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# Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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NOVEMBER 2010

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING

*For each new morning with its light,  
For rest and shelter of the night,  
For health and food,  
For love and friends,  
For everything Thy goodness sends.*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



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EDITOR: Carolyn Bazik  
P.O. Box 1617, Reading, PA 19603  
E-mail: [zjbazik@comcast.net](mailto: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  
Fax: (216) 464-9260 • Website: [www.fcsls.com](http://www.fcsls.com)

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## THE THANKSGIVING “SPECIAL” BOUQUET

Sandra felt as low as the heels of her Birkenstocks as she pushed against a November gust and the florist shop door. Her life had been easy, like a spring breeze. Then in the fourth month of her second pregnancy, a minor automobile accident stole her ease.

During this Thanksgiving week she would have delivered a son. She grieved over her loss. As if that weren't enough, her husband's company threatened a transfer. Then her sister, whose holiday visit she coveted, called saying she could not come. What's worse, Sandra's friend infuriated her by suggesting her grief was a God-given path to maturity that would allow her to empathize with others who suffer.

"She has no idea what I'm feeling," thought Sandra with a shudder.

Thanksgiving? Thankful for what? She wondered. For a careless driver whose truck was hardly scratched when he rear-ended her? For an air bag that saved her life but took that of her child?

"Good afternoon, may I help you?" The shop clerk's approach startled her.

"I...I need an arrangement," stammered Sandra.

"For Thanksgiving? Do you want beautiful but ordinary, or would you like to challenge the day with a customer favorite I call the Thanksgiving 'Special?' " asked the shop clerk. "I'm convinced that flowers tell stories," she continued. "Are you looking for something that conveys 'gratitude' this Thanksgiving?"

"Not exactly!" Sandra blurted out. "In the last five months, everything that could go wrong has gone wrong."

Sandra regretted her outburst, and was surprised when the shop clerk said, "I have the perfect arrangement for you."

Then the door's small bell rang, and the shop clerk said, "Hi, Barbara...let me get your order."

She politely excused herself and walked toward a small workroom, then quickly reappeared, carrying an arrangement of greenery, bows, and long-stemmed thorny roses; Except the ends of the rose stems were neatly snipped: there were no flowers.

"Want this in a box?" asked the clerk.

Sandra watched for the customer's response. Was this a joke? Who would want rose stems with no flowers! She waited for laughter, but neither woman laughed.

"Yes, please," Barbara replied with an appreciative smile. "You'd think after three years of getting the special, I wouldn't be so moved by its significance, but I can feel it right here, all over again," she said as she gently tapped her chest.

"Uh," stammered Sandra, "that lady just left with, uh....she just left with no flowers!"

"Right, said the clerk, "I cut off the flowers. That's the Special. I call it the Thanksgiving Thorns Bouquet."

"Oh, come on, you can't tell me someone is willing to pay for that!" exclaimed Sandra.

"Barbara came into the shop three years ago feeling much like you feel today," explained the clerk. "She thought she had very little to be thankful for. She had lost her father to cancer, the family business was failing, her son was into drugs, and she was facing major surgery."

"That same year I had lost my husband," continued the clerk, "and for the first time in my life, had just spent the holidays alone. I had no children, no husband, no family nearby, and too great a debt to allow any travel."

"So what did you do?" asked Sandra.

"I learned to be thankful for thorns," answered the clerk quietly. "I've always thanked God for good things in life and never to ask Him why those good things happened to me, but when bad stuff hit, did I ever ask! It took time for me to learn

*continued on page 4*

# YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOR'S GOODS

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

Whenever my state's and/or the national lotteries exceed one hundred million dollars, I join office workers, friends, or relatives in purchasing the tickets with the dream of winning. I will buy them if they are over one hundred million dollars — any amount under is not worth fulfilling my dream. If I am dreaming big, I want to win big! Otherwise, I am pretty happy and content with my life as it presently is! But did you ever wonder what you would do with all that money? I have and I presume that most of the other buyers of the tickets have as well. Otherwise, why we would purchase the tickets? I have come to the conclusion that my winnings would be divided into thirds after my Uncle Sam subtracts his some thirty-seven percent of the winnings.

The first third would be in thanksgiving to Almighty God for the blessing of such a gift. No, not ten percent as Abram gave Melchizedek after the latter's blessing of the former in the *Book of Genesis 14*, but a full thirty-three plus one percent. (If I divide it by thirds, there is going to be one percent left over. So who else should I give the extra one percent other than to God?) I decided that I would subdivide that amount proportionately and make donations to the charitable works of the Holy Father, the diocesan bishop, and the parishes of which I am the pastor and administrator. There may be other commendable ways to utilize the money for the Church. I believe however that giving to the needy of the world, country, and locale are in best ways of serving the People of God for in the poor we see the face of Jesus.

The second third would be divided for the needs of my family and friends. I would attempt to pay off the mortgages on the homes owned by my nieces and nephews and several of my friends' children who have been close to me throughout my ministry and life. Then I would set up trusts for them and their children, keeping in mind that gaining access to the trusts

would be a little difficult and time related stipulations. It is important to work for what we possess and desire. Nothing is given on the proverbial "golden platter". There are people with whom I have become acquainted through the years who have worked so hard and continue to keep struggling in order to make ends meet. I would like to make their lives a little more comfortable. With what is left, I would like to keep in reserve for people who would come to me with a true need and I would be able to assist them to the best of my ability.

The final third would be for me and my Mom! I would not need as much as the other two thirds but in my dream, I would like to own an apartment in New York City and a condominium in Florida or in Arizona — I have not really researched the pros and cons on both states adequately in my mind but if I won the lottery, I am sure that I would do so pretty quickly. These would be nice to have so whenever we desired to see a play or enjoy the sunshine in the midst of winter, we would have a place to stay and invite family and friends to join us. And I would buy a new car. In order to maintain these luxuries for the future, I would set monies aside and the rest I would give back to the other two thirds.

Now, let us get back to reality! I know that the odds of winning that dream lottery are only that, a dream! Do I dwell on winning the lottery? No. In order to win the lottery I have to play the lottery, something that is rare for me. My maternal grandmother saying in Slovak comes to mind in all of this: "If you want something, work for it, and then you can buy it".

The Tenth Commandment of the Decalogue is actually the completion of the Ninth Commandment: "You shall not covet your neighbor's...male or female slave, or his ox, or ass, or anything else that belongs to him". This commandment is a reality check for all of us since we are called to live in the spirit of Gospel values. The accumulation of the wealth of this world can

no way come near to the wealth we should be accumulating for life in the Kingdom of God. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* instructs: "The Tenth Commandment forbids *greed* and the desire to amass earthly goods without limit. It forbids *avarice* arising from a passion for riches and their attendant power. It also forbids the desire to commit injustice by harming our neighbor in his temporal goods: When the Law says, 'You shall not covet,' these words mean that we should banish our desires for whatever does not belong to us. Our thirst for another's goods is immense, infinite, never quenched. Thus it is written: 'He who loves money never has money enough' " (Paragraph 2445).

The people our in Western culture must examine our appetite for "the more, the better", realizing a huge percentage of people in the world have so very little than us. Greed and avarice should not and cannot be our guiding moral principles but rather generosity and the necessity to share will call us to true freedom from sin to the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Appreciation for what we have and sharing to the best of our abilities with those so less fortunate will assist us in eradicating greed and avarice.

In this season of Thanksgiving here in the United States, let us give thanks to Almighty God for all that we have, especially our freedoms that have been preserved by those who have fought for our country. May we who been given so much, continue to be a leading nation in the world to share our gifts with others, especially those poor who need to be lifted up to a higher dignity of life.

To all of the members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, I extend to you and your families a most Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!





# THE THANKSGIVING “SPECIAL” BOUQUET

*continued from page 2*

that dark times are important. I have always enjoyed the ‘flowers’ of life, but it took thorns to show me the beauty of God’s comfort. You know, the Bible says that God comforts us when we’re afflicted, and from His consolation we learn to comfort others.”

Sandra sucked in her breath as she thought about the very thing her friend had tried to tell her. “I guess the truth is I don’t want comfort. I’ve lost a baby and I’m angry with God.”

Just then someone else walked in the shop.

“Hey, Phil!” shouted the clerk to the balding, rotund man.

“My wife sent me in to get our usual Thanksgiving arrangement...twelve thorny, long-stemmed stems,” laughed Phil as the clerk handed him a tissue-wrapped arrangement from the refrigerator.

“Those are for your wife?” asked Sandra incredulously. “Do you mind me asking why she wants something that looks like that?”

“No...I’m glad you asked,” Phil replied. “Four years ago my wife and I nearly divorced. After forty years, we were in a real mess, but with the Lord’s grace and guidance, we slogged through problem after problem. He rescued our marriage. Jenny here (the clerk) told me she kept a vase of rose stems to remind her of what she learned from “thorny” times, and that was good enough for me. I took home some of those stems. My wife and I decided to label each one for a specific “problem” and give thanks for what that problem taught us.”

As Phil paid the clerk, he said to Sandra, “I highly recommend the Special.”

I don’t know if I can be thankful for the thorns in my life,” Sandra said to the clerk. “It’s all too...fresh.”

“Well,” the clerk replied carefully, “my experience has shown me that thorns make roses more precious. We treasure God’s providential care more during trouble than at any other time. Remember, it was a crown of thorns that Jesus wore so we might know His love. Don’t resent the thorns.”

Tears rolled down Sandra’s cheeks. For the first time since the accident, she loosened her grip on resentment.

“I’ll take those twelve long-stemmed thorns, please,” she managed to choke out.

“I hoped you would,” said the clerk gently. “I’ll have them ready in a minute.”

“Thank you. What do I owe you?” Sarah asked.

“Nothing; nothing but a promise to allow God to heal your heart. The first year’s arrangement is always on me.” The clerk smiled and handed a card to Sandra. “I’ll attach this card to your arrangement, but maybe you would like to read it first.”

It read: “My God, I have never thanked You for my thorns. I have thanked You a thousand times for my roses, but never once for my thorns. Teach me the glory of the life I bear; teach me the value of my thorns. Show me that I have climbed closer to You along the path of pain. Show me that, through my tears, the colors of Your rainbow look much more brilliant.”

***My Dear Friends ... This Thanksgiving may you take the time to thank God for the thorns and the roses in your life. In fact Praise Him for your roses, thank him for your thorns.***

***Happy Thanksgiving ....Until next Month....Warmly, Carolyn***

## CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY



Mary Mayher Bury of Port Vue, PA, celebrating her 100th birthday, was honored at a birthday party on Sunday, October 3 at Nigros Restaurant with family and friends.

She was born on October 1, 1910, in Leckrone, PA, to John and Susan Marcinek Mayher. Her husband Joseph Bury, died in August 1974. Her children are Dolores Kontros of Port Vue, PA and Joseph Bury of Monroeville, PA. She has 5 grandchildren, 9 step-grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild.

She was the treasurer and elder of Jr. Branch 98, St. Anthony, for over 50 years. She was also an officer in Sr. Branch 168, St. Mary’s Rosary Society of Port Vue, PA. She was active in the community and treasurer of the Ladies Community Club, helped the Fire Company at their fairs and other functions. Besides her community activities, she was also active in politics and served as majority clerk at the voting polls.

She loves to crochet and has given many afghans to family and friends. She loves to watch the Pittsburgh Pirates, and the Steelers. Mary was a member of the Slovak Holy Trinity Church and since their merger is a current member of St. Martin de Porres Parish of McKeesport.

# ***FCSLA FRATERNAL OUTREACH IS ON THE MOVE IN 2010***

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

## **Give Thanks for the Caregivers in Your Family**

It is estimated that 65 million people or 29% of the American population care for an ill or elderly friend/family member. The average time spent is 20 hours per week. The value of this care has been estimated to be over \$375 billion dollars. Women outnumber men, with 66% of the caregivers being female. Over half of all caregivers admit to neglecting their own personal care when it comes to keeping doctor appointments. They also have poor eating habits. Studies have shown that a caregiver's immune system has signs of stress for up to three years after the care giving ends.

At this time of year with Thanksgiving right around the corner, please take a few minutes to give thanks for the many blessings you've been given. Give special thanks for the unsung heroes in your family that are caregivers. How about offering some of your time to give the primary caregiver a break? Many times the caregiver could use a little break from the normal routine and does not ask for help. You could sit with the infirmed person

for a few hours. You could run errands or cook a meal. If you offer to take someone to an appointment, make sure you have their current list of medications and know what medical problems he/she may have. It would be helpful to make a list of questions before the appointment, what issues need to be addressed. When you take someone for an appointment, try to plan some extra time to stop and share a healthy meal. You may also consider ordering another meal for them to take home. He/she will be able to enjoy the meal later and relieve the burden of the caregiver having to prepare it.

The former First Lady Rosalyn Carter stated, "There are only four kinds of people in the world — those who have been caregivers, those who are currently caregivers, those who will be caregivers and those who will need caregivers."

May God bless those who volunteer their time, talent and treasure. The FCSLA is very proud of you. "Happy Thanksgiving!"

## ***Mastrull Installed as President of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas***

Sarah E. Mastrull (Sr. Branch 172) was installed as Regent (President) of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Mark #1097 in Bristol, PA during Mass at St. Mark Church on May 16, 2010. She previously served a two year term as Vice-Regent before being installed by her pastor and CDA Chaplain, Reverend Dennis Mooney.

The CDA is one of the oldest and largest groups of Catholic Women, and currently has more than 1,400 courts (local chapters) in 45 states, and in Puerto Rico, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Sarah's court in Bristol, PA holds various fundraisers

throughout the year to support its charity work such as sponsoring seminarians, providing food to the Poor Clare Sisters in Langhorne, PA, providing scholarships to students in Catholic schools, and donating to many local charities such as a boys' orphanage and the Blessed Margaret of Castello Home for Crisis Pregnancies.

Sarah was a National FCLSA scholarship recipient and graduated from Holy Family University in 1995 with a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education/Math, and received a Master's Degree in Education in 2002. She has taught math and computers in the Bristol Township School District since 1996. She currently teaches 8th grade Algebra at F.D. Roosevelt Middle School in Bristol, PA.

Sarah is the daughter of Francis and the late Dorothy Iskra and is married to Dale Mastrull. She is the niece of FCSLA District President Magdalen I. Iskra and Branch 172 Treasurer Martha Iskra.



From October 1 through  
December 31, 2010,  
older FCSLA annuities  
(issued prior to 2005)  
with a guaranteed minimum rate of  
4.50% will earn a yield of 4.6025%,  
while newer FCSLA annuities  
(issued 2005 and after)  
with a guaranteed minimum rate of  
3.50% will earn a yield of 3.5618%.



## Joseph and Bernardine Popik Celebrate 60 Years of Marriage

Joseph F. and Bernardine M. Popik (SZJO) were married at Nativity B.V.M. Church by Rev. Vaclav A. Chaloupka on June 24, 1950 in Cleveland, OH. They renewed sacred wedding vows during a Mass celebrated by Father Thomas Johns, pastor at their parish of St. John Vianney, in Mentor, OH. A dinner was held in their honor following Mass at the Father Robert Klines Social Hall.



Their children and spouses are Christine and George

Hoizd, Joanne and Ron Juchnik, Mary Louise and Ted Fleck, Judith Ann and Bill King and Barbara and Bill Long. They have been blessed with eleven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

In 1991 they both retired from the Mentor Public Schools and Joseph is currently serving as a Eucharistic Minister for St. John Vianney Parish.

Congratulations and God's continued blessings on our anniversary couple.

## Rigda's Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

Donald and Helen Rigda reached the milestone of their 50th wedding anniversary on May 21, 2010. They are members of St. Joseph Church in Strongsville, OH, the same church where they exchanged their wedding vows on that day in 1960. They were married by the Rev. John Fiala, who was well known in the horticulture field for breeding new varieties of lilac and crab apple trees.

To celebrate this special milestone, they were treated to a special dinner at Carrie Cerino's Ristorante and Party Center in North Royalton, OH on August 8. They were joined by their daughters Mary and Christine, along with Mary's husband Larry.

Don and Helen have been happily retired for ten years strong. They both enjoy gardening, and their flower gardens are complimented by friends and strangers alike on the busy road they live on in Strongsville. They also have a large array of orchids that they tend to inside their home. It is also with great pleasure to note that Don is a victorious cancer survivor from leukemia. All members of the Rigda family are members of FSCLA Sr. Branch 525.



## Celebrates Golden Wedding Anniversary

Rita Kristan Kcenich and Ted Kcenich of Plains, PA celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 26, 2009.

They were married by the late Father Bernat at the Sacred Heart Slovak Catholic Church in Wilkes-Barre, PA on November 26, 1959.

At the same church Monsignor John Sempa offered a Mass of Thanksgiving on November 26, 2009.

Ted and Rita are proud parents of two children, Rita (Steve) Kopcho of Dallas, PA and David (Carolyn) Kcenich of Sherman Oaks, CA. They have a granddaughter Caroline Rose Kcenich.

Rita is the President of Sr. Branch 350 and Jr. Branch 207, Shamokin, PA and also auditor of the Magdalen I. Iskra District of the FCSLA.

A dinner was held for family and friends to mark this special occasion at the Plains Ambulance Banquet Facility, Plains, PA.

We wish the couple God's blessings for many more happy years together.





## Paul R. Makuch Celebrates 90th Birthday

Paul Raymond Makuch (Sr. Branch 172) of Wilkes-Barre, PA, celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 25, 2010.

Mr. Makuch (Marko) was born on April 25, 1920, in the Midvale section of Plains, PA, son of the late Paul and Stephania Makuch (Marko). He was one of 11 children and was educated at St. Stanislaus Kostka School and Coughlin High School, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

He was employed by General Cigar and Consolidated Cigar Corporation, retiring from the Berwick plant in 1985 after more than 40 years as a machine mechanic.

Mr. Makuch was an active parishioner of the former St. Joseph Slovak Church, Hillside Street, in the Heights section of Wilkes-Barre. He is now a member of the Church of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, South Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre.

While at St. Joseph, he was active in many parish societies and held offices in the Holy Name Society. He is currently an active member of the Wyoming Valley Catholic Laymens Retreat League, having attained more than 50 years of membership. Named Man of the Year in 2003, he is also a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 302 of Wilkes-Barre, having been honored in April for more than 30 years of service.

He is also a member of the Bishop William J. Hafey Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus; member of North End Slovak Citizens Club and member of the Brookside American Legion Post 837, where he still attends members' military honors funeral details.

He is an active volunteer with the Department of Veterans Affairs Nursing Center for disabled veterans at the VA Medical Center, Plains Township. He was also the past commander for the Brookside Post 837 for the past several terms. He is a World War II Army veteran.

Mr. Makuch and his wife Catherine Ann celebrated their 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on July 5, 2010.

A daughter, Sister Mary Beth Makuch, SS.C.M., is director of ministry with the deaf and hard of hearing, Diocese of Scranton and Sisters of SS. Cyril & Methodius, Danville, PA stationed at St. Michael's Convent in Olyphant, PA.

A son, Paul S. Makuch, C.P.T., is a registered phlebotomist at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

A quiet dinner was held April 25 at the Bear Creek Inn, followed by a small gathering of friends at their home.

The photo above shows Mr. and Mrs. Paul Makuch on the day they celebrated their 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary.



## Iowa District Holds September Meeting Hosted by Branch W133

The Iowa District held a meeting on Sunday, September 12, 2010 hosted by Branch W133 in Clutier, IA.

National Vice President Rosemary Mlinarich and National Editor Carolyn Bazik were warmly welcomed by the District to discuss the proposed by-law changes that will be the subject of a special convention scheduled for October 11, 2010 in Cleveland, OH.

The business meeting of the District was conducted by President Gary Hejlik, W051 and National Editor Carolyn Bazik made a presentation about the proposed change in governance. This presentation included showing the DVD that was produced by the Home Office. A question and answer exchange took place with the members in attendance following the presentation.



**Branch representatives provide updates about local branch activities to those in attendance.**



**L-R: District Vice President Roseanne Malek (W051), District President Gary Hejlik (W051), District Secretary Delores Neblung (W137), and District Treasurer Henry Rayhons (W051).**



**Members in attendance listen to a presentation made by National Editor Carolyn Bazik.**

# MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

## Jr. Branch 140

### Our Lady of Angels Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Members from Sr. Branch 140 provided food and drinks for the golfers at the Our Lady of Angels Annual Golf Tournament. Some branch members drove around the course while the golfers played to provide them with refreshing drinks. Others stayed at the pavilion serving hot dogs to golfers as they passed through. The branch also provided door prizes and a "hole-in-one prize" for the golfers. The proceeds will be donated to Our Lady of the Angels Academy to provide tuition assistance for students.



## Jr. Branch 622

### Refreshment Stand Fundraiser at Church Festival

One of FCSLA's newest branches, Sr. Branch 622, held its first matching funds project on July 18, 2010. They sponsored a refreshment booth during the St. John the Baptist's Church Festival. Branch members prepared lunches and drinks to those that attended the festival. The refreshment booth raised \$989, which was donated to St. John the Baptist Church.



## Jr. Branch 423

### Easter Seals "Walk with Me" Fundraiser

Members of Sr. Branch 423 created a team to participate in the Easter Seals "Walk with Me" event. The branch participants collected donations and pledges from branch and community members. The Easter Seals "Walk with Me" event is a 4 mile walk that benefits the Easter Seals. The event raised \$500 and donations are still being sent in for this cause.





# MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

## Jr. Branch 410

### Summer Festival and Chinese Auction Fundraiser

Members from Sr. Branch 410 put together a Chinese Auction for the Summer Festival at the St. Francis of Assisi Church. Members also volunteered their time to help out at the festival. The Chinese Auction collected \$950, which will be donated to the St. Francis of Assisi Parish.



W092 donated the pig that was served at the supper. A local, young and newly-formed band donated their time and music to provide the entertainment for the dancing portion of the benefit. The Pig Roast and Dance raised \$1,200, which will be used to update the ballrooms at the hall.



## Jr. Branch W074

### Father Day Brunch and Matching Funds Project

Branch members from W074 held a Father's Day Brunch to help raise funds for the benefit of St. John's Nepomucene Church. Members prepared casseroles, kolaches, fruit salad and other breakfast items to serve at the brunch. The Matching Funds event raised \$707, which will go toward the roof repair project at St. John's Nepomucene Church.



## Jr. Branch W092

### Pig Roast and Dance Benefit

Branch members from W092 held a Pig Roast and Dance to benefit the Bechyme Heritage Hall. A member from







# National Scholarship Winners Honored

## Branch 66/470 — Streator, Illinois

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, St. Anne's Branch 66 and the Guardian Angel Society Branch 470 awarded (2) \$1,250 College Scholarships to Adam Siadek and Ryan Lee, (1) \$1,000 Catholic High School Scholarship to Ryan Fraher and (1) \$750 Catholic Grade School Scholarship to Makenna Tkach. The scholarship winners were honored at a dinner at Chippers Restaurant in Streator, IL. Makenna was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

**RYAN FRAHER**, son of Jim and Carol Fraher of Grayslake, IL is currently a senior at Carmel Catholic High School in Mundelein, IL. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta and the Bowling Club. Ryan likes to run in track and is an avid golfer.

**RYAN LEE**, son of Bob and Mary Jane Lee of Streator, IL will be attending the University of Illinois in Champaign Urbana. He is majoring in Psychology and would like to obtain his Master's Degree in that field. Future plans also include enrolling in a Pre-Law Program. Ryan hopes to be active in clubs ranging from Circle K to Music Ensembles.

**ADAM SIADEK**, son of Jerry and Lori Siadek, of Manhattan, IL will be attending the University of Illinois in Champaign Urbana and will major in Civil Engineering. Adam is an Illinois State Scholar and a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, Science Student of the Month and placed 4th in Bridge Building Competition at Lincoln Way Central High School. He likes to volunteer for Community Services such as a Library Volunteer, Toys for Tots, new Lenox Food Pantry and is an altar server at St. Joseph Catholic Church.



L-R, front row: Mary Jane Lee (mother of Ryan Lee), Adam Siadek and his mother Lori Siadek. Back row: Bob Lee (father of Ryan), Anna Mae Negray and Jane Soltis (officers of the Guardian Angel Society, Branch 470), Lucille Swain, Stephanie Boik (officers of St. Anne's Branch 66), and Jerry Siadek, father of Adam.

**MAKENNA TKACH**, daughter of Dave and Chris Tkach of Streator, IL will be attending St. Michael's the Archangel Grade School and is in the 4th Grade. Makenna played on the 10 and under traveling fast pitch softball team this past summer. She also likes Arts and Crafts and loves listening to Country Music. She also enjoys swimming and bicycling.



L-R, seated: Jim Fraher, Ryan Fraher, and his mother, Carol Fraher. Standing: Anna Mae Negray, Jane Soltis, Lucille Swain, and Stephanie Boik, officers for the Guardian Angel Society, Branch 470 and St. Anne's Branch 66, presented the scholarships.



## Marie E. Grega District

Marie E. Grega (Youngstown 2) District held its annual scholarship dinner on August 22, at the Elm Tree, Struthers, OH. The 28 scholarship winners and their guests were hosts of the eight branches which comprise the District. Dolores Sonoga, President of Branch 169 which hosted the event, welcomed the 163 attendees. District President, Bernadette Demechko, thanked the parents and grandparents who purchased insurance policies originally for the winners and who continue to support Branch and District activities.

Monsignor Peter Polando, National Chaplain and member of Branch 169, led the prayer before the meal. The tables were adorned with baskets of flowers which contained gift cards and were awarded as door prizes.

The President gave her customary "always remember your Slovak heritage" talk. She explained that although we are living in difficult economic times, the years when our Slovak immigrant ancestors came to the United States were even more stressful. The Slovak immigrants knew the pangs of loneliness for they realized that when they left Slovakia





they might never again see their relatives or their beloved homeland with its rich customs and traditions. They came to live in a country where they did not know the English language and were on the bottom of the social structure. They were humiliated by being called "green horns" or "hunkies." The men worked 12-14 hours



**President Bernadette Demechko, listens proudly as granddaughter, Sydney Demechko, tells the group about her studies and activities at St. Hilary School, Akron, OH. Melanie Leonard, Treasurer of Branches 161/192 distributed monetary gifts to that branches members.**

in the coal mines or steel mills earning only ten cents per hour. In most cases, the women had to take in single, Slovak "borders" to supplement their incomes. They had added duties of cooking and washing clothes for these men, in addition to taking care of their growing families. It is understandable why they settled in proximity to each other and soon founded Slovak churches and fraternal financial benefit societies to assist one another.

But they survived; they thrived and because of them we now all have better lives with unlimited opportunities to set goals and achieve them. She reminded the students to always remember four things: "Stay close to your family....Stay close to your God....perpetuate your Slovak heritage and culture...and remember the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association when you graduate, marry and have families of your own."

The Presidents of the eight Branches then were introduced and presented each of their winners with a monetary gift. Each student addressed the group citing their school, their activities, and, in the case of college, their area of study. Shelly Zura, Treasurer of the District, also gave each

winner, or representative, a monetary gift from the District. The President announced the winner of the District Scholarship which was Jenna Hallapy, Branch 169. Agnes Lisko, representative of the Katherine L. Sedlacko family Trust Scholarship, presented their scholarship to Brian Witt, Branch 161.

In closing, the President expressed the fact that so many of our scholarship winners are working in areas of engineering, teaching, the medical field, and other places of advancement. She stated we should all be proud of their accomplishments and wished the current students the same success.

Unable to attend but represented by a relative were winners: Krista Armentrout, S513; Christina Bacha, Sarah Chizmar, Lauren DeLuca, Lacey Lee Hufnagel, Alexis Tych, S161; Rachel Sefcik and Caroline Whitaker, S169; Ashley Janis, S30; Christa Serluco, S344.

## BRANCH 313 HOLDS MASS

On August 22, 2010, a Mass for living and deceased members of Branch 313 (St. Ann's Society) was held at St. Joseph's Parish, Natrona, PA. Afterwards, Branch 313 sponsored a continental breakfast reception in the church hall for members and guests, where membership benefits were explained.



**L-R, Officers: Cynthia Maleski, Susan Rapp, Barbara Gajdosik and Norene Yandura.**



**Cecilia Szymkiewicz, Kate Szymkiewicz and other Szymkiewicz family members.**



**Seated 1st Row, L-R: Leo Puhalla, J192; Sydney Demechko, J192; Sheridan Myers, J231; Anastacia Viau, J192; Nicolas Leombruno, J257. Seated 2nd Row, L-R: Katherine Belloto McConnell, S156; Genna Musolino, S30; Bernadette Demechko, District President; Katie Krancevich, S161; Jenna Hallapy, S169. Standing, L-R: Mark Joseph Wildes, S202; Conor Durina, S161; Andrew Kern, S30; David Kalman, S30; Brian Witt, S161; Corrine Pavlicko, S156; Anne Marie Smrek, S30; Benjamin Detwiler, S161; Thomas Yuricek, S422.**



# Scenes from 150th Anniversary of St. Wenceslaus Parish

Spillville, Iowa  
September 5th, 2010



L-R: Mary Ann Johaneck, Becky Kuhn, Rita Fjelstul and Irene Drotleff.



Archbishop Jerome Hanus



L-R: Bernie Drahozal, Irene Drotleff, Mary Ann Johaneck, and Becky Kuhn.



Float from parade.



L-R: Irene Drotleff, Becky Kuhn, and Mary Ann Johaneck.





**CAROLYN ELIZABETH OLIVER** received her First Holy Communion at St. Mary Church, Annapolis, MD on May 1, 2010. Carolyn is in the third grade at St. Mary's Catholic School in Annapolis, MD along with her sister, who is in kindergarten. She and her sister Molly are members of Jr. Branch 46. She is the daughter of Maria and Chris Oliver. Carolyn's grandparents, Florian and Carol Gargula of Newark, DE, and great-aunt Louise Dunstan of Lansford, PA, are members of Sr. Branch 140. Carolyn received a scholarship grant from FCSLA in 2010 and enjoys Brownies and playing sports in her spare time.



**SABRINA MARIE HOWARD**, daughter of Jon and Lorraine Howard of Omaha, NE, received her First Holy Communion on May 1, 2010 at St. Wenceslaus, Omaha, NE. Sabrina is shown (above) with her proud grandmother, Gladys Nekola, President of Branch W130.



**ERIC SPINDLER** of Branch 339, Anna Hurban District of Chicago received his First Holy Communion on May 8, 2010 at St. Alexander Church in Palos Heights, IL. His parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins are all members of Branch 287/ Branch 339 of Chicago, IL.



**JACKSON LEE GOOD** is the newest member of Branch 339 of the Anna Hurban Chicago District. Jackson was born on June 24, and he is the first child of Tim and Elizabeth Blinstrup Good of Tolono, IL, previously of Oak Lawn, IL. Proud aunt is Catherine Blinstrup, member of Sr. Branch 287, Chicago.





## IN MEMORIAM

### **ALICE ANN GELETKO**

#### **Branch 177**



Alice Ann (Piatek) Geletko, 87, passed away on Thursday, June 24, 2010 at Lawson Nursing Home in Jefferson Hills, PA.

Alice was born June 2, 1923 in Clairton, PA the daughter of John and Mary (Drotz) Piatek. She attended St. Joseph Catholic School and graduated from Clairton High School in 1941. She worked at U.S. Steel during World War II and also at the Distillery in Large, PA. On October 11, 1947 she and Frank J. Geletko were married at St. Joseph Church by Father Martin Rabicky.

She was a member of FCSLA Branch 177 in Clairton and the former Financial Secretary for the Sr. and Jr. Branch. Alice was a former member of St. Joseph's Women's Club and volunteered for many social functions and Bingo. She was a great cook and baker and was in charge of the Church's catering and bake sales.

Alice is survived by a son Francis (Jill) Geletko, daughter Monica, Jr. and Sr. Branch Financial Secretary, (Gerald, Pittsburgh District Vice-President) LaFrankie, and daughter Marie (Robert) Shelton; her grandchildren Beth (Brian) Konick, Amy (Jason) Thomas, Heather (Kevin) Stover, Robert and Susannah Geletko, Will (Melissa) Ruhl, Danny Ruhl and Tyler Shelton; her great-grandchildren Camden and Emma Stover and Grace and Jack Konick; her brother Edward (Jean) Friday; sister-in-law Martha Pastorik.

Alice was preceded in death by her siblings John and Joseph Friday, Frank Piatek and Mary Drogoski.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated on Monday, June 28, 2010 at St. Joseph Worship Site, St. Clare of Assisi Parish by Father Richard Zelik followed by burial in St. Clare Cemetery in Clairton, PA.

### **AGNES CIBULKA**

#### **Branch 169**

Agnes Cibulka, 89, of Youngstown, OH died June 19, 2010. She was born December 1, 1920, in Youngstown to the late Herman and Mary (Harkabus) Cibulka. She was a 1939 graduate of Chaney High School.

Agnes retired in 1986 from Strouss' after a 35 year career in the Traffic Control Department. Agnes was a member of Holy Name of Jesus Church, and the Women's Elite Club. She loved to travel, and enjoyed her membership in the Thunderbird Car Club. She was an avid bingo player and sports fan, her team was the St. Louis Cardinals. Agnes enjoyed bowling and earned seven trophies in league play. Besides her parents she is preceded in death by her brother, Reverend Monsignor Henry Cibulka.

She will be missed by the entire Moran family and many friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to Holy Name of Jesus Church in memory of Agnes.

### **MARIANNE E. STAS**

#### **Branch 108**

Marianne E. Stas, Dunmore, PA, formerly of Blakely, PA, died in the Dunmore Health Care Center on Wednesday, June 30, 2010. She was preceded in death by her husband, Aloys J. Stas, on May 19, 2003.

Born in Nuremberg, Germany, she was the daughter of the late Ludwig and Babette Ziegler Meyer. Raised and educated in Germany, she came to America in 1947 as a war bride. Prior to retirement, she was employed by Pawnee Pants, Olyphant, PA. She was a former member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church.

She enjoyed knitting and crocheting and made numerous afghans and scarves for family and friends. She also planned and organized many bus trips to various cities and events. She was a member of LIFE Geisinger at Marywood University, enjoyed its many

programs and looked forward daily to seeing the many friends she made there.

She was a "people person" and a great friend who touched and made a lasting impression on many people. She resided in Dunmore with her daughter Susie and son-in-law Don for the past seven years until her recent illness. She died surrounded by her family in the Dunmore Health Care Center, where she had been a patient for a week. She was a wonderful Mom, wife and grandmother, who is greatly missed by all who knew her.

Surviving are a daughter, Susan Bonavoglia and husband, Donald, Dunmore, PA; a grandson, Jeffrey Sarnoski; and several nieces.

She was preceded in death by a son, Richard Stas, in 1991.

### **JOLANA MADAR**

#### **Branch 10**



On July 9, 2010, only a few months short of her 90th birthday, Jolana "Jane" (Dobrikova) Madar passed away peacefully in her home in Sedona, AZ. She is survived by Stefan

Madar, her husband of 66 years, oldest son Ivan with his wife Alice and son Boris, and a younger son Dusan and his son Alexander.

She was the youngest of six siblings and grew up in Ruzomberok, Slovakia, where she attended Catholic schools run by a local order of nuns. In 1944, during World War II she married Stefan Madar and moved to Kosice, where both of her sons were born. For political reasons she and Stefan were forced to separate in 1948, as Stefan moved to the west. Jane and their sons were forced to remain in Zilina, Slovakia for the next 20 years. They were reunited in Cleveland, OH in 1968 and continued to live and work there until 1998 when

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



they moved to Sedona, AZ to be closer to their sons' families.

For approximately 25 years she was a FCSLA employee and also an officer of Sr. Branch 10 in Cleveland, OH.

Jane made this world a better place for many people with her unconditional love and generosity. Her ever present smile will be missed by her family and many friends throughout the world. God bless and rest in peace.

### **MARGARET BAKICH** **Branch 422/36**



Margaret Bakich, age 95, of Howland Township, Warren, OH, died July 4, 2010 at St. Joseph Health Center.

Margaret was born March 15, 1915 in Jacobs Creek, PA, the daughter of Daniel and Julia Mikolaj Krempasky. She was a charter member of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church of Warren, President of the Altar and Rosary Society and the President of FCSLA Sr. Branch 422 and Jr. Branch 36.

Margaret retired from Ohio Lamp Works of General Electric Co. with 30 years service. She enjoyed traveling, cooking and baking, flower gardening and outdoor work. She was known for supplying her family and many others with her homemade noodles and her granddaughters enjoyed making them with her.

Margaret is survived by a son, Paul G. of Howland; two daughters, Patricia J. of Pittsburgh, PA and Juliann Namish of Howland; a brother, Emil Krempasky, of Warren; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by five brothers, Daniel, Joseph, John, Edward and Francis Krempasky and two sisters, June Pechkurow and Erma Spelich.

### **ELIZABETH PERINO** **Branch 89**

Elizabeth Perino, 86, died July 6, 2010 at St. Luke's Hospice House in Bethlehem, PA. She was born on November 13, 1923 in Bethlehem, daughter of the late Charles and Mary (Pivovarnicek) Bednarik. She was the wife of the late William Perino. Betty was a member of Sacred Heart Church in Bethlehem Township. She was an animal lover and would feed the birds daily. She loved her pet dogs over the years, and most recently her dog Spunky. She was also an avid lover of polka music.

Survivors: She will lovingly be remembered by her daughters Lucille, wife of Anthony Molinaro Jr. of Allentown, PA and Mary E., wife of Edward J. Saszi of Bethlehem, PA, brothers, Charles Bednarik of Coopersburg, PA, John Bednarik of Allentown, PA, and David Bednarik of Maryland. There are six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, William; daughters Rita Ann Jules and Linda Marshall; sister, Mary Huber, and a brother Richard Bednarik.

Contributions may be made in her name to Hospice House of the VNA of St. Lukes, 1510 Center Parkway, Suite 200, Bethlehem, PA 18017 or to the Center for Animal Health & Welfare, 1165 Island Park Road, Easton, PA 18042.

### **MARGARET D. FETSKO** **SHOBY** **Branch S177**

Margaret D. Fetsko Shoby, 93, of West Leisenring, PA, passed away peacefully on June 7, 2010 in the Uniontown Hospital.

She was born July 12, 1916, in West Leisenring, PA, the daughter of the late John Fetsko and Anna (Lacek) Fetsko.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her beloved hus-

band, Joseph S. Shoby; her loving daughter, Jacqueline A. Shoby Fronczek; brothers: Joseph, John Steven and Paul and her sister, Susan Thomas.

Margaret was a member of St. Mary (Nativity) Roman Catholic and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. She loved gardening, sewing and cooking.

She is survived by her loving son: Kenneth J. Shoby and Laura Griffin of Uniontown, PA; her loving grandchildren: Jason M. Fronczek and wife Trisha of Eldersburg, MD, Eric D. Fronczek and wife Lauren of St. Louis, MO; son-in-law, Bernard J. Fronczek and wife Luann of Uniontown, PA; nieces: Darlene Little, Leslie Shipley and Sharon Fetsko and nephew, Richard Thomas.

### **MARGARET R. BOCK** **Branch 13**



Margaret R. (Toth) Bock of Forest Hills, age 85, died on July 20, 2010. She was the sixth child of Mary (Gazi) and John Toth of Braddock, PA.

Margaret was a retired Executive Secretary from Westinghouse Research in Churchill with 44 years of service. Margaret was very proud of her Slovak heritage and traveled on many occasions to her beloved Slovakia.

She attended Good Shepherd Church in Braddock, PA (formerly St. Michael's Slovak Parish). She was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and had served as President of both Branch #13 and the Pittsburgh District, as well as a being a National Trustee for many years. Margaret had served as Secretary for the Western Pa. Slovak Day Committee. She was a member of the Frater-

*continued on page 16*





## IN MEMORIAM

nal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh, the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association and was a committee member of the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour.

Beloved wife of the late Albert C. Bock of McKeesport, PA. Sister of Anna Golofski of Forest Hills and Joseph 'Larry' Toth of Penn Hills. Also survived by many nieces and nephews; grandnieces and grand-nephews.

Preceded in death by her parents, John and Mary Toth and brothers and sister, George, John, Stephen and Helen Toth.

Mass of Christian Burial was at Good Shepherd Church, Braddock, PA. Memorial Donations may be made in Margaret's name to St. Vincent Seminary, 300 Fraser Purchase Rd., Latrobe, Pa. 15650.

### MARY JOHNSON

#### Branch 181

Mary Johnson, age 96, of Peotone passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at Beecher Manor Nursing and Rehab Center in Beecher, IL.

Mrs. Johnson was born on August 8, 1913 in Chicago Heights to the late Michael and Katerina (Kuchyak) DuBovi. She is survived by her husband, Milbert Johnson of Peotone who she married on January 22, 1964. She is also survived by a daughter-in-law, Lorrie Corgan of Tinley Park; three granddaughters, Kathy (Joe) Corgan-May of Oswego, Karen Plath of Homewood, and Sheri Corgan of Naperville; two great-grandchildren, Joe and Kristi Plath; a sister, Florence Pekar of York, PA; and a sister-in-law, Lydia DuBovi. She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Robert Corgan; a sister, Pauline Kotesa; and a brother, Andy DuBovi.

She was a member of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church of Peotone. She was very active along with her husband, Milbert, working at the Will County Fairgrounds. She was a loving

mother to her son Bob, and enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren at the family farm. She spoke often of her days working at Kimball Glass where she was known as "Holy Mary" and also working for Chicago Heights National Bank. She enjoyed baking, cooking, crocheting and playing bingo. She was always the life of the party and never complained. She instilled in her family the importance of family, prayer and having fun.

Memorial donations were made to St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church.

### IRENE ANN MARENCIK

#### Branch 319



Irene Ann Marencik, 74, of Allentown, PA entered the gates of heaven on October 7, 2008 at Liberty Nursing Home, Allentown, PA. Born on March 2, 1934, in Allentown, PA, she was the daughter of the late Edward Bonaskiewich and Anna Hrychysin Bonaskiewich.

On May 10, 1958 she was united in marriage to Edward John Marencik, Sr. of Allentown, PA and two sons were born of this union, Edward John and Gregory Andrew. Irene and Edward J. Sr. were married for 35 years until his sudden death on March 13, 1993 at the age of 67. Irene was preceded in death by two brothers, Peter and Stanley Bonaskiewich.

Irene lived in Allentown all her life and worked as a seamstress at Highland Fashions for over 25 years. She was a former member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Allentown. There are fond memories of her cooking, sewing, baking, especially her famous holiday hams and cookies.

Mom Irene is deeply missed by her two surviving sons, Edward J. Marencik, Jr. of Montague, NJ and Gregory A.

Marencik, Allentown; cousins Dolores Merkley (Northampton) and Cecilia Entzminger (Allentown); sister-in-law Donna of her late brother Peter Bonaskiewich, nieces and nephews of Marencik and Bonaskiewich families; Elizabeth K. and many of her longtime neighbors and friends from Catasauqua Avenue.

### SOPHIE H. GRANCHIE

#### Branch 30

Sophie H. Granchie, 90, passed away January 11, 2010, at the Beeghly Oaks Skills Nursing and Rehab facility in Boardman, OH.

Sophia was born May 8, 1919, in Youngstown, a daughter of Valent and Anna Mamrak Granchie.

She was employed by the G.M. McKelvey Company, later the Higbee Company, where she earned membership in both the 20 and 25 year clubs. She retired in 1981 with 32 years of service.

An active member of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Sophie participated in the church choir, the Altar and Rosary Society, the Infant Jesus of Prague Guild, the Ladies Guild, and Sts. Cyril and Methodius Seniors. She was also a member of St. Ludmila Lodge 325, the American Slovak Culture Association and the Slovak Catholic Federation.

She was preceded in death by her brothers, the Rev. Method Granchie of the Benedictine Order of Cleveland and William, John and Joseph Granchie and by her sisters, Anna Pavlik, Mary Hutira, Dorothy Tevis, Catherine Nivert, and Sue Bohla.

She is survived by several nieces and nephews, including Mary (Art) Ivan of Boardman.

Memorial contributions were made in Sophie's name to the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Repair Fund.

Have You Signed Up  
A New Member This Month?



## *Michelina Bacisin Travels to Louisiana to Aid Katrina Victims*

Michelina Bacisin, a member of Branch 408, Lakewood, OH recently participated in a life changing immersion trip to New Orleans, LA. On June 12, 2010 a group of ten Magnificat students from Rocky River, OH along with three teachers made the trip to help a family that was greatly affected by the hurricane. The family had lost their house and money and only had a plot of land to their name. Working with an organization called Fuller Homes the group painted and primed the outside of the house. They installed floorboards and chicken wire on the underside of the house to prevent animals from burrowing in.

On the second day, they helped with an organization called Green Light. The point of the group is to install energy efficient light bulbs. These bulbs will help lower electric bills over the course of five years. After installing them, the group was able to talk with the family and hear stories of Hurricane Katrina.

On the fourth day of the trip the group visited the Henry Thompson Homeless Shelter. At the site, they helped people sign up for showers and to make phone calls. After spending just one day in the shelter, Michelina realized how truly lucky we are ... saying, "Most of us overindulge in life while others go without many of life's necessities each day." The people they met were friendly and just wanted to share their stories. The group talked about their lives and what God was calling them to do. After lunch they headed to hear some Hurricane Katrina speakers.

On the group's last day they primed and painted another home and then took a tour of the city. During the tour they saw the X's that were left when the search crews went through the houses. They also saw watermarks on the buildings that were left behind from the floods. While it has been

five years since Hurricane Katrina, parts of the city are still very damaged.

Michelina wants to thank the FCSLA for their very generous scholarship which has helped her be able to attend Magnificat High School.



Michelina Bacisin (2nd row, far left) is shown with other 12th grade students and teachers from Magnificat High School.

## STUDENT NEWS FROM BRANCH 181

**ZACHARY MIKSANEK** (Sr. Branch 181) graduated May 16, 2010 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology. He is now attending Southern Illinois University Medical School. He is the son of doctors Tony and Arlene Miksanek of Benton, IL. Congratulations Zach!

**CHRISTIAN LUKE MIKSANEK** (Sr. Branch 181) graduated May 28, 2010 from Lourdes Catholic High School. Christian received awards from the National Honor Society, Thomas Watson Scholarship, Mayo Clinic (4 year scholarship), and Semyo Scholarship. He now attends Vanderbilt University in Tennessee majoring in music performance. He is the son of Heidi and Chris Miksanek of Rochester, MN. Congratulations Luke!

Proud grandmother, Rosemary Miksanek of North Aurora, IL, is a member of Branch 181.

## TIMOTHY DETWILER GRADUATES FROM YOUNGSTOWN STATE

Timothy James Detwiler (Sr. Branch 161) graduated Magna Cum Laude from Youngstown State University in May with a Bachelor of Engineering Degree. While attending Youngstown State, he completed undergraduate research in nuclear physics. He is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. Tim is the son of Sam and Monica Detwiler and the grandson of Leonard and Martha Antal (Branches 731 and 161).



## Orders now being taken for CHRISTMAS OPLATKY

Oplatky, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers, are available from Jankola Library in Danville, PA. Orders will be accepted from November 1 until December 17, 2010. The Oplatky, five per packet, thermal-sealed and securely packaged can be obtained for a donation of \$3.00. In addition, shipping and processing has a minimum cost of \$5.50 and upwards.

Customized requests can be packaged to meet your needs. For more information or to place an order contact Sister Catherine Labouré, SS.C.M. at 570-275-5606, Extension 140 or write to Jankola Library and Slovak Museum Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.



## U.S. AMBASSADOR TO SLOVAKIA APPOINTED

After nearly 19 months without a U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia, Theodore "Tod" Sedgwick, a business executive from Georgetown, was sworn in as U.S. Ambassador on July 28, 2010. Mr. Sedgwick is the founder of Pasha Publications, a specialty publisher focused on energy, defense, and environmental markets. He served as the company's chief executive for twenty years. More recently, he launched Io Energy, an online energy information company covering the natural gas, coal, and electricity industries. He has also served as president of Red Hills Lumber Company, a producer of pine flooring.

Mr. Sedgwick graduated with honors from Harvard College, where he majored in Ottoman History. He has been an active volunteer for a number of cultural institutions, and has served on the boards of the Folger Shakespeare Li-

brary, the Shakespeare Theater Company of Washington, D.C., and the Gennadius Library in Athens, Greece. He has also served on the boards of a



**Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko (center) congratulates newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia, Ted Sedgwick, and his wife, Kate.**

number of land preservation organizations, including the Civil War Preservation Trust, which he chaired, the Wetlands America Trust, and the Land Trust Alliance where he is a national council member. He is also a member of various business organizations, including the Chief Executives Organization, an international business organization for global leaders.

Ambassador Sedgwick grew up in Cleveland, OH. He is married to Kate Watt Sedgwick, a public health specialist with a Masters degree in Public Health from Harvard University. They have two daughters and are expecting their third grandchild.

*From the Desk of the National President*

### Outcome of the Special Convention

The good news is that a higher percent of our delegates voted for the proposed bylaw changes the second time around. It was an impressive majority. Unfortunately, the total was a mere handful of votes short of the needed super majority. This shows that more members appreciate the risks our society faces with our current governance model and want to do something about it.

There is an obvious trend in the direction of approval of the proposal and greater financial security for our society. The increase in approval over the first attempt was significant! The next time will be the charmer.

Many thanks to all who helped in our educational effort and to those who supported the proposal. We will succeed! We will not let our society down!

Look for more information about the special convention in the December issue of *Fraternally Yours*.

**Mary Ann Johaneck**  
National President

## Cadet James Sambor Enters West Point

Cadet James Paul Sambor (Sr. Branch 557), son of Mrs. Kathy Sambor and Mr. Paul Sambor of Seven Hills, OH, completed Basic Training at the U.S. Military Academy in August 2010.

Sambor entered West Point on June 28 and successfully completed six weeks of CBT. Also referred to as "Beast Barracks", CBT is one of the most

challenging events a cadet will encounter over the course of their four years at the academy.

The initial military training program provides cadets with basic skills to instill discipline, pride, cohesion, confidence and a high sense of duty to prepare them for entry into the Corps of Cadets. Areas of summer instruction included first aid, mountaineering, hand grenades, rifle marksmanship and nuclear, biological and chemical training.

Sambor began classes August 16.



The West Point curriculum offers 45 majors balancing physical sciences and engineering with humanities and social sciences leading to a Bachelor of Science Degree.

Sambor graduated from Normandy High School. He plans to graduate from West Point in 2014 and be commissioned as a second lieutenant in

the U.S. Army.

The mission of the U.S. Army Military Academy is to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the nation as an officer in the U.S. Army.

The Officers of Sr. Branch 557 are very proud of Cadet Sambor and wish him much success in the future.



## Pittsburgh District Okres Holds Summer Meeting

The Pittsburgh District Okres summer meeting was held on July 25, 2010 at the McKeesport Palisades hosted by Branch 77, McKeesport, PA. National President Mary Ann Johaneck and National Treasurer John Janovec were in attendance. President Judy Fedor opened the meeting with the salute to the flag and "God Bless America". Father Mica of Branch 88 led the prayer before meals. Following the luncheon, Father Grosko, Pittsburgh District Chaplain, led the responsorial prayer for deceased members after the meal.



President Judy Fedor introduced Jerry Holmes, President of Branch 77 and expressed the members' appreciation for the luncheon. President Jerry introduced the officers of Branch 77 as follows: Irene Fedor, Vice President; Virginia Holmes, Treasurer; Marian Greenland, Financial Secretary; Judy Fedor, Recording Secretary and Junior Branch Secretary; Carol Yurechko and Audrey Podlesny, Auditors. President Judy presented Jerry with a check toward the cost of the luncheon and a mass for members of Branch 77.

Recording Secretary Judy Yates took the roll and read the minutes from the April meeting.



Financial Secretary Ruth Bielawski read the Treasurer's Report.

President Judy reviewed the District's quota and sales. A new branch has joined the Pittsburgh District. The District welcomes Branch 168, Port Vue, PA and their representative, Sue Minkos, to the District.

President Johaneck addressed the membership. She presented the DVD regarding the special convention to be held in October. President Johaneck conducted a question and answer session with the membership.

Dorothy Urbanowicz, National Auditor and member of the Pittsburgh District, gave the National Officers Report, updating the members on Home Office business. Dorothy also provided information with regard to the proposed bylaw changes.

Drawings were held, prizes were won, and Monsignor Peter Polando, National Chaplain led the closing prayer, followed by "Hej, Slovaci."



## Hawaiian Luau Held by Branches 177 and 115

The second annual Hawaiian Luau was held at Lawson Nursing Home in Jefferson Hills, PA, on Saturday, May 1, 2010. Senior Branch 177 and Junior Branch 115 from Clairton, PA sponsored the event. Members helped the residents play bingo and gave the prizes

### JOIN HANDS DAYS EVENT

to the bingo winners. After bingo the junior members distributed prizes to all the residents. The residents were given leis, grass skirts, straw hats and flowers for their hair. Some of the resident's

family performed the hula to Hawaiian music. A luau decorated cake, Hawaiian punch and snacks were served by members. Everyone had a good time and can't wait until next year.



Resident's enjoying their snacks.



Hula Dancer entertains the crowd.



Bingo game enjoyed by the residents.



# The Frances E. Jakabcin District Holds Fall Meeting

The Frances C. Jakabcin District of Eastern PA met on Sunday, September 19, 2010 in Lobitz Hall in Hazleton, PA. The meeting was graciously hosted by Hazleton Branches S45 and J105 and 60 members were in attendance.

President Bazik called the meeting to order and invited host branch officers Dorothy Cusatis and Marie Kokinda to the podium to welcome the members and introduce their local officers. Monsignor Thomas Derzack, District Chaplain led the membership in prayer after which a delicious meal was served. After the meal a regular business meeting was conducted and raffle tickets were sold to raise money for the District. President Bazik held a moment of silence for deceased members of the District and Monsignor Derzack closed the meeting with a prayer and



**District Recording Secretary Michele Mrazik and District President Veronica Bazik.**

singing of Hej, Slovaci. A short special meeting was then held for delegates to the special convention in October 2010 to discuss the final transportation plans.

The next meeting will be held in May 2011 – exact date and location to be determined by the host branches.



**Members enjoying good food and an afternoon of fraternal fellowship at the Semi-Annual District Meeting in Hazleton, PA.**

## *From the Desk of Your New Marketing Manager ~ Jennifer Davis*



My name is Jennifer Davis, FCSLA's new Marketing Manager. I have worked in corporate marketing for 13 years. Marketing is my passion and I am very thankful to say that I love my work! I intend to focus my passion towards growing the FCSLA. I was a Financial Advisor for two years and have my insurance license from the state of Ohio. I have over 20 years of customer service experience; it's inherent in every job I have held. I

have a Bachelor of Science Degree from Franklin University.

The top priorities that I intend to accomplish in the months and years ahead are to promote FCSLA to its fullest potential, increase membership and engage the youth. Working together as part of the FCSLA family, we can help others discover the best kept secret — our fraternal advantage. Now is both an exciting and critical time for our Association. I embrace my position and look forward to making a difference each and every day towards our continued success.

Please feel free to contact me at the Home Office address or by phone, 1-800-464-4642, Ext. 1071 or by email: [jdavis@fcscla.org](mailto:jdavis@fcscla.org).



# SLOVAK WORDS AND ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

## Price/Quality:

cheap  
dear/expensive  
nothing special  
pretty  
ugly

## Cena/Kvalita:

lacné  
drahé  
obyčajné  
pekné  
škaredé

## Signs:

Stop  
Go  
Entrance  
Exit  
Emergency Exit  
Danger  
Caution  
Keep Out  
One Way  
One Way Street  
One Way Traffic  
No Thoroughfare  
Road Under Construction  
Dangerous Curve  
Dangerous Crossing  
Railroad Crossing  
No Admittance  
Left

## Nápisy:

Stáť/Stop  
Ísť  
Vchod  
Východ  
Núdzový východ  
Nebezpečie  
Pozor  
Zákaz vstupu  
Jednosmerný  
Jednosmerná ulica  
Jednosmerná premávka  
Zákaz vjazdu  
Na ceste sa pracuje  
Nebezpečná zákruta  
Nebezpečný prechod  
Železničná križovatka  
Vstup zakázaný  
Vľavo

## Right

North  
South  
East  
West  
No Parking  
Go Slow  
Restrooms  
Private  
Up  
Down  
Open  
Closed  
Hot  
Cold  
Push  
Pull  
Occupied  
Please do not disturb  
FIRE!  
Smoking  
No Smoking  
HELP!  
Hospital  
Do Not Touch!  
Unoccupied

## Vpravo

Sever  
Juh  
Východ  
Západ  
Neparkujte  
Choďte pomaly  
Záchod/WC/00  
Súkromie  
Hore  
Dolu  
Otvorené  
Zatvorené  
Horúce  
Chladný/studený  
Tlačiť  
Ťahať  
Obsadené  
Nevyrušovať, prosím  
OHEN!/HORÍ!  
Fajčiari  
Nefajčiari  
POMOC!  
Nemocnica  
Nedotýkať sa!  
Voľné

## Uzdravenie Posadnutého

Bohuslav Zeman SSP

*(Please enjoy the English translation at right)*

### Čítam

Mk 1, 21-28

V Kafarnaume Ježiš vošiel do synagógy a učil. Poslucháči žasli nad jeho učením, lebo ich učil ako ten, čo má veľkú moc.

V synagóge bol práve človek posadnutý nečistým duchom. Ten vykrikoval:

– Čo ťa do nás, Ježiš Nazaretský? Prišiel si nás zničiť? Viem, kto si: Ty si Boží Svätý!

Ježiš mu prísne rozkázal:

– Mlč a vyjdi z neho!

Vtedy nečistý duch zalomcoval tým človekom a s veľkým krikom z neho vyšiel. Všetci sa čudovali a jeden druhého sa vypytovali:

– Čo je to?

– Nové učenie s mocou!

– Aj nečistým duchom rozkazuje a poslúchajú ho.

A chýr o ňom sa hneď rozniesol všade, po celej galilejskej krajine.

## The Healing of the Possessed Man

Bohuslav Zeman SSP

### I Read

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus went to Capernaum when He visited the synagogue in order to teach. His listeners were very astounded by the teachings for He taught them as someone who had authority.

There was a man in the synagogue with an unclean spirit and he cried out, 'What have You to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are: the Holy One of God.'

But Jesus rebuked him and said, 'Be silent and come out of him!'

And the unclean spirit, throwing the man into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.

All the people were very amazed and kept asking one another, 'What is this?'

'A new teaching — with authority!'

'He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey Him.'

At once His fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.



## ATTENDS CEREMONY AT SAINT VINCENT ARCHABBEY BASILICA

Members of Branch 44 of Mount Pleasant and Branch 177 of Clairton attended the 164th Annual Solemn Vespers and Conferral of Degrees Ceremony of Saint Vincent Seminary. The ceremony was held on Friday, May 7, 2010 at Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica in Latrobe, PA.

The Rev. Edward M. Lohse, J.C.L., Chancellor and Vocation Director, Diocese of Erie, was the commencement speaker and Honorary Degree Recipient. His Excellency, the Most Reverend Lawrence E. Brandt, J.C.L., PhD., Bishop of Greensburg, presided. The Right Reverend Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B., PhD. Archabbot and Chancellor of Saint Vincent Seminary, was the celebrant.

A reception and dinner followed the Vespers and Commencement Ceremony in the Fred M. Rogers Center.

Saint Vincent Seminary, founded in 1846, is the fourth oldest Roman Catholic Seminary in the United States. More than 2,400 diocesan and religious priests have been ordained from Saint Vincent. Saint Vincent Seminary currently serves thirteen dioceses, twelve Benedictine monasteries and a number of other religious congregations.



**L-R: Elizabeth H. Butler, Agnes Farcosky, both of Branch 44; The Most Reverend Lawrence E. Brandt, J.C.L., PhD., Bishop of Greensburg, Gerald M. LaFrankie and Monica LaFrankie, both of Branch 177.**



**Elizabeth H. Butler, Agnes Farcosky, both of Branch 44; The Right Reverend Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B., PhD., Archabbot and Chancellor of Saint Vincent Seminary, Monica LaFrankie, Gerald M. LaFrankie, both of Branch 177, and Lorrie Hunker, Branch 44.**

## REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

### BALANCE SHEET AS OF JUNE 30, 2010

#### ASSETS

Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 11,468,874.99
Bonds	576,243,518.56
Preferred Stock	8,230,430.87
Common Stock	743,229.59
Investment Income Due and Accrued	9,417,359.14
Promissory Notes	49,661.50
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	6,828,023.19
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,570,687.45
Other Assets	199,837.32

#### TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 614,751,622.61

#### LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 175,788,294.08
Annuity Reserves	332,910,994.10
Death Claims Payable	537,805.41
Unearned Premiums	553,179.00
Matured Endowments	307,948.00
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,820,539.54
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,591,409.84
Accrued Convention Donations	500,001.00
Provision for Future Conventions	480,000.40
Asset Valuation Reserve	6,286,602.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,445,531.00
Other Liabilities	1,517,713.33
Provision for Annuity Certain Accounts	3,081,000.00

#### TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$ 528,821,017.70

#### SURPLUS

Surplus	\$ 85,930,604.92
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#### TOTAL SURPLUS

\$ 85,930,604.92

#### TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

\$ 614,751,622.62

### INCOME STATEMENT

#### For the Six Months Ending June 30, 2010

#### REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 6,434,504.04
Annuity Premiums	20,105,083.20
Investment Income	16,987,842.86
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	41,557.00
Rental Income	195,244.00
Other Revenue	12,117.55

#### TOTAL REVENUE

\$ 43,776,348.65

#### EXPENSES

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 7,146,294.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	18,179,994.00
Insurance Benefits	1,531,542.09
Annuity Benefits	8,350,614.99
Commission Expense	832,861.77
Surrender Benefits	1,552,575.47
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	37,925.39
Matured Endowments	4,435.00
Donation Expenses	198,106.68
Convention Expenses	90,607.00
Dividends to Members	937,499.62
Post Mortem Benefits	384,248.86
Bonus to Branches	486,870.00
Fraternal Activities	60,637.01
Bank Service Charges	47,278.79
Data Processing Service Fees	158,538.44
Accounting Fees	49,901.00
Actuarial Fees	73,065.00
Legal Fees	103,432.28
Consulting Services	74,820.86
Official Publications	167,913.35
Scholarship Awards	(1,750.00)
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	193,485.63
Fees — Directors	56,135.16
Salaries — Employees	665,995.56
Salaries — Officers	219,025.02
Interest Expense	133,750.17
Tax Expense	145,390.09
Depreciation Expense	139,018.00
Utility Expense	43,960.64
Postage and Printing	201,334.76
Advertising	59,379.56
Travel Expense	71,266.65
Insurance Department Fees	47,628.86
Sales Promotion	74,968.61
Rental Expense	195,244.00
Other Expense	232,164.34

#### TOTAL EXPENSES

\$ 42,946,158.65

#### NET INCOME

\$ 830,190.00





## Thanksgiving Sides with a Twist

### CRANBERRY SAUCE

- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 cup orange juice
- 2 cups fresh or frozen cranberries
- 2 teaspoons grated orange peel

In 2-quart saucepan, heat brown sugar and orange juice to boiling over medium heat, stirring frequently. Boil 5 minutes.

Stir in cranberries. Heat to boiling. Boil about 5 minutes, stirring frequently, until cranberries are popped and mixture has thickened. Stir in orange peel.

Cover and refrigerate about 3 hours or until chilled.

### HERBED STUFFING

- 8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter
- 2 medium onions, diced (about 3 cups)
- 6 stalks celery with leaves, diced (about 2½ cups)
- 1 (14-ounce) package seasoned bread stuffing cubes
- ⅓ cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 1 teaspoon celery salt
- 1 teaspoon dried sage, crumbled
- 1 teaspoon dried rosemary, crushed
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme, crumbled
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1¼ cups hot homemade turkey stock or canned turkey stock, (plus ½ cup more if baking all of stuffing outside of turkey).

In 12-inch, heavy skillet over moderate heat, heat butter until hot but not smoking. Stir in onion and celery, cover, and cook, stirring occasionally, until soft, 15 to 20 minutes. (Vegetables can be prepared up to 1 day ahead and refrigerated. Reheat before continuing: In 12-inch, heavy skil-

let over moderately high heat, sauté, stirring often, until heated through, about 5 minutes.)

Transfer to large bowl and add stuffing cubes, parsley, celery salt, sage, rosemary, thyme, salt, and pepper. Stir in 1¼ cups hot stock.

If using to stuff turkey: Use immediately to fill cavities and spread remainder in baking dish as directed in recipe.

If baking entire recipe as side dish — Preheat oven to 350 degrees and butter 3-quart casserole or 9- by 13-inch baking dish. Transfer stuffing to dish and drizzle with ½ cup hot stock. Cover with aluminum foil and bake until heated through, about 30 minutes. Uncover and bake until top is slightly crisp and golden, about 10 minutes longer. Serve immediately.

### CREAMED CORN

- 2 (10 ounce) packages frozen corn kernels, thawed
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup whole milk
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese

In a skillet over medium heat, combine the corn, cream, salt, sugar, pepper and butter. Whisk together the milk and flour, and stir into the corn mixture. Cook stirring over medium heat until the mixture is thickened, and corn is cooked through. Remove from heat, and stir in the Parmesan cheese until melted. Serve hot.

### GARLIC MASHED POTATOES

- 2 pounds Russet potatoes, peeled
- 6 whole garlic cloves, peeled
- 3 tablespoons butter
- ½ to ¾ cup cream, milk or half & half, heated
- Parsley for garnish

Boil potatoes and garlic together until tender; drain and mash until smooth with a small amount of cream. Serve on individual plates with an herb encrusted chip, if desired.

### BUTTERMILK CORN MUFFINS

- 1¼ cups cornmeal
- 1 cup Bisquick mix
- ⅓ cup sugar
- ½ cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Line 12 muffin cups with paper baking cups, or grease bottoms only of muffin cups with shortening.

In large bowl, stir all ingredients until blended. Divide batter evenly among muffin cups.

Bake muffins 14 to 17 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from pan to wire rack.

### CRANBERRY ORANGE BUTTER

- ½ cup (1 stick) butter or margarine, softened to room temperature or spreadable consistency
- 2 tablespoons frozen orange juice concentrate
- ¼ cup finely chopped sweetened dried cranberries

Combine all ingredients, blending well with a fork. Serve with warmed corn muffins. Makes 8 servings.

### SWEET POTATOES WITH APPLESAUCE

- 6 medium sweet potatoes or yams (2 pounds), peeled and cut into ½-inch cubes
- 1½ cups applesauce
- ⅔ cup packed brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons margarine or butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ cup chopped nuts, toasted

Place sweet potatoes in 2- to 3½-quart slow cooker. Mix remaining ingredients except nuts; spoon over potatoes.

Cover and cook on low heat setting 6 to 8 hours or until potatoes are very tender. Sprinkle with nuts.

### COFFEE PUMPKIN BREAD WITH COFFEE ICING

- 1 (14-ounce) package pumpkin quick bread mix
- 1¼ cups brewed double-strength coffee, cooled, divided
- 4 squares (4 ounces) semisweet baking chocolate, coarsely chopped
- 3 cups confectioners' sugar
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted

Prepare bread batter as directed on the package, substituting 1 cup of the coffee for the water. Stir in chocolate. Bake bread as directed on the package. Remove from the pan; cool completely. Beat sugar, remaining ¼ cup coffee and butter in a large bowl with an electric mixer on low speed until well blended. Spread on the bread. Makes 16 servings.



11/10

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