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Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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Happy Valentine's Day

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

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Fraternally Yours™



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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,

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EDITOR: Carolyn Bazik

P.O. Box 1617, Reading, PA 19603

E-mail: zjbazik@comcast.net

Phone (610) 373-2743 • Fax (610) 375-8333

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OFFICE HOURS — HOME OFFICE

Monday through Friday — 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Phone: (216) 464-8015 • Toll Free: 800-464-4642

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P • E • N • N • I • E • S

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Jennifer, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and several cars costing more than her house.

The first day and evening went well, and Jennifer was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Jennifer knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Jennifer and her husband.

He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment. Jennifer wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts.

Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up? Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her.

Finally, she could stand it no longer. She causally mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

"Look at it." He said. "Read what it says."

She read the words "United States of America."

"No, not that; read further."

"One cent?"

"No, keep reading."

"In God we Trust?"

"Yes!"

"And?"

"And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and re-playing in my mind a number of things I cannot change. I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message. It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful!

And, God is patient...

This month be more observant and maybe you too will find some pennies along your journey —



Warmly, Carolyn

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

You Shall Not Take the Name of the Lord Your God in Vain

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

My dear Friends,

In the Hebrew Scriptures, the call of Moses to lead the Israelites from slavery by the Egyptians to the Promised Land was inaugurated by God's appearance to Moses in the burning bush. Moses hears the instructions of the Lord but questions who he should tell the Israelites sent him in this leadership role. "Moses said to God, 'But when I go to the children of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you," if they ask me, "What is his name?" what am I to tell them?' God replied, 'I am who am.' Then he added, 'This is what you shall tell the children of Israel: I AM sent me to you.' God spoke further to Moses, 'Thus shall you say to the children of Israel: The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob has sent me to you. 'This is my name forever; this is my title for all generations'" [Exodus 3:13-15].

Saint Paul in his Letter to the Philippians encourages the young Christian community to lay aside anything that would be divisive to the unity of the community. In doing so, they exhibit the same selfless love that the Lord Jesus had for all humanity because..."Though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at. Rather, he emptied himself and took the form of a slave being born in the likeness of men. He was known to be of human estate and it was thus that he humbled himself obediently accepting even death, death on a cross! Because of this, God highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name above every other name, so that at Jesus' name every knee must bend in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God the Father: JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!" [2:6-11].

These two passages from both Testaments exhibit the respect Jews and Christians have for the name of God. But I have taken note more and

more as I have grown older how common place it has become of the irreverent use of the name of Almighty God in movies, on the television, and within common conversations between people. The second commandment of *The Ten Commandments* clearly states, "You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain. For the Lord will not leave unpunished him who takes his name in vain" [Exodus 20:7]. Not only as a priest but also as a Christian, the irreverent use of a name attributed to our God, and as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches, "... every improper use of the names of God, Jesus, but also of the Virgin Mary and all the saints" [paragraph 2146], has been quite bothersome to me when I hear the abuse of those names. I believe that this goes back to the early years of my Catholic formation.

As children, we were taught in grade school that every time a person would say the name of Jesus, we should bow our heads in respect of His Holy Name. I think that the foundation of this practice goes back to Saint Paul's kenotic passage as cited above from his letter to the Philippians. I do not think that I have made profound bows each time I speak or hear the name of Jesus, but whether it is a small tip of the head or an ever so quick blink of the eyes, I have always attempted to at least acknowledge the respect due His name. Several years back, I remember the teachers of my parish grade school going to an in-service workshop that was being given by Father J. Glenn Murray, S.J., then director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Cleveland. During the course of one of his sessions, he asked those present if they remembered being taught to bow their heads at the name of Jesus. Many recalled this sign of respect and then they were encouraged by him to teach their students the necessity of having this same respect for the Holy Name by bowing their heads as we were taught.

As we exhibit special reverences to

the names of God, the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, we are required to respect the names of all people. A person's name is a name for all time. The Church teaches, "God calls each one by name [cf., *Isaiah* 43:1, *John* 10:3]. Everyone's name is sacred. The name is the icon of the person. It demands respect as a sign of the dignity of the one who bears it" [*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraph 2158].

The second commandment also forbids a person of abusing God's name by employing blasphemy. Blasphemy is the speaking of hatred toward God, misusing God's name, and in failing to show due respect to God's name. The Church's teaching against blasphemy is noted in *The Code of Canon Law*, "A person who in a public show or speech, in published writing, or in other uses of the instruments of social communication utters blasphemy, gravely injures good morals, expresses insults or excites hatred or contempt against religion or the Church is to be punished with a just penalty" [canon 1369].

Taking the name of the God in vain is extended to the prohibition of taking false oaths. "Rejection of false oaths is a duty toward God. As Creator and Lord, God is the norm of all truth. Human speech is either in accord with or in opposition to God who is truth itself. When it is truthful and legitimate, an oath highlights the relationship of human speech with God's truth. A false oath calls on God to be witness to a lie" [*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraph 2151].

As we can see, there is a plethora of ramifications when observing the second commandment. It is our duty as Catholics to honor and respect this commandment always. It is our duty and obligation to correct the situation in which the breaking of this commandment takes place. Otherwise we shun our duty to our God by letting it pass by the wayside. May we always honor the name of God and never allow it to be used in vain!

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

BRANCH 225 — TROOPS BENEFIT LUNCHEON

The St. Catherine Sr. Branch 225 of Chicago held its matching funds event on November 11, 2009 at St. Julie Billiard's Church Hall during the monthly Senior Young of Hearts Club luncheon which was held to honor the U.S. veterans of the parish. During the luncheon, St. Catherine's Sr. Branch 225 of Chicago conducted a free will collection from the attendees for gifts and postage for our troops in Iraq. The 98 members from the Senior Young of Hearts Club collectively donated \$531.35 to this endeavor. Dolores Glomb, Treasurer of St. Catherine's Sr. Branch 225 who coordinated the free will collection, stated, "This matching funds event was a great success. The response from the Senior Young of Hearts Club members of St. Julie Billiard's was overwhelming and touching. Thank you to all who attended and made this event a success."



L-R: Sr. Gael Gensler (Coordinator of the Senior Young of Hearts Club), Dolores Glomb, Treasurer of Sr. Branch 225, and honored U.S. Veterans/members of the Senior Young at Hearts Club.



Members of the St. Julie Billiard's Senior Young of Hearts Club — friends of Dolores and Phil Glomb who arranged the matching funds piece of this luncheon.



Sweet table at the luncheon with goodies baked by members of the St. Julie Billiard's Senior Young of Hearts Club.



BRANCH W016 — SOUP SUPPER

On October 24, 2009, Branch W016 of Brainard, NE sponsored a soup supper for the benefit of the Brainard Area Community Club. \$500 funds were matched by the FCSLA.



WO16 member Charlotte Greguras prepares for the Soup Supper.



Member Joyce Rezac prepared and served the chicken noodle soup for the event.



Brainard Community members enjoying 4 different soups.



Halloween costumes paraded by the children during the FCSLA soup supper.



BRANCH W016 — BAKE SALE

Branch W016 of Brainard, NE sponsored a Bake Sale on October 11, 2009 for the benefit of the Holy Trinity PCCW and the church renovation.



FCSLA members Joyce Rezac, Mary Lou Meister, and Marcella Janak prepare for the sale.



Holy Trinity PCCW member Gretchen Pesek and FCSLA Spiritual Director Father Eickhoff display the FCSLA sign.



Baked good was offered for sale.



SINGLE PREMIUM WHOLE LIFE

- * The desired insurance benefit is to be purchased in one payment
- * No further premiums are required; the insured has a fully paid up certificate for life.
- * There is also an option to pay premiums in 4 quarterly installments for one year. The certificate then becomes fully paid up. A \$5.00 processing charge is added to each installment.
- * The minimum purchase amount is \$2,000.
- * Issue ages are 0 through 90.
- * Dividends are anticipated after the second year.
- * 25% Post Mortem Benefit after the second year.
- * Entitles holder to all fraternal benefits of the Association.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION & PREMIUM RATES FOR FEMALE
AND MALE SMOKERS, PLEASE CALL 800-464-4642.**

Female Non-Smoker Single Premium Rates (per \$1,000 FACE Amount)

Issue Age	Band 1 Under \$10,000	Band 2 \$10,000 \$24,999	Band 3 \$25,000- \$49,999	Band 4 \$50,000 & Over
0	49	44	42	41
1	49	44	42	41
2	49	44	42	41
3	51	46	44	43
4	52	47	45	44
5	54	49	47	46
6	55	50	48	47
7	57	52	50	49
8	59	54	52	51
9	61	56	54	53
10	63	58	56	55
11	65	60	58	57
12	67	62	60	59
13	69	64	62	61
14	72	67	65	64
15	74	69	67	66
16	77	72	70	69
17	79	74	72	71
18	82	77	75	74
19	85	80	78	77
20	88	83	81	80
21	91	86	84	83
22	94	89	87	86
23	98	93	91	90
24	101	96	94	93
25	105	100	98	97
26	109	104	102	101
27	113	108	106	105
28	117	112	110	109
29	122	117	115	114
30	126	121	119	118
31	131	126	124	123
32	136	131	129	128
33	142	137	135	134
34	147	142	140	139
35	153	148	146	145
36	159	154	152	151
37	165	160	158	157
38	172	167	165	164
39	178	173	171	170
40	185	180	178	177
41	192	187	185	184
42	200	195	193	192
43	208	203	201	200
44	215	210	208	207

*\$100,000 or more deduct \$1.00 from Band 4.

Male Non-Smoker Single Premium Rates (per \$1,000 FACE Amount)

Issue Age	Band 1 Under \$10,000	Band 2 \$10,000 \$24,999	Band 3 \$25,000- \$49,999	Band 4 \$50,000 & Over
0	56	51	49	48
1	58	53	51	50
2	58	53	51	50
3	59	54	52	51
4	61	56	54	53
5	63	58	56	55
6	64	59	57	56
7	66	61	59	58
8	69	64	62	61
9	71	66	64	63
10	74	69	67	66
11	76	71	69	68
12	79	74	72	71
13	82	77	75	74
14	84	79	77	76
15	87	82	80	79
16	90	85	83	82
17	93	88	86	85
18	96	91	89	88
19	99	94	92	91
20	102	97	95	94
21	105	100	98	97
22	108	103	101	100
23	112	107	105	104
24	116	111	109	108
25	120	115	113	112
26	124	119	117	116
27	128	123	121	120
28	133	128	126	125
29	138	133	131	130
30	143	138	136	135
31	149	144	142	141
32	155	150	148	147
33	161	156	154	153
34	167	162	160	159
35	174	169	167	166
36	181	176	174	173
37	188	183	181	180
38	196	191	189	188
39	203	198	196	195
40	212	207	205	204
41	220	215	213	212
42	229	224	222	221
43	238	233	231	230
44	247	242	240	239

*\$100,000 or more deduct \$1.00 from Band 4.

Sr. Branch 88 Holds Afternoon of Fellowship and Celebration

On December 6, 2009, members of Branch 88 met for an afternoon of fellowship and celebration. The event was held at the Cedarbrook Golf Club, Belle Vernon, PA. Members were welcomed by Tom and Linda Oslick, party chairpersons, who presented each attendee with an array of gifts from the Home Office and local merchants.

Members socialized as they enjoyed the music of Haywood and Friends, a jazz band that entertained prior to and during dinner.

Rev. Justin Matro, OSB welcomed the group and gave the invocation. Following dinner, President Dorothy Urbanowicz welcomed everyone. She then introduced her officers: Ruth Bielawski (Jr. Order Financial Secretary), Alice Bialon (Recording Secretary), Rosemary Betza and Veronica Bellicini (Auditors) and Dorothy Urbanowicz (President and Sr. Order Financial Secretary). She thanked these ladies for their dedication and hard work throughout the year and also thanked Lillian Plavko, Patricia Kovach, Mary Ralston, Bill Bielawski, Robert Betza and Chuck Urbanowicz for being there whenever called upon for assistance. Dorothy then introduced Tom and Linda Oslick and thanked them for chairing the wonderful party.

A short meeting was held and it was noted that the branch participated in Relay for Life as a Join Hands Day project, matching funds projects with a birthday party at the Monessen Public Library which generated \$1900 in funds for the library plus the \$500 match from the Home Office, Calendar Party for the Monessen Food Pantry which generated \$1746 plus the \$500 match and Jr. Branch 157 Bake Sale for Epiphany Church which generated \$950 plus the \$500 match. Dorothy also pointed out the many causes which the branch donates to each year. She noted that there were 20 deaths and cash surrenders during the year and recognized the 50 year membership members: Daniel Baka, John Desak, Eileen Frolo, Helen Leskovansky, Carole Ann Lovett, Ronald Ruokonen, Patricia Shaw, Barbara Troilo, Martha Weisdack, Jo Ann Kubin and Mary Ann Murray.

Members were reminded to change their address if they move and to keep beneficiary information up to date. Dorothy also reminded members that scholarship applications are now available. She also thanked Tim Billick, Ted Harhai, and Jerry Jerkowicz for their contributions to the party.

The following members received door prizes: Rachel Willson, Gerald Jackson, Val Gene Veschio Sr., Helen Veschio, Mildred Krupa, Barbara Felak, Kathleen Mappas, John Dudas, Robert Gilotty, James Barron, Veronica Bellicini, Margaret McKitz, Darcie Kudra, Rosemary Betza, Ruth Bielawski, Dorothy Urbanowicz, Charles Urbanowicz, Regina Feryok, Michael Martin, Elizabeth Schmidt, Joseph Schmidt, Louise Dudas, Tom Oslick, Linda Oslick, Florence Prah, Alice Bialon, Rev. Nazimek, Catherine Hynek, William Bielawski, Bob Betza, Michael Smida, Irene Andrachek, Frank Zupanc, Ritz Zupanc, Sharon Zupanc, Ted Harhai, Dolores Harhai, Agnes Rusilko, Alana Pike, Rev. Kozil, Rev. Matro, Veronica Petrusky, Marlyn Chuprinko, John Harhai, Nick Mappas, Robert Funtal, Flora Funtal, Patty Pettko,



L-R: Jr. Branch 157 Financial Secretary Ruth Bielawski, Recording Secretary Alice Bialon, Auditor Veronica Bellicini, President Dorothy Urbanowicz, Party Chairperson Thomas Oslick, Auditor Rosemary Betza and Party Co-Chairperson Linda Oslick.

Ludmila Furio, Michele Cope, Elizabeth Chabalka, Darleen Koury, Mary Ralson, Paul Sabo, Patricia Sabo, Joanne Wiggins, Ellan Kowalsky, Margaret Smida, Elmer Andrachek, Theresa Kudra, Madeline Barron, Patricia Kovach, Rebecca Barclay, Michele Petrusky, Inez Gilotty, Betty Ann Babinec, Joann Kubin, Mary Jo Smith, Susan Phillips and Alethea Bennett.

Dorothy thanked all for attending and on behalf of the officers, she wished all members and their families a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year. The afternoon concluded with benediction by Rev. Micka Kozil.

FOUR GENERATIONS OF FCSLA SLOVAK HERITAGE

Great-grandmom Anna Rabatin, former secretary for Branch 84 and 7 (Philadelphia, PA) for over 25 years; Grandmom Carol Medica who is presently secretary of Branch 84 and 7; son Joseph Medica and daughter Lillie Rosemary, our newest FCSLA member. Great-grandmom Anna recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Best wishes and good health to all!



JR. BRANCH 157 ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Saturday, December 5, 2009, Jr. Branch 157 hosted its members at their Annual Children's Christmas Party. The party was held at the Epiphany Church Chapel Hall at 44 Pennsylvania Blvd.

The festivities started at 12:00 noon. The church pastor, Father David J. Nazimek was on hand to greet the children along with their parents and grandparents who chose to attend. As they entered the church hall each child was given a red felt Santa hat with different Christmas greetings embroidered on them. Dorothy Urbanowicz gave the welcome and acted as emcee. Invocation was given by member Natalie Bialon. The pledge to the flag was led by members Leo and Sammy



L to R: Veronica Bellicini, Rosemary Betza, Ruth Bielawski, Fr. Dave Nazamek, Mary Ann Ralston, Dorothy Urbanowicz and Alice Bialon.

lacavangelo with Leo carrying the flag.

The children enjoyed doing various Christmas crafts which they took home. Beth Kovach was in charge of

the crafts. A delicious luncheon was then served. The formal entertainment for the afternoon was "Carmie the Clown" and "Sponge Bob" performing a magic show and balloon making animal puppet art.

Then came the traditional most wildly anticipated part of the party, Santa Claus's visit. Many of the children brought their hand written "Letter to Santa" and presented them to Santa to put in his Big Red Wish Bag. Each child had a chance to sit on Santa's Lap and have their picture taken. Santa then presented each member with a "Goody Bag" which held many treats including apples, oranges, popcorn balls, a one-half pound box of chocolate candies, peanut butter cookies, calculators, Nativity coloring books and crayons, bouncing ball, pens, candy canes, large snowmen magnets and presidential rulers. Needless to say the children enjoyed the afternoon fun with Santa.

The Chairperson was Ruth J. Bielawski with a committee of Bill Bielawski III, Dorothy Urbanowicz, Alice Bialon, Rosemary Betza, Mary Ralston, Verne Bellicini and Beth Kovach.



SR. BRANCH 140 CELEBRATES THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

On Sunday, December 6th, Jolly Old St. Nicholas brought just what we wanted for St. Nick day. A room full of wonderful people ... some who traveled from Florida to join us in our annual Christmas dinner for Sr. Branch 140, Lansford, PA. The singing, laughter and food were great as were the people. Thank you to the Home Office for some really good gifts. We look forward to many more dinner parties with our members.



St. Louis Branches Enjoy Christmas Extravaganza

The branches of St. Louis, Sr. Branch 101 and Jr. Branch 11 thoroughly enjoyed a joint Christmas extravaganza/business meeting for its members, inviting the men's lodge, the most Holy Trinity Lodge 109 KJ Union, to join them for a day of fellowship and business with the 65 Slovak nationals in attendance on December 13, 2009.

Feasting on a wide range of Slovak holiday desserts, deli treats and the famous – often raved – the traditional Pauline Miklovic Slovak Potato Salad” occurred of which Julia Child would have been truly jealous and overwhelmed.

On an absolutely beautiful December day in St. Louis a plethora of holiday-spirited Slovaks, both mature and youthful, enjoyed each others companionship, toasted another prosperous year of existence and prayed for those members who could not be with us owing to their untimely passing away during the year – a change of address to the “Church Triumphant.”

Branch officers were re-elected for the New Year with the assemblage hailing copious amounts of applause on those officers who served so magnificently during the year. The members in attendance were daunted and awed with the Treasurer's report of assets and member statistics of insurance in force and the President's fluidity of moving the meeting along so as to get to the holiday feast. The Vice-President's report of those 23 members who reached 80 years of natal existence was fervently received since those post-octogenarians were each rewarded with a \$10 bill to pay tribute to their anniversary. The Vice President was truly choked-up in her ardent presentation to these opulently deserved members.

Each senior and junior Jednota constituent in attendance collected a door prize of association “goodies” and was awarded an attendance prize of festival cheer to cap-off their fellowship excitement. Junior member Nick Uxa was in command of welcoming the fellow senior and junior members.

As the Board basked in the flow of hosting triumphant holiday spirited revelry, the Board, in retrospect was remorseful for not mentioning during the course of the business meeting that member Jacob Joseph Miklovic of the Sr. Branch, was presently defending his country in Iraq as a United States Marine and was “in attendance” in “mind only.” We salute and offer our prayers to every member of the military at this time of the year in “harms way.”

SLOVAK LANGUAGE CLASSES

Once again, the WPSCA is sponsoring Slovak language classes for the Spring 2010 semester. The nine-week course will be for beginners and intermediate students. The classes will be held on Tuesday from February 23-April 20 at Mt. Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15228.

The tuition is free and your instructor for the course will be Bozena Hilko. Please call Pam at (412) 531-2990 during office hours to reserve a place. Class size is limited because of space.



Front row, L-R: Jr. Branch members Kylie Vilcek, Lilian Lyons, Annabel Wright, Frances Miklovic, Audrey Miklovic. Back row, L-R: President Dolores Bachesta, Secretary Joseph Miklovic, Treasurer Margaret Lyons (holding newest J-011 member Lukas Lyons), VP Ann Miklovic.



A good time that was had by all.

50th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dugas of West Mifflin, PA celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Grand Concourse at Station Square in Pittsburgh, PA with their children Scott, Jessica (Luke Sossi), and Heather (Kevin Daerr) and grandchildren Alexandra and Kyle Sossi; Samuel, Annie and Benjamin Daerr.

They were married at St. Matthew's Church on the South Side of Pittsburgh, PA by Father Hohos on October 17th, 1959.

Mr. and Mrs. Dugas and their children are all members of Branch 233, South Side of Pittsburgh, PA.



Observe 68th Anniversary

Henry and Mildred Blecha, members of Branch W086 recently celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary. The occasion was celebrated with a potluck supper followed by a mass celebrated by Father Barry Brinkman in St. George Church, Munden, KS. The meal was hosted by the Council of Catholic Women of St. George Parish. In addition to St. George parishioners, Blecha's children were in attendance: Janice and Mark Keely of Tahlequah, OK, Donald and wife Margaret of Wichita, KS, Kelvin and wife Marcia of Chester, NE and son-in-law Richard Sulzen of Kansas City, KS. Their daughter Rita is deceased. They have eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Henry continues to be financial secretary for Branch W086 and has been a lifelong member. Mildred became a member after marriage. They were married on November 8th in St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Morrowville, KS.

Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

John and Irene Janda (W024) recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their children. They were married on October 6, 1959, at St. Luke's Catholic Church in Veseleyville, ND. Their children are: Jacqueline (Andrew) Korczak, Catherine (Mark) Enstad, and Loretta (Glen) Grad. They have 11 grandchildren: Jeremy, Josh and Andrea Korczak; Christian, Leif and Emily Enstad; Donny, Samantha, Jaral, Evelyn and Loren Grad.

FCSLA FRATERNAL OUTREACH IS ON THE MOVE IN 2010

As the FCSLA continues to grow, we need to hear positive ideas and suggestions from our membership, especially the younger generation. Our **VISION** and **MISSION** printed in last month's magazine should be shared with all members and prospective members. Perhaps there is a program or idea you would like us to consider implementing in the future. Email me at: sueann@fcsla.org or phone **1-800-464-4642, Ext. 1051**.



Do You Know Your Number?

From the desk of Deborah Brindza, M.D., National Medical Examiner and Sue Ann M. Seich, Fraternal & Youth Director

Is it important to know your numbers as you try to live a healthy life? It sure is. Each of us should know the numbers of her/his "lipoprotein profile". A lipoprotein profile is a test to find out your blood cholesterol numbers and is usually done after fasting overnight. The first number will be the total cholesterol. It should be less than 200 mg/dl. HDL is the "good" cholesterol that is shown to lower your risk of heart attack and stroke if high. A level of 60 mg/dl is considered very good and has a lower risk. You can raise your HDH level by not smoking, losing weight and exercise. LDL is the "bad" cholesterol. This number should be less than 100 mg/dl. The final number is the triglyceride level. Your goal is a number less than 150 mg/dl. Your doctor will look at these numbers and determine your future risk for heart attack and stroke. If

your numbers are higher than normal, talk with your doctor to see what you need to do to lower your risk. The American Heart Association is a great source of facts related to heart disease. Call 1-800-AHA-USA1 (1-800-242-8721) or visit www.americanheart.org.

CHALLENGE: How many three and four letter words can you find in this phrase?

"FEBRUARY IS THE MONTH WITH HEART"

Time yourself 20 minutes,
make a list, and then mail it to:

Sue Ann M. Seich, Fraternal & Youth Director
24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122

Prizes will be sent in the mail to the top ten entries.

Deadline for submission is March 1, 2010.

Branch W137 Celebrates Holiday Seasons



Renegade Runner Bill Sheka and Little Red Riding Hood Cath Sheka.



Lily and Ellie Bryant in costume.

Branch W137 of Cedar Rapids, IA gathered on Sunday, October 18, 2009 at St. Ludmila Gym. About 75 members enjoyed trick or treating and a dinner of hot dogs and sloppy joes.

* * *

On Sunday, December 6th, 2009, Branch W137 members gathered for a Christmas celebration. Santa, Mrs. Claus and Ricki the Balloon Man assisted with the merriment. Pizza and gift bags were enjoyed by all the attendees.

"Celebration of Gratitude"

A "Celebration of Gratitude" was held by Branch W016 in the Brainard Holy Trinity Klein Center in Brainard, NE on November 29, 2009.

W016 member Joe Kliment and his wife Elly at the serving table.



Charlotte and Clarence Greguras enjoy a visit during the Celebration of Gratitude party.



Musical entertainment after the Celebration of Gratitude Party was provided by W016 Spiritual Director Father Matthew Eickhoff (who was also celebrating his birthday), Vern Dvorak, Bill Perk and W016 member Leo Kovar.

FCSLA Annuities

**From January 1
through March 31, 2010,
FCSLA annuities with a
guaranteed minimum rate of
4.50%
will earn a yield of 4.6025%,
while FCSLA annuities with a
guaranteed minimum rate of
3.50%
will earn a yield of 4.0%.**

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

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. Johanek at the Home Office, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Beachwood, Ohio 44122.

District Anna Hurban of Chicago Hosts Christmas Party

On Saturday, December 5, 2009, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, District Anna Hurban of Chicago, hosted its annual combined branch Christmas Party at the Orland Chateau in Orland Park, IL. According to Marge Krugley, Christmas Party Chairperson for the past six years, a total of 340 branch members and their guests were in attendance. Fr. Marek Sitar, Associate Pastor of St. Germaine's Parish in Oak Lawn, IL and a native from Slovakia, gave the blessing before the meal.

The members and their guests feasted on a flavorful vegetable soup, garden salad, beef, roasted chicken, the traditional Slovak pork and dumplings, vegetables and tasty pastries for dessert – all deliciously excellent and scrumptious! Attendees were later led in song by various branch officers and members in a few traditional Slovak songs.

Later in the program, the attendees participated in a raffle wherein the winners received various Christmas-related prizes. As the raffle numbers were called, some of the District's junior members who were in attendance acted as the runners, passing out the prizes.

After the event, Marge Krugley was heard to say "This year's party was a HUGE success! Everyone is looking forward to next year's party!" Joe Ledvora, District President stated, "Marge Krugley and Dolores Mooha did another outstanding job in coordinating this event, from shopping and wrapping the prizes to creating the invitations for the branch officers to send to their members. Every year Marge and Dolores outdo themselves and we are grateful to them for all of their hard work in making our event such a huge success!"



Seated L-R: Carl and Betty Yurechko and Agnes Chervenak of Branch 409 — Indiana District; Standing L-R: Sr. Antonia Klausner (Chicago District Chaplain) and Joseph Ledvora (Chicago District President).



Jr. Branch members waiting to pass out the raffle prizes to winners.



Fr. Marek Sitar (Associate Pastor of St. Germain Parish, Oak Lawn) saying grace with District President Joseph Ledvora at right.



Jr. Branch members with Helen Ledvora (Chicago District Recording Secretary) volunteered to pass out the raffle prizes to the winners.



Various members and branch officers leading the attendees in singing Slovak Christmas Carols and other holiday songs.



Seated, L-R: Jeanette Palanca (Sr. Branch 258 Jr. Auditor) and Rosemary Mlinarich (FCSLA National Vice President). Standing, Joseph Ledvora, Chicago District President.



Chicago District Officers with the Christmas Party Chairperson. L-R: Irene Zittman (District Auditor), Helen Ledvora (District Recording Secretary), Joseph Ledvora (District President), Judy Tybor-Knizner (District Vice President), Alice Nemcek (District Treasurer), Marge Krugley (Christmas Party Chairperson) and Jarmila Hlubocky (District Financial Secretary).



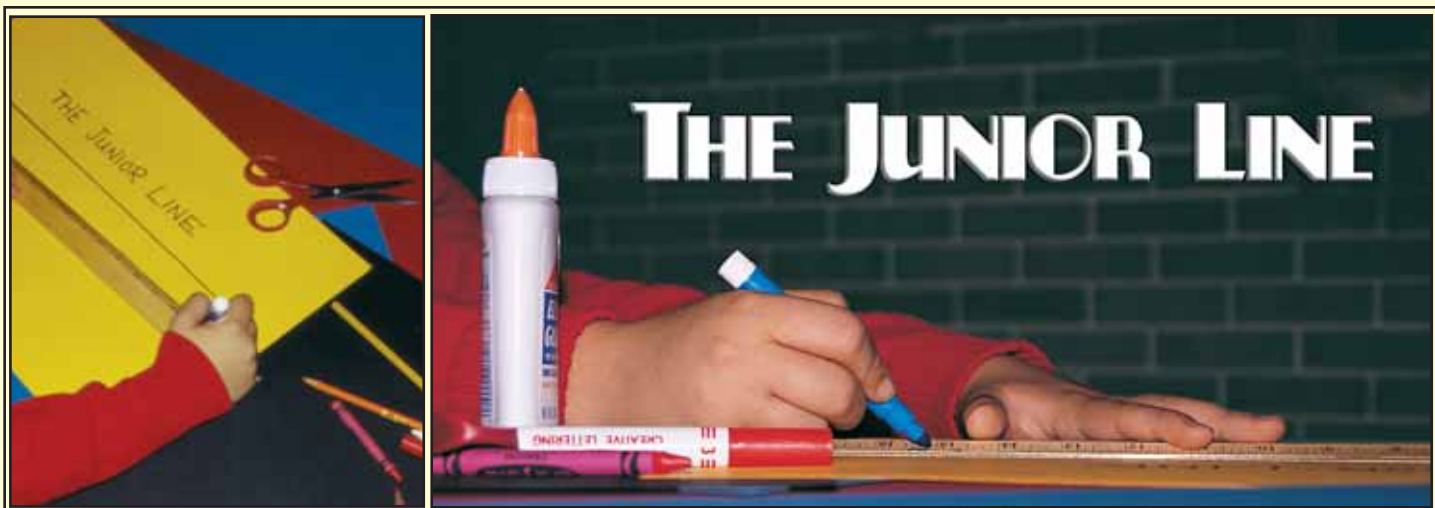
Some of the attendees.



Above photos include branch officers setting up the raffle prize table, and all the beautifully wrapped prizes ready for the drawing.



— Scenes at the Orland Chateau —



Branches 184/289 Host Annual Halloween Party for Junior Members

On Saturday, October 31, 2009 Jr. Branch 184 of Gray, IN along with Sr. Branch 289 hosted the annual Halloween Party for junior members and their families.

The party was held at Our Lady of Consolation Hall in Merrillville, IN with a pizza lunch and many games. Members dressed up and enjoyed the afternoon with fellow members. Each member left after the party with a gift bag filled with treats and prizes.



Mylie Martisovic and her Mom.



Andy and Rosemary Yurechko with parents Jason and Mindy.



Cole and Matthew Oresik with their Aunt, Cindy Oresik, Sr. Branch 289 Auditor.



New member Amy Rowe and her Mom Sarah.



Seated, Jr. Branch 184 officers, MaryAnn Oresik and Ann Fedorchak. Standing: Sr. Branch 289 officers and family members who helped at the party.



L-R: Grant, Cameron and Paula Rachford and Bob, Andrew and Rachel Martin.

EMILY ANNA JACKSON

daughter of Sam and Lisa Jackson of Boardman, OH made her First Communion this past summer at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Struthers, OH with Reverend William Petrunak officiating. A candle on the altar was lit in memory of her twin sister, Angela Elizabeth, who is always in her heart.

To make the occasion even more beautiful, Fr. Petrunak celebrated his 50th Jubilee in the Priesthood along with Emily's First Communion. Holy Trinity is the church Fr. Petrunak grew up in and said his First Mass 50 years ago which made it even more special for him. The combination of two such wonderful events truly made it a memorable day.

Emily, as well as her sister Erin, are members of Branch 66 where her mother is Branch secretary and her "Baba" is Auditor for Branch 156.

Emily attends Robinwood Lane in Boardman and loves singing, dancing, golf, and bowling. She is also an active CCD student at Holy Trinity Church where she is a member along with her family.

Emily is also the granddaughter of Emil and Ann Bobby and Sam and the late Dolly Jackson all of Struthers, OH.



RECEIVES EAGLE SCOUT HONOR

Matthew Belcik, a member of Jr. Branch 354, from Loveland, OH was recognized as an Eagle Scout at his Court of Honor, Saturday, November 28, 2009, at Loveland United Methodist Church, the sponsor of Boy Scouts of America Troop 621.

Bob Wassel the assistant scout master stated, "Matthew has served in leadership positions in the troop for more than two years, is a role model to his younger brother and sister, and continues to teach scouting to the younger boys in the troop. He came to our troop already a leader."

Matthew achieved his Eagle Scout rank at the age of fifteen. Less than 4% of scouts ever reach this rank.

One requirement to becoming an Eagle Scout is to plan and manage a service project that benefits the community. His Eagle Service Project involved building a pergola for a middle school program called Granny's Garden. The pergola serves as a place offering shade for the school children who tend to their gardens.

His father said, "Scouting has allowed Matthew to develop leadership skills and many life skills that few boys have the opportunity to develop."

Matthew has participated in many scouting activities. He has helped other scouts with their Eagle Service Projects and volunteered at Matthew 25 Ministries. He is a member of the Loveland High School Tennis team and is a high school band member. He maintains a high honor roll status with his studies.

He enjoys flying giant scale radio control planes and has earned first place in IMAC flying competitions.

Matthew is the grandson of Marge and Mike Belcik of Poland, OH.



PATRICK EDWARD KOVACH

son of Beth and Ron Kovach received his First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at Mary Mother of the Church in Charleroi, PA.

Patrick, who is 8 years old and in the third grade plays soccer, football and is a cub scout. He and his sister Veronica, age 10,



are members of Jr. Branch 157 in Monessen, PA.

His parents and his paternal grandmother Patricia Kovach belong to Sr. Branch 88, also in Monessen, PA.

Scholarship Winner Honored

Jr. Branch 83 of Joliet, IL, recently honored their National Scholarship winner Samantha Heiberger. Samantha is a 2009-2010 eighth grade student at

Visitation Grade School in Elmhurst, IL. Pictured below presenting Samantha with a gift from Jr. Branch 83 is Branch Secretary Audrey Hornicak while her parents Mary Jo and John Heiberger proudly look on.





IN MEMORIAM

MARY E. MAGDA **Branch 325/354**



Mary E. Magda, 85, President and Financial Secretary of Branch 235/354, passed away December 3, 2009, at Hospice House, Youngstown, OH.

Mary had served as secretary of Saints Cyril and Methodius Church for 35 years. She currently held office in five parish organizations. Her main love was her work with the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and held office on a branch level for over forty years. She also served as Treasurer of the Maria E. Grega Youngstown District of the FCSLA for 35 years. She was honored at an FCSLA convention for being a member of the Million Dollar Club having sold that much insurance in one year. She helped her Branch to "grow" by bringing in new members. She also always had FCSLA Scholarship winners from her Branch due to her diligence of informing them of the FCSLA Scholarship Program.

Mary's husband, Stephen, died in 1946. She leaves her sons, Stephen (Dolly) of Orlando, FL, and Richard (Alexa) of Herndon, VA, five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, her niece Carol Hallock and nephew Edward Novotny.

Her funeral Mass was celebrated by Diocesan Vicar General, Monsignor Robert Siffrin and concelebrated by her pastor, Reverend Nicholas Mancini, at Saints Cyril and Methodius, the Slovak Mother Parish of the Youngstown Diocese.

Mary will be missed by the many people with whom she worked and with whom she was associated.

MARY E. (ROSCOE) PRESLIN **Branch 525**

Mary E. (Roscoe) Preslin, 106 years old of Reservoir Road, St. Clairsville,

OH, formerly of Third Street, Martins Ferry, OH died Friday, November 20, 2009 at Forest Hills Retirement Community, St. Clairsville. She was born November 18, 1903 in Martins Ferry, OH, a daughter of the late George and Julia (Metro) Roscoe.

She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, and the Catholic Women's Club, both of Martins Ferry.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband Anthony J. Preslin, a daughter Mary Catherine Hildebrand, a brother George Roscoe, and five sisters Elizabeth Hughes, Julie Boskovich, Sue Laslo, Anna Roper, and Helen Newton.

Surviving are a son Frank (Betty Lou) Preslin of Martins Ferry, two daughters Anna (Ted Slivinski of Dillonvale, OH and Agnes (Alex) Kenzora of Martins Ferry, eleven grandchildren, twenty-two great-grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren.

PAUL J. SLOUP **Branch W013**

Paul J. Sloup, 57, of Prague, NE died October 7 at his home. He was born on December 13, 1951 to James W. and Maire S. (Koranda) Sloup. He graduated from Wahoo Neumann High School in 1970. He was a truck driver throughout the country for many years but recently settled in Prague, NE and worked for Collins Construction of Wahoo.

Sloup was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Gerald and an infant brother Joseph Sloup.

He is survived by three sisters and spouses, Theresa (Jerry) Retzloff of Plainview, NE, Marilyn (Bob) Coe of North Bend, NE and Ann Sloup of Wahoo, NE, also nieces and nephews.

CLARA POLACEK **Branch W013**

Clara Polacek, 93, of Prague, NE died November 3, 2009, at St. Joseph Villa in David City, NE.

Clara was born August 12, 1916 to

Vaclav and Agnes (Odvody) Koranda near Prague, NE. She was baptized and was a member of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church of Plasi during her years of growing up.

She married Max Polacek on September 30, 1941 in Prague. She was a member of St. John the Baptist Church, the Rosary Society, and FCSLA Branch W013. She had been a member of the school board of Saunders County District 51, the Prague American Legion Auxiliary and a past member of the Prague Chapter Bloodmobile and a Charter Member of the Social Lites Extension Club.

She is survived by children and spouses Adelyne (Marvin) Woita, Irene Rezac (Ronald), Epp Lincoln, Carmen (Richard) Hoppe, Kenneth (Deb) Polacek; 11 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

FRANCIS L. LABUDA **Branch 89**

Francis L. LaBuda, 76 of Collins Avenue, Bethlehem, PA, died November 18, 2009 at Saucon Valley Manor. He was the husband of Patricia (Barron) LaBuda. They were married 54 years this past July. Born in Fountain Hill, he was a son of the late Joseph and Mary (Mizak) LaBuda. He was a Navy veteran of the Korean War and was the Assistant Fire Chief and former Fire Commissioner for the Bethlehem Fire Department for 42 years, retiring in 1998. He was a member of the former Ss. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church, now Incarnation of Our Lord Catholic Church, Bethlehem, where he was a cantor, a choir member, and the treasurer of the Senior Group. He was also a member of the Holy Infancy Church Choir. He was a member of American Legion Post 397, Hellertown, a member and past president of the FCSLA Branch 89, the Catholic Slovak Sokols, the FCSU Branch 156K, was a 21 year member of the Bethlehem Fire Department Pension Board, and a member of the Lower Saucon Township

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

Planning Commission and Pension Boards.

Survivors include his wife, Patricia; son, Gregory LaBuda; daughters, Dawn LaBuda and Sharon LaBuda; sisters Agnes Stephan and Cel Zakeski; four grandchildren, Nicholas, Nathan, Jessica and Neil; and four great-grandchildren, Hannah, Zachary, Kayla, and Jayden; and a grand-puppy Zach. He was predeceased by siblings, Joseph LaBuda, Helen Galgocy, and Mary Reisteter.

Contributions were made to Heartland Hospice, 881 Marcoon Blvd. 3700, Allentown, PA 18109.

MARY ANN SATALA **Branch 274**

Mary Ann Satala, nee Kolar, beloved wife of Victor J. for 53 years, devoted mother of Mary Beth (Russ) Pac, Julie (Mark) Webber and John (Debbie), cherished grandma to Caila, Nathan and Nicholas Webber, Olivia and expected new baby Stala; preceded in death by her parents, James and Mary Witek; loving sister of the late James (Bernice) the late Albert (Pauline) and Sylvia (the late Charles) Diehm; also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Co-owner of Satala Funeral Home. Former employee of Speigels and Reliance Trading Corporation for many years. Current president of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association 274 and past president of St. Michael the Archangel and St. Joseph High School Mothers Club and a long time member of St. Michaels Golden Agers. Mary Ann was a tireless volunteer to her church and community. She will be sorely missed.

EDWARD STEVEN **KOLESAR JR.** **Branch 301**

Edward S. Kolesar, Jr., 59, W.A. Moncrief Professor of Engineering at Texas Christian University, died Wednesday, October 7, 2009. Ed was

born June 24, 1950, in Canton, OH, son of Edward Steven Kolesar, Sr. who preceded him in death, and Margaret Jean Skolosh Kolesar.

Ed graduated from Central Catholic High School and the University of Akron, joining ROTC. Ed was commissioned as an officer in the US Air Force and proudly served 20 years until retirement in 1993. He was sponsored for an MBA and MS in electrical engineering at the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) and a Ph.D. at the University of Texas in Austin. Ed taught for eight years at AFIT before accepting the newly developed Moncrief chair at TCU.

He was awarded 13 patents and published hundreds of scholarly articles. Ed received numerous commendations. He was most proud of the Air Force Research and Development Award in 1987. Another legacy was his eight year involvement in prostate cancer research. He hoped his participation would unlock one mystery of the disease for future generations.

Survivors include his wife of 33 years, Elinor; children, Lauren Eatinger, Thomas, Beth Kolesar and Greg Kolesar; mother, Margaret Kolesar; sister, Margaret and Hank Woodring; brother, Raymond and Shellie Kolesar.

MARGARET M. KRESOVSKY **Branch 156**

Margaret M. Kresovsky, 93, died Tuesday, October 20, 2009, at Liberty Health Care Center. She was born September 16, 1916 in Youngstown, OH, a daughter of John and Anna Repasky Hudak and was a life long area resident.

Mrs. Kresovsky, a homemaker, was a member of St. Patrick Church and the Altar and Rosary Society. Margaret graduated from Campbell Memorial High School in 1935 and enjoyed baking, her flower gardens and needle work.

Her husband John S. Kresovsky, from Hubbard, whom she married August 3, 1940, died September 27, 1993.

She leaves two sons John (Rebecca) Kresovsky of Fort Myers, FL and Edward Kresovsky of Hubbard; a daughter, Margaret (David) Miller of Westlake, OH; two sisters Helen Toth and Ann Kozar, both of Youngstown; three grandchildren, Mark (Jennifer) Kresovsky, Kristin (Chris) Weber and Alison Kresovsky; and one great-granddaughter, Adeline Mae Weber.

She was preceded in death by her parents, four brothers, John, Frank, Joseph and Stephen Hudak and a sister, Mary "Mae" Hudak.

HELEN KOVAL **Branch 35/67**



Helen Koval passed away on November 13, 2009, at the age of 86. Helen was born in Terna, Czechoslovakia on January 1,

1923. She was the daughter of the late Sophie Fetko and Miklus Lazor. She came to the U.S. in 1928 and was formerly of Bayonne, NJ. Upon marrying John in 1946, she moved to Raritan, NJ where she was a homemaker and parishioner of St. Joseph's Slovak Church for over 63 years.

Helen was a member and longtime financial secretary of Branches 35 and Jr. Branch 67. She enjoyed reading, baking, cooking, crocheting and her family.

She is predeceased by her husband, John, in 1994. Surviving are three daughters, Elaine Walters, Diane Dellibovi, and Marian Redlich, and son, James Sr., nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, all of whom are Branch members.

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

The MSC Sisters' Centennial Year of Mission

The MSC Sisters' Centennial Year of Mission in the U.S. Province culminated in joyful praise with many friends! On Sunday, August 16, 2009 several members of Sr. Branch 140 of Lansford, PA attended a special Liturgy celebrated by Bishop Barres at Holy Guardian Angels Parish in Reading. Fr. Michael Camilli,



Members of Branch 140 at the MSC Centennial Dinner are seated L-R: Marian Kerestes and Louise Dunstan. Standing L-R: Michael Bazik, Veronica Bazik and Monsignor Thomas Derzack.

MSC, shared a thoughtful homily honoring the MSC Sisters, and the Sisters renewed their vows in front of 400 friends and relatives. Following the Liturgy, 350 guests attended a wonderful celebration with their Master of Ceremonies, Fr. Phil De Rea, MSC, at the Inn at Reading. Dinner was accentuated by comments from Rev. John O. Barres, Bishop of Allentown, Sr. Mechthild Schnieder, MSC, Superior General, Rev. Joe Jablonski, MSC, Provincial Superior, Sr. Lorraine Molchanow, MSC, Provincial Superior, and Senator Michael O'Pake. Praise God for 100 years of MSC missions past and 100 years of MSC missions future!

Branch 221 Adopts a Family

Branch 221 of Parma, OH, adopted a family through the Adopt-A-Family Program at St. Bernadette's Parish in Westlake, OH. Branch 221 has also participated in helping a needy family at their own Holy Family Parish in Parma, OH, through its Senior Citizens Club.



Officers of Sr. Branch 221, Richard and Susan Talpas, are delivering boxes of gifts and food for a needy family of six.



Veronica Bazik, Branch 140 President, Louise Dunstan, Branch 140 Financial Secretary/Treasurer and National Editor Carolyn Bazik talk with Bishop John O. Barres at the MSC Centennial Dinner.

Inducted Into National Honor Society

Kristen Jordan was enrolled in the FCSLA Jr. Branch 256 by Helen Krubitzer Financial Secretary in Wilkes-Barre, PA in 1993.

Kristen resides with her parents Kathy and Robert Jordan in Lebanon, PA.

During a recent "Tapping Ceremony" she was inducted into the National Honor Society at Lebanon Catholic High School.



This is a ceremony where Junior and Senior students are inducted into the National Honor Society. Parents are notified but the students are unaware who is chosen until the student body meets at an assembly program where the blessing of the Society Stoles and Pins take place.

After the blessing of stoles and pins, the new inductees are surprised by a tap on the shoulder from a former National Honor Society student who then leads them to a waiting area where they are surprised at seeing their parents. After the happy greetings, the parents escort the students into the assembly again.

The candidates are presented to the assembly – the certificates and pins are awarded to them – and they are invited to sign the Society Register.

A Candle Lighting Ceremony follows: a candle is lit and short description of scholarship, character, leadership, and service is given by the National Honor Society students.

Following closing comments by Mrs. Michele Ambrosia, Principal and Benediction by Deacon Richard Wentzel the assembly sang the Alma Mater.

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

O Cukrových Topánochách

Krista Bendová

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

Kde bolo, tam bolo, bolo raz jedno pekné dievčatko menom Elvíra. To dievčatko bolo jedinou dcérou jediného otca a jedinej matky. Vlastne jedináčka a tak trochu aj maznáčka. Teda vlastne umrnčaná Elvíra. Samozrejme, že mrnčala len vtedy, keď jej niečo nechceli dať. Ale mrnčala tak strašne, že sa všetkým ježili vlasy a krútili ušká, takže tej Elvíre radšej hneď všetko dali, aby im náhodou vlasy neostali ježaté a uši ušaté . . .

Jedného dňa sa stala taká nešikovná vec, že Elvíra začala čítať rozprávkovú knižku. A ešte nešikovnejšie bolo, že si prečítala rozprávku o Popoluške. Veď viete – o tom, ako Popoluška stratila zlatú topánočku a našiel ju princ a vzal si ju nakoniec za manželku. Nie topánočku, samozrejme, ale Popolušku.

Prečítala si Elvíra rozprávku, veľmi sa zamyslela a vymyslela, že najdôležitejší predmet v ľudskom živote na zemi aj vo vesmíre sú – topánky.

„Také topánky nesmú byť obyčajné!“ rozmyšľala Elvíra. „Popoluška mala zlaté, ale zlaté by mi asi nedali. No mohli by byť napríklad . . . Už to mám!“

A Elvíra dostala svetový nápad a hneď s ním aj napadla svojich milých rodičov.

„Rodičia moji!“ povedala Elvíra. „Potrebujem nejaké zvláštne topánky, aby ma podľa nich našiel nejaký rozprávkový princ. Chcem, aby tie topánky boli – cukrové!“

„Dcérenka!“ zakvílili rodičia. „Kdeže ti my vezmeme cukrové topánky, veď to nie je sériová výroba, a keby museli vyrobiť len jeden pár, vyšlo by nás to strašne drah.“

„Chcem cukrové topánky!“ povedala Elvíra energicky a vložila si do hlasu trochu plačlivý tón. „Ak mi ich nedáte, budem mrnčať!“

„Zadrž, dcérenka!“ zľakli sa obaja rodičia. „Dáme ti radšej sto kociek cukru alebo tisíc najsladších bozkov, ale nežiadaj cukrové topánky.“

No Elvíra že nie a nie, a hneď aj spustila svoje svetoznáme mrnčanie: „Uááá, búúú, uúú, mauuuú . . .“

A zavýja a zavýja ako najsanitkovatejšia úrazovka a susedia zatvárajú okenice a pchajú si do uší vatové štoplíky.

„Neplač, dcérenka, kúpime ti osem vagónov eskima!“ prosia rodičia a zúfalo zalamujú rukami.

Ale Elvíra uáka a buáka a muáka, až sa všetky domy na okolí trasú, ľudia si schovávajú hlavy pod periny a najhluchejší praotec v sídlisku odrazu prvý raz po tridsiatich rokoch počuje tie hrozné zvuky a čuduje sa, ako sa mu zrazu vrátil sluch.

Rodičia smutne nariekajú a prosia: „Neplač, Elvíra,

nezavýjaj, dcérenka naša, upečieme ti dvanásť-poschodovú tortu, len cukrové topánky od nás nežiadaj, také v našich obchodoch nedostať!“

Čo mali nešťastní rodičia robiť? Sľúbili nakoniec umraukanej dcére cukrové topánky. Hneď ráno vyzdvihol otecko v banke všetky úspory na družstevný byt a objednal u mestských cukrární a sódovkární cukrové topánky pre svoju umňaukanú jedináčku.

Cukrári a sódovkári sa pustili do roboty, vzali Elvíre mieru a vyrobili snehobiele cukrové topánočky. Vpredu bola malá červená ružička a dookola nápis: „Blahoželáme k narodeninám!“

Obula si Elvíra cukrové topánočky, pokochala sa pohľadom v zrkadle, podupkala po dome a vraví:

„Ej, budeže sa mi sladko chodiť po živote!“

A s týmto radostným výkrikom vyšla z domu do ulíc. Klopká si sladko, klopká po chodníčku, keď tu zrazu na streche: cukrú, cukrú . . . zacukrujú dve hrdličky a potom ďalšie dve a potom ďalšie a všetky mestské hrdličky zlietajú zo striech k Elvíriným topánkam a dobiehajú do tej sladkej obuvi.

„Heš! Heš!“ kričí Elvíra a odháňa cukrujúce vtáctvo od svojich sladkých topánok. Ale vtáctva celý oblak letí za ňou ako čierny mrak a Elvíra hešuje a preč ich obháňa. Vtom aj mušky čosi príjemné zavoňali. Bzú, bzú, zlietajú sa na Elvírinu obuv a je ich celé mračno, ako keby to na chodníku dymilo čiernym dymom. Aj osy a včely a všetok hmyz celého okresu zlieta k sladkým topánkam a Elvíra sa oháňa ako veterná mlynica a kroka poriadneho nemôže spraviť.

Odrazu len na nebi zablysko, zahrnelo. Naľakali sa mušky, včely, osy a iné lietavce, lebo hneď vedeli, že ide búrka. Ffrrr, odffrrkli ako strely a Elvíra celá blažená kráča ďalej bez lietajúceho sprievodu. Ale odrazu len cup-cup-cup, klop-klop-klop – dážď sa spustil a leje a leje a je to naozajstná prietrž mračen. Dala sa Elvíra do behu, aby bola čím skôr doma. No neprešla ani za roh a vidí – červené ružičky sa pomaly, ale isto strácajú z topánok a tečú ako červené potôčiky po chodníku. Aj cukrové topánočky sú čoraz tenšie a tenšie a hneď blahoželanie k narodeninám sa zmiešalo s hnedým blatom.

Na druhej ulici Elvíra zastane, rev prenáramný spustí, lebo nijako nevie pochopiť, kam sa jej odrazu stratili tie krásne sladké topánky! Lebo na nohách už nemá nič iné, len pančušky a vlastnú načisto premočenú pokožku.

Poležala si Elvíra týždeň v postieľke, veselo kýčala a nádchovala, a za ten nádchový týždeň vymyslela, že v rozprávkach sú topánky potrebné na všeličo. Ale v nerozprávkach ich treba len na chodenie, a ak je nejaký princ, nech si Elvíru nájde hoci aj v obyčajných cvičkách.

Shoes Made Out of Sugar

Krista Bendová

Once upon a time there was a little girl whose name was Elvira. She was an only child, and she was quite spoiled. She cried a lot but only when she could not get what she wanted. She cried so loudly that everybody who heard her got upset. That is why everybody gave her what she wanted.

One day Elvira read a book of fairy tales. She read the story of Cinderella. Everybody knows the story, Cinderella had a gold slipper, she lost it, a prince found it and proposed marriage to her.

Elvira read the story, thought hard and came up with the idea what the most important thing in life was shoes. "However these shoes must be extraordinary," she thought to herself. "Cinderella's shoes were made out of gold, but my parents would not give me that. But maybe . . . I have a solution."

Elvira had a solution and she immediately presented it to her parents.

"My dear parents! Elvira said. "I need special shoes, so the dreamy prince can find me. I want these shoes to be made out of sugar!" "Dear daughter" cried the parents. "Where can we find such shoes? These kind of shoes are not made, somebody would have to make only one pair, and that will be expensive."

"I want shoes made out of sugar!" said Elvira, as she prepared to cry.

"Stop, daughter!" her parents were afraid to upset their daughter. "We will give you 100 pieces of sugar cubes or 1000 sweet kisses but don't ask for this kind of shoes."

But Elvira did not listen and started to cry.

She is looking and screaming like a siren and neighbors are closing windows and putting cotton in their ears.

"Do not cry, daughter, we will buy you as much ice



cream as you want!" the parents are begging their daughter to stop screaming. But Elvira does not stop, her screams vibrate the houses and the neighbors are trying to hide from the noise.

Elvira's parents are begging now "Do not cry, daughter, we will bake you a big cake but do not ask for shoes made from sugar!" Elvira's parents did not know what to do, so they promised her the shoes. The next day the father went to the bank to get their savings and went to the bakery shop to order shoes made from sugar.

The bakers went to work, they measured her feet for shoes and made them out of the whitest sugar. The shoes had a little red rose and a sign "Happy birthday!" Elvira put the shoes on and said: "How sweet my life will

be!" and she went for a walk. All of a sudden all the city doves were after Elvira's shoes, they were trying to eat the sugar. "Go away," screams Elvira and she is chasing the birds away. But the birds are hungry and they are following Elvira and not only birds are after her sugar shoes but also flies and bees. There are so many birds, flies and bees after Elvira's shoes that she cannot move. All of a sudden a big storm came, and all the birds and insects flew away. Elvira was relieved but not for long because it started to rain. It was not raining it was pouring. Elvira started to run home. However she sees that her beautiful shoes made out of sugar are melting. The shoes made of sugar are thinner and thinner and are disappearing and mixing with dirt on the sidewalk. Elvira starts to cry, she cannot believe that her beautiful sugar shoes are gone! She is standing on the sidewalk in her socks! Elvira was sick for a week with a bad cold. During her sickness Elvira thought that if a prince wants her, he will find her.

Saints Cyril and Methodius

Saints Cyril and Methodius were Greek brothers born in Thessaloniki in the 9th century, who became missionaries of Christianity among the Slavic peoples of Great Moravia and Pannonia. Through their work they influenced the cultural development of all Slavs, for which they received the title "*Apostles to the Slavs*". They are credited with devising the Glagolitic alphabet, the first alphabet used to transcribe the Old Church Slavonic language. After their deaths, their pupils continued their missionary work among other Slavs. Both brothers are venerated in the Eastern Orthodox Church as saints with the title of "*Equals to the Apostles*". In 1880, Pope Leo XIII introduced their feast into the calendar of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1980, Pope John Paul II declared them co-patrons of Europe, together with Saint Benedict of Nursia. We celebrate their feast day on February 14th.

Prayer:

Saints Cyril and Methodius, watch over all missionaries but especially those in Slavic countries. Help those that are in danger in the troubled areas. Watch over the people you dedicated your lives to. Amen



Statue of Saints Cyril and Methodius at the foot of Nitra Castle in Slovakia.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC FEDERATION SCHEDULES 32ND ANNUAL SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS APPEAL

When our ancestors came to these shores more than a century ago, they brought with them few monetary assets. However, their most precious possession was their faith. The seeds were nurtured by the Slovak priests who came with the immigrant people and helped build our Slovak Catholic fraternals, religious communities of men and women, and nearly 300 Slovak parishes. In response to this legacy, the Slovak Catholic Federation will sponsor the **32nd Annual SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal**.

The Church in Slovakia has enjoyed a great renaissance since the fall of Communism in 1989. We in America and Canada take pride in the fact that the Slovak Catholic fraternals, our parishes, and individuals of Slovak ancestry have responded generously to assist the Church in our ancestral homeland. The 2010 Annual Appeal begins during the month of February in churches of Slovak descent across the United States and Canada, and will continue to the end of the year.

The 2009 Appeal collected \$50,322.49. Since its inception, this Appeal has raised \$2,174,758.60.

Funds raised from the Appeal will aid the priest-graduate students at the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril & Methodius, Rome, Italy. These fine priests are being called upon to be the future leaders of the diocesan churches in Slovakia both as vicars and bishops, in addition to providing qualified instructors/professors for the seminaries that educate future priests. As well, funds benefit those religious communities, both men and women, that share a counterpart belonging to the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Conference of Slovak Religious. These communities are: 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*).

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 under the spiritual leadership of Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the SCF is to federate individuals of Slovak origin under one banner, for cultural, religious, and educational needs. Serving as National President is Rev. Philip Altavilla, V.E., Episcopal Vicar for the Northern Pastoral Region of the Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania. The Episcopal Moderator is the Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, D.D., Bishop of Altoona/Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The National First Vice President, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdo, pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, Pennsylvania, is the coordinator for this Annual Appeal.

In the Church today, we are finding that more and more individuals of Slovak descent/background do not attend traditionally founded Slovak parishes, for a number of reasons. Because of this reality today, the monies raised for this Appeal come both from the collections taken in our Slovak parishes as well as from individual donors.

Your tax deductible donation can be sent directly to the National Secretary/Treasurer of the Slovak Catholic Federation: Dolores Evanko, 173 Berner Avenue, Hazleton, PA 18201. Please make your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation, noting that it is intended for the Annual Appeal.

Thank you for your most generous support!

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

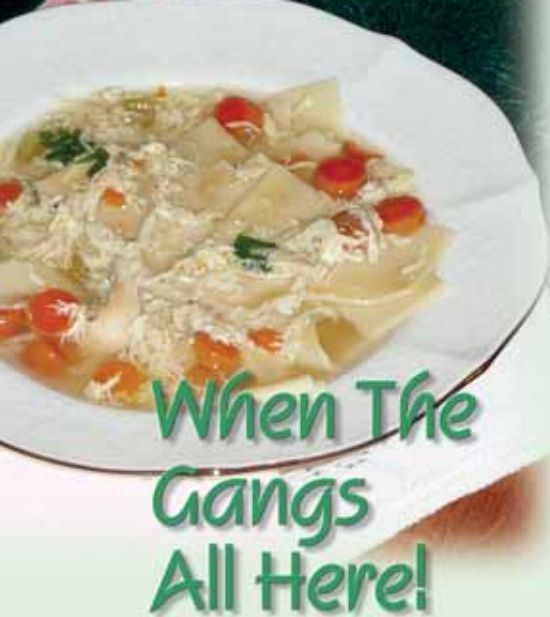
BALANCE SHEET AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

ASSETS	
Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 20,715,398.50
Bonds	526,839,005.54
Preferred Stock	8,266,125.87
Common Stock	690,119.91
Investment Income Due and Accrued	8,847,605.97
Promissory Notes	61,067.94
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	8,631,317.39
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,402,097.10
Other Assets	182,389.08
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 575,635,127.30
LIABILITIES	
Life Reserves	\$ 165,899,280.08
Annuity Reserves	305,738,623.10
Death Claims Payable	497,755.83
Unearned Premiums	601,083.00
Matured Endowments	302,919.00
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,715,991.24
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,498,634.71
Accrued Convention Donations	133,334.00
Provision for Future Conventions	345,000.40
Asset Valuation Reserve	5,159,317.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,449,690.00
Other Liabilities	1,743,591.61
Provision for Annuity Certain Accounts	2,078,000.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 489,163,219.97
SURPLUS	
Surplus	\$ 86,471,907.33
TOTAL SURPLUS	\$ 86,471,907.33
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 575,635,127.30

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Nine Months Ending September 30, 2009

REVENUE	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 5,897,793.04
Annuity Premiums	23,939,714.49
Investment Income	23,888,127.37
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	52,031.00
Rental Income	375,992.00
Other Revenue	55,576.05
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 54,209,233.95
EXPENSES	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 6,534,280.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	22,335,623.00
Insurance Benefits	2,494,257.57
Annuity Benefits	11,616,415.91
Commission Expense	684,689.72
Surrender Benefits	780,440.64
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	50,204.88
Matured Endowments	241,075.58
Donation Expenses	175,155.77
Convention Expenses	135,000.00
Dividends to Members	1,349,933.42
Post Mortem Benefits	617,352.97
Bonus to Branches	706,774.00
Fraternal Activities	98,307.03
Bank Service Charges	69,075.25
Data Processing Service Fees	202,178.71
Accounting Fees	93,631.00
Actuarial Fees	155,102.25
Legal Fees	83,641.20
Consulting Services	86,550.00
Official Publications	190,686.13
Scholarship Awards	150,500.00
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	278,763.44
Fees — Directors	81,802.74
Salaries — Employees	875,274.50
Salaries — Officers	328,312.53
Interest Expense	270,914.44
Tax Expense	240,703.40
Depreciation Expense	308,727.00
Utility Expense	53,596.74
Postage and Printing	208,559.55
Advertising	77,383.54
Travel Expense	106,024.92
Insurance Department Fees	67,231.17
Sales Promotion	80,533.65
Rental Expense	372,607.00
Other Expense	296,671.86
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 52,497,981.51
NET INCOME	\$ 1,711,252.44



When The Gangs All Here!

CHICKEN POT PIE

2 lb. chicken pieces (breasts, thighs, drumsticks)

2 cups sliced carrots

1 cup sliced celery

¾ cup sliced onion

2½ quarts (10 cups) water

4 chicken bouillon cubes

6 oz. Pot Pie Squares, uncooked

Salt and ground black pepper to taste

In large saucepan, stir together chicken, carrot, celery, onion, water and bouillon cubes. Heat to boiling; reduce heat to simmering. Cook, uncovered, about 1 hour or until chicken is tender. Remove chicken, reserving broth. Remove skin and bones from chicken; cut chicken into small pieces. Heat reserved broth to boiling; stir in Pot Pie Squares. Boil 12 to 14 minutes, stirring frequently, until almost tender. Add chicken, salt and pepper; heat thoroughly. 6 servings (1 cup each).

CARAMELIZED BRUSSELS SPROUTS

10 cups small, firm fresh Brussels sprouts (about 2¾ pounds)

½ cup sugar

¼ cup butter

½ cup red wine vinegar

¾ cup water

¾ teaspoon salt

Prepare the Brussels sprouts by peeling off two or three of the dark outer leaves from each Brussels sprout; trim stem ends.

In a Dutch oven or 12-inch skillet, heat the sugar over medium-high heat until sugar begins to melt, shaking pan occasionally to heat sugar evenly. Once sugar starts to melt, reduce heat and cook until sugar begins to turn brown. Add butter; stir until melted. Add red wine vinegar. Cook and stir for 1 minute. Carefully add the Brussels sprouts. Return to boiling; reduce

heat. Cover and simmer for 6 minutes. Uncover and cook about 15 minutes more or until most of the liquid has been absorbed and the sprouts are coated with a golden glaze, gently stirring occasionally.

APPLE PIE CRISP

Crisp Topping:

½ cup walnuts

1 cup flour

3 tablespoons brown sugar

¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon

3 tablespoons margarine, melted (melt in microwave or small saucepan)

3 tablespoons maple syrup, pancake syrup, or light pancake syrup

Filling:

4 cups cored and thinly sliced apples, firmly packed

¼ cup sugar

1 teaspoon apple pie spice

2 tablespoons flour

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Coat a 9 x 9-inch baking dish, 9-inch cake pan, or deep-dish pie plate with canola cooking spray. Toast the walnuts by spreading on a pie plate and heating in oven until fragrant (about 7 minutes). Chop the nuts medium-fine. Combine flour, brown sugar, and cinnamon in a mixing bowl. Drizzle the melted margarine and maple syrup over the top and blend on low speed until crumbly. Add the chopped nuts and mix well. (The topping can be prepared up to a week ahead and refrigerated.) Put the sliced apples in a large bowl. Add the sugar and apple pie spice to a 1-cup measure, then pour over the apples and toss. Sprinkle the 2 tablespoons flour over the apples and mix gently. Pour the mixture evenly into the prepared baking dish. Spoon the topping over the apples, pressing down lightly. Place the dish on a baking sheet (if necessary) to catch any overflow. Bake on the center rack of oven until the topping is golden brown and the juices have thickened slightly, about 35-45 minutes. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream!

SPICY BREADED CHICKEN WINGS

½ cup Dijon mustard

1 tablespoon canola or grapeseed oil

2 teaspoons white wine vinegar

1¼ teaspoon dry mustard

¼ teaspoon cayenne

¾ cup fresh bread crumbs or panko

¾ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese (about 3 ounces)

3 pounds chicken wings (12-14), wing tips cut off and discarded or saved for stock

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Oil the rack of a broiler pan. In a large shallow bowl, whisk together the Dijon, oil, vin-

egar, dry mustard, and cayenne. In another bowl toss together the Parmesan and bread crumbs. Working one at time, coat the chicken wings with the mustard mixture, rubbing the mixture in well. Then press the wings, thick skin side down, into the bread crumb mixture. Place the wings on the prepared rack and broiler pan, crumb side up. Bake wings in oven for 30 minutes, or until they are cooked through and golden brown. Can be served warm or at room temperature.

CHOCOLATE-RASPBERRY FONDUE

1 package (14 ounces) caramels

2 cups semisweet chocolate chips

1 can (12 ounces) evaporated milk

½ cup butter

½ cup seedless raspberry jam

Frozen pound cake, thawed

Assorted fresh fruit

In a large saucepan, combine the first five ingredients. Cook over low heat until caramels, chips and butter are melted, about 15 minutes. Stir until smooth. Transfer to a 1½-qt. slow cooker or fondue pot. Serve warm with pound cake or fruit. Yield: 5 cups.

CREAMIEST WHITE HOT CHOCOLATE

6 cups half-and-half cream, divided

1⅓ cups vanilla or white chips

2 cinnamon sticks (3 inches)

¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon

Dash ground nutmeg

3 teaspoons vanilla extract

In a large saucepan, combine ½ cup cream, vanilla chips, cinnamon sticks, cinnamon and nutmeg. Cook and stir over low heat until chips are melted. Stir in remaining cream; heat through. Discard cinnamon sticks. Stir in vanilla. Yield: 8 servings.

GORGONZOLA FIGS WITH BALSAMIC GLAZE

1 cup balsamic vinegar

16 dried figs

½ cup crumbled Gorgonzola cheese

8 thin slices prosciutto, halved widthwise

2 teaspoons minced fresh rosemary

¼ teaspoon pepper

For glaze, in a small saucepan, bring vinegar to a boil over medium heat; cook until reduced to about ¼ cup.

Cut a lengthwise slit down the center of each fig; fill with 1½ teaspoons cheese. Wrap each with a piece of prosciutto; place on a baking sheet. Sprinkle with rosemary and pepper.

Bake at 425 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until prosciutto is crisp. Serve warm with glaze. Yield: 16 appetizers.

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