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Fraternally Yours

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,

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The Paintings On The Wall

*“To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you
something else is the greatest accomplishment”*

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

There was a king who was a great admirer of art. He encouraged artists from
all over his country and gave them valuable gifts.

One day an artist came and said to the king, “Oh King! Give me a blank wall
in your palace and let me paint a picture on it. It will be more beautiful than any-
thing you have ever seen before. I promise you shall not be disappointed.”

Now, the king happened to be constructing a big hall at the rear end of the
palace. So he said, “All right you may work on one of the walls in the new hall.”

So the artist was given the job and he was very pleased indeed.

Just then, another young man said, “Oh King! Please allow me to work on the
opposite wall. I too am an artist.”

The king said, “What would you like to make?”

The man said, “My Lord, I shall make exactly what that man will make on the
opposite wall. Moreover, I shall do so, without looking at his work. I would even
request you to have a thick curtain put up between the two walls so that either
of us cannot see the other.”

Now, that was a tall statement. Everyone in the king’s court, including the
king and the first artist were intrigued. But the king loved surprises and he de-
cided to give the young fellow a chance.

The following day a thick curtain was put into place and both the artists
got to work. The first artist brought in a regular supply of paint, oil, water, etc.
The second one would come with a cloth and a bucket of water every day.

After a month the first artist told the king that his work was complete and
he would like to show it to the king.

The king sent for the second artist and asked him, “Young man, when would
your work be ready? I am coming to see the first wall this evening.”

The man said, “My Lord, my wall is ready too!”

The king went to see the first artist’s wall. He was very, very impressed with
the painting and gave a hefty sum as a reward to the artist. He then asked for the
curtain to be opened up

Lo and behold! The same painting was to be seen on the opposite wall too!

Amazing! But true! Each line, each minor detail was exactly as it was on the
first wall. But this man had not been seeing what was going on, on the other side
of the curtain.

So how had he done it? The king wanted to know the secret.

He gave a double reward to the fellow. Then he said, “Young man, I am indeed
very happy with your work. But you must tell me; how did you do it?”

The lad said simply, “It’s very easy! I just polished the wall every day!”

It was a wall made of white marble! The fellow polished it till it shone like a
mirror. The reflection of the painting across the room, showed up in it!

That is what it means to polish yourself. For when we polish our hearts and
souls, we see God’s reflection within.

It is said that the world is a reflection of you. Whatever you are, the world
will seem to be that too. If you are sad, jealous, dejected, angry, restless ... that
is what the world will seem to be!

If you are happy, the world will seem to be paradise.

You decide how you want your world to look . . .

Until Next Month — Warmly,
Carolyn

Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

My primary school education spanned the decade of the 1960's. For those who are my age or older, we entered into an era of change — in music, culture, attitude towards war, experimentation with drugs, sexual expression, and even change in the Church. As a youngster, I did not fully understand the depth of this change as those older than me. I did recognize, however, that the world around me was becoming “different” as I witnessed the reactions to the changes by the adults who surrounded me. I am sure that this is true for all young people as they go through the aging process. Those who had an impact on me included members of my family, my friends' families, and members of the faculties of the grade and junior high schools I attended. The deaths of two grandmothers, a grandfather and two uncles along with the death of a classmate's brother, several years younger than her, taught me that life was not a permanent entity on this earth. The mourning process exhibited the sincere void in people's hearts because of the change that occurred to them through their losses. My teachers formed me into a person not only of academic knowledge and personal growth but also gave to me a religious and moral base to be a responsible person in the changing society. These left lasting foundations that I rely upon to this day.

I looked forward and learned in second grade that a change, a conversion, was to take place within my spiritual life as I approached my First Confession and First Holy Communion. At Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Youngstown, the tradition was that the students made their First Confession on the Saturday before the first Sunday in May. Being second graders, we were suppose to know right from wrong, what was a sin and what was not by the way we followed the Ten Commandments and the six laws of the Church. We examined our consciences and made our confessions with perfect acts of contrition. This then changed our lives because our souls were made “clean” again and now we

were prepared to receive our Lord present in the sacred Host. Receiving Jesus the next day was to make us to be more like Jesus. Thereafter, we joined the older students ahead of us who were taken to church every Thursday before the First Friday of each month so that we could confess our sins in order to change our lives again and receive communion the next day. Our principal, the Ursuline Sister Roberta, made sure that we made our nine First Friday communions in order to assist us to enter into heaven.

The First Friday tradition is attributed to the consecrated virgin, born in a small city in the area known as Burgandy, France during the mid-seventeenth century. Her name was Margaret Mary and she was the fifth of seven children. At the age of eight, her father died and she was sent to a school that was staffed by the Poor Clares. She was influenced by the holiness of the sisters but at the age of eleven, she was dismissed from the school because of an illness that kept her confined to bed until she was fifteen years old. Margaret Mary then lived the life of her contemporaries that later left her to the prodding of her mother and others to marry. When she was twenty-two, entered the convent, eventually made her final profession, and through acts of mortifications, aligned herself with the sufferings that Christ endured through His Passion.

In December 1673, Christ revealed Himself to Margaret Mary while she was in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. He told her of the necessity of the saint to inspire devotion to His Sacred Heart, the Heart that has selfless love for all people. Thus the cult of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was established — the subject adoration, of painting and statuary for centuries to the present day. For about a year and a half, the Lord revealed His plan for the Margaret Mary. She was to take on the penance for people who had turned away from the Lord's love through frequent communion, especially on First Friday and through a Holy Hour on Thursday in

commemoration of the Lord's Passion. In one of the final revelations, the Lord requested that a feast be celebrated in honor of His Sacred Heart after the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (*Corpus Christi*).

Like many individuals before her, Margaret Mary encountered opposition from within and outside of her religious community to prove that the revelations manifested to her were from the Lord Himself. The Lord told Margaret Mary that there would be questioning of her divine relationship with Him and of His requests, but she was to be obedient to all who were in charge over her and that eventually His requests would not be denied. The need for conversion and change was necessary in order for the love of Christ to be made known through His Sacred Heart. Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque died on 17 October 1690 and was canonized a saint in 1920. Her feast day is on 16 October.

In one of her letters, Saint Margaret Mary writes about the wonderful grace that comes from the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She declares, “From this divine heart three streams flow endlessly. The first is the stream of mercy for sinners; it pours into their hearts sentiments of contrition and repentance. The second is the stream of charity which helps all in need and especially aids those seeking perfection to find the means surmounting their difficulties. From the third stream flow love and light for the benefit of his friends who have attained perfection. These he wishes to unite to himself so that they may share his knowledge and commandments and, in their individual ways, devote themselves wholly to advancing his glory . . . Therefore, you must unite yourselves to the heart of our Lord Jesus Christ, both at the beginning of your conversion in order to obtain proper dispositions, and as it ends in order to make reparation.”

Saint Margaret Mary Alacouque, pray for us!

DENISE MACKURA PRESENTS RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOK

Denise M. Mackura, J.D. (at right) is shown presenting President Mary Ann Johaneck with a copy of her recently published book, "AMERICAN DEMOCRACY IN THE WAKE OF ROE" while Irene Drotleff, National Secretary looks on.

The book was written to provide a brief overview of the cultural and legal impact of the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* abortion decision and to examine the prospects for changing current abortion policy in the wake of the 2008 Presidential election. The *Roe* decision and its companion case, *Doe v. Bolton*, have become a focal point for widespread angst about the modern world — some deserved and perhaps some not.

The author, a member of Sr. Branch 10 received a juris doctor degree from Cleveland State-Cleveland Marshall College of Law and practiced law in Ohio and Illinois. She has served on the Boards of the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, the National Lawyers Association and as a member of the Illinois State Bar Association's Individual Rights and Civil Liberties Section Counsel. In addition to legal counsel to the Ohio House Reference Committee, her professional experience includes teaching history, government, political science and law-related courses at the college level. She has practiced law, directed national government relations programs for non-profit associations, and established a free



legal clinic on the near West side of Chicago. Ms. Mackura served for three years as senior legislative counsel for Americans United for Life and for seven years as the Director and General Counsel of Ohio Right to Life and Life Legal Defense Fund. She is currently the Chair of the Life Issues Section of the National Lawyers Association and serves on the board of Democrats for Life of America. She

has been involved in the pro-life movement since the 1970s.

The book would not have become a reality without a grant given at the 2007 FCSLA National Convention in St. Louis, MO.

BRANCH W018 HONORS 50-YEAR MEMBERS

Branch W018 in Omaha, NE honored those members who celebrated or will celebrate their 50th anniversary with FCSLA in 2009. Ten members and their spouses joined the Branch Officers and the District Officers for a dinner at Johnny's Italian Restaurant on April 19. Members were recognized with a special certificate from the Branch and thanked for their long-time support of the FCSLA and fraternalism.

FCSLA IS FEELING FINE IN 2009

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

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

At what age should a woman start being concerned about the possibility of breast cancer? What are some of the risk factors? Should I be concerned? Some of these questions and probably many more go through a woman's mind as she enters her 40's or for some women even at an earlier age.

When a family member or friend is diagnosed with breast cancer it becomes a reality and a concern. Every woman at any age who has a question or a concern should discuss the issues with their personal care physician.

SOME RISKS FOR BREAST CANCER:

- Smoking (a smoker develops more complications)
- Estrogen can stimulate breast cancer growth (Taking a hormone replacement)
- Being overweight
- Not a proper diet

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP LOWER THE RISK OF BREAST CANCER?

- Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables.
- Reduce red meat intake
- Keep weight under control
- Stop smoking
- Exercise at least three hours a week
- Lower estrogen intake
- Have an annual mammogram

We hope this article creates awareness to one of the increasing health issues for women in today's constantly changing world.



50th Wedding Anniversary Celebrated with Mass



Donald C. Trca and Jacquelen L. Pringnitz Trca of Garner, IA were married July 6, 1959, at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Duncan.

The couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a Mass at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Duncan, IA on July 4, 2009. Both are members of Branch W051.

They have one daughter, Pamela Trca-Roberts and her husband Adam Roberts of Garner, IA and one granddaughter, Paige.

Congratulations to our anniversary couple.

Clara Sedlacek Celebrates 96th Birthday

Clara Sedlacek celebrated her 96th birthday on July 24, 2009 at the Good Samaritan Home at Tyndall, SD. She has seven children: Louie, Bob, Emily, Richard, Joe, Irene, and Charlene. She is a member of Branch W060.



GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED

Louie and Joan Sedlacek of Tripp, SD celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house and their four children and all ten grandchildren on August 22, 2009. All family members belong to Branch W060. Louie and Joan were members of St. Cyril and Methodius Church at Vodnany, which was moved to Broomtree by Irene, SD. They were married August 24, 1959 at Tabor, SD.



L-R, back row: Barb Bohahoj, Joan Sedlacek, Karen Bittner, Tracey Binder. Front row: Louie and Craig Sedlacek.

**Time Is
Running Out!**

**FCSLA
CREATIVE CONTEST**

Items need to be postmarked by November 5. Please see previous "Fraternally Yours" issue or FCSLA website for guidelines and entry form.

4.60%

**Annual Yield on FCSLA
Annuities/IRAs**

From October 1 through and including December 31, 2009, all annuities, including those on interest only and those who select a settlement option, will earn a yield of 4.6025% (APR 4.50%).

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

Branch 177 Hosts Pittsburgh Okres Summer Meeting

The summer meeting of the Pittsburgh Okres was hosted by Branch 177, who were celebrating their 105th anniversary. Members were welcomed by President Dorothy Urbanowicz and began the meeting with the pledge to the flag and the singing of "God Bless America." Chaplain Rev. Joseph Grosko gave the invocation.

Following dinner, Monika LaFrankie, Secretary of Branch 177, accepted checks from the district towards the dinner and for a mass for members. She then introduced officers of her branch. Roll call by Judy Yates followed and she also read "Thank You" notes and the minutes. Financial report was presented by Marian Gatto. Dorothy then reminded the district of their quota and noted that as of June 30, the district completed 57 new certificates for a total of \$1,026.474 which is 68% of their quota.

Rev. Grosko then presented prayer petitions. Following a discussion, it was voted to charge each member at-

tending an Okres meeting \$10.00 beginning in 2010. Rev. Grosko extended the use of his church hall for anyone wishing to use it for future meetings. President Dorothy reported on the Presidents' meeting in Cleveland in May.

All were reminded to use current death claim forms and to keep beneficiary information up to date. Members were also reminded about using the insurance replacement form when necessary. As of the Presidents meeting we had 187 agents and are now in 47 states.

The nominating committee consisting of Linda Killeen, Chairperson; Judy Figura and Betsy Butler then presented the nominations for new terms. Nominations are: Judy Fedor, President; Gerald LaFrankie, Vice President; Judy

Yates, Recording Secretary; Ruth Bielawski, Financial Secretary; and Agnes Farcosky, Barbara Gajdosik and Margaret Golofsky, Auditors. There were no nominations from the floor and final election proceedings will take place at the next meeting. Virginia Holmes presented the National Officers report.

Members were informed that Patrick Braun our Marketing Manager will conduct another training program in our area on Saturday, November 21, 2009 at the Cedarbrook Golf Course. All licensed members will be receiving an invitation and those wishing to attend who are not licensed should contact Heather at the Home Office to become licensed. Members were reminded about the matching funds program and encouraged to take part in this program.

Share of wealth, lottery tree and door prizes were distributed.

Benediction by Fr. Justin Matro followed. Cynthia Maleski led the group in "Hej Slovaci."





SUPER YOUTH TERM ANNUAL PREMIUM

Issue ages are 0 through 23

With the Super Youth Term, the annual premium is the same at all ages up to 24.

Amount of Insurance	Annual Premium
\$10,000	\$14.00
15,000	21.00
20,000	28.00
25,000	30.00
30,000	36.00
35,000	42.00
40,000	48.00
50,000	50.00

"Super Youth" Term Insurance

The "Super Youth" Term Insurance certificate provides young members with the best possible life insurance benefits at the least cost. The Super Youth Term insurance program may be purchased on an Annual Premium or on a Single Premium basis. The purchase establishes your membership in the FCSLA, providing access to a variety of fraternal benefits and activities.

Product Features

- Term life insurance to age 25.
- Allows the insured to convert, prior to age 25, to any plan of insurance being offered by the Association, regardless of health.
- Member will have guaranteed future insurability.
- Issue Ages: 0 through 23 on the Annual Premium Plan; 0 through 19 on the Single Premium Plan.
- Dividends are not anticipated.

For more information about the Super Youth and other FCSLA products please call the Home Office at 1 (800) 464-4642 ext. 1062.

Super Youth Term Single Premium

The basic principle of the Single Premium Super Youth Term Certificate is that the desired insurance benefit is purchased with ONE PAYMENT. This one payment covers the member to the age of 25.

Issue ages are 0 through 19.

Issue Age	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	Issue Age	\$30,000	\$35,000	\$40,000	\$50,000
0	140.00	210.00	280.00	300.00	0	360.00	420.00	480.00	500.00
1	138.00	207.00	276.00	295.00	1	354.00	413.00	472.00	490.00
2	136.00	204.00	272.00	290.00	2	348.00	406.00	464.00	480.00
3	134.00	201.00	268.00	285.00	3	342.00	399.00	456.00	470.00
4	132.00	198.00	264.00	280.00	4	336.00	392.00	448.00	460.00
5	130.00	195.00	260.00	275.00	5	330.00	385.00	440.00	450.00
6	128.00	192.00	256.00	270.00	6	324.00	378.00	432.00	440.00
7	126.00	189.00	252.00	265.00	7	318.00	371.00	424.00	430.00
8	124.00	186.00	248.00	260.00	8	312.00	364.00	416.00	420.00
9	122.00	183.00	244.00	255.00	9	306.00	357.00	408.00	410.00
10	120.00	180.00	240.00	250.00	10	300.00	350.00	*400.00	400.00
11	114.00	171.00	228.00	239.00	11	286.80	334.60	382.40	385.00
12	108.00	162.00	216.00	228.00	12	273.60	319.20	364.80	370.00
13	102.00	153.00	204.00	217.00	13	260.40	303.80	347.20	355.00
14	96.00	144.00	192.00	206.00	14	247.20	288.40	329.60	340.00
15	90.00	135.00	180.00	195.00	15	234.00	273.00	312.00	325.00
16	84.00	126.00	168.00	184.00	16	220.80	257.60	294.40	310.00
17	78.00	117.00	156.00	173.00	17	207.60	242.20	276.80	295.00
18	72.00	108.00	144.00	162.00	18	194.40	226.80	259.20	280.00
19	66.00	99.00	132.00	151.00	19	181.20	211.40	241.60	265.00

Students Awarded FCSLA Scholarships

JR. BRANCH 157

On Thursday, June 18, 2009, Jr. Branch 157 honored its National Scholarship winner Kathryn G. Dzurik at a Scholarship Appreciation Dinner. Kathryn will be a fourth grade student at St. Sebastian's Catholic School in Belle Vernon, PA, this coming September. The dinner was held at LaEda's Restaurant in Monessen, PA. After dinner a specialty congratulatory cake was served by President Dorothy Urbanowicz assisted by Rosemary Betza. The guest of honor was presented with a gift from Branches 88 and 157, and was then called upon to tell the group what winning this scholarship meant to her. Kathryn then graciously thanked the branches for the lovely dinner and for her winning the scholarship. Kathryn was accompanied by her mother Mary Dzurik and her aunt Rita Lucas.



L-R: Verne Bellicini, Auditor; Alice Bialon, Recording Secretary; Ruth J. Bielawski, Jr. Branch 157 Financial Secretary; Dorothy Urbanowicz, Sr. Branch 88 President, and National Auditor; and Rosemary Betza, Auditor. Front row: Kathryn G. Dzurik, Jr. Branch 157 National Scholarship recipient.

BRANCH W001

Branch W001 of New Prague, MN recently awarded \$500 scholarships to members Nathan Birno of Chasha, MN; Eric Kroyer of Longview, TX and Benjamin Nickolay of Minnetonka, MN. Pictured (at right) are two of the branch winners.



Nathan Birno



Eric Kroyer

**Additional Scholarship Award Recognitions
Will Appear in the November Issue
of *Fraternally Yours*.**

BRANCH 77

St. Julia's Jr. Branch 77 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association in Streator, IL has announced its scholarship winner for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year. Emily Wiles of Plainfield, IL is this year's recipient.

EMILY WILES is a 2009 graduate of Holy Family Grade School in Shorewood, IL. She was an active choir member and an avid reader. Emily will be a freshman at Providence Catholic High School in New Lenox, IL, where she will be a member of the Color Guard with the high school band. Her other interests lie in the field of Interior Design. Emily is the daughter of Paula and David Wiles of Plainfield, and granddaughter of Jim and Monica Wilkinson of Streator, IL.



L-R: Paula Wiles; Emily Wiles, recipient; Mary Lou Senko, Branch 77 Treasurer.

BRANCH 7

The St. Mary's Sr. Branch 7 in Streator, IL has announced its scholarship winners for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year. Christie Ewing of Streator, IL and Ryan Cantrell of Chatham, IL are this year's recipients.

CHRISTIE EWING is a 2008 graduate of Streator High School. She was valedictorian, a member of the National Honor Society, and active in Key Club and Streatorettes. She is now a sophomore at the University of Illinois in Champaign, IL where she is majoring in Advertising, with a minor in Business. Christie is the daughter of Steve and Darlene Ewing of Streator.



L-R: Darlene Ewing; Christie Ewing, recipient; Ella Killian, St. Mary's Sr. Branch 7 President; Joan Miller, Branch 7 Treasurer.

RYAN CANTRELL is a 2009 graduate of Glenwood High School in Chatham, IL. He was a member of the track team and recipient of the Pride Scholarship Award for cross country. His specialty was the 800m race. He was also voted All Academic Conference, for excelling in his studies as well as track. Ryan will be attending Southern Illinois University Edwardsville where he will major in Anthropology. He is the son of Carissa and Gene Cantrell of Chatham, and great-grandson of Marcella Halloran of Streator.

Branch 81 of the Helen Kocan District Hosts Scholarship Luncheon

On Sunday, June 14, 2009, Branch 81 and Jr. Branch 58 of Whiting, IN under the leadership of President Florence Hovanec held a District Meeting and Scholarship Luncheon at the St. John Mural Room for the Helen Kocan District.

District President Margaret Abildua opened with a warm welcome to all officers, scholarship recipients and guests. There were 57 present in attendance. Attending were Father John Kalicky and Father Gary Scherer. President Abildua asked Father Kalicky to give a blessing. At about 12:30 p.m. lunch was served. Immediately following the scholarship winners were presented with a check from the District to congratulate them. Our District had a total of 17 scholarship winners. Five scholarship winners were present. They were Rachel Lagorio (Jr. Br. 58), Samantha Zimney (Jr. Br. 52), Emily Matulewicz (Jr. Br. 348), Jillian Bridgeman (Jr. Br. 289), and Sam Bibat (Jr. Br. 348).

man (Jr. Br. 289), and Sam Bibat (Jr. Br. 348). After all the scholarships were presented we held a share the pot raffle, also door prizes and centerpieces were given away.

The meeting was called to order at about 1:30 p.m. with District President Abildua asking for all reports to be read. Reports were read and accepted. President Abildua then asked our two agents Mr. Ed Bock and Mr. Andrew Sacek if they would like to give an update on getting new members.

Discussed also were plans to attend St. Ann's Day on July 28th to be hosted by the Chicago District. The meeting was adjourned at about 3:15 p.m. The scholarship winners were delighted with their awards and a great time was had by all.



L-R: Back row, District Treasurer Betty Yurechko, Rachel Lagorio (Br. 58), Samantha Zimney (Br. 52), Emily Matulewicz (Br. 348), District President Margaret Abildua. Front row, Jillian Bridgeman (Br. 289), and Sam Bibat (Br. 348).



FCSLA Jr. Branch 58 Financial Secretary Ann Okerstrom presents Rachel Lagorio with a monetary gift from the District and Branch 58.



Mary Ann Bibat and scholarship winner Sam Bibat of Branch 348 enjoy their lunch.



Agent Andrew Sacek and wife Ruthann of Branch 249.



Cindy and Mary Oresik of Branch 289 enjoy the centerpieces.



Betty Yurechko, Margaret Abildua and Dorothy Hoover raffling off prizes.



Mark Blake, Liz Dedinski and JoAnne Ortiz of Branch 452.

Students Awarded FCSLA Scholarships

BRANCH 88

Officers of Sr. Branch 88 in Monessen recently hosted a dinner for members of the branch who were winners of FCSLA scholarships along with parents and grandparents in Monessen, PA.

Christopher Betza was a winner of a College Sophomore scholarship and grandson of Rosemary Betza, Anna Jon Sabo was a winner of a College Freshman scholarship. Nicole Dantonio was a winner of the Theresa Sajan Award, but was unable to attend due to studies abroad. Those attending were presented with gifts from the branch and FCSLA.



L to R: Veronica Bellicini, Branch 88 Auditor; Anna Jon Sabo, Alice Bialon, Branch 88 Recording Secretary; Ruth Bielawski, Jr. Branch 157 Financial Secretary; Dorothy Urbanowicz, Branch 88 President, Rosemary Betza, Branch 88 Auditor, and Christopher Betza.

BRANCH 172

Elizabeth Goldman was a proud recipient of a FCSLA scholarship in 2007. She is a member of Branch 172 in Wilkes-Barre, PA. She is a student at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. In addition to thanking the FCSLA for their support, she wanted to share her recent experience in Russia with our readers.

Elizabeth participated in a study-abroad program, which took her first to Moscow where her visit included a tour of the Kremlin, Red Square, St. Basils Cathedral and many beautiful churches, as well as a walking tour of the city. She then traveled twenty hours by train to Volgograd. As a criminal justice major she was fortunate enough to attend classes at the Volgograd



Academy of the Ministry of Interior of Russia, their elite police academy. The academy cadets welcomed the UCF students into their homes where they were able to exchange perspectives on the differences and similarities of life in Russia and the U.S.

A highlight of the trip was a visit to see the largest free-standing statue in the world, "Mother Russia," which is part of an overwhelming memorial complex, commemorating the Battle of Stalingrad.

Most of all, this trip enhanced her appreciation of European heritage. Visiting the site of the Battle of Stalingrad was moving and gave her an understanding of what the people of Europe have endured throughout our modern history.

Elizabeth is pictured outside the beautiful St. Basils Cathedral in Moscow, Russia.

BRANCH 376/JR. BRANCH 334

On Monday, August 3, 2009, Board Members of Sr. Branch 376 and Jr. Branch 334 celebrated with their scholarship winners and their families at a dinner at Alioto's Restaurant in Milwaukee, WI. Our winners were kind enough to share a bit about themselves.

MARY SUSA is attending Carroll University in Waukeasha, WI and is seeking a degree in elementary education, with a double minor in adaptive education and mathematics. She will begin her first year as a resident assistant this fall and will work in the financial aid office. During the summer, she works as a teaching assistant at the local summer school program and enjoys babysitting, reading, and gardening. She has played piano for 14 years, as well as the flute. She looks forward to being the best teacher possible and helping her students develop a love of learning.

continued on page 11



L-R: Richard Bozek, Secretary/Treasurer; Daniel Loduha, Recording Secretary; Laura Skubal, Jr. Branch Secretary; Kathy Dorfner, President; Tony Novak, Lauren Bordeaux, Tyler Hart (red shirt), Sue Daniels, Auditor; Mary Susa, Mary Jo Noyes, Vice President.

BRANCH 376/JR. BRANCH 334

continued from page 10

LAUREN BORDEAUX recently graduated from Divine Savior Holy Angels High School in Milwaukee with First Academic Honors. She was the varsity goalie in field hockey and third baseman in varsity softball. During the summer, she works with 4 to 7-year-olds at the Brookfield Academy helping them develop reading, writing, and social skills. Lauren will attend the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the fall. She will be in the Honors Program and hopes to obtain a Doctorate in Physical Therapy.

TONY NOVAK is a senior at Pius XI High School and is involved in activities that include track and field, Academic Decathlon, and Stage Crew. He volunteers at St. Margaret Mary Parish (Fish Fry) and the outside community through the Appalachian Mountains Mission Trip, Variety Show, and Hunger Task Force. Tony plans to attend UW-Platteville and pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

TYLER HART is going into 1st grade at St. Anthony on the Lake School in Pewaukee, WI. He plays baseball for Waukesha Firebirds, hockey for Waukesha Warhawks, and would love to play professional hockey when he grows up! He will attend Kettle Moraine High School.

After dinner, President Kathy Dorfner presented each winner with a \$100 check from the branch; and Vice President Mary Jo Noyes, who is also President of the Louise M. Yash District, presented each winner with a \$100 check from the District. It was great getting to know each member a little better, visiting with their families, and letting them know how very proud we are of their accomplishments. Each winner thanked Branch 376 and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association for their kind and generous support.

FCSLA Officers Attend PA Legislative Luncheon



L-R: Dorothy Urbanowicz, Auditor; Representative Mark Gergley, Virginia Holmes and Cynthia Maleski, Trustees.

BRANCH W137 DIRECTORS PLAN UPCOMING EVENTS

Branch W137 Board of Directors met for a dinner meeting to plan the upcoming year's events. Our next branch event will be the Halloween Party on October 18, 2009 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at St. Ludmila Gym. Wear your costumes!

The Christmas Party will be held December 6, 2009 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at St. Ludmila Gym.



Celebrates Golden Jubilee



On Saturday, August 15, 2009, Sister Marie Joanita Fedor, SCN, celebrated her Golden Jubilee at the St. Louise Convent Chapel (formerly known as the Vincentian Sisters of Charity Motherhouse) in the North Hills, Pittsburgh, PA. Currently she is serving as principal at St. Ursula School in Allison Park, PA. In addition to her duties as principal, she has undertaken the teaching of computer classes for the students.

Sister Marie Joanita is the daughter of the late Michael and Anna (Kovach) Fedor, and is a member of Branch 107, Holy Trinity Church, West Mifflin, PA.

Participating at the Mass, Rev. Garrett Dorsey was the principal celebrant; Rev. Reginald Russo, OFM Cap. was the Master of Ceremonies. Rev. John Rushofsky delivered the homily, and Rev. Joseph Grosko and the Very Rev. Stephen Chervenak were concelebrants.

Sharing in the celebration were varied friends and relatives, including her sister (MJ Fedor), her brother and sister-in-law (Michael and Christine Fedor), nieces (Karen Welker, Bernadette and Frank Gliha, Lisa and Jim Phillips) and nephews (Michael Stephen Fedor, Jr. and David Stephen Fedor).

NINE CLEVELAND BRANCHES CELEBRATE

Two hundred six members and guests from nine Branches in the Cleveland, OH area started the summer off with their Annual Summer Dinner. Branches 10, 176, 221, 292, 519, 522, 524, 525 and 618 gathered for this event, held on Sunday, June 14, 2009 in the Saint Ann Dining Room at our Lady of Lourdes National Shrine in Euclid, OH.

As they arrived, each guest received a gift package and his or her name was entered in the drawing for gifts provided by the branches. Ralph Szubski, the Accordion Man, and Gary Chopcinski, both of Branch 618 provided the musical entertainment. Members were treated to a delicious meal of pork tenderloin, potatoes, vegetable and a tossed salad prepared by the Sisters of the Most Holy Trinity. National President, Mary Ann Johaneck of Branch 10, gave the greeting. In honor of Flag Day, veterans and families of those who have served or are now serving in our nation's military, were asked to stand while the songs of the armed forces was played. Following dinner, guests were free to walk the beautiful grounds of the shrine and grotto and visit the gift shop.



CELEBRATED THE BEGINNING OF SUMMER





RACHEL ELIZABETH KOSTIVAL made her First Holy Communion on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at St. Catharine of Siena Roman Catholic Church in Reading, PA. The mass was celebrated by the pastor, Monsignor Edward Domin.

Rachel has just entered the third grade at St. Catharine of Siena grade school.

Rachel takes piano lessons and is a brownie girl scout. She is also a cheerleader for Reading Central Catholic High School's elementary football teams.

Rachel and her brother, Alec, 13, are members of Jr. Branch 46.

Rachel is the granddaughter of Barbara and Carl Waller (Reading, PA), members of Branch 140, Lansford, PA. Barbara is Vice President of the Frances Jakabcin Eastern PA District and Auditor of Lansford Branches 140 and 46.



AMANDA BONCHIK of Branch 348, is the daughter of Brian (Branch 452) and Kris Bonchik. She made her First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 26, 2009 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Whiting, IN. Her grandparents are Bob and Betty (Branch 452) Bonchik and David and Priscilla Williams all of Whiting, IN.



LEAH KATHERINE KNOWLES received her First Holy Communion on May 16, 2009, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Hickory, NC. She and her brother, Tyler, are members of Jr. Branch 354. Leah is the daughter of Doug and Denise Knowles. Grandparents are Carol and Denny DelBane of Mayfield Heights, OH. Great-grandparents are John and Ann Scott of Boardman, OH, and Marge DelBane of Hubbard, OH. Leah's mother, father, grandmother, and great-grandmother Ann are all members of Sr. Branch 325.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Did your children, grandchildren receive special awards or achievements? Baptisms? Confirmations? Took Part in Volunteer and Community Projects?

If they are members of the FCSLA please send us a photo and short article about their special achievements to Carolyn Bazik, National Editor.

FCSLA 2010/2011 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

More than \$248,250 in Scholarship Awards!

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association is pleased to announce its 2010-2011 Scholarship Program which is in fulfillment of one of the objectives of the organization. This year more than \$248,250 will be awarded to young members of the Association, which includes \$42,000 being awarded to elementary school applicants.

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

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

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

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

8 Freshmen • 8 Sophomores • 8 Juniors • 8 Seniors

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

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

28 EARLY ELEMENTARY AWARDS AT \$750 EACH

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

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

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

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

All applications and supporting documents must be completed and submitted to the Home Office no later than March 1, 2010.

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

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

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST

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

Branch No. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Application requested for following award:

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



IN MEMORIAM

MARY V. GIROD

Branch 433

Mary V. Girod, 86, of Masontown, PA passed away Saturday, June 13, 2009, in the Uniontown Hospital, Uniontown, PA after a courageous battle with cancer.

She was born in Uniontown, PA, on October 13, 1922, the daughter of the late Ivan and Pauline (Medved) Valentic.

In addition to her parents, Mary was predeceased by her husband, Jack E. Girod, brothers, Michael Valentic and Emil Valentic, sister, Catherine (Kay) Harrison, nephews, James P. Girod and Charles Harrison and niece, Paula Valentic Unterkofler.

She is survived by her brother, Anthony (Barbara) Valentic of Snead's Ferry, NC; special nieces: Patty (Bill) Harrison Ryan, Kathy (Pye) Girod Plasko and Joyce Harrison Horstman and many nieces and nephews from the Girod, Valentic and Harrison families.

Prior to her retirement she was employed as an office manager at McClure & Wolfe, CPA's, Uniontown, PA.

Mary was a member of All Saints R.C. Church, Masontown, PA, All Saints Choir, Eucharist Minister for the home bound, All Saints Confraternity of Christian Mothers, The Ladies of Charity, member and past president of Masontown BPW, Croation Fraternal Union and Jednota Lodge.

Mary loved life. She loved to travel, play cards, bowl, sing, read, go on bus trips, go to casinos, and serve God.

In lieu of lowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, German-Masontown Library, 9 S. Washington St., Masontown, PA 15461 or All Saints Church Memorial Fund, 101 W. Church Ave., Masontown, PA 15461.

BARRY F. GENTZLER

Branch 292

Barry F. Gentzler, 72, passed away peacefully, at his home in Chardon, OH on Sunday, July 5, 2009, after a long,

valiant battle against heart disease. He was lovingly surrounded by his wife Theresa; son Michael Gentzler (Jennifer Cox), of Wayne, PA; and daughters, Amy Gentzler (Michael Wendell) of Morgantown, WV and Lisa Sadler (Rick) of Fort Myers, FL. Barry also leaves a large extended family, including many grandchildren and six stepchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Merl F. and Margaret H. Dubs Gentzler, of York, PA where he was born May 12, 1937.

Barry was a successful executive, entrepreneur and consultant. Recently he served as Vice President of Market and Business Development of Chemstress Consultant Company, of Akron. For decades, Barry's passion in work was global business and sales development. He spent extensive time in Asia, Europe, the Americas and the Middle East.

Barry obtained an MBA from New York University and a BS in Engineering and Commerce from Drexel. He also served as an artillery officer in the U.S. Army, in the 1960's. A member of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Thompson, Barry served until his illness, as the head deacon and had looked forward to becoming even more involved in the church's outreach ministries. He was an avid reader and collector of many things, spurred by his travel to nearly every country and region of the world.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made, in Barry's memory, to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thompson.

RON KOSTELECKY

Branch W121

Ron passed away Saturday, July 25, 2009, at the Eastern Montana Veterans Home in Glendive, MT.

Ronald Kostecky was born March 27, 1941, to Laudie and Mildred (Hibl) Kostecky in Dickinson, ND. After school he worked on the family farm for a few years before enlisting in the Army

National Guard. On June 25, 1962, Ron married Mary Ann Ridl at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in New Hradec. Ron worked for several years on the Don Decker farm before returning to the Kostecky family farm. It was on the farm that Ron and Mary Ann made their home and raised their two daughters. In 2005, the couple retired to Dickinson. Due to failing health Ron spent the last two years at Eastern Montana Veterans Home in Glendive, MT.

Ron was a member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus, and the Catholic Workman. He enjoyed the outdoors, playing cards, collecting caps and listening to "Old Time" music. Ron loved spending time with family and friends, especially his grandkids.

Ron is survived by his mother Mildred Kostecky of Dickinson; two daughters, Lynette (Roger) Kessel of Fairfield, ND; Lisa (Russ) Hendricks of Bismarck, ND; four grandchildren, Devon and Brittany Kessel, Cole and Megan Hendricks; brother, Rodney (Renee) Kostecky of Dickinson; three sisters, Kathy (Ray) Bren of New Hradec; Adeline Kostecky of Wisconsin; Patsy (Lyle) Wolski of Mandan, ND.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Ann; father, Laudie; and infant twin brothers.

STEPHEN A. MARTIS

Branch 23



Stephen A. Martis passed away on August 6, 2009 at the age of 88. He was the youngest child born to Anna and Paul Martis, immigrants from Slovakia, on August 25, 1920. He

had one brother, Frank and a sister, Anne who preceded him in death.

When he was 18, he volunteered for the Marine Corp. He served in the South

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

Pacific as a flight crew chief during WWII. When he was about 21, he met Ann Budjac at the old Slovak home. A bunch of young people were playing Spin the Bottle. The bottle ended up pointing at her and that was it! They married in 1945. Ann was the love of his life and companion until her death in 2003.

Steve worked as an apprentice machinist and later was hired at Blatz Brewery. Later, Blatz was purchased by Pabst and Stephen remained there until he retired. He was a machinist foreman and later a supervisor. He took his job seriously and was often called on as the troubleshooter who could fix anything.

Stephen celebrated his Slovak heritage by being a charter member of the Wisconsin Slovak Historical Society, Treasurer of Branch 23, FCSLA, attending FCSLA meetings and conventions with his wife, a member of the Midwest Cultural Society and Federated Slovak Society.

He is survived by his daughter, Kathleen, son-in-law Bob, granddaughters Stephenie Duelle and Katherine Mueller, and great-granddaughters, Ava and Anna, all members of Branch 23, as well as other family and friends.

CHARLOTTE M. RIBECKY **Branch 445**

Mrs. Charlotte M. Ribecky, age 83, passed away Monday, July 20, 2009, at Harbor Hospice Poppen Residence. She was born on June 25, 1926 to Fred and Mae (Jones) Moeller in Greenwood Township, MI. Prior to her retirement in 1976, she had worked 30 years for GTE as a communication service advisor.

She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Tatra Hall and First Catholic Ladies Slovak Union. Charlotte enjoyed playing cards with her friends

at Tatra Hall and cooking and baking for her family. In her retirement she helped to raise her four grandchildren and loved following their many activities.

On May 31, 1947, she married Frank P. Ribecky in Muskegon and he preceded her in death on November 27, 2000. Survivors include daughter Patricia (Terrance) O'Toole and son, Michael (Nancy) Ribecky both of Muskegon; four grandchildren, Brian

(Collins) O'Toole of North Carolina, Matthew (Lia) O'Toole of East Lansing, Lisa Ribecky and Jason Ribecky both of Muskegon; brother, Fred Moeller and sister Louise Tickfer.

Mrs. Ribecky was preceded in death by her parents, infant son, Frank Ribecky Jr. and brother, Jerry Moeller. Memorials to Harbor Hospice Poppen House or the Muskegon Catholic Education Foundation (MCEF).

Most Holy Trinity Parish Observes 100th Anniversary

This year, Most Holy Trinity Parish in Yonkers, NY inaugurates the observance of the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the parish church. On its patronal feast, Trinity Sunday, June 7, the parish hosted a special outdoor procession, Mass and brunch.

At the brunch, Martha Spika Parry, (at right), president of St. Mary's Society, Branch 2 presented a donation of \$1,500 to the Reverend



end George Oonnoony, pastor of the parish as the first contribution to the Church Centennial fund. In addition, she also presented a donation of \$250 from Branch 305 in New Windsor, NY. Shown on the left is Anna Koval who presented a donation of \$500 on behalf of St. Ann's Society, Branch 255 of Sleepy Hollow, NY. Also included in photo (back row) L-R: Reverend Stefan Chanas, associate pastor of St. John Nepomucene Parish in Manhattan and Paul Fialkovich, president of Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41 of the First Catholic Slovak Union which founded the parish in 1894 and hosted the patronal feast day observance. Branch 2, founded in 1892, is the oldest Slovak women's society in the state of New York. The women of Branch 2 labored with the men of Branch 41 to establish Most Holy Trinity Parish.

The centennial year observance will officially open on Sunday, October 4, 2009 with a special liturgy at 10 a.m. followed by a luncheon in the parish hall. On Sunday, October 3, 2010, the centennial year will conclude with a Mass celebrated by the new Archbishop of New York, The Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan followed by a dinner. For more information please call (914) 963-0720.



Benedictine Monks Present Annual Abbey Benefit

The Benedictine Monks of Saint Andrew Svorad Abbey will present their annual Abbey Benefit on Sunday, November 1, 2009. This year's event celebrates the ordination anniversaries of Rev. Placid Pientek, OSB, 65 years; Rt. Rev. Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB, 50 years; Revs., Joachim Pastirik, OSB, Timothy Buyansky, OSB and Dominic Mondzelewski, OSB, each 40 years . . . "235 Years and Still Serving".

A Mass of thanksgiving will be offered at 12:15 p.m. at

the Church of the Assumption, 9183 Broadview Road, Broadview Heights, OH, 44147. Reception, banquet and program will follow at the Parish Center.

Archabbot Rt. Rev. Douglas Nowicki, OSB, of Saint Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, PA, will be the guest speaker. The Archabbot will reflect on the theme: "Benedictine Monks, Our Mission and Ministry, a positive present and a future of hope". Your support of our Annual Benefit is a very important part of our present and future mission and ministry. Please join in honoring our Monks for their many years of service. If you can not attend, a gift in their honor will be greatly appreciated. Pan Boh zaplat!

Ralph Szubski and the Party Band will entertain you with your favorite Slovak melodies and other popular tunes. Catering will be provided by Bill Hricovec, of Tom's Country Place. Centerpiece flowers donated by Orban's Flowers. A silent Slovak auction will be held. The event concludes about 4:00 p.m. with the Monks singing our "Benedictine Anthem" — *The Ultima*.

Ticket price is \$65.00. Additional sponsorships, including \$100.00 "Honor-a-Monk" contributions, are available. For reservations and additional information please contact Fr. Albert Marflak, OSB at 216-721-5300 ext. 209, Marie A. Golias at 216-338-8179, or Rose Stifter at 216-721-5300 ext. 0. Please make reservations by October 20, 2009.

Seek To Be Faithful



The annual community retreat served as the context for Sister Marion Dobos, OSB, to celebrate her 50th anniversary of profession as a Byzantine Benedictine Monastic of Queen of Heaven Monastery in Warren, OH on June 18, 2009. Sister Marion is the daughter of the late Mary Kushner and George Dobos of Glassport, PA. She is a vocation from St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in McKeesport, PA. Sister Marion entered the Benedictine Order in 1957 at Sacred Heart Monastery in Lisle, IL, and professed first vows in 1959.

Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Education from Youngstown State University and a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministries from the University of Dayton.

From 1959 until her present position as Director of Religious Education for the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, she taught elementary education in Chicago, Texas, and Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School, Warren, OH. In 1988 Sister Marion founded the Benedictine Early Learning Center which was located on the monastery property in Warren. In addition, she served her community as Vocation and Formation Director and presently is a member of the Monastic Council. She is a founding charter member of Queen of Monastery in Warren.

Following the celebration Sister Marion shared this reflection with the community: "I have come to realize that life regardless of what lifestyle God has called us to is a journey in faith. In St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews, (Heb. 11:1) we have a clear definition of faith, *"Faith is the confident assurance concerning what we hope for and conviction about things we do not see."* Fifty years as a vowed religious is truly a gift of God to celebrate. For I believe, we celebrate not so much what we have done, but what God has done in and through us. I pray that we all continue to walk this journey through life looking in the same direction and seeking to gaze upon the face of God who continually draws us to Himself. Let us support each other in prayer that we may always seek to be faithful to all that God calls us to."

Sister Marion Dobos is a member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Branch 200 of Glassport, PA.

Consular Tour a Huge Success

The 9th Consular Tour was attended by 15 Americans from several different states. During the 13-day visit, they toured three different countries — Slovakia, Czech Republic and Austria. Besides seeing numerous castles, churches and historic sites, the group attended the Detva Folklore Festival, where they watched the Pittsburgh PAS perform. The highlight of the trip was in Eastern Slovakia where 12 of the tourists visited and met their Slovak relatives for the first time.



Participants of the Consular Tour at Cerveny Kamen Castle in Slovakia.

Branch W187 Summer Picnic a Success!

Branch W187, St. Mary and Joseph, Valparaiso, NE held their annual branch event, a summer picnic, on Wednesday, June 24, 2009 following Mass by Monsignor Daniel Sieker. Due to a 110 degree heat index the event was moved indoors. Thirty members and guests braved the heat for grilled burgers and hot dogs furnished by the branch along with side dishes provided by the members. It was a pleasant evening of food, fellowship and fun enjoyed by all those in attendance.



Jim Blazek grills burgers and hot dogs.



Tables laden with picnic foods.



Some of the picnic guests enjoys good food and conversation.

OCTOBER 2009

Branch W130 Holds Annual Picnic

Members of the FCSLA gathered at the Clutier Social Center on Sunday, July 19 at noon for a basket dinner. 71 members enjoyed a delicious potluck. The lodge provided broasted chicken, ice tea, and lemonade. Special guests

were Rosemary Mlinarich, FCSLA National Vice-President from Crete, IL and Irene Drotleff, FCSLA National Secretary, from Cleveland, OH. Each spoke briefly on the organization. Also present was Chase Woods, son of Steve and Tina Woods of Des Moines, and grandson of Mary Ann Kucera. Chase was a recipient of a FCSLA national \$750 parochial school tuition scholarship. Chase attends St. Joseph's School in Des Moines, IA and will be in the first grade. The afternoon was spent playing Bingo with winners going home with muskmelons and watermelons, and \$15 gas certificates.



Chase Woods, with his parents Steve and Tina Woods of Des Moines, receiving his certificate of recognition from FCSLA Lodge 130 President Gladys Nekola.



Special guests Rosemary Mlinarich, FCSLA National Vice-President from Crete, IL and Irene Drotleff, FCSLA National Secretary, from Cleveland, OH speak to the members.



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O Tatranskom Papagájovi

Krista Bendová

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

Bola raz pekná stará hora, taký lesisko velikánsky. Pod horou cesta, pri ceste koľajnica a za koľajnicami železničná stanica. Po koľajniciach behali vlaky a v domčeku pri stanici bývali ľudia vlastne – štyria ľudia a jeden papagáj menom Ararat.

Vlaky teda behali a miestny rozhlas vždy zakričal, kam ktorý vlak uteká. Tak to išlo každý deň, a preto aj papagáj Ararat, vták veľmi učenlivý, naučil sa onedlho mnohé služobné aj neslužobné hlásenia. Vedel celkom zreteľne povedať: „Rrrrýchlik do Košíc mešká asi štyrri hodiny!“ Alebo odrazu z ničoho nič zavrieskal: „Oprrrravárrr Ťunťulo, dostavte sa k prrredným kolesám!“

Tak si tá stanička spokojne žila so svojim papagájom a všetci ho nadovšetko milovali a všelijaké nové vedomosti ho učili.

Jedného dňa nechala však gazdiná pootvorenú klietku. To by ešte nič nebolo. Ale nechala ona pootvorené aj okno do sveta. Papagáj Ararat vykľzol najprv klietkovými dverami a potom šibol rovno tým oknom von. Nevedel, kam, ale letel a letel.

Sem-tam si oddýchol na strome, až nakoniec doletel pod vysoké hory a dostal sa do hustého lesa. Zosadol, poobzeral sa, dobol do jahôdky aj do čiernej čučoriedky a pomyslel si: Tu mi bude sveta žiť! Vtáčí zob sa mi už načisto zunoval, ba aj lietieť by som tam bol zabudol!

Spokojný Ararat vyletel na strom. Pýši sa pekným strakatým perím, až mu všetky sojky závidia. Odrazu sa neďaleko ozvali ľudské hlasy. Papagáj sa zľakol, zatíchol na konári a bál sa, že ho to ľudstvo prišlo z hory odniesť. Ale ľudstvo nehľadalo strateného papagája. Ľudia – teda otec, matka aj zopár detičiek – prišli sem iba na výlet.

Sadli rovno pod papagájsky strom, rozložili olovrant a jedli, čo mali. Vtom hovorí otec: „Poponáhľajme, sa, aby sme nezmeškali košícký rýchlik!“

Ako to papagáj začul, zbystril sluch, roztvoril zobák a škrekol tak, ako sa naučil: „Rrrrýchlik do Košíc mešká asi štyrri hodiny!“

„Ha!“ povedala matka. „Nerobte si z nás posmech, neznámy cudzinec! Vyjdite a naolovrantujte sa a nami!“

Papagáj hore na jedli sedel tichučko, pre všetkých neviditeľný, a odrazu len zvrieskne: „Služobné hlásenie! Služobné hlásenie!“

Rodina pod stromom sa zľakla. Deti sa pustili do behu, matka za deťmi a otec za matkou. Papagáj na

konári krúti hlavou, nevie, čoho sa tí dolu boja, keď on sám má taký veľký strach.

Rodina zutekala a papagáj sa znova osmelil. Poskákaval hore-dolu, ale nemal dlho pokoja. Slniečko hrialo, nuž výletníkov bola plná hora. A tak o chvíľu sadli si pod jedľu dve pekné mladé dievčiny. Sadli si a najedli sa, ale obidve plakali, lebo mali akýsi veľký žiaľ. A jedna dievčina plačúca hovorí tej druhej, tiež plačúcej: „Och, my nešťastné devy, čo my len teraz budeme robiť, kam sa podejeme?“

A papagáj, tiež celý užialený, zavreští z jedľového vrchovca: „Osobný vlak do Kysaku je na trretej koľaji, rrráďte nastupovať!“

Dievčiny zhli, zamdleli, a keď sa prebudili k životu, vraví jedna druhej: „Počula si? Nikoho nevidno, a predsa ten nikto hovoril. To bude asi nejaký dobrý duch a dáva nám dobrú radu. Pôjdeme teda do Kysaku!“ A obe dievčiny prestali plakať a utekali na vlak.

Papagáj sedí na jedli, ešte viacej krúti hlavou: ako môže niekto z takého plaču prejsť do takej veselosti. Nevídané, to by sa papagájovi nikdy nestalo.

No nečudoval sa dlho náš Ararat. Nemal času, lebo po cestičke sa znova blížili ľudia. Čože mohol vedieť biedny papagáj, že na stanici majú dnes voľnú sobotu a všetci zamestnanci vyšli si na spoločný výlet?! Nič on, chůďa, nevedel, nuž iba ticho čupel medzi konármi a sľuboval si, že ani zobák neotvorí, kým tá procesia neprejde.

Kráčajú po cestičke, chvália si pekný čas a lesné ticho vôkol. Ale papagájsky zobák nie je riadený rozumom. Papagájsky zobák sa akosi sám od seba otvára a celým lesom zaznie hrozivé zaškanie: „Oprrrravárrr Ťunťulo, dostavte sa k prrredným kolesám“.

Opravár Ťunťulo klesne na kolená. Výletníci stoja ako soľné stĺpy. Každý za bojí pohnúť, lebo hlasisko je hrozivé a strašné a nikto nevie, odkiaľ vychádza.

Prednosta stanice sa po chvíli spamätá a tichučko šepne: „Pán revízor . . .“

A papagáj z konára: „Rrrrýchlik zo Žiliny vchádza do stanice. Odstúpte od koľají!“

Pani Ťunťulová sa drží za srdce a odrazu len skríkne: „Pánboh!“

Pánboh vás chce potrestať za to každodenné vlakové meškanie!

Výletníci preskakujú pníčky, ba aj nižšie

Pokračovanie na str. 21

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

A Parrot and the Tatry Mountains

Krista Bendová

There was once a road, railroad tracks and a train station located near a large old growth forest in the Tatry Mountain. Many trains ran on these tracks. Curiously there was also a little house next to the tracks where four people lived with their parrot.

Trains rode from here and there and the stations loud speaker announced arrivals and departures of the trains. The parrot's name was Ararat and living near the station he learned to imitate the loud speaker. He certainly could announce: "Fast train to KOSICE will be late by 4 hours!" or sometimes he shouted: "Repair man TUNTULO, come to see what is wrong with the front tires!"

The people in the house lived a quiet life and they loved their parrot. They were happy at how he learned new sentences. However one day the lady of the house left the door on his cage open. Not only that, but she also left the window open. Parrot Ararat flew from his cage and then out the window. He did not know where to go, so he just flew around. He stopped to rest on a tree, then he flew towards the high mountains into a thick forest. He stopped, looked around, ate some strawberries and blueberries and thought to himself: "This is a good place! I am tired of eating bird seeds and I need to practice flying in the open!"

Ararat was content and sat in a tree. His feathers were very beautiful. Other birds were quite envious. Suddenly Ararat heard human voices. He was afraid that the people wanted to take him from the forest and so he was very quiet. But the people did not care about the parrot — it was only a man, his wife and their children having a picnic.

They sat under the tree where Ararat made his home. The family was enjoying their picnic, but then the father said: "Let's go so we will not miss the train to Kosice!"

When the parrot heard that he announced one of the statements he learned: "The speed train to Kosice is late by four hours!"

"Do not say that," said the mother "do not make fun, stranger! Come and eat with us!"

The parrot sat quietly, nobody saw him and then he said: "Official business! Official business!" The family started to

worry. The children started to run and then the mother ran after her children and then the father ran after the mother. The parrot was confused and did not understand why they were worried because he was the one that was worried.

The family left and the parrot was not afraid any more as he hopped from branch to branch, the sun was shining and a lot of people enjoyed a nice day in the forest. Two pretty girls sat under a tree where the parrot was resting. After the girls ate, they became sad and were crying. One girl says to the other while crying: "What are we going to do, where are we supposed to go!"

The parrot also became sad and screamed from the branch of the tree: "Personal train to KYSAK is on the third track, please board!" The girls fainted, but when they recovered, they decided to follow the mysterious voice and travel to KYSAK. They stopped crying and ran to catch the train.

The parrot sat on the branch and could not understand how the girl went from crying to laughing. This cannot happen to a parrot. But he was not puzzled for long. He saw more people arriving. Parrot did not know that it was Saturday and a free day for railroad workers. All of them decided to go on a picnic. So he decided to be quiet till the people left.

The railroad workers were enjoying a nice day out. Parrot could not help himself. He loved talking. All of a sudden you could hear: "Repairman Tuntulo go to the front wheels."

Repairman Tuntulo was stunned! Nobody moved. Everybody was afraid of this strange voice that nobody knew where it was coming from.

The director of the station quietly said: "Mister accountant . . . Parrot shouts: "Fast train from ZILINA is arriving; move from the tracks."

Mrs. Tuntulo all of the sudden says: "God wants to punish you because the trains are never on time."

All the train workers were running away from the mysterious voice. But the voice was resonating: "Cold beer! Soda water! Hot dogs!" — but nobody heard that. Everybody was trying to get as far away as possible.

Parrot Ararat, till this day, still shouts on the forest. He shouts about arrivals, departures, even though the train schedule has changed many times.



O Tatranskom Papagájovi

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

stromčeky, do potoka padajú a rýchlo ustávajú a bežia a celým lesom sa rozlieha:

“Čerrrstvé pivo! Minerrrálka teplé párrrky,” ale to už nikto nepočuje. Všetci sú ďaleko a bežia a bežia, aby boli čím skôr doma. A papagáj Ararat dodnes škrieka v tom lese, vykrikuje meškanie aj príchody, hoci sa už od tých čias dávno zmenil cestovný poriadok.

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

SCF ANNUAL APPEAL MID-YEAR REPORT

Since 1978, the Slovak Catholic Federation has been conducting the SS. Cyril and Methodius Annual Appeal which begins each year in the month of February during the week-end closest to the Feast of SS. Cyril and Methodius. This year to date, I am happy to report that **\$29,643.27** has been collected. The appeal continues during the entire calendar year 2009.

In its 31st year, this appeal has primarily been taken up in parishes of Slovak heritage in the United States and Canada. As we are all very much aware, "ethnic parishes" are becoming a thing of the past. More and more Slovaks reside in different parts of the country and no longer claim to belong to a parish of Slovak heritage. For this reason, many Slovaks may not have the opportunity to hear about, let alone participate in, this Annual Appeal. If it were not for the Slovak Catholic fraternal societies and their publications, communication to American and Canadian Slovaks would not be possible.

In recent years we have seen an increase in individual donations apart from the parish collections. Also, most of the Slovak fraternal societies have also been making contributions to this collection from their National Board of Directors, along with a number of local branches, wreaths, assemblies, districts, and lodges.

For as you know, this Appeal assists the Church in Slovakia by supporting the training mission of the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Rome, Italy (formerly known as the Slovak Institute or *Ustav*). In addition, funds are distributed to those Religious communities of both men and women that share a counterpart that belongs to the Slovak Conference of Religious. These communities are the Vincentian Sisters of Charity (*Ruzomberok*), Dominican Sisters (*Dunajska Luzna*), School Sisters of St. Francis (*Zilina*), Daughters of St. Francis (*Bratislava-Prievoz*), Byzantine Catholic Sisters of St. Basil the Great (*Secove and Presov*), Franciscan Friars Minor (*Bratislava*), and House of St. Benedict (*Bacurov*).

As various groups will be holding upcoming fraternal events along with several national fraternal conventions, I ask that consideration be given to kindly taking up a collection in support of the Slovak Catholic Federation Appeal. All donations are tax deductible. In 2008, this Annual Appeal totaled around \$53,777.80.

Individuals, groups, branches, districts, etc., are all welcome to make a donation to this Appeal. Make all checks payable to "Slovak Catholic Federation" and send them to Dolores Evanko, National Secretary-Treasurer, 173 Berner Avenue, Hazleton, PA 18201.

I pray that Almighty God reward all of us who participate in the support of the Church in Slovakia through the Slovak Catholic Federation's Annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal.

Fr. Andrew S. Hvozdocic
Appeal Coordinator

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF MAY 31, 2009

ASSETS	
Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 25,052,474.47
Bonds	505,780,730.92
Preferred Stock	8,363,125.87
Common Stock	690,119.91
Investment Income Due and Accrued	8,707,873.67
Promissory Notes	64,344.68
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	8,759,717.39
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,342,570.05
Other Assets	197,655.75
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 558,958,612.71
LIABILITIES	
Life Reserves	\$ 162,280,258.08
Annuity Reserves	294,081,965.10
Death Claims Payable	686,915.83
Unearned Premiums	570,341.00
Matured Endowments	0.00
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,697,272.24
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,462,036.59
Accrued Convention Donations	0.00
Provision for Future Conventions	285,000.40
Asset Valuation Reserve	4,849,259.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,472,815.00
Other Liabilities	1,522,704.14
Provision for Annuity Certain Accounts	2,078,000.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 472,986,567.38
SURPLUS	
Surplus	\$ 85,972,045.33
TOTAL SURPLUS	\$ 85,972,045.33
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 558,958,612.71

INCOME STATEMENT For the Five Months Ending May 31, 2009

REVENUE	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 2,453,386.42
Annuity Premiums	12,397,483.18
Investment Income	13,270,539.62
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	28,906.00
Other Revenue	221,906.79
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 28,372,222.01
EXPENSES	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 2,915,258.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	10,678,965.00
Insurance Benefits	1,457,197.43
Annuity Benefits	7,592,146.74
Commission Expense	291,357.09
Surrender Benefits	395,372.22
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	29,397.51
Matured Endowments	15,272.00
Donation Expenses	15,040.53
Convention Expenses	75,000.00
Dividends to Members	750,118.52
Post Mortem Benefits	370,112.07
Bonus to Branches	406,774.00
Fraternal Activities	62,464.89
Bank Service Charges	23,840.86
Data Processing Service Fees	116,694.84
Accounting Fees	63,551.00
Actuarial Fees	78,618.00
Legal Fees	16,592.56
Consulting Services	52,992.50
Official Publications	105,689.29
Scholarship Awards	(1,250.00)
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	148,278.12
Fees — Directors	44,779.30
Salaries — Employees	473,472.46
Salaries — Officers	182,395.85
Interest Expense	110,162.71
Tax Expense	134,605.56
Depreciation Expense	171,515.00
Utility Expense	27,060.03
Postage and Printing	118,388.78
Advertising	46,187.17
Travel Expense	49,063.94
Other Expense	453,775.60
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 27,470,889.57
NET INCOME	\$ 901,332.44



**It's Not
Too Late
for Grilling!**

GRILLED FOIL POUCH CAULIFLOWER

- 1 head cauliflower
- ¼ cup butter
- 1 teaspoon seasoning salt
- Freshly ground pepper
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- 3 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese
- ½ cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 large sheet of heavy aluminum foil

Remove stem and leaves from cauliflower. Wash and pat dry. Separate into serving size pieces.

Lay the foil sheet on a work surface and coat with cooking spray. Place cauliflower on foil. Top with thinly sliced butter. Sprinkle with seasoned salt, pepper, garlic powder, and parmesan cheese.

Wrap loosely. Place the foil packages on the grill, over medium heat about 20-30 minutes or until desired tenderness (test with toothpick).

Using tongs, carefully remove the package from the grill and place on serving plate. Open the package carefully and sprinkle with cheddar cheese. Serve immediately.

GRILLED STRIP STEAKS WITH TOMATO-PESTO GLAZE

- 6 Beef Top Loin (New York) Steaks,
1 inch thick
- ¼ cup butter, softened
- 2 tablespoons coarsely chopped
oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons prepared basil pesto
- Salt and pepper

Place steaks on a grid over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill, uncovered, for 15-18 minutes for medium-rare to medium doneness, turning once.

Meanwhile, place butter, sun-dried tomatoes and pesto in a food processor or blender. Cover and process until almost smooth.

Remove steaks from the grill; season to taste with salt and pepper. Spread the glaze over the hot steaks. Makes 6 servings.

PROVOLONE MELT

- 1 piece focaccia bread (approx. 10 by 7
by ¾ inches)
 - 2 cups shredded rotisserie chicken
 - ½ cup Ranch dressing
 - ¼ cup diagonally sliced green onions
 - 2 medium tomatoes, thinly sliced
 - 4 ounces provolone cheese, sliced
(or Cheddar or Swiss cheese)
 - 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- Preheat broiler. Place focaccia on a baking sheet.

Stir together chicken, dressing and green onions in a bowl. Arrange mixture evenly on top of focaccia.

Add a layer of sliced tomatoes and a layer of provolone cheese. Sprinkle with Parmesan.

Broil for 2 minutes, or until cheese is melted and bubbly. Makes 4 servings.

AVOCADO AND GARLIC DIP

- 1 ripe avocado, chopped
- 1 tablespoon sour cream
- 1 garlic clove, crushed and mashed to a
paste
- Juice of a half lime
- 2 green onions, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes

Place all ingredients in a bowl and stir to blend. Makes 2-4 servings.

PARMESAN POTATO WEDGES

- 4 large russet potatoes, washed and
drained
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- ⅔ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 4 teaspoons garlic powder
- 2 teaspoons dried thyme, crushed

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cut each potato lengthwise into 6 wedges. Place in a large bowl, add oil and stir until potatoes are well coated.

In a small bowl, combine Parmesan, salt, pepper, garlic powder and thyme. Sprinkle mixture on potatoes and stir until potatoes are well coated.

Spread potatoes on a greased baking sheet and bake for 35-40 minutes, or until tender and golden brown. Turn potatoes once during baking. Makes 4-6 servings.

APPLE CAKE

- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 cups sugar
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 4 cups peeled, chopped crisp Granny
Smith apples
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 cup raisins

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream together vanilla, sugar, butter and eggs in a large bowl. Sift together flour, baking soda, cinnamon, salt and nutmeg in a medium bowl; add to butter mixture.

Stir in apples, nuts and raisins. Pour mixture into an ungreased 9-by-13-inch pan.

Bake for 45-50 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Makes 12 servings.

BREAD PUDDING WITH WHITE CHOCOLATE SAUCE

- 6 cups cubed Honey Wheat Bread
- 2 cups peeled, cored and chopped tart
apples
- 2¼ cups whipping cream, divided
- ¾ cup sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- ⅓ cup each — chopped dried apricots,
sweetened dried cranberries and
coconut
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted
- 1½ teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 6 ounces white chocolate, chopped
- Toasted coconut for garnish

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line 2 mini loaf pans (7½ by 3 ¾ inches) with aluminum foil; coat lightly with nonstick cooking spray.

In a large bowl, combine bread, apples, 1½ cups cream, sugar, eggs, apricots, cranberries, coconut, butter, cinnamon and vanilla. Stir until bread is moistened. Pour into the prepared pans.

Bake for 40-45 minutes, or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack. Lift pudding out of pan, remove foil and slice.

To prepare sauce, microwave ¾ cup cream on high for 1 minute, or until it starts to simmer. Add white chocolate and whisk until smooth.

Serve warm sauce with the bread pudding. Garnish with toasted coconut. Makes 6 servings.

10/09

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