



ISSN 0897-2958

Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

VOL. 96, NO. 3

DECEMBER 2009



Merry Christmas

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

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Fraternally Yours™



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Fraternally Yours,
ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,

is a monthly magazine published by the
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.
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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
Zenska 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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A Christmas Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ and in
the beauty of the gospel begun
in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose
spirit glorified a little town;
and whose spirit still brings
music to persons all over the
world, in towns both large and
small.

I believe in the one for whom
the crowded inn could find no
room, and I confess that my
heart still sometimes wants to
exclude Christ from my life today.

I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud
could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose
welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, who looked at
persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love
brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet
the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for our
selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of
love for hearts grown cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself. I believe in Jesus, the
son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the
world.

*May Peace be Your Gift at Christmas and your Blessing all Year Through!
Merry Christmas to You and Yours . . .*

Warmly,
Carolyn



MARKETING MANAGER

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association has announced that it is
creating a new Home Office position of Marketing Manager.

We are looking for a person with an MBA degree along with 5-6 years of
marketing, preferably in the financial sector. The successful candidate will
work with Branch officers in the development of marketing plans to increase
sales, assess market trends in the category, as well as identify competitive
strategies for the different product lines. This individual will also assist in
the communication efforts of the organization. The position includes 10-15%
travel.

If interested, please send resume to President Mary Ann S. Johaneck at
the Home Office, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Beachwood, Ohio 44122.

*May the Faith, Hope and Love
Born on that First Christmas Eve
Continue to Sustain You and Your Families
Today and Forever.*

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**Nech viera, nádej a láska zrodené v ten Štedrý večer
zotrvávajú s Vami a Vašími rodinami dnes a navždy.**

Saint Stephen, Protomartyr

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

My dear Friends,

In some of my previous articles, I have written about the city of Rome and, in particular, my visits to the Vatican. I have stayed within the Vatican City State while visiting Rome as well. And as you have come to know, I have a special place in my heart for the Basilica of Saint Peter where, on occasion, I have had the honor of celebrating Holy Mass at one of the side altars in the main basilica or in one of the chapels in the undercroft. In order to celebrate Mass at Saint Peter's, one must be at a designated door of the basilica several minutes before 7:00 AM. According to the schedule, Mass must begin either at 7:00 AM or at 7:30 AM prior to the basilica opening to the general public for tours commencing at 8:00 AM. As one enters in or departs from a side entrance door that gives access to Vatican City State on the left of the basilica, you are able to capture the view of a little church to the outside back of the apse of Saint Peter's dedicated to Saint Stephen, traditionally recognized as the first martyr after the Death and Resurrection of the Lord. His feast is celebrated on the second day of Christmas, 26 December.

We learn about the earnest figure of Saint Stephen in the sixth and seventh chapters of *The Acts of the Apostles*. His name comes from the Greek word *stephanos*, meaning "crown". He and six other reputable men were chosen to assist the Apostles in the aiding of widows in the Christian community because some of the followers were complaining that not enough was being done for their cause. These seven men chosen by the Gift of the Holy Spirit and the laying on of hands became what we now call "deacons" in the Catholic Church.

Stephen was put to task by some of the Jews who heard him in his proclamation about Jesus and had him brought before the Sanhedrin to discern

whether he was committing blasphemy or not. "All those who sat in the Sanhedrin looked intently at him and saw that his face was like the face of an angel" (6:15). Saint Stephen stood his ground by defending himself by referring to such scriptural figures of Abraham, Joseph and his family, and Moses as individuals who had obeyed Yahweh but were directing their lives to the person of the messiah. Through his discourse Stephen maintained that Mosaic practices should be disbanded because the messiah was realized in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. He declared that they were a "stiff-necked people" who were like their ancestors who unjustly persecuted the prophets in their own day (7:51-52).

The author of *Acts* writes, "When they heard this, they were infuriated, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' But they cried out in a loud voice, covered their ears, and rushed upon him together. They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses laid down their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul. As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'; and when he said this, he fell asleep. Now Saul was consenting to his execution" (7:54-60).

During the Angelus in Saint Peter's Square on 26 December 2005, our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI remarked, "In the atmosphere of Christmas joy, the reference to the Martyr Saint Stephen does not seem out of place. Indeed, the shadow of the Cross was already extending over the manger in Bethlehem. It was foretold by

the poverty of the stable in which the infant wailed, the prophecy of Simeon concerning the sign that would be opposed and the sword destined to pierce the heart of the Virgin, and Herod's persecution that would make necessary the flight to Egypt. It should not come as a surprise that this Child, having grown to adulthood, would one day ask his disciples to follow him with total trust and faithfulness on the Way of the Cross. Already at the dawn of the Church, many Christians, attracted by his example and sustained by his love, were to witness their faith by pouring out their blood. The first martyrs would be followed by others down the centuries to our day. How can we not recognize that professing the Christian faith demands the heroism of the Martyrs in our time too, in various parts of the world? Moreover, how can we not say that everywhere, even where there is no persecution, there is a high price to pay of consistently living the Gospel?"

The Pope assists us in the understanding that as Saint Stephen, the martyrs of the past and present ages laid down their lives for their belief that Jesus Christ is the Messiah. We, too, are called to lay down our lives for our faith in Jesus Christ. May we always have the courage to stand up for Christ and recognize that Christmas is the gift of our God made Flesh, who laid down His life for our salvation. May this gift of the Birth, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of our Lord be one that is truly cherished and lived not only during the Christmas season but through our entire earthly journey.

To all members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, their families, and their friends, Vesele Vianoc!

**Saint Stephen
Protomartyr,
pray for us!**

RIGHT TO LIFE MARCH

JANUARY 22, 2010

Our presence at the 37th Annual Right to Life March on January 22, 2010 in Washington, D.C. is so extremely important this year. It is most important for us to support the position of the Pro-Life Movement.

The theme for the 2010 March is: "Stand Up, Now! – Unit for the Life Principles" – No Exception! No

Compromise! The FCSLA is once again offering free transportation from our Home Office for this very important trip. Our goal for this march is to fill two buses with individuals who will march along side the many Pro-Life Organizations and faithful citizens of America who support this mission.

Will you join us? Please call Sue Ann at 1-800-464-4642, Ext. 1051 for details or questions and to reserve your seat on the bus before December 20.



FCSLA SALES SEMINAR HELD IN MINNESOTA

A nice crowd of 51 people attended a sales seminar on October 8 at the former Catholic Workman building in New Prague, MN.

National Sales Manager Patrick F. Braun did an excellent presentation on the subjects of wealth preservation and wealth transfer. He covered many of the fine FCLA life and annuity products and fraternal programs.

Those in attendance enjoyed a nice lunch and refreshments and had an opportunity to interact with Pat following the presentation.



FCSLA IS FEELING FINE IN 2009

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

Have a Healthy and Stress-Free Holiday!

This will be our final article for 2009. Where did the year go? It is important to remember how quickly the days go by as we approach Christmas. The most important thing to realize is that you cannot do everything. If you make a list, check it twice and then prioritize, it can be very helpful. You will accomplish the more important items and leave some not so important ones to get done if time permits. Should you ask for help? Most definitely should be your answer. If you ask for help and delegate tasks, this will lessen the burden of work for you. Some of your family traditions should be shared with younger members in the family. You can teach them and help pass on the traditions to future generations.

When planning for parties make sure you take into consideration the special diets of family and friends as you plan your menu. You should try to eat healthy as



much as possible, saving calories for parties you are invited to over the holidays. Getting as much sleep as possible will help your disposition and give you more energy to accomplish your tasks.

If you are on a special diet, consider bringing one of your favorite dishes that you are allowed to a party. You will enjoy sharing something healthy with the other party goers.

Keep in mind that everything does not need to be perfect. Years later no one will remember if the dishes did not match or the cookies were not the exact same shape. They will remember the holidays with many happy memories of family gatherings. The time spent with family and

friends can never be replaced as you celebrate the Birth of the Christ Child. Merry Christmas from both of us to you and yours!

Students Awarded FCSLA Scholarships

JR. BRANCH 322

Elizabeth Lattyak (Jr. Branch 322, Chicago, IL) winner of an FCSLA scholarship recently presented her check to Michelle Bancroft, principal of St. Louise De Marillac School.

Since being awarded the scholarship Elizabeth has been inducted into the National Junior Honor Society, made the honor roll, won service awards, and has a perfect attendance record.

Outside of her school activities, Elizabeth has continued in her dance studies and was selected as an outstanding dancer at the Starz National Dance Competition.



BRANCHES 161 & 192

The winners of FCSLA scholarships of Branches 161 and 192, Youngstown, OH, were honored at the District Scholarship Dinner in August. They included four winners from Sr. Branch 161: Nicole Delquadri, Kristie Griffith, Kathryn Rose Jerek, and Paige Lisko; and five winners from Jr. Branch 192: Mya Agee, Leanne Chandler, Alexis Gordulic, Hannah Michaels and Jacob Sebest. Kimberly Ezzo, Branch 161, was awarded the Anna S. Granchay Okres Scholarship. Theresa Leonard and Nicholas Ezzo, Branch 192, won the Katherine L. Sedlacko Family Trust Scholarship. Each of the winners received a \$25 gift from their branch presented by Acting President Virginia DeLuca. First-time winners were given an FCSLA cookbook by Auditor, Agatha Fabiny, who also tracks students and sends out applications. There were seventeen members who had applied for the scholarship but were not winners. Treasurer, Bernadette Demechko, sent each applicant a \$20 check from the Branch and a handwritten note to "try again next year."



Front row, L-R: Katelynn McHugh (only Branch 66 winner who also took part in District photo shoot), Alexis Gordulic, Hannah Michaels, Jacob Sebest, Leanne Chandler and Mya Agee. Back row: Nicole Delquadri, Theresa Leonard, Kristie Griffith and Nicholas Ezzo.

SR. BRANCH 408 & JR. BRANCH 385

The officers of Sr. Branch 408 and Jr. Branch 385 of Cleveland, OH were pleased to present five (5) College and two (2) High School Scholarship awards to their members.

President Father Jerome Lajack and Secretary/Treasurer Helen Gebura congratulated: Theresa Bonvissuto a Senior at Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA; her sister Allison Bonvissuto a Freshman at Walsh University in North Canton, OH; Jacqueline Bacisin a Freshman at Akron University in Akron, OH; her sister Michelina Bacisin a Junior at Magnificat High School in Rocky River, OH; Sharon Peters a Junior at Kent State University in Kent, OH; Joseph Skonce a Sophomore at College of Wooster in Wooster, OH; his sister Ellen Marie Skonce a Freshman at Magnificat High School in Rocky River, OH. Theresa Bonvissuto was not able to attend the event, but her mother Donna accepted the Scholarship Award for her, when they were given in St. Wendelin Church.

We encourage our members of Branches 408 and 385 to inform the Branch Officers of their progress at school.



Front row, L-R: Jacqueline Bacisin, Donna Bonvissuto (mother), Allison Bonvissuto, Colette Peters (mother), Sharon Peters, Fr. Jerome Lajack, President of Branch 408; Joseph Skonce, Laura Skonce (mother). Back row: Cynthia Bacisin (mother), Helen Gebura, Secretary/Treasurer of Branch 408; Ralph Skonce (father).



Front row, L-R: Allison Bonvissuto, Michelina Bacisin. Back row: Jacqueline Bacisin, Sharon Peters, Fr. Jerome Lajack, President of Branch 408/385; Helen Gebura, Secretary/Treasurer of Branch 408/385; Joseph Skonce, Ellen Marie Skonce. Theresa Bonvissuto not present.

YOUNGSTOWN DISTRICT HOSTS WINNERS

The twenty-four scholarship winners of the Maria E. Grega, Youngstown District, Youngstown, OH were honored at a dinner on Sunday, August 23, 2009 at the Elm Tree, Struthers, OH. The 155 attendees were seated at tables bedecked with potted chrysanthemums of varying colors. Shirley Zura, President of Branch 344, and her members hosted the event.

District President, Bernadette Demechko, welcomed the winners and their parents and grandparents who were guests of the individual branches. She thanked them for the support they have given the winners, not only in their scholastic studies, but also in providing them insurance through the FCSLA. She introduced Reverend William Petrunak, Pastor of Holy Trinity Slovak Church, who gave the invocation.

Following a delicious meal, Bernadette gave her customary "Remember your Slovak heritage talk." She commented that as the college graduates moved to various parts of the United States, they would be surrounded by people of many different ethnic backgrounds, but they should always remember that, because of their Slovak ancestors, they are currently residing in the United States. Her own father left Czechoslovakia in 1906 knowing that to remain in his native land he would, like 150 years of ancestors before him, be poor, working the small family plot of land with no hope of change. When agents from Republic Steel Corporation flooded the European capitols looking for men to work in the steel mills, factories, and coal mines of the United States, her father signed a contract to work for them in exchange for free passage and a place to stay in the company row house. He saved enough money to return to

Czechoslovakia, marry his childhood sweetheart, and come to the United States with her. They came to this country with all their belongings in a metal trunk with leather handles. This trunk is safely stored in the attic of Bernadette's home — a constant reminder of the sacrifices made by her parents for her and her brothers and sisters. She asked the students if they could fit all their dorm items in a small trunk? Could they venture to another country to work — say, like China, and not know the language? Could they endure the crossing of the Atlantic staying mainly in the hold of the ship with only an hour or two to walk up on the deck for fresh air?

These were some of the sacrifices made by their Slovak ancestors so they could have a better life and so their descendents — these students — could have a better life. She urged the students to always remember four things: their Catholic Faith and their God...their family....their Slovak heritage; and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, especially in the future when they have their own families and are doing financial planning in their life.

Bernadette called each Branch President, who in turn, introduced the winners of her branch. Each winner spoke briefly about his/her goals. Winners received a monetary gift from the District and also from their branch.

The Anna S. Granchay District Award was won by Kimberly Ezzo, Branch 161, who was already away at school. The award was accepted by her mother, Loretta Ezzo.

Agnes Likso, representative of the Katherine L. Sedlacko Family Trust Scholarship announced the winners of the family award: Theresa Leonard (High School), Branch 161; and Nicholas Ezzo (Elementary School), Branch 192.

After group and branch photos were taken, Bernadette dismissed the group and wished the students success in their studies and all future endeavors.



JR. BRANCH 380

Scholarship winner Mary Adamic of Jr. Branch 380 in Bedford, OH was awarded a monetary gift from Branch officers Helen Basa and Christine Kiggins.

Mary is the daughter of James and Teresa Adamic and is a first grader at St. Helen School in Newbury, OH.



Front row, L-R: Katelynne McHugh (J66), Hannah Michaels (J192), President Bernadette Demechko, Leanne Chandler (J192), Mya Agee (J192), Alexis Gordulie (J192). Middle row: Theresa Leonard (J192), Thomas Clarke (J29), Nicole Delquadri (S161), Jacob Sebest (J192), Brandon Kish (J257). Back row: Jeffrey Hames (S344), Paige Lisko (S161), Kristie Griffith (S161), Daniel Kalman (S30), Deanna Dipillo (S30), Jeffrey Belcik (S325), Mary Agnes Vinopal (S30), Shannon Smrek (S325), Nicholas Ezzo (J192), Veronica Christoff (S325).

BRANCH 114 CELEBRATES ST. ANN'S DAY AND HONORS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Members of Branch 114 celebrated St. Ann's Day in Lorain, OH with a Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. David Novak, pastor of Holy Trinity Church. A breakfast followed in Trinity Center with many members present.



Scholarship winners and their parents.

President Bernadette Robertson honored scholarship winners: Sara Mager, Brian Crofoot, Courtney Jones and Aaron Smith. Aaron was unable to be present; however, his mother Sandy Smith accepted the honor for him.

In addition, the branch honored all those who applied for scholarships by giving them a monetary donation to help cover the cost of their books.



L-R: Bernadette Robertson, President of Branch 114; Scholarship winners: Courtney Jones, Sara Mager and Brian Crofoot. Aaron Smith was unable to attend.



Father David Novak as celebrant with Branch 114 members receiving communion.

BRANCH 417 OBSERVED ST. ANN'S DAY

On July 25, 2009 officers and members of the FCSLA Branch 417, Coaldale, PA gathered at the Beacon Restaurant for breakfast to celebrate St. Ann's Day. A great social affair was enjoyed by all who attended.



Steffans' Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage

On July 4, 2009 Marlene C. (Privratsky) and Stanley Steffan celebrated 50 years of marriage at the Catholic Workman Hall, New Hradec, ND, with an open house get together with family and friends.

They were married October 19, 1959 at St. Wenceslaus Church, Dickinson, ND by the late Father Adolph Pribyl. They have two children and six grandchildren.

Stanley and Marlene reside in Dickinson, ND and are members of Branch W121, New Hradec, ND.



NOTICE

We apologize for the lateness of the delivery of your November *Fraternally Yours* magazine. Due to unforeseen circumstances delivery was delayed from the Post Office. With upcoming political mailings for November they were given precedence over our magazine and other second-class mailings.

PITTSBURGH OKRES FALL MEETING HELD

The final meeting of the year for the Pittsburgh Okres was hosted by Branch 88 of Monessen, PA and was held at the Epiphany Chapel Hall in Monessen. Branch president, Dorothy Urbanowicz chaired the October 25, 2009 event. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by District President, Dorothy Urbanowicz who welcomed those in attendance and then led the group with the Pledge to the Flag and singing of "God Bless America".

Rev. David Nazimek, pastor of Epiphany of Our Lord parish and member of Branch 88, gave the invocation which was followed by a buffet dinner.



Branch 88 members.

Following dinner, roll call was taken by Recording Secretary, Judy Yates followed by the reading of minutes of the previous meeting held on July 26, 2009 and also read "Thank You" notes received. Financial report followed by Financial Secretary, Marian Gatto. Checks were presented to Branch 88 for hosting the event and for Mass for members. Dorothy Urbanowicz introduced her officers: Ruth Bielawski, Jr. Order Financial Secretary; Alice Bialon, Recording Secretary; Rosemary Betza and Veroniza Bellicini, Auditors. She also introduced Patricia Kovach, Lillian Plavko, and Mary Ralston who always lend a helping hand when called upon.

Cynthia Maleski then presented the report of the National Officers.

Audit committee report was presented by Barbara Gajdosik. Due to the term limits in the District, the Nominating Committee Chairperson presented the current situation with the nomination for the Fi-

nancial Secretary. No new nominations were made from the floor and the Election Committee chaired by Rosemary Betza conducted the election process. Rev. Micah Kozoil swore in the new officers.

Dorothy then handed over the gavel to President Elect Judith Fedor. Members were reminded that 2010 scholarship applications are now available. Dorothy extended her heartfelt thanks to everyone who served with her and

to all those who served on committees and all the members for allowing her to serve them during the past four years.

Share of wealth, lottery tree and door prizes were distributed. Meeting was adjourned followed by "Hej Slovaci."



Outgoing officers, seated, L-R: Maggie Golofsky and Barb Gajdosik. Standing: Marian Gatto, Marian Greenland, Agnes Farcosky, Judy Yates, Dorothy Urbanowicz, Rev. Joseph Grosko and Dolores Tomlin.



Incoming officers, seated, L-R: Maggie Golofsky and Barb Gajdosik. Standing: Marian Gatto, Agnes Farcosky, Judy Yates, Judy Fedor, Rev. Joseph Grosko, Jerry LaFrankie and Dolores Tomlin.

A Message from the President ~ Mary Ann Johaneck

FCSLA PILOT PROGRAM



At the September 2009 Board of Directors meeting the Board voted overwhelmingly to approve a pilot program regarding membership for our society. Here's why: The Board is continually addressing the need to increase membership and ways to do so. One of the ways considered to increase our membership is to allow more people to become eligible for membership. As long as the prospec-

tive member embraced the vision and mission of our society and as long as the prospective member was a Catholic, it was decided to allow such person to be considered for membership. It is a pilot program, which means that it will be reviewed at the end of 2010. At that time the Board will decide the future of the program. It is not a bylaw change; it is a temporary program.

Under what authority did the Board act? Under Article III of

the FCSLA Bylaws it states that the Supreme body shall be the Board of Directors when the convention is not in session. The Board's job is to set goals for the society and to oversee what is done to reach those goals between conventions. The membership decision is made even more critical by the current economy. We need to build our asset base; we will survive these unpredictable business times only if we are strong. We need only look around us to see what happens to those who are not. Even with increased sales and increases in our assets the membership is not growing as much as we need it to grow. The pilot program may give us an answer to this pressing problem. It needs to be tried for the good (and maybe the survival) of the society. Our society cannot wait for two years to try out an idea that could make a significant difference now.

I urge you to be supportive of this pilot program. We must not be afraid to try new things. Our founders were not fearful; they had the goal of caring for the membership. They worked unhesitatingly and successfully. We can do no less.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

SR. BRANCH 88: MONESSEN PUBLIC LIBRARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On August 22, 2009, FCSLA Branch 88 Officers and the Monessen Public Library Board of Directors coordinated a 50th birthday celebration for the library. The Monessen Public Library is in need of operating funds due to the delay of state funding. Invitations were sent out to local businesses and prominent people inviting them to the celebration. Approximately 3,000 library card holders and employees attended the event. Sr. Branch 88 donated sheet cakes, distributed favors and provided games for the attendees. The event raised \$1,900 to benefit the library.



R. Ted Harhai (photo below), Pennsylvania District 58 representative and Branch 88 member contacted Dorothy Urbanowicz to inquire about the details of the 50th anniversary project. Mr. Harhai then informed the branch and the library board of directors that he would personally match the FCSLA Matching Funds.

Thanks to his generosity, the library received twice the FCSLA amount.



BRANCH W051: KEITH LAMAAK BENEFIT

Members of Branch W051 held a benefit in honor of Keith Lamaak to help defray medical expenses from recent surgeries. Keith had a heart transplant in August 2008 and open heart surgery in January 2009. There is also a possibility that Keith may have to undergo a kidney and pancreas transplant in the future. The benefit included: a bake sale, silent auction and a free will supper. Over 300 people attended the benefit on August 2, 2009. The benefit raised over \$10,000.



BRANCH W092: BURGER NIGHT

On August 15, 2009, Branch W092 held a Burger Night at Bechyme Heritage Hall. Branch volunteers grilled burgers and provided cookie bars, chips, coffee and Kool-Aid. The Burger Night raised \$800 and all proceeds benefited Bechyme Heritage Hall.



SR. BRANCH 176: TAKE STEPS FOR CROHN'S AND COLITIS

Members from Sr. Branch 176 held a fundraiser for Crohn's and Colitis disease. The branch members collected donations and pledges for the Take Steps for Crohn's and Colitis. Twenty members volunteered their time to walk 1.4 miles to raise money for the foundation. The branch raised \$761. All proceeds were donated to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America.

The Matching Funds Project for Branch 176 was organized by our National Medical Examiner, Dr. Deborah Brindza. She receives a hospital newsletter and shared with us the following message after the "Walk".

"In turn I want to say a humongous "THANK YOU" to ALL who supported our fundraising efforts! Without the support of each and every one of you, reaching our goal would not have been possible; let alone surpassing it, which we did! Thanks to my personal recruits seeking their own recruits, we are the recipients of an extremely generous matching fund offer from the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association by way of Dr. Deborah Brindza! When all monies are tallied up we will have exceeded our \$1,000.00 goal by several hundred dollars!!!! Way to go Crohnies."



BRANCH 615: LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR PASTA DINNER/BAKE SALE

On August 23, 2009, Branch 615 members, family and friends of residents held a pasta dinner and bake sale to raise funds for the Little Sisters of the Poor. The branch provided FCSLA Cookbooks to sell to help raise funds. The

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pasta dinner/bake sale raised \$800. All proceeds will be used to help fund a trip for the Sisters to Rome to attend the canonization of the founder of the Little Sisters of the Poor.



BRANCH W008: BBQ BEEF AND HOT DOG DINNER

Members from FCSLA Branch W008, St. Wenceslaus Church Council, parish members and School Board members hosted a BBQ Beef and Hot Dog Dinner. The summer fund raiser held on June 7, 2009 was quite a success. The dinner raised over \$1,800 and benefited the Catholic Family Formation of the St. Wenceslaus Church.

BRANCH W187: SPIRIT 102.7 CATHOLIC RADIO ICE CREAM SOCIAL

On August 29, 2009, Branch W187 held an Ice Cream Social in Sts. Mary and Joseph Church hall, Valparaiso, NE. The social benefited the Spirit 102.7 Catholic Radio Station. Volunteers made brownies and the Branch provided the ice cream. The Social raised over \$490 for the radio station.

BRANCH 269 PRESENTS DONATION

FCSLA Branch 269 of Brownsville, PA presented a donation to the St. Vincent De Paul Society of the Historic Church of St. Peter in Brownsville. Presenting the donation to Polly Simmons, President of the SVDP chapter is Elizabeth Yeardie, Secretary of Branch 269. The donation was made to support a Walk-a-Thon designed to raise funds for SVDP's food pantry. In addition, SVDP also provides relief to local residents who are experiencing difficulties obtaining basic necessities.





On October 18th, after many months of planning, 59 members of Sr. Branch 376 and Jr. Branch 334 in Milwaukee, WI were treated to a full day of enjoyment at The Fireside Theatre in Fort Atkinson, WI, where they enjoyed a gourmet luncheon and production of the musical, *The Sound of Music*.

The day started with a bus trip through scenic parts of Wisconsin while enjoying the fall colors. The Brunch Buffet included gourmet items like Eggs Benedict, pancetta and cheese crepes, corned beef, Norwegian salmon, shrimp and scallops alfredo, and ended with a Vienesse Sacher Torte and Bing Cherry ice cream! Birthdays for Amy Daniels and Terezia Loduha were celebrated, complete with their own birthday cakes!

Members were then escorted into the theatre and enjoyed *The Sound of Music*, captivated by the truly professional production. The acting and singing were stellar, with a most memorable *Climb Every Mountain* sung by Mother Superior! This could not have been done any better on Broadway! There was much to talk about on the trip home! Both Sr. and Jr. members can now look forward to the annual Christmas party — complete with gifts and Santa!!!!



FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES KEEP BRANCH W018 MEMBERS BUSY

On Sunday, July 5, Branch W018 held its fifth annual branch picnic at Mahoney State Park near Ashland, NE. Every year the number of attendees has increased and 2009 was no exception. Members enjoyed potluck salads, vegetables and desserts, while the branch provided the fried chicken, drinks, and tickets to the park activities. Members

could choose to play in the water park, enjoy the lake on paddle boats, or take in a round of miniature golf.

* * *

A sunny Nebraska afternoon was the setting for lunch and Melodrama at Mahoney State Park.

The park, located west of Omaha, is famous for its natural beauty, any weather activities and hospitality. Members dined buffet style with much good conversation and a grand view of the Platte River Valley.

The play, "Peril of the Storm" was well received and the audience was encouraged to boo and throw popcorn at the villain, Cringe Mold-master. Afterwards members could visit with the actors, director and playwright.



Members meet the stars after the melodrama.

Hawaiian Luau Held in Pennsylvania

Sr. Branch 177 and Jr. Branch 115 of Clairton, PA hosted a Hawaiian Luau at Lawson Nursing Home in Jefferson Hills, PA, on Sunday May 3, 2009 for Join Hands Day. The members helped the residents play beach ball volleyball and bingo. The winners were awarded prizes donated by the members. The residents enjoyed the grass skirts, leis, decorations and Hawaiian music. They were served snacks, a beach theme cake, and Hawaiian punch. The junior members danced the hula for residents. Everyone had a wonderful time and the branch hopes to hold the event again next year.



L-R: Heather Stove, Alice Geletko and Susannah Geletko helping the residents play bingo.



Branch W018 folks enjoy the famous Mahoney Lodge buffet.



First row, L-R: Jack Komick, Heather Stover, Grace Konick, Alice Geletko. Second row: Camden Stover, Emma Stover, Amy Thomas. Third row: Beth Konick, Monica LaFrankie, Gerald LaFrankie.

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 call 800-464-4642

PAUL AND ROSE SPLICAL RECEIVE CENTURY FARM AWARD

Paul and Rose Splichal, members of Branch 86, Munden, KS received a Msgr. John George Weber Century Farm Award during the diocesan Rural Life Day hosted by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Nazareth Motherhouse, Concordia, KS. Making the presentation was Msgr. Weber, retired National Director of Rural Life, and Bishop Paul Coakley, both of the Diocese of Salina, KS.

The award is presented each year to families who have owned or farmed the same land for 100 years or more. Paul's grandparents, Wesley G. Sr. and Emma Splichal purchased the farm shortly after their marriage in 1903. Parents of six children, their youngest Joseph and wife Rosalie resided on the same homestead and farmed the land raising five children. Paul, their only son, after his marriage to Rose took over the farming operation where they continue to reside.

Paul and Rose are members of St. George Parish, Munden, KS. They have three daughters: Melissa and Rick Peat of Topeka, KS, Janelle and John Swiercinsky of Mokena, IL, and Sarah of Emporia, KS. They have four grandchildren.

Membership in Branch 86 is a long-standing tradition in which Paul's grandparents were members from the inception of the branch in Munden, KS. His parents were members, as are Paul and Rose and their children.



27th Annual Western PA Slovak Radio Hour Dinner Dance Fundraiser

The FCSLA was well represented and some of the attendees are pictured below.



Sitting, L-R: Ann Bereznak, Anna Szarmach, Melvina Drost, Cecilia Sarocky. Standing: Cynthia Maleski, Sue Ondrejco, Maggie Golofski, Paul Drost, Mary Ann Wagner, Margaret Josack, and Larry Golofski.

ST. WENCESLAUS EVENT WELL ATTENDED IN OREGON

The 2nd Annual St. Wenceslaus event was held by Branch W139 at the Parish Hall of St. Wenceslaus Parish, Scappoose, OR, on Sunday, September 27, 2009. It began with Holy Mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by a pot luck dinner in the church hall.

There was quite a variety of food and these were among the favorites: roast pork, dumplings, and sauerkraut. Ladies from the branch and parish treated everyone to home baked kolaches and poppy seed rolls for dessert. The branch sponsored musical entertainment by the OOMPAH Boys, a group consisting of a trio of accordion, clarinet and bass horn playing polkas, waltzes and some favorite sing-a-long tunes.

The children in attendance had great fun dancing along to the sounds of the chicken dance and the hokie-pokie. The event was deemed a success by the almost 200 people that enjoyed it!

Branch 74 Fall Luncheon Held

Branch 74, Bethlehem, PA held their fall luncheon at Incarnation of Christ School Cafeteria on Sunday, September 27th at 1:30 p.m. Members attending had an enjoyable time!



National Auditor Steve Hudak and his wife Amy and National Sales Manager Pat Braun and his wife Cathy enjoying the closing dinner of the National Fraternal Congress of America Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX in September 2009.



JAMES ANDREW FEDOR, JR. made his First Holy Communion on May 3, 2009 at St. Martin de Porres Church in McKeesport, PA. Jimmy attends St. Joseph Regional School in Port Vue. He is a Cub Scout. Jimmy loves music and takes piano and guitar lessons.

Jimmy and his sister Cassie are members of Jr. Branch 32 and his parents Jim and Sally Fedor, belong to Sr. Branch 77 in McKeesport, PA. Grammy Irene Fedor and Auntie Judy Fedor are officers in Branch 77.



NATHAN CHECK, age 8, member of Jr. Branch 364 (Johnstown, PA), received his First Holy Communion on May 2, 2009 from Seven Sorrows BVM Parish in Middletown, PA. Nathan is the son of Christine Smith and grandson of Pat and Frank Korchnak, members of Sr. Branch 28 (Johnstown, PA). His paternal great-grandmother, Anna Korchnak, and great-Aunt, Dorothy Korchnak, were both former branch officers.



10 year old **ASHLEY TALPAS** is a member of Junior Branch 57, Cleveland, OH. She is the daughter of Timothy and Mary Talpas, members of Sr. Branch 221, also located in Cleveland, OH. She lives and skates in North Olmsted, OH.

Ashley has been skating with the precision skating group *The Cleveland Edges* for 3 years. She is starting to skate solo with Marianne Parker, her instructor, for about 1 year.

Ashley has entered 2 competitions and placed 1st and 4th respectively. She has been an FCSLA member almost her entire life.

She is the granddaughter of Richard and Susan Talpas, Parma, OH. Susan and Richard are both dedicated fraternalists and officers of Sr. Branch 221.





IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT W. RADA **Branch W093**

Robert W. Rada, age 89, of Tabor, SD, passed away on August 14, 2009, at the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

Bob was born on April 30, 1920 to Bessie (Udlinek) and Jacob Rada on the family farm near Lesterville, SD. He attended grade school through the eighth grade. He married Marle Carda, his wife of 34 years on October 10, 1950. Marle passed away on July 29, 1984. He later married Viola Blachnik who passed away suddenly after several years of marriage.

After farming his entire life Bob moved off the farm into Tabor, SD in 1997. He was a member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church and the Catholic Workman. His hobbies included attending auctions, collecting antique tractors, and listening to Czech Polka music.

Bob is survived by his daughter Joanne and her husband Jerry of Tabor, SD; his son Bob and his wife Janice of Scotland, SD; six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and a special friend DeOn Stredde.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife; Marle, second wife; Viola, his grandson Matthew Rada, and sister Eleanor Adam.

EDWARD TOMNICZAK **(Major) USAF, Retired** **Branch W049**

B24 – “1st Pilot” – 50 Missions, 5th Bomb Group, 23rd Squadron World War Two, Korea, Recalled Vietnam South Pacific Operations.

A “Gentle Mans Gentleman”, Our Hero, Life Time Member (50+ years) Sgt. John Rice VFW.

Preceded in death by his parents, Boleslaw William and Anna, Brothers: Joseph, Michael, John, Stephan, Sisters: Mary, Martina, Baby Eugene/Jeanne.

Survived by: Wife, DeLoris, Sons:

Geoffrey, (Denise), James, (Carolyn), Christine “Tina” Herzog, (Michael), Brian, (Valerie), Grandchildren: Matthew, Jessica, Brianna, Kacie, Justin. Great-Grandchildren: Michael, McKenna, Tyler, MacKenzie. Sisters: Margaret Hlivka, Christine Mrugala, Dolores Langlias, Many Nieces and Nephews, Honorary Family Member: Larry Trapp, Godchild Kim, Josh Davis (Ed’s Friend), Ed’s “special friends” Ben (Deceased) Ebby, Buddy, Gunner and “Buckles” all creatures great and small.

Full Military Inurnment and Burial at Ft. Snelling, Minneapolis, MN was performed.

MONICA ANNA **(VANYO) NOVAK** **Branch W096**

Monica Anna Novak passed away August 16, 2009 from pancreatic cancer at the age of 91.

Monica was born January 10, 1918 to Andrew and Anna (Yurko) Vanyo in Northland Township, East Grand Forks, MN. She was a member of Branch W096 of Tabor, MN and of St. Anthony’s Church in Terrebonne.

Monica loved dancing and got acquainted with Walter Novak, whom she married when she was 19, on October 27, 1937 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Tabor. Following their marriage, they farmed near Tabor and on September 1956, they purchased a farm near Brooks and raised their family.

When Walter retired, they loved to travel with family, friends and tour groups. She also enjoyed playing cards and bingo, gardening, sewing, and entering exhibits at the local fairs where she won many awards.

Monica is survived by her children, Jerome (Barb) Novak of Brooks, Leonard (Marilyn) Novak of Warren, Walter “Danny” (Cindy) Novak Jr. of Brooks, Raymond Novak of Brooks, Reinette (Ray) Walter of Plummer, Gerard (Kim) Novak of Thief River Falls,

Anita (Jack) Mattson of Rochester and Madonna (Dan) Johnson of Ames, IA; brother, Andrew (Judy) Vanyo of Moorhead; sisters, Mildred Novak of East Grand Forks, Mary Anne Tupa of Grand Forks, ND, and Elvern Vanyo of Tabor; brother-in-law, Albert Kovar of Crookston; 21 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Walter; an infant daughter, Dorothy Ann; and parents, Andrew and Anna Vanyo.

May her memory be blessed.

ANNA BARAN **Branch 89**

Anna (Werkman) Baran, 84, of Bethlehem, died on September 3, 2009 in St. Luke’s Hospital. She was born in Bethlehem, the daughter of the late Joseph and Katalin (Magyarics) Werkman. Anna was preceded in death by her husband, Francis B. Baran.

She was a sewing machine operator for a few dress manufacturing companies in the area. Anna was a member of the former SS. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church and Incarnation of Our Lord Parish, Bethlehem.

Survivors: She will be lovingly remembered by her children, Margaret Baran of Bethlehem, Ann, wife of Jim Silvius, of Coopersburg, John Baran of Bethlehem and Francine, wife of Paul Hancz, of Bethlehem Township. Anna is also survived by her eight grandchildren, six great-grandchildren; sister, Helen Hook. She was also preceded in death by her sisters, Mary DeLazzaria, Elsie McGee, Goldie Hewko, and brothers, Frank, John and Jim Werkman.

IRMA T. FERTAL **BRANCH 74**

Irma T. Fertal, 93, of Bethlehem, PA died on August 29, at Holy Family Manor. Born June 25, 1916 to Frank and Mary Schemenek, she married Edward George Fertal, Jr. on November 18,

1937. She was a homemaker and worked as a cashier at Hess Brothers and Bethlehem Catholic High School.

Mrs. Fertal was an active member of many organizations. She served as president of the original HEAD Club (Help Elderly Adults Direct) and loved the job. For years HEAD was the only senior citizens' group in existence. Friends knew that they could count on her when they needed help or a ride so that they could participate in some social activity or get to Doctors' appointments. She assisted the Democratic committee in transporting seniors and working at the polls. Irma enjoyed the many events provided by her membership in Branch 74 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. She assisted American Cancer and Heart Associations in their fund raisers. She was a life-long parishioner of St. Cyril and Methodius Roman Catholic Church (now the Incarnation of Our Lord Parish.)

Hobbies such as sewing, knitting, and gardening helped fill any idle hours. Her many trophies attest to her passion for bowling, once scoring a 214 on Valentine's Day.

Irma was predeceased by her husband, Edward George Fertal, Jr., sister Mary Chuck, and granddaughter, Bridget Fertal. Surviving are a daughter, Mary Jane Kris and a son Edward George Fertal III; three grandchildren, Douglas Kris, Alison Kris, and Melissa Lokovic, as well as eight great-grandchildren, Emma Lokovic, Lucy Lokovic, Jack Lokovic, Alexis Kris Bienstock, Zoe Kris Bienstock, Ella Kris Bienstock, Mary Kris and Patrick Kris.

Irma will be remembered as a loyal friend, devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. May she find peace at last as she joins family and friends who have gone before her.

MARY A. TURANO **Branch 221**

Mary Agnes Turano, beloved mother of Delaina, David, and Michael, died at

the age of 92, September 19, 2009. A gifted piano player and organist, Mary died peacefully with soft music gently playing at her bedside.

Mary was born in Ashtabula, OH on August 22, 1917, the only daughter of five children born to Suzanna (Mruzik) and Michael Bartko.

She taught CCD classes at St. Joseph Mission for 13 years and received an award for her teaching. She served as President of Ashtabula Women's Club twice and was a past Grant Regent of the Catholic Daughters of America, Court 393. She was also a past president of the National Council of Catholic Women, Ashtabula County Deanery. Proud of her heritage, she was president of the local FCSLA branch and served as its treasurer for decades. She served as the organist at St. Joseph's Church and Mission for over 30 years.

Mary shared her musical talent with everyone, using it to guarantee that those in her presence were happy. Mary was known and revered for her integrity, humor, talent, and grace. She was fun, she was kind and she was just plain good.

She was preceded in death by her parents, four brothers, and her beloved husband, Edgie.

She is survived by her proud children, daughter Delaina Hofacre of Brea, CA; sons, David (Karen) Turano of Worthington, OH, and Dr. Michael

(Janet) Turano of Placentia, CA; two granddaughters and seven grandsons; four great-grandchildren; and two sisters-in-law, Una Bartko and Dora Ferritto, both of Ashtabula, OH.

MARCELLA B. JAMES **Branch 7**

Marcella B. James, 86, died on August 28, 2009, at her home in Streator, IL.

Mrs. James was born in Streator on May 7, 1923, the daughter of Mike and Mary (Stassak) Puskar. She married John F. "Jesse" James at St. Stephen's Church in Streator on April 21, 1945. Mr. James died on November 23, 2007.

She worked for Owen-Illinois Glass Company and Illinois Valley Dairy. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Church in Streator and the Altar and Rosary Society of the church. She was a member of the Eagles Auxiliary for over 57 years, serving as president seven times and as secretary for ten years.

She is survived by two daughters Shirley (Andrew) Eckel of Pontiac and Mary Lou (Richard) Senko of Streator; a son, Michael James of Bloomington; two grandchildren, Tara Miller and Jesse Lee James; and four great-grandchildren. A son, Robert John "Jesse" James; a daughter, Sharon Bruggeman, two grandchildren, Molly James and Robert Ewing; a sister, Margaret Moore; and a brother, Bernard Puskar died previously.

American Slovak Cultural Association Vilija Dinner

The American Slovak Cultural Association Vilija Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2009 at St. Matthias Church Father Snock Center, 2800 Shady Run Road, Youngstown, OH at 4 p.m.

Come join us for an evening of warmth and friendship as we remember our Slovak heritage. In addition to the traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner (*oplatky and honey, pirohy, bolbalky, mushroom soup, baked fish, peas, kolac*), we will have music and carols celebrating our Slovak roots.

The cost for the evening is \$20.00 per person. For information or tickets call: Frank Bator at (330) 757-0676; Ron Garchar at (330) 533-7077; or Loretta Ekoniak at (330) 549-3760. *Veselé Vianoce!*

Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Danville, PA

Centennial Year Celebration Held in September



The Centennial Celebration event was held on Saturday, September 12, 2009 at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Villa Sacred Heart, the sisters' motherhouse and grounds. Former students, family and friends of both the living and deceased sisters attended the liturgy presided by



CHICAGO BRANCH 485 MEMBERS — Front row, L-R: Geri Hletko, Sr. M. John Vianney Vraniak, SSCM and Mary Tylus. Back row: Delores Kniola, Eleanor Turchan and Lydia Berry.

the Bishop of Harrisburg, PA — the Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, D.D along with 30 concelebrants. The liturgy gave thanks for the many blessings the Congregation has received during its first 100 years of ministry and asked that the Lord continue to bless their work as the second century of the Congregation begins.

The photos were taken at the reception after the liturgy concluding the Centennial Year celebration of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Danville, PA.

St. Joseph's High School Receives Donation from FCSLA



St. Joseph's High School, Natrona Heights, PA, was the recipient of a \$10,000 donation from FCSLA at our last convention, dedicated its first gymnasium and science and technology center for students in its almost 100 year history with a Mass and Blessing led by Most Rev. David Zubik, Bishop of Diocese of Pittsburgh on October 16, 2009. Shown with the Bishop are members of Branch 313, Natrona, Dr. Andrzej Groch, Beverly Kaniecki, Principal, St. Joseph's High School, Cynthia Maleski, National Trustee, and Barbara Gajdosik, Auditor.



St. Joseph's High School Principal Beverly Kaniecki and National Trustee Cynthia Maleski.

Sarah Ann Rebar Weds

On September 5, 2009, Sarah Ann Rebar (Branch 225, Chicago, IL) and Justin Bryce Fye were married at St. Mary's Annunciation Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ramey, PA. The traditional Mystery of Crowning Wedding Ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father Anthony F. Balisreri.

Sarah is a chemistry teacher at Clearfield High School and Justin teaches 5th grade at Moshannon Valley Elementary School. Sarah is the granddaughter of Mary Williams (Branch 255) from Ramey, PA.



Front row, L-R: Mary Tylus and Sr. M. John Vianney Vraniak, SSCM of Branch 485 in Chicago, Agnes Chervenak of Branch 409 in Indiana. Back row: Geri Hletko, Delores Kniola, Eleanor Turchan and Lydia Berry of Branch 485 in Chicago, Betty and Carl Yurechko of Branch 289 in Indiana.

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

Prefíkané vrany

Rudo Moric

Na druhý deň od samého rána som ujoini objedal uši:
– Sľúbili ste, ujko, že budete rozprávať.

A vari práve to bolo zle, lebo ujo dostal chuť trochu vytrestať moju netrpezlivosť. Stále si vyhľadával okolo domu dajakú súrnu robotu, len aby ma mohol odbaviť:
– Veďže počkajte, ešte chvíľočku, no . . . – A chvíľka sa preťahovala, po nej prišla druhá, až popoludní konečne ujo žmurkol na mňa a dal sa do rozprávania:

– Viete, nemám rád vrany, lebo vykrádajú hniezda lesných speváčkov, no predsa som ich musel raz obdivovať . . .

Rybníky sme vtedy povypúšťali, lebo ich bolo treba vyčistiť. A do prázdnych rybníkov rady chodievali divé kačice. Paprali sa v bahne a vyťahovali odtiaľ všakovú chrobač. No a my sme zase striehli na kačice a poľovali na ne.

Nuž raz som tiež čakal pri prázdnom rybníku na týchto vodných vtákov. Kým sa kačice nezjavili, pozoroval som, čo sa deje okolo. Zvlášť ma zaujali škeble, ktoré sa v bahne pomaly pohybovali a zanechávali za sebou prehĺbené stopy. Takýchto stôp-jarčiekov na dne rybníka už bolo plno a krížom-krážom vytvárali všelijaké podivné obrazce.

Zrazu zleteli do rybníka dve vrany. Nohy sa im zabárali do riedkeho bahna. Krídla a chvost dvíhali dovysoka, aby si ich nezababrali i aby mohli pohotovo vyletieť, keby sa vbárali príliš hlboko.

Prechádzajú sa vrany po bahne a hľadajú chrobač, ktorej je tu veru hodne.

Naraz vám len jedna natrafí na škeblu. Chvíľu hľadí, ako sa to čudo čudovate nemotorne hýbe, krúti hlavou zboka nabok, akoby sa čudovala, potom klovné do škeble. Tá ostala ako neživá. Teraz vrana začala *do nej chytro dŕobať, no proti pancieru* škeble sa ukázal vraní zobák prislabý.

Videla druhá vrana, že sa kamarátka s čímisi zabáva, nuž hybaj za ňou. A jak dŕobú tak dŕobu, až sa klepot doširoka ozýva.

„Na zlú hostinu ste natrafili,“ myslím si. „Z toho sa vy neobjete. Radšej chrobač zbierajte!“

Ale vrany len tvrdohlavo stoja nad škeblou, akoby sa radili, čo s tým čudom. Nakláňajú hlavy, prestupujú v riedkom blate, ale odísť sa im neráči.

Zatiaľ sa škeblá znova dala na cestu. Vrany to prekvapilo, odskočili, potom chvíľu bezradne stáli, no keď sa spamätali, ešte zúrivejšie sa pustili do nej.

Bol som zvedavý, ako sa to skončí.

Naraz jedna vrana zakráka, schytí škeblu do zobáka a už je s ňou v poverí.

Tento fígel' ma natoľko vzrušil, že som vyskočil a hľadel za čiernym zlodejom. Ale vrana neletela ďaleko. V susedstve rybníka bolo štrkovisko. Sem teda zamierila milá vrana. A len sa vznáša vyššie a vyššie. Keď už bola poriadne vysoko, pustila škeblu a krúživým letom sa vrhla za ňou.

Škeblá tresk na kameň – a bolo po pancieri. A vrana už bola pri nej. Z rozbitých lastúrových korýtok náhlivo vyzobávala chutné mäsko.

„Figliarsky výmysel,“ pochválil som v duchu vranu a čakám, čo bude ďalej.

O chvíľu sa vrana opäť vrátila do rybníka a ešte v povetrí si vyhliadla ďalšiu škeblu. Nad touto už nevystála ani chvíľku, lež ju schytla do zobáka a poď s ňou hore. Druhá vrana ju nasledovala a aj ona niesla v zobáku škeblu. Nad kamením spustili korisť a potom sa hostili.

Toho dňa mali škeble po chlebe. Ktorá padla vranám do oka, mohla sa rozlúčiť so životom. Skončila na štrkovisku.

A ja som veru aj na kačice zabudol iba som oči vytrieštal na tie čierne potvory, ako si to dobre vyhútili: Rozumu nemajú ani pod necht blata, ale na zlé ich je vždycky dosť.



Clever Crows

Rudo Moric

(English translation of Slovak fable “Prefíkané vrany”)

One afternoon my uncle looked at me and told me a story about clever crows.

“You know, I do not like crows because they steal baby birds from smaller bird’s nests and eat them. However, there was one occasion when I was impressed by them,” stated my uncle.

Foresters, regularly have to pump the water from fish hatcheries to clean them. Wild ducks liked to go into these almost empty ponds and look for food. Ducks played in the mud and looked for bugs to eat.

One day my uncle was again waiting to see the wild ducks in the empty pond. But the ducks did not come. However my uncle was amused and impressed by watching clams. They were moving very slowly in the mud, leaving many tracks on the bottom of the pond. The tracks created unusual patterns.

Pokračovanie na str. 21

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

Holy Trinity Slovak Church Members Attend Closing Masses for Neighboring Churches

This past weekend some thirty plus members of Holy Trinity Slovak Catholic Church, Lorain, OH (S114, J198) attended closing masses at St. Stanislaus (Polish) and St. Ladislaus (Hungarian).

Before and after mass, members held a banner which read, "Our hearts are with you... Holy Trinity." Additionally, the banner proudly displayed the Slovak emblem.

We initially gathered at Holy Trinity and walked to St. Stan's holding Slovak flags as a symbol of solidarity. The flags also reminded us that as descendents of Slovak immigrants who built Holy Trinity and assisted in the construction of other churches, we too were empathetic, as our Parish is soon to be dismantled.



Interior scenes depicted on the ceiling of Holy Trinity Slovak Church, Lorain, OH.

It was a bitterly sad morning as one could imagine, reminiscent of a funeral. We silently waited to respond to our neighbors as they read our sign, through tears, together consoling each other. Members from the closed Parishes were ever so grateful and sincerely appreciated our support.

After condolences and upon departure, Friends of Holy Trinity laid red carnations at the doorsteps of both churches. For the wonderful church structures, founded by European immigrants, with exquisite artwork that housed so many remarkable events and social gatherings over 100 years, are left to become fond memories. And now we pray that the wrecking ball will stay away.

Holy Trinity Church was founded in 1906. The current structure was built in 1924 and became debt free by 1944. During 1947, Mr. Romeo Celleghein was commissioned to paint a fresco buono. His artwork portrays the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Trinity is surrounded by angels and saints, painted with 24 carat gold leaf and is 14 feet in diameter. Paintings on the side walls include Angels who hold the 8 Beatitudes written in Slovak. Holy Trinity Church was consecrated in 1984.

Holy Trinity Slovak Catholic Church, Lorain, OH will celebrate its last mass on December 13, 2009. We are broken hearted.

Clever Crows

Pokračovanie zo str.20

All of a sudden two crows appeared and landed in the pond. Their feet were sinking into the mud, but they were careful not to let their wings and tail get wet because they needed dry wings to fly. The crows were feasting on bugs on the bottom of the pond. All of a sudden, one crow noticed the clams. The crow did not know what they were. The crow pecked the clam, but the clam's shell was too hard to break. The clam stopped moving, but the crow pecked again without success.

The second crow saw it and tried to help and both crows pecked at the clam.

"You will not succeed," uncle thought to himself. "You will not eat clams." But the crows did not give up. They looked at the clam and did not give up.

At that moment the clam started to move again. The crows were very surprised and started to peck at it harder than before.

My uncle was very anxious to see how it would end. One crow squawked, took the clam in its beak and flew away.

My uncle was surprised to see such behavior. The crow did not fly far. The fish pond was not far from a stone quarry. The crow flew higher and higher above the quarry. When the crow was very high, it dropped the clam and then went after it.

The clam's shell broke on the stones, leaving the flesh of the clam for the crow to eat.

"That was clever," said uncle to himself. In a while the crow came back to the fish pond looking for another clam. The crow knew what to do, the second crow followed the example of the first crow. Both of them were feasting on clams. This was not a good day for clams. The crows found a new food source.



Slovak-American Participation in G-20 Summit



Leaders of the Slovak-American community of western Pennsylvania prepared, contributed and served lunch to representatives of InterAction, an alliance of U.S. based non-governmental organizations focused on the world's poor and most vulnerable people at Brother's Brother Foundation warehouse in Northside, Pittsburgh during the G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh: Cliff Moeller, Ann Krohmaly, Mary Hickel, Cynthia Maleski, FCSLA National Trustee; Cecilia Sarocky, Jean Milko, Joseph Senko with InterAction representative John Ruthrauff. The lunch included Slovak salad, holupki, pirohi, kolbassi and kolac.

Slovak Christmas Tree on Display in Chicago

Bring your family and friends to view the Slovak Christmas Tree on display at the Museum of Science and Industry's "Christmas Around the World" exhibit in Chicago. The tree is decorated with imported ornaments by our brother Slovak Catholic fraternal, the First Catholic Slovak Union. The annual exhibit features trees from 55 countries, and is on display from November 20, 2009 through January 3, 2010. The museum is located at 57th Street and South Lake Shore Drive in Chicago. For further information, call (773) 684-1414, or visit www.msichicago.org.



REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF JULY 31, 2009

ASSETS	
Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 16,250,833.55
Bonds	520,421,795.52
Preferred Stock	8,363,125.87
Common Stock	690,119.91
Investment Income Due and Accrued	8,790,234.79
Promissory Notes	62,167.45
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	8,695,517.39
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,366,863.28
Other Assets	186,907.80
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 564,827,565.56

LIABILITIES	
Life Reserves	\$ 162,999,935.08
Annuity Reserves	298,600,246.10
Death Claims Payable	720,560.83
Unearned Premiums	598,424.00
Matured Endowments	0.00
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,688,626.24
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,482,075.19
Accrued Convention Donations	0.00
Provision for Future Conventions	315,000.40
Asset Valuation Reserve	4,964,324.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,461,253.00
Other Liabilities	1,699,516.61
Provision for Annuity Certain Accounts	2,078,000.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 478,607,961.45

SURPLUS	
Surplus	\$ 86,219,604.11
TOTAL SURPLUS	\$ 86,219,604.11
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 564,827,565.56

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Seven Months Ending July 31, 2009

REVENUE	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 3,435,166.88
Annuity Premiums	16,752,800.99
Investment Income	18,422,183.78
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	40,468.00
Other Revenue	339,655.54
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 38,990,275.19

EXPENSES	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 3,634,935.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	15,197,246.00
Insurance Benefits	2,074,111.32
Annuity Benefits	9,779,364.53
Commission Expense	427,602.03
Surrender Benefits	578,289.44
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	40,351.99
Matured Endowments	19,840.00
Donation Expenses	25,368.27
Convention Expenses	105,000.00
Dividends to Members	1,049,596.19
Post Mortem Benefits	495,917.58
Bonus to Branches	556,774.00
Fraternal Activities	85,686.87
Bank Service Charges	33,512.72
Data Processing Service Fees	152,532.16
Accounting Fees	93,631.00
Actuarial Fees	133,040.25
Legal Fees	49,115.51
Consulting Services	73,962.50
Official Publications	158,371.29
Scholarship Awards	150,500.00
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	213,191.04
Fees — Directors	63,291.02
Salaries — Employees	681,623.50
Salaries — Officers	255,354.19
Interest Expense	139,676.61
Tax Expense	186,712.44
Depreciation Expense	240,121.00
Utility Expense	45,223.52
Postage and Printing	180,767.92
Advertising	61,466.85
Travel Expense	83,255.99
Other Expense	660,886.24
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 37,726,318.97
NET INCOME	\$ 1,263,956.22



BROWN SUGAR BROWNIES

- 2/3 cup vegetable oil
- 2 1/4 cups light brown sugar
- 2 2/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 eggs
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 6 ounces chocolate chips
- 1 cup chopped nuts

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 13x9 inch baking pan or line the pan with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, mix together oil and brown sugar. Add the eggs one at a time and beat until smooth.

In a separate bowl, sift together dry ingredients and add them to the brown sugar mixture. Mix well. Stir in chocolate chips and nuts. Spread batter into prepared baking pan. Batter will be thick.

Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, about 25-30 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool. Cut into squares.

CHRISTMAS PINWHEELS

- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
- 1 package (.4 ounces) ranch salad dressing mix
- 1/2 cup minced sweet red pepper
- 1/2 cup minced celery
- 1/4 cup sliced green onions
- 1/4 cup sliced pimiento-stuffed olives
- 3 to 4 flour tortillas (10 inches)

In a bowl, beat cream cheese and dressing mix until smooth. Add red pepper, celery, onions and olives; mix well. Spread about 3/4 cup on each tortilla. Roll up tightly; wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Cut into 1/2-in. slices. 16-18 servings.

POTATO HALUSKI

- 1 head grated cabbage
- 2 onions
- 4 tbsp. butter
- 1/4 lb. butter
- 3 finely grated potatoes
- 2 tsp. salt
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 3 or more cups flour
- Pinch of baking soda

Prepare cabbage before haluski. Grate cabbage fine, salt and let stand about 20 minutes. Squeeze out liquid. Brown onions in butter and add cabbage. Fry slowly until lightly brown. Set aside. Grate potatoes, add salt and beat eggs. Add enough flour with baking soda to make a stiff dough. Drop by 1/2 teaspoon into boiling water. Boil about 8 minutes. Drain and rinse with hot water. Pour clarified butter over haluski and cabbage. Serve immediately.

PRIME RIB

- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 1-15 pound rib roast
- 2 tablespoons kosher salt
- 4 teaspoons ground pepper

Heat oven to 475 degrees F. Rub garlic evenly over roast. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Roast 15 minutes. Reduce temperature to 350 degrees. After 2 hours, and every 15 minutes thereafter, check temperature in the thickest part of the roast. When temperature is 125 degrees (for rare), remove from oven and cover loosely with foil. Let rest 30 minutes before carving.

If desired, serve with horseradish sauce.

CEREGY

- 2 cups flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine
- 2 tablespoons wine or beer
- 5 egg yolks
- 2 tablespoons sour cream
- Powdered sugar

Sift flour, sugar and salt in bowl. Work butter into flour. Beat egg yolks well. Pour into mixture. Add sour cream and wine or beer. Mix until well blended. Turn out on floured board and knead until smooth. Divided into 2 or 3 pieces. Roll very thin. Cut into about 5-inch diamond shaped pieces (at this point, you could also make a 2-inch slit lengthwise in the diamond and pull one end through. Fry in very hot deep fat (or crisco or other oil) for about 1 to 2

minutes or until golden brown. When cool, dust with powdered sugar.

HOLIDAY FRUITCAKE

- 3 cups coarsely chopped Brazil nuts or other nuts (walnuts, pecans or hazelnuts)
- 1 pound pitted dates, coarsely chopped
- 1 cup halved maraschino cherries
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

In a large bowl, combine the nuts, dates and cherries. In another bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt; add to nut mixture, stirring until nuts and fruit are well-coated.

Beat eggs until foamy. Stir in vanilla; fold into nut mixture and mix well. Pour into a greased and waxed paper-lined 9-in. x 5-in. loaf pan. Bake at 300 degrees for 1 3/4 hours. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pan to a wire rack. 24 servings.

CHRISTMAS RICE

- 1/2 cup finely chopped onion
- 3 celery ribs, finely chopped
- 1/2 medium sweet red pepper, chopped
- 1/2 medium green pepper, chopped
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 2 cups uncooked instant rice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, optional
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

In a skillet, saute onion, celery and peppers in butter over medium heat for 2 minutes or until crisp-tender. Remove from the heat; set aside.

In a saucepan, bring broth to a full boil. Remove from the heat. Quickly stir in rice, celery mixture, salt if desired and pepper. Cover and let stand for 6-7 minutes. Stir before serving. 6 servings.

CHRISTMAS BARK CANDY

- 1 package (10 to 12 ounces) vanilla or white chips or 1 package (11 1/2 ounces) milk chocolate chips
- 2 teaspoons vegetable oil
- 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 cups M&M's miniature baking bits or broken pretzel pieces

In a heavy saucepan or microwave, melt chips with oil; stir until smooth. Cool for 5 minutes. Stir in baking bits or pretzels. Spread onto a waxed paper-lined baking sheet. Refrigerate for 10 minutes. Remove from the refrigerator; break into pieces. Store in an airtight container. Makes approximately 1 pound.

12/09

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