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Fraternally Yours

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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MARCH 2009



Spring
is
in the air...

Fraternally Yours,

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



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Shake It Off and Step Up!

A parable is told of a farmer who owned an old mule. The mule fell into the farmer's well. The farmer heard the mule 'braying' — or — whatever mules do when they fall into wells. After carefully assessing the situation, the farmer sympathized with the mule, but decided that neither the mule nor the well was worth the trouble of saving. Instead, he called his neighbors together and told them what had happened...and enlisted them to help haul dirt to bury the old mule in the well and put him out of his misery.

Initially, the old mule was hysterical! But as the farmer and his neighbors continued shoveling and the dirt hit his back...a thought struck him. It suddenly dawned on him that every time a shovel load of dirt landed on his back...HE SHOULD SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP! This he did, blow after blow.

"Shake it off and step up...shake it off and step up...shake it off and step up!" he repeated to encourage himself. No matter how painful the blows, or distressing the situation seemed the old mule fought "panic" and just kept right on SHAKING IT OFF AND STEPPING UP!

You're right! It wasn't long before the old mule, battered and exhausted, STEPPED TRIUMPHANTLY OVER THE WALL OF THAT WELL! What seemed like it would bury him, actually blessed him...all because of the manner in which he handled his adversity.

Well my friends, THAT'S LIFE! If we face our problems and respond to them positively, and refuse to give in to panic, bitterness, or self-pity...THE ADVERSITIES THAT COME ALONG TO BURY US USUALLY HAVE WITHIN THEM THE POTENTIAL TO BENEFIT AND BLESS US! Remember that FORGIVENESS — FAITH — PRAYER — PRAISE and HOPE...all are excellent ways to "SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP" out of the wells in which we find ourselves!

Until Next Month
Carolyn

Joseph, the Husband of Mary

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

My Dear Friends,

Whenever a person enters into a Catholic church building, there are elements that make it very obvious that it is a *Catholic* church. In the sanctuary there is visible the altar, the ambo, and the presidential chair. A cross with the corpus of Christ is predominant in this area. In a prominent place of the structure, there is a tabernacle with a vigil lamp nearby signifying the divine presence of Christ under the element of consecrated bread, the Eucharist, reserved for those who are ill and for adoration by the faithful. The Stations of the Cross, depicting the Passion of our Lord, adorn the walls and, in some cases, the aisles of the nave of the church. And then there are the statues. Somewhere in the church there is a place where the faithful are reminded of the communion of saints that triumphantly live with our God in heaven. Mary, being the Mother of God and of the Church, has a designated place in all churches, followed by the patron saint after who the parish is named and then usually the husband of Mary, Saint Joseph, complete the top three. There may be others, but generally speaking, the Blessed Virgin, her husband, and the patron have the high statuary positions in any given Catholic church.

As we are all aware, the Christian Scriptures revolve around the life, preachings, passion, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord. Most of what we know of the Blessed Virgin Mary is contained in the Infancy Narratives of Matthew and Luke and the Passion Narratives of the four gospels. There are only several references of her outside of the Infancy and Passion Narratives. The rest of our knowledge of her has been handed down to us in the Sacred Tradition of Church teaching. When it comes to her husband, Joseph, there is no further mention of his activities outside the Infancy Narratives. But what we know of him in these sacred writings makes us

respect him for all of his earthly actions in relationship to the God who created him and for the care he gave to the Son of God who would save him. Joseph was a man of obedience to his God as exemplified in the gospels.

After the genealogy of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, the birth of Jesus is described: When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins'....When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home" (1:18-21, 24). The descriptive word "righteous" in describing the person of Joseph notes that he was faithful in observing the Law of Moses. Because Mary was pregnant and their marital process was not yet complete, Joseph decided to follow the Law and divorce Mary quietly, meaning not to expose her to the Law which may have led her to death by stoning. Instead, Joseph heeded the angel of the Lord's words and took Mary into his home.

Because of the magi request of Herod for the whereabouts of the child Jesus, and after the magi adoration, Joseph obeyed the angel's command to flee: "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him. Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt" (2:13-14). And when it was once again safe, the angel appeared

to Joseph, "and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead.' He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee" (2:20-22). Note in these passages how obedient Joseph was to the commands of the angel, without demands or challenges. He quietly obeyed.

Pope John Paul II had an intimate devotion to Saint Joseph. In 1989, he wrote: "The Second Vatican Council made all of us sensitive once again to the 'great things which God has done,' and to that 'economy of salvation' of which Saint Joseph was a special minister. Commending ourselves, then, to the protection of him whose custody God 'entrusted his greatest and most precious treasures', let us at the same time learn from him how to be servants of the 'economy of salvation.' May Saint Joseph become for all of us an exceptional teacher in the service of Christ's saving mission, a mission which is the responsibility of each and every member of the Church: husbands and wives, parents, those who live by the work of their hands or by any other kind of work, those called to the contemplative life and those called to the apostolate. This just man, who bore within himself the entire heritage of the Old Covenant, was also brought into the 'beginning' of the New and Eternal Covenant in Jesus Christ. May he show us the paths of this saving Covenant as we stand at the threshold of the next millennium, in which there must be a continuation and further development of the 'fullness of time' that belongs the ineffable mystery of the Incarnation of the Word" [*Redemptoris Custos*, paragraph 32].

Saint Joseph, pray for us!

FCSLA IS FEELING FINE IN 2009

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

March is National Nutrition Month

This month gives us an opportunity to strive toward better choices in our daily meals. Seven out of ten Americans do not meet the daily recommendation of vegetables in their diet. Vegetables are low in fat and a great source of essential nutrients. Most women should eat about two and one half cups per day, men three cups per day and children ages four to eight years about one and one half cups per day. Since different vegetables have different nutritional benefits, a good way to eat healthy is by trying to eat a wide variety of "colors". The classes of col-

ors are red (tomato), orange (carrots), green (spinach), white (onions), and purple (eggplant).

There are other important ways to improve your daily diet. Whole grains can help and the best ones are easy to find because the first word in the list of ingredients is the word "whole". Three servings of calcium, such as one cup of milk or one and one half ounces of cheese are needed in your daily diet. You should balance your diet with a variety of fruits. A good goal is at least two cups per day.

By eating a healthier diet, you will begin to feel better; your outlook for the future will look brighter. If you are interested in obtaining more information, visit www.eatright.org, the American Dietetic Association's website for National Nutrition Month.

A NUTRITIOUS DIET CONSISTS OF . . . FIND THE WORDS

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

1. BANANA
2. BEEF
3. CEREAL
4. CHEDDAR
5. CHERRIES
6. CHOCOLATE
7. GRAPES
8. JAM
9. LIME
10. OATMEAL



11. PANCAKE
12. PASTA
13. PEANUTS
14. POTATO
15. PUMPKIN
16. ROLL
17. SHRIMP
18. SPINACH
19. SQUASH
20. YOGURT

Source: American Dietetic Association — Reprinted with Permission

Send completed word find to: Sue Ann M. Seich, Fraternal and Youth Director, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachood, OH 44122

Annual Yield on FCSLA Annuities/IRAs

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL 800-464-4642**

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%).

Ken Dolezal Completes Graduate Course

Ken Dolezal has completed the Fraternal Insurance Counselor Graduate Course and has earned the designation of Fraternal Insurance Counselor Fellow (FICF). The FIC program is a college level training course specifically designed to provide professional life insurance agents the skills they need to sell fraternal insurance. The graduate course, (FICF) teaches advanced concepts such as estate planning and wealth preservation.



Ken Dolezal, FICF

In 20 years of active service, Ken has served as a branch officer, delegate to state and national conventions, nominator, and licensed Fraternal Insurance Counselor. He represents FCSLA in Nebraska. Ken is an active officer with both the Nebraska Fraternal Insurance Counselor's Association and the Nebraska Fraternal Congress. He participated in the NAFIC Convention held in Orlando in 2008.

FCSLA strongly endorses the Fraternal Insurance Counselor program and reimburses fees associated with completing each course. Passing parts of the program qualifies for CE credit in most states. FCSLA congratulates Ken Dolezal, FICF for this outstanding accomplishment!



Gladys Nekola is shown presenting a check to Paul and Barb Svoboda from the National FCSLA Office. Gladys had submitted Paul's name concerned with him having 7 surgeries in the past 2 years, and several more surgeries necessary to complete healing. All are members of FCSLA W130 of Clutier, IA

FLORENCE HOVANEC'S BIRTHDAY SURPRISE

On Sunday, September 21, 2008, Officers of Whiting, IN Sr. Branch 81 and Jr. Branch 58 held their annual fall luncheon at the St. John the Baptist Panel Room as reported in January 2009 *Fraternally Yours*. It turned out that this was indeed a special day — as dessert was about to be served the son of Branch President Florence Hovanec approached the microphone and announced that his Mother was celebrating a milestone birthday (although being a gentleman — her age was never disclosed). A very happy belated birthday to Florence who has served our organization faithfully for many years as a local officer, as well as, on the National Level as a Vice-President and Trustee.



Pictured are Betty Yurechko, Florence and Judy Hovanec watching Florence's three grandchildren Joe, Holly and Andrew wheel out a cake full of lighted candles in honor of this most special occasion.

Cope's 60th Anniversary

Harry "Bud" Sr. and Mary B. Cope, Sr. Branch 88, of Monessen, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on November 7 with family, including their children and spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, at the home of their son, Richard, in Indiana, PA.

They were married on November 7, 1948, in the former Holy Name Parish in Monessen.

The event was made even more special with the additional celebrations of Bud's 80th birthday on November 3, the recent marriage of a granddaughter, and the birth of their third great-grandchild, all of whom were in attendance.

The Copes and their family gathered for an anniversary Mass in Epiphany of Our Lord Parish on November 9.

The couple has four children, Harry, "Bud" Jr., Richard, Kathleen and Timothy; 15 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Congratulations to our anniversary couple.

HOME OFFICE DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE

The following list is to assist you with our phone system. You may use the extension below for the department you wish to reach when calling the First Catholic Ladies Association. Please remember, if you do not know which extension you need, you may press "0" zero for the receptionist and she will direct your call to the appropriate department.

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Death Claim/Matured Endowments	...3
Cash Surrender/Cash Value	
Department	...4
Annuity Department	...5
Dividend Information	...6
Billing Information	...7
Name/Address Change Information	...8
Extended Menu Options	...9

Extended Menu Options

Beneficiary Changes &	
Cookbook Information	...2
Commission Info —	
Annuity Policies	...3
Scholarship Information	...4
Magazine Info/Social Security	
Changes	...5
Commission Info — Life Insurance	...6
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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.

FCSLA Home Office Staff Supports "Go RED Day"

In the February issue of *Fraternally Yours*, Dr. Deborah Brindza, our National Medical Examiner informed us that February is Healthy Heart awareness month. She said each year one day is celebrated as "Go Red for Women/Men Day." This year the date was February 6, 2009. The Fraternal and Youth Director, Sue Ann M. Seich challenged the Home Office staff to wear red in support of healthy hearts on that day. As you can see by the photo, the staff is very cooperative. A first prize was given for wearing the most red to Dorothy Szumski and tied for second were Margie Jandrokovic and Flo Talevski. Sue Ann thanked everyone for taking part in the celebration of "Healthy Heart Day."



BRANCH 522 MEMBER CELEBRATES THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

Thomas deHaas III, a member of Branch 522, Cleveland, OH, celebrated the rank of Eagle Scout at his Court of Honor, Saturday, December 27, 2008 at Perry United Methodist Church, the sponsor of Boy Scouts of America Troop 71.

Jim McMillan scoutmaster of the troop stated, "Thomas is a fine young man and lives by the Scout Law. Someone who lives by these standards is on his way to having a positive impact on the world."

The Scout Law consists of these qualities: Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

One requirement to becoming an Eagle Scout is to design and implement a service project that benefits the community. His Eagle Scout Project involved the landscaping of the renovated Perry Public Library. He organized and facilitated the design and installation of all the landscaping and related materials. He personally acquired over \$3,900.00 in donations of landscape materials and nursery stock.

His father said "Thomas has grown in his leadership and organizational abilities."

Thomas has shown his leadership abilities in school, sports, performing arts groups, family retreats and in scouting. Thomas, a sophomore at Perry High School, is actively involved in school as a member of Band and Choir, Jazz Band, Brass Choir, Ski Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Key Club, and Buccaneers Show Choir. He also competes in Soccer, Swimming, and Baseball for extracurricular athletic teams. Academically, he has maintained over a 4.57 grade point average. He has earned the respect of his peers, teachers and fellow scouts.

Thomas has shown positive attitude and leadership by being awarded the Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award, showing outstanding sportsmanship. He was awarded the Greg Mullins Award, presented for outstanding character, scholarship, leadership and citizenship.

His father, Thomas deHaas Jr., also an Eagle Scout stated, "I know that Thomas will excel and continue to bring his scouting values to school, his community, the marketplace and the world. He's a great person and I'm proud to have him as a son."

Thomas is a member of 522 and the grandson of Joanne Drury, and office staff member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Branch in Beachwood, OH.



Branch W187 Elects New Officers

Branch W187 recently elected new officers as follows: Darlene Blazek, President; Clarice Sabata, Secretary; Robina Regnier, Treasurer; and Manny Bartek, Vice-President.

The branch also recently established scholarships for student members in Catholic Schools and the Larry Bouc Memorial Scholarship in honor of their past President. This award is available to any member furthering their Czech language education.



New officers, L-R: Darlene Blazek, President, Clarice Sabata, Secretary, Robina Regnier, Treasurer, and Manny Bartek, Vice-President.



BRANCH W033 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Branch W33, Spillville, IA held their annual Christmas Party and meeting on December 7, 2008 with 79 members present.

A potluck dinner was served at noon and during the business meeting the children went to another room to work on assorted crafts. Santa arrived after the meeting and handed out bags of treats to everyone. Many children and even some adults sat on Santa's knee and told him what they would like for Christmas. Once Santa left to return to the North Pole everyone enjoyed playing Bingo with the winner's selecting prizes from the lighted Christmas tree.

During the meeting, scholarships were handed out to the following.



Attending Catholic Elementary Schools: Levi Klimesh, Grade 6 - \$100; Sabrina Andera, Grade 5 - \$100; Kaylie Klimesh, Grade 2 - \$100; Jackson Hertges, Grade 2 - \$100.

Two college scholarships of \$250 each were awarded to Brad Riha and Troy Klimesh.

A \$50 check was given to Ramona Ryant as a representative of the Legion of Mary, an organization that visits the sick, individuals in rest homes, makes rosaries, including many that are sent to our military.

Everyone had a wonderful day and left looking forward to a wonderful New Year.



Max Klimesh wins jar of M&M's for guessing the amount in jar.



Sabrina Andera received \$100 scholarship from Vice President Gerald Kuhn.



L-R: Levi Klimesh, Gerald Kuhn, and Kaylie Klimesh. Levi and Kaylie each received a \$100 scholarship award.



Junior members Kayleann Fjelstul, Sara Apat, and Reid Fjelstul help President Dan Silhacek with Bingo.



Secretary Rebecca Kuhn presents \$50 check to Legion of Mary member Ramona Ryant.



\$250 College Scholarship Award given to Troy Klimesh by Gerald Kuhn.



Children showing crafts they made during meeting.



Youngest member Konner Parr sits on Santa's lap.



\$250 College Scholarship Award accepted by Raymond Balik, grandfather of recipient Brad Riha who was unable to attend.

Holiday Season Celebrated

The Timken, KS, Branch W133 held their Christmas party on January 11 at noon at the Community Center in Timken. In addition to lunch and the annual meeting, the group enjoyed visiting and music.

The next scheduled activity of the group is the annual picnic on Sunday, August 2, at 6:00 p.m. in Timken.

The photo above is of Mary Schroeder and her son Jacob, our newest member. In the background is, left to right, Rosarie Jecha, President Helen Finger, and Agnes Finger.



McKeesport Branch Holds Christmas Party



Saint Mary's Sr. Branch 77 of McKeesport, PA, held their annual Christmas Party/Meeting on December 7, 2008 at the McKeesport Palisades. President Jerry Holmes opened the meeting with a prayer. Roll call was taken, the treasurer's report was given and business was discussed. Branch officers



Elected officers, L-R: Marian Greenland, Irene Fedor, Jerry Holmes, Virginia Holmes, Audrey Podlesny, Carol Yurechko.

were elected as follows: Jerry Holmes — President; Irene Fedor — Vice President; Virginia Holmes — Treasurer; Marian Greenland — Financial Secretary; Judy Fedor — Recording Secretary/Junior Secretary; Audrey Podlesny and Carol Yurechko — Auditors.

Favors from the Home Office and tickets for prizes were distributed. Tickets were sold for the annual 50/50 drawing with half of the take going to the winner and the other half being donated to the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Dinner was served, catered by Kayvay's Restaurant, and the members enjoyed the music of Dorothy and Company during and after dinner.

FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY CELEBRATED

On Sunday, December 27, Branch W093 of Tabor, SD celebrated the "Feast of the Holy Family" with a potluck brunch after mass.

This year's national scholarship winners were honored: Ronda Mayrose and Curtis Thoene. (A third winner Theresa Mariganis, was unable to attend.)

Ronda is a senior at the University of South Dakota, and is married to Bryce Mayrose. They have two sons, Caleb and Isaac. Ronda's parents are Ron and Janet Burbach.

Curtis has transferred to the University of Nebraska this year after attending Northeast Community College for two years. His parents are Ken and Mary Thoene.

No one applied for branch scholarships this year.



National Scholarship winners Ronda Mayrose and Curtis Thoene with Branch President Gary Sestak.

Branch 30 Christmas Party Held in Ohio

Members of Branch 30 celebrated the Christmas season at their annual party held on December 10, 2008. A delicious dinner was enjoyed at Rusty's South Side Grill in Boardman, OH.





BRANCH 81 CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS WITH ITS MEMBERS

The FCSLA Branch 81 held its annual Christmas luncheon on December 10, 2008. This celebration took place at St. John the Baptist Catholic School in Whiting, IN.

The officers of Branch 81 and Jr. Branch 58 held a brief meeting. Auditor of Jr. Branch 85, Ann Jurek opened the meeting with a prayer. President Florence Hovanec asked for reports and spoke briefly on old and new business.



Dolores Geffert reads a Christmas poem.

Margaret Abildua discussed donations and also as President of our District she addressed the issue we all have questions on, and that is if there is any information from the Home Office on the classes for us to attend and become agents. Ed Bock, our agent, discussed how our Join Hands Day follow-up went and he also informed us that he put the information on-line. To our surprise, his daughter, Rachel, who has graduated from Culinary school had baked us a cake! The beautiful snowflake cake was so festive we decided to auction it off at the luncheon. The meeting was adjourned.



Snowflake cake donated by Rachel Bock.

After the meeting Donnie Sabol,



Secretary of Branch 81, and Marjorie Strbjak, Auditor of Jr. Branch 58 signed in the members as they arrived. The tables were decorated with centerpieces which were poinsettias in a Christmas basket with surrounding ornaments, very festive! This set the mood for our very friendly get together with 65 members present. Florence Hovanec opened with a greeting and Father John Kalicky the pastor of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church gave the benediction. Father Gary Scherer and Deacon Kevin from the parish were also present. A turkey luncheon was served with all the trimmings, followed by red velvet cake made by some of the officers.

Special guest was Vice President Rosemary Mlinarich. Rosemark spoke about new business happening at the Home Office. Dolores Geffert read a spirit-filled Christmas message. A 50/50 raffle was held and half was donated to the local food pantry. President Hovanec and Treasurer Margaret Abildua of Branch 81 presented Father Kalicky with a very generous monetary



L-R: Laura Holman, Berdie Chulaski, and Ann Jurek, Auditor of Jr. Branch 58.



L-R: Maria Ihnot, Florence Gresko, Carol Vargo, and Ann Okestrom.



Officers of Branch 81 and 58.

donation of \$25,000 to the church. This donation was very much appreciated by Father Kalicky. All the priests of St. John Church received a monetary donation as a Christmas gift from Branch 81. Financial Secretary of Jr. Branch 58, Ann Okerstrom also presented Father Kalicky with a monetary donation of \$1,500 to help the school get a new keyboard for the music department. As the members were getting ready to leave they were sent off with a \$5 gift card to a local grocery store. This celebration of Jesus' birth reminded us just how important this holiday really is. It was a great success!



Florence Hovanec (left) and Rosemary Mlinarich.



L-R: Margaret Abildua, Fr. Kalicky, and Florence Hovanec.

NEW DISTRICT PRESIDENT FOR WISCONSIN



On a snowy Saturday morning, December 6, 2008, a happy group of the Louise M. Yash District members gathered at Alioto's Restaurant in Milwaukee, WI for their 25th Christmas luncheon. President Mary Kebisek welcomed everyone to the yearly meeting with an opening prayer and immediately got the crowd roaring with her trademark jokes. The year's accomplishments were reviewed: the Silver Anniversary celebration at the Venice Club, Join Hands Day at Zablocki Veterans' Nursing facility, and a pilgrimage to celebrate St. Ann's Day in Whiting, IN.

The new business consisted of approving donations in 2009 for the Tatra Dancers, Holy Hill, Notre Dame Nuns and The Giving Tree. Also, a new tradition was introduced, namely, each scholarship winner will receive \$100 and each applicant non-winner will receive \$25 for their participation.

Fraternal and Youth Director Sue Ann Seich and National Sales Manager Patrick Braun traveled to Milwaukee to join in the festivities and addressed the group to discuss their goals for 2009.

During the annual election of officers, the group was shocked when President Mary Kebisek informed them that she would not seek re-election. After a long and rewarding career, Mary had decided to pass the baton of leadership to the next generation. Mary reflects fondly on her years of FCSLA service as Recording Secretary and Financial Secretary-Treasurer of Branch 376 since 1986 and as President of the Louise M. Yash District since 1992. Her career highlights include: serving on the Pension Committee and becoming a member in the 100M Club in 1995; selling over \$500,000 in insurance and winning 10th prize at the con-

vention in 1999; being named FCSLA Fraternalist of the Year and National Fraternal Congress of America MVP Fraternalist-in-Action in 2006; and serving on the Salary Committee at the convention and being the top insurance selling district among the 16 Districts in 2007. The members thanked Mary for her dedicated years of service.

The newly elected officers of 2009 are: Mary Jo Noyes — President (Mary Jo Noyes is also the Vice-President of Branch 376 and on the National Court of Appeals); Virginia Sedlacek — Vice-President; Kathy Valent — Secretary; Betty Novak — Treasurer; and, Bob Budjac and Fred Forrest — Auditors.

Important Louise M. Yash District 2009 dates were announced as: April 4 — Spring Luncheon; May 16 — Join Hands Day with the nuns of Notre Dame in Elm Grove; July — St. Ann's Day celebration in Illinois; and December 5 — Christmas Luncheon.

After a delicious buffet, there was accordion playing by Beverly White and many door prizes awarded. The members were wished — "Vesele Vianoce a Stastlivy Novy Rok."





BRANCH 111 OF CHARLEROI HOLDS HOLIDAY PARTY

Members of St. Catherine Sr. Branch 111 in Charleroi PA gathered December 7th at the Charleroi Elks for the annual Christmas Party and meeting. They were welcomed by Grace Popson, Branch Secretary/Treasurer. Following grace before the meal, the attendees were served a delicious full course meal.



Following dinner Grace Popson reported on FCSLA activities and benefits and also gave a branch financial report. Donations, approved by the members, were given to the Church, religious orders, religious schools and Coats for Kids.

Table decorations were given as door prizes. Each branch member was given a gift from the branch. Members left the party with wishes of good cheer and blessings for everyone in the new year.

CEDAR RAPIDS PARTY HELD

Branch W137 of Cedar Rapids, IA held its Christmas Party at St. Ludmila's gym on Sunday, December 7, 2008 from 4 to 7 pm. Seventy-five members were in attendance for pizza, Santa and Mrs. Claus and Ricky, the balloon man. The next branch activity will be the swim party at Bender pool in April. The bike ride is tentatively set for June 27th at 10 a.m. starting at Sokol Park.



Branch W093 Holds Annual Christmas Party

Branch W093 of Tabor, SD held their annual Christmas Party on December 7, 2008. Approximately 45 members attended this event.

Following the noon potluck meal, there was a cookie exchange and a short meeting.



President Gary Sestak presents "Fraternalist of the Year" award to Leonard Cimpl.

Leonard Cimpl was presented an award for being their "Fraternalist of the Year" in 2008. He thanked the members for sponsoring him at the state fraternal congress.

50 year members James Kloucek, Roxanne Erickson, Charles Small, Steve Merkwon and Roger Varilek were honored although they were not able to attend the meeting.

Thank you notes were read and the District President Ron Sestak thanked everyone that helped at the November District meeting.

Members were reminded of the March 1st deadline to apply for a national scholarship.

The meeting adjourned, followed by door prizes and a visit from St. Nicholas who distributed Christmas treats to all in attendance.



POLICY CHANGE

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. Thank you for your cooperation!

Anna Hurban District of Chicago Celebration



The Anna Hurban District of Chicago held its Annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 6 at the Orland Cha-teau in Orland Park, IL. The weather was cold, icy and slip-perry; however, it did not deter 364 members and their guests, including members from the Indiana District, from venturing out to share in a day of fraternal fellowship and fun. Socially everyone enjoyed themselves, had a wonderful family style meal and benefitted by winning 184 raffle prizes which were drawn as part of the event!



Indiana District Members, L-R: Agnes Chervenak, Betty Yurechko, Florence Hovanek, Carl Yurechko.



District Officers: L-R: Recording Secretary Helen Ledvora, Vice President Judy Tybor Knizner, Treasurer Alice Nemcek, President Joe Ledvora, Auditor Irene Zittman, Financial Secretary Jarmila Hlubocky.



Indiana District Members, L-R: Seated-Marge Vrlik, Joann Banovich, Mary Blake. Standing-Andy Lacer and Jo Ann Ortiz.



District Members, L-R: Ruth Lacer, Elizabeth Dedinski, Agnes Chervenak, Betty Ortiz, Betty Yurechko.



L-R: Margaret Krugley, chairperson of party; Dolores Mooha, Alice Nemcek, Judy Tybor Knizner, Jarmila Hlobocky, Joe Ledvora, Irene Zittman, some of the helpers who helped make the event a success.



Some of the attending members and guests.





ROBERT JOSEPH RUEGER, son of Robert and Christine Rueger is a new member of Jr. Branch 512. He was born on November 8, 2007 in Memphis, TN. He joins his mother, grandparents Ronald and Nancy Grech and uncle Richard Grech who are also members.



KELSEY ANTHONY, age 10, made her First Holy Communion on April 10, 2008 at The Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Northampton, PA. She is the daughter of Mark and Cheryl Anthony and sister of T.J. and Jacqueline. All are members of the FCSLA Jr. Branch 187, Allentown, PA.



NORA ROSE OLEXA was born on June 26, 2008 to proud parents William and Elizabeth Olexa. She is the newest member of St. Ludmilla Jr. Branch 485 in Cleveland, OH. Her proud grandfather is Milan Kolbulsky, the announcer on the Cleveland Slovak Radio Hour, heard every Sunday morning



Digging trying to find a bone,
Only if they would have known,
God's great things are in all places,
Silly dogs with dirty faces. ☺

by Katie Chlysta

(age 11 — Seton Catholic School and a member of Jr. Branch HO, Beachwood, OH)



The members of Jr. Branch 170 in Charleroi, PA were remembered with a Christmas monetary gift from the branch.

Front-row, L-R: Luke Wyuratt, Alec Calcek and Emily Wyuratt. Back Row: Christopher Calcek and David Calcek, III.



Branch 32 Holiday Party

St. Cecilia's Jr. Branch 32 of McKeesport, PA, held its annual Christmas party on December 6, 2009.

The party was held at Kid Company in West Mifflin, PA. They received tokens for the video games and enjoyed all of the features offered — indoor bumper cars, the Banana Squadron ride and everyone's favorite — a giant three level gym with club houses, rope climbs and tube slides.



Savannah Furlong and her mother, Meri Beth, and prospective new member.

They received gifts from the Home Office, a goodies bag



Zachary Tapocik and Jimmy Fedor enjoy the bumper cars.

from Kid Company and a \$5 bill. They enjoyed their lunch of pizza, soda, and cake in their own private party room — the North Pole Room.

The kids love Kid Company and requested the party be held in the same place next year.

Annual Halloween Party

Branch W093 of Tabor, SD held its annual Halloween Party on October 26, 2008. There were approximately 50 members in attendance.

The day began with a noon potluck. Following a meeting was conducted by President Gary Sestak. The secretary and treasurer's reports, and correspondence were read.

National scholarship winners for this year are Ronda Mayrose, Curtis Thoene, and Theresa Marganis.

Ron Sestak thanked Dennis and Sherry Povondra for taking Leonard and Mildred Cimpl to Rapid City so Leonard could participate in the South Dakota Fraternal Congress.

A costume contest was held and the winners for the children were Isaac Mayrose (1st), Isabella Sestak (2nd), and Jurne Vavruska (3rd). Adult winners were: Betty Kocer (1st), Janet Burbach (2nd), and Terry Sestak (3rd).

Gifts were given to Father Joe and Monsignor Hermann in honor of Priesthood Sunday. Other door prizes were given and the meeting was adjourned. Bingo and refreshments concluded the day.



Jr. Branch 83 Gets Visit from Santa

JR. BRANCH 83, Joliet, IL held its Christmas Party on November 30, 2008 at St. Bernard's Church Hall in Joliet. The children were treated to fun and games and a visit from Santa Claus. They were also treated to a gift from the branch!



MIA FRANCES KOLENC was born on May 28, 2008 and was baptized on September 13, 2008 at St. Gabriel Church in Concord, OH. Mia is a member of Jr. Branch 475 and is the daughter of Daniel and Donna Kolenc and granddaughter of Rita Voytko of Cleveland, OH. She is a third generation FCSLA member.





IN MEMORIAM

ANNA M. BRECHKA BUTLER **Branch 184**

Anna M. Brechka Butler died August 21, 2008, at Cranbury Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Monroe Township. She was 78.

Born October 11, 1929, in Carteret, NJ, she lived there until moving to the Deans section of South Brunswick 57 years ago.

Mrs. Butler was a communicant of St. Cecilia Roman Catholic Church in Monmouth Junction. She was a member of the South Brunswick Senior Citizens and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

She was predeceased by three brothers John, Edward, and Joseph Brechka. Surviving are her husband of 57 years John O. Butler; two sons Thomas Butler and Bryan Butler, both of New York City; and a brother George Brechka of Florida.

In lieu of flowers, contributions were made to The Alzheimers Association, Greater NJ Chapter, 400 Morris Avenue Suite 251 Denville, NJ 07834-1365.

ROSEMARY JANE SERBIN **Branch 156**

Rosemary Jane (Guyan) Serbin, 56, passed away December 20, 2008, at the Cleveland Clinic after an extended illness.

Rosemary was born February 3, 1952, in Struthers, a daughter of Frank and Catherine (Diba) Guyan.

Rosemary was named after her aunts, Sister Rosemary and Sister Jane Francis of the Sisters of Charity.

Rosemary was a graduate of the Holy Trinity Catholic School and Struthers High School in 1970. She was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, was baptized at Holy Trinity Church, attended St. Nicholas Church, Holy Trinity Church



and Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church.

Rosemary attended Youngstown State University. She was a customer service representative for Paige and Byrnes Insurance Company since 1986.

Rosemary enjoyed traveling, sightseeing, visiting parks, fairs, flower garden displays, and cooking. She spent her time devoted to her husband, John and both were always seen together.

Rosemary leaves to cherish her memory her husband, John P. Serbin, whom she married November 25, 1988, a brother, Joseph Guyan of Struthers; aunts, Sister Jane Francis of the Sisters of Charity of Villa San Bernardo in Bedford, Helen Mersheimer of Poland and Margie Basista of Struthers.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Rosemary's faith in God, kindness, sweetness, and courage were an inspiration to all who knew her and she will forever be loved and sadly missed by her husband and family.

VENDELYN F. BURIANEK **Branch W024**

Vendelyn F. "Windy" Burianek, age 90 of Grafton, ND quietly passed away on December 9, 2008, surrounded by his family.

Vendelyn was born October 20, 1918, in Veseleyville, ND, the son of the late John and Agnes (Dusek) Burianek. He grew up and attended school in Veseleyville. Following his education he farmed in the Veseleyville area. Windy was united in marriage to Georgia Janda on October 14, 1941 in Veseleyville. He served in the United States Army in 1942. Following his discharge he returned to Veseleyville to farm. In 1977 they moved to Grafton where Windy and Georgia worked side by side for 20 years as custodians for the Bremer Bank.

Windy was a devout Catholic and active member of St. John's Catholic Church, a life member of the Park River Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Workmen and Grafton American Legion

Post #41. Family was very important to Windy. He had strong hands and a soft heart. He loved to listen to music and tinker in his garage. He was also known for his love of trading cars.

He is survived by his wife Georgia, Grafton, ND; children: Phyllis (Ronald) Unke, Yuma, AZ; Elaine (Rick) Kilichowski, Minto, ND; Margaret "Marge" (Greg) Gudajtes, Grand Forks, ND; Lawrence (Adele) Burianek, Grafton, ND; Nita (Keith) Harrington, Grand Forks, ND; 14 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and siblings: Dan (Delores) Burianek, Grafton and Tracy Dahlgren, Adams, ND. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers: Joseph, Johnnie and Amby and sister Stanny Barta, granddaughter Jill Kilichowski.

AGNES DERSY **Branch 472**

Agnes Krem-pasky Dersy, 91, of Canal Fulton, passed away December 3, 2008 at Gaslite Villa Health Care after a lengthy illness.

Agnes was born February 17, 1917 in Wick Haven, PA, the daughter of Clement and Maria Roth Krempasky. She moved to Warren, OH, in 1940. In February 1944, she married Lyle Dersy, who was killed while fighting in France during World War II.

Agnes joined Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in 1940 and was a very active member. She was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association from age 17. Agnes held positions of President and Financial Secretary of Branch 472 in Warren.

For 42 years (1940-1982) Agnes enjoyed her working years at General Electric (Trumbull Lamp) in Warren.

Agnes is survived by a sister, Ann Mariana of Coraopolis, PA and a brother, Samuel Krempasky of Massillon,



OH. Also surviving are 17 nieces and nephews, Kenny, Joyce, Jerome, Jeffrey, Jack II, Barry, Robert, Carol, Ann, Sam, Margie, Kathy, Gregory, Kerry, Terry, Ryan, Rebecca and Emmy Lou.

In addition to her husband and parents, Agnes was preceded in death by five brothers, Klement, Steve, Albert, Max and Carl and two nephews, Lain and John.

SR. M. ALFRED MASSURA **Branch 543**

Sister M. Alfred Massura, a Sister of Saints Cyril and Methodius (Danville, PA), passed away on January 28, 2009 at the age of 93. A Chicago native, Sr. Alfred was the first vocation from St. Simon Parish, Chicago, IL. She entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius on October 2, 1936, making her 1st profession of vows on October 17, 1939. Sister received a B.A. in Education from Marywood University, Scranton, PA, and an M.A. in Guidance from Villanova. She served as a teacher and high school guidance counselor in schools located in the dioceses of Scranton, PA; Charleston, SC; Trenton, NJ; Syracuse, NY and Gary, IN. For 21 years of her 69 years as a religious she was an English teacher and guidance counselor at Andrean High School, Merrillville, IN. Prior to her retirement, Sister served as the librarian at St. Simon School, Chicago, IL, living in the convent that her father Joseph had built for the Sisters of St. Simon Parish. Sister was a member of the FCSLA Branch 421 in Chicago and then Branch 543 of Danville, PA. Survivors include siblings: Julia (late Joseph) Tybor, Alfred (Eileen) Massura, Therese (Leo J.) Tylus and Lydia (late Tom) Berry; as well as numerous nieces and nephews, grandnieces and nephews, great-grand-



nieces and nephews, and 2 great-great-grandnieces. Sister is preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Maria (Bacur) Massura and siblings: William, Edward (late Wilma), Richard, Alfred David, Alma (late Al) Schnaidt, Stephen, and Joseph Massura and a late sister-in-law, Eileen Mamajek. A memorial service in Chicago will take place at a later date. Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Villa Sacred Heart, 580 Railroad Street, Danville, PA 17821.

LADDIE CABALKA **Branch W093**

Laddie Cabalka, 75, of Yankton, SD, passed away on September 30, 2008 at his residence surrounded by his family.

Laddie Cabalka was born on a farm in Lesterville, SD on May 12, 1933, to Emil A. and Marie (Bouska) Cabalka. He attended school in the Utica area and later completed college courses. He met his future wife, Janene Hlavac, in 1952 and they dated through her college years. He served in the United States Army in the Korean War. Laddie and Janene were married April 23, 1957, at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Tabor, SD. They were married 51 years. Following their marriage, they farmed within the Utica and Scotland areas until 1971. After moving back to the family farm in Lesterville, SD, Laddie worked at Purina Feeds, Zip Feeds, Utica Lumber, and Physician's Mutual Insurance. He also had employment at Alumax/Alcoa, Sunshine Foods, and Hy-Vee.

Laddie was a member of the Tabor Catholic Workman, American Legion Rudolph Christensen Post #237 of Gayville, SD, and had 38 years of sobriety with Alcoholics Anonymous. He touched many lives through talks, meetings, and phone calls by promoting unity, service, and recovery.

Survivors include his beloved wife, Janene Ann (Hlavac) Cabalka, Yankton; son, Bob (Linda) Cabalka, Yankton; daughters: Diane (John) Nicholson, Overland Park, KS, and Elaine (Ron) Jansen, Lenexa, KS; eight grandchil-

dren; four great-grandchildren; a sister Helen Koletzky, Yankton, a brother-in-law, Vern (Gladys) Hlavac of Bemidji, MN and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and two grandchildren.

DONALD JOSEPH McLEAN **Branch W130**

Donald Joseph McLean, 80, of Traer died, November 14, 2008 at his home of cancer.

He was born on September 8, 1928 on the McLean farm southeast of Traer to Hugh and Catharine (Foley) McLean. He attended Perry #6 school through the 8th grade and graduated from Traer High School in 1947. He then started farming with his father. On August 24, 1954 he was united in marriage to Catherine Liston at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Tama. Don also worked at the Meskwaki Bingo, Casino Hotel from 1993-2004.

He was a member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in rural Clutier until its closure in 1992. He then was a member of St. Paul's Catholic Church of Traer. He served on the parish council of both churches. He was a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters #1482 and president of the Catholic Workman Lodge #130 both of Clutier. He was a charter member of the Knights of Columbus #8315 of Traer. Don also served as Perry Township trustee and on the board of directors for Bohemian Mutual Insurance.

Don is survived by his wife, Catherine, of 54 years; four children: Cecelia (Jim) Harmsen of Reinbeck, Mary McLean of Traer, D. Pat (Sue) McLean of Traer, and Kathy (Dan) McGrane of Nixa, MO; eight grandchildren: Tom (Brandi) Harmsen, Todd (Allyssa Buskohl) Harmsen, Emily Krafka (Aaron Knebel), Shane Krafka, Ryan and Rylee McLean, Isabel and Keira McGrane; and two great-grandchildren Ireland Harmsen and Ben Krafka.

He was preceded in death by his parents, grandson, Michael Harmsen.

O LIETAJÚCEJ MAČKE

Krista Bendová

(Please enjoy the English translation of this Slovak fable on Page 19)

V istej dedinke žila čierna mačička, veľmi príjemná, veľmi rozmňaukaná, a volala sa Čilipanda. Rada sa umývala, rada parádila a najšťastnejšia bola, keď jej raz deti uviazali na hrdlo červenú mašličku. Iná mačka by sa hnevala, ale parádnici Čilipande sa to páčilo.

Jedného dňa prišiel do dediny cirkus. Pri cirkuse bola strelnica a malý Lacko si tam vystriegal obrovský červený nafukovací balón.

„Pozri, Čilipanda, čo som vystriegal, “pochválil sa Lacko doma na dvore.

Mačička ovažala balón a závistlivo zamňaukala: „Mneúúú . . .“

Lacko sa zasmial: „Počuli ste, deti? Ona chce ten balón, povedala „mnééé“ . . . Ja jej ho na chvíľu požičiam, nech má radosť!“ a Lacko priviazal balón Čilipande na chvost.

Čilipanda vyzerala teraz veľmi vznešene: vpredu mašľa, vzadu balón, takú parádu nemala ešte nijaká mačka na svete.

V tej chvíli fúkol spoza rohu jesenný vetrisko, zaprel sa do balóna a začal ho dvíhať hore, nad domy. A s balónom, samozrejme, aj Čilipandu.

„Čilipanda!“ kričí Lacko. „Už aj zleť dole a vráť mi môj balón!“

Čilipanda mraučí „mňauúú“, ale vznáša sa stále vyššie a vyššie.

Vrabce na streche sa splašili: „Čvirik, čvirik! Pomoc, mačka letí, kam sa skryjeme pred lietajúcou mačkou, kde sa zachránime?!“

Čilipanda sa najprv zľakla, keď ju to vynieslo nahor, ale ako počula vrabčací nárek, ostala odrazu veľmi pyšná: naozaj, lietajúcu mačku ešte ani ona nevidela!

Jesenný vietor fučal čoraz mocnejšie a Čilipanda sa vznášala čoraz vyššie a ďalej. Pod oklakmi odrazu zbadala, že oproti nej letí čudné čudo. Vyzeralo to ako čierna sliepka, ale bolo oveľa väčšie a malo strašne krivý zobák.

„Mňauúú, sliepočka!“ zavolala mačka na tú čudnú kuru. „Poď ku mne, poletíme spolu.“

Ale čierna sliepka sa tak zľakla, a zakrákala: „Krrrá, krrrá, strrrašidlo!“ a vrana – lebo to bola vrana – sa spustila strmhlav k zemi. Veď lietajúcu mačku ešte nikdy nadzemou nestretla a lietala už pekných pár desaťročí.

„Nech!“ „môžem letieť aj sama!“

Odrazu počula, že čosi strašne vrčí, a tesne pri sebe uvidela ešte strašnejšie čudo.

„Mňauúú, sliepočka, poľeťme spolu!“

Lietajúce čudo neopovedalo, len ďalej strašne vrčalo. Odrazu Čilipanda uvidela, že čudo má na bruchu množstvo malých okienok a za každým okienkom hľadá ľudská tvár.

Čilipanda sa strašne zľakla: „Mňauúú, mňauúú, to

je veľká divá sliepka, ktorá žerie aj ľudí, aha, koľko ich má v bruchu . . . mňauúú, možno žerie aj mačičky, zachráňte ma, mňauúú . . .“

Čilipanda sa zľakla, ale ešte viacej sa zľakol pilot v tom lietadle, ktoré prefrklo okolo lietajúcej mačky. Spustil sa takisto ako vrana strmhlav k zemi, núdzovo pristál na najbližšom futbalovom ihrisku a zatelefonoval na letisko: „Vyšlite stíhačky, lebo vo vzduchu lieta čosi záhadné, podobné mačke, visí to na červenom balóne a možno je to lietajúci obyvateľ z inej planéty, ktorý chce pristáť na našej Zemi!“

Čilipanda nič nevedela o tomto poplachu a bola už veľmi nespokojná. Celkom skrehla od zimy a okrem toho aj poriadne vyhladla. Škoda, že myši nelietajú, rozmýšľala Čilipanda a nevedela, čo si počať. Lebo stále iba letela, letela a ani nevedela, kam. Odrazu uvidela krdel divých husí. Hneď vedela, že sú to husi, lebo vyzerali skoro tak ako doma na dvore.

„Husičky milé,“ mňaukala Čilipanda z posledných síl. „Som nešťastná lietajúca mačka, zmilujte sa nado mnou, zachráňte ma!“

Husi sa ani veľmi nečudovali, že stretli lietajúcu mačku, lebo hus má odjakživa menší rozum, a mysleli si, že to tak má byť.

„Poď, ty mňaukadlo,“ povedala najstaršia hus. „Môžeš letieť s nami.“

„Nemôžem,“ odmňaukala Čilipanda. „Ten hlúpy balón si letí, kam on chce.“

Vtedy stará divá hus priletela k Čilipande, chmatla ju za červenú mašličku a ťahala ju za sebou aj s balónom.

„Poďme domov,“ mňaukala Čilipanda.

„My letíme na zimu do teplých krajín,“ povedali husi. „Nemôžeme sa vrátiť, musíš letieť s nami. O chvíľu preletíme oceán.“

Čilipanda nevedela, čo je to oceán, už jej bolo všetko jedno, tak len zavrela oči a dala sa ťahať. Potom pocítila, že letia dole, dole, potom čosi urobilo strašné „bum!“ – a odrazu sa nič nepohlo. Keď otvorila oči, uvidela, že leží na piesčitom brehu, vedľa nej gagoce krdel divých husí a na jej vlastnom chvoste sa hompáľa puknutý červený balón. Prepichol sa na morskej škľabke.

Balón bol prasknutý, Čilipanda nemohla letieť ďalej, ale mala veľké šťastie. Na brehu našla do sýtosti sardiniek, ktoré ta vyhodilo more. A keď sa dobre poobzerala, uvidela pri rybárskych domčekoch plno mačiek a kocúrov a naveky sa usídlila na tom morskom brehu. A rozprávala potom aj svojim prapravnukom, ako z nej bola v mladosti prvá lietajúca mačka a že bola vôbec prvá mačka na svete, ktorá odletela na zimu do južných krajín. Nikto jej neveril, iba prapravnúčence zamňaukali: „Mňauúú, to bola krásna rozprávka, rozprávaj, rozprávaj, rozprávaj nám ju ešte raz, a ešte a ešte a ešte . . .“

ABOUT A FLYING CAT

Krista Bendová

There lived in one village a black cat. She was very nice even though she meowed a lot. Her name was Cilipanda. She liked to be clean because she wanted to look nice, and she was very glad when some children tied a red ribbon around her neck. Another cat would have been angry, but Cilipanda thought that she looked great with the red bow.

One day a circus arrived in the village. Part of the circus was a shooting gallery and little Lacko won a big red balloon. "Look Cilipanda what I won," Lacko gladly showed the cat his balloon at home. The cat just smelled the balloon and meowed. Lacko laughed: "Did you hear her?" — he turned to his friends. "She said she wanted the balloon. I will lend her the balloon so she can play." Lacko tied the balloon around Cilipanda's tail.

Cilipanda looked very sophisticated — in front a ribbon, behind a balloon — no other cat looked like this.

In that moment a fall wind blew and took the balloon and started to lift it higher and higher above the houses. And where the balloon went so did the cat.

"Cilipanda" shouted Lacko. "Immediately come back and return my balloon." Cilipanda is meowing and she is floating higher and higher.

Wrens on the roof are worried: "Help, a cat is flying, where can we hide from a flying cat?"

Cilipanda was scared at the beginning, but when she heard the wren, she was proud — for sure she never saw a flying cat.

The fall wind was blowing stronger and stronger, and Cilipanda was flying higher and higher. Under the clouds she noticed that something black was flying towards her. It looked like a black chicken, but it was bigger and had a crooked beak. "Meow chicken" said the cat. "Come here and we can fly together."

But the black chicken got scared and crowed. "Scarecrow." Because it was a scared crow and not a black chicken — it flew away. The crow never saw a flying cat.

"So be it" said the cat. "I can fly by myself."

Then she heard something making a lot of noise flying next to her, it looked strange. "Meow, chicken, let's fly together!"

The flying thing did not say anything, just growled a lot. Cilipanda saw that this thing had a lot of little windows in its tummy, and behind every window she saw a person.

Cilipanda was really afraid. "Meow, this is a strange chicken, it eats people, it has many in her stomach . . . meow, maybe it eats cats also, I have to save myself."

Cilipanda was afraid but so was the pilot in the plane which flew close to the flying cat. The plane had to land on the nearest soccer field and the pilot called the airport: "Send help because something strange is flying in the air. It looks like a cat but it has on a red balloon and maybe it is a strange creature from a different planet and wants to stay on our planet."

Cilipanda did not know about this emergency, but she was quite unsettled. She was very cold and hungry. Too bad that mice did not fly, thought Cilipanda and she did not know what to do.

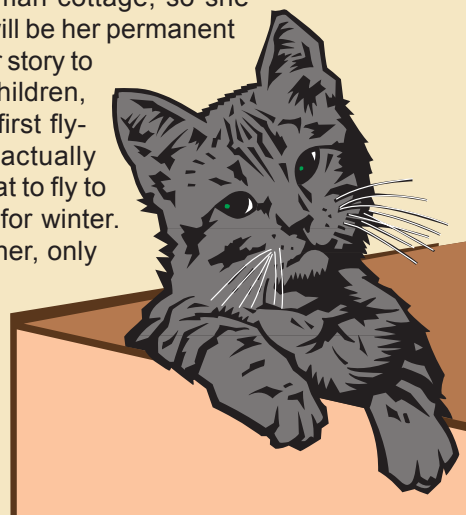
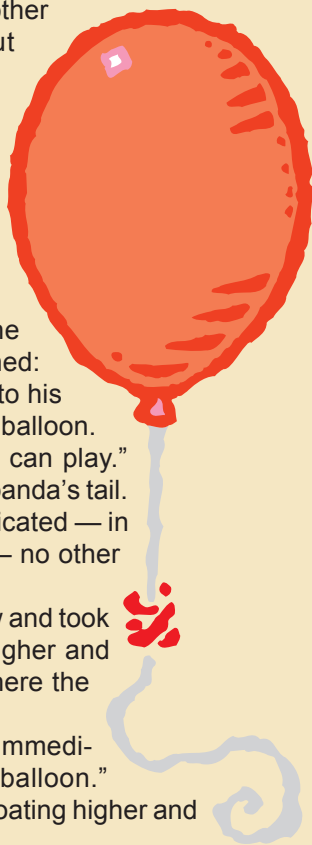
She was still flying, but she had no idea where. Suddenly she saw a flock of wild geese. She knew they were wild geese because they looked like the domestic ones. "dear geese" meowed Cilipanda, quite weak by now. "I am the unhappy flying cat, have pity and save me."

The geese were not surprised that they saw a flying cat, because geese do not have big brains, they thought cats do fly. "Come with us," said the oldest goose to Cilipanda, "you can fly with us."

"I cannot" said Cilipanda. "This darn balloon is flying where it wants to go."

Then, old wild goose flew to Cilipanda grabbed her red ribbon and pulled her with the balloon. "Let's go home" said Cilipanda. "We are flying to a warmer climate to escape winter," said the geese. "We cannot go back, you have to fly with us. Soon we will cross the ocean." Cilipanda did not know what an ocean was, but it was not important to her, so she closed her eyes and she let the goose pull her. Then she felt that they were flying lower and lower and then she heard a "bang" — nothing moved after that.

When she opened her eyes she saw that she was lying on the sandy beach. Next to her was a flock of geese making noise. She saw a broken balloon tied to her tail. The balloon exploded when it hit a sea shell. Because the balloon was broken, Cilipanda could not fly further, but she was lucky. She found lots of sardines on the beach, so she was not hungry. When she looked around she saw lots of cats next to the fisherman cottage, so she decided that this will be her permanent home. She told her story to her great-grandchildren, how she was the first flying cat, and that actually she was the first cat to fly to a warmer climate for winter. Nobody believed her, only her great-grandchildren meowed: "Meow, this was a beautiful story, tell us, tell us the same story one more time! . . ."



Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program Announced

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association announces the fourth year of its Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program. It is a three week program beginning around August 1, 2009. Awards will be made to eligible students based on academics, major course of study, interest in Slovakia, letter of recommendations and acceptance into the Summer Slovak Language and Culture Scholarship Program under the auspices of Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia.

You are qualified to apply if you are a student enrolled as a full time student in a U.S. college or university and wish to study at the Summer Slovak Language and Culture Course at Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia and are accepted to that program.

Requirements are:

- Full Time Student in the U.S.;
- Must apply to Comenius University for acceptance;
- Must be of Slovak heritage;
- Must not have previously attended the Program;
- Must be willing to attend WPSCA events when requested to discuss the Program.

Students are responsible for their own registration and travel plans.

Students may apply for admission to the program at the Slovak Embassy where they can receive an application form, or the students may contact the SAS administrators office directly:

Studia Academica Slovaca, Filozofická fakulta UK, Gondova 2, 818 01 Bratislava, Slovenská republika; el/fax: 00421 / 2 / 529 25 463, e-mail [mailto:sas\[at\]phil.uniba.sk](mailto:mailto:sas[at]phil.uniba.sk), web: www.fphil.uniba.sk/sas.

The SAS Summer School is the oldest summer language school in Slovakia (since 1965) and is designed to enable students to improve and extend their Slovak language competency as well as increasing their level of expertise in Slovak literature and culture.

Initial funding for this program has been made possible through a grant from the FCSLA. It is one of several founding sponsors of the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association. WPSCA, founded in 1997, is dedicated to promoting Slovak culture through programs such as language and cooking classes, film festivals and musical programs.

For further information or for application materials, contact Cynthia Maleski or Joseph Senko at (412) 531-2990. Financial aid available up to \$3,000 for costs of the program (tuition), room and board, airfare and course materials. All application materials must be received at Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220 on or before May 1, 2009.

Slovak Heritage Society Presents Book During 25th Anniversary

Special presentations of the book "Slovak Folk Customs and Traditions" highlighted activities during the 25th anniversary year of the Slovak Heritage Society of North-eastern Pennsylvania.

The book, originally written in Slovak by Martin and Rudolf Bosak, was translated into English and edited by the Slovak Heritage Society with helpful assistance throughout the project from the First Catholic Ladies Association.

Philip R. Tuhy, Society Chair, is shown presenting a copy of the book to Bill Kelly, CEO of WVIA-TV, along with a check covering copies of the station's documentary, "The Extraordinary Journey – The Eastern Europeans of North-eastern Pennsylvania."

Two printings of the book, "Slovak Folk Customs and Traditions" were completed by the Society with limited copies still available. The group's website is www.shsnepa.org.



Slovak Catholic Federation 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.

TWO RECOMMEND SAINTHOOD FOR FATHER JOSEPH MURGAS

Recently the *Times Leader* published a four-full page Special Feature entitled: "Father Joseph Murgas — Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania: Remembering One of Wilkes-Barre and Wyoming Valley's Most Illustrious Son." The article was written by special guest writer, Brother DePorres, a retired Maryknoll missionary, and financed by Ann Yevich of Plains. Both the donor and Brother DePorres are members of the Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation.

Brother DePorres presented a compelling review of the works and contributions of Father Joseph Murgas to this valley and the world. The article was based primarily on the earlier researched and published book by Stephen Palickar entitled: "Rev. Joseph Murgas, Priest-Scientist". Since this book was written in 1950 and is very rare, few current historians are aware of its existence, or where it can be located.

In the article, Brother DePorres recommends that because of the tremendous accomplishments of the life of Father Joseph Murgas, which includes the building of the beautiful and historic Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Wilkes-Barre, Father Murgas should be honored by the Scranton Diocese and this

church should not be closed. Rather, Brother DePorres recommends the Ordinary of the Scranton Diocese begin the process "to raise Father Murgas to the altars of the Church" and maintain Sacred Heart as a "national shrine" to his sainthood.

By financing the publishing of the article, Ann Yevich, a second generation parishioner of Sacred Heart, staunchly supports the movement to make this church a "national shrine" and urges all interested people in Wyoming Valley to become involved.

The Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation honored Brother DePorres and Ann Yevich for their leadership in this movement at a special event in January, 2009. They received token gifts of appreciation from the Foundation. Pictured above are Brother DePorres, and Noreen Foti, President of the Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation. Ann Yevich was absent from the picture.

Copies are available for \$5.00 which includes shipping and handling. Send your name, address, and fees to Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation, 770 Lantern Hill Road, Shavertown, PA 18707. Proceeds will be used by the Foundation to work for the saving of the church.



YOUNGSTOWN SISTER CITIES HOSTS EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Youngstown Sister Cities hosted its Czech and Slovak high school exchange students at the American Slovak Cultural Association Villija Dinner held in December in Youngstown, OH. Host families of the students were also in attendance.

Students spoke briefly about their experiences in the United States. Each was given a monetary gift from YSC.

Greg Lambert, Salem, OH, is currently in the group's Sister City of Spisska Nova Ves, studying for one year.

Seminarian Michael Zabrecky, Kosice, Slovakia, studying for the Diocese of Youngstown, was unable to attend and was represented by Jim Bench. Bernadette also serves on the FCSLA National Board as Vice President.



Seated, L-R: Board members Loretta Ekoniak, Jim Bench, Secretary Bernadette Demechko, and Veronika Mourkova, Prague, Czech Republic. Standing, L-R: Treasurer Bob Petruska, Martin Michal, Zvolen, Slovakia, and Board member, Ron Garchar.

WPSCA Sponsors Lenten Cooking Demonstration

On Saturday, March 7, a Lenten Cooking Demonstration will be held at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Church, 4027 Beechwood Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA from 10 a.m.-12 noon.

A cook from Slovakia will demonstrate making bryndzove halusky. Recipes will be available. Afterward all will enjoy homemade soup, halusky and dessert. Attendance is limited to 25. Call for reservations at 412/531-2990. The demonstration is free, but donations are appreciated.



Branch W093, Tabor, SD, float won grand prize on Tabor's Czech Days in June 2008.

Slovak Heritage Society Holds Slovak "Show and Tell" Program

A Slovak Show and Tell was held recently by the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania as part of its 25th Anniversary Celebration. The affair took place at St. Matthew's Slovak Lutheran Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Attendees enjoyed the "Show" portion which featured a picture/slide presentation of activities sponsored by the Slovak Heritage Society over the past quarter century. The "Tell" portion afforded members, guests, and the public attending to share memories of Slovak traditions and experiences enjoyed with their families over the years. The occasion included the singing of Slovak songs accompanied on the accordion by Andrew Chuba of Wilkes-Barre.



Slovak Heritage Society members are, background, L-R: Joseph (S615) and Anna Biros (S615), Bratislava; Stanley Hozempa, Shavertown; Board Member Helen Savinski (S36), Swoyersville; Florence Hozempa, Shavertown; Board Member Dorothy Sullivan, Nanticoke; Thomas Check, Gwynedd Valley, PA; Financial Advisor Board Member Magdalen Benish (S172), Plains; Darina Tuhy, Wilkes-Barre; Board Member Betty Pirnick (S615), Wilkes-Barre; and Margaret Baker, Mountaintop.

9th Consular Tour to Slovakia

Joe Senko, the Slovak Honorary Consul, and his wife, Albina, have planned their 9th Consular Tour to Slovakia including trips to Vienna and Prague. The 13 day trip will begin July 3 and end on July 15. It will include visits to towns of Bratislava, the High Tatras, Levoca, Kosice, Banska Bystrica and Zvolen. The activities include wine tasting, rafting, Detva Folk Festival, sightseeing of numerous cathedrals, castles, palaces, museums, picnics and live folk entertainment.

The tour includes top hotels, breakfast and dinner each day, all admission fees, air-conditioned bus and English speaking guide. It does not include tips and insurance. The total cost per person (double occupancy) from New York (JFK Airport) is \$3,399. For a copy of the daily itinerary, contact Joe Senko at (412) 531-2990 or jtsenko@aol.com, or Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2008

ASSETS

Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 18,025,099.01
Bonds	503,375,116.13
Preferred Stock	8,374,825.87
Common Stock	1,362,197.17
Investment Income Due and Accrued	8,346,541.68
Promissory Notes	102,212.73
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	8,947,977.18
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,266,573.40
Other Assets	212,130.35

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 550,012,673.52

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 161,038,914.08
Annuity Reserves	280,675,964.10
Death Claims Payable	763,882.83
Unearned Premiums	576,396.00
Matured Endowments	117,172.95
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,482,856.89
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,408,127.97
Accrued Convention Donations	345,000.00
Provision for Future Conventions	192,084.40
Asset Valuation Reserve	4,924,017.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,509,992.00
Other Liabilities	1,832,767.33
Provision for Annuity Certain Accounts	2,071,000.00

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$ 458,938,175.55

SURPLUS

Surplus	\$ 91,074,497.97
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TOTAL SURPLUS \$ 91,074,497.97

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS \$ 550,012,673.52

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Eleven Months Ending November 30, 2008

REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 5,176,477.22
Annuity Premiums	13,988,822.35
Investment Income	28,847,626.47
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	83,813.00
Other Revenue	447,063.04

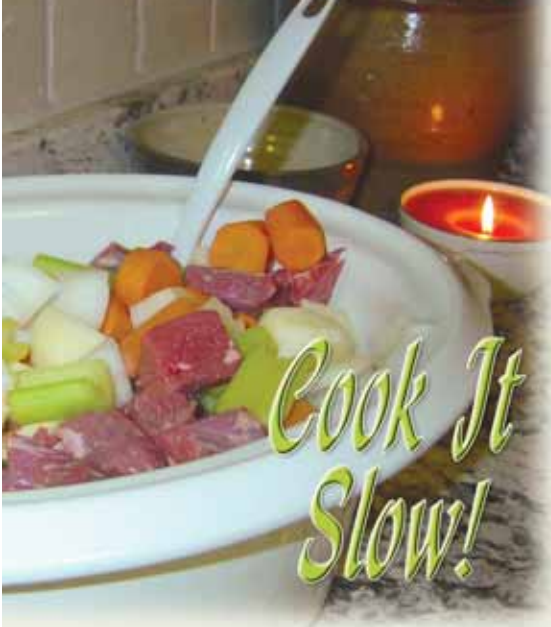
TOTAL REVENUE \$ 48,543,802.08

EXPENSES

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 6,927,914.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	13,062,964.00
Insurance Benefits	3,481,843.38
Annuity Benefits	13,154,459.47
Commission Expense	525,143.25
Surrender Benefits	842,840.09
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	86,882.90
Matured Endowments	6,283.56
Donation Expenses	279,162.55
Convention Expenses	169,625.00
Dividends to Members	1,374,473.80
Post Mortem Benefits	709,501.71
Bonus to Branches	870,758.82
Fraternal Activities	61,774.96
Bank Service Charges	34,706.97
Data Processing Service Fees	256,944.72
Accounting Fees	101,447.00
Actuarial Fees	145,540.00
Legal Fees	43,734.16
Consulting Services	168,315.37
Official Publications	313,731.00
Scholarship Awards	246,250.00
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	290,876.00
Fees — Directors	99,516.96
Salaries — Employees	916,293.79
Salaries — Officers	389,593.37
Interest Expense	168,405.69
Tax Expense	241,919.46
Depreciation Expense	398,233.00
Utility Expense	73,818.72
Postage and Printing	286,079.33
Advertising	85,368.44
Travel Expense	140,910.54
Other Expense	842,835.70

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 46,798,147.71

NET INCOME \$ 1,745,654.37



BEEF STEW

- 1½ pounds stew beef, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil or bacon grease
- 4 medium carrots, sliced
- 4 medium white potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
- 1 medium onion, peeled and quartered
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 bay leaves
- ½ teaspoon thyme
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 cups beef broth
- 1 cup water
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- ⅓ cup water

In a skillet, brown meat in hot oil or bacon grease. Layer carrots, potatoes, onion and browned meat in crockpot. Add Worcestershire sauce, salt, pepper and spices. Pour broth and the 1 cup water over all. Cover and cook on low for 8 to 10 hours or on high for 4 to 5 hours. Half an hour before serving, remove bay leaves and add mixture of cornstarch and the ⅓ cup water to thicken. Turn to high and cook for 30 minutes.

SLOW COOKED CHICKEN STROGANOFF

- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, cubed
- 3 tablespoons margarine
- 1 (.7 ounce) package dry Italian-style salad dressing mix
- 8 ounce package cream cheese
- 1 can condensed cream of chicken soup

Put chicken, margarine and dressing mix in slow cooker; mix together and cook on low for 5 to 6 hours. Add cream cheese and soup, mix together and cook on high

for another ½ hour or until heated through and warm.

COUNTRY-STYLE SPARERIBS

- 4 pounds pork spareribs
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 (8 ounce) cans tomato sauce
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce

Season ribs with salt and pepper to taste. In a large skillet, over medium-high heat, brown ribs on all sides.

Place half of the onion, green pepper, and celery in the bottom of a slow cooker. Place half of the ribs on top the vegetables, then repeat layering with the remaining vegetables and ribs. In a medium bowl, stir together the tomato sauce, brown sugar, vinegar, lemon juice, and Worcestershire sauce. Pour mixture over the top of the ribs.

Cover, and cook on high for 1 hour. Reduce to low, and cook for another 8 to 9 hours.

CROCK POT MEAT LOAF

- 2½ pounds ground beef
- ¼ cup ketchup
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 egg
- ½ cup applesauce
- 1 cup breadcrumbs or crushed crackers
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 small onion, diced
- ¼ cup water

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl. Form into a meat loaf shape that will fit into your crock pot. Cut a strip of foil and place under the meatloaf in crock pot. Cut it long enough to cover the bottom and sides of meat loaf. Place meat loaf in crock pot and top with an additional 2 tablespoons ketchup. Cover and cook on low for approximately 8 hours.

BROCCOLI CHEESE DIP

- 2 (10 oz.) boxes of frozen chopped broccoli
- 2 cans cream of mushroom soup
- ¼ cup sour cream
- ½ lb. Mexican Velveeta cheese
- ½ lb. regular Velveeta cheese
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt

Cook and drain broccoli. Melt cheese in slow cooker/Crock Pot. Mix soups, sour cream, broccoli and garlic salt. Mix into melted cheese. Serve as dip with tortilla chips.

KAHLUA AND COFFEE HOT BEVERAGE

- 8 cups prepared coffee
- ½ cup sweetened instant chocolate drink mix
- ¼ cup powdered coffee creamer
- ½ cup Kahlua or Tia Maria
- Whipped cream, optional
- Grated chocolate

In a crock pot, combine the coffee, chocolate drink powder, coffee whitener and liqueur; stir well. Cover and cook on Low for at least 3 hours, until hot. Pour into mugs and garnish with whipped cream and chocolate, if desired.

CINNAMON APPLE BREAD PUDDING

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 apples, cored peeled, and chopped
- ¾ cup brown sugar, divided
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon, divided
- 2 large eggs
- 12 oz. can evaporated milk
- ¾ cup apple juice
- 2½ cups French bread torn in ½ to 1-inch pieces

Melt butter in the bottom of a 1½ to 2-quart casserole or souffle dish which will fit in the slow cooker/Crock Pot. Sprinkle with 2 tablespoons brown sugar and 1 teaspoon cinnamon. Add apples. Whisk eggs, milk, and apple juice together; mix in remainder of brown sugar, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, and the bread pieces. Place a trivet or aluminum foil ring in the slow cooker/Crock Pot. Pour ¾ cup hot water into the slow cooker/Crock Pot. Place the casserole dish on the ring in the slow cooker/Crock Pot. Cover and cook on high for 2½ hours, until knife inserted comes out clean. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream or sweetened whipped cream.

CROCK POT CHEESY SPINACH BAKE

- 2-10 oz. package frozen chopped spinach
- 2 cups cream style cottage cheese
- ¼ cup butter
- 1½ cups American or cheddar cheese, shredded
- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- ¼ cup flour
- 1 teaspoon salt

Thaw and drain spinach. Squeeze out as much water as possible. Combine cottage cheese, butter, and shredded cheese. Add to drained spinach. Combine eggs with flour and salt, and add to spinach/cheese mixture. Place in greased crock pot and cook low for 3-4 hours.

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