

# Fraternally Yours®

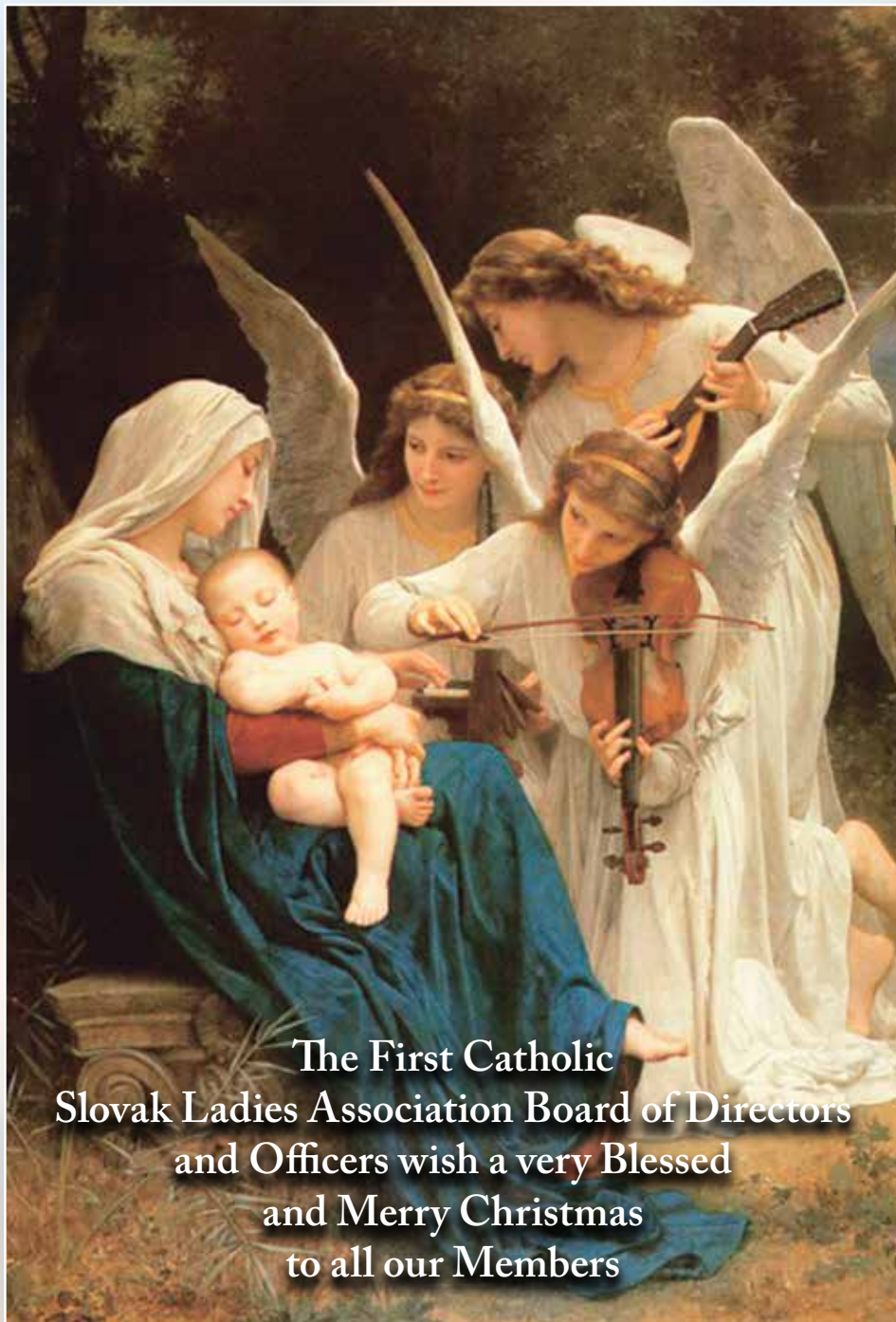


ISSN 0897-2958

VOL. 110, NO. 3

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

DECEMBER 2023



The First Catholic  
Slovak Ladies Association Board of Directors  
and Officers wish a very Blessed  
and Merry Christmas  
to all our Members

LET  
THERE  
BE  
PEACE  
ON  
EARTH  
AND  
LET IT  
BEGIN  
WITH  
ME

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



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## Remember Christmas...?

Do you remember a time when packages under the tree held real treasures, presents with love, and thought, and personality in them? When you could smile and say “Merry Christmas” without worrying about offending anyone or being viewed as a religious fanatic? When you went to gatherings to enjoy the friends and family who were there, not merely to fulfill an obligation? When each shop had something different and homemade Christmas cookies really were homemade? When you got something you didn’t really want but you treasured it so much anyway just because of who gave it to you? When the cards in your mailbox had simple greetings of peace and joy and children in school would sing about baby Jesus in a manger and no one hurried downtown to file a lawsuit?

Remember Christmas when it was filled with real magic and miracles? When people didn’t rush back to the stores on December 26th to exchange everything they had received? When a single bright star in the clear, cold night sky filled you with a sense of God’s pure and endless grace? When you truly felt a part of something bigger than yourself; you felt connected to those around you, to life, to creation and to our Creator.

Remember Christmas, when you heard the story of that first Christmas so long ago and so far away, and it seemed so near and so present and so meaningful in your own life? The Christmas you most fondly remember was real. It still is, and will always be. Would you like to feel its miraculous power again? Take heart my friends YOU have the power to make it all meaningful and real again.

Start with remembering the real reason for this season. God sent his Son into the world as a Christmas present for everyone! So smile and proudly say “Merry Christmas” and don’t worry about what anyone may think. Take delight in finding new ways to be generous and kind. Look up at the night sky and find that star. It’s still shining bright, even to this day. Give away gifts that come from your heart. Make donations to a local charity in the name of your family and friends.

And take some time to lovingly think of the awesome, immeasurable gift of life you have been given, a gift renewed in every moment, transcending all boundaries and existing beyond time itself. Remember the magic of Christmas? It’s here. It’s now. It’s alive in you. And what a joy it is.

Dear Friends,

Always remember that the greatest gift you will ever receive will never be found under a Christmas tree. It is far too valuable to be stored in any other place but in the depths of your heart. Have a Blessed, Merry Christmas and let the living light of the Christ Child born this Christmas morning shine brightly in you always.

Until Next month,  
Warmly, **Carolyn**

# Reflections

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

*My dear Sisters and Brothers,*

We have come to the final month of calendar year 2023. For some of us, it has been a year of building – maybe a new house, new friendships, a new baby or grand baby, an exciting annual vacation or even the family picnic, the beginnings and/or endings of the changes of the seasons, new terms of officers in the FCSLA, and just good times with the family/friends! I hope that there were many more! A few of us may reflect back on some sadness that we may have encountered – the loss of a family member or friend, the loss of a job, the facing of a legal problem, or a disagreement with a person that led to a separation from each other. This is a part of being human. We should treasure in our hearts the good times of life and we must turn around the less good, making them learning experiences and most importantly, attempting to reconcile the sadness and begin a new start.

We are in the midst of the Advent Season as we prepare for the anniversary of the birth of our Lord at Christmas. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we obtain a precis of the meaning of this sacred time with the beginning of the new year within the Church. In paragraph 524, it is written: “When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By the celebrating the precursor’s birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: “He must increase, but I must decrease.” Unlike the Season of Lent, Advent is not so much a time of fasting and abstaining or extra expression of repentance and/or reconciliation, but a time of joyful anticipation of celebrating the anniversary of the Birth of our Savior Jesus Christ on that Holy Night! The Season of Advent this year is the shortest in days with the Fourth Sunday of Advent becoming Christmas Eve in the late Sunday afternoon as Christmas is on Monday!

***So make your Advent advantageous this year: lengthen your preparation with prayer so that He may increase in you the gift of His grace and decrease the sins in our lives so to wrap our spiritual lives through Him and with Him and in Him (Roman Missal, “The Roman Canon Doxology”, p. 495).***

Christmas Eve in my family had always been one of those culinary delights that I looked forward to each year because of my ethnic heritage. I loved the food and the tradition that surrounded it. In my parents’ time, straw was strewn on their kitchen floors to remind them of the manger in which Jesus was born. And then entered the foods: honey (the oldest member of the house dipped her/his finger in it and made the sign of the Cross on the foreheads of all present); the eating of oplatky dipped in the honey reminding us of the Yahweh’s manna in the desert and the Sacred Body of Jesus; bobalky,

the kolachi dough formed into small balls and drenched in scalded milk with poppy seeds and honey; mushroom soup followed by potato filled pirohy and baked haddock fish. I can smell the meal as I scribe this description! My family members were mostly associated with employment in the local steel industry, not poor and not rich, but we had each other especially during the holy days of the Church year and in the summertime. In paragraph 525 of the Catechism we hear of the birth of Christ: “Jesus was born in a humble stable, into a poor family. Simple shepherds were the first witnesses to this event. In this poverty heaven’s glory was made manifest. The Church never tires of singing the glory of this night: ‘The Virgin today brings into the world the Eternal; and the earth offers a cave to the Inaccessible. The angels and shepherds praise Him; and, the magi advance with the star, for You are born for us, Little Child, God eternal!’” (Kontakion of Romanos the Melodist).

The reason for this Christ event is made manifest in paragraph 526. Jesus is born and we are reminded of our responsibilities as Catholic Christians. We take note: “To become a child in relation to God is the condition for entering the kingdom. For this, we must humble ourselves and become little. Even more: to become ‘children of God’ we must be ‘born from above’ or ‘born of God.’ Only when Christ is formed in us will the mystery of Christmas be fulfilled in us. Christmas is the mystery of this ‘marvelous exchange.’ ‘O marvelous exchange! Man’s Creator has become man born of the Virgin. We have been made sharers in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share our humanity.’” (Liturgy of the Hours, Antiphon I of Evening Prayer for January 1).

My dear Sisters and Brothers, let remember that being “children of God” and “born of God”, we must follow in the footsteps of the Gift of our salvation in the person of the Son of Mary! In the name of the King of kings, the Lord of lords, I bid that you allow Jesus Christ to live and reign forever and ever amongst your families, in your hearts, and in homes during both this Joyous Season and the year to come! Vesele Vianoce!!! Merry Christmas!!!





# Message from our National President

## CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



### Happy Advent and Joyful Christmas to all our fellow members,

We look forward this month to gatherings of friends and families, joyous concerts and branch fellowship activities, where we also can share our treasures and talents with whom we love, with our cherished charitable institutions and those most in need in the neighborhoods where we live and work.

If you have not yet made additional deposits into your FCSLA Life annuity this year, please consider during so before the end of the year to take advantage of growth in our quality products, our good crediting rates which will never go below your guaranteed contract rate AND backed by our excellent financial strength!

We are proud of our growth, strength, leadership and resilience over 13 decades and our ability to move forward in times of many conflicting forces in our world and in our nation.

Our foundation in our faith in God, as we have learned from our Church and our families is the bedrock of how we have achieved this success and will continue to do so. We are so very fortunate to have this heritage of faith and love. IT IS WHO WE ARE, not just what we know and believe.

During this month of thanksgiving, joy and anticipation for the Birth of the Christ Child, let us all consider a special gift of TIME and TREASURE to those around us. Let us pray and listen quietly and hope we are able to discern their needs. You may also wish to consider a monetary gift to our own Anna Hurban Scholarship Fund.

As we prepare our Christmas Eve Supper, "Vilija" or Wigilia", you may wish to refer to our own Slovak-American Cookbook, now in its 27th printing. Not only do these recipes serve as reminders of our identity and roots, this cooking is our way to express love, nurturing and protection from generation to generation. We are proud that this treasured collection of recipes from our roots which reflects a generation becoming part of the fabric of American life is now registered in the Smithsonian Institution. The cookbook makes a wonderful gift for a beloved family member or friend! Thanks to amazing people in the home office who worked hard to make this 27th printing a reality, in addition to their other important everyday work to develop new financial products and provide great customer service to our members and others!

*Vesele Vianoce, Wesolych Swiat, and a Vesele Vianoce!  
God's Blessings to all during this special time!*

**Cynthia M. Maleski,  
National President**



National President Cynthia Maleski presents our Slovak American Cookbook to the Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian.

## Branch S089 Applauds Scholarship Winner!



FCSLA Life Branch S089 (Hellertown) congratulates Kayla Singley, our 2023 scholarship recipient! The proud parents are Jessica (LaBuda) Gilronan, also a member of Branch S089, and Matthew Singley, and step-father Tom Gilronan. Kayla was a straight-A student and received the Chemistry Award in her senior year at Freedom High School, Bethlehem, PA. She also served on the Varsity Cheerleading squad. Two things Kayla loves are all things Taylor Swift and taking trips to the beach. Kayla is a freshman at Monmouth University and is currently interested in studying business and law.

**Congratulations, Kayla!**



### MONESSEN, PA J157 DATE CHANGE

Monessen Junior Branch 157 will hold a breakfast with Santa on **Sunday, December 10, 2023 from 9:30am til 12:00pm.** The breakfast will take place at Epiphany of Our Lord Parish, 44 Pennsylvania Blvd., Monessen, PA

For reservations call:  
**Dorothy Urbanowicz 724-684-8243**  
by December 3, 2023.



### *Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary*

George and Mary Kalafus from Derry, PA. celebrated their 50th anniversary on May 26th, 2023. George is a lifetime member of Branch 484KJ in Coral, PA. A party in their honor was hosted by their siblings and was held on June 15th in New Derry, PA. The photo attached was taken after a celebratory mass at the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg, PA officiated by Bishop Larry J. Kulick (S088).



## 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. Positions are in the Home Office located in Beachwood, Ohio. 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](mailto:hr@fcsla.com).



## THE SLOVAK HERITAGE SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA



The Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania celebrated their 40th Anniversary at their Annual Meeting at The Café Route 315, Wilkes-Barre.

Twenty-seven members were in attendance. Chairman, Elaine Palischak gave an oral report on the activities that were held during the year. She also announced activities planned for next year. Anna Hudock and Michael Stretanski gave a presentation on the history of the society.

The first activity will be held on Sunday, December 3, 2023. The Feast of St. Nicholas will be celebrated at St. Ignatius of Loyola Church 339 North Maple Avenue, Kingston, PA at 2:00 P.M. The church is handicapped accessible.

An afternoon filled with song and storytelling of past Slovak Christmas traditions will take place. Refreshments will be served followed by fellowship. Everyone is invited to participate free of charge; a free-will offering will be accepted.

For further information, call Anna Hudock at 570-510-1655.

Pictured, are board members of the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania along with their Chaplain, Rev. John Albosta. Seated, left to right are: Anna Hudock, Rev. John Albosta, Elaine Palischak, and Dorothy Sullivan. Standing, left to right are: Robert Zavada, Michael Stretanski, Helen Bacumpas, and Anthony Palischak. Absent was Constance Plewniak. Several of the Board Members are members of FCLA Life S172.

## FCSLA Branch 30

New member of Youngstown, Ohio FCSLA Branch 30, Rosalyn Mae Maddock, was baptized on Sunday October 8, 2023 at St. Paul's Church Westerville by her great uncle Monsignor Kenneth E. Miller of Diocese of Youngstown. Rosalyn's mother Stephanie Miller Maddock, godfather uncle Jonathan Miller, sister Annabelle Frances Maddock, cousins Ivy and Luke Miller, and Grandma Dr. Linda Lucarell Miller are members of FCSLA. Rosalyn's great grandmother, Virginia Lucarell is a member also.



*I to r, Godmother Kimberly Miller, Ivy, Luke, Godfather Jonathan, Paul Maddock (Rosalyn's father), Rosalyn, Stephanie, grandparents Gary and Linda Miller, Father Ken Miller.*



*Maddock family: I to r; Paul, Rosalyn, Annabelle, Stephanie.*

## W093 Tabor SD



Members of Branch W093 Tabor SD, are pictured at their October 2023 meeting.



## BRANCH W001

Youth from Branch W001 in New Prague enjoyed an afternoon of bowling, pizza and pop at Strike Force Bowl.



## The Helen Kocan District Jr Branch Bowling Party

On Saturday October 14, 2023, junior members of the “The Helen Kocan District” enjoyed a Spooktacular event with all FCSLA Life Junior branches from the area. Members traveled from as far away as 135 miles to participate in the annual fall outing. The event was held at “Set em up Lanes” in Griffith, Indiana. All participants enjoyed pizza, salad, beverages, homemade cup cakes and nut roll. There was bowling for all and crafts in their recreation area, gift bags were given to all participants, it was free fun for the entire family.

One of the highlights of the party was the presentation of the 2022

Youth of the Year achievement award, Awarded to Regan J. Klapak. Standing out as a role model for other young people by contributing to his community, leading by example, and inspiring others. What a honor for a member in our district to receive such a prestigious award, our hopes and prayers are with him to continue this path of excellence.

*We would like to recognize Patty Bielak J184 and Mary Beth and Annette Markovich J58 for coordinating this event and making it such a great success.*



## Important Scholarship Program Changes for 2024



The FCSLA scholarship is no longer exclusively for tuition. In addition to tuition, the award may now be used for these school-related expenses: books, fees, and course-specific or degree-related costs such as supplies and equipment.

An eligible candidate for an FCSLA Life Fraternal Scholarship Award shall be a member of good standing for at least three years prior to date of application and hold a \$1,000 permanent life insurance certificate, a \$5,000 term certificate or an annuity certificate in his or her name. *See the full application for additional rules of eligibility.*

Winners will be chosen by a committee of impartial judges from the educational field, based on the following:  
**Academic Standing, Church/Community Service Value and School Involvement/Essay.**

**127 College Scholarship Awards - \$1,250 Each**  
**19 Graduate Awards - \$1,750 Each**  
**36 High School Awards - \$1,000 Each**  
**2 Florence Hovanec Memorial Awards - \$1,250 Each**

**32 Elementary School Awards - \$750 Each**  
**2 John & Geraldine Gaydos Awards - \$1,250 Each**  
**32 Early Elementary School Awards - \$750 Each**  
**5 Vocational/Trade/Technical School Awards - \$1,250 Each**

**Application submission deadline is Tuesday, February 13, 2024.**  
**Electronic copies (PDF file) and faxed copies are acceptable.**  
**Applications postmarked or electronically received after such date will not be considered.**

### APPLICATIONS AND FURTHER DETAILS FOR THIS PROGRAM MAY BE OBTAINED BY:

- Visit our website at [www.fcsla.com](http://www.fcsla.com) • E-mail us at [Scholarship@FCSLA.com](mailto:Scholarship@FCSLA.com) • Fax the form at 216-464-9260
- Call the home office at 800-464-4642, ext.1054 • Complete the form on this page and mail it to:

### FCSLA Life

Scholarship Department • 24950 Chagrin Blvd. • Beachwood, OH 44122-5634

## 2024-2025 FCSLA Life SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST

Please send a scholarship application form by: \_\_\_\_\_ US Postal Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Email  
 (PLEASE PRINT)

Application requested for the following award category:

- ☐ College/Graduate   
 ☐ High School   
 ☐ Vocational/Trade/Technical School  
☐ Seminary or Deacon   
☐ Grades 1-4   
☐ Grades 5-8

Branch No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS FORM IS NOT THE APPLICATION.**



*As we Celebrate the Birth of the Savior,  
May you be Adorned with His Love,  
Graced with His Peace,  
And Filled with His Presence.*

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**Dorothy L. Urbanowicz • Barbara A. Sekerak • Dennis L. Povondra**



## MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

### **FCSLA LIFE BRANCH S-172, BRISTOL, PA** **Supports Catholic Daughters of the Americas,** **Court St. Mark #1097**

On Palm Sunday weekend, branch S-172 sponsored a matching funds project run by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Mark #1097 in Bristol, PA. The Catholic Daughters sold sticky buns from Fritz's Bakery after all Masses at St. Mark and St. Ann Church,, both part of St. Mark Parish in Bristol, PA. Sarah Mastrull, Regent of Court St. Mark #1097, is also a member of FCSLA branch S-172 in the Magdalen I. Iskra District. Everyone who purchased was happy to receive their box of sticky buns in an FCSLA Life reusable shopping bag.



*Photo (left to right): Sarah Mastrull, Regent; Jillian Johnston, Michelle Russo, Vice-Regent; Dorothy David*

## PLEASE NOTE

FCSLA Life is a trade name and service mark of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association of the United States of America. Our association has not changed its legal name which remains First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association of the United States of America.

We have adopted and may use FCSLA Life as a trade name for our organization and as a mark for services that we render.

### **FCSLA LIFE BRANCH S-011** **Supports Wounded Warrior Project**

Senior 011 Branch President, Kristiina Menke, presents the \$3,000.00 check to Alumni Manager, Shawn Seguin with the Wounded Warrior Project in Pittsburgh PA, after the July 2023 Matching Funds event. Thank you to all the men and women who have sacrificed so much for our country.



### **FCSLA LIFE BRANCH S-011** **Supports West Homestead Volunteer Fire Department**

Senior 011 Branch President, Kristiina Menke, presents a \$600.00 check to Assistant Chief John Gardell with the West Homestead Volunteer Fire Department. Also pictured is Chief John Dindak and many of the West Homestead Fire Department volunteers. We thank all of you for your time and dedication in keeping the community safe.





# MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

## FCSLA LIFE BRANCH W16

### Supports Brainard Community Club

Brainard, Nebraska FCSLA Life - St. Isadore Branch W16 hosted a matching grant event, an Autumn Brunch on October 29, 2023 for the support of the Brainard Community Club. Soufflés, hash browns, fruit cups, fresh bakery and coffee were served for the brunch. The FCSLA Life grant goal was met.

Eighty-two people attended the Brunch. Free Will donations netted: \$1,308.00. A tied quilt donated by the Holy Trinity "Unconditionally God Loves You (UGLY) quilters group was offered as a raffle item gained \$79.00.

Colleen Nygren won the quilt. Activities of the Brainard Community Club include two or three summer social events, concerts, scholarships, Christmas lighting contests, assisting with Memorial Day events for the Veterans as well as assisting with needs of community members.



## THANK YOU!

The Philanthropic and Scholarship committee would like to thank the Home Office, branches, delegates and friends for their exceptional kind generosity for this special fraternal convention activity. As a result of your generous donations, we were able to present the \$10,000 from the home office at the convention and now were able to forward an additional \$5,059.00 from all of you to Paws and Think. Your generous donations are certainly appreciated both from the committee and Paws and Think.

*Barbara Sekerak, Sue Ann Seich, Suzanne Strohl and Dorothy Urbanowicz, Committee Chairperson.*



**paws&think**



# MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

## CHICAGO DISTRICT

### Supports Illinois Veterans Home in Manteno

Throughout the months of May and June, the Anna Hurban Chicago District conducted a matching funds event to raise funds for the Illinois Veterans Home in Manteno Illinois. The home in Manteno has the capability to house over 300 veterans, and provides daily care and skilled nursing services to resident veterans and their immediate families. Additionally, the grounds in Manteno are also home to the Prince House, a residence for 12 previously homeless veterans working to build community and skills to gain independent living.

Members of the Chicago District were notified by flyer and the Chicago District Facebook page of this event along with a list of items that would benefit the Veterans the most. Cash donations were also welcomed and used by the Chicago District Board to purchase a variety of larger items such as microwaves, shavers, and household supplies requested by the homes. The event culminated at the June 17th district business meeting and scholarship luncheon where a cash basket raffle was held to raise funds. Baskets were generously donated by branches S180, S225, S258, S287, and S421. In total, including the matching funds from Home Office, over \$2000 was collected along with many product donations from members at the June meeting. All products were happily delivered by District members to the Prince House and the Veterans Home. Many thanks to Joyce Kelly Branch S180, John Merkel S287, Tom Lynch and Lorraine Gibas, Branch S421, for coordinating this event, and to the branches and individuals donating products and cash to support this worthwhile effort.





# **FCSLA**Life® *43rd Quadrennial Convention*



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







## Branch S023 and Branch J130 Hosts Annual Meeting and Scholarship Presentation

Branches S023 and J130 held their multi-function FCCLA Life event on October 15, 2023 at Thunder Bay Grille in Pewaukee, WI in which over 60 people attended. Branch President Laurie Muffler welcomed everyone and introduced the officers of Branches S23 and J130, Luanne Coyne, Katie Esterle, Martin Esterle, Katie Missiaen, Jamie Coyne and Cassie Muffler. The annual meeting and luncheon included recognizing our scholarship winners Andrew Esterle and Paul Missiaen. \$420 was raised for Matching Funds and will be donated to Life's Connection. Everyone enjoyed the amazing brunch, raffles and gifts that were courtesy of FCCLA Life.





# ANNA HURBAN DISTRICT OF CHICAGO HOSTS 2ND ANNUAL SUMMER IN THE PARK FAMILY PICNIC

On Saturday, August 5th, members of the Anna Hurban Chicago District and their guests gathered at Kathryn Legge Memorial Park in Hinsdale, IL for the 2nd annual "Summer in the Park" celebration. Initiated last year, this summertime family picnic gave all a chance to relax in a beautiful park surrounded by fraternal friends, food and games. There was intermittent rain all day, but the weather did not dampen the spirits of the members who came out to enjoy the afternoon under the pavilion in the park. Guests enjoyed a delicious lunch of fried chicken, beef sandwiches, a healthy variety of grilled vegetables, garden salad, fruit bowls and grilled potatoes. Snacks and dessert choices rounded out the menu. Complimentary bingo, a split the pot cash

raffle, and a bags lawn game provided the entertainment. The fun culminated in a "teams of two"- based shaving cream and cheese puffs game, in which one player tosses cheese puffs attempting to hit their partner's shaving cream loaded head. (shower caps were provided)! Traditionally played on the lawn, playing this game under the shelter of the pavilion while the rain fell provided an even more challenging and entertaining way to end the day's activities. Many thanks to the Chicago District Board, and Barbara Schultz, branch S285, for planning such a wonderful event!

All who attended had a wonderful time catching up with their fraternal friends, and spending a relaxed Saturday summer afternoon in the park.





## IN MEMORIAM

### Rosemary Saus, S616



Rosemary Saus (nee Mallinak), age 93; died March 23, 2023. She was the beloved wife of the late Joseph for 67 years; loving mother of Rita Torres, Cheryl Garren (Frank), Gary Saus and Joseph R. Saus (Joy); devoted grandmother of Kimberly Hach (T.R.), Marcie Garren and Stephanie Saus; great-grandmother of Kaley Hudson

and Nathan Garren; sister of James Mallinak. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Hospice of the Western Reserve in Rosemary's memory.

### Mary Ritchie, SZJ0



Our beloved mother, Mary Ritchie, was finally reunited with her son, Anthony (Rich) when she died on Dec. 9, 2019 at home in Las Vegas, NV with her loving daughters by her side. Mary was born in Streator, IL Aug. 15, 1923, the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Her mother, Mary Dudak Kristich, honored her with the special name of Mary. She was the middle child, with older sisters Helen (Dorsam) and Catherine (Ramert) and younger sister Lucille (Schneider) and brother George all preceding her in death. Mary worked hard to support her three children Rich, Marilyn, and Diane, being the best mother ever. The greatest gift she gave them was the love and security of very strong family ties. She is missed by her daughters Marilyn of Las Vegas, NV and Diane (David) Holst of Henderson, NV, along with grandchildren Jeremy (Stephanie) Holst of Henderson and Jamie Lee (Rafa) Zimmerman of Sioux Falls, SD, and great granddaughter Emma of NY. Mom left a note for the family, telling us to look at the moon every night and remember that she will be watching over us. We see you, Mom, and we love you.

### Donald Mazik, S013



Donald A. Mazik, 89, of Latrobe, answered Heaven's call Sunday, June 18, 2023. He was born Feb. 8, 1934, in McKeesport, a son of the late Albert and Clara (Kuhn) Mazik. Prior to his retirement, Donald was an accomplished salesman for many different companies over the years. He was a member of St. Vincent Basilica

Parish, where he had formerly served as an usher, and was also a former board member of the former Westmoreland County Federal Credit Union. Donald was also a member of FCSLA Branch 13. In addition to his parents, Donald

was preceded in death by a daughter, Karlene Overly; and a great-grandson, Damian Bearley. A devoted husband, father and grandfather, he is survived by his wife of 70 years, Monica (Tomko) Mazik, five children: Jeannie Petrocelli (Robert), Lauren Durain (John), David Mazik, Monica Ross (Randall) and Michael Mazik (MaryPat); a son-in-law, David Overly Sr.; his sister, Joanne McCallister; 10 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren. Donald was an honorable, charitable, kind and loving man who was kind to everyone and would help anyone in need. He took good care of and was a good provider for his family. He had a great sense of humor, which he kept right up to the end. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him and by everyone that had the pleasure of meeting him.

### Michael J. Valko, S262



Michael "Mike" Joseph Valko, age 93, from North Apollo, Pennsylvania passed away on July 29, 2023 in Westfield, IN. He was born in Niles, Ohio on August 4, 1929 to Michael J. and Anna (Basista) Valko. He graduated from Apollo High School in 1947. Mike entered the Army in June 1951 serving for two years at Fort Benjamin

Harrison in Finance in Indianapolis, Indiana during the Korean War. He married his beloved wife, June Idella Ross, in Apollo, Pennsylvania on September 5, 1951. He attended Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana graduating with an Accounting degree in 1957. Mike worked for various companies over the years retiring in 1994 and moving to Florida shortly after. Mike enjoyed gardening, reading, visiting and vacationing with family and friends. He was a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and Knights of Columbus. He volunteered for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for many years. Mike was active in the various churches he belonged to as lector and Eucharistic minister performing prison ministry in his retirement years. Mike was an outgoing, friendly person and loved his family. He is survived by his wife June of 71 years, his daughters and their spouses Amanda Valko and Brian Fritz of New Castle, PA and Claudia and Kevin Haaning of Westfield, IN, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Donations can be made in Mike's name to Boys Town, the American Diabetes Association or the American Heart Association.





### Irene Marie Pudelek, S334



Irene Marie Pudelek, of Lincoln Park, MI passed away on July 16, 2023 at age 97. Loving wife of the late Albert Pudelek. Dearest mother of Barbara (Joachim), Patricia (Butch), Susan (Ken), Kathleen (Patrick), and Albert. Proud grandmother of Dan (Amanda), Jill (Tony), Lisa (Josh), Dave, and Anne (Mike). Dear great-

grandmother of nine great-grandchildren and wonderful Aunt to many nieces and nephews whom she saw as additional sons and daughters. Irene was born on September 9, 1925, to the late John and Elizabeth Petras in Wyandotte, Michigan. She attended Mumford High School in Detroit and during her late teenage years, she was honored to serve her country as a Rosie the Riveter at the DeSoto Plant in Detroit; helping to manufacture airplane wings in support of the troops during World War II. Irene was an avid shopper and loved spotting great deals. She was also always ready to welcome friends into their home and a great time would be had by all as they gathered around for Irene's cooking. Faith was an important part of Irene's life and she was devoted to her church family at Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic Church. She served faithfully for decades and regularly prepared funeral luncheons. She could often be found playing cards with her friends and was famous for the kitchen towels that she lovingly crafted and gave as gifts. Undoubtedly, many of those towels still hang from oven handles around the community.

### Sandra Christ, W080



Sandra Christ, 70, of Howells, Nebraska, died Sunday, April 30, 2023, with her husband at her side, holding her hand, after a 9 month battle with brain cancer. Sandra was born on July 8, 1952 in Fremont, Nebraska, to Eldon and Darlene (Korecky) Hockamier. Sandra attended St. John Newman Catholic

Grade School and graduated from Clarkson High School in 1970. The summer after high school she met and fell in love with her future husband, Lee Christ. Sandra and Lee were married on June 5, 1971, at SS Cyril and Methodius in Clarkson. Sandra helped her husband on the farm and in 1991 started doing in-home daycare, which she did until June 17, 2022. Sandra loved all of the 40 + kids that she took care of as if they were her own. In 1999-2000 they hosted foreign exchange students from Thailand and Italy, both of whom they are still in contact with today. Sandra is survived by her husband, Lee Christ of Howells, NE; sister, Shelly (Jim) Doernemann of Clarkson, NE; brother, Paul Hockamier of Arkansas; niece, Serena Phillips; nephews, Andrew Doernemann and Nathan Worley. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the American Cancer Society (Brain Cancer) or family choice.

### Ernest V. Brabec, W080



Ernest V. Brabec, 93, of Clarkson, Nebraska, passed away Monday, October 23, 2023, at Clarkson Community Care Center in Clarkson. Ernest Victor Brabec was born on December 22, 1929, in Stanton, Nebraska, to Charles and Helen (Marik) Brabec. He attended a country school and later graduated

from Clarkson High School. Ernest entered the United States Army on January 24, 1952, and served during the Korean War until his honorable discharge on October 23, 1953. On February 7, 1956, Ernest was united in marriage to Geraldine Houfek at SS Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church in Clarkson. The couple was blessed with eight children. Ernest farmed his whole life on the family farm north of Clarkson. He loved his family dearly and maintained his great sense of humor until the very end. Ernest is survived by his wife, Geraldine Brabec of Clarkson, NE; daughter, Carol (Don) Sindelar of Dodge, NE; son: Duane (Deb) Brabec of Clarkson, NE; Daughter, Lynn (Gary) Svitak of Howells, NE; son, Scott (Loretta) Brabec of St. Helena, NE; daughter, Denise (Gary) Dreger of Elgin, NE; daughter: Theresa (Scott) Kovar of Houston, TX; son, Roger (Dawn) Brabec of Clarkson, NE; daughter-in-law, Jessica Brabec of Clarkson, NE; 15 grandchildren and great grandchildren; a sister, Alice Svehla of Schuyler, NE; brother-in-law, Anton Gall of Clarkson, NE and many nieces & nephews.

## Placing a Memorial in *Fraternally Yours*

A memorial for a deceased member may be placed in *Fraternally Yours* at the request of the family. They are published as space allows and include up to 250 words and a head shot photo. There is no fee associated with publication of the memorial.

### ***To submit information you may:***

Send a link to the online memorial to [zjbazik@comcast.net](mailto:zjbazik@comcast.net); memorials are edited to 250 words or less; email a head shot and your own edited version of what you would like to appear keeping it to 250 words or less to [zjbazik@comcast.net](mailto:zjbazik@comcast.net) or send a hard copy of the information to: Editor, PO Box 1617, Reading, PA 19603-1617.



**2023 Fall**

## **Membership Campaign**

*Now through December 15, 2023*

Help FCSLA Life grow by bringing in **NEW** members!

### **EVERYONE BENEFITS FROM NEW MEMBERSHIP:**

- FCSLA Life by growing the overall size of the society
- You may be able to earn commissions on your sales (only available when allowed by state law)
- For a limited time you can also earn bonuses for new members too!

### **EARN A BONUS OF \$50 PER NEW MEMBER**

### **in the FCSLA Life Fall 2023 Membership Campaign**

Life insurance and annuity certificates must be fully paid and in force by December 15, 2023.

Bonus will be awarded once applicant is approved as a member.

Maximum award amount per producer for this campaign is \$200.

New York recommenders ineligible to participate due to state regulations.

Recommenders, including limited license recommenders, must abide by state licensure laws including limits on total sales.

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association of the United States of America • a fraternal benefit society domiciled in Beachwood, OH  
24950 Chagrin Blvd. | Beachwood, Ohio 44122 | 800.464.4642 | [www.fcsla.com](http://www.fcsla.com)



# FCSLA Annuity Rates

Rates for our deferred Elite Annuities:

SILVER ELITE (5 YEAR)

**3.75% APY\***

GOLD ELITE (7 YEAR)

**3.85% APY\***

PLATINUM ELITE (10 YEAR)

**4.00% APY\***

\*These rates are effective 7/1/2023

The credited rate is reviewed at least quarterly by the Board of Directors and will never go below the minimum guaranteed contract rate.

The Guaranteed minimum rates for the three products listed above issued on January 1, 2023, or later will be 3.00%.

## 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](mailto:zjbazik@comcast.net)**



We apologize for the misspelling in the November 2023 issue. Celebrant of the Saturday evening mass was Rt Rev. Martin de Porres Bartel, Abbot at St Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, PA.

## OPEN A NEW ANNUITY

Now with only a \$50 initial deposit. Future deposits of \$50 will be accepted.

An FCSLA Life annuity is a great gift for a child, grandchild or family member, for Christmas or any other occasion.



**First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association**  
**Executive Committee • Third Quarterly Meeting**  
**Home Office, Beachwood OH**  
**August 22, 2023**

**Call to Order/Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance**

National President Cynthia M. Maleski called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. at the home office, Beachwood, Ohio. National Trustee Suzanne V. Strohl opened the meeting with prayer and National Trustee Sue Ann M. Seich 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 the meeting:

Cynthia M. Maleski .....National President  
Lawrence M. Golofski ..... National Director  
Sue Ann M. Seich .....National Trustee

The following members joined via a secure virtual meeting in a secure location:

Patrick F. Braun ..... National Director  
Suzanne V. Strohl .....National Trustee

Secretary Graham noted all members were present except National Chaplain Monsignor Peter M. Polando. Secretary Kimberly A. Graham joined in person and Interim National Treasurer Frank L. Rando also joined the meeting virtually and was 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 August 22, 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 May 16, 2023, minutes will stand approved as circulated. A few minor corrections were made to the minutes. Trustee Seich moved to accept the minutes with the minor corrections and seconded by Trustee Strohl.

**APPROVED**

**National President's Comments**

President Maleski stated the notations on her comments were sent out in the packet in advance of the Executive Committee meeting. President Maleski added one additional comment with an update on the Guaranteed Issue Program noting it is still on-going until September 30, 2023, and a good benefit for our members.

Trustee Strohl recommended that the verbiage change on the President's report to reflect as follows: "National office letters of intent that were received were opened by National President Cynthia Maleski and she did not review them. They were reviewed by National Secretary Kim Graham and Human Resources Leader Karen McHugh. Board Members Barbara Sekerak and Sue Ann Seich were present."

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. Trustee Strohl moved to accept the National President's report with the modified comments and Trustee Seich seconded the motion.

**Supplement 1**

**MOTION ADOPTED**

**National Treasurer's Report**

Interim Treasurer Rando presented the Treasurer's Report as of June 30, 2023. Interim Treasurer Rando 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 June 2023, our admitted assets were at \$1.115 billion, and our surplus was \$108.5 million.

Interim Treasurer Rando reviewed the preliminary Balance Sheet, and Income Statement as of June 30, 2023. Questions were asked and answered.

National Chaplain Monsignor Peter M. Polando joined the meeting at 10:22 a.m. virtually in a secure location.

**Second Quarter 2023 Budget vs Actual**

Interim Treasurer Rando reviewed the second 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.

**Annuity Reserves by Product**

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

**Acquired Securities Report**

Interim Treasurer Rando reviewed the \$11.5 million of acquired securities since our last Executive Committee meeting. Interim Treasurer Rando also reviewed the quarterly credit watch list, and the credit events report as of June 30, 2023. Questions were asked and answered.



## Supplement 2

Trustee Seich moved to accept the Interim National Treasurer's report and National Director Lawrence M. Golofski seconded the motion.

### MOTION ADOPTED

Trustee Seich noted that we thank Interim Treasurer Rando for all the extra efforts he puts into his position and assisting the board with his Treasurer report.

### Unfinished/New Business

#### **Annuity Interest Yield**

Interim Treasurer Rando discussed strategies and solutions we are exploring regarding annuities as well as the yield curves. At this time, he recommended we wait until the September board meeting to make a recommendation regarding rates for the fourth quarter of 2023.

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

## Executive Committee Meeting Dates

Fourth Quarterly Meeting – November 9, 2023

### Adjournment and Prayer

Trustee Seich moved, and National Director Patrick F. Braun seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. with prayer led by Chaplain Monsignor Polando.

### MOTION ADOPTED

### ATTEST:

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

### MOTION ADOPTED



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Predvianocna Noc

Clement Clarke Moore

Bola to noc pred Vianocami, keď po celom dome bolo ticho veru aj myš sa skryla.

Vianočné ponožky viseli na krbe a deti dúfali, že skoro príde Mikuláš. Deti teraz spali hlbokým spánkom a asi snívajú o sladkostiach. Mama mala šatku na hlave a ja čiapku a chystali sme sa ísť spať. Keď zrazu vonku som počul veľký hluk, vyskočil som z postele, aby som videl čo sa robí. Podíšiel som k obloku, odhrnul som záclony, mesiac svietil jasno na čerstvo napadnutý sneh.

V diaľke som videl malinké sánky a osem srncov čo ťahali sane. Na saniach sedel živý a veselý človek a ja som hneď vedel, že je to Mikuláš.

Srnce leteli ako orly a on ich volal po menách. Tak poďme Dasher! Dancer! Prancer a Vixen! Comet! Cupid! Donner a Blitzen! Poďme na vrch tej strechy, na verandu a ponáhľajte sa rýchlo, rýchlo. A ako blesk počul som ich kopytá na streche. Naklonil som hlavu, aby som mohol lepšie počuť a vtedy som počul ako sa Mikuláš šmýka dolu komínom. Mal oblečený kožuš a bol celý spinavý od sadze a prachu. Mal veľké vrece plné hračiek a podobal sa na predavača.

Jeho oči sa smiali ako aj celá tvár, líca mal ako ruže, nos ako čerešňu, ústa ako malú maslu a brada bola biela ako sneh. Mal fajku a dym mu krúžil okolo hlavy. Mal širokú tvár a okrúhle bruško ktoré sa triaslo ako huspenina. Bol tísť ale veselý s úsmevom na tvári.

Nič nepovedal a hneď sa dal do práce. Naplnil vianočné ponožky, pozrel na mňa, prst si dal na ústa znak, aby som bol ticho a potom sa stratil v komíne.

Posadil sa na sane, zahvízdal a sane ťahané srncami sa rýchlo vzdalovali. Ale ja som ešte počul z dialky ako želal každému:

Veselé Vianoce a Peknú Svätú Noc.

## Dary na Vianoce

*Presents for Christmas*



Bábika.....	Doll
Khiha .....	Book
Auto .....	Car
Lopta.....	Ball
Počítač.....	Computer
Šaty .....	Dress
Sveter .....	Sweater
Papuče .....	Slippers
Kocky.....	Blocks
Náhrdelník .....	Necklace
Prsteň .....	Ring
Peniaze.....	Money
Macko .....	Teddy Bear
Cukríky .....	Candy
Čokoláda .....	Chocolate
Hračky .....	Toys

# The Night Before Christmas

Clement Clarke Moore

*(Please enjoy the English translation of this Slovak poem)*

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there. The children were nestled all snug in their beds. While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads.

And Mama in her kerchief, and I in my cap had just settled down for a long winter's nap. When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter. I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash. Tore open the shutter and threw up the sash. The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow gave the luster of midday to objects below. When what to my wondering eyes should appear, but a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer – with a little old driver so lively and quick. I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick. More rapid than eagles his courses they came, and he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name: "Now Dasher! Dancer! Prancer and Vixen! On Comet! Cupid! Donner and Blitzen! To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall! Now dash away! Dash away!"

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof the prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my head ... Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound! He was dressed all in fur and his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot. A bundle of toys he had flung on his back and he looked like a peddler. His eyes – how they twinkled.

His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow. And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow. He had a broad face and little round belly, that shook when he laughed like a bowl full of jelly. He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work. And filled all the stockings and laying his finger aside of his nose. And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose!

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle and away they all flew. But I heard his exclaim . . .

"Happy Christmas To All  
And To All A Good Night!"



**HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT  
THE FCSLA WEBSITE LATELY?**

[www.fcsla.com](http://www.fcsla.com)







# Christmas Traditions

## PALACINKY (CRÊPES)

1 cup flour  
2 eggs  
1 cup milk, approximately  
1 teaspoon sugar  
1 tablespoon butter, melted/  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
preserves or marmalade  
powdered sugar, optional  
fruit syrup, optional  
whipped cream, optional

Combine sifted flour, sugar, and salt in a mixing bowl.

Add the eggs, one at a time. Beat well after each addition. Add enough milk to make a thin batter. Beat until smooth. Stir in melted butter.

Pour about 1/2 cup batter into a heated, lightly greased skillet.

Swirl around skillet to coat bottom of the pan. When browned on the underside, turn and brown on other side.

Spread with jam, jelly, preserves or marmalade.

Roll, then serve.

Crêpes can be sprinkled with powdered sugar, fruit, syrups or whipped cream, if desired.

## BOBALKI

### For the Dough:

2 cups water  
3 tablespoons sugar  
2 teaspoons salt  
5 tablespoons canola oil, or butter  
2 packages active dry yeast, about 4 1/2 teaspoons  
6 cups all-purpose flour

### For the Syrup:

1/2 cup poppy seeds  
1/2 cup honey, warmed

### Make the Dough Balls:

In a medium saucepan, boil the water, sugar, salt, and oil or butter. Cool to lukewarm.

Meanwhile, dissolve yeast in 1 tablespoon sugar and 1/2 cup warm water.

Place flour in the bowl of a stand mixer

or a large bowl. Add lukewarm water-sugar-oil mixture and yeast-sugar-water mixture.

Combine thoroughly and knead until smooth, about 7 minutes in the mixer and at least 10 minutes by hand. Cover and let rise until doubled.

Punch down dough and turn out onto a lightly floured surface. Roll dough 1/2- to 1-inch thick and cut into pieces that will result in 1-inch balls when rolled between the palms of the hand.

Place on a parchment-lined or well-floured cookie sheet with dough ball sides touching.

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Let rise, covered with oiled plastic wrap until nearly doubled.

Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool completely.

### Make the Syrup and Assemble:

Grind poppy seeds in a mortar and pestle with a little water or milk and set aside.

When the bobalki are cool, break the balls apart and place them in a colander. Pour just enough boiling water over bobalki to soften them but not turn them into mush. Drain well.

Pour warm honey and ground poppy seeds over all. Stir lightly and serve immediately.

## ROZKY COOKIES

3 oz cream cheese  
4 oz unsalted butter  
1 1/4 cups all purpose flour  
6 tablespoon thick jam, or pie filling  
Confectioner's sugar, for dusting

Cream together the cream cheese and butter until smooth and slightly fluffy.

Mix in the flour, around a third to half at a time, until combined. Form into a ball, wrap with cling wrap/film and refrigerate overnight (or at least a couple hours).

When ready to bake, preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface into a thin layer, approximately 1/4

inch thick. Trim the edges off the dough and cut it in to squares approximately 2 1/2 inch square.

Put 1 teaspoon of jam in the middle of each square and fold over opposite corners. Seal them together by pressing with one finger inside, one over, using a little water to help them seal if needed.

Place the cookies on a lined cookie sheet and bake for approximately 15-18 minutes until going lightly golden around the edges.

Leave to cool a minute before carefully transferring to a cooling rack. Dust with confectioner's sugar before serving.

## WALNUT TORTE

6 large eggs, separated  
1 cup sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 cup cake flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
5 tablespoons water  
1/2 cup ground walnuts

### Filling:

1-1/4 cups whole milk  
1 package (3.4 ounces) cook-and-serve chocolate pudding mix  
1/2 cup butter, softened  
1/2 cup shortening  
1 cup confectioners' sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

White and dark chocolate curls, optional

Let eggs stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. In a large bowl, beat egg yolks and sugar for 10 minutes or until light lemon-colored. Beat in vanilla. Combine cake flour and baking powder; add to egg mixture alternately with water, beating well. Fold in walnuts.

In another bowl and with clean beaters, beat the egg whites on high until stiff peaks form. Fold a fourth of the egg whites into batter; fold in remaining whites.

Pour into two greased and floured 9-in. round baking pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

In a small saucepan, whisk the milk and pudding mix. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Remove from the heat. Pour into a bowl; press a piece of waxed paper or plastic wrap over pudding. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

In a bowl, cream the butter, shortening and confectioners' sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in vanilla and cooled pudding. Split each cake into two layers. Place one bottom layer on a serving plate; spread with about 3/4 cup filling.

Repeat layers.

Garnish with chocolate curls if desired.

## **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.