



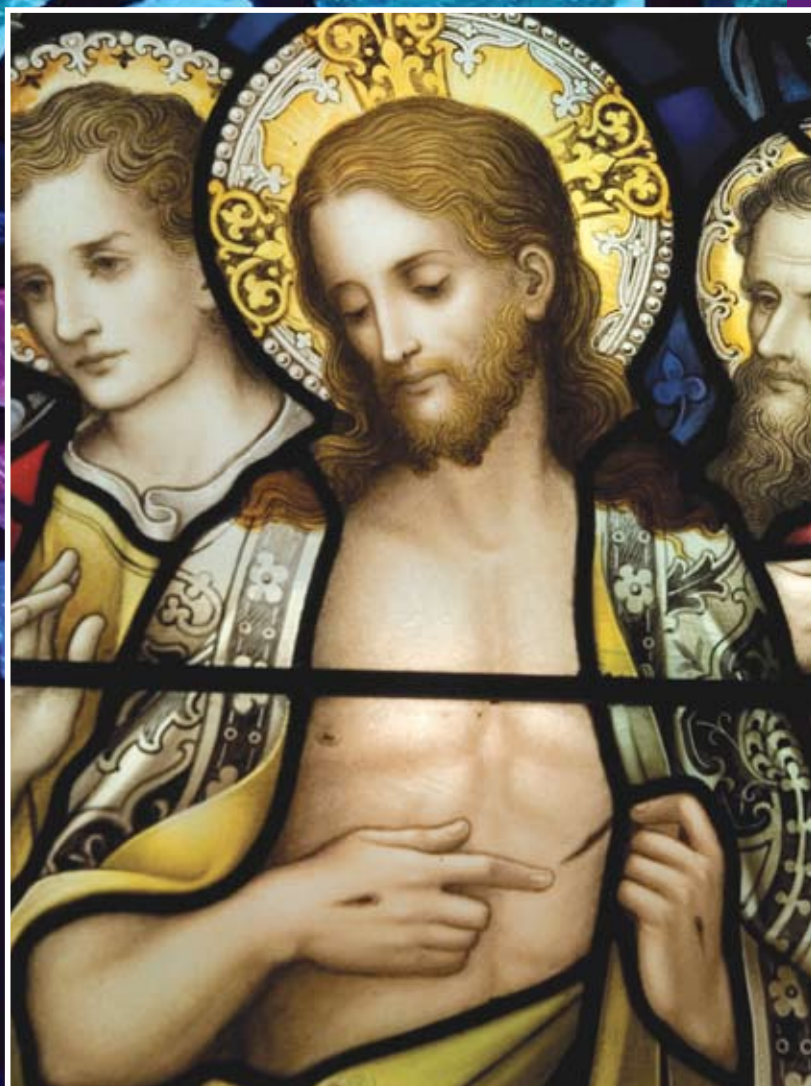
ISSN 0897-2958

Fraternally Yours

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

VOL. 95, NO. 7

APRIL 2009



May
Christ,
Our Risen
Saviour,
always
be there
by your
side
to bless
you
most
abundantly
and be
your loving
guide.

Fraternally Yours,

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



ISSN 0897-2958



Fraternally Yours,
ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,

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

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Periodical Postage Paid at
Cleveland, OH 44101 and additional entries

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

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

Postmaster: Send address changes to
Ženska Jednota,
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44122
Deadline for all articles is the 15th
of the month, 1½ months prior to the issue date.

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Steps on the Path of Inner Peace

Dear Friends

As you are reading this, we will be coming to the end of another Lenten Season and be preparing for the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday morning. Jesus suffered, died, was buried and now will rise to new life. As you celebrate this most joyous occasion here are ten stimulating questions for you, as you move forward on your personal path of life.

Wanting . . . Do you constantly “hunger” for something more in your life? Hmmm....is it time you started to imbibe in the fruits of your life?

Waiting . . . Are the week “ends” the bright spots of your life? Let’s work on making every day ‘feel’ and ‘be’ a bright moment in your being, and a constant beginning full of joyful expressions.

Enjoying Now . . . Are you constantly looking toward what is/what will be in the future? Perhaps you already have what you want or need....have you looked lately? Now is pretty wonderful and the only place that you can actually BE. Listen to what you already know.

Remembering . . . Do you know, beneath the layers of the everyday ‘doing’ in life, that you are capable of much, much, more? Remember your dreams as a child or a young adult? They are as real today as they were then. You’ve simply forgotten. Be a witness to your remembering.....

Expressing . . . Are you afraid to look beyond what you have created your life to be now? What a joy to know that you can choose to be more fully expressed.

Choosing . . . Do things seem to be going well, but you’re still not happy? Can’t figure out what’s missing? Perhaps there is nothing missing....it’s only what you are choosing to express that is off. Why not come out to play?

Being Good . . . Are you still being the good little girl or boy and doing what you “should” in life? Goodness....living up to other people’s standards is difficult. Why not take your power back and consciously create your Own good.

Soul’s Work . . . Do you constantly thirst for more knowledge and greater understanding? It may be your soul stimulating you to ‘remember’ to take time to pray & reflect.

Perception . . . Do you understand that you created your life to be exactly what it is right now? By the way you believe. Your beliefs shape your perception of reality. Is your cup half full....or half empty?

Choose . . . Are you at conscious “choice” in everything in your life? Or do you feel trapped by circumstances? Remember, you can CHOOSE anything. The only obstacle may be your fear of the consequences. You ARE free. Free to choose.

Happy Easter –
Warmly, Carolyn

May the Faith and Hope Given
on That First Easter Morning
Strengthen, Uplift and Inspire
Our Daily Lives That We May Truly
Live the Meaning of Resurrection.

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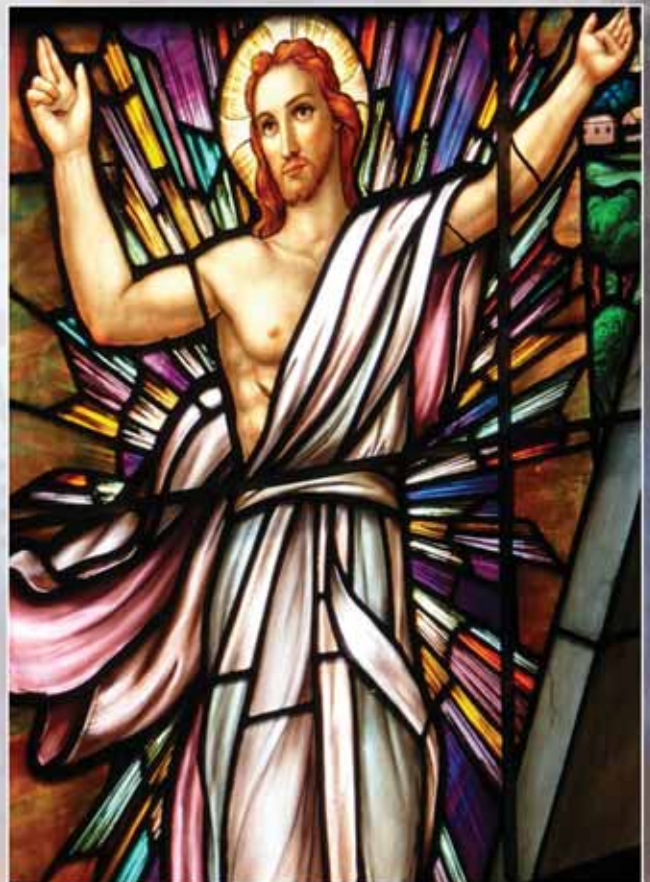
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Nech viera a nádej, ktoré sme dostali ako dar v to prvé Veľkonočné ráno, posilní, pozdvihne a povzbudí náš každodenný život tak, že môžeme naozaj porozumieť význam Vzkriesenia.



Catherine of Siena

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

My dear Friends,

The Slovak Catholic Federation, to which many members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association belong, often sponsors a pilgrimage to various places that serve as a highpoint in the life of Catholics in America who are of Slovak heritage. Pilgrimages were and still are of utmost spiritual importance to the Slovak people. It was decided in the later 1990's that a pilgrimage to Rome in conjunction with the celebration of the second millennium of Christianity and the Holy Year would be spiritually advantageous in 2000. One of the pilgrims with us on that journey was the third vice president of our fraternal, Bernadette Demechko, who is not only a co-parishioner of the church where I am pastor here in Youngstown (Saint Matthias) but also is the past secretary/treasurer of the Federation. All of the participants in the pilgrimage were excited about the trip but Bernadette wanted to make sure that she was afforded the opportunity to visit one of the churches that many visitors to the Eternal City would rarely include in their itineraries.

The church is southeast of the Pantheon and is built in the Piazza della Minerva. The piazza of the church has a stone elephant with an obelisk on its back in the midst. I had previously visited the church several times which has as my favourite statue of the Resurrected Christ, chiseled by Michelangelo, to the left of the sanctuary. In the main altar of the sanctuary, however, is another treasure that makes this church more famous, namely, the remains of Saint Catherine of Siena. Mrs. Demechko has a great devotion to this female saint of the mid-fourteenth century who is one of only a handful of women saints that has been officially declared a *doctor* of the Church. Bernadette, it is always good to strive to become like the saint dear to your heart. Keep up the struggle in obtaining your goal someday!

Catherine was born in Siena to a

father who was a dyer and a mother whose father was a poet. She was the twenty-fourth child of the couple and had a twin sister who died shortly after birth. It is noted that she was aligned to the spiritual life even as a young child and that she had her first mystical experience at the age of six. She was walking home from visiting one of her married sisters with her brother when she had a vision of our Lord and Saints Peter, Paul and John. From this experience, at such a young age, she devoted herself to the message of Christ. When she turned twelve years old, her parents encouraged her to be more like her peers in appearance and begin to look forward to the future by thinking of marriage. However, the saint stated that she would never marry, much to the dismay of her parents who attempted to dissuade her from her pursuits of being dedicated solely to our Saviour. After several years of her parent's persistence that she be like other girls her age, they finally relented, resigned to the fact that the saint would lead the life to which she was called. Even as a young lady, she was accustomed to a spirituality of fasting and prayer and was admitted into the penitential rule of the Dominican community. During the next several years, Saint Catherine devoted her life to solitude and prayer and influenced others who would gather around her in the same spirit.

From the account of her life, it is believed that on the Tuesday prior to the beginning of the Lenten season 1366, she once again had a vision of our Lord and the Blessed Virgin Mary. She is to have reported that during that vision, Mary took Catherine's hand whereupon the Lord placed a ring on her finger marking her spiritual union with Christ and the commencing of her public ministry. She embarked by ministering to the poorest of the poor and to those in hospitals for whom no one else desired to care. In Siena, she became known as a person who was able to settle disputes among people and her fame in this

area became renowned. One of her more famous accomplishments in this regard was that of persuading Pope Gregory XI to restore the residence of the papacy from Avignon, France where it had been for seventy-four years back to Rome. The pope agreed to do so but when Gregory died and was succeeded by Pope Urban VI, the French cardinals elected another *pope* who continued his residency at Avignon. Catherine encouraged Urban to remain steadfast and he requested Catherine to come to Rome to advise him. It was after much determination through her life of prayer and conciliatory letters that Catherine had influential figures align themselves with the Bishop of Rome as the successor of Saint Peter. Not long after her arrival in Rome, however, Catherine was the victim of a severe stroke and died at the age of thirty-three.

In her dialogue *On Divine Providence*, Saint Catherine's wrote about her deep devotion to God and is a model for our own lives in our relationship with our God. The depth of her writings exhibits the reason why she has been declared a doctor of the Church. In this dialogue, she scribed, "Eternal Trinity, Godhead, mystery deep as the sea, you could give me no greater gift than the gift of yourself. For you are a fire ever burning and never consumed, which itself consumes all the selfish love that fills my being. Yes, you are a fire that takes away the coldness, illuminates the mind with its light and causes me to know your truth. By this light, reflected as it were in a mirror, I recognize that you are the highest good, one we can neither comprehend nor fathom. And I know that you are beauty and wisdom itself. The food of angels, you gave yourself to us in the fire of your love. You are the garment which covers our nakedness, and in our hunger you are a satisfying food, for you are sweetness and in you there is no taste of bitterness, O triune God" [Cap. 167, *Gratiarum actio ad Trinitatem*: Ingolstadii, 1583, f. 291].

Saint Catherine of Siena, pray for us!



Announcing Nominations for FCSLA's . . .

2009 Fraternalist of the Year Award!

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association is once again announcing its Fraternalist of the Year program. The award is given to an outstanding volunteer on the local level, and for community involvement. The FCSLA winner will then be submitted as a nominee for the National Fraternal Congress Fraternalist Award.

All officers and members are eligible to submit a name for this award. The nominee must be a member in good standing of the FCSLA with a history of fraternal and community service. Submit name, branch, and a brief statement describing why you feel your nominee should be considered for Fraternalist of the Year. A Home Office committee will then select one from all nominations received and in turn submit that name to the National Fraternal Congress.

Deadline for entries is May 1, 2009.

All entries should be mailed to:

Sue Ann M. Seich

Fraternal & Youth Director

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
24950 Chagrin Boulevard
Beachwood, OH 44122

Again this year —

Only activities of the nominees within the past 12-month period will be considered.

GUIDELINES

**for 2009 Fraternalist of the Year Award
National Fraternal Congress of America**

PURPOSE

The Fraternalist of the Year Award is an honor presented by the National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCA) to recognize an individual within the fraternal benefit system who, through example and accomplishment, provided outstanding volunteer service to his or her chapter, society and community during the past year.

ELIGIBILITY

- ◆ The nominee must be a member in good standing of a local chapter of a NFCA member-society and must be living at the time of selection.
- ◆ Society Home Office staff and other individuals compensated by the Society as employees are not eligible to receive the award.
- ◆ Nominees of any age are eligible.
- ◆ The NFCA national award can be won only once by an individual. However, a society is eligible to nominate an individual nominated previously, but not selected as an NFCA Fraternalist of the Year.

DESCRIPTION OF THE AWARD

- ◆ The 2009 Fraternalist of the Year award will be presented to the honoree at the 123rd NFCA Annual Meeting held in San Antonio, TX, September 17-19, 2009.
- ◆ The honoree will be invited to attend the NFCA Annual Meeting with travel, lodging and meal expenses for the honoree and one guest paid for by the NFCA.
- ◆ The NFCA will present a check for \$1,000 in the name of the Fraternalist of the Year to the charitable/nonprofit organization of the honoree's choice.
- ◆ One winner and four runners-up will be selected. There will be no ties.

Matching Fund Program Approved

The FCSLA Board of Directors has approved a new program that will aid our agents and recommenders in approaching Catholic parishes about working with their members and selling our products. It is a matching fund program. The program is designed for our branches to run **fundraisers** with up to **\$500 of matching funds** from the FCSLA Home Office. In addition to our scholarships and our charitable grants, this new program will give our representatives another positive when telling the FCSLA story! Please contact our Fraternal Director, Sue Ann Seich, for details.

Slovak Easter Cards

Slovak Easter cards are available at \$5.00 per packet of eight through the Jankola Library. Postage and handling is an additional \$2.50. Orders may be placed by phone, e-mail, or letter. Checks should be issued to JANKOLA LIBRARY. Orders may be sent to Sister M. John Vianney, SS.C.M. Director, Jankola Library, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698; phone 570-275-5606 or e-mail jankolalib@jlink.net.

36th Annual Right to Life March is Well Attended

This year the FCSLA realized a goal of sponsoring two buses. A generous donation was made by the First Catholic Slovak Union.

On the evening of January 21, 2009, FCSLA members gathered along with 77 members of the Benedictine, Regina, Baldwin-Wallace and the University of Akron Pro-Life Clubs. The buses started on their journey at 11:30 p.m. The travelers on both buses recited the rosary asking for God's protection and a safe trip.

Our pilgrims arrived in DC at 7:00 a.m. with hopes of attending the Rally for Life and Youth Mass at the Verizon Center. For the first time since the FCSLA has been sponsoring this bus trip, they found the Verizon Center filled to its capacity of 16,000, for a Mass that didn't begin until 10:00 a.m.

Our Slovak Flag, flying in a crowd of 250,000 people on Constitution Avenue, united all the members of the Slovak Catholic Fraternal Organizations.

The March for Life began its journey up Constitution Avenue to the U.S. Capitol. The crowd seemed to be the biggest gathering for the march since it began.

At the conclusion everyone gathered back at Union Station. A pleasant and nourishing addition to the conclusion of the march was the wonderful lunch supplied by the Cleveland District for all the travelers.

The dedicated but tired pilgrims arrived back at the Home Office at 1:00 a.m. Many of the students commented that without the kindness and generosity of the FCSLA, they would not have had the opportunity to attend the march and stated how incredibly grateful they were for this experience.

I will share the date of the 2010 March for Life as soon as it is published. This will give you the opportunity to mark your calendar and make plans to join us and perhaps fill three buses.



Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB, (front-left) president of Benedictine High School in Cleveland and moderator of the Benedictine Pro-Life Club, led a group of members from the club, to the Annual Right to Life March in Washington, DC.



Walter Sanders, a chaperone and a postulant for the Benedictine monks of St. Andrew Abbey, participates in the march as it makes its way past the U.S. Capitol Building.



National officers Irene Drotleff, and Mary Ann Johanek and FCSLA members from Lafayette, IN, Frank Korchnak and his son, Eric.



JOIN HANDS DAY — MAY 2, 2009

JOIN HANDS DAY is the fraternal national day of service when youths and adults work together to plan and implement projects that benefit their local communities.

JOIN HANDS DAY gives Americans the opportunity to reach out to people they don't know, to connect generations and to develop new relationships. **JOIN HANDS DAY** also is the only day on the national Seasons of Service calendar that targets and develops youth/adult relationships through neighborhood volunteering.

America's fraternal benefit societies are the creators and sponsors of **JOIN HANDS DAY**. These not-for-profit organizations are a unique, charitable force of nearly 10 million people in 37,000 local chapters, making it one of the nation's

largest member networks. Fraternal benefit societies provide their members with leadership, social, educational, spiritual, patriotic, scholarship, financial and volunteer-service opportunities. America's fraternal benefit societies are represented by their own trade association, the National Fraternal Congress of America (www.nfcnet.org).

Operating in America for more than 150 years, fraternal benefit societies long have demonstrated their fraternal purpose through a commitment to volunteer service. Combined, they've contributed almost \$3.17 billion to charitable and fraternal programs during the past decade. In addition, fraternalists volunteered more than 780 million hours toward community-service projects in that same time period.

Please check with your local branch to volunteer your time with their **JOIN HANDS DAY** project on May 2nd.



Sponsored by
**America's Fraternal
Benefit Societies**

MAY 2, 2009

Sponsored Members to Attend Annual March for Life

Branch 53, Joliet, IL, sponsored two members to the 36th Annual March for Life in Washington, DC.

Karen Wojnarowski, branch secretary, and her son Michael, senior order member, joined Bishop J. Peter Sartain along with 200 others from the Joliet Diocese and made their pilgrimage to our nation's capital.

On the pilgrimage, the group stopped at Our Lady of Lourdes National Shrine in Maryland, visited the grounds and learned about our first American-born Saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton. They attended the Vigil Mass for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in D.C. where over 1,000 seminarians, deacons, priest, bishops, concelebrated with Cardinal Joseph Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia. The group also visited the Arlington National Cemetery and laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Karen and Michael are pictured in the group photo on the far right.



Mr. & Mrs. Thumpston Mark 50th Anniversary



Robert and Rosemary Thumpston, Sr. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, February 21, 2009 with a family dinner which took place at the Hyde Park Prime Steakhouse located on the North Shore in Pittsburgh, PA.

They are the proud parents of Dennis, the late Charles, Robert, Jr. (Amy) and Rosemary (Martin) Vojtecky. They also have two grandchildren, Jenna Rose and Charles Robert Vojtecky. Rosemary has been an officer in Sr. Branch 233 South Side Pittsburgh for the past 37 years, serving first as an Auditor, and for over 30 years as Treasurer. Robert was an Auditor with the Pittsburgh Okres, and is currently an Auditor for Sr. Branch 233 and Jr. Branch 129, South Side, Pittsburgh, PA. Robert Sr. is the son of the late Marie R. Thumpston who was the Secretary for Jr. Branch 129 for many years.

FCSLA IS FEELING FINE IN 2009

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

What Happens After a Smoker Quits

The very day a smoker quits, the body starts to recover. As soon as 20 minutes after quitting, circulation will improve, leading to a lower pulse rate and blood pressure. After 8 hours, the carbon monoxide level in a smoker's blood will decrease and the oxygen level will rise. Just after two days the ex-smoker will notice food smells and taste buds recover. At the three month mark, walking will become easier because circulation and lung function will improve. By one year the excess risk of a heart attack caused by smoking is cut in half. And the benefits will continue.

There is a campaign every year challenging smokers to quit. If you never smoked you will never know the powerful addiction tobacco has on a person. Maybe you have given up smoking recently, we commend you. It is not an easy task to undertake and it often helps to have a mentor or a support group to help you, especially through those first few weeks. So please make today the day you quit smoking!

On March 25, 2009, students all over the United States took a stand against smoking, it is the annual KICK BUTTS DAY. This campaign promotes tobacco-free kids. Many projects are planned on that day to support students who take a stand against smoking. Information is available on their website, KICKBUTTSDAY.ORG. Would you consider to quit smoking? Could you help and support a friend to kick the habit? Consider your involvement to promote a smoke free environment, a big step in the right direction. It only takes a day to start feeling better but the results may last a lifetime.

For help contact the American Lung Association at 1-800-LUNGUSA or WWW.LUNGUSA.ORG. They have developed an on line smoking cessation program that is free and easy to use. It is called free from smoking online and is at WWW.FFSONLINE.ORG.

Challenge Yourself to Quit Smoking Today!

I _____ hereby resolve to quit smoking and/or never use any tobacco products.

Signed _____

Dated _____



ANNA GOLOFSKI CELEBRATES 90TH BIRTHDAY



Anna Golofski, member and Officer of Branch 13, Braddock, PA, celebrated her 90th birthday on February 11, 2009.

Her family honored her at a luncheon at D'Imperios Restaurant on Valentine's Day.

Anna is still an active member of Branch 13. She is the sister of Margaret Bock, former National Officer.



FCSLA SALES NEWS

SALES LEADERS ANNOUNCED

Here are the FCSLA Sales Leaders for 2008.
Congratulations to all of them!!



**Sales Leader
Face Amount
BILL LIPTAK**



**Sales Leader
New Members
Total
Certificates
Approved
KAREN RUBY**

— Top Notch Ten Clubs —

FACE AMOUNT

Bill Liptak	IL	\$2,372,429
Bill Modder	WI	1,275,000
Matilda Sromovsky	NJ	950,000
Milton Trnka	MN	740,000
Mark Guillatt	NE	696,610
Edwin Bach	IN	615,000
Mark Whitsett	MN	516,054
Karen Ruby	IA	485,056
Ted Miller	WI	461,357
Michael Klug	WI	437,294

NEW MEMBERS

Karen Ruby	30
Dorothy Urbanowicz	30
Bill Liptak	24
Milt Trnka	17
Ed Bach	16
Sue Ann Seich	14
Lucille Kremlacek	14
Ted Miller	12
Agnes Farcosky	12
Jacque Trca	11

TOTAL CERTIFICATES APPROVED

Karen Ruby	IA	45
Dorothy Urbanowicz	PA	43
Bill Liptak	IL	40
Edwin Bach	IN	31
Lucille Kremlacek	NE	25
Louise Dunstan	PA	23
Milton Trnka	MN	20
Ted Miller	WI	19
Steve Stemper	NE	19
Sue Ann Seich	OH	17

PRESIDENTS CLUB — San Diego Trip With Spouse
Bill Liptak — IL Ted Miller — WI

LEADERS CONFERENCE — San Diego Trip
Karen Ruby — IA Mark Guillatt — NE

RECOMMENDERS CLUB — San Diego Trip
Dorothy Urbanowicz — PA

MILLION DOLLAR ROUNDTABLE — Insurance Industry Award
Michael Guillatt — NE Thomas Young — PA
Steve Flaten — WI

New Regional Sales Manager Hired

In 2008 our independent agent sales force grew to 165 by year end. We also grew to 42 states in which we are licensed to do business. Obviously we needed more help in the sales area. On February 16, 2009, we added **Jack Brauker, FICF** to our staff as our first **Regional Sales Manager**. Jack is both a military veteran and a veteran of the life insurance business. He has worked for both commercial companies and fraternal societies as a leading salesperson and agency head. His duties will be to recruit and train independent agents, train and assist our recommenders, and work with our branches and help create new branches in newly licensed states. His general territory will include Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida. We welcome Jack to the FCSLA staff!! FCSLA plans to hire additional Regional Sales Managers as we continue our planned expansion in all states.



Ken Dolezal Awarded FICF Designation

Sales Representative Ken Dolezal, Lincoln, NE, recently received his Fraternal Insurance Counselor Fellow (FICF) designation. The FICF designation is the graduate program and teaches the student advanced insurance concepts such as business insurance, retirement planning and estate planning. Ken also serves as FCSLA as a branch officer and has a great fraternal record of service over the years. Congratulations KEN!

FCSLA promotes the FIC program by reimbursing all costs of taking the courses and including credit for achieving both the FIC and FICF designations in the FCSLA Incentive and Recognition Program for Club qualifications. In 2009, FCSLA also offers a fully paid trip to the NAFIC Conference in Nashville May 6-9, 2009 as a **FAST START BONUS**.

ADVISORY MEETING HELD

An Advisory Meeting was held at the FCSLA Home Office on March 17, 2009. A group of licensed FCSLA producers met with National Sales Manager Pat Braun to discuss sales and marketing issues and give FCSLA feedback and suggestions for improvement in products and procedures. The previous Advisory Meeting was held in March 2006 and resulted in several new products and a number of positive changes at the Home Office.

Branch 153 Happenings of Farrell, Pennsylvania

MONETARY GIFTS

ST. ANN'S LODGE BRANCH 153, Farrell, PA presented the **SCHOOL SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS-MT. ASSISI CONVENT**, Bellevue, PA with a monetary Christmas gift.

Presenting the check to Sister Jean Marie Ulica (a life-long member of St. Ann's is President Dolores Medvec. Also pictured is Sister Francesca (left) and Sister Mercedes (right) both of whom taught us "kids" at St. Ann's School in Farrell.)

A delightful afternoon was spent reminiscing with the sisters about the good old days of St. Ann's. Also present were (bottom photo) Sister Norberta (left) and Sister Stephanie (far right) both of whom taught at St. Ann's, Sophie Richnavsky (member) and Secretary Fran Chervinko (not pictured).

The School Sisters of St. Francis were the first to teach among the Slovak people of Western, PA. The order came from Bohemia in 1911. The Mt. Assisi Convent was consecrated in 1928 as the orders motherhouse in the United States.



Frances Jakabcin District to Hold Spring Meeting

The Eastern PA (Frances Jakabcin District) will hold their Spring meeting on Sunday, May 3, 2009 at the Vienesse Villa, 201 W. Ruddle Street, Coaldale, PA. The meeting is being hosted by Branches S417 and J318, Coaldale, PA. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. Members wishing to attend should RSVP to District President Veronica Bazik by calling 570-645-5253 before April 27, 2009.

ST. ANN'S LODGE BRANCH 153, Farrell, PA, presented Father Donald Berdis a monetary Christmas gift for **OUR LADY OF FATIMA-ST. ANN'S CHURCH**. Presenting the check is Branch President Dolores Medvec along with Secretary Fran Chervinko.

St. Ann's was closed in 2008 and merged with Our Lady of Fatima, Farrell, PA.



Sr. Branch 53 Donates Money to Church

Sr. Branch 53, Joliet, IL, recently donated money to help purchase a new altar and ambo for St. Mathias Church in Joliet Diocese.

Pictured at the altar is Rev. John Homicak, pastor of St. Mathias in Kinsmen, IL.

Fr. John is a member of Branch 53. His mother, Audrey Homicak, is secretary of the Jr. Branch 83.



RECEIVES EAGLE SCOUT RANK

Alexander John O'Neill received the rank of Eagle Scout on September 29, 2008, at a Court of Honor. He is a member of Troop 33, Freedom Trail, Del-Mar-Va district led by Jim Wegner. He is the son of Patrick and Jeanne O'Neill of Wilmington, DE.



Alex's Eagle Scout project benefited Camp Manito (a United Cerebral Palsy camp). The project consisted of reconstructing and improving a drainage ditch near the pump room of the camp's swimming pool. Before Alex's reconstruction project, heavy rain waters caused flooding that prevented access to the pool's machinery.

In the course of his scouting experience, Alex earned 21 merit badges, and is the recipient of the "Hometown Hero Award" for service to the community and the first ever "Live the Village Merit Award" in recognition to his commitment on behalf of homeless children in Cub Scouts. He received the "Youth Can Make a Difference Award" and received nominations for the National Leadership Conference and Jefferson Service Award. He received the Outstanding Volunteer Service Award presented by the ministry of caring for mentoring Cub Pack 506 for homeless boys.

Alex graduated from Salesianum High School and is now a freshman at the University of Delaware. He is a member of FCLSA Branch 172 in Wilkes-Barre, PA. His late great-aunt Elizabeth Ungvarsky was secretary of that branch for many years.

Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius Celebrating 100 Years

Sister Linda Marie Bolinski, General Superior, Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius accepts a donation from Mrs. Helen Stancik, President/Secretary of Sr. Branch 322 and Jr. Branch 194. The Sisters started the celebration of their centennial year on September 14, 2008 with a Eucharistic Liturgy at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Villa Scared Heart, Danville, PA.



BRANCH 149 DONATES FLEECE BLANKETS

Officers of Jr. and Sr. Branch 149, Toledo, OH purchased 60 fleece blankets for the Cherry Street Mission, a homeless shelter in Toledo, OH. This shelter serves people who cannot survive on the streets on bitterly cold days and nights with a warm place to stay. Meals are also served.



The officers pictured with some of the blankets purchased for donation are: L-R: Sandy Cutcher, Senior Branch Treasurer, Mary Nemecek, Jr. Branch Secretary/Treasurer, and Nancy Pirolli, President and Senior Branch Secretary.

The shelter was extremely grateful for the gift which was put to use immediately.

Nebraska District 11 Leaders Hold Meeting

The Nebraska Leadership Team had a full agenda to cover. Items included evaluation of the Branch Officers Christmas Party. Local branch activities were reviewed. Plans for the District-wide picnic in July were finalized. The group foresees a great year for District 11 members.



Nebraska leaders met at the Woodcliff Lakes Restaurant. L-R: Treasurer Ron Paseka, President Gene Sobota; Secretary Alice Maresh and Vice President Bob Hladik.

Have You Signed Up A New Member This Month?



BRANCH 161 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON HELD IN YOUNGSTOWN

Members of Sr. Branch 161, Youngstown, OH, enjoyed a Christmas luncheon on December 2, at Saint Matthias Father Snock Center. It was hosted by the branch officers. Appetizers, hot buffet and homemade cookies were enjoyed by the 23 members who attended. President Ruth Bartos, introduced the pastor of Saint Matthias, Monsignor Peter Polando, who also serves as a National Board member.

Everyone attending received a gift from the FCSLA headquarters, and a \$5 gift which was paid by the Branch and



purchased by the officers. The group enjoyed singing English and Slovak Christmas carols. Mary Yurco gave her

traditional Slovak vinc (greeting). The event was enjoyed by everyone who attended.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR BRANCH 153



St. Ann's Lodge Branch 153, Farrell, PA, held their annual Christmas Party/Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008 at the Normandy Room at the VFW, Hermitage, PA. There were 21 members present.

The members were treated to a sit down dinner. Bingo was played for prizes. Door prizes were distributed to all members present. Also, green shopping/tote bags from FCSLA headquarters were given out!

To conclude the afternoon, Christmas carols in both English and Slovak were sung. Wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year were extended to all!



BRANCH W080 HOLDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Branch W080 of Clarkson, NE held its annual Christmas Party December 7, 2008 at the Brass Rail Party Room.

A nice crowd gathered to enjoy the good company and a delicious meal.

Following a short business meeting, a variety of door prizes were awarded. All agreed to do the same thing to celebrate the season next year.



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.

Branch 56 Celebrates the Birth of Jesus



Once again Branch 56 celebrated the birth of Jesus with their Christmas Party on December 6 at Queen of the Rosary Social Hall.

The children were entertained by Chris Donahue — a ventriloquist. A delicious catered lunch was served by Vicki, featuring pizza, hot dogs, cookies and ice cream and other goodies.

Santa Claus arrived after lunch and gave all the mem-

bers a large bag filled with Christmas candy and especially a monetary gift. A good time was had by all 40 children and parents in attendance.

Natrona Branch 313 Christmas Party

On Sunday, January 4, 2009, Branch 313, of Natrona, PA held its Christmas Party with over 60 members and guests in attendance. After a prayer led by Father Tom Wagner, Pastor of Our Lady of Most Blessed Sacrament and St. Joseph Parishes, everyone shared oplatki, a hot Slovak meal, and delicious desserts.

President Cynthia Maleski gave the officers' report and distributed a calendar of 2009 branch activities. Rebecca Jones, our scholarship awardee, attended with her family, described her educational pursuits at UPMC-Mercy School of Nursing, and was presented with a gift from the branch. An enjoyable afternoon concluded with a Slovak and American sing-a-long, drawing of door prizes for everyone, and distribution of small gifts from the Home Office.



Chris Donahue entertaining all Branch 56 members.



L-R: Kimberly Hopkins (granddaughter of Corrine), Santa Claus, Jenna Foley, and Corrine Hopkins, Branch 56 Secretary.



NATIONAL OFFICERS ATTEND WPSCA TESTIMONIAL DINNER



L-R: Fred Frank, Director of the Slovak and Czech Enterprise Fund, with Irene Drotleff, Mary Ann Johaneck, Cynthia Maleski, and Dolores Regan.



National Officers with Hon. Sophie Masloff, first female mayor of the City of Pittsburgh, and Hon. Jean Milko (blue jacket), first woman Jury Commissioner of Allegheny County, PA.



Elizabeth Groch, daughter of National Trustee Cynthia Maleski, leads the National Anthem of the United States at the dinner.

FCSLA's FIRST MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM

The FCSLA is proud to announce our first Matching Funds Activity has been submitted and approved for payment.

Branch 53 in Channahon, IL, worked with the St. Ann Youth Group, G.L.U.E. (God's Love Unites Everyone) sponsoring a "Soup Bowl of Caring". This is a nationwide, youth-led effort. The teens hold soup pots and man the exits of the church after all the masses on Super Bowl Weekend. They encourage parishioners to give monetary donations to fill their soup pots as they leave church. The branch members and teens raised \$673.90, in their soup kettles. The money raised was presented a week later on February 8, 2009, to the Catholic Charities Daybreak Shelter. The teens and branch members volunteered their time on this date, preparing and serving lunch to the community's needy at Shepherd's Table.



Katie Kaminskis (G.L.U.E Member), Ben Dry (G.L.U.E Member) and Mike Wojnarowski (Sr. Branch 53 member) collect money after mass at St. Ann Church in Channahon.

We thank FCSLA Branch 53 and the teens of St. Ann's Church for their volunteer efforts and accomplishing this first of many Matching Funds Activities.

The guidelines and forms for the Matching Funds Program are available on the Website or by calling Sue Ann Seich, the Fraternal and Youth Director at the Home Office, 1-800-464-4642, Ext. 1051.



Members of St. Ann Youth Group (G.L.U.E), along with FCSLA Sr. Branch 53 Officers, Rosemarie Hamerla, Karen Wojnarowski and member Michael Wojnarowski.



THE NAME GAME



This article appeared in the Carnegie Magazine, the publications of the Carnegie Museums in Pittsburgh.

Selecting the perfect name for a newborn can be one tough decision, baby dinosaurs included. So staff at Carnegie Museum of Natural History asked the public to help choose a nickname for its baby *Apatosaurus*, and after considering more than 150 imaginative suggestions, they settled on a moniker that's as creative as it is scientifically correct.

Submitted by 11-year-old Josh Spyra of Liberty Boro, *Ajax* is a perfect fit for the toddling dinosaur that's the only one of its kind on display in the world

and a centerpiece of the museum's *Dinosaurs in Their Time* exhibit. Proof that Josh knows his dinosaurs, the name refers to a particular species classification of *Apatosaurus*.

"I did a lot of research into dinosaurs like *Apatosaurus*, and *Ajax* was the name that seemed to fit," explains Josh. "It is really cool to name a dinosaur. I don't know anybody else who has ever done it."

Ajax is in good company. "Dippy," the museum's famous *Diplodocus* named for Andrew Carnegie, and "Jane," the museum's juvenile *T. rex*, are the only other dinosaurs at the Museum of Natural History with nicknames.



Josh and his brothers Noah and Luke are 5th generation members of Branch 32 in McKeesport, PA. Josh's mother, Lisa Spyra and his grandparents, Tom and Pat Ponchak are branch members. His deceased great-grandmother Helen Ponchak and great-great-grandmother Anna Tkac were also branch members.

Josh attends St. Joseph Regional School and is an altar server at St. Martin de Porres Church in McKeesport.



JACOB GERMEK celebrated his 1st birthday on January 5, 2009. He is a member of Branch 58 in Whiting, IN. Jacob lives with his parents Melany and Daniel Germek in Lowel, IN.

In the photo above Jacob receives a kiss from his great-grandma Mary Germek who served as an officer of Branch 81 in Whiting, IN for many years.



Happy
Easter!



IN MEMORIAM

ELSIE J. BISEK **Branch W035**

Elsie J. Bisek, 87, of New Prague, MN, died December 1, 2008, at The Lodge on Natchez Hospice in Elko, New Market.

Elsie Josephine was born January 31, 1921, in Erin Township, Rice County, a daughter of Frank and Josie (Pumper) Machacek. She attended Immaculate Conception School in Lonsdale, and at age 17 she worked at Shattuck Military School in Faribault as a cook and housekeeper, and later worked as a housekeeper at the John Bruzek home in New Prague.

She married Blase Bisek on July 15, 1944, at Lonsdale, and they made their home in New Prague. During her married life she worked for a time at the John Jasan Sewing Factory, Ron Bilek's Bakery and as chief cook at the Park Ballroom. Elsie did considerable volunteer work, as a den leader for many years, serving on the Big Six Festival Committee for St. Wenceslaus Church, as a FHA mother, active in the Catholic Workmen and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, holding offices in both organizations. She was also an election judge for 20 years. Elsie enjoyed playing cards, dancing, crocheting, reading and making quilts. She was also a very good cook.

She is survived by her husband; children Larry (Shirlene) Bisek, New Prague, Patty (Mark) Whade, Walker and Becky (Bruce) Wolf, New Prague; siblings Agnes Kratochvil, New Prague, Bernice Zelenka, New Prague and Norbert (Ann) Machacek, Forest City, IA; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

DOLORES E. FINK **Branch 5**

Dolores E. Fink, 78, died on December 23, 2008, at her home in Johnstown, PA. She was born December 19, 1930, in Johnstown, and was the daughter of

Joseph and Edith (Edie) Sirocky. Preceded in death by parents; husband, George William Fink; and brothers, Edward and Francis E. Sirocky.

She is survived by a number of loving cousins. Dolores was a retired employee of the former General Telephone Company. She loved to play golf with her friends. Dolores served as financial secretary of Branch 5, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association after the death of her mother, Edie, and was a dedicated worker for the lodge. Dolores was also a member of CFU, Cambria City Community Association, and St. Stephen's Catholic Church. Dolores will be sadly missed by all who knew her – "Z Bohom, Dolores!"

GENEVIEVE JAVORSKY **Branch 156**

FCSLA Branch 156 sadly mourns the passing of its recording secretary and dear friend, Genevieve Javorsky of Lowellville, OH.

The daughter of Igancy and Anna (Sykala) Shura, Genevieve was born March 6, 1932 in Youngstown, OH and was a graduate of North High School.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held in her honor at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Struthers, OH with the Rev. William Petrunak officiating.

As well as being a member of Holy Trinity and its Infant Jesus of Prague Guild, Jenny, as she was affectionately known, was a member and officer of Branch 156 where she could always be depended on to help in any way she was needed and attended the FCSLA's convention in St. Louis. You could always find Jenny at the church on Fridays pinching pirohy with the ladies of the parish where she was the expert lekvar "spooner".

A loving wife, mother and grandmother, Jenny leaves behind her husband Bohumir Javorsky whom she married on September 13, 1952. She also leaves her children: son Edward of Siloam, AR and two daughters: Susan (Greg) Pognacik also of Siloam, and

Sandy (Tim) King of Wake Forest, NC and five grandchildren: Jonathon and Joseph Javorsky, Justin Pognacik, and Kathy and Mathew King.

Jenny also leaves three brothers: Charles, Chester, and Robert Shura, and a sister Pauline Len.

Besides her parents, Jenny was preceded in death by three brothers, Ted, Anthony, and infant Frank Shura and two sisters, Helen and Mary Shura.

FRANCIS E. NOVOTNY **Branch W001**

Francis E. "Fritz" Novotny, 69, of New Prague, died December 20, 2008, at his home.

Born August 30, 1939, in Cedar Lake Township, Scott County, Fritz was a son of Frank W.



and Julia (Sticha) Novotny. A lifelong resident of the New Prague area, he attended St. Wenceslaus School and New Prague High School. He married Arnita Malecha on July 5, 1969, at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Lonsdale. Fritz farmed from 1957 to 1987 and then worked at Minnesota Valley Engineering until retirement in 2002. He was a member of the Third Degree Knights of Columbus, the Czech Heritage Club, member and past officer of the Catholic Workman, past board member of the New Prague Co-op, and was a Cedar Lake Township road overseer. Fritz played accordion for over 20 years with Blanche and the Waltz Kings, The Bob Smisek Band and The Star Orchestra. He enjoyed gardening and hard work, fishing, and playing cards with family, friends and the grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife and children Craig (and special friend Sheri Ellingsworth), New Prague; Jodi (Brad) Doerr, New Prague; Joan (Dean) Blenker, New Prague and Curtis (Lora Lee) Novotny, New Prague; brothers

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

Alvin (Genevieve) Novotny, New Prague and Gilbert (Julia Ann) Novotny, Elko New Market; and six grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 23, at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, with Rev. Kevin Clinton officiating.

Pallbearers were nephews Keith Malecha, Jim Novotny, Brian Novotny, Kevin Malecha, Tim Schweiss and Joe Malecha.

EMIL F. MATTAS **Branch W133**

Emil F. Mattas, died on January 21, 2009, at the age of 81. He was born on January 27, 1927. He was a farmer/stockman and lived all his life in/near Wilson, KS. He was an active member of the former Catholic Workman serving as an officer for many years. His parents, Frank and Mary (Vopat) Mattas; two brothers, Henry and Frank; and a daughter, Rosemary Dlabal, preceded him in death.

Left to mourn his passing and celebrate his life are his wife, Betty of Wilson, KS, daughters, Kathleen Willis, Lenexa, KS and Teresa Gasper, Tipton, KS; son, Francis Mattas of Greenville, SC; a brother, Father Lois Mattas of Wichita, KS; sisters, Rose Pearce and Frances Arnold of Pearland, TX, and Mary Ann Erickson of McPherson, KS and 11 grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Wilson, KS on January 24, 2009. Co-celebrates were Fr. David Metz, Fr. Louis Mattas, Bishop Paul Coakley and Bishop Emeritus George Fitzsimons. Burial was in St. Wenceslaus Cemetery, Wilson, KS with military honors.

MARGARET A. VALEK **Branch 89**

Margaret A. Valek, 87, of Bethlehem, PA, died on May 28, 2008. She was born July 8, 1920. She was the daughter of the late Andrew and Anna (Daday)

Lipka. Peggy (Margaret) was preceded in death by her husband Joseph S. Valek. She retired in 1980 from the former Hess's Department Store where she worked as a sales clerk. Peggy previously worked for the Bethlehem Steel Corporation as a clerk. She was a member of St. Anne's Catholic Church, Bethlehem, PA where she participated in the Sodality. She was also a member of the National Sokols Wreath 66.

Peggy dedicated her life to her family. Survivors include: daughter, Mary-jean, wife of William E. Haberl Ed.D of Bethlehem, sons, Joseph W. S. Valek of Sumner, WA; David J. Valek, husband of Lisa of Bethlehem and James J. Valek of Bethlehem; seven grandchildren, Krista (Haberl) Keenan, Jeffrey Haberl, Jennifer (Valek) Hunger, Rebecca Valek, Brian Valek, Heather Valek, and Michael Valek; and two great-grandchildren, Dylan Keenan and Jack Keenan, sister Elizabeth Geldon of Bethlehem.

She was predeceased by her sisters Helen Ender and Anna Check and brothers, Joseph, Andrew and Francis Lipka.

BERTHA WARCOLA **Branches 200/56**

Bertha (Harchar) Warcola, tireless worker for the FCSLA died on December 29, 2008, at the age of 96. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Cpl. Michael Warcola who was a casualty of World War II.

She is survived by her son Michael J. Warcola, a brother Joseph J. Harchar, his wife Mary and their four sons, plus numerous nieces and nephews.

Bertha was preceded in death also by her parents John and Mary Harchar; sisters Anna Cicchini, Helen Grivna, Irene Harchar, and Teresa Andrews; brother Albert Harchar, and infant siblings Mamie, John and Mamie.

After her retirement as a National Auditor of the FCSLA, Bertha volun-

teered her services in overseeing the operation of St. Ann's Sr. Branch 200 and Jr. Branch 56 in her hometown of Glassport, PA. She undertook this work with a passion well into her 95th year.

Bertha was born December 4, 1912 and baptized in Holy Trinity Church in nearby McKeesport, PA. She attended the parish school for eight years. Holy Trinity Parish has since consolidated with other parishes in McKeesport to form St. Martin de Poore's Parish. Crippled since birth, she faced this and numerous other adversities in her lifetime with a strong faith to carry on for the "Greater Honor and Glory of God."

STEFINA T. MRAZ **Branch HO**



AUSTINTOWN, OH—Stefina T. Mraz, 87, died on June 9, 2008, at St. Elizabeth Hospital surrounded by her loving family.

Stefina was born August 22, 1920, in Ford City, PA. She

was the daughter of Paul and Theresa (Kanka) Drahos. She moved to Austintown from Ford City 15 years ago.

She was a member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and a former member of the Holy Trinity Church and its Altar and Rosary Society in Ford City. Stefina was an animal lover and enjoyed being with her daughter and grandchildren.

While living in Pennsylvania, she was the head cook for Cadet's Restaurant in Kittanning for 10 years.

Stefina is survived by her daughter Patricia Cole and her companion, Russ Hendrix, with whom she made her home in Austintown, her former son-in-law, Richard Cole of Austintown; grandchildren, Christopher (Becky) Cole of Austintown, Stephanie (James) Needham of Canfield and Shari (Frank)

continued on page 18

SIXTH ANNUAL BANQUET

The Kent Dudince Sister City Association will hold their Sixth Annual Anniversary Banquet on Sunday, April 26, 2009 at the Kent Elks Lodge Hall, Elks Lane, (behind Twin Star Bowling Lanes, 2245 State Route 59) in Kent, OH.

Social hour will start at 1:00 p.m. with music by the Johnny Pastirik Band. Dinner is at 2:00 p.m. with the Slovak Cultural Program starting at 3:00 p.m. Ensembles participating at the cultural program are The Pittsburgh Slovaks Folk Dance Ensemble, Slovenske Mamicky of Greater Cleveland Vocal Ensemble, and Kent Roosevelt High School Advanced Choral Ensemble. Dancing will follow the program.

Advanced sale tickets only at a cost of \$15.00 per person. Ticket orders can be sent to Kent-Dudince Sister City Association, 1544 Vine Street, Kent, OH 44240, with the names of all guests and checks payable to the Association. If you have any questions please call Rudy Bachna at 330/673-3255.

IN MEMORIAM

continued from page 17

Costanza of Austintown; and great-grandchildren, Shaun, Brandon, and Ryan Costanza, Jessica and Christopher Cole, and Cheyanne and Cody Needham.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Christian Zanetti, who she married October 4, 1941 and who died January 10, 1948, and George Mraz who she married February 27, 1964, and who died June 6, 1996; brothers Pete and Tony Drahos; and her grandson Robert Sirwell.

MARY E. FERENCHIK Branch 182

Mary E. (Shimko) Ferenchik, 92, Richland, native of Windber, passed away January 12, 2009, at Windber Hospice.

Mary was born August 18, 1916, in Windber, daughter of the late Valent and Mary (Hromcho) Shimko. Preceded in death by husband, Paul Ferenchik; sister, Ann Korzi, and husband, John; brothers, Steve Shimko, and wife, Dolores, and Martin Shimko; and sister-in-law, Kathleen Shimko.

Survived by brother, John Shimko, Penn Hills, and sister-in-law, Gertude Shimko, CA. Mary also is survived by her nephew and caregivers: Jim Korzi, and his wife Mary, of Windber; and 12 other nieces and nephews. With special thanks to all of the caregivers who took care of Mary over the last 3½ years.

Retired licensed practical nurse at Lee Hospital, Mary was always willing to assist anyone in the neighborhood and will be always remembered for her beautiful flower gardens. Mary was a member of SS. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church, Windber.

Donations were made to SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Windber or the Windber Hospice in Mary's memory.

LECTURE SERIES HELD

A free lecture, "Live Long Die Short" (Ills, Skills and Pills on Aging) was presented recently by the Slovak Heritage Society of N.E. PA, Mary's Ministries, and Holy Name Society at St. Ignatius Church in Kingston, PA.

Guest lecturer was James Siberski, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Gerontological Education at Misericordia University, Dallas, PA.

In his comments, Professor Siberski outlined points of successful aging and encouraged all in attendance to strengthen "the ability to maintain low risk of disease or disability, high mental and physical function and active engagement with life." He added that "if one learns the necessary skills to successful aging, one will need fewer pills over a lifetime to prevent the ills that one can acquire."



L-R: Philip R. Tuhy (Branch S350), Slovak Heritage Society Chair; Professor James Siberski; Kay Connor, Mary's Ministries and Michael Stretanski, Slovak Heritage Society Board Member, Co-Chair of the lecture.

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.

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.

Scholarship Applications Available

The American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH has applications available for their scholarship program. It is open to graduating high school seniors who are entering college and carry at least a 3.5 average. The student must be a member in good standing of **St. Ann's Lodge, Branch 114** of FCSLA for the last five years. Complete rules and applications can be obtained from the branch by contacting Margaret Thomas, Financial Secretary. She can be reached by phone at 440-288-1492; by e-mail at marcarl@centurytel.net or by writing to 2235 East Erie Ave. Lorain, OH 44052. Deadline for applications is June 30, 2009.

JOHN'S TOURS

John's Tours sets a tour of Slovakia plus Vienna, Budapest, Krakow and Prague on September 7-23, 2009.

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

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

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

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, Slovenska republika; el/fax: 00421 / 2 / 529 25 463, e-mail [mailto:sas\[at\]phil.uniba.sk](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.

AKO KUBKO S MAŤKOM HRALI NA FUJARE

Marianna Grznárová

(Please enjoy the English translation of this Slovak fable on Page 21)

Vystrel sa Kubko pri pasení do trávy, podoprel dlaňou bradu a tak sa zahútal, čo ani nezbadal, že mu ovca pierko za širákom žerie. A bola by sa mu aj do krpcev pustila, keby boli čo len trochu krajšie voňali. Ale keď pričuchla, kýchlo sa jej, zatriasla zvoncom a pobehla za ostatnými. A Kubko nič, len húta:

– Nad čím toľme hútaš? – dobiedza Maľko.

– Smutno mi. Muziky by nám načim . . .

Vystrel teda Maľko žabykláč, vyťkol vľbovú písťalku a skúšal na nej nôtu zapísať. Ale sa mu akosi neveľmi darilo.

– Nože, tú o tej pokosenej lúke . . . – ponúka Kubko. Maľko dúchne, ale razom stratí nôtu.

– Radšej inú, tá je veľmi smutná, – vyhovára sa.

– Tak o zbojníkoch . . .

– Tá je dlhá, – ošiva sa Maľko, keď mu nejde.

– O Aničke dušičke . . .

– Už som zabudol . . .

– Tak hraj, akú vieš! – stráca trpezlivosť Kubko.

Nuž, hral by Maľko, hral, ale akosi sa mu dnes naschvál nedarí.

A na lieske vyskakuje drozd, trasie chvostom a vysmieva sa. A hvízda just tak falošne ako Maľko. Robil sa Maľko chvíľu, že nevidí, ale keď sa už nedalo, šmaril doň pohnevane písťalku. A drozd chmat písťalku do zobáka a píska just tak falošne ako Maľko. Maľko si už ruky popľul, že za ním na strom vylezie a tam ho strestá, lenže vták uletel, a tak vzal Maľko písťalku, vrátil sa a zas chcel probovať. Lenže Kubkovi už nedalo.

– Nieže tak, Maľko, – rečie Kubko. – Poriadnej muziky nám treba.

– Písťala je krátka, – vykrúca sa Maľko. – Nevystačí na celú nôtu.

– Pod', vystrúhame fujaru, – dvíha sa Kubko. – A poriadnu, aby sa do nej veľa pesničiek popratalo.

A tak sa držali okolo pliec a uberali k hore.

Zoľali poriadny kmeň, zavolali do doliny varúúúj a spustili sa na ňom po zráze, sediac obkročmo. Dosadli rovno pred kolibu, až zadunelo a ovce sa vyľakane rozprchli. Dunčovi drevo pricviklo konček chvosta, lebo nestačil odskočiť, ale valasi nadvihli kmeň valaškami a psa vyslobodili.

Potom drevo otesávali a hľbili, až sa im z kečiek parilo a pot sa z nich lial a Maľko dočista ustal.

– Veďže sa tak nenáhľme, – vraví. – Oddýchnime si.

A Kubko ani počuť. Taký bol muziky zažiadany. Lenže keď sa nedíval, vsúkal sa Maľko do priehlbiny stromu, lebo fujara bola len o kúšтик menšia ako komín na tehelni, podložil pod ucho klobúčik, zažmúril oči a razom prestal o sebe vedieť.

Kubko nepočul druhú valašku, a tak sa poobzeral, kde sa Maľko podel. Vidieť ho nebolo, ale z dutého kmeňa sa ozývalo chrápanie, ako keby drevo pľili.

– Pekne mi ty pľiš! – zlostí sa Kubko.

Ale Maľko len čo sa na druhý bok prevrátil. A tak ho musel Dunčo vyduriť.

– No, veď už idem, – vyliezal Maľko z fujary nohami napred.

A veď už neostávalo veľa roboty. Len čo ešte dierky vysekali, toľké ako chlaspá päť.

– Ej, ale sme riadnu fujaru vystrúhali . . . – pochvaľujú si valasi.

– Treba ju postaviť!

A tak sa do nej zapreli a postavili ju, ale keď sa trochu naklonila, valachom sa zamarilo, že sa to na nich zvonica rúca.

Aj ju podopreli, ale Maľkovi sa prichodilo po nej driapať ako po telegrafnom stĺpe, ak chcel nasadec dočiahnuť. A že sa pokľzol, fujara zahrála všetkými tónmi, od toho najtenšieho až po najhrubší. A dunelo vám to ako levočský organ!

Lenže zas stála fujara nakrivo.

A tak jej teda vykopali jamu, aby sa im nebolo treba jednoducho strachovať o životy, ak by, božechráň, spadla. Prihrnuli hlinu a všetko vyzeralo byť v najlepšom poriadku, keby sa len na fujaru nebolo treba škriabať. A že ju okliesnili do hladka – klzala sa.

– Jáj, Maľko, – vzdychá Kubko, – veľa slaniny ešte pojeme, pokým dorastieme k toľkému inštrumentu . . .

Z muziky nebolo nič, a tak Kubko s Maľkom zavrátili ovce a pobrali sa domov.

V noci padla rosa a na fujare vypučalo lístie.

Do dierok sa nasťahovali vtáci, nanosili peria, sedeli na vajciach a záranky vypiskovali len tak, bež nôt.

A Kubko s Maľkom boli radi, že robota s fujarou nebola celkom daromná. Fujara zapustila korene.

A občas k nej zaletel vietor v rozvíatej vyšívanej košeli, nadul líca a zahrál, čo mu slina na jazyk priniesla a čo pochytil od dievok pri hrabaní sena.

Ovečky sa spokojne pásli a Kubko s Maľkom načúvali, načúvali . . .

HOW KUBKO AND MATKO PLAYED ON FUJARA

Marianna Grznárová

"Kubko laid in the grass while taking care of his sheep. He held his chin in his hands and did not notice that one sheep ate the feather that was decorating his hat. Maybe she would have eaten his shoes, but they did not smell good. When the sheep smelled his shoes, she sneezed, and that made her bell ring. She then ran after the other sheep. Kubko was deeply in thought:

"What are you thinking about?" asked Matko.

"I am sad. I would like to hear some music."

Matko got his pocket knife, made a little whistle and was trying to play. But he was not succeeding.

"Play the song about the meadow," said Kubko.

Matko was trying, but the song was wrong.

"Play something else, this one is sad," he stated.

"Play the song about robbers . . ."

"That song is too long," said Matko, when the song did not sound right.

"Play the song about Annie."

"I forgot that one."

"So then play one that you know." Kubko was losing his patience.

Matko was trying to play, but it was not working. A robin was hopping in a nearby tree, shaking his tail and appeared to be making fun. He was singing as bad as Matko was playing. Matko pretended that he did not see the bird, but when he could not take it anymore, he threw the whistle at the bird. The robin took the whistle in his beak and was playing as bad as Matko. Matko was ready to climb the tree after the bird, but the bird flew away, so Matko retrieved his whistle and wanted to try playing again. But Kubko had enough.

"Not any more, Matko" said Kubko, "we need real music.

"The whistle is too short," said Matko, "it is too short for the whole note."

"Let's make a very long whistle/fujara" said Kubko. "A big one so it will hold lots of songs."

They were walking together towards the forest.

They cut down a big tree, they called "attention everybody" and they rode the big tree as it slid down the hill. The tree stopped directly in front of their cottage. The tree made such a thud, the sheep ran every which way. Dunco's tail (dog) got pinched under the tree because he was not fast enough to get away, but the shepherds freed their dog. They were working on the tree stump and they were getting hot from the hard work. Sweat poured off them and Matko was quite tired.

"We are not in a hurry," he said. "Let's rest."

But Kubko did not want to listen. He was ready to play music. When Kubko was not looking, Matko crawled into the tree because the fujara was only a little bit smaller than the chimney, he put his hands under his head, closed his eyes and fell asleep. Kubko did not see Matko working anymore and was looking for him. He did not see him, but he heard snoring from the hollowed tree.

"You are snoring," Kubko was angry. But Matko just turned on his other side and kept sleeping. So Kubko sent Dunco to wake him up.

"I'm coming," Matko crawled out of the tree. They worked to turn the tree into the long whistle. Almost everything was done. They still needed to make the holes in the whistle and the holes were about as large as a man's hand.

"What a beautiful whistle." The shepherds were praising themselves. "We need to stand it up."

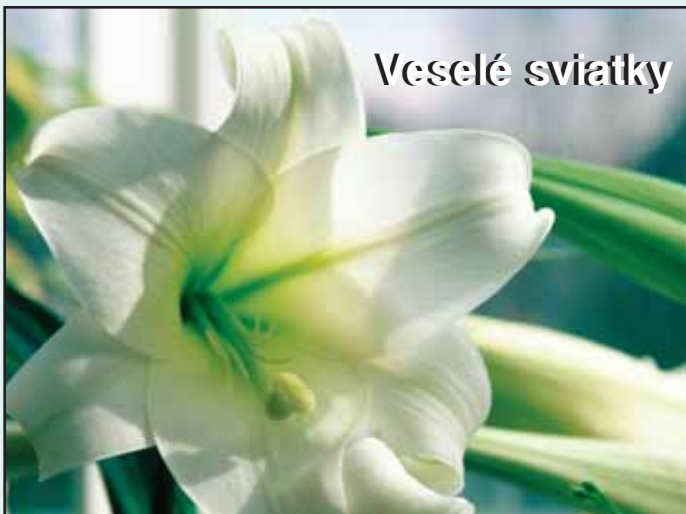
They tried to stand it up, but the whistle did not stand straight and finally fell down.

They stood the whistle up again but it was so tall that Matko had to crawl to the top of it if we wanted to play it. The fujara played all sorts of notes — from the highest to the lowest. It sounded like an organ.

But the whistle was standing crooked.

So the shepherds dug a big hole so the tree-whistle would not fall. They put dirt all around the whistle and everything looked great. But they had to crawl up on the whistle if they wanted to play it. They also chopped off all of the branches, so it was difficult to hold on.

"Oh, Matko" sighed Kubko. "We have to eat a lot of bacon to be tall enough to play it. They were tired, so Kubko and Matko locked the sheep in their pen and went to their cottage. During the night it rained and the whistle started to grow. The birds nestled in the holes of the whistle, sat on their eggs and in the morning were singing their songs without notes. Kubko and Matko were happy that the work that they did with the whistle was not for nothing. The fujara had roots now. Sometimes when the wind was blowing the whistle was playing its own song. The sheep were grazing and Kubko and Matko were happy to listen.

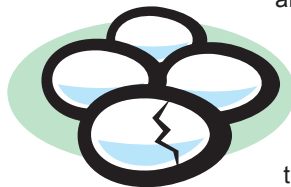


BLESSING OF EASTER BASKETS

Tradition of Our Heritage

When our Slovak ancestors arrived in this country a century ago, they brought with them many beautiful and meaningful traditions. Among the most popular of these was the age old tradition of blessing Easter foods.

After a Lent of strict fasting and abstinence, specially prepared foods to be eaten on Easter morning would help the family celebrate the great feast of Jesus' Resurrection. The foods, prepared in advance, were placed in a basket, covered with a special hand-crocheted cloth, often one which had been handed down for generations, and were taken to church to



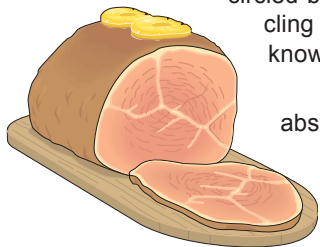
be blessed by the priest on Holy Saturday. The cloth often had an Easter emblem or Easter words such as "Christ is Risen," of course in Slovak, crocheted on it.

Only small portions of each food are placed in the basket. It is naturally known all ancient Slovak customs have specific meanings and so it is with the foods placed in this basket. Gratefully, many families and Slovak and Slavic churches in the United States and Canada continue to observe this custom of blessing a basket of Easter foods today.

EGGS — Brightly decorated hard boiled eggs are a symbol of new life, the life Jesus gave by rising from the dead.

PASCHA — This is a sweet, rich, yeast bread. It is usually a round loaf baked till it has

a golden brown crust. Often a cross of dough is placed on the top circled by a plait. This symbolizes the crown of thorns encircling the cross. Other breads are nut and poppyseed rolls, known as "kolac" and "makovniky".



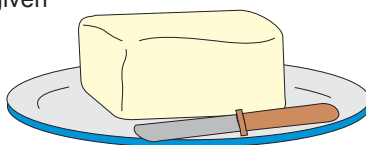
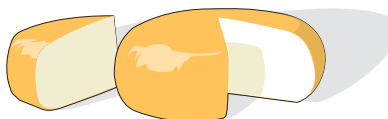
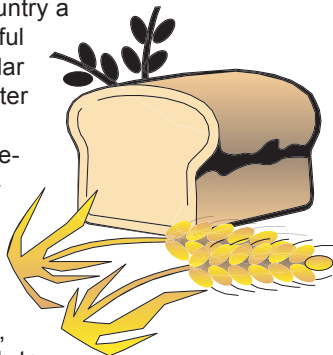
KLOBASSA and HAM — After a Lent of fasting and abstinence, this meat is well roasted or cooked and used as the main dish. It symbolizes the great joy of Easter and to Slovaks this dish of meat is a sign of abundance. Also, lamb or veal can be used.

CHEESE — The Easter cheese is known as "syrek" and has a rather bland taste. It is indicative of the moderation Christians should have in all things. Cream cheese may also be used.

HORSERADISH — This is a tall plant with a white, hot-tasting root. The root is ground and mixed with ground beets, a mixture then called "chren" (hren). The taste of chren is to remind us of how bitter life would be without Jesus, and also of the bitter drink given to Jesus on the cross.

BUTTER — This favorite dairy product is sometimes shaped into the figure of a lamb because Jesus is the Lamb of God.

SALT — Salt is blessed because it was used to preserve food just as Jesus preserves us to eternal life.



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EASTER BREAD

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 2½ cups all-purpose flour, divided | ⅔ cup milk |
| ¼ cup white sugar | 2 tablespoons butter |
| 1 teaspoon salt | 2 eggs |
| 1 (.25 ounce) package active dry yeast | 5 whole eggs, dyed if desired |
| | 2 tablespoons butter, melted |

In a large bowl, combine 1 cup flour, sugar, salt and yeast; stir well. Combine milk and butter in a small saucepan; heat until milk is warm and butter is softened, but not melted.

Gradually add the milk and butter to the flour mixture; stirring constantly. Add two eggs and ½ cup flour; beat well. Add the remaining flour, ½ cup at a time, stirring well after each addition. When the dough has pulled together, turn it out onto a lightly floured surface, and knead until smooth and elastic, about 8 minutes.

Lightly oil a large bowl, place the dough in the bowl and turn to coat with oil. Cover with a damp cloth and let rise in a warm place until doubled in volume, about 1 hour.

Deflate the dough and turn it out onto a lightly floured surface. Divide the dough into two equal size rounds; cover and let rest for 10 minutes. Roll each round into a long roll about 36 inches long and 1½ inches thick. Using the two long pieces of dough, form a loosely braided ring, leaving spaces for the five colored eggs. Seal the ends of the ring together and use your fingers to slide the eggs between the braids of dough.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place loaf on a buttered baking sheet and cover loosely with a damp towel. Place loaf in a warm place and let rise until doubled in bulk, about 45 minutes. Brush risen loaf with melted butter.

Bake in preheated oven for 50 to 55 minutes, or until golden.

Ice with glaze (mix all the glaze ingredients together and drizzle over bread).

Glaze

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1⅓ cup confectioner's sugar | ½ teaspoon lemon extract |
| 1½ teaspoon finely chopped lemon zest | 1-2 tablespoons milk |

CHOCOLATE COVERED EASTER EGGS

- | | |
|--|---|
| ½ cup butter, softened | 1 cup flaked coconut |
| 1 teaspoon vanilla extract | 1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder |
| 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened | 2 cups semisweet chocolate pieces |
| 2½ pounds confectioners sugar | 2 tablespoons shortening or vegetable oil |
| 1 cup creamy peanut butter | |

In a large bowl, mix together the butter, vanilla, and cream

cheese. Stir in confectioners sugar to make a workable dough. For best results, use your hands for mixing.

Divide the dough into four parts. Leave one of the parts plain. To the second part, mix in peanut butter. Mix coconut into the third part, and cocoa powder into the last part. Roll each type of dough into egg shapes, and place on a waxed paper lined cookie sheet. Refrigerate until hard, at least an hour.

Melt chocolate chips in a heat-proof bowl over a pan of simmering water. Stir occasionally until smooth. If the chocolate seems too thick for coating, stir in some of the shortening or oil until it thins. Dip the chilled candy eggs in chocolate, and return to the waxed paper lined sheet to set. Refrigerate for ½ hour to harden.

GLAZED EASTER HAM

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 10-12 lb. uncooked ham | 1¼ pounds drained pineapple slices |
| 2 tablespoons cider vinegar | |
| 2 cups apricot jelly | 2 teaspoons dry mustard |
| 16 whole cloves | Toothpicks |
| ¼ teaspoon ground cloves | |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Place ham on a rack in a shallow roasting pan and bake until a meat thermometer registers 130 degrees (about 3 hours). Score ¼ inch deep cuts around the outside of the ham in a diamond pattern. Combine apricot jelly, cloves, mustard and vinegar in a small saucepan over low heat, stirring until the jelly has melted. Spread mixture around the outside of the ham. Stud ham with the whole cloves. Attach pineapple rings to ham with toothpicks. Return ham to oven, baste occasionally with remaining apricot sauce, and bake until meat thermometer registers 160 degrees. Remove ham from oven. Let cool for 10 minutes before slicing.

BACON CHEDDAR DEVILED EGGS

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 12 eggs | 2 tablespoons finely shredded Cheddar cheese |
| ½ cup mayonnaise | |
| 4 slices bacon | 1 tablespoon mustard |

Place eggs in a saucepan, and cover with cold water. Bring water to a boil and immediately remove from heat. Cover, and let eggs stand in hot water for 10 to 12 minutes. Remove from hot water, and cool. To cool more quickly, rinse eggs under cold running water.

Meanwhile, place bacon in a large, deep skillet. Cook over medium-high heat until evenly brown. Alternatively, wrap bacon in paper towels and cook in the microwave for about 1 minute per slice. Crumble and set aside.

Peel the hard-cooked eggs, and cut in half lengthwise. Remove yolks to a small bowl. Mash egg yolks with mayonnaise, crumbled bacon and cheese. Stir in mustard. Fill egg white halves with the yolk mixture and refrigerate until serving.

CHEESY GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 bags (16 oz. each) frozen French cut green beans, thawed | |
| 1 can (10¼ oz.) condensed cream of mushroom soup | |
| 1 cup Cheez Whiz cheese dip | 1 pkg. (6 oz.) stuffing mix for chicken |
| 1½ cups hot water | |
| ¼ cup (½ stick) margarine | |

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Combine beans, soup and Cheez Whiz in 2-qt. casserole. Add water to margarine in medium bowl; stir until melted. Stir in stuffing mix just until moistened. Spoon over bean mixture. Bake 30 minutes or until heated through.

FRESH PINEAPPLE AMBROSIA

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 2 cups fresh pineapple chunks | 1 cup miniature marshmallows |
| 1 can (11 oz.) mandarin orange segments, drained | 1 banana, sliced |
| | ½ cup coconut, toasted |
- Mix all ingredients in large bowl. Serve immediately.

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