put others down.
- Open and assertive in communicating their needs.
- Able to laugh at themselves, not taking themselves too seriously.

Why Do You Think You Have So Few Strengths Worth Celebrating?

- Because everyone has always pointed out your shortcomings?
- Because you rarely get any positive feedback for a job well done?
- Because you have learned to focus only on your mistakes?

When You Make A Mistake, Do You Say...?

- What an idiot! How can you be so stupid!
- Can't you get anything right! What a loser!
- There you go again! You are not really up to it, are you?

Why Are You Still Listening To Them?

- You can't change your past, but you can change the way you talk to yourself today.
- Start by making a LONG list of all the good things you have ever done.
- Convince yourself to be proud of what you have done and of what you are working on doing.

Affirmations for Self-Esteem

There are many things I do successfully. (Write them down)

- I don't have to strive for perfection to approve of myself.
- My worth as a human being does not depend on achieving a perfect weight, or being the smartest, or the most popular, or the fastest, or having the highest grades, or being the funniest . . . (You fill in the rest!)
- God made me and I am a unique individual.

Now you make up some of your own affirmations, then do it with those you love!



Carolyn Bazik

Until next month,
With Warmest Regards, **Carolyn**

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

The Call of the Christian Through the Waters of Baptism

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

Last month, I presided at the baptism of twins born of my friends' daughter in South Bend, IN. The day was wonderful — a typical, bright, hot, sunny August afternoon with the families of the mother and father hovering around the baptismal area, celebrating the rebirth of a new-born girl and boy in the refreshing waters of New Life. For a priest, I believe that the celebration of this sacrament, especially when everyone is aware of the intimate relationship that it has with the rest of the Christian family, not only draws us closer to that Christian family but also to our personal families as well. It is the continuation of our Christian spiritual history! The gleam in the families' eyes, the pride of the new parents, and the expectations of the godparents' roles fulfill what Christ's mission here on this earth is all about: the life and proclamation of the Gospel, the Good News!

While I was doing my usual morning rituals prior to the afternoon baptisms, I was watching on the television (or more listening to) the local news channel, WNDU, that began at seven o'clock and ended at ten o'clock in the morning. Per chance, the network was sponsoring a "pack a backpack campaign," an event that takes place annually at that time of August. Within the television viewing area on that day and within that particular broadcast time, the goal of this campaign is to acquire from viewers five thousand backpacks filled with school supplies to assist those students who are unable to obtain the necessary utensils for the school year about to commence. Over the course of the morning, a local grocery who donated five thousand dollars towards the cause noted that it did so because of the importance of their area's future in its young people and their desire to give back to the community that supports their stores. As one of their annual priorities, several organizations had their members donate items in order to make up a various amount of backpacks filled with the required items in order to assist the television network's cause.

On the scene, news cameras and reporters were at various cities and drop off locations giving the tallies of the amount of backpacks donated. It was estimated that a total of sixty-nine dollars was needed to fill each backpack with the necessary items to assist the student for the school year. What was amazing to me was the amount of people who came to the various locations on that morning that were unable to give the full amount for the cost or filling of a backpack but still desired to donate something for the cause. They did what they could afford to do. The expectations of what everyone contributed to the cause by the television station, and the pride that these donors had in their community, and the hopes cherished by all involved for the future of their community gave a bright, optimistic gleam for tomorrow's leaders!

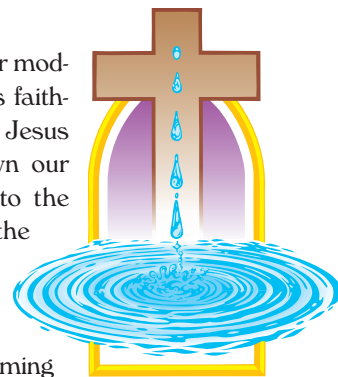
At the end of the gospel of Saint Mark, Jesus appeared to the Eleven apostles after he had made himself known as the resurrected Lord to some of the other followers. After reprimanding the Eleven because of their disbelief, Jesus commanded them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to all creation. The man who believes in it accepts baptism will be saved; the man who refuses to believe in it will be condemned. . . . Then, after speaking to them, the Lord Jesus was taken up into heaven and took his seat at God's right hand. The Eleven went forth and preached everywhere. The Lord continued to work with them throughout and confirm the message through the signs which accompanied them" (16:15-16, 19-20).

In the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church [Lumen gentium], the Council Fathers teach, "Incorporated into the Church through baptism, the faithful are consecrated by baptismal character to the exercise of the cult of the Christian religion. Reborn as sons of God, they must confess before men the faith which they have received from God through the Church" [paragraph 11]. The parents, family members and I

were fulfilling our modern day roles as faithful followers of Jesus by passing down our Catholic Faith to the twins through the Sacrament of Baptism. In this holy way, we were proclaiming the Good News to these little ones and reconfirming our baptismal commitment before all assembled. But our recommitment to the profession of our Faith does not stop with the baptismal ritual. It must be actively communicated in the person of Jesus our Lord.

The Christian performs his/her actions and speaks his/her words in the name of Jesus. It is in the Lord Jesus that the baptized gain salvation through His words, passion, death and resurrection. All people are called to assist others in order to better their lives. Those who participated in the WNDU "pack a backpack campaign" did so because they desired to have the young people in their communities in having a more fruitful school year with the necessary study aids to accomplish their goals. For those who were Christian, not only did they desire to better the goals of the students in need, they did so because of their baptismal call in the person of Jesus Christ. The Catechism of the Catholic Church instructs that, "Having become a member of the Church, the person baptized belongs no longer to himself, but to him who died and rose for us. From now on, he is called to be subject to others, to serve them in the communion of the Church, and to 'obey and submit' to the Church's leaders, holding them in respect and affection" [1269].

Let us then fulfill our roles as Christians by living out our baptismal commitments daily, so that our lives may radiate the glory of the resurrected Christ and the hope of eternal glory be attained through our words and works.



Maria E. Grega District Hosts Annual Board of Director's Meeting



Msgr. Peter M. Polando, our National Chaplain, offered an inspiring homily.

The Maria E. Grega District, Youngstown, OH hosted the annual out of town Quarterly Board Meeting of the First Catholic Slovak Lades Association on June 29 through July 1.

District President Bernadette Demechko (National Vice-President) and her officers welcomed the Board in grand style.

Monsignor Peter M. Polando (National Chaplain) and pastor of St. Matthias Church, in Youngstown, OH opened the meeting with a beautiful Slovak liturgy on Sunday, June 29th. The Concelebrant was Reverend David J. Shorti and Master of Ceremonies was Ernest Formichelli. Readers were Bernadette Demechko and Loretta Ekoniak.

District Officers taking part in the Offertory Procession were: Vivian Leko, Dolores Sonoga, Kay Kovalchik, Frances Chervinko, Shirley Zura, Mary Magda, Agnes Escaja, and Margaret Bakich.

Many thanks to our Servers; Robert Ford, Joshua Ford and Theresa Leonard; Organist, Katherine Garchar; Harpist Darlene MacBenn and Trumpeter Joseph MacBenn for adding to the solemnity of our opening liturgy.

Following Mass the board was treated to a lovely meal at Mr. Anthony's where members in attendance had a chance to interact with the Board of Directors on a personal level.

President Mary Ann Johaneck addressed the members and National Secretary Irene Drotleff presented gifts to the District Officers.

On Monday, District and Branch Officers joined members of the Board for a luncheon at the Holiday Inn. In the evening, Bishop George V. Murry, Diocese of Youngstown honored us by presiding over Evening Prayers at St. Matthias Church.

Following Evening Prayer, Monsignor Peter M. Polando hosted a reception and dinner at the rectory for the officers. The food was prepared and served by members of his parish family. Old friendships were renewed and new ones made during our evening fellowship.

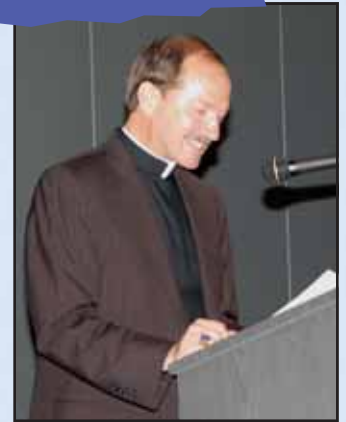
The Board of Directors enjoyed their time in Youngstown and conducted a very successful quarterly board meeting which included a section of the meeting dedicated to strategic planning.

On behalf on the Board of Directors many thanks to the District Officers and members for their very warm welcome!

Opening Dinner Speakers



National President Mary Ann S. Johaneck addresses those gathered with some inspiring words.



Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain, was a wonderful Master of Ceremonies.



National Treasurer John Janovec gives the toast.



District President Bernadette Demechko welcomes everyone.

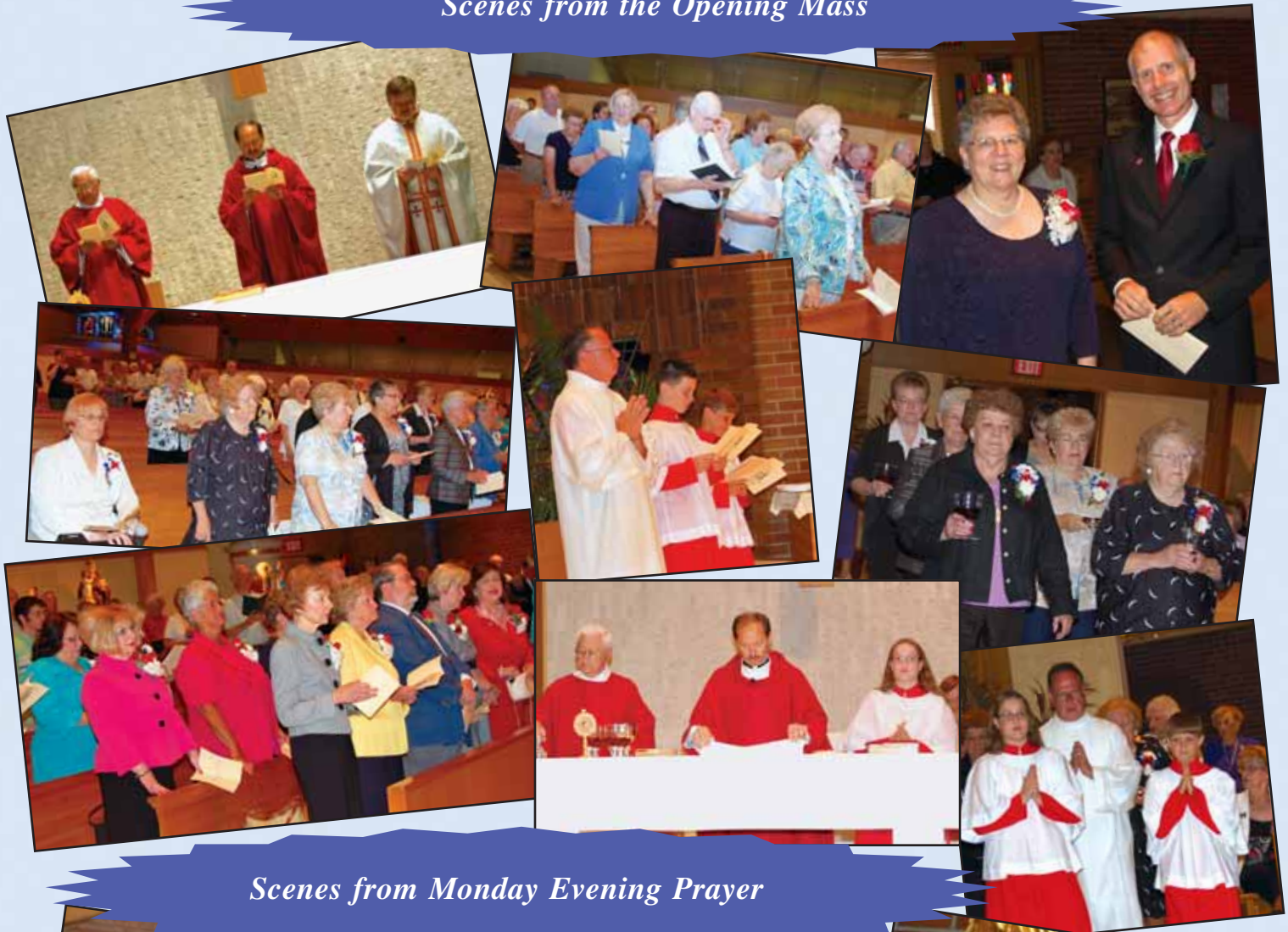


National Secretary Irene Drotleff addresses the crowd.



National Trustee Cynthia Maleski leads the singing of the National Anthem and our Pledge of Allegiance.

Scenes from the Opening Mass



Scenes from Monday Evening Prayer



Memories from the Annual Board Meeting

Hosted by the Maria E. Grega District, Youngstown, Ohio
June 29-July 1, 2008





Memories from the Annual Board Meeting



National President's Message

Pochváleny bud Pan Ježíš Kristus!

Monsignor Polando, Reverend clergy, religious, officers and members,

Thank you for your presence today in the celebration of Mass at St. Matthias Church and, for being here, at Mr. Anthony's, for an opportunity to see and visit with friends, enjoy a great meal and talk about our beloved Zenska Jednota.

It seems like only yesterday that we last met in Youngstown, but, in fact, it has been nine years! (Let me assure you that you don't look a day older!) And, although you may not have changed in appearance, we certainly have. If you haven't been out to see us lately, let me tell you that you wouldn't even recognize us.

But don't let that fool you. As we are enjoying our 116th year of existence, we continue to serve our members with care, always looking for ways to improve the service. We have made many changes over the years, some dramatic — like the new building that we have occupied for a little over a year — but other changes that were less noticeable.

Before we moved last year, I had a chance to see some old records we had stored and I came upon our first record book. On the first line, I could see, very clearly, the signature of our foundress. The document was dated January 1, 1892; "Anna Hurban" was clearly written, indicating that she had paid her dues — ten cents! It made me think about all the changes that have taken place since she first dipped her pen in the bottle of ink and carefully signed her name. She was a courageous and progressive woman.

When Anna died in 1926, her life was remembered in a front page article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer. She was followed by many other women (and, later, men, too) who were influenced by her strength and leadership.

Anna worked to meet the most basic needs of her fellow immigrants. Those needs changed as the years went by. We stopped dipping pens in the bottle of ink; we had fountain pens — then ball point pens — and even typewriters. When computers came on the scene, we started to use the punch cards that made us all crazy, then moved on to better and better equipment. It is a never ending process.

While we were busy growing and improving our Association, the departments of insurance and the NAIC (National Association of Insurance Commissioners) were busy putting together more and more regulations. The regulations have added significantly to our work, making compliance exhausting. We now have a compliance officer on our staff to assist us with all the new regulations. She is doing an excellent job of keeping us all informed and out of trouble. She is also working on the project of getting us licensed to sell our insurance products in all fifty states. There are Slovaks everywhere, you know.

We have made changes when they were needed and we are continuing this process. As we have grown, we have

always come to the plate and embraced the changes that have confronted us. We have done it before, together, as an organization, and we will continue to do so.

For many years, the secretary was the person who made certain that the society operated properly. The president came in to the office about once a month to sign checks. Look how that position has changed!

Over the years we have created new products to offer to members. We have streamlined billing and accounting procedures. We have made it easier for our members to pay their premiums by automatic withdrawals from the member's checking account. Through our "state of the art" technology, we have provided faster and more accurate service to our members. As employees of the FCSLA we have understood the different skills required for such changes and have been willing to overcome any challenges with proper training and education. Just before we moved from our old building to the new one last year, Dorothy Szumski of our staff, mentioned that, in cleaning out her desk, she came across a little tablet of notes she took when she started the job with us approximately five years earlier. The remarkable thing, she pointed out, was that we are not doing anything today in the same way that we were when she started.

All of our jobs have changed over the years, from District and Branch activities to Chagrin Boulevard, requiring specific education in many cases.

Together we can continue to prepare for changes that we know will occur in our industry by working as a team. Even when roles are changing, we have operated more effectively than ever, with our willingness to adopt new ideas and skills. We encourage new ways of thinking.

It has been a successful team effort. Based on the skills each one of us has, we, individually, have a role to play in the continued success of our society.

It is an exciting time for our Society and for our industry! So much is available for us to use to enhance and promote our Society! We have been recognized by other societies for our achievements. Representatives of other societies have visited us to view our operation. But let's not forget — none of our accomplishments would be possible without our members' support.

Over the years we have contributed generously to institutions that honor our religious and ethnic traditions. It has been a noble history and one of which we can be justly proud.

The FCSLA has come a long way and its success can be attributed to the willingness of its members to become informed and to address the needed changes in skills to deal with these demands.

This is the time to invoke the Holy Spirit to work overtime in guiding us in our work.

Thank you.

Mary Ann S. Johaneck



Patrick Braun

The life insurance salesperson has been called "The last true salesperson in America". Why is this? It's because he or she sells ideas, not tangible products. A car salesperson, for example, has a tangible product, the car. He can explain the owner benefits of the car as the prospect walks around the car admiring it. The car salesperson can let the prospect sit in it and smell that new car smell and even take him or her out for a test drive.

But life insurance is different. You can't see it, feel it, smell it, shine it up, or show it off to the neighbors. It's really just the idea that, if something happens to you, your loved ones, while suffering emotional loss, won't suffer as much financial loss as they would if you didn't have the policy.

Life insurance has been called the "miracle of pen and ink." For a few dollars monthly, life insurance can pay for final expenses, pay off a mortgage, send kids to college, and keep income coming into the household to pay the bills for food, clothes, heat, transportation, and other necessities, month after month, year after year. It would seem that

such a wonderful product would sell itself, that everyone would own lots of it! However, the reverse is true. Life insurance has to be sold, by dedicated, salespeople who believe in it, and sell it based on the prospects needs.

At FCSLA our salespeople do a lot of good when selling our life insurance products. They help families by protecting them against the tragedy of untimely death. They also provide the extra fraternal benefits that only a well capitalized fraternal society can offer its members. These include scholarships, the newborn infant benefit, our post-mortem benefit, the monthly subscription to *Zenska Jednota*, and social activities through our branches and districts.

Our salespeople also do well for themselves when they sell our products. FCSLA pays top commissions and renewals to our recommenders and independent agents, and there is no limit to the amount of money that licensed salespeople can earn. Selling life insurance is tough. That's why it pays well! If it wasn't hard to do, people would be standing in long lines trying to get a contract with us. They are not!

But successful life insurance salespeople do very well because they do so much good for people! Doing well while doing good. That's what selling for FCSLA means.

Patrick Braun, FIC, CLU, LUTCF
National Sales Manager

FCSLA FALL CAMPAIGN 2008

The FCSLA will hold a special sales campaign this fall. The campaign will be open to all members and agents and will have special incentives for the sale of our products and to bring new members to the Association.

A letter with campaign details and a unique catalog of prizes will be sent to every member who has submitted at least three applications in the last 1½ years, as well as to our agents and District Presidents. Additional catalogs will be available to any member that requests them. These catalogs will show an array of prizes which will be available to earn with sales production.

The campaign will begin on September 1 and end on November 30. **All applications received in the Home Office between those dates will be counted.** At the end of the campaign, our producers will be able to order prizes based on the applications and premium submitted during the campaign.

The month of September is "**LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH**". The insurance industry will have special print and TV ads to highlight the importance of owning adequate life insurance. To support this effort, the FCSLA will give extra credit in the campaign for all life insurance applications submitted during the month of September!

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. Special pre-license tutoring is also offered for those members who might be having difficulty with the material. Most states have restrictions on the amount of life insurance or annuities an unlicensed producer may sell and some states require the producer to be a licensed intermediary agent to sell any life insurance at all. The advantage of holding the life insurance license is that there are no restrictions on the type or amounts of life insurance or annuities the producer may sell. 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.

40th Anniversary Celebrated by Paul and Marcia Chopp

Paul and Marcia Chopp, members of Branch W086, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Sunday, July 6, at St. George Catholic Church, Munden, KS. A mass for their intentions was celebrated by Father Cornelius Khine, pastor. Following Mass a brunch was held for relatives and friends in the church's Dragon's Den. An open house was held in the afternoon.

Paul Chopp and Marcia Novak were married July 16, 1968 in St. George Church. After a stint in the Army, Paul graduated from Benedictine College, Atchison, KS. He taught music in area schools for 39 years. Retiring from teaching he now farms in the Munden community. He is active in the church, Branch W086, and Knights of Columbus. Marcia is retired after having taught high school, and at her alma mater Marymount College of Salina, KS. She also has been a postal employee and



church secretary for the Catholic tri-parishes of Republic County, KS.

The Choppes have received the Family of the Year Award from the local Knights of Columbus Council and the district Family of the Year Award.

Paul and Marcia are the parents of two daughters, Amy and her husband, Justin Johnson of Salina, KS, and Sandra Hovis of Munden. There are five grandchildren: Tori Hovis, Devan Hovis, Makayla Johnson, Trevor Johnson and Zachary Johnson. Their daughters and grandchildren are all members of Branch W086, Munden, KS.

George and Carole Bouc Celebrate Anniversary

George and Carole (Sabata) Bouc were married on August 9, 1958, in St. Mary's Catholic Church, David City, NE. Their children are: Brian, Wahoo, NE; David and Lyle both deceased.

George and Carole have farmed near Ceresco, NE their entire married life. They are members of St. Mary's Parish, Davey, NE

George served in the United States Army and is a member of Branch W026, Weston, NE.



Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar to be Held

The Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar, under the auspices of the Slovak Catholic Federation, will host its annual presentation on Sunday, September 28, 2008 at The Motherhouse of St. Casimir's located at 2601 West Marquette Road, Chicago, IL 60629-1817.

Ms. Susan Marcinkus will present a 45 minute DVD on Slovakia. After the showing, "Pictures of the Old Country" – a "Question and Answer Session" will follow. Her film has been shown on PBS. The Seminar will commence at 1:00 p.m.; at 1:45 p.m. Ms. Geraldine Hletko will welcome and introduce our speaker. The buffet luncheon will be served at 3:00 p.m.

The offering for this event (pre-registration) is \$15.00. On site will be \$20.00. Prepaid registration can be arranged through John Jurcenko at 773-763-0810 no later than September 17, 2008. For more information call Geraldine Hletko at 708-387-7812.

4.60%

**Annual Yield
on FCSLA
Annuities/IRAs**

From August 1 through and including September 30, 2008, all annuities, including those on interest only and those who select a settlement option, will earn a yield of 4.6025% (APR 4.50%).

**For more information
please call 800-464-4642**

Branch & District Bits



MICHAEL A. PATRICK was commissioned a Captain of the Pennsylvania State Police in January 2008. The ceremony took place in Hershey, PA. He is the brother of Barbara Shedlock, President of Branch 525 and a Home Office employee for 18 years.

Attending the ceremony were family members (above), L-R: mother-in-law Wilda Williams; sister Barb Shedlock; his wife Pamela; Captain Michael A. Patrick; Helen Patrick, his mother; son Nick and brother Joe.



Featured with Archbishop John G. Vlazny, Portland, OR who celebrated the **125th ANNIVERSARY MASS** of St. Aloysius Church, Chicago, IL, on June 21, 2008 are Sister Paracleta



Amrich, SSCM, (at left), Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Supervisor of Clinical Pastoral Education, member of Torrington, CT, Branch 162 and Sister Antonia Klausner, CSFN, RN, (at right), Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Coordinator Standards and Education, Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center, member Saint Mary's Branch 180, Chicago, IL.



FCSLA W130 HOLDS ANNUAL PICNIC — Members of the FCSLA gathered at the Clutier Social Center on Sunday, July 20 at noon for a basket dinner. 59 members attended. The lodge provided broasted chicken, ice tea, and lemonade. After a delicious lunch, President Gladys Nekola recognized Madeline Svoboda, recipient of a national \$750 parochial school tuition scholarship. Madeline is the daughter of Tim and Cheryl Svoboda of Kansas City, MO and the granddaughter of Carole and the late Joe Svoboda of Clutier,

IA. Also receiving a \$750 scholarship, but unable to attend was Jasmine Adams, daughter of Dave and Jenny Adams of Charleston, NC, and the granddaughter of Laurence and Marlys Svoboda of Clutier, IA. The afternoon was spent playing bingo with winners going home with muskmelons and watermelons.



L-R: FCSLA Officers: **Warren Colvin, Freddie Kubik, Shirley Kubik, David Svoboda, Madeline Svoboda, winner of \$750 scholarship grant, Paul Svoboda, President Gladys Nekola, and Richard Linhart.**



BRANCH W187 met June 25, 2008 in the evening after Mass for their yearly picnic. Although it was a hot day, everyone enjoyed the delicious food and fellowship!



Vatican Splendors

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association has partnered with WEWS-News Channel 5 in Cleveland, OH to be a proud sponsor of a special exhibit, the **Vatican Splendors**, at the Western Reserve Historical Society. This exhibit is the largest collection of art, documents and historically significant objects from the Vatican — some of the world's greatest treasures. Cleveland is one of three cities to be chosen to host the Vatican Splendors, which showcases 2,000 years of Vatican history.

Saint Vincent de Paul Dining Hall is Recipient of Convention Donation

Saint Vincent de Paul Dining Hall, Youngstown, OH, purchased a new steam table and stainless steel sink back splashes for their Hall with the \$10,000 donation they received from the FCSLA Convention.

Sr. Branch 161 and Jr. Branch 192 officers (pictured below) used the new equipment during their parish's week to serve meals at the Hall.

Bernie, National Board member, had submitted the donation request. During an interview with Hall Director, Ralph "Skip" Barone, she learned that 250-300 meals are served in the Hall daily with an additional 300 meals delivered monthly to home-bound families.

Baked goods are obtained from local bakeries and some food is obtained from catering halls. Most of the food is purchased with monetary donations. Saint Matthias Slovak Church, where Branch 161 holds its monthly donation meet-

ings, donated \$500 for food the week the parishioners worked there. Monsignor Peter Polando, also a National Board member, is Pastor at the church.

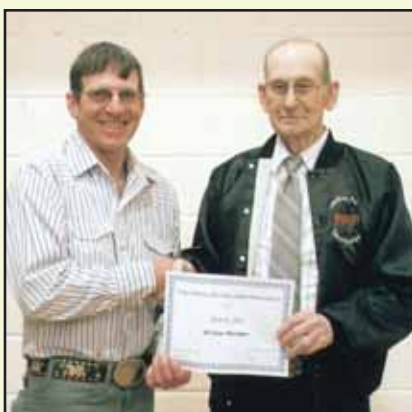


L-R: Officers of Sr. Branch 161 and Jr. Branch 192, Betty Zajac, Auditor; Ruth Bartos, President; Agatha Fabiny, Auditor; and Bernadette Demechko, Treasurer.

BRANCH W080 HOLDS BREAKFAST MEETING

Branch W080's annual corporate communion and breakfast meeting was held on Sunday, April 27, 2008.

Following 10:30 Mass, a delicious meal was served by St. John Neumann 5th and 6th graders and their parents. A short business meeting was called to order by President Don Vrbicky.



Vice President Ron Bos congratulated his father Ervin Bos for 60 years of membership.

Membership awards were given out to Ervin Bos (60), Lumir Bos (60), Adeline Smejkal (60), Kenneth Kudrna (60), Dorothy Foster (60), Joann Reed (50) and Ron Prokopec (50).

A door prize and socializing concluded the event.



The Bos family: Sharon, Ron, Ervin, Mary Ann, and Cody.

LUZERNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HONORS FCSLA MEMBERS

The Luzerne County Historical Society held its 150th annual meeting at the Westmoreland Club in Wilkes-Barre, PA on April 18, 2008.

A reception was held honoring Luzerne County's oldest residents.

Magdalen I. Iskra, President of the FCSLA Magdalen I. Iskra District and a member of the Historical Society sponsored Genevieve Kelly, a member of Branch 65.

Genevieve was born on March 16, 1917 in Jessup, PA. She has two sons, one daughter, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.



L-R: Martha Iskra, District Publicity; JoAnn Klinesmith, niece; Ann Dougher, sister; Jean Kelly, honoree; Jesse Teitelbaum, Executive Director; and Magdalen I. Iskra, District President.

Branch W045 Scholarship Winners

Cadets of St. George Branch W045 of Cedar Rapids, IA awarded seven scholarships for the 2008-2009 school year. Five winners are from submitted applications for the scholarship and two are winners based on need as determined by our local high school staff and principal of Xavier High School. Two winners selected by the high school are in memory of a former long-time pastor at St. Wenceslaus Church, Msgr. Anthony Chihak. Each scholarship is for \$300. The winners include:

Alison Charipar, sophomore attending Iowa State University (no photo); Zachary Kuntz, freshman attending Mount Mercy College; Michael Jansa, freshman attending University of Iowa; Jason Turley, freshman attending Kirkwood Community College; Megan Teahen, freshman attending Kirkwood Community College; Jordan Harrelson, freshman attending Loras College; Carmen Welch, freshman attending Iowa State University.



Zachary Kuntz



Michael Jansa



Jason Turley



Megan Teahen



Jordan Harrelson



Carmen Welch

Reicherter Earns Degree from Howard University

ELIZABETH ANNE REICHERTER, a 1981 Homer City graduate, earned the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Educational Psychology from Howard University in Washington, D.C. on May 10, 2008. She is a member of Branch 317 in Coral, PA.

Her parents are Lois and Joe Rura of Coral City. Currently, Anne is an Associate Professor of Physical Therapy at Howard University and lives in Edgewater, MD with her husband Frank and two children Franky and Sofia.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS FROM JR. BRANCH 364

Nicholas L. Beblar (left) and Nicholas G. Piskurich (right) are two of the winners of scholarships from Jr. Branch 364 in Johnstown, PA. They are pictured with Catherine Popovich who presented the awards. Emma C. Smith of Middletown, PA was also awarded a scholarship.



PLAVKO RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP FROM INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Amanda Marie Plavko (Branch 88) received an Indiana University Distinction Scholarship from Indiana University.

An honors student, she is a member of the Class of 2008 at McAuley High School in Cincinnati, OH.

She served as school newspaper editor and Greater Cincinnati Catholic High League academic first team. She will major in international studies and European languages.

She is the daughter of Ed and Kathy, of Cincinnati, and is the granddaughter of Lillian Plavko, of Monessen, PA.

Amanda is pictured with her grandmothers.



Holzer Graduates With Honors



Andrew Stephen Holzer member of Sr. Branch 177, was a 2008 graduate of Bishop Guilfoyle High School graduating with high honors and was a member of the National Honor Society. He will attend St. Francis University in the fall majoring in Accounting. He is the son of Richard and Evelyn Holzer of Branch 68.

Branch W080 Sponsors Grocery Bingo

"Grocery Bingo" was sponsored by Branch W080 in Clarkson, NE on April 23, 2008. In addition to groceries, players went home with petunias and a potted caladium as door prizes.

St. John Neumann School students entertained the group with several musical selections. Cookie bars, punch and coffee were enjoyed by all.



First and second graders play "Play Me a Cowbell."



Third to sixth graders sing and dance to "Spicy Hot".

Branch W001 Awards Scholarships

Branch W001 of New Prague, MN recently awarded \$500.00 scholarships to Andrew Bisek of Chaska, MN; Bryce Bartelt of New Prague, MN; and Alex Dantoft of Burnsville, MN.



Andrew Bisek



Bryce Bartelt



Alex Dantoft

Join Hands Day at St. Paul's Church

Join Hands Day is a day set aside for the youth and adults to work together and experience in building trust and confidence in all generations. Adults and youth volunteers work together, as equal partners, on a project that benefits the community.

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Lodge 130 of Clutier, IA teamed up with the seventh grade Religious Ed class of St. Paul's Catholic Church of Traer, IA. Their teachers, Mrs. Christy Ruzicka and Mrs. Marilyn Svoboda, also participated. Mrs. Ruzicka assisted with the planting while Mrs. Svoboda helped select the plants. The working students were Jakeb Cochran, Joe Kvidera, Mallory Owens, Katie Morrison and Brandi Anne Daub.

Representing the FCSLA Lodge were President Mrs. Gladys Nekola, Freddie, Shirley, and Michael Kubik. The flowered filled urns will enhance the entrance of St. Paul's for all to enjoy. The two groups enjoyed each others company and brought beauty together to the community. Treats were enjoyed at the end of the project.



FCSLA EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Retiring Board — Special Meeting January 30, 2008

0100.00 Call to Order

President Mary Ann S. Johanek called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. at the Home Office in Beachwood, Ohio. The meeting was opened with prayer.

0200.00 Opening Business

The purpose of the Special Board Meeting is to approve the Executive Finance Committee minutes of December 4, 2007.

0200.01 Roll Call

Secretary Irene J. Drotleff was asked to call the roll. Members present were:

Rev. Joseph Grosko	Chaplain
Mary Ann S. Johanek	President
Irene J. Drotleff	Secretary
John M. Janovec	Treasurer
Rosemary A. Mlinarich	Vice President
Cynthia M. Maleski	Trustee
Virginia A. Holmes	Trustee

0200.02 Approval of Minutes

Cynthia M. Maleski moved and it was seconded to accept the 4th Quarterly Executive Finance Committee Meeting minutes of December 4, 2007 as presented.

MOTION ADOPTED

On behalf of the Executive Finance Committee, President Johanek thanked outgoing Officer, Rev. Joseph Grosko for his service to the FCSLA.

Adjourn

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the Retiring Executive Finance Committee meeting. Meeting adjourned with prayer.

MOTION ADOPTED

Mary Ann S. Johanek, President
Irene J. Drotleff, Secretary

ATTEST:

Rev. Joseph Grosko, Chaplain
John M. Janovec, Treasurer
Rosemary A. Mlinarich, Vice President
Cynthia M. Maleski, Trustee
Virginia A. Holmes, Trustee

1st Quarterly Meeting — January 30, 2008

0100.00 Call to Order/Prayer

President Mary Ann S. Johanek called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. at the Home Office, Beachwood, Ohio. The meeting was opened with prayer by Msgr. Peter M. Polando.

0200.00 Opening Business

0200.01 Roll Call

Secretary Irene J. Drotleff was asked to call the roll. Members present were:

Msgr. Peter M. Polando	Chaplain
Mary Ann S. Johanek	President
Rosemary A. Mlinarich	Vice President
Irene J. Drotleff	Secretary
John M. Janovec	Treasurer
Cynthia Maleski	Trustee
Virginia A. Holmes	Trustee

0300.00 President's Comment

President Johanek welcomed the new member of the Executive Finance Committee and reviewed the purpose and procedures of the Executive Financial Meeting.

0400.00 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer John M. Janovec gave a financial review of year 2007. Supplement #1.

0400.01 Investments

Members of the Executive Finance Committee reviewed the investment purchases made through January 2008. Supplement #2.

0500.00 Old / New Business

0500.01 Annual Annuity Yield – April 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008

Rosemary A. Mlinarich moved and it was seconded to recommend to the Board of Directors, that the annuity annual yield be set at 4.75% and all settled account remain the same, effective April 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008

MOTION ADOPTED

500.02 Donations

Virginia A. Holmes moved and it was seconded to recommend to the Board of Directors the listed donations. Supplement #3.

MOTION ADOPTED

0600.00 Meeting Dates

The 2008 meeting dates will be determined at the Board of Directors meeting on January 30-31, 2008.

0700.00 Adjourn

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned with prayer.

ATTEST:

Mary Ann S. Johanek, President
Irene J. Drotleff, Secretary
Msgr. Peter M. Polando, Chaplain
John M. Janovec, Treasurer
Rosemary Mlinarich, Vice President
Cynthia Maleski, Trustee
Virginia A. Holmes, Trustee

Saint Andrew's Abbey Benefit to be Held

The annual Abbey Benefit will be held on November 2, 2008 at the Church of the Assumption, 9183 Broadview Road, Broadview Heights, 44147. Mass will be held at 12:15 p.m. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, entertainment and Slovak auction will take place from 1:00-4:00 p.m. We will be honoring Abbot Clement Zeleznik, O.S.B. on his retirement and welcoming the new Abbot Christopher Schwartz, O.S.B. Catering will be provided by Tom's Country Place. Ticket prices begin at \$65.00 for an individual ticket. Additional sponsorships including a \$100.00 Honor A Monk level are available. If you need additional information, please contact Marie A. Golias at 216.228.8179 or Bill Andrews at 216.721.5300 x 252.

Jr. Branch 46 Christmas in July

Thursday, July 17th dawned sunny and hot as members of Junior Branch 46 gathered at Knoebels Grove Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA to celebrate Christmas in July. An annual tradition that members look forward to all year long provided a wonderful opportunity to spend some quality time with our fraternal family and friends!



Independence Day Weekend Perfect Time for Branch W018 Picnic

The Nebraska sky was high and so was the temperature, but fun-loving Branch W018 members from all over the metro area converged on Mahoney State Park for a 6th of July celebration.



Treasure, the talented Sheltie, traveled from Ohio for the event.

Fried chicken was the main course and members provided super salads, a wide variety of desserts and other favorite home recipe items. Polka music was prevalent!



The Popelka's are 'growing up healthy' with Branch W018.

Impromptu entertainment was provided by Treasure the talented Sheltie. Under the direction of her owner, Stacey Rozmarin, the sable and white ball of energy played ball, retrieved Frisbees, completed an obstacle run and leaped over Junior members.

Complimentary tickets to the Water Park, miniature golf and paddleboats were in demand. Fishing also attracted several members.



◀ **The Skupa family checks in at the welcome table.**

▼ **Great people, good food and plenty of conversation made for a memorable afternoon.**





COUSIN'S RECEIVE CONFIRMATION

JOSEPH DOUGHER and **JOSEPH PUGH** received their confirmation on April 2, 2008 at the Catholic Community of North Wilkes-Barre, PA.

This Catholic Community is a combined group of Sacred Heart, St. John's and St. Stan's Churches in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Both boys took Francis as their confirmation name and are members of FCSLA Branch 168. They are the grandsons of Ann Dougher who is Secretary Treasurer of the Branch.



L-R: Joseph Francis Dougher, Ann Dougher and Joseph Francis Pugh.



KENDRA ELYSE HUDAK was born on February 20, 2008. She was baptized on May 10, 2008 at St. Joseph Church. Her Godparents are Elizabeth and James Getz. Kendra belongs to Jr. Branch 66. She is a fifth generation FCSLA member. She is the daughter of Jennifer Hudak, granddaughter of Mark and Lucille McHugh, great-granddaughter of Lucille Hlas and the late Edward Hlas and the great-great-granddaughter of the late Mary and Joseph Javorsky who were the first generation FCSLA members of the family.

LET'S LEARN SLOVAK

— Answers to the July Challenge —

MATKA – MOTHER

PROŠÍM – PLEASE

STARÁ MATKA – GRANDMOTHER

DOBRE – GOOD

SESTRA – SISTER

HORÚCI – HOT

RÁNO – MORNING

TETKA – AUNT

OTÁZKA – QUESTION

MOKRÝ – WET

BOZK – KISS

POZDRAV – GREETING

MODLIŤ SA – TO PRAY

PÍ SOMNE – IN WRITING

L'UDSKÉ PRÁVA – HUMAN RIGHTS

PREHLÁSENIE NEODVISLOSTI – DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

PO SLOVENSKY – IN SLOVAK

DOBRÝ DEŇ! AKO SA MÁTE? – GOOD DAY (HELLO)! HOW ARE YOU?

DOBRÚ NOC – GOODNIGHT

OTEC – FATHER

ĎAKUJEM – THANK YOU

STARÝ OTEC – GRANDFATHER

ZLE – BAD

BRAT – BROTHER

ZIMNÝ – COLD

NOC – NIGHT

STRÝK – UNCLE

ODPOVEĎ – ANSWER

SUCHÝ – DRY

VODA – WATER

PAMÄŤ – MEMORY

EŠTE RAZ – ONCE AGAIN

RODINA – FAMILY

PO ANGLICKY – IN ENGLISH

BOH JE DOBRÝ – GOD IS GOOD





EMILY RENAE ZULUAGA received her First Holy Communion on May 10, 2008, at Holy Family Parish in Nazareth, PA. She is the daughter of John and Tracy Zuluaga. She is the granddaughter of George and Sherry Kupec and Manuel and Gail Zuluaga.

Emily is a member of Jr. Branch 46 and just finished the second grade at Shafer Elementary School.



LAURA MONICA LUCAS of Jr. Branch 175 was baptized on April 13, 2008 at St. Priscilla Church in Chicago, IL. She is the daughter of Alan and Amy Jo Lucas.

Laura Monica is the great-granddaughter of Monica Grabowski President of Branch Sr. Branch 248 and Jr. Branch 175 and granddaughter of Tony and Barbara Mugaverd, Secretary/Treasurer and Auditor of Branch Sr. Branch 248 and Jr. Branch 175.

Laura Monica is fourth generation and the youngest of twelve family members of the FCSLA.



REBECCA NICOLE BETTENCOURT, daughter of Christine (Bajus) and Michael Bettencourt received her First Holy Communion on May 4, 2008 at SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. Rebecca is a member of the FCSLA Head Office Branch. Her sister, Rachel is also a member of the Jr. Branch 466 in Toronto. Loving grandparents are Mary and Ed Bajus, members of Branch 536, Toronto, Ontario, and Noemia and Joseph Bettencourt.

Rebecca attends St. Timothy School in Mississauga, Ontario and participates in tap, jazz, and ballet dancing, and has a green belt in Tae Kwon-Do.



ANNA ELIZABETH DUELGE (J130) was born March 17, 2008 to Stephenie and Thomas Duelge. She is a sister to Ava Therese Duelge with whom she is pictured.

Proud grandparents are Robert and Kathy Mueller and great-grandfather is Stephen Martis, all members of Branch 23, Milwaukee, WI.



JASON ANDREW YUKNAVICH received his First Holy Communion on May 10, 2008 at St. Basil Church in Brecksville, OH. Shown here with his grandparents, Dolores Toth Hornack of Branch 481, Brecksville, OH, and Joseph J. Hornack, assistant director of the Slovak Institute, in Cleveland, OH.

Jason will be entering the 3rd grade at Chippewa Elementary School. He enjoys playing baseball, basketball, soccer, riding his bike and card collecting.



KATELYNNE ASHLEY McHUGH made for First Communion on May 3, 2008, at St. Joseph Church. She is the daughter of Mark and Lucille McHugh. Katie is a member of Jr. Branch 66. She enjoys drawing, softball, and golf.



IN MEMORIAM

ELIZABETH ANN HAVALO **Branch 156**

STRUTHERS, OH—Elizabeth Ann “Betty” Havallo, 79, of Struthers, OH, died Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at St. Elizabeth Medical Center after becoming unexpectedly ill at home.

Mrs. Havallo was born August 30, 1928 in Youngstown, OH, a daughter of John and Helen Kozusko Tarajack.

A 1946 graduate of Struthers High School, Mrs. Havallo worked at Youngstown Sheet and Tube in the Briar Hill office from 1946 to 1954. She was a true homemaker and loved to cook and bake. Her greatest joy in life was her husband of 57 years, sons, grandsons, and great-granddaughter.

Mrs. Havallo was a member of St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church in Struthers and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Union Branch 156.

She leaves her husband, John H. Havallo, whom she married August 26, 1950; two sons, John G. (Jackie) Havallo of Hubbard and Ron (Sally Zanni) Havallo of Struthers; a sister, Veronica Sveda of Austintown; two grandsons, Michael (fiancée Ricki Adams) Havallo of Austintown and Daniel Havallo of Hubbard; and a great-granddaughter, Faith Elizabeth Havallo, a daughter of Michael and Ricki.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Helen Salata and Mary Kosco; and four brothers, George and Michael Tarajack and John and Steve Tarajack.

Funeral services were held at St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church. Interment followed at St. John Cemetery.

STEPHANIE A. KOVALCIK **Branch 262**

ATLANTA, GA—Stephanie A. Kovalcik, age 23, passed away suddenly in an automobile accident on March 29, 2008 in Atlanta, GA.

Born and raised in the Levittown area, she was a graduate of Pennsbury High School Class of 2003 where she

was a cheerleader. Stephanie was a graduate of Penn State University Class of 2007 where she obtained a degree in Elementary Education, which allowed her to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming a teacher. She was very proud to teach first grade at Meadowcreek Elementary School in Gwinnett County, GA.

She had a happy childhood and spent many memorable times with her family and friends in the Pocono Mountains, where she was a member of the Lake Adventure Dolphins Swim Team. She also played softball locally for the Levittown Continental League.

All of these positive experiences from her life made her a vibrant and joy-filled person, and it is this gift of happiness that she strove to share with all the school children under her care.

She was recently predeceased by her paternal grandmother, Margaret Kovalcik. She will be greatly missed by her parents, Edward and Bunny (nee Cumberland) Kovalcik; her brother, Marine LCPL Mike Kovalcik; her paternal grandfather, Charles C. Kovalcik; her maternal grandparents, Gordon and Barbara Cumberland; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and good friends.

Funeral services were held at the Galzerano Funeral Home in Levittown. Interment was in Resurrection Cemetery in Bensalem.

The family requests donations in her name be made to Montgomery County Special Olympics, 630 W. Germantown Pike, Suite 161, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462.

CLARENCE J. VLASAK **Branch W093**

TABOR, SD—Clarence J. Vlasak passed away suddenly May 31, 2008.

Clarence was born on the homestead farm west of Tabor to Joseph J. and Clara (Carda) Vlasak on November 17, 1916.

He attended the Tabor parochial school and graduated from Tabor High School.

As a young boy he helped in the Vlasak hardware store and the department store. After his brother's death he operated Joe's Inn in Tabor until he was drafted into the US Army during World War II where he served overseas for a year and a half in the Pacific theater.

Clarence and Helen (Noll) were married on June 6, 1939. They lived in Tabor all their lives where he worked for the Tabor banks as teller and manager for forty years.

He was a member of the Tabor Chamber of Commerce and served as president. He was a member of the St. Wenceslaus Church, FCSLA Branch W093, the Catholic Sokol Social Club. A charter and life member of the Czech Heritage Society, and the VFW of Yankton.

Clarence was also a member of the Elks Lodge in Yankton and Tabor Senior Citizen Center. Clarence was a life member of the American Legion. He was a Go-Getter of the Post for 55 years and received a state citation for his work.

Clarence and Helen traveled extensively throughout the USA and Europe especially to Czechoslovakia where they made many friends and continue to correspond in the Czech language. Their first trip to Europe was to visit his son David and wife Rosie while he was in the service stationed in Germany.

Clarence is survived by wife Helen and sons Richard (Carole Hlavac) and David (Rosie Borszich), a sister, Florence Koupal, five grandchildren Dean, Pamela, Andrea, Michael and Timaree and eight great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, son Joseph Clarence in 1963, one brother and two sisters.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Tabor with Msgr. Hermann officiating. Burial followed at St. Wenceslaus Cemetery with military graveside rites provided by Kortan-Hatwan American Legion Post 183 of Tabor.

ANNE M. YANOSKO

Branch 423

MAYFIELD HEIGHTS, OH—Anne M. Yanosko, 93, passed away on Friday, May 2, 2008 at Manor Care Nursing Home, Mayfield Heights, OH.

Anne M. Usko was born on April 11, 1915 in Welty Town, PA to Dorothy (Semancik) and Andrew Usko.

She married John A. Yanosko (deceased) on October 12, 1940 in Cleveland, OH.

Anne is survived by her children, Kenneth (Susan Frances), Barbara (Al, deceased) Amundson, Margaret Yanosko and Christine (Jim) Gillespie; devoted grandmother of John, Janet (Brian) Elkins, Sandra (Harvey) Powers, Michael (Angi) Shvorob, and Jessica Gillepsie; great-grandmother of six. She was predeceased by siblings Steve, Mary Mikeska, Agnes Kowchuck, Joseph, John, Sophie Krovontka, Dorothy Usko and Francis.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Clare Church, Lyndhurst, OH. Interment was at All Souls Cemetery. DiCicco and Sons Funeral Home, Mayfield Heights, OH was in charge of arrangements.

FRANCES M. PYTLIK

Branch W016

BRAINARD, NE—Frances M. Pytlík, 92, of Brainard, NE, passed into eternal life on May 3, 2008 at the Butler County Hospital in David City, NE.

She was born on July 13, 1915 in Omaha, NE to Joseph and Frances (Cap) Kubat. She married Robert Pytlík on December 28, 1938 in Bee, NE.

Frances was a member of Brainard Holy Trinity Catholic Church and the Holy Trinity PCCW. She was a FCSLA member of Branch W016 in Brainard, NE since 1946.

During her lifetime she enjoyed fishing, baking, gardening, crocheting, and especially all of her family.

Survivors include sons and daughter-in-law: Frances R. and Lea Ann

Pytlík of Cortland, NE and Donald R. and Susan Pytlík of Ceresco, NE; daughters and sons-in-law: Mary Lou and Jerome L. Meister of Brainard, NE, Sr. Frances Pytlík, A.S.C. of David City, NE and Roberta and Gary L. Christianity of Brainard, NE; 14 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; brother, Jim Kubat of Seward, NE; sister, Lillian Meradith of Kansas City, KS; and sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Edith and Paul Masar of Canon City, CO. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband in 1973; brothers, Frank and Joe Kubat; and sisters, Agnes Divis and Marie Buresh.

Services were held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Brainard. Burial was at the Brainard Catholic Cemetery.

JOSEPH SVOBODA

Branch W130

CLUTIER, IA—Joe Svoboda, age 75, passed away on April 24, 2008.

Joseph Casper Svoboda was born January 6, 1933 near Clutier, the son of Charles and Mildred (Podhajsky) Svoboda. Joe grew up on the family farm near Clutier.

He attended rural schools and graduated from Toledo High School. Joe served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict.



Joe and Carole Martin were united in marriage on June 8, 1957 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Cedar Falls, IA, and they farmed near Clutier since their marriage. In his free time, Joe was a member of a dance band playing double bass. Joe was a member of Catholic Workman/FCSLA since February 1934 and was an agent for that group for many years. He was also active in the American Legion, ASCS, various farm organizations, and was a Tama County 4-H leader. Joe especially enjoyed his grandchildren and listening to polka music.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his wife, Carole; their five children, Anne (Steve) Ausdemore, Connie (James Tielebein) Svoboda, Timothy (Cheryl) Svoboda, Deb (Keith) Epp, and Randall (Elizabeth) Svoboda; six grandchildren, Samuel and Alexander Ausdemore, Gabriella Ruggiero, Madeline and Joshua Svoboda, and Grace Epp; three brothers, Bernard (Mary) Svoboda, Laurence (Marlus) Svoboda, and John (Marilyn) Svoboda, all of Clutier; and three sisters, Martha (Charles) Dolezal of Toledo, Dorothy (Lawrence) Hagerty of Tama, and Ludmilla (John) Perkins of Cresco.

Visitation, rosary, and tributes were held, and the funeral service was at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Tama, IA. A memorial fund was established. Interment was at St. Vaclav Cemetery, rural Clutier.

SLOVAK FILM FESTIVAL CONTINUES FOR 2008

The movie "She Kept Crying for the Moon" will be shown at the Slovak Civic Federation in North Side, PA on Saturday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m.

The movie is a bittersweet comedy of village life in Eastern Slovakia. A typical village wedding is the highlight of the film.

Prior to the film on Saturday, the Slovak Civic Federation will offer chicken dinners served paprikash style for only \$8.00 starting at 5:30 p.m.

Receives Alumni Medallion Award

Ms. Anna M. Hudock, of Wilkes-Barre, PA, received the Alumni Medallion Award from Misericordia University, Dallas, PA on May 31, 2008 at a Mass and ceremony at the University. The award is given in recognition of outstanding volunteer work. Anna graduated from College Misericordia with a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1968. In 1972, she earned a master's degree in education from Bloomsburg University. She taught 1st and 3rd grades in the Greater Nanticoke Area School District for 21 years prior to retiring in 1999.

Anna is an active member of Sacred Heart-St. John's Parish in Wilkes-Barre, where she serves as a lector, sings in the choir, helps coordinate the parish bazaar, compiles the list of shut-ins, and is a member of the liturgy committee. Since retiring, she has become an active member of the Social Concerns Committee, helping to coordinate the distribution of food baskets to the needy at holidays throughout the year, and most recently, helping distribute over 500 gifts from the Giving Tree this past Christmas. She also serves as a Eucharistic Minister at the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Anna is a member of FCSLA Sr. Branch 172 and is the Treasurer of the Magdalen I. Iskra District. She prepares all printed programs and participates in all district activities, including volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen, the Wyoming Valley Children's Association graduation reception and participates in the Join Hands Day Projects.

In order to preserve and promote her Slovak Heritage, Anna is a Board Member and Recording Secretary of the Slovak Heritage Society of NEPA. She participated at the Ethnic Festival at King's College in 2006, volunteered at the Jankola Library and Slovak Museum in Danville, PA, helped produce several Slovak recordings, participates in Patch Town Days at Eckley Miners' Village, and takes an active part in all of the Heritage Society activities.



L-R: Magdalen I. Iskra, President of Sr. Branch 172; Mary Grobinski, Anna's sister; Tom Grobinski, Anna's brother-in-law; Anna Hudock; Bernadette Yench, Secretary Sr. Branch 172; Martha Iskra, Treasurer Sr. Branch 172.

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF MAY 31, 2008

ASSETS	
Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 11,193,604.83
Bonds	497,767,533.55
Preferred Stock	8,374,825.87
Common Stock	1,477,121.96
Investment Income Due and Accrued	7,884,342.13
Certificate Loans and Accrued Interest	1,231,589.61
Promissory Notes	107,888.18
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	8,961,494.44
Other Assets	270,967.35
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 537,269,367.92
LIABILITIES	
Life Reserves	\$ 156,656,067.08
Annuity Reserves	273,819,165.10
Provision for Annuity Certain Accounts	2,071,000.00
Death Claims Payable	514,534.83
Unearned Premiums	604,311.56
Matured Endowments	117,172.95
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,566,073.83
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,361,769.89
Provision for Future Donations	300,000.00
Provision for Future Conventions	99,837.40
Asset Valuation Reserve	4,766,070.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,528,091.00
Other Liabilities	1,336,326.47
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 446,740,420.11
SURPLUS	
Surplus	\$ 90,528,947.81
TOTAL SURPLUS	\$ 90,528,947.81
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 537,269,367.92

INCOME STATEMENT For the Five Months Ended May 31, 2008

REVENUE	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 1,942,667.89
Annuity Premiums	7,045,464.22
Investment Income	13,066,139.71
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	28,685.00
Other Revenue	217,939.06
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 22,300,895.88
EXPENSES	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 2,545,067.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	6,206,165.00
Insurance Benefits	1,510,184.63
Annuity Benefits	6,398,397.87
Commission Expense	191,813.17
Surrender Benefits	378,940.75
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	21,124.09
Matured Endowments	3,283.56
Donation Expenses	186,565.55
Convention Expenses	75,000.00
Dividends to Members	624,838.10
Post Mortem Benefits	367,289.78
Bonus to Branches	426,339.00
Fraternal Activities	23,779.71
Bank Service Charges	15,607.83
Data Processing Service Fees	183,824.43
Accounting Fees	40,172.00
Actuarial Fees	68,644.00
Legal Fees	24,471.86
Consulting Services	76,632.50
Official Publications	148,868.00
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	120,609.97
Fees — Directors	45,266.80
Salaries — Employees	403,677.32
Salaries — Officers	177,083.35
Interest Expense	73,660.79
Tax Expense	114,890.21
Depreciation Expense	181,015.00
Utility Expense	39,541.72
Postage and Printing	137,489.46
Advertising	36,322.40
Travel Expense	55,763.62
Other Expense	356,409.20
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 21,258,738.67
NET INCOME	\$ 1,042,157.21



Create Something New Tonight!

COBB SALAD

- 1½ pounds skinless, boneless chicken breast cutlets
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 8 cups mixed greens
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- ½ cup diced, peeled avocado
- 2 tablespoons sliced green onions
- 2 hard boiled eggs, sliced
- ⅓ cup fat-free Italian dressing
- 2 tablespoons crumbled blue cheese
- 3 bacon slices, cooked and crumbled

Heat a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Coat pan with cooking spray. Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper. Add chicken to pan; cook 5 minutes on each side or until done. Set aside to cool. Cut into ½-inch slices.

In large serving bowl, combine greens, tomatoes, avocado, and onions. Add chicken, cheese, egg and bacon. Drizzle with dressing and toss gently to coat. Serves 4.

AU GRATIN VEGETABLE CASSEROLE

- 2 cup fresh cauliflower
- 2 cup fresh broccoli
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- ½ cup cheese (Swiss, cheddar, Parmesan or any mixture)
- 1 can French fried onions

Separate cauliflower and broccoli into flowerets. Steam until almost tender. Drain. Spoon half of vegetables into greased 1½ quart casserole; spoon half of soup over vegetables; sprinkle with half the cheese. Layer remaining vegetables,

soup and cheese. Top with onions. Bake, covered, at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Remove cover and bake 10 more minutes until bubbly.

GREEN BEAN SUPREME

- 1 (10 ounce) can condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 3 ounces Velveeta cheese, cubed
- 1 tablespoon real bacon bits
- 1 (4 ounce) can mushroom stems and pieces, drained
- 2 (15 ounce) cans cut green beans, drained
- 1 (2.8 ounce) can French-fried onions

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Heat the undiluted cream of mushroom soup in a saucepan over medium heat. Stir in the cheese and bacon bits, and continue stirring until completely melted. Remove from the heat, stir in the mushrooms, then the green beans until evenly coated. Pour the mixture into a casserole dish, and top with the fried onions.

Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, until heated through and bubbly. If the onions appear to be getting too dark, cover loosely with foil that has been sprayed with cooking spray, and continue to bake.

BUTTERNUT SQUASH BISQUE

- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- ½ cup diced onion
- ¾ cup diced carrots
- 4 cups peeled and cubed butternut squash
- 3 cups soup stock
- salt and ground pepper to taste
- ground nutmeg to taste
- ½ cup heavy cream (optional)

Heat the oil and melt the butter in a large pot over medium heat. Cook and stir the onion in the butter and oil under tender.

Mix the squash and carrots into the pot. Add vegetable stock, and season with salt, pepper, and nutmeg. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer until vegetables are tender.

In a blender or food processor, puree the soup mixture until smooth. Return to the pot, and stir in the heavy cream. Heat through, but do not boil. Serve warm with a dash of nutmeg.

STEAK STROGANOFF

- 1¼ lb. beef flank steak, cut across the grain into thin slices
- 1 medium onion, sliced
- ½ lb. (8 oz.) American cheese, cut up into cubes
- 1½ cups water

- 3 cups egg noodles, uncooked
- 1 can (10 ¾ oz.) condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen green beans
- ½ tsp. black pepper

Spray large skillet with cooking spray, then add steak and onions. Cook while stirring on medium-high heat several minutes or until steak is no longer pink. Stir in water. Bring to boil. Add noodles; return to boil. Reduce heat to medium-low; cook 5-7 minutes or until noodles are tender, stirring frequently. Add remaining ingredients; stir. Cook until cheese is completely melted and mixture is well blended. 4 servings.

CAESAR SALAD WITH CAJUN CHICKEN

- ¼ pound bacon
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, cut into strips
- 1 tablespoon light olive oil
- 1 teaspoon Cajun seasoning
- 1 head romaine lettuce, rinsed, dried and chopped
- ½ cup Caesar salad dressing
- ⅓ cup grated Parmesan cheese

Place bacon in a large skillet. Cook over medium high heat until evenly brown. Crumble and set aside.

In a preheated skillet, add the chicken, seasoning mix and oil. Cook until chicken is golden brown. Remove from heat and set aside.

In a salad bowl, combine Romaine, enough salad dressing to coat, Parmesan cheese and bacon. Toss and place on individual salad plates. Top with sliced chicken and serve immediately.

CREAMY MARSHMALLOW FRUIT DIP

The gooey marshmallow dip makes fresh fruit much more tempting.

- 1 (8-ounce) can unsweetened pineapple chunks
- 2 unpeeled apples, cored and cut into 16 (1-inch) pieces
- 16 tangerine sections (about 2 tangerines)
- 16 seedless green grapes
- 8 fresh strawberries, cut in half length-wise

Drain pineapple in a sieve over a bowl, reserving juice. Set aside 16 pineapple chunks and ¼ cup juice, reserving remaining pineapple and juice for another use. Place ¼ cup pineapple juice in a large bowl, and stir in 16 pineapple chunks, apple pieces, tangerine sections, grapes, and strawberry halves. Chill. Spoon fruit evenly into 8 small bowls; top each with 2 tablespoons Marshmallow Dip. Serves 8.

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