



ISSN 0897-2958

VOL. 95, NO. 1

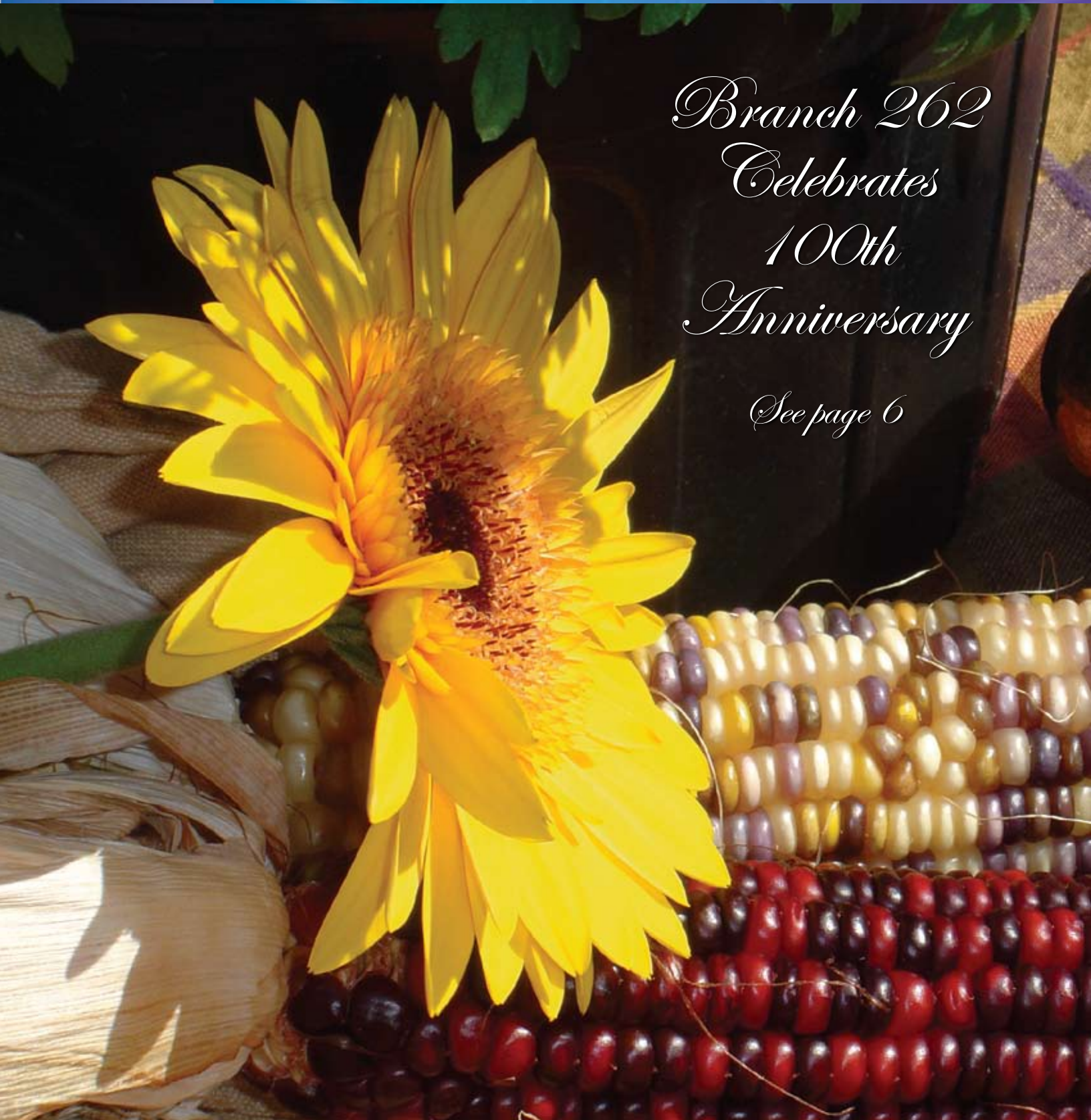
Fraternally Yours, ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

OCTOBER 2008

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

*Branch 262
Celebrates
100th
Anniversary*

See page 6



Fraternally Yours,

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



ISSN 0897-2958



Fraternally Yours,
ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,

is a monthly magazine published by the
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.
National Headquarters at 24950 Chagrin Blvd.,
Cleveland, Ohio 44122

EDITOR: Carolyn Bazik

P.O. Box 1617, Reading, PA 19603

E-mail: zjbazik@comcast.net

Phone (610) 373-2743 • Fax (610) 375-8333

Periodical Postage Paid at
Cleveland, OH 44101 and additional entries

Subscription Rate, Non-Members: \$6.00 — 1 Yr.

Printed at Triangle Press
6720 Allentown Blvd., Harrisburg, PA 17112

Postmaster: Send address changes to
Ženska Jednota,
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44122

Deadline for all articles is the 15th
of the month, 1½ months prior to the issue date.

OFFICE HOURS — HOME OFFICE

Monday through Friday — 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Phone: (216) 464-8015 • Toll Free: 800-464-4642

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAPLAIN:

Rev. Msgr. Peter M. Polando, Saint Matthias
Church, 915 Cornell St., Youngstown, OH 44502.
Residence: (330) 788-5082.

PRESIDENT:

Mary Ann S. Johaneck, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard,
Beachwood, OH 44122. (800) 464-4642. Ext. 1011.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Rosemary A. Mlinarich, 25726 State Line Road,
Crete, IL 60417. Residence: (708) 672-6275.

Linda M. Killeen, 22947 Frederick, Farmington, MI
48336. Residence: (248) 379-2514.

Bernadette J. Demechko, 2634 Taft Avenue,
Youngstown, OH 44502. Residence: (330) 782-8638.
E-mail: bdemechko@aol.com

SECRETARY:

Irene J. Drotleff, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard,
Beachwood, OH 44122. (800) 464-4642. Ext. 1012.

TREASURER:

John M. Janovec, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard,
Beachwood, OH 44122. (800) 464-4642. Ext. 1016.

TRUSTEES:

Cynthia M. Maleski, Esq., 24950 Chagrin Boule-
vard, Beachwood, OH 44122. (800) 464-4642.

Virginia Holmes, 1625 Vermont Avenue, White
Oak, PA 15131. Residence: (412) 672-1565.

AUDITORS:

Dorothy Urbanowicz, 27 Crescent Drive, Mones-
sen, PA 15062. Residence: (724) 684-8243.

Barbara A. Sekerak, 6312 Elmdale Road, Brook
Park, OH 44142. (216) 676-9332.

Steve Hudak, 8057 Amber Lane, Brecksville, OH
44141. Residence: (440) 526-7530.

EDITOR:

Carolyn Bazik, P.O. Box 1617, Reading, PA 19603
(610) 373-2743.

COURT OF APPEALS:

Barbara A. Shedlock	Ken Dolezal
Veronica Bazik	Ron Sestak
Mary Jo Noyes	Rebecca Coleman
Mary Sirocky-Angeloff	Monica Anthony
Ralph Szubski	Bernard Drahozal
Lawrence Golofski	Carol Yurechko

Nudge the Balance

A 91-year-old woman died after living a very long dignified life. When she met God, she asked Him something that had really bothered her for a very long time. "If Man was created in God's image, and if all men are created equal, why do people treat each other so badly?"

God replied that each person who enters our life has a unique lesson to teach us. It is only through these lessons that we learn about life, people and our relationships with God. This confused the woman, so God began to explain:

"When someone lies to you, it teaches you that things are not always what they seem. The truth is often far beneath the surface. Look beyond the masks people wear if you want to know what is in their hearts. Remove your own masks to let people know who you really are.

When someone steals from you it teaches you that nothing is forever. Always appreciate what you have. You never know when you might lose it. Never take your friends or family for granted, because today and sometimes only this very moment is the only guarantee you may have.

When someone inflicts injury upon you, it teaches you that the human state is a very fragile one. Protect and take care of your body as best as you can, it's the one thing that you are sure to have forever.

When someone mocks you, it teaches you that no two people are alike. When you encounter people who are different from you, do not judge them by how they look or act, instead base it on the contents of what is in their hearts.

When someone breaks your heart, it teaches you that loving someone does not always mean that the person will love you back. But don't turn your back on love, because when you find the right person, the joy that one person brings you will make up for all of your past hurts — times a thousand fold.

When someone holds a grudge against you, it teaches you that everyone makes mistakes. When you are wronged, the most virtuous thing you can do is forgive the offender without pretense. Forgiving those who have hurt us is often the most difficult and painful of life's experiences, but it is also the most courageous thing a person can do.

When a loved one is unfaithful to you, it teaches you that resisting temptation is Man's greatest challenge. Be vigilant in your resistance against all temptations. By doing so, you will be rewarded with an enduring sense of satisfaction far greater than the temporary pleasure by which you were tempted.

When someone cheats you, it teaches you that greed is the root of all evil. Aspire to make your dreams come true, no matter how lofty they may be. Do not feel guilty about your success, but never let an obsession with achieving your goals lead you to engage in malevolent activities.

When someone ridicules you, it teaches you that nobody is perfect. Accept people for their merits and be tolerant of their flaws. Do not ever reject someone for imperfections over which they have no control."

Upon hearing the Lord's wisdom, the old woman became concerned that there are no lessons to be learned from man's good deeds. God replied that Man's capacity to love is the greatest gift He has. At the root of kindness is love, and each act of love also teaches us a lesson. The woman's curiosity deepened. God, once again began to explain:

"When someone loves us, it teaches us love, kindness, charity, honesty, humility, forgiveness, acceptance, and all of these can counteract all the evil in the world. For every good deed, there is one evil deed. Man alone has the power to control the balance between good and evil, but because the lessons of love are not taught often enough, the power is too often abused.



Carolyn Bazik

continued on page 5

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

Mary and the Rosary

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

One of my earliest childhood memories that I have is arriving at church for Sunday morning Mass with my family and listening to the older parishioners praying the rosary in Slovak. "V mene Otca i Syna i Duchu Svätého.", "Verím v Boha, Otca všemohúceho...", "Otče náš, ktorý si na nebesiach...", "Zdravas', Mária, milosti plná...", and "Sláva Otcu i Synu i Duchu Svätému..." all were foreign to me. As a little child, I wondered at what age this language would be instantaneously infused in my brain so that I would know what they were praying and, maybe just as importantly, when I would be able to interpret my parents Slovak into English when they did not want us children to understand what they did not want us to hear!

At home, I remember my mother teaching me the basic prayers of our Faith. Prior to the celebration First Holy Communion, our second grade teacher taught my classmates and me how to pray the rosary. It was on First Communion day afternoon that we First Communicants would come back to church to have monsignor bless our rosaries, take possession of our prayer books, and received our brown scapulars of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Simon Stock.

As I dig back in memory, my maternal grandmother always had her rosary in hand unless she was baking or cooking. Even then, her rosary was close to her, making sure her tasty productions would come to her family's expected grand finale. Her prayer life left a lasting impression on me as I am sure many of your grandparents and parents did the same with you. But so much so was I impressed with Baba's praying of the rosary that when she passed away while I was in the sixth grade, I asked

my mother and uncles if I could have the rosary she prayed with everyday. Of course, she was buried with her good rosary! I still use her "everyday" rosary and carry it on my person to this day. And I have some stories about that rosary; but those are for some future articles!

The rosary was a primary source of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary for my grandparents who immigrated to this country from Slovakia in the beginning of the last century. It has been inspirational for centuries of Catholics throughout the world and for modern day Catholics. Through meditation on the mysteries of the rosary — the joyful, the light [more recently through the devotion Pope John Paul II had to Mary and the rosary in his exhortation, of 200], the sorrowful, and the glorious — we reflect on the highpoints of Jesus' life within salvation history and the intimate relationship that the first of Christians, Mary, experienced. In paragraph sixty-six of the Second Vatican Two Council's *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* [*Lumen gentium*], the Council Fathers remind us that, "Mary was involved in the mysteries of Christ. As the most holy Mother of God she was, after her Son, exalted by divine grace above angels and men. Hence the Church appropriately honors her with special reverence. Indeed, from most ancient times the Blessed Virgin has been venerated under the title of 'God-bearer.' In all perils and needs, the faithful have fled prayerfully to her protection."

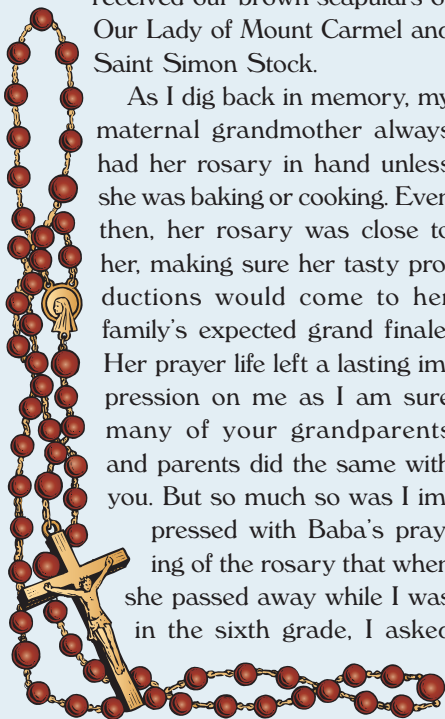
During the month of October, the Church honors the Mother of God under the title of "Our Lady of the Rosary" that is celebrated in the liturgical calendar on the seventh of October. Saint Pope Pius V established this memorial in commemoration of the Christian naval victory at Lepanto in which the Blessed Virgin Mary was invoked by the praying of the rosary. As a tribute to the Blessed Virgin Mary, churches add extra times to their liturgical schedules to pray the rosary on the weekends and weekdays. We, people who are called to lives of

prayer, may pray an additional rosary during this month, invoking the Mother of God to intercede for us at her Son's right hand. In this fashion, we honor Mary with special reverence and share with her in participation in the mysteries of her Son, Jesus.

Saint Cyril of Alexandria is quoted as saying of Mary at the Council of Ephesus 431, A.D., "We salute you, for in your holy womb he, who is beyond all limitation, was confined. Because of you the holy Trinity is glorified and adored; the cross is called precious and is venerated throughout the world; the heavens exult; the angels and archangels make merry; demons are put to flight; the devil, that tempter, is thrust down from heaven; the fallen race of man is taken up on high; all creatures possessed by the madness of idolatry have attained knowledge of the truth; believers receive holy baptism; the oil of gladness is poured out; the Church is established throughout the world; pagans are brought to repentance" [PG 77, 95].

Whether we pray the rosary daily or do not utilize this devotion to the Blessed Mother as often, let us strive together this month to take up the rosary and reflect more closely on the joys, light, sufferings and glory of Jesus as experienced by first hand by His Mother, our Mother. May we treasure our relationship with the Mother of God, as did our ancestors of Faith did, so very openly and with fidelity as a child does with his/her own mother. May our trust in her be reflected in the love her Son had for her and she had for her Son. The Church teaches in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "Jesus is Mary's only son, but her spiritual motherhood extends to all men whom indeed he came to save: 'The Son whom she brought forth is he whom God placed as the first-born among many brethren, that is, the faithful in whose generation and formulation she cooperates with a mother's love' [paragraph 501].

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you!



50th WEDDING CELEBRATION

60th ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED



Richard and Susan Talpas of Branch 221, Parma, OH celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 14, 2008. They were joined by their 4 children and spouses, Jane (Dennis) Blackburn, Andrea (Peter) Lagzdins, Timothy (Mary), Laura (Walter) Avdey, and their 13 grandchildren for a Mass at Holy Family Church in Parma, OH and a party afterward on Sunday, June 22, 2008.

Richard and Susan were married on June 14, 1958 at St. Andrew Svorad Church in Cleveland, Ohio. They also received their education and sacraments at St. Andrew's Church.

An Apostolic Blessing from Pope Benedict XVI was given to the anniversary couple by Most Rev. Roger W. Gries, O.S.B., Auxillary Bishop of Cleveland on June 1, 2008. Richard and Susan are both officers of Branch 221.

We congratulate them and ask God to richly bless our anniversary couple with many more years together!

Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Mary and Jack Steepy of Trenton, NJ celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on September 11, 2008. Jack and Mary Hritz exchanged wedding vows at a Nuptial Mass on September 11, 1948 at St. Peter and Paul Church in Trenton, NJ, the Reverend John Kanda officiated.

Their children are Eileen and Louis Hermas, Patricia and Dennis Lutz and Richard Steepy. They have 2 grandchildren, Dawn and Douglas Lutz.

Jack served his country from 1942 through 1945 in the United States Marine Corp. Both worked for the State of New Jersey, Mary in the Department of Higher Education and Jack in the Department of Transportation – Bridge Division.

The happy couple are members of Branch 118 where Mary served as Treasurer for close to 50 years! We ask God to continue to bless our anniversary couple!



Lewis L. and Barbara (Liska) Nedved, Branch W051, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on August 3, 2008.

They were married in St. Wenceslaus Church in Duncan, IA where they remain as members of the parish.

The couple has 4 children, Mary Ann (Joe) Michels of Lakeville, MN; Tom (Rachel) Nedved of Eldora, IA; Lewis A (Andrea) Nedved of Duncan, IA; and Jolene (Mike) Leerar of Garner, IA. They have 8 grandchildren: Katie, Jon and Alycia Michels; Andrea and Adrienne Nedved; Nathan Nedved; and Kayla and Jacob Leerar. Lewis and Barbara have been active members of Branch W051, Duncan, IA.



Rose Skrabak Turns 90

Rose was born on August 8, 1918, daughter of Adam and Susan Harvanchik. She is a member of the former St. Michael Church, and the Secular Franciscan Order. She is a member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Branch 140 the St. Ann Society, St. Joseph Society, and St. Vincent de Paul Society — all in St. Michael Church. She is also a member of the World Apostolate of Fatima.

Rose graduated from the former Lansford High School and the McCann Business School.

She is a former Claims Supervisor in the Unemployment Compensation Office in Jim Thorpe. She also helped many people as Notary Public.

In 1946 she married Thomas Skrabak and assisted him in the operation of his business the Thomas Skrabak funeral service.

She has four children. Thomas and his wife Ann live in Sinking Spring, MD. John and his wife Jenny live in Cochranville, PA. Marian and her husband Gerard Opresko in Treichlers, PA and Rosalie and her husband Gerard Daelemans of Bowie, MD. There are eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She now resides in Maple Shade Meadows Assisted Living, 50 E Locust St. Nesquehoning, PA 18240.



Celebrates 90th Birthday

Martha Sipka Parry celebrated her 90th birthday at the American Turner Club at 748 Clarence Ave, Bronx, NY

She was born in Newark, NJ, on July 28, 1918 and baptized at St. Stephen's Slovak Church. Martha worked 31 years as a NYC employee, retiring from The Dept. of Social Services as an Office Manager. She is President of Sr. Branch 2 in Yonkers, NY.

Due to the depression, Martha could not attend college after high school, but at age 55 started college and finished at age 60 with a BS in Sociology. A dream come true. After retirement, Martha participated in senior athletics (track and field) and received her last medal at the Nationals in Orlando, FL.

She was married for 51 years and had 3 children: Joanne (Bill) Cazin, Richard (Sharon) and Ilona who died in 2002, plus 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren: Madeleine and Sophia Werneke, members of Jr. Branch 83 in, Joliet, IL.



Martha Parry, Bronx, NY with great-grandchildren Sophia (left) and Madeleine Werneke (right), Naperville, IL

Nudge the Balance

continued from page 2

When you enter someone's life, whether by plan, chance or coincidence, consider what your lesson will be. Will you teach love or a harsh lesson of reality? When you die, will your life have resulted in more loving or more hurting? More comfort or more pain? More joy or more sadness? Each one of us has the power over the balance of love in the world. Use it wisely! Don't miss an opportunity to nudge the world's scale in the right direction!

Pass this lesson of love on to those you love and those you have hurt, and those that have hurt you, hopefully with each person that receives this, there will be far less evil and a great deal more love! Isn't that what fraternalism should really be about?

Until Next Month —
Warmly, Carolyn

Students in the News

Attends "World Youth Day" in Australia

Gareth Bury attended the "World Youth Day 2008" in Sydney, Australia with the Diocese of Greensburg. Gareth is a member of St. Sebastian Roman Catholic Church, Belle Vernon, PA, and a 2008 graduate of Greensburg Central Catholic High School. In the fall he will be attending St. Vincent College, Latrobe, PA.

He is the son of Robert and Kimberly Bury and is a member of Branch 111 in Charleroi, PA.



Gareth Bury in front of the Sydney Opera House while attending "World Youth Day 2008" in Sydney, Australia with the Diocese of Greensburg.

Graduates with Master's Degree

Jonathon Richard Scholl, Branch 114 of Lorain, OH received his Master's Degree in Philosophy from the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium in June 2008. He graduated with Great Distinction from the Leuven University



Jonathon Scholl in front of the Catholic University in Belgium taken by his family during a trip to visit him in April 2008.

and also received a scholarship for his pre-doctorate work to begin next year. Jonathon graduated summa cum laude from Indiana University — Purdue University, Fort Wayne, IN with a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy.

He is the son of Sandra Jean Scholl a FCSLA member and the late Frances C. Gavron, a past member. His Aunt France M. Hammerly and Maureen DeRenzo and six cousins are also members. Congratulations Jonathon!

Branch 262 Celebrates 100th Anniversary

East Vandergrift, Pennsylvania

Branch 262 of East Vandergrift, PA celebrated their 100th anniversary with a church breakfast at the Our Lady Queen of Peace Social Hall on July 20, 2008. The branch presented a check to the pastor Fr. Mike Sciberras and to Clara Virostek for the Christian Mothers. Also in attendance was National Trustee Cynthia Maleski who presented a check from her branch and Branch 262 also received a check in honor of their anniversary from the Pittsburgh District.

Congratulations to Branch 262 President, Margaret Soska, and National Vice President Linda Killeen who is the Branch Financial Secretary.



ST. ANN'S DAY CELEBRATION IN LORAIN, OHIO

Members of Branch 114 celebrated St. Ann's Day in Lorain, OH with a Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. David Novak, pastor of Holy Trinity Church. A breakfast followed in Trinity Center with many members present. President Bernadette Robertson honored Matthew Burgdorf and Stephanie Crofoot

as the scholarship winners of their Branch 114. Also honored were Kayla Bobik, Brittany Ridenour, Brian Crofoot, and Julia Wolfinger who applied and were given a monetary donation toward their books.



2008 Christmas Ornament Contest

Join in the excitement of creating an ornament!

You have the option of choosing the category you would like to enter. **The ornaments will not be returned**, they will be used to decorate the Home Office Christmas tree and be put on display for all employees and visitors to enjoy. The contest guidelines must be followed:



ORNAMENT GUIDELINES

1. The contest is open to all Senior Members of the FCSLA, age 16 and over. (This **does include** all FCSLA Board Members and Home Office Employees.)
2. The ornament must be handmade and created by the entrant.
3. The materials used to create the ornament may be purchased. (You may **not** enter ornaments that have been purchased at department stores, craft shows, boutiques, etc.)
4. The size of the ornament may not be more than 4" X 4" x4" in size.
5. You must choose only one category for each entry. You may enter more than one category but only one entry per category.
6. The ornament must have been made during the 2008 calendar year.
7. A completed entry form must accompany each entry. (**One form per ornament**).
8. You must securely mail the ornament(s). FCSLA will not be held responsible if any ornaments are received broken.
9. The package must be postmarked no later than November 25, 2008, to qualify.
10. The non-participating judge(s) decision will be final.

CATEGORIES: F - Original C - Colorful S - Unique L - Intricate A - Ethnic

THE PRIZES FOR EACH CATEGORY WILL BE:

1st Prize \$50.00 gift card 2nd Prize \$25.00 gift card 3rd Prize \$15.00 gift card

All participants will receive an Honorary Mention and a token of our appreciation for entering. Winners will receive notification and prizes in December and the results will be printed in an issue of our monthly publication, "Fraternally Yours, Zenska Jednota".

THE CONTEST BEGINS OCTOBER 1, 2008.

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT CONTEST ENTRY FORM

NUMBER _____ (Please leave blank, number will be assigned at the Home Office)

Name (please print) _____ Branch _____

Signature _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Alternate Phone* _____ Email* _____

Age* _____ Approx. Cost * _____ When was ornament made? _____ , 2008
(month)

Did you have help making the ornament?* _____

How much time did it take to make the ornament?* _____

Circle the category for your entry: F (Original) C (Colorful) S (Unique) L (Intricate) A (Ethnic)

*These answers are not mandatory.

Comments: _____

Mail this completed form along with your ornament to:

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

PLEASE NOTE: The ornaments will not be returned. — The deadline for entries is November 25th, 2008.

Computer Demonstrations for Branches 81 and 58

On May 28, 2008, the officers of FCSLA Branch 81 and Jr. Branch 58 met with the St. John the Baptist Catholic School seventh grade students for a computer demonstration. The 7th grade teacher, Ms. Nies, had the students sit with each officer of Branch 81 and 58 to help them learn more about computers and our FCSLA website. Florence Hovanec, President of Branch 81 (and a former National Officer) discussed the history of the FCSLA and the benefits the members can receive, like scholarships.

Margaret Abildua, the Helen Kocan District President and Branch 81 Treasurer, along with her husband Tony Abildua, also a member of Branch 81, and nephew Matt Zabrecky brought in some promotional items supplied by

our Home Office. The officers then put these items together in some gift bags to give to each student to show appreciation for their time and talents. The Whiting Indiana Branches 81 and Junior Branch 58 helped with financial donations to help purchase some of the school computers.

The branch officers and members along with our agent Ed Bach selected this as our 2008 Join Hands Day Project.



Mark Topp, Principal at St. John School (standing) with Margaret Abildua, District President and Treasurer of Branch 81 with students giving computer demonstrations.



Officers of Branch 81 and Jr. Branch 58 along with the Computer Science teacher, Judith Nies and agent Ed Bach.

Chicago District Participated in Join Hands Day

The Anna Hurban District of Chicago participated in a Join Hands Day event on Saturday, June 14 at Hines Veterans Hospital in Hines, IL to play bingo with approximately 40 veterans.

Bingo cash prizes and gifts were donated by the District. Everyone enjoyed themselves, especially the veterans who asked when we were coming back.

Shown below are three veterans and members who worked the bingo and visited with the veterans, L-R: Dolores Glomb (\$225), Helen and Joe Ledvora (\$485), Lydia Berry (\$485), Colleen Kopeck (\$485), Amanda Ledvora (\$46), and Lil Sagat (\$489). Phil Glomb (\$225) and Steve Sagat (\$489) worked the bingo but are not pictured.



AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS

Branch W039 of Protivin, IA is proud to announce that two members have been awarded scholarships for the year 2008. Amber Lynn Shimek of Ridgeway, IA is a junior attending the University of Iowa. She is studying to become a dentist. Ryan P. Pecinovsky of Calmar, IA will be a freshman attending Iowa State this fall. He will be studying aerospace engineering. Both students are graduates of Crestwood High School, Cresco, IA. The awards were presented to these fine students by Branch Trustee Pauline Hubka and President Elva Shimek.



L-R: Ryan P. Pecinovsky and Elva Shimek.



L-R: Pauline Hubka, trustee, Amber Lynn Shimek, and Elva Shimek, President.

Branch W018 Acknowledges Scholarship Winners

On Thursday, July 24, Branch W018 celebrated the achievements of four of their members who were awarded FCSLA scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year. The winners and their families and the branch officer team and board members enjoyed a delicious dinner at Dave and Busters before the certificates were awarded. After dinner, each person was given a Power Card to use in Dave and Buster's game room. Everyone enjoyed the challenge of each of the arcade-type games and earned "tickets" that were redeemed for prizes.



Two happy game players who will soon redeem these tickets for prizes.

The winners present were Kristen Benes who begins her junior year at Rockhurst College in Kansas City, MO; Colin Dorwart who is attending Portland University in Portland, OR; Christine Riley who will begin her freshman year at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, NE; and Matthew Popelka, an eighth grader at St. Columbkille Grade School in Papillion, NE.



Branch W018 scholarship winners and their families.

Branches 32 and 77 Winners

Branch 32 and 77 scholarship winners are pictured below with their families.

➤ **John, Matthew and Barbara Novosel**



➤ **Peter, Patrick and Janet Sullivan**

Luncheon Held for Scholarship Winners

On Sunday, July 13, in Gary, IN, Branches 289 and 184 held a luncheon at Telbels Restaurant for their scholarship recipients and their family members. Recipients enjoyed lunch and received gifts from the Branch engraved with their names.



Seated: Ben Wininger. Standing, L-R: Madeline Martin, Kaitlyn Bridgeman and Cindy Oresik.



Seated, L-R: Ben Wininger, Catherine M. Kunas representing her granddaughter Grace Kunas, Madeline Martin, Mrs. Bridgeman representing her daughter Kaitlyn. Standing, L-R: Officers Mary Ann Oresik, Leona Cupka, Ann Fedorchak, and scholarship winner Cindy Oresik.

SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON



The Anna Hurban District of Chicago invited branch scholarship winners and their families to a luncheon on June 21, 2008. Preceding the District meeting, scholarship awards were presented to — Row 1, L-R: Sean Sroka (S485), Nicholas Derda (S421), Rebecca Beno (S180), Courtney Kinnane (J322), Cassandra Duck (J96). Row 2, L-R: Kerry Klausner (S180), Catherine Blinstrup (S287), Gretchen Hoffman (S485), Amanda Ledvora (S46), Heather Dzialowy (S489). Row 3, L-R: Andrew Matecki (S352).

Anna Hurban District of Cleveland Participates in Join Hands Day

The following report and photos were submitted by FCSLA Fraternal Director, Sue Ann Seich. The Cleveland District put her to work right way!

Saturday, May 3, 2008, marked the 9th "Join Hands Day" project for the Cleveland District. This project was one of two planned for Join Hands Day. The success of this event was due to the caring attitude of the children and adults from the FCSLA, Benedictine High School, Light of Hearts Villa, and St. Michael's Grade School, that volunteered their time and energy.

The event was held at Malachi House. It is solely dependent on private donations and is located on the west side of Cleveland. An explanation of why and when the house came into existence was explained to the volunteers by Alice Sawyers, Volunteer Coordinator, when they first arrived. She was proud to tell the story about Malachi House and the wonderful people who live, assist, volunteer or donate to the house. She was a volunteer there for 12 years before becoming a staff person and now has been there for 18 years.

The "House" was "created out of a Christian sense of ministry, serves persons who are terminally ill, without cost or regard to gender, race, religion or national origin. This home ministers to individuals who need an available caregiver, who have limited or no financial resources and are in need of special home care in their final stages of life."

The event was planned by Barbara Sekerak, and chaired by Joyce Lechman. There were 12 adults: Florence Mizikar, Kathleen Hallack, Gloria Terlosky, Anne Sedlock, Joyce Lechman, Pat Phillips, Mike Phillips, Daniel Phillips, Donna Oros, Steve Hudak, Father Gerard Gonda, O.S.B and Sue Ann Seich, Fraternal and Youth Director for the FCSLA. There were five teenagers: Nick Mizikar, Chris Hudak, Danny Sevcik, Ryan Andorka, and Chuck Tillie.

The volunteers arrived with boxes of donated items for the pantry shelves. After a tour of the home, a presentation was made by Joyce Lechman, District President. Many of the branches that make up the Cleveland District donated funds for the house to help with expenses. After the tour, lunch was served to all the residents, volunteers, and staff. Father Gerard Gonda, O.S.B. offered a prayer before lunch. Along with the delicious lunch, cookies were served that were made by the Light of Hearts Villa and the FCSLA. Once lunch was finished, the volunteers visited with the residents.

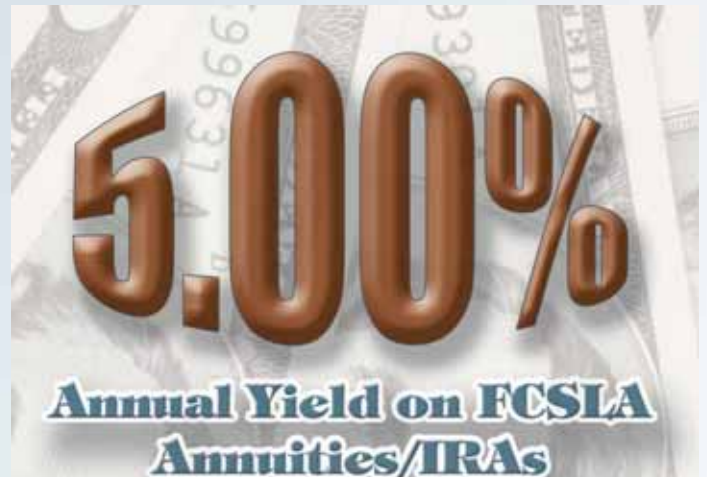


It was explained that you cannot go into any resident's room if the door is closed and if it is open you must ask if you may enter.

Some of the volunteers visited with the oldest resident "Mama" who is 104; a delightful resident, Susan, 101, who is Slovak; and Mabeline, a retired cosmetologist, all of them enjoyed company, especially volunteers and they welcomed them into their rooms. Many other visits were made, which put smiles on the resident's faces.

All the volunteers for this "Join Hands Day" project left with a warm feeling that they did make a difference in someone's life even if it was only for a short time. Some of the volunteers are going to adopt one of the residents at Christmas or plan on becoming regular volunteers. This was definitely a success when it comes to volunteer projects.

What a wonderful day!! The second event will be published in the November issue of *Fraternally Yours*.



5.00%
**Annual Yield on FCSLA
Annuities/IRAs**

From October 1 through and including December 31, 2008, all Annuities/IRAs will pay a yield of 5.0% based on a 4.8793% rate of interest compounded daily. Members choosing the interest only option will earn 4.6025% (APR 4.50%) while those selecting a settlement option during this period will earn a yield of 4.75% (APR 4.6409%).

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





"THE FEST"

CLEVELAND DISTRICT



What did over twenty-five thousand people do on a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon on August 3rd in Wickliffe, OH? Ask one of the Cleveland District

volunteers and they will tell you that they manned the FCSLA booth at "The FEST" held on the grounds of the Center for Pastoral Leadership. The center is also home to Boromeo Seminary for the Cleveland Catholic Diocese where 75 young men are discerning and preparing for the priesthood.

land Diocese. Our volunteers had the opportunity to talk to many people about the products the FCSLA offers. It was impressive as to how many people recognized FCSLA, said they were members and that they even had "that cook book". One of the visitors to the booth said they had their annuity with FCSLA. Claudia Farkas, our annuity guru at the Home Office, was manning the booth at the time, assured the visitor that the annuity was with an excellent organization. Claudia and the visitor exchanged names only to learn that they had spoken to each other earlier in the week.

Thanks to our volunteers: Claudia Farkas, Gianna Picciano, Steve, Amy, Christopher, and Nicole Hudak, Sean,



Terese, Sean Patrick, and Cailin Mary Joyce, Sue Ann Seich, and Jim and Barbara Sekerak. They will all tell you that one has to be there to catch the spirit of this faith-filled day which concluded with the celebration of the Mass under the stars and a fabulous fireworks display! We cannot forget to mention that the main celebrant of the Mass was Bishop Roger Gries, OSB, auxiliary bishop of Cleveland.

To our Cleveland District members, "The FEST" 2009 is scheduled for Sunday, August 9, 2009! Will you volunteer?

Branch 101 Congratulates Brother and Sister on Achievements

Association member Leah Jane Miklovic was awarded an FCSU College Scholarship and Jacob Joseph Miklovic was selected outstanding police recruit by the Police Instructors of the St. Louis County Police Academy. Officer Miklovic was also named the top academic recruit of the academy class of 165. Jacob, a USMC Intelligence Analyst Reservist, was also recently promoted to the rank of Corporal.



Corporal Jacob J. Miklovic is presented his corporal chevrons by his mother Susan.



Leah Miklovic and her brother Police Officer Jacob J. Miklovic at his graduation ceremony.

Branch 161 Member Loretta Ekoniak Elected to YSC Board

Youngstown-Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities elected Loretta Ekoniak to its Board of Directors to fill the vacancy of Mary Babnic who passed away in June. (Mary served on the Board since the group's founding in 1991.) Loretta was recommended by Board Secretary, Bernie Demechko, who has worked with Loretta on various Slovak activities.

Loretta worked as a Registered Medical Technologist for twenty years;

then received her Master's Degree in Secondary Education, teaching Chemistry, Biology, and Environmental Science at Poland Seminary High School for 15 years before retiring. Since then she has devoted her volunteer time to Slovak activities serving as co-editor of the American Slovak Cultural Association Newsletter and on Parish Council of Saint Matthias Slovak Church where she also is lector at the Slovak Masses.

This summer Loretta and her son, Michael, attended Slovak classes at the University of Pittsburgh. Michael is currently in Modra, Slovakia, to further his Slovak language classes at Comenius University. Upon his return he will continue graduate studies in Computer Engineering at Virginia Tech.

Loretta and her family visited Slovakia and became acquainted with relatives residing in the Zemplin and Spisska Nova Ves area (what a coincidence!).

In addition to their son, Michael, Loretta and her husband, Michael, have a son, Nathaniel, who is a Computer Engineer residing in Seattle, WA. The Ekoniaks are members of Branch 161, Youngstown, and volunteer at Branch activities.



BRANCH W133 ANNUAL PICNIC

Branch W133 recently enjoyed their annual picnic at the community center in Timken, KS on August 3. Over 30 members and friends enjoyed a potluck supper, visiting, good music, and dancing.

Upcoming calendar of events, our Branch W133 Christmas party will be at the Timken (KS) Community Center at noon on Sunday, January 11, 2009.



Helen Finger, branch president, presents Valerie Harris her FCSLA college scholarship check.



Bohumil Oborny provides the music.



Celebrates 100th Years!

Congratulations on the 100th Anniversary of St. Agnes – St. John Roman Catholic Slovak Parish of Philadelphia, PA which was celebrated on November 4, 2007.

Reverend Francis G. Lendacky, Pastor is pictured with Dianne Muhe, President and Carole Medica, Secretary of Senior Branch 84 and Junior Branch 7.



PITTSBURGH OKRES HOLDS SUMMER MEETING

Recently the Pittsburgh Okres meeting was hosted by Branch 590 of Penn Hills and Branch 597 of Penn Hills-Unity. President Dorothy Urbanowicz welcomed all attending and Rev. Joseph Grosko gave the invocation.

Following dinner, Judy Yates District Secretary took roll and read the minutes of the April meeting. District Financial Secretary Marian Gatto presented the financial report. President Dorothy then called on Thomas Figura of Branch 590 and presented him with checks from the district for hosting the meeting. Tom introduced officers of branches 590 and 597.

Dorothy then reported on the annual quota and stated that we have reached 53% of our goal. She encouraged all to sell in order to both increase membership for the society as well as to reach our district goal. Dorothy then reminded the group that Maggie Golofski our District Auditor, is in the process of completing the printing of our new By-Law Book. This should be available for distribution at our next meet-

ing. Information was presented on the possible merger. Father Grosko, District Chaplain, presented prayer petitions.

The scholarship program available from Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress was announced and applications were made available as well as applications for Fraternalist of the Year through Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress.

An announcement was made of an upcoming training session to be held at the Cedarbrook Golf Course Clubhouse Grille. The training will take place on Saturday, October 18, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. and will be conducted by our National Sales Manager Patrick Braun. Anyone interested should contact Dorothy Urbanowicz for reservations. Dorothy then presented the National Officers report.

The next district meeting will be held on October 26, 2008 and will be hosted by Branch 277 of Greensburg.

Share of Wealth, Lottery Tree and numerous door prize drawings concluded the meeting. Benediction was given by Rev. Justin Matro followed by "Hej Slovaci".



Officers and members of Branches 590 and 597.

L to R: District officers — Margaret Golofski, Dolores Tomlin, Marian Gatto, Judy Yates, Rev. Justin Matro, Dorothy Urbanowicz, Marian Greenland, Agnes Farcosky and Barbara Gajdesik.

ANNUAL PICNIC HELD FOR NEBRASKA'S DISTRICT 11

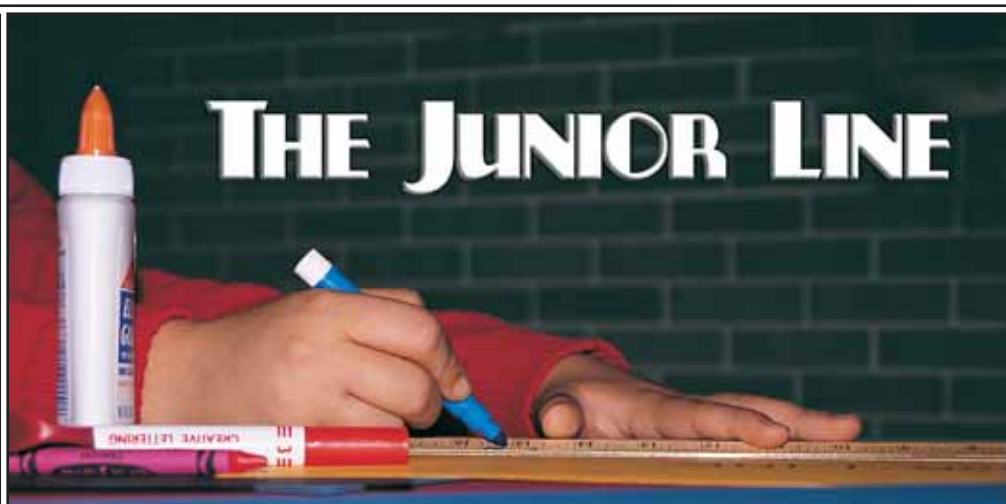
The Nebraska State Officers hosted a successful annual picnic for all the members in their district on Sunday, July 13, 2008. The picnic was held at the North Bend City Park.

The National Sales Manager, Patrick Braun, and the Fraternal and Youth Director, Sue Ann M. Seich attended the picnic on behalf of the Home Office Staff.

It was a beautiful sunny day filled with sharing, good food, many stories, and swimming for the youngsters. It was a perfect day to see old friends and make new ones.

This collage brings you the happy faces of those who attended the annual Nebraska District #11 Picnic.





GRACE ANN LOVE of Natrona Heights, PA, a member of Branch 313, made her First Holy Communion on May 3, 2008 at Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Natrona Heights, PA. She is the daughter of Robert and Lisa Love and the granddaughter of Edward and Phyllis Cowan, who are members of Branch 313.



JASON SIS of Branch W074, was confirmed on March 29, 2008 at St. John Nepomucene Church, Beardsley, KS. Jason is in the 9th grade and enjoys playing trumpet and basketball.

He is the son of Jarett and Marie Sis and brother to Jesse and grandson of Delpha Sis of Atwood, KS. The family belongs to Branch W074. Pictured with Jason are Bishop Paul Coakley and his parents Jarett and Marie Sis.



MATTHEW CEKLOSKY, son of David and Linda Ceklosky, received his First Holy Communion on April 26, 2008 at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Plains, PA. He is a third grade student at Leo Solomon Plains Elementary School. Matthew and his brother David are members of Junior Branch 363. His sister, Alyssa is a member of Branch 172 in Wilkes-Barre, PA.



VERONICA LYNN KOVACH made her First Holy Communion, Sunday, May 4th at Mary, Mother of the Church in Charleroi, PA. She will be in the third grade this year and enjoys her hobbies of dance and softball. Veronica and her brother Patrick, 7, are members of Jr. Branch 157 in Monessen, PA and her parents Ron and Beth and paternal grandmother Patricia Kovach are all members of Sr. Branch 88 also in Monessen, PA. Veronica is also a recipient of a Jr. Branch 157 FCSLA scholarship award.





IN MEMORIAM

ANNA M. KRUPPA

Branch 88



MONESSEN, PA—Anna “Anne” Kruppa passed away on May 12, 2008 in Canonsburg, PA. She was 101 years old.

She was Secretary for Junior Branch 88 for over 30 years along with selling numerous life insurance policies.

She was born June 6, 1906 in McKeesport, PA to Martin and Maria (Jurina) Pavlov.

Anna’s mother wasn’t happy in America and returned to her village of Habovka in Slovakia with her two daughters in 1908, leaving her husband behind to work. Anna returned to America alone at age 16 and resided with the Urcho family who had immigrated from Habovka to Acme (Bentleyville), PA.

On July 7, 1924, she was married to John Michael Kruppa at St. Clement’s Church in Ellsworth, PA, by the late Rev. John Skrak. Anna and John followed work in the Western Pennsylvania coal mines at Edna (Hempfield Township), Brier Hill and Ellsworth, finally settling in Bentleyville in 1940.

She attended St. Clements parish in Ellsworth, which was later consolidated with St. Lukes Church to form the Ave Maria Parish in Bentleyville. Anna was active in church activities, a member of the Altar Society, the Sodality of the Most Holy Rosary, and made many hand-sewn Infant Jesus of Prague garments for St. Clements and other churches. She took a special pride in sewing an Infant of Prague garment for the FCSLA’s Villa Maria nursing home in Cleveland, OH.

Anna was an excellent seamstress, sewing clothes not only for her family, but to supplement her husband’s income. She loved gardening, traveling, cooking, and spoiling her grandchildren. She made sure that they all had

a life insurance policy and their own copy of the *Slovak-American Cook Book*!

Her husband, John, passed away on December 18, 1983, of emphysema, due to complications he suffered from black lung disease. He was just a few days shy of his 87th birthday.

Surviving Anna are two sons and daughters-in-law, John and Ann Kruppa of McMurray, PA and Joseph and Shirley Kruppa of Crown Point, IN; two daughters and a son-in-law, Theresa Kudra of Bentleyville and Lucille and Fred Polesky of Moon Township, PA; 12 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her parents, her sister Maria Kurator, of Gary, IN; younger brothers Martin, Vendelin and Petrik Pavlov of Habovka, Slovakia; husband, John Kruppa; son-in-law Alexa Kudra; and a great-grandchild, Albert Richard “Ricky” Weinzen Jr., of Bentleyville, PA.

BERNARD J. URICH

Branch W051

GARNER, IA—Bernard J. Urich, 50, of Garner died Monday, June 9, 2008, from injuries sustained in an accident at Garner, IA.

Bernard Joseph Urich, the son of Clement Dale and Angeline (Meier) Urich, was born June 1, 1958 at Mason City. He attended school at Garner-Hayfield Community Schools, graduating in 1976.

On August 11, 1978, he married his high school sweetheart Bambi Luppen at the United Methodist Church in Garner.

Bernie worked at Coast-to-Coast and then operated Bernie’s Plumbing and Heating Business in Garner. He later worked at Iowa Mold and Tooling and then Farmland Industries. For the past 11 years he was employed by Zinpro Corporation in Garner, most recently as Production Superintendent.

He enjoyed his family, attending his boys activities, singing, biking and

traveling to Lake Superior, which was a special place for Bernie and Bambi. He was a member of the United Methodist Church where he was the choir director for 12 years, taught Sunday school, Bible School, Youth Group and also led the children’s group, “Pennies from Heaven.” He was past president of Music Boosters, past member of River City Barbershop Chorus and sang with the gospel quartet, “Free Spirit” for 10 years.

He is survived by his wife, Bambi Urich of Garner; three sons, Tyler of Algona, Trevor of Storm Lake and Tanner of Garner; his mother, Angeline Urich of Delta, CO; his siblings, Gerald Urich (Rita) of Austin, CO, Veronica Corkill of Crystal Lake, Tony Urich (Sue) of Garner, Yvonne Vizcarra of Des Moines, Bonaven Urich (Joyce) of Delta, CO, Nancy Horstman (Jeff) of Britt, Karen Brunsen (Terry) of Colorado Springs, CO and Marjori Langhoff (Charles) of Dayton, OH; Bambi’s parents, Janet and Bill Luppen of Garner; 2 brothers-in-law, Kevin Luppen (Janice) of Wasilla, AK and Milo Luppen of Woodbury, MN; 2 sisters-in-law, Misty Bartleson (Tony) of Forest City and Kelli Krutsinger (Doug) of Marengo and many special nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Clement Urich, December 16, 1998 and a nephew, Connor Brunsen.

Funeral services were held at the Garner-Hayfield High School Auditorium with Rev. David Wagner officiating. Burial was in Concord Township Cemetery in Garner.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be directed to the Bernie Urich Memorial Fund to be used for musical scholarships.

MARIE KUROVSKY

Branch 172

WILLIAMSPORT, PA—Marie Colonna Kurovsky of Russell Avenue, Williamsport, died February 13, 2008 at Sycamore Manor Nursing Center, Montoursville.

The former Marie Colonna of Wilkes-Barre was born on June 14, 1930, to the late Antonio and Theresa Belletieri Colonna.

She was a 1948 graduate of GAR High School and was very active with its alumni reunions.

She married her late husband, Andrew, of Larksville, on April 19, 1954. On July 29, 1993, Marie became a liver transplant recipient.

She was a longtime resident of Wyoming Street and East Mountain Apartments, Wilkes-Barre. She moved to Williamsport in 2002.

Marie was employed by Lyons Studio, Wilkes-Barre, for almost 40 years. She was active in many civic and church organizations. As a former member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Wilkes-Barre, she was one of the first extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist. She also taught in the religious education program and served as a lecturer. She was a member of the church social concerns committee and was a past officer in the Sacred Heart School and Bishop Hoban High School parents' organizations. She held offices with the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, the Quota Club of Wilkes-Barre, and the Scranton Diocesan Ladies of Charity. More recently she was a member of the church of St. Ann, Williamsport, and its Women's Guild and Senior Adult Group.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by a sister, Catherine Sellitto; and a brother, Anthony (Tony) Colonna.

She is survived by a son, the Rev. Andrew, a priest of the Diocese of Scranton and pastor of the church of St. Ann/Assumption, Williamsport; daughter, Maria (Mia) Fendler and her husband, attorney Stephen Fendler, Shavertown.

Marie adored her two grandsons, Jonathan Andrew and Brian Jeffrey Fendler.

Also surviving are a sister, Julie Banas, Hershey; cousin, Marie DiMichele, Freeland; many nieces and

nephews; several cousins and numerous friends.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated at the Church of St. Ann, Williamsport. Her son officiated and the Rev. Richard LaVerghetta of Marlton, NJ was the homilist.

Burial service was held in the chapel at St. Anthony Cemetery, Courtdale.

ROSE DERDA **Branch 421**



CHICAGO, IL—Rose Derda, age 95, of Chicago, IL, passed away on June 11, 2008 with her caring family at her side at Holy Cross Hospital.

Born August 30, 1912 in Chicago, she was a daughter of the late Ignatius and Mary (Karkaska) Hovanec.

She graduated at St. Clare of Montefalco School.

Rose was a loving wife of the late Louis Derda. They were united in marriage on September 16, 1931 at St. Simon Church by the Rev. Edward Sendek.

Rose became a lifetime parishioner at St. Simon the Apostle Catholic Church in Chicago. During her active years, she would cook for the priests and nuns for the special 40-hour devotion and many other occasions. She held a strong bond with the priests, nuns and the whole community parish, dedicating her time and work at bazaars and various functions. It was her passion to cook and bake. She was also an avid bingo player and loved to travel.

Rose was devoted to her family especially her grandchildren. She shaped her family with her beliefs as a Catholic Slovak sharing and teaching her traditions with her grandchildren. Her family was always together every Sunday for mass and dinner. Rose was always helping her family and friends.

Rose was a member of the FCSLA

for over 50 years. She became President of St. Ann's Jr. Branch in Chicago, Branches 421 and 321, as her mother Mary passed over to Rose when her mother retired.

Rose spent many peaceful days at her summer home in Michigan gardening, cooking, or rocking in her chair enjoying the lakeview.

As Rose's health began to take the best of her through her elderly years, she was cared and helped by her live-in son Louis Derda, Jr. as well as other family and friends to continue her duties and traditions.

Rose's memories will be cherished by her surviving family members, her two sons Ronald (Anna) Derda, and Louis Derda, Jr.; four grandchildren, Mark Derda, Debbie (Michael) Mussallem, Renee (Ronald) Bigeck and Anne (Jose) Canales; nine great-grandchildren. She will always be loved by her nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

She is preceded in death by her daughter Delores Derda, and four brothers, Ignatius, John, Joseph (late Rose), and Edward (Mildred).

Visitation with family and friends was held at the Marin Funeral Home (Kubina-Tybor Directors) with beautiful prayers said in Slovak. A memorial mass was held at St. Simon the Apostle Catholic Church in Chicago. Burial was at Our Lady of Sorrows Cemetery.

ELSIE K. KISH **Branch 344**

CAMPBELL, OH—Elsie K. Kish, 91, passed away May 8, 2008 at her residence.

Elsie was born April 12, 1917 in Rankin, PA, the daughter of Michael and Ann Danko Stefura.

Besides being a homemaker, she was an active member of St. John's Catholic Church, it's Altar and Rosary Society and Ladies Guild. She catered many funerals, weddings and events for the church; she also served as President of FCSLA Branch 344 for many years.

continued on page 23

2009-2010 FCSLA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

More than \$248,250 in Scholarship Awards!

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

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

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

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

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

8 Freshmen • 8 Sophomores • 8 Juniors • 8 Seniors

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

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

28 EARLY ELEMENTARY AWARDS AT \$750 EACH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST

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

Branch No. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Application requested for following award:

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

Wisconsin's Branch 23 Holds Luncheon

on August 16

Members and guests of Branch 23 in Milwaukee enjoyed a family style all-you-can-eat luncheon at Maggianos Little Italy in Wauwatosa, WI. The meal was totally delicious from the opening appetizer of bruschetta down to the tiramisu and apple crustada desserts. No one could have left hungry.

The August 16 meeting featured a presentation by National Sales Manager, Patrick Braun, who spoke about the financial security of FCSLA, gave an overview of our products and discussed how members can promote sales of our insurances and increase branch membership.

Special guests at this event included two scholarship recipients and their families. Present were Katie McCormack, a college freshman and Charlie Matheson, 7th grader. Not able to attend were two other scholarship winners, Rachel Toth and Mary Frances Reidl.

Members were surveyed about future events they would like Branch 23 to organize for them. Favorites included the Nutcracker Ballet, Rock Climbing for the younger members and attending a Milwaukee Brewers Game. Branch 23 members are asked to watch for invitations to these and/or other upcoming events.



Na cudzom mlieku

Rudo Moric

– Začiatkom jari rúbali sme starú jedľovú horu. Naďabili sme na jedľu, ktorej chvojina bola zvädnutá, ba miestami až suchá. Zmachnatený kmeň bol od ťatľov poriadne doderavený. Keď som naň poklepkal chabinou, zadunelo v ňom, ako keď udrieš na bubon.

„Dolu s ňou!“ vravím rubárom. A tým nebolo treba dva razy kázať. Zašuchotala píla, zabuchotala sekera – a čo nevidieť chorý strom s praskotom padol na zem.

Začali sme kliesniť haluzie, keď zrazu čujem spod čečiny slabučké mrnčanie. Clvíľu napäto počúvam, ale nie, nemýlim sa – čosi tam žalostne piští.

„Pod stromom je čosi živé,“ volám na chlapov.

Raz-dva sme odpratali chvojínu a čo vidíme: na špinavom snehu ležia dve mláďatá lesnej kuny. Mohli byť vari týždeň staré, drobné ako detské piastky. Jedno je už neživé, ale druhé sa mrví na snehu a piští. Chytrý som ho schytil a pod s ním pod košeľu, aby celkom neskrehlo. Až potom som začal obzerať, odkiaľ sa vzali mláďatá pod zoťatou jedľou. Ale nebolo treba nad tým dlho hútať. Starý strom bol búťľavý a v dutine mala brloh lesná juna. Ako jedľa padla, dutina sa preborila a mladé kunčatá vypadli.

Chlapom som povedal, že sa onedlho vrátim, a najkratšou cestou bežím do horárne.

„Čože si to zase privliekol za potvoru?“ privítala ma žena, keď som vyložil kunie mláďa do prúteného košíka, vystlaného senom.

„Všetko ti poviem, mamo,“ vravím svojej Hanke, „len daj zohriať trochu mlieka!“

Mlieko som rozriedil vodou, nabral na lyžičku a strkám ho mláďatku k papuľke. Ale kunča nie a nie piť z lyžičky. Vidno, naučené je cickať. Len mrnčí, piští a celé sa trasie.

„Čo s tebou?“ škrabem sa za ušami.

Skúsil som mu strčiť papuľku do mlieka, že to takto azda predsa pôjde, ale nie.

„Skapeš od hladu, keď nebudeš piť!“ dohováram hnedej hrčke, ale viete, kdeže má taký drobný tvor rozum. Keď nepije, tak nepije, nestará sa verú, čo z toho vykvitne.

Bezradne stojím nad košíkom. Lúto mi je nechať zhynúť zvieratko bez pomoci. Len ako tu pomôcť, to som nevedel vyhútať.

A keď som si už celkom nevedel rady, prišla mi na pomoc moja starká.

„Počuj,“ vraví, „a čo keby si ju Murke podstrčil?“

Bola to naozaj spásna myšlienka. Chytil som sa jej oboma rukami. Veď naša strakatá Murka práve má niekoľkodňové mačiatka!

Rozbehol som sa do stodoly, kde mala mačka pelech. Vzal som mačence a hajde s nimi do kuchyne. Slepé drobčeky tenučko mňaukali a Murka mi nariekala za päťami.

„Počkaj, Murka, zaraz ti ich vrátim,“ tíšim mačku, ale tá nie a nie sa uspokojiť.

Mačiatka som položil k malej kune do košíka. Dobré som ich pomiešal, pogúľal jedno na druhom, aby najdúch napáchol mačacím pachom.

A Murka sa mi len pletie okolo nôh a žalostne mravká: Vráť, vráť!

„Vrátim, Murka, dočkaj ešte trošičku.“

A už nesiem košík s drobízgom do stodoly. Stará mačka radostne vbehla medzi ne, oblizovala ich, hladkala. Potom si ľahla a malí hladoši ihneď sa začali dobýjať k mlieku. Jedno po druhom našli bradavky a hlasne cickali. Murka spokojne priadla a prižmurovala zelené oči.

Teraz nastala chvíľa, ktorá mala rozhodnúť, či kunie mláďa ostane nažive, či nie. Ak Murka zbadá výmenu, tak je s príživníkom koniec. Zatajím dych, pozorne odtiahnem jedno mača od matky a na jeho miesto položím kunu. Pozorujem, čo bude. Zbadá – nezbadá? Dovolí mu piť?

Murka sa zahniezdila a mne sa zdalo, že už skočí a bude zle. Ale ako kunča zacítilo čerstvé mlieko, hneď začalo cickať. Pilo, pilo nenásytne, pahltné. A Murka sa zase uspokojila. Leží vystretá a vrní, vrní. Semtam sa obzrie na drobízg, hocikedy aj ktorési oblizne. A tak oblizla aj kunu – a ostala pokojná.

Skoro som zvýskol od radosti. Podarilo sa!

Stará mačka nič nezbadala. Nechala podvrhnuté mláďa pri sebe. Kfmila ho, akoby bolo mačaťom. Aj na druhý deň ho dosýta nakfmila a potom vždy.

A kunča spávalo v jednom kľbku s mačencami, mechrilo sa medzi nimi, akoby odjakživa sem patrilo . . .

Kuna pekne rástla. Tmavohnedá srst' sa jej ligotala, podbradníček svietil belosťou. Na prvý pohľad vidno – dobre sa jej vodí.

Čo sme si nevymodlili

Kamil Peteraj

čo sme si nevymodlili
nebude nikdy naše

čo sme si nevymodlili
nám raz ktosi ukradne

čo sme si nevymodlili
to nebola láska

ona nás pošle na kolená
aby sme zo zeme zdvihli
to čo tam niekto zanechal
ako kvitnúci zelený odkaz

On Stranger's Milk

(English Translation of Article on Page 20)

In early spring we were cutting down some old pine trees in the nearby forest. We found a pine tree that was wilted, even dry. The tree trunk was full of holes made by woodpeckers. I checked the tree trunk and it was as hollow as a drum.

"Take it down," I said to the woodcutters. They did not need more words. You could hear the rhythm of the chopping of the axe, and soon the deceased tree was on the ground.

We were cutting the branches when I heard a meowing sound. I listened for a moment, and I was sure that I heard something.

"There is something alive here," I say to the men.

We cleared everything and we saw two little ferrets lying on the dirty snow. They were maybe a week old and quite small. One was dead but the other was moving and making noise. I put him under my shirt to warm him. Then I looked to see how these ferrets got under the tree. It was easy to see the old tree was hollow and inside the ferret had its den. When the tree fell the little ones fell out.

I told the workers that I'll be back and quickly ran to my home. "What did you bring home?" asked my wife, as I put the ferret into a basket filled with straw.

"I will tell you everything," I said to Hana "just warm some milk!" I diluted the milk with water, put some on a little spoon and tried to feed the ferret. But the little ferret did not drink, it tried to suckle. The ferret was crying and shaking.

"What will I do with you." I did not know what to do.

I tried to push his mouth into the milk, but it did not work. "You will die from hunger," I said to the little brown animal, but nothing changed. The ferret was hungry but did not eat.

I stood in front of the basket not knowing what to do. I did not want to let this animal die.

In the midst of this hopeless situation my wife came up with an idea. "Listen what if you would let our cat feed the ferret?"

That was an excellent idea! That made me happy. Our cat, Murka, just had a litter of kittens!

I ran to the barn, where Murka lived. I took her kittens and brought them to the kitchen. The kittens were crying and Murka was following us.

"Wait Murka I will give them back," I am trying to trick the cat. I put the kittens in the basket with the ferret, I mixed them so the smell from the kittens goes to the ferret. Murka is just by my feet and still crying.

"I will give them back, Murka, just wait."

I carried the basket back to the barn. The old cat hopped into the basket licking and welcoming her kittens. She then layed down and the little ones began to nurse. One after another they were drinking milk. Murka purred and closed her eyes.

Then the moment came to see if she would accept the little ferret. If Murka detects the stranger it will be the end. I stopped breathing and pulled one kitten away and put the ferret in his place. Anxiously I wait to see if she would accept or reject the ferret. Will she let him eat?

Murka moved and I thought it would not end well. But when the ferret smelled milk he started to drink. He was drinking, drinking, he was hungry. Murka calmed down. She was purring. She watched her kittens with motherly pride. All of a sudden she started licking the ferret. I almost screamed from happiness. It worked out!

The old cat had not noticed. She let the ferret in. She was feeding him just like her kittens. Even on the second day she let him eat and also all the days after.

The ferret slept with the kittens, played with them, just like he belonged there.

The ferret grew rapidly. He was dark brown with a white patch on his chest. He looked good — he had a good life.

Na motívy Maľovanej

ABeCeDy

Benjamin Škreko

Adam v škole nesedel,
abecedu nevedel.
Rodičia boj vedú:
„Zrušte abecedu!”

Bľachia ovce zarána,
bača pečie barana,
ktorého mu, kruci,
zajtra strhnú vlci.

Cmúľal by som, nemám čo,
dajteže mi voľačo!
Marsku? Také žarty . . .
Cmúľam iba sparty!

Ďobe ďateľ do kôry,
červíček mu hovorí:
„Neďob! Čo si chorý?
Veď sme z jednej hory!”

Hudú hudci na husle,
jeden dobre, druhý zle.
Bráni mi však návyk
hádať, kto je Slávik.

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

The End of an Era

After 106 years of providing spiritual worship and guidance to our Slovak community, St. Ann's Church ceased operations.

On Sunday, June 1, 2008, the last Mass was celebrated at St. Ann's Slovak Catholic Church in Farrell, PA.

Due to the declining number of parishioners it was no longer feasible to continue to keep the church open.

Mass was celebrated by Fr. Jeff Noble the Dean of the district and concelebrated by the Pastor Msgr. Charles Murcko.

The church was merged with Our Lady of Fatima and will now be named Our Lady of Fatima/St. Ann's Church, Farrell, PA.

There were approximately 175 parishioners, former parishioners and friends attending.

After Mass a continental breakfast was provided for all by St. Ann's Lodge Branch 153.

The gathering was filled with a lot of emotional memories, stories shared and also tears. Some took pictures inside the church, especially of the priceless stained glass windows and the vintage pipe organ.

The State of St. Ann which graced the side altar will be placed in Our Lady of Fatima Church.

The church will be sadly missed especially in July for the annual St. Ann's Novena which always drew a large crowd from the area.

St. Ann's Church had been the meeting place for Sr. Branch 153 and Jr. Branch 54 since their beginning.

For any members that are concerned about the new meeting place or need to contact the officers, meetings are now held at the home of the President, Dolores Medvec, 965 Pulaski-Mercer Road, New Wilmington, PA 16142, or phone 724-946-2746. You can also contact the Financial Secretary Frances Chervinko, 803 Cedar Avenue, Sharon, PA 16146 or by phone at 724/981-0408.

IN MEMORIAM

continued from page 17

She enjoyed cooking and baking for her family and friends. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Paul Kish; and her second husband, Andrew Kish.

She leaves to cherish her memory four daughters, Margaret DiPinto and Betty (Larry) Matzye, both of Struthers, OH; Shirley (Rudy) Zura of Campbell, OH, and Sue (Gerald) Macala of CA; three sons, Michael Kish, with whom she made her home, Paul (Dorothy) Kish, both of Campbell and Robert Kish of Maryland; 16 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Besides her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by two grandchildren, Linda Kish and Infant Zura.

Services were held at the Wasko Funeral Home and at St. John Catholic Church.

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF JUNE 30, 2008

ASSETS

Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 10,391,865.43
Bonds	500,900,539.07
Preferred Stock	8,374,825.87
Common Stock	1,362,197.08
Investment Income Due and Accrued	8,085,099.12
Certificate Loans and Accrued Interest	1,234,650.43
Promissory Notes	106,293.47
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	9,156,977.18
Other Assets	268,622.12

TOTAL ASSETS **\$ 539,881,069.77**

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 156,747,327.08
Annuity Reserves	275,732,029.10
Provision for Annuity Certain Accounts	2,071,000.00
Death Claims Payable	863,900.83
Unearned Premiums	607,361.56
Matured Endowments	117,172.95
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,535,305.04
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,383,114.04
Accrued Convention Donations	320,000.00
Provision for Future Conventions	119,462.40
Asset Valuation Reserve	4,947,827.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,533,267.00
Other Liabilities	1,342,674.74

TOTAL LIABILITIES **\$ 449,320,441.74**

SURPLUS

Surplus	\$ 90,560,628.03
---------	------------------

TOTAL SURPLUS **\$ 90,560,628.03**

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS **\$ 539,881,069.77**

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Six Months Ended June 30, 2008

REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 2,313,104.38
Annuity Premiums	8,675,369.25
Investment Income	15,567,370.30
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	45,336.00
Other Revenue	252,091.52

TOTAL REVENUE **\$ 26,853,271.45**

EXPENSES

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 2,636,327.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	8,119,029.00
Insurance Benefits	2,127,085.51
Annuity Benefits	7,228,856.43
Commission Expense	239,553.77
Surrender Benefits	433,733.42
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	54,150.67
Matured Endowments	4,283.56
Donation Expenses	206,740.55
Convention Expenses	94,625.00
Dividends to Members	749,214.60
Post Mortem Benefits	431,337.17
Bonus to Branches	501,339.00
Fraternal Activities	33,719.71
Bank Service Charges	18,732.27
Data Processing Service Fees	204,419.16
Accounting Fees	40,172.00
Actuarial Fees	88,138.00
Legal Fees	28,350.26
Consulting Services	96,741.26
Official Publications	180,557.00
Scholarship Awards	0.00
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	147,699.93
Fees — Directors	54,350.16
Salaries — Employees	486,563.27
Salaries — Officers	212,500.02
Interest Expense	87,312.34
Tax Expense	137,588.44
Depreciation Expense	217,218.00
Utility Expense	44,265.41
Postage and Printing	158,577.86
Advertising	44,768.96
Travel Expense	65,722.49
Other Expense	424,004.80

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$ 25,597,677.02**

NET INCOME **\$ 1,255,594.43**



Quick Breads

Delicious Results

PEACH BREAD

- 3 cups diced fresh peaches
- ¼ cup Peach Schnapps or peach nectar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3 eggs
- 2¾ cups all-purpose flour
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon

Simmer diced peaches with Schnapps or peach nectar until peaches are tender, about 5 to 8 minutes. Remove from heat, add vanilla, and set aside.

In a mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar. Add eggs, one at a time, blending well. In another bowl, combine flour, baking powder, salt, baking soda, and cinnamon. Add dry ingredients to the creamed mixture, alternating with peach mixture. Mix just until blended. Spread batter into a greased and floured 9 x 5 x 3-inch loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for about 55 to 65 minutes, until a tester inserted in center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks.

PINEAPPLE BANANA BREAD

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3 eggs
- 1¼ cups vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 (8 ounce) can crushed pineapple, drained
- 2 cups mashed ripe bananas

Grease and flour two 8 x 4 inch pans. In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, salt, baking soda and cinnamon. In another bowl, beat the eggs, oil and vanilla; add pineapple and bananas. Stir into the dry ingredients just until moistened. Pour batter into prepared pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 60-65 minutes, or until tester inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks.

DATE NUT BREAD

- 2½ cups chopped dates
- ¼ cup butter
- 1 cup boiling water
- ½ cup packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour a 9 x 5 x 3 inch loaf pan. In a medium bowl, combine the dates and butter. Pour boiling water over them, and let stand until cool. When the dates have cooled, stir the mixture to break up any clumps. Mix in the brown sugar and egg until well blended. Combine the flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt; stir into the date mixture until just blended. Pour into the prepared pan. Bake for 50 minutes in the preheated oven, or until tester inserted into the center comes out clean.

FRUIT BREAD

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ cup white sugar
- 3½ teaspoons baking powder
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ cup candied pineapple, diced
- ½ cup currants
- ½ cup chopped candied cherries
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- ¼ cup vegetable oil

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease one 9x5x3 inch loaf pan. In large bowl measure in flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, candied pineapple, raisins or currants, and cherries. Stir thoroughly. Make a well in center. In small bowl beat eggs until frothy. Mix in milk and oil. Pour into well. Stir just to moisten. Pour into greased 9 x 5 x 3 inch loaf pan. Bake for 50 to 60 minutes, or until tester inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool for 15 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks.

STRAWBERRY BREAD

- 2 cups fresh strawberries
- 3 cups plus 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 cups white sugar
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1¼ cups vegetable oil
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1¼ cups chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter and flour two 9 x 5 x 3 inch loaf pans. Slice strawberries, and place in medium-sized bowl. Sprinkle lightly with sugar, and set aside while preparing bread mixture. Combine flour, sugar, cinnamon, salt and baking soda in large bowl. Mix well. Blend oil and eggs into strawberries. Add strawberry mixture to flour mixture, blending until dry ingredients are just moistened. Stir in pecans. Divide batter into pans. Bake for 45 to 50 minutes, or until tester inserted comes out clean. Let cool in pans on wire rack for 10 minutes.

CHOCOLATEY APPLE BREAD

- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ cup chopped walnuts
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ½ cup margarine, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons buttermilk
- 1½ cup chopped apples
- ½ cup walnuts
- ¼ cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

To make the topping, in a small bowl mix the sugar, cinnamon and finely chopped walnuts. Set aside.

In a medium bowl combine flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Set aside. In a separate large bowl cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and vanilla extract, and mix well. Gradually beat in flour mixture alternately with buttermilk. Stir in apples, walnuts, and semi-sweet chocolate chips. Pour into a greased 9 x 5 x 3 inch loaf pan. Sprinkle with topping. Bake in a preheated 350 degree oven for 50 to 60 minutes. Cool for 15 minutes. Remove from pan. Cool on a wire rack.

The 23rd Edition of Our
**SLOVAK-AMERICAN
COOK BOOK**



**It's Yours
for the
Ordering!**

No books are sold
or delivered C.O.D.
**ALL ARE SOLD
FOR CASH**

The cost of each book is \$9.00.
A carton of 18 books is \$144 (\$8.00 per book).
Canada residents \$11.00 per book.

Send only money order or check payable to:
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
Attention: Cook Book Department
24950 Chagrin Boulevard
Beachwood, OH 44122

—USE THIS ORDER BLANK—
(Please Print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Enclosed find \$ _____

☐ (Money Order) ☐ (Check) for _____ copies
of the Slovak-American Cook Book.

***Get your cook book today.
Tomorrow may be too late!***

**USE THIS FORM FOR
CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND
MAGAZINE CANCELLATIONS**

CHANGE THE ADDRESS ON ALL FCSLA
POLICIES AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR:

☐ INDIVIDUAL — NAME

☐ ENTIRE FAMILY — LIST NAMES

Old Mailing Address

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

New Mailing Address

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Signature Required (Insured, Annuitant, Owner)

Date of Birth _____
(for ID purposes)

Today's Date

☐ CANCEL MAGAZINE

Mail or Fax to:
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122
FAX: (216) 464-9260