

Fraternally Yours®



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First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

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43RD QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION JW MARRIOTT, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA OCTOBER 5 -8 , 2023



Happy Thanksgiving

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

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Thanksgiving Is

Thanksgiving is
a time of gratitude to God, our Creator and Provider,
whose guidance and care go before us...
and whose love is with us forever.

Thanksgiving is
a time to reflect on the changes,
to remember that we, too, grow and change
from one season of life to another.

Thanksgiving is
a time of changing seasons, when leaves turn golden
in Autumn's wake and apples are crisp
in the first chill breezes of fall.

Let us remember the true meaning of Thanksgiving.
As we see the beauty of Autumn,
let us acknowledge the many blessings which are ours...
let us think of our families and friends..
and let us give thanks in our hearts.

Dear Friends, this month dig a hole in your garden of thoughts.
Into it put all your disillusionings, disappointments, regrets, worries,
troubles, doubts and fears and just let them go.

Cover well with the earth of fruitfulness, water it from the well
of contentment. Sow on top again the seeds of kindness, hope,
courage, strength, patience and love.
Then, when the time of gathering comes, may your harvest be a
rich and plentiful one.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!
Until next Month,

Warmly,
Carolyn



ATTENTION!

If you would like to receive *Fraternally Yours* by email instead of through the mail please return
this form to the attention of Member Services at the Home Office.

Name: _____

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City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

You will begin to receive *Fraternally Yours* by email as soon as the changes can be made.

Reflections

Very Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, D. Min., J.C.L., National Chaplain

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

I scribe this November monthly article to you only several days after the conclusion of our Forty-third Quadrennial Convention that took place on 6-8 NOVEMBER 2023 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Yours truly had the privilege to participate in those historic days of our Association by sitting on the top platform of the convention room stage, facing the 280 + participants and visitors who were representing the membership from various parts of our country. As I was surveying the convention room during those days, I thought of what Anna Hurban and the other eight ladies who founded this women's Catholic Association would think of where their new organization would be over 130+ years later. What history there was throughout the eras of prosperity and depression, peace and wars, liberalism and conservatism, and women and men during those years. It made me feel so proud of the historical feats that were accomplished by our Association during those past thirteen decades. Not only have we cemented our history in the annals of women's rights, but also proved that sometimes with hard and tedious work, we gradually would achieve financial success, as we are presently over a 1.1-billion-dollar fraternal Association.

As I also gazed over the members before me, I was so impressed by the number of younger ladies and gentlemen present in our midst. They are the future of our Association. I was so proud of what I heard: the activities the members were performing in the areas of charities, scholarships, assistance to their local Catholic churches, and for their members themselves! I was so taken back by the renewal of friendships, by the histories of past conventions, debates both pro and con with issues presented on the floor, and the fluidity of time spent on various items presented throughout the convention. We have our strengths and sometimes share a few weaknesses. We cannot be perfect all the time. But this convention moved

with much smoothness and was one of the best that I have attended! Congratulations to all members of the FCSLA, delegates and officers alike! We were truly led by the Holy Spirit in our deliberations and we give thanks to God for giving us the Spirit for His light and inspiration through Jesus our Savior. It was through the delegation's and the membership's prayers that we had a very successful convention. PRAYER!

Saint Augustine, a promoter of Catholicism in the early Church, wrote a Letter to Proba (Ep. 130, 8, 15. 17-9, 18). In it, he declares:

“So that we might obtain the life of happiness, He who is true life itself taught us to pray, not only in many words as though speaking longer could gain us a hearing. After all, we pray to One who, as the Lord Himself tells us, knows what we need before we ask for it.

Why He should ask us to pray, when He knows what we need before we ask Him, may perplex us if we do not realize that our Lord and God does not want to know what we want (for He cannot fail to know it) but wants us rather to exercise our desire through our prayers, so that we may be able to receive what He is preparing to give us. His gift is very great indeed, but our capacity is too small and too limited to receive it....

In this faith, hope and love we pray always with unwearied desire. However, at set times and seasons we also pray to God in words, so that by these signs we may instruct ourselves and mark the progress we have made in our desire, and spur ourselves on to deepen it. The more fervent the desire, the more worthy will be its fruit. When the Apostle tells us: Pray without ceasing, he means this: Desire unceasingly that life of happiness which is nothing if not eternal, and ask it of Him who alone is able to give it.”



Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Hello, fellow members,

As I write this article for the November issue of our magazine, we are returning from our 43rd Quadrennial Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, where our delegates and national officers deliberated and decided for the future and good of our Association. We celebrated together several Masses, a beautiful Memorial Service and a gala banquet on Saturday evening.

We were honored by the presence of Archabbot Martin Bartek, OSB Saint Vincent's Archabbey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, Archabbot Emeritus Douglas Nowicki, OSB and Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB, Saint Andrews Abbey Cleveland, Ohio.

We heard relevant and timely information about Slovakia from a representative of Slovak Ambassador to the United States Hon. Radovan Javorcik, and from Hon. Vincent Obsitnik, former Ambassador to Slovakia from the United States and our member.

You will hear and see more about the convention in upcoming issues of our magazine.

Thank you to all for your support for our upcoming initiatives to move our society forward!

As we approach Thanksgiving, let us all give thanks for our faith, our family and friends, and our beloved Zenska Jednota!

Cynthia M. Maleski,
National President

Remembering Others

*O God, when I have food,
help me to remember the hungry;
When I have work,
help me to remember the jobless;
When I have a home,
help me to remember those who have
no home at all;
When I am without pain,
help me to remember those who suffer,
And remembering,
help me to destroy my complacency;
bestir my compassion,
and be concerned enough to help;
By word and deed,
those who cry out for what we take for granted.*

- Samuel F. Pugh



National President Cynthia Maleski is pictured speaking at the 43rd Quadrennial Convention.



Michael Jeffrey Benes Baptized

Michael Jeffrey Benes was recently baptized at North American Martyrs Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. He is the newest member of Branch W187, Valparaiso, NE. Twenty of his immediate family are also members of W187. He is pictured with his parents Abby and Joe Benes and Father Carson Cain.



97 Years Young

Mary Ann Maruska, longtime member of Branch W001 in New Prague, MN recently celebrated her 97th birthday with her loving family. Her husband, Edward Maruska, was the President of Branch W001 for many years prior to his passing. Together, they raised their 9 children on the family farm just outside of New Prague. Mary Ann has 26 grandchildren and 53 great-grandchildren.



Branch W16 to Host a Dinner Meeting

St. Isadore Branch W16 is hosting a dinner meeting on November 12, 2023 in the Klein Center in Brainard, NE. located just east of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Gathering time begins at 11:45 a.m. with a delicious meal served at 12:30 p.m. RSVP by October 25, 2023 Call: Carolyn 402-545-4261



CARTER GILLEN IS CONFIRMED



On Saturday, April 8, 2023, Carter Gillen, son of Jori Knizner-Kelly, was confirmed at St. Gerald's Church in Oak lawn, IL and then on Thursday, June 1st he graduated from Oak Lawn-Hometown Middle School. He is now attending Richards High School where his sister, Addison, is a Senior. Carter is an outstanding student and athlete enjoying

basketball, baseball and travel baseball. His Mom, sister, grandmother, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends are all members of S287 and J339 of the Anna Hurban District of Chicago, IL. His grandmother, Judy Tybor-Knizner, is President of S287 and his Mom is Treasurer of the branches. We wish Carter the best in his new high school endeavors.



ANNA HURBAN-CHICAGO DISTRICT

O Come, All Ye Faithful!
Christmas Party

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023

CAMELOT BANQUETS
8624 95TH ST., HICKORY HILLS, IL 60457

doors open at 10:00 A.M., program at 11:00 A.M.

Oplatky Available

Please contact your Chicago branch officer
or email fcslachicagodistrict@gmail.com
for information on how to attend

\$30.00 member • \$35.00 non-member

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- Did your children, grandchildren receive special awards or achievements in school?
- Baptisms?
Confirmations?
New Members?
- Participated in Volunteer & Community Projects?

If they are members of the FCSLA Life please email us a photo and short article about their special achievements!

E-mail:
zjbazik@comcast.net



ST. ANN SOCIETY *Christmas Dinner*

St. Ann Society S-140 of Lansford, Pa. cordially invites all the member to the annual Christmas dinner, which will be December 3, 2023 in Macaluso's The Lantern, in Nesquehoning Pa. The meal will be served at 1:00 p.m. Reservations are required and made before November 17, 2023.

Please call Louise Dunstan 570-645-4354.
Thank you and have a Blessed Christmas.

BRANCHES S089 AND S319 COMBINED CHRISTMAS PARTY SCHEDULED

FCSLA Life Branches S089 (Hellertown PA) and S319 (Allentown, PA) will host a joint Christmas Party for members on Sunday, November 26, 2023, at the Heintzelman Carriage House, 326 Main Street, Rear, Hellertown, PA. (The Carriage House is located behind the Heintzelman Funeral Home at that address.) The dinner will be followed by a seasonal reflection.

Plan to join us for 11 a.m. Mass at St. Theresa Parish
in Hellertown before the event.

We will meet at the Carriage House 12-12:20 p.m.
Dinner will be served at 12:30 p.m.

Reservations are required. Please contact Loretta Ulincy
either by phone (610-737-8207) or email (lordolo27@outlook.com)
no later than Friday, November 17.

*Thank you. Best wishes to all for a blessed and beautiful
Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season!*

Charleroi Sr. 111 will hold the Annual Christmas Meeting & Party On Sunday, December 3, 2023

Dunlevy Recreation Center
4 Walnut Street, Dunlevy, PA 15432

11:30am Hor d' oeuvres followed by Luncheon

Reservations made by calling Eileen at
724-326-8311 by Nov. 22, 2023

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

FCSLA LIFE BRANCH W093, TABOR, SD **Supports 2024 Czech Day Fireworks**

Dennis Povondra, FCSLA South Dakota District Treasurer and National Auditor, presents a check for \$600 South Dakota District Matching Funds Grant to Dean Sternhagen. Dean is the coordinator for the Rich Schild Memorial Fireworks show which is given after the Bluebird Baseball Game on the Thursday evening at the start of Czech Days. This year's fireworks were held on June 15. The Matching Funds Grant matched up to a maximum of \$600 for the 50 –50 ticket sales at the ballgame. The Matching Funds Grant will be used to help fund sponsorship of the fireworks in 2024 the 75th Czech Days celebration.



Dennis Povondra, FCSLA South Dakota District Treasurer and National Auditor, presents a check for \$495.82 South Dakota District Matching Funds Grant to the Czech Heritage Preservation Society, Inc., a 501(c)3 organization, to president, Ken Sedlacek. The free will offering donations, supply sales, and membership revenue which was received during the two-day Czech Days celebration June 16 and 17 this year was matched by FCSLA Life. A total of \$600 was the maximum that could be matched. The grant money will be used for park and building improvements at the Tabor Park. The brick walk was completed this year along with new cement walks between buildings and pads for three new donated benches were poured.



BRANCH S553 Bake Sale **Supports Cleveland Slovak Radio Club**

Branch S553 sponsored a Bake Sale Matching Funds Project to benefit the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club. The bake sale was very successful thanks to all the members who made and donated pastries. The event was held at the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Festival in Broadview Heights, Ohio. The Cleveland Slovak Radio Station has been in existence for over 84 years and is broadcast on WERE 1490 AM on Sundays from 11:00 am - Noon.



Left to right - S553 members Joe Oros and Henry Horvath. Henry is the President of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club.



Victoria and Matthew Oros S553 members making kolacky for the bake sale



Homemade kolacky



Homemade nut horns

Parade of Churches

A very successful "Parade of Churches" took place on the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 17th. Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Brainard, NE was one of five deanery churches that participated and welcomed a large group of visitors. The event in Brainard was hosted by the Holy Trinity Quilters, with the additional support of the local FCSLA Branch W16. Connie Novacek, from St. Mary's Church Fund Raising Committee in David City organized the event. Sharon Bruner and Carolyn Dvorak (*Branch W16 treasurer*), both members of Holy Trinity Parish, presented a brief program about the history of the Czech pioneers who initiated discussions to build a church in 1883. The first wooden church was finally built in 1888. The larger present day, stone and brick gothic style, church was completed in 1908. They also talked about the most recent major renovations of the church which were completed in 2009. Information about donated items and church organizations was also presented. Afterwards time was spent in prayer and reflection. The tour group visited with many of the local parishioners who welcomed the group and later served refreshments upon the completion of the program.



Find us on
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FCSLA Life

ANNUAL SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS APPEAL UPDATE

The mailing for the 46th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal will be going out in January to clergy of Slovak heritage, national and local leaders of our Slovak Catholic Fraternal Benefit Societies, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, previous donors, and personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. The Appeal raises money to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day to day operations.

Thank you to all the Branches, Districts and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association who made donations to the 45th Annual Appeal. The final totals will not be known for a few weeks, but **as of October 14, 2023, the Appeal has received \$23,458.51 from 191 donors.** Money raised goes to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day to day operations. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you everyone for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone wishing to donate to the 2024 Appeal is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mail it along with a check payable to the **Slovak Catholic Federation** to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. **The 46th Annual Appeal runs from December 1, 2023 to November 30, 2024. Gifts received after November 30, 2023 are being credited to the 2024 Appeal.** Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdic, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harvey's Lake, PA and Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Parochial Vicar with Senior Priest status at Our Lady of Grace Parish, Penndel, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

4th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

Please make check payable to
Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to:

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta
National First Vice President, SCF
Our Lady of Grace Church
225 Bellevue Avenue, Penndel, PA 19047-4052

FCSLA Life® *43rd Quadrennial Convention*



The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association's 43rd Quadrennial Convention was held in Indianapolis, IN from October 5-8, 2023 at the JW Marriott. Delegates arrived on Thursday and committee meetings were held. William S. Lavezzi, PRP, held a workshop on how to participate in the convention according to parliamentary procedure for first time delegates. His workshop was well received and attended by many wishing to review proper procedures. Business meetings were held from Friday through Sunday morning with Cynthia M. Maleski, Esq., Convention Chair and FCSLA National President Presiding and William S. Lavezzi, PRP serving as our Professional Registered Parliamentarian.

The first session opened with the Call to Order by President Maleski, an Invocation by the National Chaplain Monsignor Peter M. Polando, the Posting of Colors, the Pledge of Allegiance led veterans in attendance, and singing of the National Anthems of the United States and Slovakia. This was followed by a welcome and message from National President Maleski, the roll call of the National Officers, Court of Appeals and Delegates by Kimberly A. Graham, National Secretary and a report from the Credential Committee by Lynda A. Schoberth. There was recognition of the first-time delegates, registered Association members and guests as well as past National Officers in attendance. National Auditor Dennis Povondra and National Director Larry M. Golofski, introduced those seated on the dais and members of the Court of Appeals.

Throughout the course of the convention, delegates heard reports from National President Cynthia Maleski, the Association's Actuary, Thomas Wurfel, FSA, MAAA, President of Allen Bailey & Associates; Outside Auditor Leo Hannah, CPA, MBA, Partner H2R CPA; Jason M. Bordui, President & Chief Client Strategist of Balanced Growth Consulting, the firm engaged to facilitate the organization's strategic planning process; Frank Rando, Interim National Treasurer/CFO; and Paul Smithers, National Sales Manager.

Written reports from National President/CEO Cynthia M. Maleski; National Secretary/COO Kimberly Graham and Frank Rando Interim National Treasurer/CFO were provided to the delegates in their packets. All reports emphasized that the Association is in a sound financial position, had experienced asset growth of 13.8% since 2019, and had

retained its AM Best A-minus rating for another year. The seventeen proposed bylaw amendments were presented to the delegates by Co-Chairs of the Convention Bylaw Committee, Joann Skvarek Banvich and Jeanette Palanca. Sixteen of the seventeen proposed amendments were approved by the delegates. The most significant bylaw change was the approval to hire a Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This transition to hired CEO will take place with the hiring of the most qualified candidate for the position after a transparent national search is completed during a period not to exceed 24 months after the adoption. Once approved by the appropriate regulatory bodies new Bylaw books will be printed and distributed. The recommendations of the Compensation Committee were presented to the convention by Committee Chair Donald Cernosek. The report was overwhelmingly approved by the delegates, with just one amendment to the National President's salary during the interim period of service during the transition to a hired CEO. Donation Committee Chair Dorothy L. Urbanowicz presented the Donation Committee report and delegates approved recommended donations of \$600,000. \$484,000 to churches, \$26,000 to Slovak causes, \$90,000 to community organizations. Lynda A. Schoberth, of the Credential Committee provided a final report that there were 280 certified delegates. Leo Hannah, Outside Auditor reported on the results of the Election for the National Board for 2024-2027. The delegates elected: Monsignor Peter Polando, National Chaplain; Cynthia Maleski, National President (service will be in the interim period until the transition to a newly hired CEO takes place); Jeanette Palanca, National Director; Joann Skvarek Banvich, National Director; Kristina Menke, National Director; Kristine Midcap, National Director; Lorraine Gibas, National Trustee; Joseph T. Senko, National Trustee; Mary Andreano, National Auditor; Barbara Sekerak, National Auditor; and Dennis Povondra, National Auditor. Five members were elected to the Court of Appeals, Bonnita Vavruska; Susan Moynihan; Cynthia Oresik; Janet Berkemeier; and Melanie Leonard.

National President Cynthia Maleski honored Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B. for his many years of dedicated service to FCSLA. In Archabbot Nowicki's absence, National Chaplain Peter M. Polando, presented the Report of the

Events like our recent 43rd Quadrennial Convention just don't happen, they take months of planning, preparation and execution. Thank you to everyone involved for a job very well done! We appreciate all your hard work!

Resolutions Committee. Past National President, Mary Ann Johaneck was the Installing Officer and administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected members of the Board and the Court of Appeals. After a closing prayer, the delegation joined in singing "God Bless America" and "Hej Slovaci," and the Colors were retired. National President Cynthia M. Maleski declared the convention closed!

Friday evening, after the Hospitality/Candidate Night concluded, delegates and guests enjoyed a relaxing evening of trivia and music along with the chance to drive some Daytona USA arcade racing cars.

The 2023 Quadrennial Clergy were: Reverend Frank Basa; Right Reverend Douglas Nowicki, OSB; Right Reverend Gary Hoover, OSB; Reverend Michael Brunovsky, OSB; Right Reverend Martin R. Bartek, OSB; Very Reverend Edward Mazich, OSB; Reverend Thomas Nasta; Very Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando

Mass was celebrated on Friday before lunch with Right Reverend Gary Hoover, OSB as principal celebrant.

Prior to recess for lunch on Saturday, National Chaplain, Peter M. Polando conducted a Memorial Service remembering past National officers and members who had passed away since the 42nd quadrennial convention in 2019. Representatives of the 15 Districts, Division U and Z, and two at-large representatives participated in the service along with delegates and guests.

The main convention liturgy was held at the hotel on Saturday evening with Right Reverend Martin R. Bartek, OSB serving as principal celebrant.

The banquet followed Mass on Saturday evening. National President Cynthia M. Maleski welcomed delegates and guests and introduced the Mistress of Ceremonies Kimberly Graham, National Secretary/COO. The National Anthem was led by National President Cynthia Maleski. A presentation of State Flags by members of the Young Adult Leadership Council (John Moynihan, S176 – Cleveland District # 1; Aimee Perri, S433 – Pittsburgh District # 3; Liz Ortiz, S452 – Indiana/Illinois District # 6; Terese Gibas, S421 – Chicago District # 7; and Cassie Muffler, S023 – Wisconsin District # 9) got the evening off to a wonderful start. Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki offered the Invocation and National Director Patrick Braun offered the toast. Following a delicious dinner, those in attendance heard remarks from Allison Koppel, CEO of the American Fraternal Alliance (AFA); followed by The Honorable Vincent Obsitnik, former Ambassador of the United States to the Slovak Republic. Cynthia M. Maleski, National President then delivered her address followed by special introductions and acknowledgements from Fraternal Leaders and guests by Kimberly Graham, National Secretary. Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB, Saint Andrew Abbey, offered benediction and then delegates and guests enjoyed after dinner music provided by the Gypsy Stringz.







FCSLALife® *43rd Quadrennial Convention*

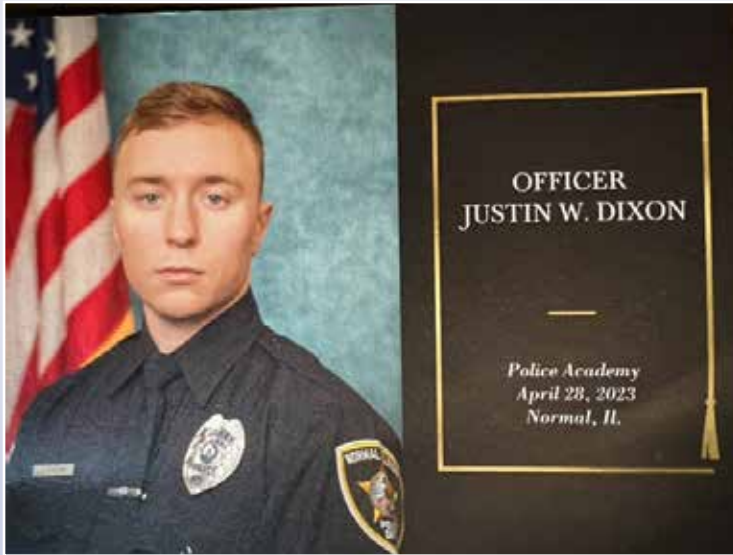


Scan this QR code or go to
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/199357638@N08/>
 to view more photos from our convention.



FCSLA BRANCH S53

Congratulations Officer Justin W. Dixon, recent Police Academy graduate and 5th generation member of S53, Joliet, IL. God bless you and all of our men in blue for serving in the dangerous occupation of keeping American citizens safe. Your work is appreciated!



FCSLA Branch \$642

Member, James Donovan, congratulates Pastor John Lyons, Saint Anne's Church as his parishioners were celebrated as San Diego, California "Catholics of the Year". An FCSLA matching funds check will be on its way to San Diego, as the Padre Pio spaghetti dinner already netted \$1,500 towards Saint Anne's new church construction.



BRANCH W187, VALPARAISO, NE

Branch W187, Valparaiso, NE supports two Catholic Schools - Bishop Neumann Junior & Senior High School and St. John's Elementary School as well as Sts. Mary & Joseph Summer CCD program. This year the branch sponsored t-shirts for all students, many of whom are FCSLA Life members, during CCD week.



Left: Logo for Summer School CCD at Sts Mary & Joseph Church, Valparaiso, NE. Logo was printed on T-shirts for all attendees sponsored by Branch 187.



Valparaiso, NE Summer CCD attendees wearing their T-shirts sponsored by W18

Ken and Clarice Sabata W187, VALPARAISO, NE

Ken and Clarice Sabata, W187, Valparaiso, NE recently celebrated 60 years of married life. They are pictured with most of their four children, 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren, all of whom are members of W187.

Four generations of FCSLA Life W187 are pictured: grandmother, Susie Witulski; great-grandmother, Clarice Sabata holding newest member Michael Jeffrey Benes, along with mom, Abigail Benes.



FCSLA Branch W137 Fall Fest

On Sunday, October 8th, FCSLA Branch W137, Cedar Rapids, Iowa held its annual Family Fall Festival at Bass Farm, Mount Vernon. Members enjoyed the farm's activities, including a corn maze, hayrack ride, mini golf, giant slide and many others. Everyone took home pumpkins from the pumpkin patch and a treat bag.



FCSLA members gather to receive treat bags before selecting their pumpkins.



Danica Robe, Thomas Powers, Mikahla Powers, and Iris Upah enjoy the teeter totter.

Branch Z221 • Victoria Chauh, Crowned 2022 Miss Virginia



Victoria Chauh was crowned Miss Virginia for 2022. Victoria graduated Summa Cum Laude with honors from the University of Pittsburgh's distinguished Honors College: Received both a Bachelor's and Master's degrees of Science in Computer Science in four years. She was the president of her master's program class and participated in many school organizations: Ballet club, dance ensemble, Ruckus improv troupe to name a few. Her platform as Miss Virginia was Awareness and Advocacy for Adults with Autism. Inspired by her younger brother Luke, Victoria serves on the Board of Home Life Community which is a planned living and learning community for adults on the spectrum.

Victoria is also on the board for the state of Virginia STEM education and was appointed by the governor of Virginia. Victoria was the spokesperson for many organizations and attended numerous events throughout her reign. Victoria also visited elementary schools throughout the state and spoke to over 20,000 elementary students about making healthy life choices as the spokesperson for VA ABC and also discussing autism and interacting with and including autistic peers.



Victoria had the honor to compete on the Miss America Stage. While at Miss America she also competed for and won the prestigious Women in STEM 2023 10,000 scholarship. Victoria passed on her title as Miss Virginia in July and is currently in New York City. She is a software engineer for Morgan Stanley. Victoria also recently walked in NYC fashion week! Her mother, Dr Ann N. Hebda and her late grandmother, Margaret Hebda are members of Branch Z221.

Boardman, Ohio • Morganne Evans crowned the 2023 Mahoning County Junior Fair Queen

Morganne Evans, daughter of Michael and Marianne (Lapinski) Evans of Boardman, Ohio, was crowned the 2023 Mahoning County Junior Fair Queen on August 31, 2023 at the 177th Annual Canfield Fair.

The Mahoning County Junior Fair Royalty Contest recognizes exceptional youth who exhibit life skills acquired through participation in at least one of seven youth organizations, including 4-H, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts. These teens model leadership, communication, collaboration, creativity, confidence, and service to others, thereby leading by example and serving as mentors to younger members.

Morganne has been a Girl Scout for 13 years, where she presented at World Thinking Day, led and assisted during the council-wide "Camporee" weekend, attended community historical tours, and attended informational classes to learn how to preserve nature. Morganne has been awarded the Senior Take Action Award, the Senior Sisterhood Award, Ambassador BLISS Journey Award, and the Ambassador Take Action Journey Award. She has been a member of the Mahoning County Junior Fair Board for three years and

was on the Mahoning County Junior Fair Outstanding Youth Courts in 2021 and 2022.

Morganne is 18 years old and a 2023 graduate of Boardman High School where she earned a 4.00 GPA and graduated First in Class. During her time at Boardman High School, she was a member of National Honor Society, a Camp Fitch Counselor, participated in the Big Spartan Little Spartan mentoring program, was a Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership member, participated in girls track and tennis teams, Boardman High School Symphony Orchestra, and the Youngstown State University Youth Orchestra. She stays active in many community service events some of which include assisting disabled children to ride bikes, writing letters to nursing home residents, making and donating tie blankets, and Christmas caroling at nursing homes.

Morganne is a 4th generation member of FCSLA Branch 30 St. Anne's Lodge in Youngstown, Ohio. She was recently awarded a 2023 FCSLA College Freshman Scholarship which is assisting her to further her education as a Biology and Pre-Med major at Youngstown State University.



Pictured with Morganne is Mahoning County Junior Fair King, Joey Devine, of Canfield, Ohio.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT FCSLA LIFE

From time to time, FCSLA Life either has vacancies for current positions or looks to expand its staff to meet our growing needs. If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities please contact our HR manager at 800-464-4642 X1076 for more information or email a current resume to hr@fcsla.com.

YOUNGSTOWN DISTRICT HONORS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Youngstown District chose a peaceful location to honor its 18 First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Scholarship winners. The Squaw Creek Country Club Banquet Center was spacious enough to accommodate members and guests who were in need of walkers and wheelchairs. Instead of the customary centerpieces each setting had a large FCSLA tote bag and an FCSLA writing tablet with two FCSLA snack closing clips.

District President, Bernadette Demechko, opened the quarterly meeting with a prayer to Saint Ann, District Patron, and introduced Emma Burin, President of Branch 422, Warren, Ohio which was hosting the event.

As waiters brought the meals to the tables, Emma gave a brief history of Branch 422 and its efforts to perpetuate Slovak heritage and traditions. The Chicken Divan dinner, covered with melted parmesan cheese, included a tossed salad, rolls/butter, cubed fried potatoes and pasta and meatballs. The dessert featured cupcakes in a variety of flavors with a two inch frosting, served with coffee/tea/soft drinks. The President led the group in the Blessing before meals. Bernadette announced that usual District business such as the Minutes, Treasurer's Report and other District business will be postponed until the autumn meeting. She added: "This is a Scholarship Meeting and the focus will be on the winners. "Fran Chervinko, Secretary had roll call of Branches and their members in attendance.

Branch 30 Mary Lou DiPillo - 40; Branch 153 Fran Chervinko - 1; Branch 156 Patty Granchay - 53; Branch 161 - Melanie Leonard 17; Branch 344 Shirley Zura - 6;

Branch 422 Sandi Saluga - 8; Total in attendance was 125.

The President introduced Patty Granchay who is the Director of the Anna S. Granchay Family Trust Fund. She spoke of its origin. The Fund was established to honor Anna who served as National President of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association from 1984 - 1995. For over 30 years Anna was a teacher at West Elementary School, Boardman, Ohio. Her legacy continues as current winners are from the area of elementary education.

Bernadette announced she had some District events on which to report. She represented the Youngstown 2 District at the District Presidents' Meeting in August (on-line). The annual Christmas Part is scheduled 1:00 p.m., Sunday, November 12 at Sulmona Valley Club, 92 South Bridge Street, Struthers, OH. Deadline: October 28. Flyer will be sent. The President introduced Loretta Ekoniak, President of the American Slovak Cultural Association, who announced upcoming events: Mahoning County Canfield Fair International Building (assisting people to locate relatives, cemeteries on a huge map of Slovakia) September picnic/casserole at Loretta's home; December annual Vilija Dinner where two \$1000 scholarships are awarded annually to students whose parents or friends are members of the organization. Applications are on the head table.

The President announced that the scholarship winners would be introduced by their Branch President. They will have an opportunity to speak on any topic they choose: their goals, educational

achievements, school organizations, sports, etc. It will give us an opportunity to have a personal connection to our members. Each member will be given monetary awards from the District and their Branch.

Mary Lou DiPillo, Branch 30: Lauren DeProfio Youngstown State University; Morganne Evans, Youngstown State University.

Patty Granchay, Branch 156: Deanna Rochelle Novak, Youngstown State University; Victoria Hope Novak, University of North Carolina; Madeline Ann Piscarcik, Youngstown State University; Eva R. Tomachek, Ohio State University.

Melanie Leonard, Branch 161: Danika Rose M. Adair, University of Oregon; Anna M, Brooke, Matthew B., and Patrick Brooke Holy Family Elementary School, Stow, Ohio; Brooke R. Chandler, Kent State University; Leanne M. Chandler, Youngstown State University; Abigail E.; Kutchel, St. Francis University; Sydney R. Minotti, University of Texas at Austin; Makenzie Verhoff, Youngstown State University.

Sandi Saluga, Branch 422: Nicholas Shannon, Kent State University.

The President thanked the Hostess of Squaw Creek Country Club for their excellent meal and service. She also expressed gratitude to Sandi Saluga and Emma Burin and their members who had provided us with a enjoyable afternoon. The meeting was closed with a prayer for the deceased and those members who have been unable to attend because of illness.



Seated Patti Granchay, S156, Standing L-R: Ashley Hull, Mark Granchay, and Leah Hunter



Seated L-R: Mathew Brooke, District President Bernadette Demechko, Anna Brooke; Standing L-R: Makenzie Verhoff, Madeline Piscarcik, Lauren DeProfio, Sydney Minotti



Slovak News and Book Reviews

By Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB

For many years, a member of my Benedictine monastic community of Saint Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, **Fr. Andrew Pier, OSB (1910-2003)** wrote a weekly column in the national *Jednota* newspaper titled “*Slovak News and Views*.” As a member of the **Heritage and Culture Committee of the Slovak Catholic Federation**, I suggested that we revive and expand that popular column and make it available on a bi-monthly basis to each of the Slovak fraternal publications. I am willing to be the clearinghouse for content submitted by any interested reader.

The **first** purpose of this revived column ***Slovak News and Book Reviews*** is to share information about Slovaks who make news, celebrities who have Slovak heritage, American-Slovak interesting events, or ways that a small country like Slovakia makes unique contributions to our cities, states, countries, churches, and world.

The **second** purpose of this revived column is to share short reviews of books connected to Slovak history, culture, of faith, new or old, that are readily available to purchase on-line.

I welcome material that is connected with either of these purposes. Send the information to me: Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB Gerard@standrewabbey.org. I will forward it to: The *Jednota* newspaper (editor@fcsu.com); FCSLA *Fraternally Yours* (zjbazik@comcast.net); The LPSCU *Morning Star – Zornica* (zornicka@lpescu.org); Slovak Catholic Sokol *Falcon* (Sokol205@aol.com)

Slovak News and Book Reviews / #1 (September 2023)

- This summer marked the 100th anniversary of “Slovak Day” at **Kennywood amusement park** near Pittsburgh.
- **Slovak Heritage Tours** in Deerfield, Massachusetts has seen an increase in Polish-Americans interested in visiting Slovakia because the language and culture are so similar to their Polish experiences.
- **Bishop Larry Kulick** of Greensburg, Pennsylvania visited Slovakia in July and celebrated Mass in honor of his ancestors in the towns of Nova Bystrica and Stara Bystrica.
- U.S. actress **Ema Horvath**, 29, was born and raised in the United States by her parents who were Slovak immigrants. Since 2022, she has played Earlen, in the Amazon Prime fantasy television series, “The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power.”
- Catholic actor **Jim Caviezel**, who had the starring role in movies: *The Passion of the Christ* and, more recently, *The Sound of Freedom* – has Slovak blood through his paternal grandmother.
- The United States Embassy in Slovakia created a traveling exhibit of **30 Notable Slovak-Americans** that was displayed first in Bratislava in April, 2023 and then traveled to other cities in Slovakia. Some of figures

included **U.S. Air Force Colonel Eva Strelka Jenkins**, a native of Bratislava, who commands thousands of troops in the U.S. military and **Steve Ditko**, a comic book artist who helped to create the character of Spiderman.

- You can find a very interesting 10 minute video called “**10 Things That Shock Tourists When Visiting Slovakia**” produced by **Wolter’s World**, a You Tube video travel series. The narrator gives Slovakia higher points in several categories over neighboring countries.

Book Review : Arcadia Publishing

You may be familiar with one or another of the interesting, compact, paperback books of the “**Images of America**” series of **Arcadia Publishing** which operates out of Charleston, South Carolina; Chicago, Illinois; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; and San Francisco, California. This series allows you to learn the history of your hometown written by local authors. You can often find them in your local drugstore.

However, if you go on the website: <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/collections/images-of-america> you will be surprised to find a number of books related to Slovak-Americans in different locations of the United States (search “Slovak”). Some of these volumes are written by local Slovak fraternalists like **John T. Sabol** (Cleveland, Ohio) and **Loretta Ekoniak** (Youngstown, Ohio). Each book covers about 127 pages of mostly historical photographs with informative captions. As such, they are very effective in bringing memories to surface that have been forgotten with the passage of time.

The website lists the following Slovak-related volumes, each selling for \$21.99. I came across the following:

- “Slovaks of Chicagoland” – by Robert Fasiang and Robert Magruder
- “Slovaks of the Greater Mahoning Valley” – by Loretta Ekoniak
- (Loretta is willing to offer a small discount – **Loretta. ekoniak@gmail.com** if you order through her.)
- “Slovak Pittsburgh” – by Lisa Alto
- “A Race to Freedom – the Mira Slovak Story” – by David Williams (about a young airline pilot, born in Cifer, Slovakia, who escaped communism in 1953 by hijacking his own commercial flight and later became a hydroplane racing champion and a stunt flyer and who died in 2014.)
- “The Anthracite Coal Region’s Slavic Community” by Brian Ardan
- “Cleveland Slovaks” by John T. Sabol and Lisa Alzo “Cleveland’s Buckeye Neighborhood” by John T. Sabol.

Also, if you search under “Catholic” you will find volumes about the historic Catholic churches in cities like Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Chicago, and Detroit, as well as histories of some religious orders like the Chardon and Covington Provinces of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

Enhancing Your Financial Well-Being With ABC's Single Premium Whole Life Insurance

Paul Smithers, CLU, ChFC, ChSNC, National Sales Manager

This year, FCSLA Life has taken a significant step towards enhancing your financial well-being by reducing premium amounts on all newly issued policies of Single Premium Whole Life Insurance (ICC12-SPWL0412).

But let's not just talk about a product; let's talk about a powerful solution designed to cater to a wide range of your needs. At FCSLA Life, Single Premium Whole Life Insurance is more than just a financial tool; it's your key to financial security, legacy-building, and peace of mind.

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1. **Traditional Product:** Our tried-and-true SPWL Traditional product is available for individuals aged 0 to 90. With coverage ranging from as low as \$5,000 to over \$1 Million, it's the perfect choice for thoughtful gifts to the next generation. Whether it's for newborns, First Communion, birthdays, or simply to provide a legacy, this product requires only a single premium payment. It ensures lifelong coverage, tax-deferred growth of funds within the policy, and peace of mind for both the giver and the receiver. The traditional SPWL product is also an excellent product for retirement planning, covering final expenses, and charitable giving.
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In a world filled with financial uncertainties, FCSLA Life's Single Premium Whole Life insurance products shine as beacons of stability, growth, and legacy-building. We wholeheartedly invite you to seize this exceptional opportunity to secure your future, safeguard your family's financial well-being, and leave a lasting, meaningful mark on the generations to come.

Join us at FCSLA Life, where we are committed to turning your financial dreams into reality. Act now and experience the remarkable benefits of our improved Single Premium Whole Life products because your financial future deserves nothing less.

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Or scan this
QR code:



First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
Executive Committee • Second Quarterly Meeting
Home Office, Beachwood OH
May 16, 2023

Call to Order/Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance

National President Cynthia M. Maleski called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. at the home office, Beachwood, Ohio. National Chaplain Monsignor Peter M. Polando opened the meeting with prayer and National Trustee Suzanne V. Strohl led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening Business

Roll Call

National Secretary Kimberly A. Graham was asked to call the roll. The following members joined via a secure virtual meeting in a secure location:

Monsignor Peter M. PolandoNational Chaplain
Cynthia M. MaleskiNational President
Patrick F. Braun National Director
Suzanne V. StrohlNational Trustee
Sue Ann M. SeichNational Trustee

Secretary Graham noted all members were present except National Director Lawrence M. Golofski. Secretary Kimberly A. Graham and National Treasurer Stuart L. Collins also joined the meeting virtually and were in a secure location.

Approval of Agenda

President Maleski noted the agenda was circulated in advance and unless there are any amendments, corrections, additions, or deletions, the May 16, 2023, agenda will stand approved as circulated.

APPROVED

Approval of the Minutes

President Maleski noted the minutes were distributed in advance and unless there are any amendments, corrections, additions, or deletions, the February 15, 2023, minutes will stand approved as circulated.

APPROVED

National President's Comments

President Maleski stated she had sent out noteworthy comments in advance of the Executive Committee meeting. President Maleski added a couple of points under Strategic Planning, we continue to work on the domain initiatives and the Balanced Growth team will attend and report at our board meeting in June. In the Human Resources area, President Maleski noted several positions have recently

been filled and we have two staff retirements. Human Resources leader Karen McHugh and President Maleski are working with the board Cultural Oversight committee and the staff in the office. President Maleski congratulated Director Golofski who is the Chair of the Board Bylaws committee and the group for submitting several proposals for the convention.

President Maleski stated she will reserve the rest of her comments for the board meeting and asked for a motion to accept the President's report. National Trustee Suzanne V. Strohl moved to accept the National President's report and National Trustee Sue Ann M. Seich seconded the motion.

Supplement 1

MOTION ADOPTED

Director Golofski joined the meeting at 9:40 a.m. virtually in a secure location.

National Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Collins presented the Treasurer's Report as of March 31, 2023. Treasurer Collins reviewed the financial review and graphs of Asset Growth, Surplus, and Income by Type, Net Income before Dividends, Bond Rating, and a snapshot of our portfolio, as well as a graphical review of our revenue for the last five years. At the end of March 2023, our admitted assets were at \$1.120 billion, and our surplus was \$108.3 million.

Treasurer Collins reviewed the preliminary Balance Sheet, and Income Statement as of March 31, 2023. Questions were asked and answered.

Supplement 2

Annuity Reserves by Product

Treasurer Collins reviewed the annuity reserves by product. He explained in detail significant statistics on the report. Questions were asked by members of the Executive Committee and answered.

Controller Frank Rando joined the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

First Quarter 2023 Budget vs Actual

Controller Rando reviewed the first quarter 2023 Budget vs Actual report by discussing the life business, annuity business, general expenses, and highlighted variances. Questions and comments were asked and answered.

Controller Rando was excused from the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Acquired Securities Report

Treasurer Collins reviewed the \$4.8 million of acquired securities since our last Executive Committee meeting. Treasurer Collins also reviewed the quarterly credit watch list, and the credit events report as of March 31, 2023. Questions were asked and answered.

Supplement 3

National Trustee Seich moved to accept the National Treasurer's report and Trustee Strohl seconded the motion.

MOTION ADOPTED

Unfinished/New Business

Annuity Interest Yield

Treasurer Collins discussed the yield curves and he recommended at this time given the volatility and moving parts we wait until the June board meeting to make a recommendation regarding rates for the third quarter of 2023.

Executive Committee Meeting Dates

Third Quarterly Meeting – August 22, 2023

Fourth Quarterly Meeting – November 9, 2023

Adjournment and Prayer

Trustee Seich moved, and Chaplain Monsignor Polando seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m. with prayer led by Chaplain Monsignor Polando.

MOTION ADOPTED

I, Kimberly A. Graham hereby certify that I am duly appointed and Secretary of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association of the United States of America.

Kimberly A. Graham, Secretary

FCSLA Life® 43rd Quadrennial Convention *Supports Local Indianapolis Charity, "Paws & Think, Inc."*

The Philanthropic and Scholarship Committee chose the Indianapolis, IN "Paws & Think, Inc." as the charity that would receive FCSLA Life support during the convention. This local charity was approved by the Board of Directors as the Fraternal Activity at the 43rd Quadrennial convention, and urged all our delegates, guests, districts, branches and members not attending the convention to become involved. The "Paws and Think, Inc." uses positive reinforcement methods to train dogs in their programs. Their mission is, "Improving lives through the power of the human-dog connection". Delegates raised over \$4,000 during the convention and FCSLA Life contributed \$10,000 to help this worthy cause that trains dogs to assist children, young adults or seniors to overcome serious mental health and or other serious medical issues.

Thank you to everyone who supported the fraternal activity.





PRIVACY NOTICE

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING MEMBER PRIVACY

In compliance with federal law and regulation, we are required to provide each member with information regarding the practices we have in place to protect the privacy of our members. This notice explains the types of data about you that we collect and disclose, with whom that data may be shared, and how we protect your data. We recognize that the protection of our members' privacy is of the utmost importance.

INFORMATION WE COLLECT

In the process of becoming our member you (or someone representing you) provided FCSLA with certain nonpublic personal information, such as your name, date of birth, address, marital status and Social Security number. If you have applied for life insurance, you may also have provided us with employment and medical information and may have authorized us to obtain further information concerning your health history. With your authorization, we have collected only the minimum amount of information necessary to underwrite your application.

INFORMATION SECURITY

We maintain the highest levels of confidentiality concerning your nonpublic personal information. Our employees have been trained in the careful handling and protection of such information. Only individuals who are trained to safeguard your data may use data about you. Those who use your data must follow established standards, procedures and laws. They understand that improper disclosure of nonpublic personal information is a serious matter with severe consequences. If we should find it necessary to retain another organization to assist us with our operations, we will require that it maintain the same strict standards of confidentiality as we do. In addition, we maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards to protect the nonpublic financial information of our members.

INFORMATION WE DISCLOSE

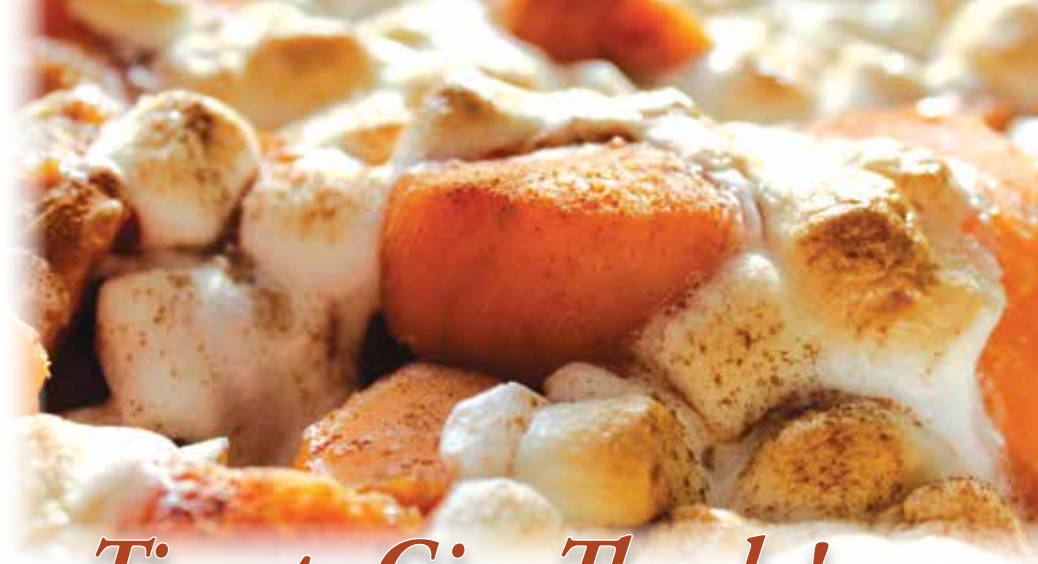
We are a fraternal benefit society that has always been committed to protecting the privacy of its members. There are no affiliated financial institutions or third party affiliates which have access to your nonpublic personal information, except pursuant to your authorization. We do not share data about you with other organizations, except as permitted by law. For example, we are permitted to share data about you to (i) help us underwrite your insurance, (ii) open your account, (iii) process transactions and administer your claims, (iv) share with organizations that act for us or on our behalf, (v) comply with an inquiry by a government agency or regulator or in connection with civil or criminal litigation, or (vi) assist us in providing benefits to you as part of your membership. We will not sell any list of our members' names or addresses.

Our policy of protecting the security of nonpublic personal information also extends to certificate holders who no longer have coverage with us. Please be assured that the information in our insurance and annuity files will always be available to our members for corrections and changes when a written request is submitted.

We are pleased to have you as a member and will work diligently to maintain your trust.

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Time to Give Thanks!

MOM'S SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE WITH MARSHMALLOWS

5 sweet potatoes, peeled and sliced
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1/4 cup margarine or butter
3 tablespoons orange juice
1 pinch ground cinnamon
1 (10.5 ounce) package miniature marshmallows

Gather all ingredients, and preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Place sweet potatoes in a large saucepan with enough water to cover. Bring to a boil and cook until tender, about 15 minutes. Remove from heat, drain, and smash.

Place sweet potatoes in a large bowl. Add brown sugar, margarine, orange juice, and cinnamon; mix with an electric mixer, just until blended.

Spread evenly into a 9x13-inch baking dish. Sprinkle marshmallows over top.

Bake in the preheated oven until casserole is heated through and marshmallows are puffed and golden brown, 25 to 30 minutes.

CREAMY GARLIC MASHED POTATOES

2 whole heads garlic, top third sliced off and discarded
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon sea salt
5 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and cubed
1 cup sour cream
1 cup butter
4 ounces cream cheese
salt and ground black pepper to taste

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Place garlic heads in a baking dish and drizzle each with 1 tablespoon olive oil.

Bake in the preheated oven until garlic is soft and brown, about 45 minutes.

Meanwhile, bring a large pot of water to a boil and stir in sea salt. Cook

potatoes in salted water until tender, about 30 minutes. Drain.

Transfer potatoes to a large bowl; add sour cream, butter, cream cheese, salt, and black pepper. Cover the bowl with a lid or a piece of aluminum foil and let stand to soften butter and cream cheese, about 5 minutes.

Squeeze roasted garlic from cloves into potato mixture; mash potatoes until smooth, creamy, and thoroughly combined.

SAUSAGE, APPLE, AND CRANBERRY STUFFING

3 3/4 cups cubed white bread
1 1/2 cups cubed whole wheat bread
1 pound ground turkey sausage
1 cup chopped onion
3/4 cup chopped celery
2 1/2 teaspoons dried sage
1 1/2 teaspoons dried rosemary
1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
1 Golden Delicious apple, cored and chopped
3/4 cup dried cranberries
1/3 cup minced fresh parsley
1 cooked turkey liver, finely chopped
3/4 cup turkey stock
4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Spread white and whole wheat bread cubes in a single layer on a large baking sheet.

Bake in the preheated oven until evenly toasted, 5 to 7 minutes. Transfer toasted bread cubes to a large bowl.

Cook sausage and onions in a large skillet over medium heat, stirring and breaking up lumps, until evenly browned, 6 to 8 minutes. Add celery, sage, rosemary, and thyme; cook and stir until flavors blend, about 2 minutes.

Pour sausage mixture over bread in bowl. Mix in chopped apple, dried cranberries, parsley, and liver. Drizzle with turkey stock and melted butter; mix lightly.

Allow stuffing to cool completely before loosely stuffing a turkey.

CRANBERRY PUMPKIN MUFFINS

2 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 cup brown sugar, packed
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1 cup canned unsweetened pumpkin puree
1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted and cooled slightly
1/4 cup buttermilk
2 eggs, lightly beaten
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 cup dried, sweetened cranberries
Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

Line a 12-cup muffin tin with paper liners.

Mix flour, brown sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, salt, baking soda, ginger, cloves, and nutmeg together in a mixing bowl.

Beat pumpkin puree, melted butter, buttermilk, eggs, and vanilla in another large mixing bowl until well combined. Gradually beat in flour mixture, then stir in dried cranberries until incorporated. Fill the prepared muffin cups about 3/4 full with batter.

Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted in the middle of a muffin comes out clean, 20 to 25 minutes. Remove from the oven and let rest for a few minutes before turning muffins out onto a wire rack. Serve warm or at room temperature.

CHERRY PIE WITH A LATTICE TOP

1 can cherry pie filling
12 ounces frozen mixed berries, drained
1 tablespoon Kirsch (cherry liqueur)
1 box ready made pie crust
Flour, for dusting
1 egg, lightly beaten
1 tablespoon sugar

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.

In a large bowl, combine cherry pie filling, mixed berries and kirsch. Set aside.

Gently unfold bottom crust onto floured pie dish. Pour berry filling into unbaked crust. Using a pie pan as a guide, cut a circle for the top crust from a sheet of pie crust. Use a lattice cutter to create a pattern, and generously flour each piece so that pieces of lattice do not stick. Top pie with lattice strips and flute the edge of the pie with a fork. Brush top crust with beaten egg and sprinkle lightly with sugar. Bake for 40 minutes, or until bubbling appears in the middle of pie. Cover pie with aluminum foil halfway through baking. Let sit for 20 minutes before serving.

The FCSLA Life Mission Statement

We provide financial security to our members
while embracing our Catholic values and Slavic traditions.

The FCSLA Life Vision is to:

Be a Premier Fraternal Benefit Society
that offers quality financial products and benefits.