

Fraternally Yours®

 **FCSLA**Life

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First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

JULY 2024



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FCSLA LIFE

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Thoughts to Ponder.....

If you want your dreams to come true, don't oversleep.

The smallest good deed is better than the grandest intention.

Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important.

The best vitamin for making friends...B1.

The 10 commandments are not "multiple choice."

The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.

Minds are like parachutes...they function only when open.

Ideas won't work unless YOU do.

One thing you can't recycle is wasted time.

One who lacks the courage to start has already finished.

The heaviest thing to carry is a grudge.

Don't learn safety rules by accident.

We lie the loudest when we lie to ourselves.

Jumping to conclusions can be bad exercise.

A turtle makes progress when it sticks its head out.

One thing you can give and still keep...is your word.

A friend walks in when everyone else walks out.

The pursuit of happiness is the chase of a lifetime!

Dear Friends,

On a large scale, making the world a better place can seem overwhelming. Though one person may not have the capacity to single-handedly change the world, you have the power to make a positive impact little by little every day. This month find ways to make a lasting impact on the world around you. It can be as simple as listening deeply and being a positive influence in someone's life, or being fraternal and getting involved in your community, church or a cause that matters to you. Remember that your actions always speak much louder than your words.

Until Next Month,

Warmly,
Carolyn



“Ordinary Time”

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

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In the May edition of *Fraternally Yours*, I illustrated the different “seasons” of the Roman Catholic calendar of the Church year beginning with Advent (the four prior weeks to Christmas); the Christmas Season; the Season of Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday; the Paschal Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter; and, the Season of Easter including the Solemnity of the Ascension of our Lord, ending with the Solemnity of Pentecost. After the hustle and bustle of Advent and Christmas, and, after the many weeks of Lent and the Season of Easter ending with the Solemnity of Pentecost, there are thirty-four weeks that are entitled “Ordinary Time”. Interspersed between the Christmas and Lenten Seasons, and, the Easter and Advent Seasons, there are weeks, thirty-four in total, in which we walk the ordinary time of the path of life. It is up to us, collectively and personally, to make the practice of our Faith in Jesus, through the ordinary way we live and pray in our daily lives. Each week, each day, we have to nourish the seed of our Faith in the “hot box” of salvation nourished freely in the Person of Jesus. How do we do it? It is simple but may be so difficult. We hear it planted from the lips of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark: *One of the scribes, when he came forward and heard them disputing and saw how well he had answered them, asked him, “Which is the first of all the commandments?” Jesus replied, “The first is this: ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these” (12:28-31).*

Is the seed of Love still growing in your personal “hot box”? Has it been planted, nourished, and watered through your Baptism; in your receptions of the Holy Eucharist; through the daily gifts provided for you in the Holy Spirit; by the forgiveness of sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation; or in your forgiveness to those who have sinned against you or you who have sinned against

others? In other words, have you nourished your Love for others, especially God?

Ah, those thirty-four weeks of “Ordinary Time” have spiritual aids to assist us in the nourishing of the virtue of Love. Please look at your religious calendar in your home! Notice the other Solemnities, Feasts, and Memorials of the Saints who have gone before us, marked with the sign of Love! Generally speaking, the saints that have gone before us lived their lives to the honor and glory of Almighty God through their Love. They lived in a different time, some doing great fetes; others, personal, holy lives; and still others, ordinary people like you and me - attempting to Love for the sake of being a sister or brother in the Person of Jesus Christ, our Loving Brother!

The thirty-four weeks of Ordinary Time in the Catholic calendar in which we now participate until the Season of Advent in November challenges all of us to grow like the plants from the “hot box” and presently flourish in the sunshine and rains of summer! Some of us are in the Springs, others, in the Summers, and still others, like me, in the Autumns of the calendar. No matter what season we are in, “time’s a wastin” as one of the comic strip characters stated years ago and carved in my memory. During these days of summer and in the several months that we will be living in the Ordinary Time of the Catholic Church calendar, I suggest that we do more daily reading of the Sacred Scriptures or pick up a book about a saint, reading how to become more holy and humble in our lives. I know how to turn on a computer but do not know how to use it! But I do know that there are Catholic sites out there in order for us to read more about God, the saints, and good authors who may assist us in our spiritual growths through Love. The summer of Life is upon us! Are we continually ready for the harvest in the Autumn of our lives? Or a warm rather than cold, eternal Winter? The “hot box” of Life has provided nourishment through Love! Reap the Harvest among us so that we may enter the Garden of Paradise where the Seed of Love lives forever! Do not forget: “time’s a wastin”.

Message from our National President CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY



Dear fellow members,

On July 4, 2024, Independence Day, we commemorate the 248th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, which was ratified by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States.

The motto and common aim of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association of the United States of America has been “FOR GOD AND COUNTRY” for many years, longer than many of us can remember. This declaration has been embodied in our official documents, specifically in Article I, E 1. It has been in previous sets of bylaws for decades.

Religious identity and practices were infused into each step along the way. Faith mattered to military morale.¹ During the war, as many as 18,000 uniformed chaplains served the troops. Soldiers wore identity tags indicating their religious affiliation. General Dwight D. Eisenhower named the invasion “The Great Crusade” and asked for the blessing of “Almighty God”, with urgency.

Since our beginnings in 1892, leaders of our Association have asked for the blessings and help of our God and Father. When encountered with opposition to be permitted to become members of other fraternal benefit societies and gain access to death benefits, our Foundress Anna Hurban took heed of the guidance of Most Rev.

Stephen Furdek, a prominent Slovak priest, who encouraged her to organize a society for like minded women so we could all have access to our fine products for over 132 years and continuing today.

Throughout the decades of our existence and growth, we continue to interweave prayer, religious services and rituals into our work and activities. Common prayers for meetings and funeral and wake services are included as part of our bylaws for use in a variety of settings. Calls for Prayer and Recitation of our Pledge of Allegiance are embodied as essential agenda items at convention sessions and board, district and branch meetings. Our National Chaplain leads us in Prayer at our board meetings and celebrates Mass for all at the home office. Since our beginnings, we have designated St. Ann as the Society’s Patron Saint. Each branch is encouraged to observe the Feast Day of its Patron Saint. Since the COVID pandemic, we have commemorated Saint Ann’s Day on July 26 with a wreath laying ceremony and Prayer Service on our home office grounds in honor of and in memory of our living and deceased members. We pray for the unborn and the frail elderly at special times throughout the year and affirm and respect the dignity of every person from the beginning of life to the end of life and beyond.

As we move forward in 2024, it is fitting and incumbent on us to continue to invoke God’s blessings on our meaningful work in our country, even more relevant today than ever, for the benefit of our members, their families, and the communities where we live, work and worship. In serving our members and the common good in our communities and in promoting peace, ours is a noble cause.

**Cynthia M. Maleski,
National President**



¹ *WSJ*, June 7, 2024. Michael Snape, Trustee of Royal Army Chaplains’ Museum at Shrivenham, England and Professor at Durham University, England.



S-114 to Hold Annual Scholarship Luncheon

St. Ann Lodge Br. S-114 in Lorain OH will hold our Annual Scholarship Luncheon on **Sunday, July 21st, at 1:00 PM** at the American Slovak Club 2915 Broadway. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Please make your reservations by calling Bernie Danevich at 440-960-2605. Deadline for reservations is July 16th.

A reminder: Our Annual Bingo Social will be held on October 20th and the Annual Meeting & Christmas Party on December 15th.

92nd ANNUAL SLOVAK-AMERICAN DAY SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2024

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
HOLY MASS at 12:00 Noon
CULTURAL PRESENTATION
 featuring the Tatra Slovak Dancers
 and the Slovak Catholic Sokol Drillers at 2:30 p.m.

- FREE ADMISSION -

CROATIAN PARK

9100 S. 76th Street, Franklin, WI 53132

ANNUAL ST. ANNE'S DAY

Members of the Frances Jakabcin District of Eastern PA, please mark your calendars for our annual St. Anne's Day on **July 21, 2024**. Mass will be held at **1 PM** at Immaculate Conception Church, 180 W. Broadway, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229, followed by a luncheon at The Lantern in Nesquehoning, PA. If you plan to attend, please contact District President, Michele Mrazik Grasso at 610-762-1973, as soon as possible.

Louise M. Yash District is Hosting St. Anne's Day Celebration

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024

11:00 a.m. Mass at St. Margaret Mary Church
 3970 N. 92nd Street, Milwaukee

Luncheon following mass at Alioto's Restaurant
 3041 N. Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa

Cost is: \$28.00 per person

Please **RSVP** before **July 10th**
Betty Novak
YashWIDIST@yahoo.com



Sunday, July 14th 2024

SALVADORIAN SHRINE - 37th Pennsylvania Mount - Merrillville, Indiana

10:00 A.M. HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS - Our Lady of Carmel/Our Mother
 Con-Celebrants: Gary Dineen & Visiting Slovak Priests

11:00 A.M. AFTER MASS: "Ethnic Foods" available for purchase - CASH BAR

1:00 P.M. BY VARIOUS TALENTED SLOVAK MUSICIANS

2:00 P.M. CASH BIBLE DRAWING:

Winners of 2023 Cash Bible Drawing
 Joseph Szewak, Mary Naglik, Prudent George, John Swoboda, Rev. Michael Buckle

Buy and Sell YOUR Slovak Day 50th Souvenirs and the 7th Edition is FREE!
 If you cannot join us please buy / sell your ticket to support future Slovak Days!

Make your CHECK payable "Slovak Day Celebration"
 Please use enclosed envelope to return your tickets!

Ticket Drawing at: Rose Garden Home, Writing 1st Party around 8 o'clock near PM

In cooperation with our 50th Anniversary Celebration we encourage families to come enjoy an afternoon at the outdoor garden, walk The Way of the Cross,

Childrens playground and see the beautiful grounds.

Picnic areas are also available.

For more information contact Mary Miller at 319-333-1999.



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.

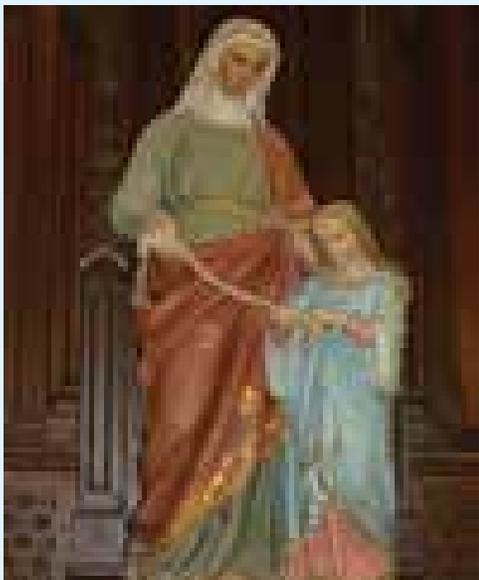
Effective 2/1/2018

Iowa's Top Senior Vocalist

Congratulations to Branch W137 senior, Davis Robe, on being named the "Top Senior Vocalist" in the state of Iowa for 2024! Davis performed as part of the Outstanding Performance Showcase at Iowa State University on May 14, 2024. He was invited to perform because he was selected as a "Best of Center" at the Iowa High School Music Association State Solo & Ensemble contest in March. This showcase brought together all the students in the state that achieve this honor at their local solo/ensemble festival. The Iowa Choral Directors Association (ICDA) and Iowa Bandmasters Association then had a panel of judges determine a top senior vocalist and instrumentalist. Davis will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Iowa Choral Directors Association. Davis graduated with the Class of 2024 from Xavier High School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and is the son of W137 Vice President, Holly Robe and grandson of W137 Secretary, Denise Upah. This fall he will attend Drake University to major in Vocal Performance and Finance.



The St. Anne Novena



“Good St. Anne”, the Mother of Mary and Grandmother of the Lord, is also the patron saint of the FCSLA Life fraternal organization, which has a presence at our church. Today we ask that you join us in praying the 9 Day Novena which has been the occasion of many blessings, both physical & spiritual. The novena begins on July 17th, 2024 and runs through July 25th. The online link to the novena prayer and beautiful message may be found at stpatrickmotence.org/the-st-anne-novena

July 26th is the Feast Day of St. Anne

FCSLA Life Sr. Br. 319 & Jr. Br. 187 Allentown, PA
Annual Baseball Outing
August 31, 2024



IronPigs versus Syracuse Mets

Where: Coca Cola Park Allentown

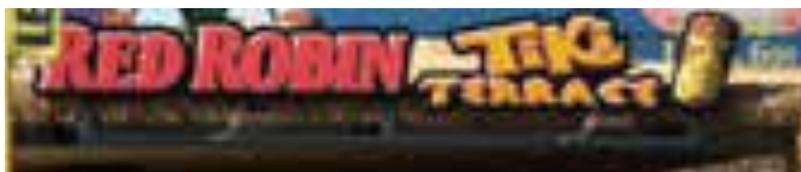
Gates open at 5:15pm ~ Game Begins at 6:35 pm

Free for Members ~ Non-Members \$37.00

Includes free parking, Seating in the Tiki Terrace

Buffet and Soft Drinks included

Call Michele Mrazik Grasso 610-762-1973 for more info.



Space is Limited! Call today. R.S.V.P by August 1, 2024

Minors must be accompanied by adult or legal guardian.

Sr Branch 590 Walks for MS and “TEAM SALLY”

On Sunday April 14, 2024 at Point State Park in Pittsburgh, Pa, an enthusiastic crowd of over 2000 people joined together to participate in a Walk for Multiple Sclerosis sponsored by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS) The NMSS is a voluntary, non-profit, health organization dedicated to ending the devastating effects of MS by advancing cure, prevention and treatment of Multiple Sclerosis and by improving the quality of life of affected individuals. 35 members of Branch S530 of Penn Hills walked in support of “TEAM SALLY”. Sally Myler is a life-long member of the FCSLA as is most of her family for 3 generations. A total of 68 people walked to support Sally, and this included several members of J512 and S590. Team Sally raised over \$5,200 this year for the NMSS.



National Youth of the Year

Do you know of a young member who exemplifies youth leadership and service? Someone who stands out as a role model for others? FCSLA Life has a long history of encouraging and supporting youth and we continue the tradition of youth engagement with the National Youth of the Year award. This is your opportunity to nominate that outstanding young person. Our young members are the future of FCSLA Life!

Guidelines

- * Any FCSLA Life member may submit a nominee for this award.
- * Nominee must be an FCSLA Life member for at least three years.
- * Nominee must be between 12 - 22 years old. (Received date will determine the age.)
- * Family members of Home Office staff and National Officers are eligible to be nominated.
- * Previous awardees are not eligible.
- * Service projects and volunteerism included on nomination form can only be from 2020 - 2024.
- * A headshot photo of the nominee must be included with the nomination.
- * Nominations must be received at the Home Office by Tuesday, September 17, 2024.
- * Decisions are final.
- * The winner will receive \$250 and be featured in *Fraternally Yours*, on our website, and social media pages!



Nomination forms can be found at www.fcsla.com or by contacting the Fraternal Department at (800) 464-4642 x1051 or fraternal@fcsla.com.

National Fraternalist of the Year

The National Fraternalist of the Year award is an honor presented to an individual in our association who, through example and accomplishment, has provided outstanding volunteer service to their branch, church, and community.

Guidelines

- * Any FCSLA Life member may submit a nominee for this award.
- * Nominee must be at least 23 years old (received date will determine age).
- * Previous winners, Home Office staff, and national officers are not eligible to be nominated.
- * A headshot photo of the nominee must be included with the nomination.
- * Decisions are final.
- * Nominations must be received at the Home Office by Tuesday, September 17, 2024.
- * The winner will receive \$250 and be featured in *Fraternally Yours*, on our website, and social media pages!



CONGRATULATIONS NEW GRADUATES!



Sara Elizabeth Zidek, Greensburg, PA was a recent graduate of The University of Florida. She earned a Master's degree in Neuroscience. Presently, Sara is a paramedic with Mutual Aid in Greensburg, PA. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Zidek (S313) of North Apollo, PA.



Louise Ficca, Branch S011, a member for 70 years graduated from Commonwealth University, Mansfield Campus, Mansfield PA on Saturday May 11, 2024. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in history and communications. Louise graduated with honors. She currently works for Wellspring Community Support Services, Inc. in Mansfield as a caseworker and will continue to do so following graduation. In her spare time, she enjoys watercolor painting and time with her children and grandchildren.

Erik Hamilton Schultz, (S81, Whiting, IN), graduated Magna Cum Laude from Marian University in Indianapolis, IN on May 4, 2024, a day his parents believe is as special as their wedding day and the day Erik was born. Marian is a smaller Catholic university drenched in Franciscan values and founded in 1937 by the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg, Indiana. The combination of a nurturing staff, meaningful guidance and countless opportunities has provided a rich, well-rounded experience for Erik. Hearing the dynamic President Elsener speak, you gather Marian encourages students to find out "what you're made of". Students are challenged to grow their intellect, gain social interactions and obtain the tools to become transformational leaders. Erik received his BS in Marketing, from the Byrum School of Business, with a concentration in Sales, and minoring in Communications. He interviewed and was selected, one of thirty, to be a Presidential Ambassador who accompanies the president at various functions. One prestigious event was their annual Gala held at the downtown Marriott. He worked on campus the last three years of school as a key member of the mailroom and did an internship in the business and accounting offices. Erik held the role of President of Alpha Delta Gamma which was an awesome leadership role. He competed in many marketing competitions, most recently in New Orleans, for the American Marketing Association case competition. He acted as mentor for first-time competitors where his knowledge led to a first place finisher. He was a member of a co-ed Ultimate Frisbee Team which he really enjoyed to blow off steam and build new friendships. He experienced foreign travel for the first time as he visited Nottingham, Lincolnshire, London and Paris as part of an International Business Course earning credits while gaining experience in the business culture across the pond. The class met with The Bank of London and toured many sites along the way. The longest stay was at Harlaxton College (sister college of University of Evansville IN) which is housed in Harlaxton Manor, a Victorian country house on a magnificent 75 acre spread. Due to its magnificent historic interior, manicured gardens and endless rolling green hills, it was selected many times for movies to be filmed there, such as "The Secret Garden" and "The Haunting". His travel experience alone was priceless but was also required to produce a report after interviewing a local shopkeeper about her duties in running an antique shop.



Erik received his BS in Marketing, from the Byrum School of Business, with a concentration in Sales, and minoring in Communications. He interviewed and was selected, one of thirty, to be a Presidential Ambassador who accompanies the president at various functions. One prestigious event was their annual Gala held at the downtown Marriott. He worked on campus the last three years of school as a key member of the mailroom and did an internship in the business and accounting offices. Erik held the role of President of Alpha Delta Gamma which was an awesome leadership role. He competed in many marketing competitions, most recently in New Orleans, for the American Marketing Association case competition. He acted as mentor for first-time competitors where his knowledge led to a first place finisher. He was a member of a co-ed Ultimate Frisbee Team which he really enjoyed to blow off steam and build new friendships. He experienced foreign travel for the first time as he visited Nottingham, Lincolnshire, London and Paris as part of an International Business Course earning credits while gaining experience in the business culture across the pond. The class met with The Bank of London and toured many sites along the way. The longest stay was at Harlaxton College (sister college of University of Evansville IN) which is housed in Harlaxton Manor, a Victorian country house on a magnificent 75 acre spread. Due to its magnificent historic interior, manicured gardens and endless rolling green hills, it was selected many times for movies to be filmed there, such as "The Secret Garden" and "The Haunting". His travel experience alone was priceless but was also required to produce a report after interviewing a local shopkeeper about her duties in running an antique shop.

Thanks to the generous support of FCSLA Life in awarding a College Freshman Scholarship and a yearly scholarship from Marian University, Erik was able to reap the benefits of being a Marian student. He and his family are truly grateful for everything about the last four years of his journey and look forward to seeing where he takes his knowledge, experience and God's guiding hand to make a difference in our crazy world.

HAPPY 88TH BIRTHDAY

Agnes C. Farcosky, (S44, Mt. Pleasant, PA) celebrated her 88th birthday on April 14, 2024. She was born to Slovak parents John and Mary Zemba on April 4, 1936 and was the oldest of four children. She is very proud of her Slovak heritage - cooking Slovak dishes, speaking & writing the language, and visiting Slovakia on seven different occasions. Agnes held the position of financial secretary of S44 for forty years. She is now residing at New Haven Court in Greensburg, PA. Happy Birthday and God's blessings on Agnes in her 88th year!



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



Raymond Paul Simon received his 1st Holy Communion on Sunday, May 5, 2024 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in New Prague, MN. He is pictured with his grandparents, Paul and JoAnne Maruska. They are all members of Branch W001 in New Prague.



Colin Hayek (J001) of Willoughby, Ohio made his First Holy Communion on April 27, 2024 at St. John Vianney Parish in Mentor, Ohio. Colin's favorite part of the day was meeting Bishop Gries!



Barrett James Watson received his First Holy Communion May 4, 2024, at Annunciation Church in Webster Groves, MO. He is a member of J011 in St. Louis, MO. He is the son of CJ and Tracy Watson and big brother to Piper Watson. Barrett is a very loving and happy boy and a friend to many. He enjoys Baseball, Soccer, Swimming, Flag Football and Basketball.

Beckham D'Orazio, member of Joliet branch J083 in the Helen Kocan District, made his First Holy Communion on April 27th. He is pictured with his family, who are all members.



Embracing Our Seminarians: A HEARTFELT TALE OF GIVING AND CONNECTION

As the autumn leaves fell gracefully, so did the spirit of giving in the Jakabcin Eastern Pa district! It brings us immense joy to share how our community came together to extend gestures of goodwill to our beloved seminarians.

With hearts brimming with warmth and generosity, our members rallied to provide tokens of encouragement and support to these young men embarking on their noble journey toward priesthood. These gifts symbolized not just material offerings, but tangible expressions of our unwavering solidarity with them.

The response from our seminarians was nothing short of heartening. Gratitude poured forth in the form of heartfelt thank-you cards, affirming the power of our collective prayers and well-wishes. Discovering that some of them are FCSLA Life members added an extra layer of delight, culminating in memorable moments captured through a joyful photo shoot.

Our members cherished every opportunity to connect with the seminarians, knowing that these small acts of kindness can resonate deeply. Rest assured, our commitment to supporting them extends far beyond the holiday season. We eagerly anticipate continuing our outreach efforts throughout the year, extending invitations for them to join us in the warmth of camaraderie at our upcoming district meetings.

Let us continue to foster a community of compassion and support, where every gesture, big or small, contributes to uplifting spirits and nurturing dreams.



Msgr. Daniel Yenushosky, Pastor of Holy Trinity, Tyler Loch, seminarian...home parish Holy Trinity, Anne Marie Bachman, Pres FCSLA Life S484, Deacon Michael Laroche S319.

Seminary Graduation Dinner



Members of FCSLA Life recently attended the Seminary Graduation Dinner at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa.

SPRING CONFIRMATION

Cooper Thomas Hladik was confirmed on Saturday, March 9, 2024 by Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of the Jefferson City, (Missouri) Diocese at St. Patrick's Church (St. Vincent de Paul Parish) in Sedalia, Missouri. Cooper is the son of Robert and Katelin Hladik, Jr. and grandson of Bob and Margie Hadik, all members of W018 in Omaha, Nebraska. Cooper, a seventh grade honor student at Scared Heart School in Sedalia, enjoys playing baseball, soccer, and basketball. Pictured is Cooper with His Excellency Bishop McKnight.



FCSLA Bylaw Changes

At the 43rd Quadrennial Convention, the Convention delegates voted to amend the corporate Bylaws subject to a regulatory process and certain provisos regarding the following changes.

II. Membership

Article II(A)(2)(d) and (e) were amended by striking out (d) and (e) and replacing it with a new (d) and (e). The adopted change now reads: A Fraternal Member is: (d) Able to have voting privileges at the branch and the district level. (e) Able to hold office at the branch and district level.

Article II(A)(3)(b) and (c) were amended by striking out (b) Sound in body and mind and (c) Recommended by a member in good standing. The adopted change now reads: All members are: a) Citizens of the United States of America b) Notwithstanding Section 3 (a) above, all members of the Association prior to October 8, 2014, shall be deemed to be Principal Members.

Article II(B)(1) was amended by striking out "to a branch". The adopted change now reads: 1. Anyone wishing to become a member or certificate owner must apply on such forms as are furnished by the Association.

Article II(C)(3) was amended by striking existing subsection 3 and inserting a new subsection 3. The adopted change now reads: A member may transfer from one Branch to another by notifying the home office of their request.

III. Leadership and Governance Structure

Article III(E) was amended to strike all Section E and re-letter the remaining sections and move Section E to new section H "Hired National Executives" as new section 1. The title has changed from National President to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) throughout the bylaws. Article III(H)(1) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) (b) amended by striking the first sentence. The adopted change now reads: (b) The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) may at times answer questions involving interpretation of the Bylaws. The Board of Directors shall have final determination of any interpretation of the Bylaws. An appeal must be made within 30 days after the decision is made by submitting two written copies of the appeal to the Chair of the Board.

Article III(H)(1) was amended to add a new subsection (f). The adopted change now reads: The board will conduct a transparent national search utilizing a national search firm to assist with the process. All members will receive notification of the hiring process.

The following provisos apply to this amendment:

1. Prior to the employment of a hired Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the Board of Directors

will develop procedures for communicating bylaws interpretations from the Board Chair to the Chief Executive Officer.

2. The transition from an elected to a hired Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will be effective upon hiring of the Chief Executive Officer, not to exceed 24 months after adoption.

Article III(B)(1) and (2) were amended by striking out subsection (1) and (2) and inserting a new subsection (1) and (2) and adding a new subsection (3). The adopted change now reads:

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of 11 voting members, and 10 members elected for a four (4) year term as provided in these Bylaws; the 11th voting member shall be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for any matter coming in front of the board, excluding budget and compensation matters.
2. The Composition of the Board of Directors is as follows:
National Chaplain;
Chief Executive Officer (CEO);
Four (4) National Directors;
Two (2) National Trustees; and
Three (3) National Auditors.
3. The Board of Directors shall select its own Chairperson from the 4 National Directors and 2 National Trustees with a 2/3 majority vote of all board members at the first regular board meeting of the newly elected board or when a vacancy exists.

Article III(I)(1)(b), (d), and (e) were amended by striking out (b) who shall serve as chairperson, (d) and, (e) The National Secretary and National Treasurer who shall serve as staff to the Executive Committee but shall not be considered voting committee members. Then inserting a new (a) Chair of the Board and renumbering the list of committee members. The adopted change now reads:

Section I. Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following:
 - a) Chair of the Board
 - b) National Chaplain
 - c) Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
 - d) Two (2) National Trustees
 - e) Two (2) National Directors selected by the Board of Directors

The following proviso applies to this amendment:

Any sections inconsistent with the adoption of hiring the Chief Executive Officer must all be modified accordingly.

Article III(H)(2) National Secretary amend by striking out (c), (e) and (g) and renumber the other items. The adopted change now reads:

H. Hired National Executives

2. National Secretary

- a) Shall direct operating activities of the Association subject to review by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and in accordance with the purpose and objectives of the Association;
- b) Shall provide full time services to the Association;
- c) Shall be hired by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) subject to approval of the Board of Directors through the verification process;
- d) Reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and is subject to review by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Article III(C)(1) (a) was amended by striking out subsection (a) "Be at least 35 (thirty-five) years of age"; and the section renumbered.

Article III(C)(3) was amended by striking out "excluding the Court of Appeals". The adopted change now reads:

3. Verification Process

All candidates for National Office shall be verified in accordance with Section V(A)(4)(b) of these Bylaws.

Article III(G)(1) was amended by striking out "with the approval of the National President". The adopted change now reads:

G. National Auditors

1. The three National Auditors shall make a thorough semi-annual audit of all books of the Association and shall compile a report of their findings and cause them to be published forthwith in the Association's Official publication.

IV. Organization Structure

Article IV(A)(2)(e) was amended by striking out the words "Only Principal". The adopted change now reads: Members may be eligible to serve as a Branch Officer, who shall be elected at the Branch's annual meeting.

Article IV(A)(3)(a) was amended by inserting a new (vi). The adopted change now reads: (vi) If a Branch is dissolved, members can select from a list of area active branches to transfer. If no Branch is selected, they will be assigned a branch by the home office.

V. Convention, Court of Appeals and Parliamentary Authority

Article V(A)(4)(f)(i) and (ii) Strike out the word President as this is no longer an elected position.

The following proviso applies to this amendment:

This will take effect immediately following the 43rd Quadrennial Convention or when approved by the various state governing authorities.

Article V(A)(2)(b) was amended by striking the word "Principal" throughout subsection (b).

Article V(D)(3) was amended by inserting a new 3 to read as follows:

Except as set forth in Article III(A)(6), the Board of Directors may amend or repeal in whole or in part these Bylaws in the best interest of the organization by a 2/3 vote of all members of the Board. No amendment or repeal will become effective until the board approved bylaw change has been sent to the credentialed delegates for a 2/3 approval by those voting on the board approved bylaw change, by mail or other approved means.

NATIONAL SEARCH FOR A CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR FCSLA LIFE

Per the Bylaw changes approved at the last Quadrennial convention in October 2023, the National Board has initiated a national search for a Chief Executive Officer for FCSLA Life. A special Board Committee was appointed at the January 2024 Board meeting consisting of 5 Board members. The Committee has worked to define the job and job requirements and has selected Jacobson Executive Search, a national executive search firm, to identify qualified candidates. Qualified candidates may contact Jack Walsh, Managing Director at the Jacobson Group, at 312-505-4311 or via email at JWalsh@JacobsonOnline.com if you are interested in learning more.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

BRANCH J157

VFW Poppy Day at Walmart

Recently officers of J157 in Monessen, PA provided a matching funds project for the VFW Poppy Day at Walmart. The project resulted in \$2,800, plus the \$600 they will receive from the National Office.



MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

BRANCH S107 & J038

Pittsburgh MS WALK (Team Carol) 2024

As a Matching Fund Event Branch S107 and J038 Duquesne/West Mifflin PA participated in the MS WALK on April 14, 2024 at Point State Park.

Some photos are from the Raleigh NC walk on March 23, 2024 which coincided with visiting my daughter who couldn't be at the Pittsburgh Walk.

This year with the matching funds Team Carol raised over \$7,500 for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The vision of the NMSS is a world free of MS. The mission is to cure MS while empowering people affected by MS to live their best lives.

As someone who has MS I can attest to the resources and support that they have provided over the more than 25 years of living with this disease.



BRANCH S11

Fraternalism at its Best!

Branch S11 hosted a Matching Funds Event "A Night at the Races" at Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish in Homestead, PA. Pictured on the left, from left to right are S11 Secretary/Treasurer, Jim Deak, Analise Lesutis and Cassiopeia Schneider (who are part of the volunteer Appalachia Youth Work Team) and FCSLA Life National Director and S11 President, Kristina Menke. The Appalachia work camp project is led by Father Dan Sweeney who every year helps build homes for those less fortunate in Kentucky. Father Dan, along with the volunteer parishioners and the Appalachia Youth volunteers, have helped transform many lives with this project throughout the years and FCSLA Life S11 is honored to continue to be part of their accomplishments.



Pictured on the right, FCSLA Life National Director and S11 President, Kristina Menke, meets up with NSS Life National Director, Susan M. Ondrejco during the "Night at the Races" matching funds event for the Appalachia Work Camp.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

BRANCH S077

McKeesport, PA - Holy Angels Crochet Circle

Thanks to the FCSLA Life, The Holy Angels crochet circle will be able to continue their many projects helping others in need. We are part of the Blessed Trinity Grouping that includes St Sylvester Church, St. Alberts Parish, St. Basils Church, and Holy Angels Church. Our group of 15 women meet every Thursday at Holy Angels



for coffee, cookies, conversation, and crochet! Some of our many projects include making baptismal blankets for all our babies, neck and hand warmers for our shut ins, blankets and lap Afghans for the VA, dialysis centers, preemie Afghans for WPH NICU and various nursing homes and the East Liberty Community Health Center. Our hats and scarves are keeping many local children warm as well as those in Appalachia. We appreciate your kind and much needed the donation! Carol Yurechko Vice President Branch S77 McKeesport, PA.

BRANCH S077

“Music in Our Schools”

On Saturday, March 23, 2024, McKeesport branch S077 participated in a matching funds event with Serra Catholic High School. “Music in Our Schools” was the theme for the concert which included the Choir, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Winter Guard and a preview of this year’s musical, “The Addams Family”. Parent volunteers manned the basket raffle, bake sale, concessions and 50/50 raffle. The students of the Music Department performed and showed off their talents with their singing, skill with musical instruments and dance.



“Faith Konieczka, Senior, and spotlight operator and Cassie Fedor, Business Manager, pose proudly with the spotlight they were able to purchase with the funds donated at the Convention. Thank you FCSLA Life!”



MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

BRANCH S615

Cash Bingo and Bake Sale

Members of Branch S615 of Wilkes Barre, PA collaborated on a matching funds project to benefit the Social Concerns Committee of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish of Swoyersville, PA. A Cash Bingo and Bake Sale was held on April 14, 2024 at the parish gymnasium. It was attended by approximately 300 people.

The event began with pastor, Fr. John Chmil welcoming the group and leading them in prayer. In addition to bingo, the players had the opportunity to purchase lunch, specialty foods, homemade baked goods, 50/50 chances and a basket raffle. The luncheon foods were donated by Branch S615 and served by five of its members. A friend of the parish donated the specialty foods.

Through the dedicated efforts of the Social Concerns Committee and FCSLA's generosity, the bingo not only met, but exceeded, the goal set for the fundraiser. Additional contributions of gift cards, made by more than forty-five community sponsors, were used as door prizes. Funds raised from the event will be utilized to meet the needs of both parishioners as well as members of the community.



BRANCH S88

Purse Bash

Members of S88 in Monessen, PA joined with Epiphany Ladies and St. Sebastian Church for a Purse Bash Matching Funds. Total funds generated from this project were \$7,050, plus the \$600 from FCSLA Life.



BRANCH W187

Sloppy Jo Matching Funds Meal

FCSLA Life Branch W187 (Valparaiso, Nebraska) recently held a Sloppy Jo Matching Funds Meal at Sts. Mary & Joseph Church Hall. Proceeds went to remove the old fence and install a new fence behind the church grotto.





BRANCH S433
Buffet Dinner, Chinese Auction, and Races

FCSLA LIFE S433 participated in a Matching Funds activity to support Carson's Hope on Saturday, February 24th. The fund was created to help families dealing with pediatric cancer and pediatric cancer research. Attendees enjoyed a buffet dinner, Chinese Auction and races. This years event raised \$36,200.00.



MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

BRANCH S553

Pancake Breakfast

Branch S553 of Cleveland, Ohio held a matching funds project for the benefit of the Catholic War Veterans - Southeast Suburban Post 1812 on April 7, 2024. The veterans along with FCSLA members prepared and served an excellent pancake breakfast. The event was held at St. Monica's Catholic Church in Garfield Hts. Ohio, which is headquarters for the post. Commander Carmen Matteo organized the event for the post. Funds raised will support veteran organizations.

The Catholic War Veterans was founded in 1935 by Msgr. Edwards J. Higgins. Their motto is "For God, For Country, For Home". The mission of the Catholic War Veterans of the USA and Auxiliary advocate for and support all veterans, their families, and our communities through fellowship, charitable activities, and veteran services.

Many thanks to all the Veterans, FCSLA members and FCSLA Life who supported and helped with the event.



Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Walsh

Megan (Ryan) and Timothy Walsh were married on September 19, 2023 at St. Matthew Parish Church in Conshohocken, PA. Megan attended St. Matt's grade school and knew the pastor, Father Thomas Heron, who officiated the wedding. The groom is graduate of Penn State, main campus., and the bride graduated from Cabrini University. A reception was held at Liberty Hill Country Club in Lafayette Hill, PA. Almost the entire family are FCSLA Life Branch S172 members.





IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Barbara J. (Motto) Burhans, S150



Mrs. Barbara J. (Motto) Burhans, 68, of Pottstown, PA passed away on February 26, 2024. Born July 9, 1955, Barbara was the daughter of the late Donald R. and Mary V. (Riddle) Motto and granddaughter of the late George P. and Mary (Ondik) Motto members of Holy Trinity Slovak Church, Pottstown

Barbara was a registered nurse working at Jefferson University Hospital for 15 years. She also worked at Coventry Family Care, Phoenixville Hospital, and as a school nurse for the Phoenixville School District. She was a member of the American Association of Operating Room Nurses and a certified school nurse. Barbara was a member of Shenkel United Church of Christ, Pottstown, where she taught nursery for 30 years. She was a 1973 graduate of Owen J. Roberts High School, a 1976 graduate of the Chester County Hospital School of Nursing. Barbara went on to earn her Bachelor of Nursing degree from Immaculata University. She enjoyed horseback riding, exercising, water aerobics, reading, going to the beach, and her newest hobby, playing pickleball. Barbara is survived by her children, Vicky Lynn (Jones) Hyde, wife of William Hyde, Coffee Springs, AL, William Terryll Jones, Echo, UT, Erik Stromness, husband of Stefanie Stromness, Dixon, CA, Erika Lynn (Burhans) Price, wife of Kim Price, Fleetwood, Heather L. Burhans Tran, wife of Cha ù Tran, Randallstown, MD, and Everett F. Burhans II, husband of Holly Brookfield, Front Royal, VA. She is also survived by her sisters, Kathryn Motto, wife of Gideon Margolis, San Diego, CA, and Annette Motto Toro, wife of David Haas, Delmar, DE, 4 grandchildren, 11 step-grandchildren and 3 step great-grandchildren.

Bernard Markey, S140



Bernard C. Markey, 88 of Boiling Springs, Pa. died February 5, 2024. He was born February 5, 1936, in Summit Hill, Pa, to the late Charles and Anna (Bobick) Markey. He graduated from Lansford High School and later joined the U.S. Army and served during the Korean war. Bernie retired from the U.S. Postal Service as a letter carrier

in Summit Hill. He also worked for St. Joseph Church in cemetery maintenance and as a parking lot attendant at the Carbon County Courthouse. He was a member of St. Joseph Church in Summit Hill, American Legion Post 316, FCSLA S140 and was honored as Grand Marshall of the 2017 Summit Hill Memorial Day Parade. He played basketball in summer leagues, enjoyed his many trips to Las Vegas, connecting with Facebook friends and spending time at his beach condo in Brigantine, NJ. Bernie was a long-time avid

New York Yankees fan. He is survived by his wife 66 years, Ann (Gavula) Markey, son Charles (Cheryl) of Wellsville, daughter Margaret Mary Storch (John) of Boiling Springs, son Bernard (Marilyn) of Summit Hill and John (Staci) of Dillsburg. Four grandsons, John and Robert Markey, Tyler (Meredith) Storch and Aaron (Fiancée Nicole Huffer) Storch. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Marilyn A. Bartek (née Hronec), S114



Marilyn A. Bartek (née Hronec), aged 81, of Lorain, Ohio passed away surrounded by loved ones on January 10, 2024. Born and raised in Lorain to the late Andrew and Ann Hronec (née Scasny). A proud alumna of Lorain High School, Class of 1960-B, Marilyn's career spanned various roles, including a tenure at the Gas Company, and later,

invaluable contributions in retail with SuperK and in Food Service at Mercy Health Hospital, where she retired after 14 years of service. Marilyn's commitment to her faith was evident in her active participation at St. Vitus Church and later at St. Peter Parish, where she was a cherished member of Parish Council and coordinated the Parish Blood Drive for several years. Her life was a testament to her faith and the values she cherished. Yet, Marilyn's most cherished role was that of a loving mother and grandmother. She is survived and will be profoundly missed by her children: Julia A. Sullivan, Catherine B. Woskobnick, and Andrew P. (Teresa) Bartek; her adored grandchildren: Sgt. Jeffrey A. Sullivan, U.S. Army, Charles D. Woskobnick, and Jordan L. Sullivan; along with a close-knit circle of friends and cousins who she held dear.

Nancy L. Heidelberg, S287



Nancy L. Heidelberg, formerly of the Chicago Roseland area, was called to our Heavenly Father on Friday, October 6, 2023. Nancy was born on February 1, 1937, in Chicago, Illinois to Edmond Van Den Berge and Leontine (Van Den Brande) Van Den Berge. She was a life-long member of FCSLA Branch 287. Nancy met the love of her

life, Raymond (Ray) Heidelberg while working at a local bank. They married on June 4, 1955; they were happily married for 63 years until Ray's death in 2018. Nancy was a devoted mother and grandmother of nine children, 25 grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren. Nancy & Ray moved several times during their marriage. They moved to New Mexico in 1969. She is survived by her children, Debbie (Ronnie) Stoner; Ray (Debbie) Heidelberg; Joanne (John) Rink; Bret Heidelberg; Mary Ann (Don) Westerbur; Gretchen (Eddie) Suniga; Nancy (Michael) Salvatti; Cathy (Scott) Lambert;

[continued on next page](#)



IN MEMORIAM

and Amanda (Alex) Rodriguez; her grandchildren and great grandchildren; brother John (Mickey) Van Den Berge and many other family members and friends.

Patricia Ann Ancin, S016



Patricia Ann Ancin, 75, of Edwardsville, PA died April 25, 2023, with her family by her side. Born in Plymouth, PA, she was the daughter of the late William E. and Stella M. Pinkowski. She was a graduate of Plymouth High School, class of 1966. Pat worked as a cook for Luzerne County Head Start, retiring after 32 years. She was

a member of St. John the Baptist Church, Larksville, PA and formally active with the Edwardsville Mini Cheerleaders. She enjoyed camping, playing bingo and was a judge of elections for many years. Pat was a member of the FCSLA District #10: Magdalen I. Iskra District, Wilkes-Barre, PA, Branch S016. Left to cherish her memory are her loving husband of 53 years, Phillip Ancin; children, Michele Duris and her husband, John, Tunkhannock PA; and Jill Ann Ancin, Edwardsville, PA; grandchildren Emily and Julie Duris; brother William M. Pinkowski, Selinsgrove, PA; and several nieces and nephews.

46TH ANNUAL SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS APPEAL UPDATE

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 46th year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day-to-day operations. The Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. A direct mailing asking for donations was sent in February to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, clergy with Slovak ancestry, and previous donors.

As of May 15, the 2024 Appeal has received \$22,492.94 from 160 donors. Among the 44 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branches S10 & J386, Branch 107, Branches S301 & J143, Branches S414 & J272, Branch S475, Branch S615, the Magdalen I. Iskra District, and the Home Office of the FCSLA have donated a combined total of \$1,700. Donations to date have also been received from 6 churches, 25 clergy and religious, and 85 individuals. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

All wishing to contribute to the 2024 Appeal are asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. **Gifts received after November 30, 2024 will be credited toward the 2025 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. HvozdoVIC, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harveys 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 Church, Pennel, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.



New Annuities, New Rates!

It's Up, Up and Away with FCSLA Life's NEW flexible premium deferred Elite Annuity contracts!

**These rates are effective 7/1/24*

PLATINUM	GOLD	SILVER
5.20% APY*	5.10% APY*	5.00% APY*
(10 Year Fixed Annuity – Contract FPA(10)-0415) (Maximum Issue Age 79)	(7 Year Fixed Annuity – Contract FPA(7)-0713) (Maximum Issue Age 85)	(5 Year Fixed Annuity – Contract FPA(5)-0713) (Maximum Issue Age 85)

***The Guaranteed minimum rates for the three products listed above issued on January 1, 2023, or later will be 3.00%.** The crediting rate is reviewed quarterly by the Board of Directors and will never go below the minimum guaranteed contracted rate. Anyone who purchases an Elite Series annuity is a member of FCSLA Life and may be eligible for generous fraternal benefits of membership.

- FCSLA Life founded in 1892
- FCSLA Life is rated A- Excellent by AM Best (October 2023)
- For the latest rating and more information, access www.ambest.com.
- FCSLA Life has over \$1.1 billion of assets invested in highly rated and well diversified portfolio.

For more information, contact your local recommender, agent or the FCSLA Life Home Office at 1-800-464-4642 ext 1065.

FCSLALife 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

46th 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
Slovak Catholic Federation
Our Lady of Grace Church
225 Bellevue Avenue
Pennel, PA 19047-4052

Branch S81 Sponsors Fish Fry

Branch S81, Whiting, Indiana was the sponsor of the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Fish Fry on February 23, 2024. A group of dedicated committee members of St John brought back the fish fry to the community for the Lenten Season. It was a fundraising event to help defray the overwhelming costs of a heating overhaul for the church and school. Officers and members of Branch 81 baked, plated and served desserts, refilled salads, sold raffle tickets and helped out as needed. Enjoying the teamwork and camaraderie they were drawn to help out for all of the Fridays in Lent.

Patrons were happy to see a generous menu consisting of lake perch, shrimp, cod, walleye pike, pierogi, cheese pizza and choice of side. To their delight, an all you can eat salad bar that spanned eighteen feet long was available. Thanks to an anonymous donor, live music by The Marilyn Gaza Jazz Trio filled the room. Although the line to get in could get a little long, people said it was well worth the wait. It was heartwarming to see so many people who wanted to help with this fundraising opportunity. The room was filled with friends, family and many alumni of the school

The kitchen crew worked tirelessly turning out delicious dinners. Young members of faith formation and grade school confirmation candidates joined area high school students who received credit for community service by delivering dinners, cleaning and resetting tables. Many guests were returning customers joining us each Friday to enjoy "The best fish fry in the area!"(guest comments)

The many hours spent planning, cleaning and preparing for the event were truly the work of the body and heart. The "store runs", ordering, product preparation, kitchen organization, and even making sauces, were behind the scenes work that was completed by the kitchen crew ahead of the Friday event. Thank you to Jamie Sandona, faith formation coordinator, and FCSLA members Andrea Lucas and Tom Markovich for heading the committee. Their expert culinary guidance and unending dedication to this project was a gift. A special thanks to Milan Kruczynski and Tom Chocholek and the rest of the team for their many hours of hard work. Wonderful people working together and dedicating six weeks to produce excellent quality meals to 200 plus patrons each week. God bless all who purchased dinners, raffle tickets and carry outs. We could not have done this project without the wonderful volunteers. God wants us to share our time and talent, St John definitely answered this call through volunteerism. Branch S81 is proud to use this as a matching fund event, enabling the church to get an additional \$600 from the home office. We were touched by the amount of people who showed up to support St John the Baptist Catholic Church Community.



REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

Balance Sheet

	<u>01/31/2024</u>
Assets	
Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 23,968,559
Bonds	1,050,121,362
Preferred Stock	1,020,000
Common Stock	332,314
Investment Income Due & Accrued	14,839,808
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	4,569,134
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,736,589
Other Assets	311,917
Total Assets	\$ 1,096,899,683
Liabilities	
Life Reserves	\$ 307,412,294
Annuity Reserves	658,742,391
Death Claims Payable	3,743,725
Unearned Premiums	378,297
Matured Endowments	351,375
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,400,000
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	5,235,952
Accrued Convention Donations	50,000
Provision for Future Conventions	58,332
Asset Valuation Reserve	12,240,908
Interest Maintenance Reserve	(4,252,181)
Other Liabilities	2,528,596
Total Liabilities	\$ 987,889,687
Surplus	109,009,996
Total Liabilities and Surplus Funds	\$ 1,096,899,683

Income Statement as of January 31, 2024

	<u>01/31/2024</u>
Revenue	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 229,322
Annuity Premiums	1,416,763
Investment Income	4,269,705
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	(28,010)
Rental Income	40,137
Other Revenue	1,684
Total Revenue	\$ 5,929,601
Expense	
Increase in Reserves - Life	\$ (114,787)
Increase in Reserves - Annuity	(3,633,281)
Insurance Benefits	798,842
Annuity Benefits	7,405,347
Commission Expense	39,018
Surrender Benefits	142,771
Matured Endowments	(3,525)
Interest Expense	34,246
Salaries - Employees	44,734
Payroll Tax Expense	5,436
Underwriting Expense	2,601
Life and Annuity Expenses	4,721,402
Revenue Less Life and Annuity Expenses	\$ 1,208,199
Bank Service Charges	9,762
IT Expenses	29,226
Accounting Fees	10,097
Actuarial Fees	37,498
Legal Fees	0
Consulting Fees	0
Employee Benefits	82,478
Fees - Directors	29,345
Salaries - Employees	110,797
Salaries - Officers	61,891
Temporary Office Expenses	4,200
Payroll Tax Expense	21,217
Depreciation Expense	21,479
Utility Expense	10,377
Postage and Printing	16,369
Advertising & Marketing	34,515
Travel Expense	3,643
Insurance Department Fees	13,660
Sales Related Expense	24,500
Rental Expense	40,137
Building Expense	19,789
Insurance Expense	2,770
Office Related Expense	18,839
Dues & Subscriptions	9,273
Human Resources	6,662
Other Expense	623
Investment Expense	53,788
Sales and Operating Expenses	672,935
Revenue Less Sales & Operating Expenses	\$ 535,263
Post Mortem Benefits	180,603
Misc. Member Benefits	1,210
Donation Expenses	2,045
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	12,500
Convention Expenses	14,583
Branch and District Funding	65,500
Fraternal Activities	5,948
Official Publications	35,162
Scholarship Awards	47,500
Direct Fraternal Expenses	365,051
Income (Loss) from Operations	\$ 170,212
Dividends to Members	127,581
Subtotal INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 42,631
Capital Gains (Loss)	825,121
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 867,752

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 on-line memorial to zibazik@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 zibazik@comcast.net or send a hard copy of the information to: Editor, PO Box 1617, Reading, PA 19603-1617.



Light up the Grill

GRILLED FLANK STEAK

1 1/2 cups packed fresh cilantro leaves and stems
1 cup packed fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves and stems
3 tablespoon red wine vinegar
2 tablespoon chopped fresh oregano
6 medium garlic cloves, chopped (2 tablespoon)
5 drained anchovy fillets, chopped (about 2 teaspoon, optional)
1 medium-size red Fresno chile, stemmed, seeded, and chopped
1 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt, divided
1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil, divided
1 (1 1/2-lb.) flank steak (3/4 to 1 inch thick)
Make chimichurri sauce:

Place cilantro, parsley, vinegar, oregano, garlic, anchovies (if using), chile, and 1 teaspoon of the salt in a food processor; pulse until very finely chopped, 10 to 15 pulses, stopping to scrape down sides. With processor running, gradually pour 6 tablespoons of the oil through food chute; process until smooth, about 10 seconds. Spoon 1/4 cup of the chimichurri into a large ziplock plastic bag. Refrigerate remaining chimichurri in an airtight container for up to 1 day.

Add steak and remaining 2 tablespoons oil to bag with chimichurri. Seal bag, and massage to distribute marinade. Refrigerate 4 to 12 hours.

Let steak stand at room temperature 30 minutes. Preheat grill to high (450 to 500 degrees). Remove steak from bag, and discard marinade. Sprinkle evenly with remaining 3/4 teaspoon salt.

Place steak on oiled grates, and grill, uncovered, turning occasionally, until an instant-read thermometer inserted into thickest portion of steak registers 125 degrees, 10 to 12 minutes.

Transfer to a cutting board; let rest 15 minutes. Slice steak against the grain, and serve with reserved chimichurri.

GRILLED CORN SALAD

4 ears fresh corn
4 tablespoon olive oil, divided
1 small (5 oz.) red bell pepper, finely chopped (about 3/4 cup)

1 small (5 oz.) zucchini, quartered and sliced 1/4-in. thick
1 large (1 1/2 oz.) shallot, finely chopped (about 1/4 cup)
1 large garlic clove, grated (about 1 teaspoon)
1/2 cup thinly sliced fresh basil
3 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 tsp black pepper
1/2 teaspoon black pepper

Preheat grill or grill pan to medium-high (400 to 450 degrees). Coat corn with 1 tablespoon of the olive oil.

Place corn on oiled grates; grill uncovered, turning occasionally, until grill marks form all over and corn is just tender, about 10 minutes.

Transfer to a cutting board, and let cool 5 minutes. Cut kernels from corn, and place in a large bowl.

Add bell pepper, zucchini, shallot, garlic, basil, vinegar, salt, pepper, and remaining 3 tablespoons olive oil to corn in bowl. Toss until evenly combined.

LEMONY WHITE BEAN SALAD WITH BROCCOLI

1 (16-oz.) pkg. fresh broccoli florets (7 cups florets)
1/2 cup plus 1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
1 teaspoon kosher salt, divided
1/2 teaspoon black pepper, divided
1/2 teaspoon lemon zest plus 1/4 cup fresh juice (from 2 lemons)
2 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
1 garlic clove, minced
1 tablespoon whole-grain mustard
1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
1/2 teaspoon honey
1 (15 1/2-oz.) can no-salt-added cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
4 cups baby arugula
1 cup thinly sliced red onion
1 ounce Parmesan cheese, shaved (about 1/2 cup)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees with oven rack 6 inches from heat. Toss together broccoli, 1 1/2 tablespoons of the oil, 1/2 teaspoon of the salt, and 1/4

teaspoon of the pepper in a large bowl. Spread broccoli in a single layer on a rimmed baking sheet. Roast in oven until just tender, 20 to 25 minutes.

Meanwhile, whisk together lemon zest and juice; parsley; garlic; mustard; vinegar; honey; and remaining 1/2 cup oil, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon pepper in a medium bowl. Set aside.

Increase oven temperature to broil; cook broccoli until slightly charred, 1 to 2 minutes. Cool about 5 minutes.

Combine broccoli, beans, baby arugula, and red onion in a large bowl. Toss with dressing; sprinkle with Parmesan.

GRILLED PEACHES WITH SPICED WHIPPED CREAM

1 cup heavy whipping cream
2 tablespoons confectioner's sugar
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1/8 teaspoon ground clove
1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
4 ripe peaches, halved and pitted
2 teaspoons olive oil
Pinch of salt
Sorghum syrup or honey (*optional*)
Garnish: Mint leaves (*optional*)

In small bowl, combine cream, cinnamon, nutmeg, clove, vanilla, and powdered sugar. Whisk with a hand mixer until medium peaks form. Chill while peaches grill.

Preheat grill to medium high. Brush peaches with olive oil on the flesh side, and sprinkle with salt. Place peaches flesh-side down on the preheated grill, close the lid, and cook for 5 to 6 minutes.

Top with whipped cream, and garnish with fresh mint, drizzled syrup or honey.

LEMON ICEBOX PIE

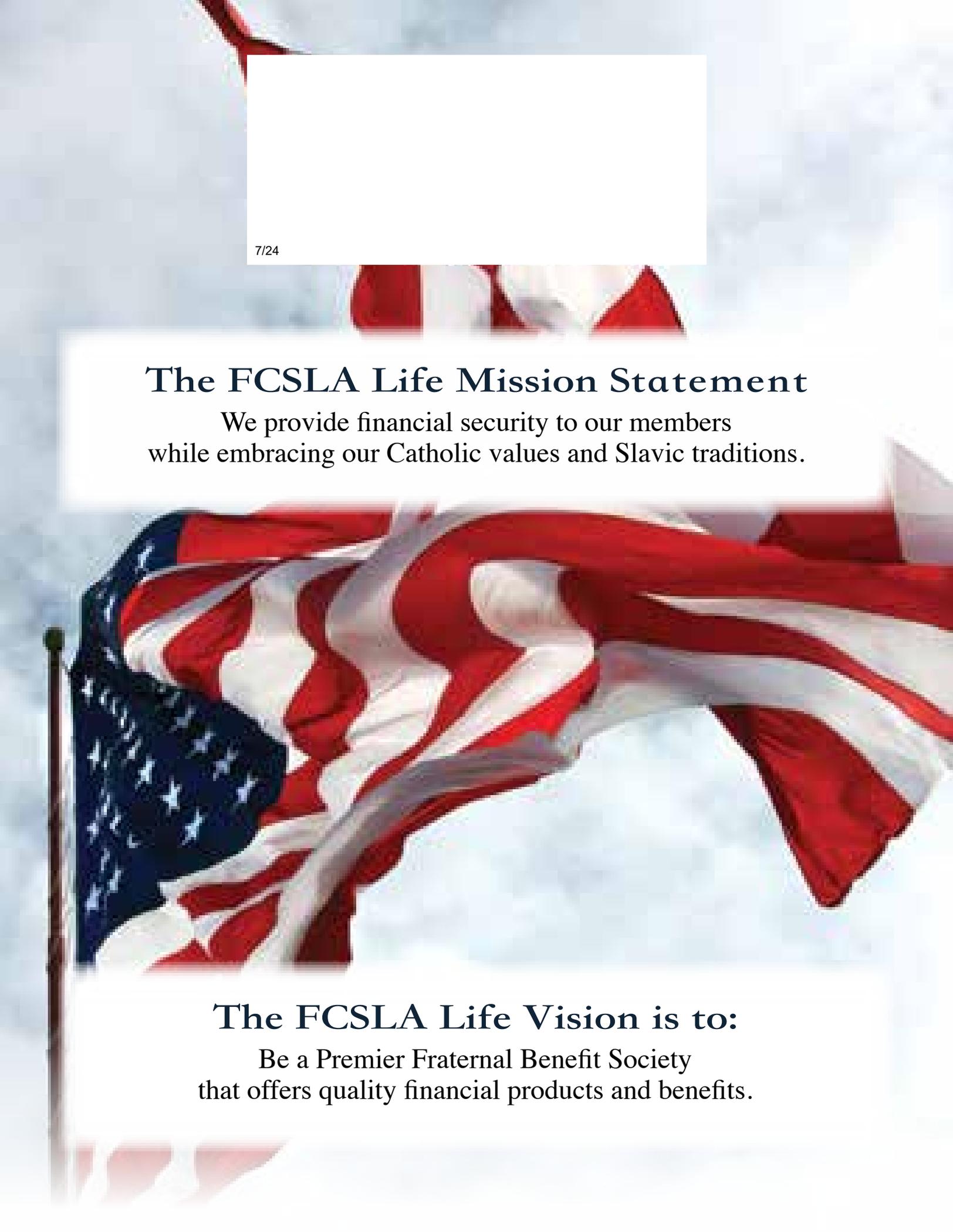
1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese, room temperature
1 (14 oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
2 tablespoon lemon zest (from 2 lemons), plus more for garnish
3/4 cup fresh lemon juice (from 6 lemons)
1 homemade or store-bought graham cracker crust
Whipped cream or frozen whipped topping, thawed, to serve

In a large bowl, combine cream cheese, sweetened condensed milk, lemon zest, and lemon juice.

Using an electric mixer on medium, mix until smooth.

Spread into pie crust and smooth top. Refrigerate for 7 hours (or until set).

Once the pie is set, top it with a layer of homemade whipped cream, and sprinkle with additional lemon zest, if desired.



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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.