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# Fraternally Yours

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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*"The Rose  
speaks silently,  
in a language  
known  
only to the  
heart."*

**Happy  
Valentine's  
Day**





Fraternally Yours,

## ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,

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## Heartprints

Dear Friends,

Whatever our hands touch - we leave fingerprints!  
On walls, on furniture, on doorknobs, dishes, books.  
There's no escape. As we touch we leave our  
identity.

Wherever you go today instead of fingerprints  
try to leave your heartprints!  
Heartprints of compassion of understanding  
and love.

Heartprints of kindness and genuine concern.  
May your heart touch a lonely neighbor  
or a runaway daughter or an anxious mother  
or perhaps an aged grandfather.

As you go out today try to leave your heartprints.  
And if someone should say, "I felt your touch,"  
May they also sense the love that is deep within  
your heart.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Warmly, Carolyn

## 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.

# The Chair of Saint Peter

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

My Dear Friends,

On more than several occasions, I have had the opportunity and the privilege of traveling to Europe whether for business, pleasure or both. During those excursions, I have usually placed on my itinerary visiting one of my favorite cities, Rome. My first visit to the *Eternal City* was in 1994 when I was awarded my degree in canon law. It happened that my fellow graduates and the graduates of two previous years at The Catholic University of America were invited for a nine-day tour of the various congregations and dicasteries of the Holy See (in Latin, *Sancta Sedes* or *holy chair*) and to meet with their personnel. Each day we would have a session with one or two of the departments that assist the Holy Father in the operation of the Catholic Church worldwide. (It was during this time that I met Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger who was then the head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Today he is known as Pope Benedict XVI.) The experience was fascinating, as we were being given a thumb nail's sketch about the complexities and challenges that the Holy See faces each and every day as an expression of Faith and being part of the global community of governments.

During that first trip and any other time that I visit Rome, however, I am overwhelmed with the sight of Saint Peter's Basilica. In 1994, my first viewing of the dome of Saint Peter's was from the grounds of the North American College where seminarians from the United States stay in order to pursue their academic degrees at one of the Roman universities. The view from their grounds and especially from the roof of the college is spectacular. I distinctly recall how and what I was taught about Saint Peter's and the Vatican City State as I was growing up, never expecting ever to be visiting there but always curious about and proud that this is the center of the Catholic Church, the place

in which the papacy is now historically maintained in a succession from the apostle Peter to our present Holy Father.

On 22 February of each year, we celebrate the feast of the *Chair of Saint Peter*. In the early Greek and Roman times, the chair (also in Latin, *cathedra*, from which we get our word for cathedral, the chair of a bishop) on which a teacher sat was a symbol of his authority. In the apse of the main altar in Saint Peter's Basilica, there is a smaller chapel usually referred to as the *Altar of the Chair*, where the chair of Saint Peter is enshrined. However, this feast does not so much pay veneration to the material object of Saint Peter's chair as it celebrates the office that was entrusted to the Apostle by Christ the Lord, Himself. Saint Peter was distinct from the other apostles as he was entrusted with his pastoral office. In the Gospel of Saint Matthew, it was Peter who responded to the question of Jesus of who He was, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God," to which Jesus responded, "Blessed are you Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you lose on earth shall be lost in heaven" [16:16-19].

The celebration of this feast dates back to the middle of the fourth century. And although the chair of Saint Peter is enshrined in the basilica named after him in Rome and the Holy Father resides at the Vatican Palace, the cathedral of Rome for the Pope is not Saint Peter's but is Saint John Lateran Basilica. So what your cathedral church is for your diocesan bishop is what Saint John Lateran Basilica is for the Bishop of Rome.

This feast then celebrates the authority that was entrusted by Jesus to Saint Peter and is maintained by the Apostle's successors as the Bishop of Rome in the Catholic Church. The Code of Canon Law [canon 331] and the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches [canon 43] specifically state who the Bishop of Rome is, "The bishop of the Church of Rome, in whom continues the office given by the Lord uniquely to Peter, the first of the Apostles, and to be transmitted to his successors, is the head of the college of bishops, the Vicar of Christ, and the pastor of the universal Church on earth. By virtue of his office he possesses supreme, full, immediate, and universal ordinary power in the Church, which he is always able to exercise freely."

This Petrine feast and the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul on 29 June are close to my heart as we celebrate Peter's memory. Being my patron, I believe also is the reason that I am enamored with Rome, and especially Saint Peter's and the Vatican.

Several times a day, I pray a prayer that is dedicated to Saint Peter, "O Holy Apostle, because you are the Rock upon which Almighty God has built His church, obtain for me, I pray, lively faith, firm hope and burning love; complete detachment from myself, contempt of the world, patience in adversity, humility in prosperity, recollection in prayer and purity of heart; a right intention in all my works, diligence in fulfilling the duties of my state of life, constancy in my resolution, resignation to the will of God and perseverance in the grace of God even unto death: so that, by means of your intercession and your glorious merits, I pray I may be made worthy to appear before the chief and Shepherd of Souls, Jesus Christ, Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. Amen."

Saint Peter and Saint Paul, pray for us!



# FCSLA IS FEELING FINE IN 2009

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

## GO RED FOR WOMEN DAY



On some calendars February 6th is designated "GO RED FOR WOMEN DAY". During the month of February we start to see a lot of the color red on television and in magazines. The color red is used by the American Heart Association in its campaign to bring awareness to heart issues for women and men. Although this day is very important, good heart health is important for women and men everyday. Cardiac problems are often diagnosed later in women because the signs and symptoms can be difficult to discover early. It is very important for women to know their numbers. The first number to know is cholesterol, ideal being below 200. The next number is blood pressure. Normal is below 120/80. The third number is a fasting glucose level, which is normal if below 100. A healthy body mass index is below 25. A new number that doctors are watching is waist circumference. A waist circumference greater than 35 inches is considered a risk for heart disease. Please ask your doctor your numbers and if they are high, talk with your doctor about how to lower your risk! Men should also be aware of their numbers! For more information, go to [www.goredforwomen.org](http://www.goredforwomen.org), and [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org).

**Deborah Brindza M.D., FCSLA**  
*National Medical Examiner*

## HOW I CAN BE HEART HEALTHY!

When was the last time you had a complete physical? Do you keep putting it off and it never gets scheduled? Remember, you need to take care of you or you will not be able to take care of others.

- ♥ Schedule a complete physical soon if you have not had one lately.
- ♥ Plan a heart healthy menu for a week. Find new recipes to try.
- ♥ When making your grocery list, write down healthy food items from all the food groups.
- ♥ Important risk factors you can control or treat include: smoking, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, diabetes, being overweight or obese, and physical activity.
- ♥ Be aware of the signs of heart problems. Go online and find websites to read about heart healthy ideas or plan a trip to the library and find a good book on Heart Health.
- ♥ Make sure you read food labels and the significance of:
  1. Serving Size
  2. Calories
  3. Total Fat
  4. Cholesterol
  5. Sodium
  6. Total Carbohydrate
  7. Dietary Fiber

Start to feel better by being "Heart Healthy"!

**Sue Ann M. Seich**  
*Fraternal & Youth Director*

## TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

To keep with the True Spirit of Christmas, the Home Office employees took part in what will hopefully become a new tradition for the FCSLA. Every year the Salvation Army takes applications for families who cannot afford to have a Christmas. We thought it would be a wonderful idea for the entire office to adopt one of these families and help make their Christmas special.

The family that was adopted was a family of three. The mother has stage-four cancer and is not currently working. She has two children; a girl who is 10, and a boy who is 14. With the generosity of the Home Office employees and some of the Branch Officers, we were able to collect more than \$400 to buy gifts for our family. The Office also donated a 22 pound turkey so that the family could have a Christmas dinner. We plan to keep this tradition alive and adopt another family this year to help make their Christmas just as special!

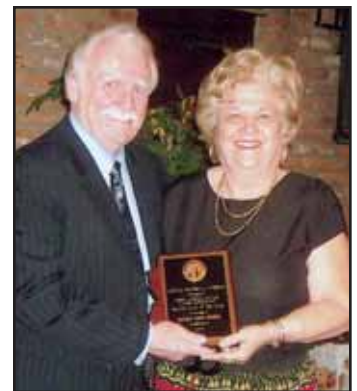


## ARIZONA FRATERNAL CONGRESS RECOGNIZES FRATERNALIST OF THE YEAR

Mary Ann and Donald Winn (S615) represented the FCSLA at the Arizona Fraternal Congress Annual Meeting on November 14, 2008. She has been representing the FCSLA in Arizona since 2002.

Mary Ann was honored as one of the Arizona Fraternal Congress's Fraternalists of the Year for 2008. She has been in Arizona since moving from New Jersey in 1994. She is a registered nurse on a "sabbatical".

Mary Ann and her husband Donald have been married for 51 years. She is the mother of 4 and proud grandmother of 7.



**President of the Arizona Fraternal Congress presenting Mary Ann a Fraternalist of the Year Award.**

# New Study: Americans Fall Short on Adequate Life Insurance



Patrick Braun

A detailed analysis of self reported financial objectives revealed that Americans typically have just 49% of the financial protection they need to achieve their own stated financial goals for their families.

"Instead of asking the insurance industry to provide a statistic on how much life insurance coverage it recommends people should have, this study took a novel approach by asking respondents to decide this amount for themselves, based on what they wanted for their families", said

Brian Perlman, Ph.D., a partner in Greenwald & Associates, which conducted the study. "The results are clear: most Americans' coverage comes up way short."

The Life Insurance Gap survey examined the financial planning attitudes and behaviors of 1,003 Americans, age 25 and over, with dependents, with a particular focus on what they want their life insurance policies to cover in the event of the death of the breadwinner.

The article telling about the survey was published in *USA Today* and, since it is four pages long, single spaced, I will just hit the highlights for our *Zenska Jednota* readers. All credit to *USA Today*, Greenwald & Associates, and New York Life which commissioned the survey, for this critical information!

According to the survey, household breadwinners have enough life insurance, on average, to cover expenses for only four years after the loss of a breadwinner. This begs the question, "What happens in the fifth year?"

Despite the fact that it would be a financial burden to replace the work of a stay-at-home parent, 43% report having no life insurance at all for the household's non-breadwinner!

The survey pointed out that "conventional wisdom" spouted by "experts" and commentators to "buy term and invest the difference" is followed by only 40% of those who planned to follow that advice, resulting in less secure life insurance coverage and less personal savings.

Only one third of breadwinners have an individual permanent life insurance policy which will remain in force after retirement. Two thirds will have either no insurance, or term insurance which will expire or become too expensive to keep. It's like saying "Honey, now that I'm retired, when I die, you'll be on your own!"

Not having sufficient life insurance and not having some permanent life insurance exposes the family to a variety of risks and expenses.

- ❖ Providing adequate retirement savings for a surviving spouse.
- ❖ Providing support for parents who rely on their grown children for financial assistance or long term care.
- ❖ Supporting "boomerang" children who return to the home.
- ❖ Leaving a legacy for one's heirs.
- ❖ Covering estate taxes.

It's clear that life insurance companies in general and fraternal societies in particular have a lot of work to do. FCSLA has outstanding life insurance values to offer our members and those whom would like to become members. Selling an adequate amount of life insurance to a family is an obligation we have and it is obvious that the marketplace is wide open!

## FCSLA BOARD ANNOUNCES NEW PROGRAM

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

### Here are the highlights:

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

## MOVING?

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



## New Benedictine Abbot is Blessed and Begins Administration

On Sunday, November 2, 2008, nearly 300 friends and benefactors of the Slovak Benedictine Monks of Saint Andrew Abbey in Cleveland gathered for the annual Abbey Benefit at Assumption Parish Family Center in Broadview Heights, Ohio.

The focus of this year's event was honoring retiring Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB and welcoming newly-elected Abbot Christopher Schwartz, OSB.

In early spring of 2008, Abbot Clement announced his retirement for health reasons.



**Abbot Christopher (left) embraces his predecessor Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB.**

He had been elected in 2001 to succeed Abbot Roger Gries, OSB who had been named auxiliary bishop of Cleveland earlier that year. Abbot Clement continues to reside at the abbey and is involved in limited public ministry. In early October, he and his sister, Sister Mary Jonathan Zeleznik, SND, traveled to Slovakia to tour religious and cultural sights.

On August 29, 2008, before a full congregation at Assumption Parish Church, Cleveland Bishop Richard Lennon conferred the ancient ritual of the Blessing of an Abbot upon Abbot Christopher who had been elected by the members of the monastic chapter on June 10, 2008.

Participating in the Mass of Blessing were retired Cleveland Bishop Anthony Pilla, retired auxiliary Bishop Edward Pevec, current auxiliary Bishop Roger Gries, OSB (who served as fourth abbot of St. Andrew Abbey from 1981-2001), Bishop John Kudrick, Eparch of the Byzantine Diocese of Parma, Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB, Abbot Timothy Kelly, OSB, abbot-president of the American-Cassinese Congre-



**Bishop Richard Lennon placing the miter on Abbot Christopher Schwartz, OSB**



**Bishop Roger Gries, OSB with FCLSA home office personnel Irene Drotleff, Mary Ann Johanek, Sue Ann Seich, and chaplain Msgr. Peter Polando.**

gation of Benedictine monasteries, and Benedictine abbots from Pennsylvania, Illinois, Kansas, Oklahoma, and North Carolina.



**President Mary Ann Johanek congratulates Abbot Christopher.**

In his homily, Bishop Lennon explained how the Church provides a ritual for the blessing of a newly-elected abbot as a sign of the monastery's role as part of the local church. During the ritual that followed the Liturgy of the Word, Bishop Lennon examined the new abbot with five questions, invited the congregation to prayer with the Litany of the Saints, invoked a

prayer of blessing, presented the abbot with the Rule of St. Benedict, and conferred upon him the ring, miter, and crozier, signs of the abbot's canonical jurisdiction within the abbey, though he remains a priest and is not a bishop.

After the blessing, those in attendance joined Abbot Christopher and the monks of the abbey at a reception in the Assumption Family Center.

Abbot Christopher, 62, is the son of the late Frank and Gertrude Schwartz of Parma, Ohio. He entered the Benedictine order and professed his first vows as a monk of St. Andrew Abbey in 1973. He was ordained a priest the following year. From 1974-1991 he was assigned to the faculty of Benedictine High School where he was a popular history teacher and served as school chaplain. From 1991-2004, he was assigned as pastor of Assumption Parish in Broadview Heights, OH. He moved to Incarnate Word Academy and Convent in Parma Heights, OH and served as chaplain from 2004-2006.

Before leaving the International Congress of Benedictine

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

# students in the News



**Abbot Clement preaching at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary Chapel in Kosice, Slovakia.**

Abbots in Rome in September, Abbot Christopher named Fr. Gary Hoover, OSB as prior of the abbey and Fr. Albert Marflak, OSB as subprior or third superior. These monks are responsible for directing the affairs of the abbey during times when the abbot is absent from the monastery.

Saint Andrew Abbey has 31 monks and is located on the southeast side of Cleveland, OH. The abbey sponsors Benedictine High School, a college preparatory school with a current enrollment of 410 young

men. The monastic community also staffs Assumption Parish and provides pastoral ministry on weekends to various parishes in the Cleveland diocese. The abbey also houses the Slovak Institute which includes an extensive library of Slovak language books and cultural artifacts. The Cleveland monastery also maintains a supportive relationship with the Benedictine Monks in Bacurov, Slovakia as they continue to increase in numbers and complete work on their new monastery in the village of Sampor.



**AMY LAGZDINS**, President of the Baldwin Wallace College "Right to Life" organization is accepting a donation from Richard and Susan Talpas. This donation is to defray the cost of activities to promote and recruit members of the organization. In the background is what is called the "Flag Cemetery," which shows 146 pink and blue placards with baby feet. The placards represent the 146 abortions per hour performed in the United States.

Amy is majoring in Communication Disorders with a minor in Psychology and Family Relations. Next fall she will be going to graduate school for Speech-Language Pathology. While attending college Amy is involved with Alpha Lambda Delta Society, Campus Crusade for Christ, and Course Assistant for Sign Language 101.

Activities of Baldwin Wallace Right-to Life include hosting various speakers. Other activities include movies with pro-life themes, prayer meetings and pro-life voter information, along with volunteering at the Cleveland Crisis Pregnancy Center.

Amy is a lifelong member of the FCSLA and has participated in the FCSLA Scholarship Program. She is the daughter of Andrea and Peter Lagzdins, all members of Branch 221 and granddaughter of Richard and Susan Talpas, officers of the same branch.



**CHELSIE ANDERA** member of Branch W033 is pictured with the scholarship check she received from the FCSLA.

Chelsie is a student at the University of Wisconsin – Superior.

**Annual Yield on FCSLA Annuities/IRAs**

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

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



## Iowa Couple Celebrates 60th

Donald and Florence Kudej of Forest City, IA celebrated 60 years of marriage on January 4, 2009. An open house was hosted by their children with The Malek Fishermen Polka Band providing music.



Donald and Florence (Currier) Kudej were married at Holy Family Catholic Church in Mason City, IA with a wedding dance at Duncan Community Hall in Duncan, IA.

They are the parents of Lawrence and Kim Kudej, Swisher, IA; Sandy and Joyce (Kudej) Gruhn, Humboldt, IA; Keith and Charla Kudej, Madrid, IA; Dr. Raymond and Amy Kudej, Westborough, MA; David and Laura Kudej, Forest City and in spirit their daughter Donna (Kudej) Voss.

The couple have 15 grandchildren.

Greetings may be sent to their home at 405 North Clark St., Apt. 2, Forest City, IA 50436. Donald Kudej is a member of the Duncan Branch W051.

## 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Celebrated

Ivan and Elaine Coonrod celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Sunday, October 26 at St. George Catholic Church, Munden, KS. A mass was celebrated by Father Cornelius Khine, pastor. Following mass, a brunch was held at the Mill Wheel Restaurant, Hubbell, NE, which was enjoyed by their families.



Ivan and Elaine were married at St. George Church on October 26, 1968. After a tour of duty in the military, Ivan attended Southeast Community College, Milford, NE. Elaine attended St. Mary's of the Plains College, Dodge City, KS and received an associate degree from Emporia State University, Emporia, KS.

The couple resides in the community of Munden, KS and are involved in farming. Elaine is a medical transcriptionist with a local physician. She is a member of Branch W086, Munden and Parish Council of Catholic Woman. Ivan is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

The Coonrods are the parents of three children: Eric (Stephanie) of Holyrood, KS, Jason (Dawn) of Liberty, MO, and Amanda of Lawrence, KS. There are five grandchildren: Jordan, Peyton, Reygan, Haley and Taylor.

Congratulations to our anniversary couple.

## THINK WINTER

SNOWMAN	FIREPLACE	SLEET
MITTENS	ICICLE	SHOVEL
HOT CHOCOLATE	SKIING	SCARF
SLED RIDING	SNOWFLAKES	SNOWMOBILE
COLD WEATHER	SNOWSTORM	SNOWBLOWER
SNOWBALL	ICE SKATES	GLOVES

T U S R E W O L B W O N S H O S J  
C G N I R P S D Q O D J B O D S G  
B L Q S N O W B A L L U J T B H N  
W S E K A L F W O N S M R C G O I  
E L I B O M W O N S Z E N H M V D  
N B C S I E G J H H S F O L E I  
I L E A T O J S N T B D E C C L R  
T T S I O D S C A T A L A O O X D  
E M K K E A O E Z O C N G L W G E  
E I A Y N S W H F I A N E A L F L  
L T T G X D J S C M I C R T R H S  
S T E S L X R I W I C Q K E Y B R  
F E S O Q E N O K O O M S C A R F  
N N C Q W Z N S S H N B D L A D P  
T S X O D S C M R O T S W O N S A  
Y O L M G L O V E S V W I E O S P  
N F I O U E J I L K U C B M X Q I  
Z X G V Y L F I R E P L A C E R Z

Search for the words and mail it in to: Sue Ann M. Seich, Fraternal & Youth Director, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122-5634

## Receiving the Habit

Sr. Angela, Melissa Kavan (W017) received the Habit of the Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln, NE on August 2, 2008, the Feast of Our Lady Queen of Angels. This moment culminated a lifelong desire to become a "Sister." Sister chose the name Angela in honor of her sister, Angela Marie Kavan, who died of spinal meningitis at the age of two, on October 3, 1988. We congratulate Sister Angela as she begins her religious life as a Marian Sister.





# CLEVELAND DISTRICT SPONSORS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



The Cleveland District sponsored its annual Christmas party for the residents of the Light of Hearts Villa on Saturday, December 13, 2008 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.



Members and residents were entertained first with Christmas carols played by Johnny Pastirik and Ralph Szubski on their accordions, followed by the Lucina Dancers and then by the Elyria Accelerated Singers.

Everyone enjoyed the veggies and bakery provided by the FCSLA members who attended

and partook of the festivities. The Light of Hearts staff provided the coffee and punch.

As has become a tradition, Fr. Joachim Pastirik, OSB (and twin brother of John the accordion player) played Santa, full costume and all, and gave each resident one of the Christmas presents that the Cleveland District provided. Santa, along with several FCSLA members, also danced the "Electric Slide" and the "Macarena."

The celebration concluded with the Mass at 4:00 p.m. which was celebrated by Bishop Roger Gries, OSB — another beautiful memory was created.

It is also noted that the week before the party, more than

a dozen FCSLA members — Senior and Junior — participated in the annual Christmas trimming of the trees and hallways at Light of Hearts Villa.

Check the FCSLA website for more photos from the party!



## Celebration of Gratitude

FCSLA Branch W016 held a "Celebration of Gratitude" party on November 16, 2008 at the Klein Center in Brainard, NE. The Holy Trinity PCCW assisted with arrangements for the event. In attendance, 120 members and guests enjoyed a catered meal. Spiritual Director Father Matthew Eickhoff and Mary Rezac presented a slide show of their World Youth Pilgrimage to Australia after which Father and his brother, Father Jeff Eickhoff provided musical entertainment. The Branch is grateful to the FCSLA for making an enjoyable time possible.



L-R: Bishop Roger Gries, OSB (celebrant at the Mass), district officers, Donna Oros, Johanna Oros, Christine Kiggins, Margaret Germovsek, Joyce Lechman, and Barbara Sekerak.



## Sr. Branch 376 Celebrates the Holidays!

Klemmer's Banquet Center in Milwaukee, WI was the place to be for Sr. Branch 376 members on Saturday, December 13th. The meeting started with a prayer for the sick (especially Richard Kimlicka) and deceased (especially Joe Kosso). Minutes and financial reports were read, followed



by the audit report. Scholarship forms were available and donations were voted on, including a donation of \$500 to Fr. Pavol Pribula for a sound system for his church in Slovakia. Some members also donated their own money to Fr. Pribula. Although our 50-year member, Ronald Cherney, could not be

with us, members remembered him in their prayers.

Annual elections were then held. The Board Members for 2009 are: Kathy Dorfner, President; Mary Jo Noyes, Vice President; Richard Bozek, Secretary/Treasurer; Daniel Loduha, Recording Secretary; Laura Skubal, Junior Branch Secretary; Sue Daniels and Kathy Valent, Auditors. The Officers had their picture taken with Santa and Brianna Daniels (3 months), our soon-to-be newest member, and her Dad, Richard.

Mary Jo Noyes was thanked for her beautiful table decorations, and members were reminded of our next meeting on Saturday, April 18, 2009. Because the economy is so weak right now, members were treated to their usual Usinger's summer sausage, but also received yachwurst, liverwurst pate, and cheddar and colby cheeses! The Board and members of Sr. Branch 376 wishes everyone "Vesele Vianoce, a Stastlivy Novy Rok!"



## St. Louis Branches Hold Christmas Extravaganza

On December 14, 2008, Sr. Branch 101 and Jr. Branch 11 thoroughly enjoyed a joint Christmas extravaganza / business meeting for its members, inviting the men's lodge (the Most Holy Trinity Lodge 109 KJ Union) to join them for a day of fellowship and business. Fifty-five Slovak nationals were in attendance feasting on a wide range of Slovak holiday desserts and deli trays.

On the cusp of a predicted frozen, dreary, rainy week in St. Louis, a holiday-spirited congress of Slovaks, both mature and youthful, enjoyed each others companionship, toasting another prosperous year of existence and prayed for those members not able to join in the festivities due to illness or death in the previous year.

Branch officers were elected for the new year with the assemblage hailing praise on those officers who served so magnificently during the year. The members in attendance heard the treasurer's report on assets and member statistics of insurance in force and the president's fluidity of moving the meeting along so as to get to the holiday feast. The vice president's report included presenting a \$10 bill to each of the 20 members who reached 80 years of natal existence.

Senior Branch association member, Leah Jane Miklovic (collegiate) was presented a 'ribbon and medal' for receiving a 2008 John A. Demko Memorial Scholarship from the Slovak League of America. Junior Branch association member Nicholas Uxa (grade school) was presented a 'ribbon and medal' for receiving a 2008 FCSLA scholarship. Both awardees bestowing great honor upon the assemblage.

Each member in attendance collected a door prize of association "goodies" and was awarded an attendance prize of festival cheer to cap off their fellowship excitement. Senior members led by Mary Pelch, were in command of welcoming fellow "senior" members and facilitated in the "prize allocation."



L-R: President Dolores Bachesta, College Scholarship Recipient Leah Miklovic, Secretary Joseph Miklovic (Leah's Dad), Grade School Scholarship Recipient Nicholas Uxa, Vice President Ann Miklovic, Treasurer Margaret Lyons and youngest Jr. Branch member Lillian Lyons.



## Sr. Branch 88 Annual Christmas Party a Success



On Sunday, December 7, members of Branch 88 in Monessen, PA, recently gathered for the Annual Christmas Party at the Belle Vernon Inn. All were greeted by committee members who presented them with a gift from the Home Office and a box of candy from the branch.

President Dorothy Urbanowicz welcomed the group and introduced Rev. Dave Nazimek who gave the invocation. A moment of silence was then observed for deceased members and those who died at Pearl Harbor and the war that followed. Following dinner, the members were entertained by Bob Morelli, Pittsburgh's own "Dean Martin".

President Urbanowicz then presented a summary of all that has taken place in the branch during the past year. Laurel Kisinko was recognized for her 50 year status and scholarship winners were named. They were Nicole Dantonio, Eric Polesky and Jason Bialon. Dorothy reminded members that scholarship applications for next year are now available.

Many door prizes were awarded. The afternoon concluded with Dorothy thanking State Representative Ted Harhai for his generous donations and all for attending. On behalf of all the officers, members were wished a happy and blessed holiday.



Officers and committee members, front, L-R: Lillian Plavko and Marylyn Chuprinko. Back, L-R: Dorothy Urbanowicz, Alice Bialon, Patricia Kovach, Ruth Bielawski and Rosemary Betza.







## Branches 408 and 119 Enjoy Christmas Gathering

Branches 408 and 119 gathered to celebrate the season on December 7, 2008 at St. Wendelin Church and Hall, in Cleveland, OH. The day began with Mass at 11:00 a.m. with Father Jerome Lajack, President of Branch 408 officiating.

A luncheon followed, prepared by the Altar and Rosary members, with exchange of gifts and singing of Christmas carols. The piano was played by Ruth Novak, member of Branch 408 and music director of St. Wendelin Church.

Donations were generously given from Branch 408 to St. Wendelin Slovak Church in Cleveland, OH, SS Cyril and Methodius Church in Lakewood, OH, Malachi House (hospice for the dying homeless), Light of Hearts Villa, Malachi Center and West Side Catholic Center (both dedicated to helping the poor and homeless). A donation was also given to St. Wendelin Church from Branch 119.



## Branches 23 and 130 Celebrate the Season at the Ballet

Over 50 members of Sr. Branch 23 and Jr. Branch 130, as well as their guests, joined together to add to their holiday festivities, a performance of the Milwaukee Ballet's "The Nutcracker" on December 28. The production took place at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.

Tschkovsky's enchanting music brought to life the fairy tale of Clara, Herr Drosselmeyer, the Nutcracker, Rat King, Sugar Plum Fairy and all of the other magical characters that make this ballet a holiday favorite for so many.

Members were treated to fantastic second and third row orchestra seats that allowed everyone present to see the detail of the lavish costumes and enjoy the facial expressions of the dancers as they performed their artistry.





## ST. ISIDORE DISTRICT CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAY

District President Gene Sobota and his entertainment committee provided an evening full of fun, food and the spirit of Christmas in Prague, NE.



M.C., Bob Hladik ponders the contents of a surprise bag.

Officers and their guests from most of Nebraska's Branches dined on pork, dumplings with a sherbet dessert. The annual Bring-A-Gift, Take-A-Gift was popular.

Entertainment consisted of table teams competing for prizes based on their knowledge of Christmas and its many traditions. Caroling concluded the evening festivities.



After dinner games stressed teamwork and Christmas knowledge.



District Sales Coordinator Steve Stemper, in red, encourages game players.

FEBRUARY 2009

## Branch W018 Shows Its Christmas Spirit



A local restaurant was turned into Santa's Wrapping Department recently. For over 50 years the annual youth Christmas Party has been a time for merriment and gift getting. Recently Branch W018 has added a fraternal gift giving activity.

The group adopted a family from a local Catholic school needing some help at Christmas. Dinner attendees brought their children and gifts to be wrapped.

After a fine meal, we were graced with a visit from Old St. Nick and his lovely wife. Young ones got to confer with the Claus's and cameras clicked.

The afternoon concluded with a gift-wrapping session. Members of all ages got involved and soon a vanload of gifts was ready to be delivered.



The Claus's and some BELIEVERS.



Steve Stemper spoke about the benefits of FCSLA insurance products.



Grandparents were special invited guests.



## JR. BRANCH 184 HOLDS HALLOWEEN PARTY

Jr. Branch 184 of Gary, IN held their annual Halloween Party on Saturday, October 18, 2008. The party was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hobart, IN and twenty children and their parents attended.

The children enjoyed playing various games and winning many prizes. Everyone dressed in costume and feasted on hot dogs and sloppy joe sandwiches. It was a fun time for all in attendance.



The Yurechko family: Andy, Jason, Missy and Rosie.



Maggie and Charlie Samocki



Sam and Sydney Stazinski



Megan Gelon and her mother, Karen.



**NICCOLO ST. ANGEL** was baptized August 9, 2008 at Notre Dame Parish in Clarendon Hills, IL by the Rev. Sundar Raj Kocherla. Nico was born on January 15, 2008. He is the son of Nicolette and Lindo St. Angel and brother to his big sister Eva. He is the grandson of Robert and Esther Maruska of Clarendon Hills, IL and Connie St. Angel of Rockford, IL.

Nico is a fourth generation FCSLA member enrolled in Jr. Branch 382. He is the great-grandson of the late Mary Suchan, who served as a senior auditor for 25 years.



ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



## Annual Children's Christmas Party for Jr. Branch 157

On Saturday, December 6, 2008, the members of Jr. Branch 157 were hosted at the Annual Children's Christmas Party. Members were accompanied by their parents and grandparents. The festive event was held at The Epiphany Church Chapel Hall on Pennsylvania Blvd. in Monessen, PA.

Gay holiday decorations adorned the hall and tables. The party began at noon. Father David J. Nazimek, Epiphany Church pastor gave the invocation and visited with the children.

After a catered luncheon Beth Kovach directed the children in completing several crafts. The formal entertainment for the afternoon was a "Magician" who was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Much to the delight of the children, Santa Claus made his annual visit and gave each child a "goody-bag treat" filled with games, assorted candies, crackers, pop-corn balls and fresh fruits. Individual member memento pictures were taken on Santa's lap as each child gave Santa their "wish-list." As in the past many of the children also brought their handwritten letters to Santa which was deposited in the Annual Santa Mail-Bag.

The party chairladies were Ruth J. Bielawski (Jr. Branch Financial Secretary); Dorothy L. Urbanowicz (Sr. Branch 88 President) assisted by committee members Rosemary Betza, Alice Bialon, Pat Kovach and Mary Ralston.



Some of the children with Santa.



Children enjoy magician.



Officers and committee members, L-R: Dorothy Urbanowicz, Patricia Kovach, Ruth Bielawski, Beth Kovach, Fr. Dave Nazimek, Mary Ralston, Beth Kovach and Alice Bialon.

### An Essay Winner: "My Slovak American Family"

Jr. Branch 425 member, Rebecca Gvozden recently wrote this winning essay for the Slovak Heritage Society of Johnstown, PA contest in which children were asked to write an essay about their "Slovak-American" family. Her proud grandmother is Mary Ann Knaze of Johnstown, PA.

My name is Rebecca Gvozden and I am a 4th grade student at Westmont. I have a Slovak American family. My great-grandparents were from Slovakia. When I call my grandma on the telephone I say "Dobre Rano" for good morning and "Dobre Noc" that means good night. She teaches me a new word almost every time we talk on the phone or see each other.

On Christmas Eve, we have a big Slovak feast. Me and my family go to my Grandma's house. Before we eat our Slovak food, we pray and then get splashed with holy

water. My favorite thing in the Slovak food is the *oplatky* with honey on it. It's a tradition because we go to Grandma's house every Christmas Eve. We also listen to Slovak Christmas carols that my Uncle Steve brought us from Slovakia.

At home on Sundays, we listen to the polkas on the radio. My mom or my grandma always dances with me and my sister, Kara. I am proud of my Slovak American family.



*Congratulations Rebecca — we are proud of you too!*

## Santa Visits Jr. Branch 192 in Youngstown, Ohio

Jr. Branch 192, Youngstown, OH, ushered in the Christmas Season with a festive party at Saint Matthias Parish Hall on Saturday, November 29. Santa and his elf, Jingle Belle, (members Jeff and Theresa Leonard) made a special visit. Of the 137 people in attendance, 67 were from the Junior Branch. They enjoyed venting their energy in the Sponge Bob Bounce-A-Round and in trying their luck at the nine festival booths set up in the auditorium. Winning tickets could be traded in for a prize from over 300 displayed on the award table.



**Santa and Jingle Belle get the wish list of Malena Toth.**

President of Sr. Branch 161, Ruth Bartos, thanked the parents and grandparents for their continued support of branch activities. Junior Order Secretary and Chairperson of the event, Bernie Demechko, thanked the 30 workers who manned the booths and prepared the hot lunch of sloppy joes, potato chips, Christmas sugar cookies, ice cream, mints and orange drink.

Auditors Betty Zajac and Agatha Fabiny, pulled names for 17 door prize winners and also supervised the distribution of the goodie bags. Each bag contained an FCSLA blow up beach ball; zoo pencil, bottle of bubbles, \$5 bill; chocolate Santa Claus, Little Debbie Christmas Tree cake, and Christmas tree lollipop.

All those in attendance remarked that the party gets better and better every year.



**Jr. Branch members take a photo with Santa at their annual Christmas party.**



**The members enjoyed bouncing in the Sponge Bob Bounce-A-Round.**

## SLOVAK HERITAGE FESTIVAL HELD IN HOLMDEL, NEW JERSEY



The 31st Annual Slovak Heritage Festival was held at PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel, NJ, on Sunday, September 28, 2008. Our member, Nina Holy, Branch 235 Secretary from W. Orange, NJ was co-chairperson for the event. The day was overcast and rain preceded the opening but the sun did shine on the 5,000 plus festival attendees.

At the event our FCSLA display was attended by Nina's family, her daughter Jane Konzelmann, and grandsons, Andrew and Mark. Also offering to help was Anna Sosnicky, Secretary from Branch 234. Our Fraternal and Youth Director, Sue Ann M. Seich attended the festival and manned the display handing out our FCSLA brochures, gifts, and a new flyer which details who we are and the many benefits FCSLA offers their members.

The day began with a Slovak Mass and was filled with religious, cultural and fraternal activities for all people of Slovak descent to enjoy. Two of the young ladies in the above photo are part of a dance group and attend school in Linden, NJ. The Heritage Festival is held the last Sunday in September. Mark your calendars for next year and plan to attend.



### MAGDALENA ROSE MAUST

was born on August 8, 2008. She is the daughter of Christopher and Susan Maust, Salisbury, PA. She was baptized on October 4, 2008 at Saints Philip and James Parish, Meyersdale, PA. She is the granddaughter of Jim and Betty Sapola of Mt. Pleasant, PA and Linda and the late Robert Maust of Salisbury, PA.

Magdalena and her sisters Rebecca and Anna are all members of Branch 44. She is wearing a christening gown made for her by her Grandma Linda.







## IN MEMORIAM

### **THOMAS RAYMOND ROBERT SESTAK** **Branch W093**

Thomas Raymond Robert Sestak was born March 15, 1948 to Adolph and Lillian (Travnicek) Sestak in Yankton, SD. He attended St. Wenceslaus Grade School and graduated from Tabor High School in 1966. He continued his education at the Southern State College in Springfield, SD graduating with an Associate's Degree. After graduation, Tom worked in the surrounding area as a carpenter. Tom farmed with his two brothers, Terry and Gary.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing, bowling, reading, especially western history, but most of all spending time with his family and friends.

He was a member of the Tabor Lumber Coop for 21 years and served as President for three of those years, a member and past president of the St. Wenceslaus Parish Council, lifetime member of the Catholic Workman Br. #93, and a member of the Jaycees.

He is survived by his four siblings: Patricia Garner of Ames, IA, Gary (Marilyn) of Tabor, SD, Karen (Martin) Luebke of Garretson, SD, and Terry (Eileen) of Tabor, SD; ten nieces and nephews, four great nieces and nephews, and an uncle Emil Travnicek of Yankton, SD.

He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, and infant brother, Joseph, and a brother-in-law, Ken Garner.

### **JOHN M. PISULA** **Branch 44**

MT. PLEASANT, PA—John Michael Pisula, 42, of Mt. Pleasant, PA passed away on Saturday, April 12, 2008 in Excelsa Health Frick Hospital, Mt. Pleasant, PA.

John was born May 17, 1965 in Mt. Pleasant, PA, the dear son of John "Jack" and Rose Marie Lesko Pisula.

He was a member of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Mt. Pleasant, PA.

John was a 1983 graduate of Geibel Catholic High School and had worked for Green Acres, UPS, and L.E. Smith Glass.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing and was an excellent taxidermist, work which he thoroughly enjoyed. He enjoyed restoring his 1957 Chevy, he also restored several old cars, and he had a large beer can collection, and he loved his music of the 1980's.

In addition to his parents, John is survived by his loving family, his son, John Michael Jr., of Mt. Pleasant, PA whom he loved dearly and his mother, Angela Rosensteel and his stepdaughter, Amanda Fess Williams.

He will be sadly missed by his many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Victor and Mary Pisula and Joseph and Elizabeth Lesko.

Contributions were made in memory of John to Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666.

### **KATHRYN HABEL** **Branch SZJO**

GREEN BAY, WI—Kathryn Frances Fojtik Habel, 82, Green Bay, WI died September 27, 2008, at Unity Hospice in Green Bay following a courageous battle with cancer and a stroke.

She was born April 9, 1926, in Phillips, the daughter of Vincent and Celestine Fojtik, one of 11 children. She was married to Ludwig Habel on June 14, 1947, at St. Mary's Church in Phillips. She worked alongside her husband in the family grocery store, until their retirement in 1992. They were both life-long parishioners within the Catholic community of Phillips.

She was a member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, Zenska Jednota, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies' Association, and the Saint Jude League.

After the loss of her husband, she spent much of her time with her children and grandchildren in Green Bay, Milwaukee, and Chicago. She loved

flowers, telling stories and just being a wonderful mom and grandma.

She had a fighting spirit and strong faith throughout her illnesses over the years. She was her family's hero.

She is survived by three children: Robert (Margarita), Milwaukee; Kenneth, Chicago, and Karen (James) Marshall, Green Bay; by three grandchildren: Christopher Habel, Milwaukee; and Katrina and Anja Marshall, Green Bay; and by loving relatives, nieces, nephews, and friends including Marie Fojtik, Al and Kate Habel, Joyce and Bill Guerra, Joseph and Susan Strunka, Don and Carol Fojtik and Robert Barabas.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband Lad; by her parents and by her ten brothers and sisters.

### **SOPHIE A. KULHANEK** **Branch W014**

Sophie A. Kulhanek, 94, passed away on September 20, 2008 in Clarkson, NE. Sophie Augustina Kulhanek, was born August 28, 1914 to Frank B. and Bessie T. (Kucera) Sindelar on the Sindelar family farm in rural Cuming County.

She attended rural Cuming Co. School District #60, graduating from the eighth grade.

She married Joseph R. Kulhanek at St. John's Nepomucene Catholic Church in Howells, NE on January 31, 1933. They had two sons: Joseph M. and Eugene L. They farmed the Kulhanek family farm until the death of her husband on February 4, 1964. Nine years later she moved to Howells and made her home there working for many years at Faltin's Meat Market, Howells Ballroom and Howells Poultry Processing. From 2004 until the time of her death on September 20th she resided at the Golden Living Center in Clarkson, NE.

Sophie was a life-long member of St. John's Catholic Church having been baptized, confirmed and married there.

*continued on page 18*



## IN MEMORIAM

She enjoyed visiting with people and listening to Czech music.

Survivors include a son Gene (Carolyn) Kulhanek of Howells, NE, daughter-in-law Bernice Kulhanek of Howells, NE. Grandchildren including Patty (Arnie) Venteicher, Tom (Lori) Kulhanek, Barbara (Rob) Walton, and Kenneth Kulhanek. Several great-grandchildren: Amy Venteicher, Riley, Tucker, Miles and Macey Kulhanek, and Mackinzie Walton. Sisters: Elma Bart of Howells, NE and Wilma (Mrs. Stanley) Kalisek of Howells, NE.

Sophie was preceded in death by her parents, husband, son Joseph M., and three sisters: Adelka, Christina and Bessie.

### **ALICE B. HRUBES** **Branch W051**

GARNER, IA—Alice B. Hrubes, 92, of Garner, IA died Friday, October 10, 2008, at the Hancock County Memorial Hospital in Britt, IA.

Alice Barbara Hrubes was the daughter of James and Mary (Formanek) Rokos. She was born December 4, 1915 on a farm northwest of Garner. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Duncan. Alice graduated from Hayfield Consolidated High School in 1934.

On June 9, 1936, she was married to Frank Hrubes at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church. They farmed south of Duncan until retiring to Garner in 1980. Alice also worked part-time in the Dietary Department of Hancock County Memorial Hospital in Britt.

She was a member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Rosary Society and Catholic Workman FCSLA Branch W051. She belonged to the Liberty Ladies' Club and was a past 4-H Leader.

Alice is survived by her son, Don (Donna) Hrubes of Spencer; daughter, Sister Janet Hrubes of Chicago, IL; three grandchildren: Deb (Alan) Hummel of West Des Moines and their son, Elijah, and Diane and Dan Hrubes of

Spencer; a sister, Gladys Kudej of Britt; sisters-in-law, Helen Malek of Garner, Margaret Hrubes of Garner and Mary Trca of Britt; brothers-in-law, Clarence (Joan) Hrubes of Garner and Joe (Leona) Hrubes of Britt, many nieces and nephews; and close friends, Sisters Nila and Non Meyerhofer.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank; parents; sister Lillian (John) Dolphin; sisters-in-law, Emily (Ernie) Trca and Elsie (Frank) Vavrik; and brothers-in-law, Bob Kudej, John Hrubes, Syl Malek, Arnold Trca and Ray (Darlene) Hrubes.

### **CATHERINE M. TOMAN** **Branch S169**

YOUNGSTOWN, OH—Catherine M. Toman, 88, formerly of North Belle Vista Avenue, passed away June 4, 2008, at Meridian Arms Living Center in Youngstown, OH.

Catherine, who was affectionately known as "Aunt Kay," was born March 14, 1920 in Youngstown, OH, a daughter of the late Joseph and Mary Palguta Toman, and was a lifelong area resident.

She worked at Superior Industries for 18 years and retired in 1982. Prior to that she worked at Republic Rubber/Aeroquip.

She was a member of Holy Name of Jesus Church.

Besides her parents, Catherine was preceded in death by her three brothers, Joseph, John, and Steve Toman, and her two sisters, Helen Oleyar and Mary Toman.

Aunt Kay leaves many nieces and nephews.

### **MARY FOYT LIN JASPER** **Branch 411/ZJ**

HAWTHORNE, NJ—Mary (Gerek) Foytlin Jasper, 99 entered into rest on November 23, 2008. Mary Gerek was born in Endicott, NY on August 9, 1909. She married Joseph W. Foytlin on May 8, 1923. They lived in Endicott, NY until moving in 1941 to Totowa, NJ during the

Second World War where her husband acquired a job with Wright Aeronautical. They later settled in Hawthorne, NJ where Mary lived for 65 years.

Joe and Mary had four children: William, deceased, Dorothy, deceased, John Foytlin from Toms River, NJ and Carol Brincka from Hawthorne, NJ. After raising her family, Mary went back to school in 1957 and earned a degree as a Practical Nurse. She worked for many years in St. Joseph's Hospital, Paterson, NJ. She also worked for the American Cancer Society as a visiting nurse long before "home health nursing" became popular. She initiated local cancer drives and was the first Chairperson of the annual town wide Cancer Crusade Drive in Hawthorne, NJ.

After the death of her husband Joe in 1972, Mary went back to hospital work at The Valley Hospital, Ridgewood. She met and married Walter Jasper of Midland Park in 1976. From this marriage, five more children were added to her list of children – Thelma Solinsky, Jeff Jasper, Gail Harris, Lynn Riccardi, and Bruce Jasper. In addition to four children, 5 step children, Mary had 21 grandchildren, and 29 great-grandchildren.

God has blessed her with long life, a large family who loved her and many dear friends and neighbors.



### **MEMBERS ONLY, PLEASE!**

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





# Lucina Slovak Folk Ensemble of Cleveland, Ohio

The Lucina Slovak Folk Ensemble of Cleveland, OH had the great honor of representing the United States by performing in the 43rd Annual Folk Festival in Pol'ana in Detva, Slovakia.

The four-day event was held from July 10-13, 2008 and was hosted by Urad Vlady Slovenskej Republiky. Dancers were housed in dormitories at the University in Zvolen. They practiced vigorously for three full days prior to performing in Detva on Sunday, July 13.

The Lucina members participated in Sunday's event along with over 200 Slovak dancers from groups located in the Czech Republic, Hungary, France, Poland, Serbia, Romania and the Ukraine. The show's theme was a colorful display of villagers (dancers), strolling through a make-believe market, while each ensemble took a turn performing their routine center stage. Dancers were accompanied by live musicians playing the fujara, gajdy-bagpipes and penny whistles.

The Lucina ladies performed Betar Ja Dzivocka, a playful karicka dance depicting the style of the Zemplin region. They were joined center stage by Polish and Ukraine Ensembles and collectively performed a grand karicka.

The Lucina Ensemble showcased their well known and ever vibrant Gypsy dance with former Director, Mike Anderko, as the poor gypsy flaunting splendid moves until the remaining gypsy men decided to sneak up on him. After individually showing off their talent to the audience, the gypsy ladies tantalized the men with their magnificent talents including spinning and fancy footwork. The group received a standing ovation from the Detva audience for their performance of Gypsy.

The dance festival concluded with a gracious banquet provided by their hosts. Lucina members independently continued their stay in the Slovak Republic visiting family and friends along with former dancers whom have returned to their native land.

The Ensemble wishes to thank their generous supporters, families and friends, and all who made the trip possible in the essence of promoting our Slovak heritage.



Performing the karicka dance from L-R: Anita Anderko, Susie Halley, Nadia Oros (S553), Jana Chuba, Michele Mager (S114).



Gypsy dance performers, seated L-R: Nadia Oros (S553), Susie Halley, Jana Chuba, Anita Anderko, Michele Mager (S114). Standing, Peter Sokol (J88), Jon Hudak (S578), Mike Anderko, Joe Chuba, Peter Liptak, and Joe Oros (S553).





# PÁS'S DROTÁR CONCERT

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.

What a concert! On Sunday, November 23, 2008, "PÁS," the Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble treated its audience to a fabulous and very unique performance entitled "*Drotár*," at the Antonian Theatre at Carlow University. The enthusiastic crowd would concur that the troupe put on quite a show of traditional songs and dances that was both entertaining and educational.

## BACKGROUND—A LITTLE HISTORY

The concert centered on the theme of the *Drotár*, or tinker. As portrayed in the concert program, many Slovak *staré baby* (old grandmothers) remembered when the tinkers used to come to their villages and would announce their arrival with the words: "*Hrce misky, drotovať!*" (Pots and bowls to tinker!)"

Life as a Tinker was a common occupation of men in Slovakia during the Early Modern Era of European history. This portrayal of the life of the *drotár* dated from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the time of Maria Teresa, the beloved Empress of Austria and Queen of Hungary.

Many of these Tinkers came from the relatively poor areas of Kysuce and Trenčín in northwest Slovakia. Because times were tough in their homeland, these Slovak Tinkers roamed not only in Slovakia and other parts of Hungary, but throughout Europe, in search of work. They traveled from place to place, carrying everything they needed in a toolbox on their backs, which they wore like a knapsack. The Tinkers also sold objects made of tin and wire such as pots and pans, whisks, sieves, strainers, trays, ladles, skewers, cake and cookie tins, cutters, trivets, mousetraps, and other useful household goods. The *drotár* also was a source of information about distant places, who often shared interesting and exciting stories, no doubt, some of which may have been exaggerated to tell a good tale.

Slovaks considered the life of a *drotár* to be a worthy occupation, and the special skills were usually passed down the generations, from father (*otec*) and grandfather (*dedo*) to one's son or

grandson. Fathers and son often worked or even traveled together.

The concert program noted the special custom associated with the birth of a son to a family of Tinkers. The family put the newborn infant on a "long-handled board," and then put the baby through an open window of the home. The family then collectively recited the Slovak expression, "*Svetom moje svetom*" (Set out on a journey to the world).

The family anticipated that the child would one day make his way in the world, and make it his own.

The Slovak Tinkers could be found throughout Europe, everywhere from Russia to France and Italy. Their humble profession continued until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and during their heyday, as many as 5-10,000 Slovak *drotári* roamed around Europe.

## CONCLUSION

The performance ended in a storm of applause that was well-deserved. PÁS chose to stage this wonderful drama to celebrate its thirty-fifth year as one of Pittsburgh's premier ethnic song and dance groups.

PÁS owes much of its success to the devoted work of all its members and their families, and especially, John and Angela Lipchick, who direct the Ensemble.

With its performance of *Drotár*, PÁS hoped to raise some money to help fund its trip to Detva, Slovakia, where they will perform with some of the best folk groups from across the country. Despite making some progress through fund-raisers over the last few months, they can only sell so many hoagies. PÁS still needs more donations to help make their trip to Slovakia possible. If you would like to help support their most worthy cause, please keep them in mind when you think about whom you would wish to assist.

Anyone interested in supporting this well-deserved cause may send a check to help defray the expenses. Please send your donations to: PÁS FOLK ENSEMBLE, 1254 Old Concord Road, Monroeville, PA 15146. Tel. (412) 373-3873.

For more information about PÁS please visit their website at [www.pasfolkensemble.weebly.com](http://www.pasfolkensemble.weebly.com)





# SCF SEEKS CONTRIBUTORS FOR 'GOOD SHEPHERD' ANNUAL

*Dobry Pastier (The Good Shepherd)*, edited by Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., and published annually by the Slovak Catholic Federation, compiles articles focusing on topics which are of interest to Slovak-American Catholics. The Federation is currently accepting articles for inclusion in the 2009 edition. Potential contributors should note that while the scope of the publication is broad, articles solely political in nature will not be accepted.

The deadline for all articles is **May 1, 2009. Due to the printing schedule, articles received after the deadline will not be included in the annual.** The annual will be available for distribution in the Fall.

In order to facilitate the editing and printing of *The Good Shepherd*, the following guidelines are established for authors who would like their work to be considered for inclusion in the annual:

## GENERAL INFORMATION

◆ All articles must be type-written, double-spaced in Microsoft **WORD** format in 12 point, Times New Roman font.

◆ It is strongly preferred that **English** articles be e-mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., Editor, at: [bernsscm@yahoo.com](mailto:bernsscm@yahoo.com). In this age of modern technology, it is faster and more cost effective to work from a text that is provided digitally instead of having to retype the entire article.

◆ If it is not possible for an article to be e-mailed, a "hard copy" may be mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

◆ To be accepted for publication, articles must be between three and ten typewritten pages. Articles fewer than three pages or beyond ten pages will not be accepted.

## USE OF PHOTOS

◆ If at all possible, kindly send photos to accompany articles. Photos must be included at the same time the article is sent to the Editor. If sending photos digitally, save as separate JPEGs to accompany the article. Please indicate where photos are to be placed within the body of the article. Be sure to properly identify the persons, places and/or situations depicted in the photo(s). **If no indication is given as to where, within the article, the photos are to be inserted, photos will not be included in the article.**

◆ In the event that an article is e-mailed and photos are not included as attachments, the actual photographs, along with a hard copy of the article, must be mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M. for inclusion into the article. (If more convenient, photos can also be saved to a CD which the printer can then link up with the article.) But again, please be sure that the photos are properly identified and note where, within the article, the photos are to be inserted. Photos must always accompany the article for which they are intended.

◆ Captions must be included with the photos. This allows readers to better understand the relationship of the photo to the content of the article.

## ARTICLES IN SLOVAK

◆ It is preferred that articles be written in English. Articles submitted in Slovak will be sent to a third party for editing. **Please note:** Articles submitted in Slovak are typed by a person who does not read Slovak; therefore, it is imperative that the author include all appropriate accent marks, diacritical letters, and other special characters. Correct punctuation is essential. Use commas and periods where necessary, not dashes. **ALL SLOVAK**

## ARTICLES NEED TO BE CHECKED FOR CORRECTNESS BEFORE THEY REACH THE TYPESETTER.

◆ Slovak articles **can** be e-mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie, but a hard copy must also be mailed to her. (It needs to be noted when mailed that the article was also e-mailed.) Oftentimes, accent marks, diacritical characters and other special characters do not come through properly when articles are e-mailed. Having a hard copy of the article, appropriately marked, will save valuable time and resources and help assure that your article is printed correctly.

As Editor, Sister Bernadette Marie retains the right to correct grammatical errors, delete repetitions, rearrange ideas to make them clearer, etc. Sister Bernadette Marie also retains the right to determine the appropriateness of articles for the publication. However, she will not substantially change the author's ideas without first consulting the author.

Our sincere thanks to all the faithful contributors to *The Good Shepherd*! Your contributions, year after year, ensure that the Slovak Catholic Federation is able to provide a quality annual which helps celebrate our Catholic faith, preserves our Slovak heritage, and allows our readers to stay in touch with what's happening in the Catholic Church, in Slovakia, and in the Slovak-American community.

We are looking forward to your contributions again this year.

**Rev. Philip A. Altavilla, V.E.**, National President, SCF

## SCF SETS NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Slovak Catholic Federation is proud to announce the 57th National Convention to be held in the Lehigh Valley, PA, on Sunday, April 26, 2009 through Tuesday, April 28, 2009. The Convention is being hosted by the Cardinal Tomko Chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

The Convention Liturgy will be celebrated on Sunday, April 26, at 3:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, PA, where Monsignor Robert F. Kozel is pastor. God willing, the celebrant and the homilist for the Convention Liturgy will be His Eminence, Cardinal Jozef Tomko, Prefect Emeritus Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

Following the Liturgy, a banquet will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Best Western Lehigh Valley and Conference Center, located on Routes 512 and 22, 300 Gateway Drive, Bethlehem, PA.

Convention Sessions will be held on Monday, April 27 and Tuesday, April 28 at the hotel. Upon adjournment of Tuesday's meeting at approximately 12:30 p.m., the Chapter will host a complimentary buffet luncheon at the Saint Francis Center for Renewal, 395 Bridle Path Road in Bethlehem. The School Sisters of St. Francis in Bethlehem maintain the Renewal Center. Sister Marguerite Stewart, OSF serves as Director of the Renewal Center.

Guest rooms for the Convention are reserved at the Best Western Lehigh Valley for Sunday, April 26, through Tuesday, April 28. Guest rooms for Saturday, April 25 are available, if necessary. The group room rate for this event is \$79.00 per room per night, plus tax. To make hotel reservations, please call: (888) 222-8512 or (610) 866-5800. For information on Convention details, please call: Mrs. Margaret Ferri, (610) 866-8945, Chapter President and Convention Chairperson.

## Conference of Slovak Religious Elects New Board

The Conference of Slovak Religious held their annual meeting at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA on October 24-25, 2008. Sister Mary Michael Baksi, VSC, president of the Conference, presided. She is a member of Branch 542.

Margaret Schilling Van Lierde was the featured speaker for the Conference on the Friday evening of October 24. The speaker captivated her audience with a touching and inspiring presentation of the life and the beatification ceremony of her aunt, the Slovak Sister, Blessed Zdenka Schelingova, whom Pope John Paul II declared blessed in Slovakia in 2003.

During the business portion of the meeting, Brother Gabriel Balozovic, OSB and Sister Roseann, OSF were elected as representatives of the Conference of Slovak Religious to the Executive Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

Elected by acclamation to the CSR Executive Board were: Brother Joseph Venonsky, OSB, Sister Philothea Fabian, SSCM, Sister Immaculata Pavlik, VSC, a member of Branch 542; Sister Catherine Bresnock, SSCM, and Sister Electa Barlok, OSF.

At the conclusion of the four-year term of leadership by the Vincentian Sisters of Charity, the School Sisters of St. Francis, U.S. Providence, took the helm of the Conference of Slovak Religious. In a prayerful ceremony in which the Transfer of Leadership took place, Sister Aurelia Cerny, OSF was installed as the new president and Sister Roseann Velas, OSF, as the new secretary/treasurer.



**L-R: Sister Mary Michael Baksi, VSC, past Conference President; Sister Aurelia Cerny, OSF, president; Sister Roseann Velas, OSF, secretary/treasurer; and Sister Annamarie Pavlik, VSC, past secretary/treasurer.**

## POLICY CHANGE FOR PUBLISHED OBITUARIES

**ALL OBITUARIES PUBLISHED IN *FRATERNALLY YOURS* WILL BE LIMITED TO 250 WORDS OR LESS.** A

small photo (digital in jpeg format or hard copy) may still be submitted for publication with the death notice. Honoring our members that have entered into eternal rest is an important part of our publication; however, due to the volume of death notices received it is becoming more difficult to publish them in a timely manner. When submitting your death notices please edit the entry to no more than 250 words. Any notices that exceed the word limit will be edited to comply with this change.

## REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

**BALANCE SHEET AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2008**

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 14,330,237.21
Bonds	504,052,496.36
Preferred Stock	8,374,825.87
Common Stock	1,362,197.11
Investment Income Due and Accrued	8,683,118.18
Promissory Notes	103,039.76
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	8,981,977.18
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,256,761.84
Other Assets	213,402.34
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 547,358,055.85</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Life Reserves	\$ 159,604,035.08
Annuity Reserves	279,554,334.10
Death Claims Payable	782,631.83
Unearned Premiums	606,930.00
Matured Endowments	117,172.95
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,500,940.28
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,411,089.57
Accrued Convention Donations	325,000.00
Provision for Future Conventions	177,084.40
Asset Valuation Reserve	4,956,504.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,517,612.00
Other Liabilities	1,720,906.70
Provision for Annuity Certain Accounts	2,071,000.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 456,345,240.91</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	
Surplus	\$ 91,012,814.94
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ 91,012,814.94</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ 547,358,055.85</b>

### INCOME STATEMENT

**For the Ten Months Ending October 31, 2008**

<b>REVENUE</b>	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 4,714,627.01
Annuity Premiums	13,089,120.78
Investment Income	26,112,450.15
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	76,193.00
Other Revenue	406,697.04
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 44,399,087.98</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 5,493,035.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	11,941,334.00
Insurance Benefits	3,527,471.11
Annuity Benefits	12,345,495.04
Commission Expense	470,677.08
Surrender Benefits	768,446.63
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	76,568.12
Matured Endowments	6,283.56
Donation Expenses	258,773.75
Convention Expenses	154,625.00
Dividends to Members	1,248,567.38
Post Mortem Benefits	658,166.36
Bonus to Branches	795,758.82
Fraternal Activities	60,073.12
Bank Service Charges	31,171.40
Data Processing Service Fees	255,581.95
Accounting Fees	97,132.00
Actuarial Fees	135,577.00
Legal Fees	37,174.91
Consulting Services	153,250.34
Official Publications	312,941.00
Scholarship Awards	246,250.00
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	262,747.67
Fees — Directors	90,433.60
Salaries — Employees	830,313.11
Salaries — Officers	354,166.70
Interest Expense	157,268.19
Tax Expense	222,754.10
Depreciation Expense	362,030.00
Utility Expense	64,336.87
Postage and Printing	274,488.49
Advertising	81,544.64
Travel Expense	136,437.94
Other Expense	771,754.76
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 42,682,629.64</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 1,716,458.34</b>





## DELICIOUS Suppers & Sides

### CHICKEN CORN SOUP

- 4 lbs. chicken
- 4 quarts cold water
- 1 onion, chopped
- ½ cup chopped carrots
- ½ cup celery, chopped
- 3½ cups corn
- 2 hard-boiled eggs (diced or sliced)
- 1 tablespoon salt
- Pepper

Cover chicken with water in large kettle. Cook slowly until tender (about 60-90 minutes). Add salt when water starts to boil.

When chicken is done, remove to cutting board until cool enough to handle. Debone chicken and cut meat into bite-sized pieces. Set aside.

Add corn (frozen works fine) to broth and bring to a boil. Add celery and seasonings. Cook for 5 minutes. Add chicken and eggs. Cover and cook gently for 5 minutes.

### SWEET & SOUR GREEN BEANS

- 1 tbsp. butter
- ¼ cup diced onion
- Garlic powder to taste
- 1 teaspoon flour
- 1 cup green beans, reserve liquid
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 2 tablespoons vinegar

In skillet, brown onions in butter. When brown, add the flour; mix well and to this paste add water from beans; cook 5 to 10 minutes. Heat beans in separate saucepan. Add liquid to beans, followed by vinegar and sugar. Heat through.

### PIZZA SLOVAK-STYLE

- ¾ cup scalded milk
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1½ tablespoons shortening
- 1½ cups flour
- 1 egg

- 2 teaspoons yeast
- ⅓ cup warm water

Scald and cool milk to lukewarm. Cream shortening, sugar and salt. Add egg, warm milk and flour and yeast diluted in warm water. Knead until elastic. Let rise until double in bulk. Divide dough into ¾ and ¼ portions. Shape into balls, let rise 10 minutes. Roll the ¾ ball into a circle or oblong ½ inch thick. Place in greased pan.

Spread filling on dough. Roll ¼ ball very thin. Place over the filling. Fold edges of the dough under the first dough. Bake at 375 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes until golden brown. Brush with browned butter.

#### FILLING:

- 1 medium size head of cabbage
- Salt to taste
- Small chopped onion
- 2 tablespoons butter

Chop cabbage fine. Add salt. Melt butter in skillet, fry cabbage, salt and onions until golden brown. Cool.

### BEEF BARLEY SOUP

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1½ cups chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 cup chopped carrots
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 10 cups beef stock
- ¾ cup barley
- 3 sprigs fresh thyme, chopped
- ½ cup red wine
- 2 cups cubed potatoes
- 2 cups diced cooked beef
- 1 teaspoon browning sauce (optional)
- 1½ cups chopped cabbage
- Salt and pepper to taste

In a large pot over medium heat, combine the oil, onions, celery and carrots. Saute for 5 minutes, or until tender. Add the beef stock, barley, bay leaf and thyme and simmer until barley is softened but not mushy. Add the wine, potatoes and beef.

Add the browning and seasoning sauce now if you want your soup to have more of a brown color. Simmer another 15 minutes and add the cabbage. Allow to simmer another 15 minutes, or until all vegetables are tender. Salt and pepper to taste.

### STUFFED CABBAGE

- 1 medium head cabbage
- 1 lb. ground pork
- 1 lb. ground chuck
- 1 cup long grain rice
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 can tomato soup
- 1 soup can water

Core cabbage. Place in boiling water, cover and boil until leaves are pliable, drain. Separate leaves and trim off thick outer veins. Combine meats, rice, egg, seasonings and onion; mix well. Spoon mixture into center of cabbage leaves. Roll up and tuck in ends. Place in layer in a Dutch oven. Blend soup and water. Pour over rolls. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 2½ hours.

### CHICKEN POTATO BAKE

- 4 bone-in chicken pieces (1½ lb.)
- 3 medium potatoes cut into thin wedges
- ¼ cup Italian dressing
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning

Preheat oven to 400. Place chicken and potatoes in 13x9-inch baking dish. Top with dressing. Sprinkle with cheese and Italian seasoning. Cover with foil.

Bake 1 hour or until chicken is cooked through, removing foil after 30 min. Sprinkle with chopped fresh parsley, if desired.

### EASY MEATLOAF

- 2 lb. ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 package (6 oz.) stuffing mix for pork
- 1 cup water
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- ½ cup barbecue sauce, divided

Preheat oven to 400. Mix meat, onion, stuffing mix, water, eggs and ¼ cup of the barbecue sauce.

Shape meat mixture into two oval loaves. Place, side-by-side, in foil-lined shallow baking pan. Top with the remaining ¼ cup barbecue sauce.

Bake 30 minutes or until cooked through. Cut each meat loaf in half to serve.

### BANANA PUDDING

- 2 pkgs. (4-serving size each) instant vanilla pudding
- 4 cups milk
- 47 vanilla wafers, divided
- 5 to 6 medium ripe bananas, sliced (about 3 cups), divided
- 2 cups thawed Cool Whip

Prepare pudding with milk as directed on package. Spoon ½ cup pudding in bottom of 2-qt. serving bowl. Top with 8 wafers, generous layer of sliced bananas and 1 cup pudding. Stand 12 wafers around outside edge of dish. Continue layering 12 wafers, sliced bananas, 1 cup pudding, 15 wafers, sliced bananas and remaining pudding. Cover. Refrigerate at least 3 hours or overnight to soften cookies. To serve, spread whipped topping over pudding. Garnish with additional banana slices, if desired.

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