

# Fraternally Yours®



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First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

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*Hark!  
the herald  
angels sing*

*Glory to the  
newborn  
King  
Peace on  
earth, and  
mercy mild  
God and  
sinners  
reconciled*

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



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## “What gift would I give Him?”

“Daddy, look the manger!” the young boy said.

“Is that Santa over there?” he asked pointing to one of the three wise men.

“No, son. They are the Three Kings bringing presents to Jesus.” Replied Dad.

“Christmas presents?”

“No. I guess you can say they are birthday presents. Remember we told you that Christmas is really our celebration of the birth of Jesus.”

The young boy paused for a moment seemingly satisfied with Dad's answer. Then, as children will do, asked the unanswerable question that warms your heart and often puts you in your place.

“Daddy, what are we giving Jesus for His birthday this year?”

Silence. Then drawing on the wisdom of the ages and the creative parental genes that make us what we are, Daddy said...“I don't know. Ask your Mom.”

They left right after that. Peace and quiet returned to this great sanctuary leaving me to think about what that child had to say. If I were there that sacred evening drawn by the light of the star of Bethlehem what gift would I offer Him?

I really had no idea. First, I can't begin to imagine kneeling before Him in the presence of Joseph and Mary. But gift from me to Jesus? What thing of value could I possibly give to my Lord?

This was a thought that overwhelmed me. I pride myself in having the ability to at least come up with options, choices for people who share their personal problems with me. But the thought of me having anything that Jesus would want brought tears of sadness for I felt I had nothing to offer Him.

So I did what the young child had done earlier. I turned to my Father and asked...“Oh, God what could I possibly offer your Son as a gift? I really have nothing of value.”

I sat quietly and totally oblivious to the world. A small voice inside my soul said “The same thing He had given you. His Life! Give Him your life. Not sacrificed on a cross. But lived to honor Him.”

(Bob Perks - 2005)

Dear Friends,

Here is my message to you celebrating the birth of Christ. The greatest gifts exchanged this Christmas Season will not be those found wrapped under your tree. The greatest gift of all, more valuable than gold, not traded on Wall Street is YOU!

You are the greatest of all gifts ever given to this world, your family, and your community. Your wealth is not in your bank account or in your earthly possessions, but rather in your actions, in your life, in your spirit as you live a positive, passion filled existence. That makes you valuable beyond measure.

My gift to you this Holiday is this message. Live your life in a way that allows others to see Christ in you – love the unlovely, freely forgive, live with joy, be less critical, be willing to be last not first, watch your words and show patience and understanding.

Until next month may this Christmas find you surrounded by those you love and those who love you.

Warmly, Carolyn

**Veselé Vianoce! Merry Christmas!**





# *Fifth Glorious Mystery:*

## THE CORONATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This month we conclude our reflections on the Holy Rosary. The Fifth Glorious Mystery, the last in the four sets of five Mysteries, is the Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The humble servant of the Lord who became the Mother of God is crowned the Queen of Heaven. The fruit most commonly associated with the Mystery of the Coronation is “grace of final perseverance.”

*“And a great portent appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars”* (Rev. 12:1). The twelve stars represent the twelve tribes

### PWAA Preservation Project Update

The preservation project of Polish Women’s Alliance of America records housed at the Women and Leadership Archives (WLA) at Loyola University Chicago has entered the next phase. The historical photographs, certificates, and ledgers previously sent to the Conservation Center in Chicago were safely returned to the WLA, and the digitized photographs and certificates can be viewed online through the WLA Digital Collections website. (Go directly to the PWAA Collection.) In addition to these conserved items, digitized issues of *Głos Polek* (1902-2007) can also be browsed online. (Go directly to *Głos Polek*.)

With the remaining funds from the project, the WLA will work with another specialist vendor to care for additional PWAA materials. Fragile and oversized ledgers from the early 20th century will receive conservation work and custom boxes. These specially made boxes will help protect and support the ledgers for many years to come.

The WLA is currently open by appointment. Contact the WLA at [wlarchives@luc.edu](mailto:wlarchives@luc.edu) or 773.508.8837 to schedule a visit to view other PWAA records in the archives.



of Israel, whose entire history led to the Annunciation, which is the first Joyful Mystery of the Rosary and the first reflection that was covered in these monthly articles on the Holy Rosary. Again we see the importance of Mary’s “Fiat,” of her consent to submit herself to the will of God when she had no idea what was in store for her. Mary most likely wondered where God’s plans for her might lead and whether she would be able to persevere. Yet Mary’s strong faith in the Lord never wavered and she persevered through not only the glorious events in the life of her Son, but also the heartaches and sorrows. God’s final gift to Mary in this life was the Assumption. Yet God had another gift to bestow upon her in the next life. God placed a crown upon Mary’s head making her the Queen of Heaven and Earth, her rightful place for her “Fiat.” Not only did we see Mary’s strong faith in accepting God’s plan at the time of the Annunciation, but also at the time of the Visitation, the Nativity, and throughout the life of her holy Son, in the end accepting the sorrow of Christ’s Crucifixion and death.

Pope Pius IX explained: “More than all the angels and all the saints has God ineffable freely endowed Mary with the fullness of the heavenly gifts that abound in the divine treasury; and she, preserving herself ever immaculately clean from the slightest taint of sin, attained a fullness of innocence and holiness so great as to be unthinkable apart from God himself, a fullness that no one other than God will ever possess.”

Not only is Mary bestowed the honor of Queen of Heaven, she is the Queen of the Rosary. The Rosary is our way of communicating with God as we remember all the sorrows, joys and glories of Jesus Christ. In praying the Rosary and all of the Mysteries, we reflect and meditate on our faith. When we pray the Joyful Mysteries we pray for the strength to accept God’s plans for us as Mary did. When we pray the Sorrowful Mysteries we pray for the strength to remain faithful in the face of great suffering. In the Luminous Mysteries we pray for the strength to live according to Jesus’ teachings. And in the Glorious Mysteries we pray for the strength to live for our eventual resurrection and judgment.

With Advent upon us, we have once again come to the end of a liturgical year and begin to joyfully anticipate the anniversary of the birth of Jesus. As we reflect upon the events and experiences of the past year, may we during this Holy Season turn to our faith and to prayer in anticipation of a better future filled with the peace and hope that comes from keeping our hearts open to the love of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. My wish for you as we enter this season is that you have a holy Advent that leads to a joyful Christmas.

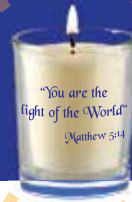
**Veselé Vianocce! Merry Christmas!**

**Glory to God in the Highest!**



# Message from our National President

## CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Hello, fellow members,

December is a time of many holiday gatherings and family get togethers. This year will be the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are hopeful that some gatherings will be held in a scaled down version, in order to respect each other's health and safety.

It is now very fashionable to talk about and display cultural diversity. At our society, we have been proud of our cultural roots since our very beginnings. We are seeing a resurgence in sales of our famous Slovak-American cookbook, a treasure trove of tried and favorite recipes. It appears that many across our country crave authentic recipes memorialized from our past and still used today.

Many of us will prepare our version of "Vilija Supper" (Wigilia in Polish) for Christmas Eve.

Our Christmas Eve Vilija Supper has evolved over the years. The ones embedded into the memory of my childhood are probably the most authentic, as Baba and Dzede emigrated from then Czecho-Slovakia (the Slovak section) in the 1920s.

It was imperative that we arrived before 6:00 pm., or at the arrival of the First Star. Dzede always ventured outside to shoot a gun into the sky. Dressed in our best, we sat down in the dining room, where the best china of the day was set on a white tablecloth. Dzede entered a long greeting in Slovak, ending in a wine toast for everyone. The youngest child went to everyone present, and with oplatek dipped in honey, made a sign of the Cross on everyone's forehead, to welcome Jesus into our hearts and homes. An empty place setting was placed at one place for a welcome stranger. Our Baba served a clear, tart dried mushroom soup, tinged with a little sauerkraut, and then we had three kinds of bolbalky: poppy seed, sauerkraut and dried cottage cheese. After these main

courses, homemade nut and poppy seed rolls and bread, with copious amounts of butter, were passed around, with applies, nuts and hot coffee for the adults.

This meal was intended to be meager, so we could continue our preparation for the Christ Child. Gifts were distributed to the children. After midnight Mass, grown ups looked forward to middle of this Holy Night servings of ham, kolbassi and homemade bread. The Jasliskare would visit house to house, singing Christmas carols during this holy time.

It was a joyous, relaxing and warm occasion, filled with love, sharing and hope for all of us and for all in the world. We are so fortunate to experience this beautiful, simple and loving Vilija Supper!

Merry Christmas to all of you!

Cynthia

## FCSLA Annuity Rates

Rates for our deferred Elite Annuities:

SILVER ELITE (5 YEAR)

**2.65% APY\***

GOLD ELITE (7 YEAR)

**2.90% APY\***

PLATINUM ELITE (10 YEAR)

**3.15% APY\***

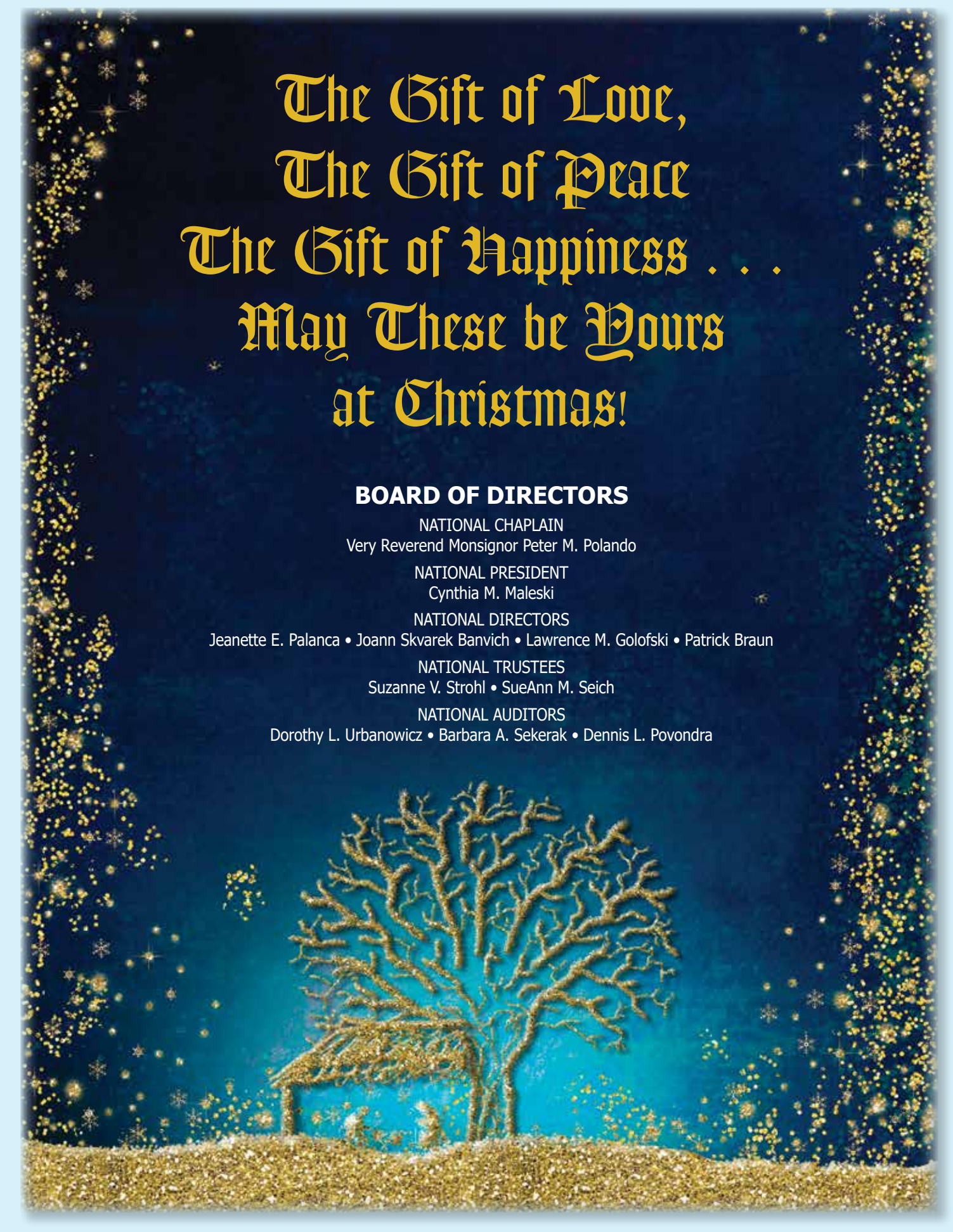
**\*This rate is in effect 10/1/2021 thru 12/31/2021**

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

The guaranteed rates are:

Elite Silver (5 year) 2.00% APY • Elite Gold (7 year) 2.00% APY  
Elite Platinum (10 year) 2.00% APY





# The Gift of Love, The Gift of Peace The Gift of Happiness . . . May These be Hours at Christmas!

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# 2022 Preview and Review of FCSLA Life Products

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

2021 is just about over. If you're like me, you are thinking 'wow that went fast!' But we can look forward to 2022 and the promise of a new year and new possibilities.

Now is a good time to review some of the great life insurance and annuity products FCSLA Life offers as well as provide a preview of new products coming next year.

Life Insurance is a unique product. It isn't something we can touch, taste, or feel and yet it is one of the most valuable items we can own. It protects our families from financial hardship or devastation in the event of the death of parent, it can protect business owners in the same manner. Life Insurance can also leave a loving legacy for future generations.

FCSLA Life offers life insurance products that may fit your financial protection needs or help you leave a legacy for loved ones. Additionally, when purchasing life insurance or annuity products from FCSLA Life the insured becomes a member of our fraternal organization and can enjoy the valuable fraternal benefits available to members.

Let's review the products currently available at FCSLA Life:

**WHOLE LIFE:** Whole Life is a permanent type of policy designed to last a lifetime. Whole Life builds cash value on a tax-deferred basis inside the policy. This can be accessed by loan or surrender of the policy.

FCSLA Life has several Whole Life options to choose from:

**Single Premium Whole Life** – this policy offers a one time premium payment. It is a great option for gifting life insurance to children or grandchildren. It is also a very efficient way to transfer wealth to the next generation or charity.

**10 Pay Whole Life** – This policy has similar uses to the Single Premium Whole life but allows you to pay in premium over 10 years instead of all at once. In addition to gifting and wealth transfer this policy works well for individuals that want to have their life insurance fully paid up by a certain time, such as by retirement or some other life milestone.

**Lifetime Pay Whole Life** – This Whole life policy requires premium payments for the rest of the insured's life. For those that are looking for the lowest annual premium this would be a good choice.

**Term Insurance:** Term Insurance is usually purchased to cover temporary financial obligations such as a mortgage, business loan or having family coverage while children are young.

FCSLA Life offers two types of term policies:

**20 YEAR LEVEL TERM** – the coverage amounts available on this policy are from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

**NEXT GEN TERM** – this policy is designed for children and young adults up to age 23. At age 30 the insured has an option to convert this policy to a permanent (Whole Life) policy.

**ANNUITIES** – FCSLA annuities offer competitive rates and are simple and easy to understand. There are several great annuity options to choose from that may fit your needs.

## **NEW PRODUCTS IN 2022 –**

FCSLA Life will be introducing a 20 Pay Whole Life and a Term series featuring 10, 15, 20 and 30 year term products in 2022. These offerings will help to diversify the FCSLA Life portfolio to offer you even more choices to fit your needs.

*Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to providing you more excellent life insurance options in 2022!*

For more information please contact:

**John Gonsiorek** – FCSLA Life Regional Sales Manager for the Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Region – 716-480-4550

[John.Gonsiorek@fcsla.com](mailto:John.Gonsiorek@fcsla.com)

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[Jim.Morsovillo@fcsla.com](mailto:Jim.Morsovillo@fcsla.com)

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[Amy.Hull@fcsla.com](mailto:Amy.Hull@fcsla.com)

**Paul Smithers** – FCSLA Life National Sales Manager - 216-468-1018

[Paul.Smithers@fcsla.com](mailto:Paul.Smithers@fcsla.com)



## More than \$287,000 in Scholarship Awards!



FCSLA Life is pleased to announce its **2022-23 Scholarship Program**. 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 8, 2022.  
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

## 2022-2023 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.**

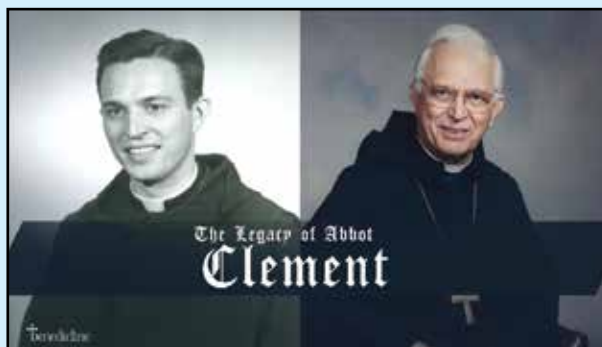


## Cleveland District Participates in the Annual Abbey Benefit

The Annual Abbey Benefit to sponsor the Benedictine Monks of Saint Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, OH was held on October 2, 2021. The honoree for this year was the late Abbot Clement Zelenik, OSB, who was the fifth abbot of Saint Andrew Abbey. He entered into eternal rest on May 3, 2021 at the age of 89.

The following are members from the Cleveland District who served on the committee for the benefit: Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB, Marie A. Golias, Richard and Sandra Kraft, Joyce Lechman, John and Jeanne Sabol and Barbara Sekerak.

FCSLA mem-



bers were instrumental in organizing the gift baskets for the Slovak Auction and the Silent Auction. Several FCSLA members were in attendance.

After being in a different location the last few years, the benefit returned "home" to Assumption Parish in Broadview Heights, which is run by the Benedictine Monks of Saint Andrew Abbey.

There was a 4:00 p.m. mass, followed by appetizers, dinner and program. A video that paid tribute to Abbot Clement and his service to the priesthood was shown and can be found on their website if anyone is interested in viewing it. He was a priest for 67 years.

Next year the Benedictine Monks will be celebrating 100 years in Cleveland, OH. This event will take place on September 18, 2022. Details of the event are to be announced.



## Fraternal Societies of NEPA Donate to Domestic Violence Service Center

As part of their Make-A-Difference Day Project, the Fraternal Societies of Northeast Pennsylvania presented a donation to the Domestic Violence Service Center (DVSC) at the October meeting held at the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union Home Office in Wilkes-Barre. The donation was an assortment of items including household items, bed linens, towels, small appliances, hats/gloves, health and hygiene products. All of the items will be used by the residents of DVSC's emergency shelter and transitional housing unit.

The Fraternal Societies of Northeast Pennsylvania (FSNEPA), a not-for-profit trade association, unites local leaders of fraternal benefit societies of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Members include: First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Greek Catholic Union of the USA, Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, Polish National Union of America, National Slovak Society, Slovak Catholic Sokol and the First Catholic Slovak Union. At the donation presentation, from left: John Andrzejewski, Mary Jo Savidge, Anna Hudock, Tammy Rodgers, Domestic Violence Service Center, Theresa Kluchinski; Martha Zavada and Jacqueline Barkus.

Representatives at the meeting from First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association were Anna Hudock, treasurer of the Magdalen I. Iskra District and Jacqueline Barkus, trustee of the Magdalen I. Iskra District.





Find Out:  
**WHAT'S NEW  
IN '22!**





## SSCM Bestows Servant Leadership Award

On October 24, 2021, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA awarded the Servant Leadership Award to 27 outstanding high school juniors and seniors from the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA and the Diocese of Scranton, PA. The ceremony took place at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville. Since 2003, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius have honored nearly 1,300 teens in the Dioceses of Albany (NY), Bridgeport (CT), Charleston (SC), Chicago (IL), Gary (IN), Harrisburg (PA), Milwaukee (WI), Pittsburgh (PA), Scranton (PA), St. Louis (MO), Stratford (CT), Syracuse (NY), and Trenton (NJ) with the Servant Leadership Award.

The Servant Leadership Award recognizes distinguished high school juniors and seniors who are joyful witnesses, compassionate proclaimers, and enthusiastic builders of the Kingdom of God. The focus of the award is on teens who remain active in their faith and parish beyond Confirmation, and who are active in their parish, school and community.

Receiving the award were: Theresa Amarante, Coyla Bartholomew, Kenneth Battistelli, Jonathan Bauer, John Brokenshire, Caleb Cackowski, Antonio Centenera, Emma Currie, Sam Elsen, David Friedenberg, Olivia Hinkson, Stanley G. Hodder, Shane Holcombe, Ryan Kerris, Matthew Earl Nawn, Anthony Petrick, James Redmond, Jack Riley, Robert F. Root, Isaac Joseph Roth, Julien Bernard Stellar, Ynhu Tran, Isabella Trujillo, Hailey Wick-enheiser, Zaida Witkowski, Hannah Yucha, and Jacob Thomas Sebastian Zarski.

Each teen was given the opportunity to select one person as a mentor who has encouraged them to generously use their time and talents as a follower of Jesus. The mentors selected were parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches, youth ministers, scout leaders, Deacons, Sisters and Priests, who have been role models for the teens. Mentors recognized by the teens have made a difference in their lives by modeling servant leadership as a way of life in their family, parish, and community.

During the ceremony the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius also honored four adults who received the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award in the ministries of Evangelization, Education, Elder Care and Ecumenism. Father Jankola was a priest from the Diocese of Scranton who was instrumental in recognizing the need for Religious Sisters to educate children, and founded the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in 1909.

The 2020 Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Awards went to:

### Evangelization — Sister M. Canice Adams, SS.C.M.

Sister Canice Adams lives well the words St. Francis of Assisi is often quoted as having said, "Preach the Gospel always. Use words when necessary." She has preached the Gospel by both word and deed in many ways. As an educator for nearly 5 decades, she first inspired students, teachers, school staff, and parents when she was a teacher both in private and Catholic schools and in parish religious education programs. Later, she led Catholic schools as a principal and as a South Carolina statewide superintendent. As superintendent, she made sure that principals had annual retreats and initiated special days of recollection for school secretaries and bookkeepers. Then, as now, Sister Canice is known for the hours she spends listening and offering wise counsel to children, parents, grandparents, parishioners, and volunteers.

After her decades as an educator, Sister Canice took on leadership of the St. Francis Center at St. Helena Island, South Carolina as co-director. In that role she serves a diverse population of native Sea Islanders, migrants, and people displaced by domestic violence or loss of homes and jobs. The St. Francis Center provides food and clothing; oversees and provides materials for home repairs for seniors and persons with disabilities; offers tuition assistance to elementary through college students; and helps adults attain literacy.

One of the very first things Sister Canice did when the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius took on leadership of the Saint Francis Center in 2013 was to set aside room for a chapel. Many people have come to pray and reflect there at turning points in their lives. A host of volunteers and supporters have been attracted to this mission, including not only local Catholic parishioners and lay associates of the Sisters, but also area Protestant pastors and parishioners who have seen the mission in action and invited Sister Canice to speak on behalf of "the least of our brothers and sisters" to their various congregations. Volunteers and donors from as far away as Pennsylvania and Connecticut have joined in support of the mission. Sister Canice's noteworthy example of "teaching as Jesus did" led the South Carolina state Notre Dame Club to honor her, and the South Carolina Knights of Columbus to bestow their Catholicism Award on her. Sister Canice also received papal honors: the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Award from Pope Benedict XVI for her lifelong commitment to "missionary discipleship."

### Education — Reverend Ray Carey

Reverend Raymond Carey has served over fifty years as a dedicated diocesan priest for the Archdiocese of Portland, OR. He is recognized in vocation ministry as a brilliant teacher who has an extraordinary lifetime of experience devoted to teaching behavioral assessment skills regarding candidates to Religious Life. Rev. Carey holds a doctorate in clinical psychology



Rabbi Daniel Swartz (center) received the Lifetime Servant Leadership Award for Ecumenism, and Denise Toczylousky (right) received the Lifetime Servant Leadership Award for Elder Care from the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, presented by Sister Barbara Sable, SS.C.M., General Superior (left).



## to Outstanding High School Juniors and Seniors

from the University of Ottawa, Canada, and has taught at both the secondary and university levels, and presently teaches at Mount Angel Seminary Graduate School of Theology in St. Benedict, OR. Since 1978 he has impacted countless lives through his workshops throughout North America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. He annually teaches the three-day "Behavioral Assessment" workshop, and the two-day "Ethical Issues in Vocation and Formation Ministry" workshop at the National Religious Vocation Conference Summer Institute. The whole premise of the behavioral approach is to think in terms of "learnings and skills" rather than psychological traits or personality characteristics. Students who have benefitted from his workshops continue to apply what they have learned not only to their work with candidates to Religious Life, but to their ministries in parish life and in their own personal life.

Reverend Carey, is a life-long learner and constant teacher, inspiring those around him to stretch and grow as competent ministers. He teaches using stories that touch the heart deeply in bringing to light complicated issues, always insisting on living the Gospel values. As a lifelong servant leader, he preaches through his words and actions that the Church is in service of the coming of the Kingdom of God; that the Church is the whole People of God; and that the mission of the People of God includes service to human needs in the social, political and economic orders as well as preaching the Word and celebrating the sacraments.

### Elder Care — Denise Toczylousky

Denise Toczylousky has served as Event/Activities Coordinator for the Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community Since 1998. Her dedication, sincerity, and kindness offer a warm welcome to residents and their families at the Meadows and Nazareth Memory Center in Danville, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius.

Elder Care requires patience and flexibility, an ability to think of possibilities rather than limitations, which Denise has demonstrated over a lifetime as a servant leader. Denise is generous in sharing her skills, especially during this time of uncertainty in the pandemic. Her generosity has widened her impact by being present with and among the staff and residents at a time with personnel shortages, family visitor limitations, and an uncertain spread of the contagious COVID virus. During this most challenging time, Denise continued to serve and lead with compassion, joy, and enthusiasm.

Denise Toczylousky envisions hospitality with a wide heart to provide countless ways to celebrate and make new memories. While it would be much easier to stay safely inside by making phone calls and mailing greeting cards, Denise embarked on



Juniors and Seniors who received Student Leadership Awards.

innovative ways to reach the Meadows residents from a distance, with parking lot bingos, happy hour carts, and other ways to keep connected while following safety precautions.

She makes a difference in the lives of so many with her creative spirit, and her enthusiasm.

### Ecumenism — Rabbi Daniel Swartz

Rabbi Daniel Swartz has served as the spiritual leader of Temple Hesed in Wilkes Barre, PA since 2006. His love for the teaching of Jewish traditions, history, and thought is well known, but he also loves the Earth and all God's creation. Rabbi Daniel is dedicated to the task of Tikkun Olam (repairing our world) and is very well versed in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato si'*. He has offered his love of the earth to many interfaith groups including the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, presenting a workshop to our entire Community. In addition to his ordination and Masters of Hebrew Letters from Hebrew Union College, Rabbi Daniel holds degrees from Brown University in Geological Sciences and in Environmental Policy, both with highest honors. He has received numerous academic honors, including prizes in Scholarship and Scholastic Excellence from the Hebrew Union College, the Senior Prize in Environmental Studies from Brown, and election to both Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi.

This month Rabbi Daniel traveled to Rome as part of an international, interfaith group and met with Pope Francis. The Vatican invited only 50 people from around the world; 40 religious leaders, which included Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist and Hindu leaders and 10 scientists, to participate in a summit "Faith and Science: Towards COP26" on October 4. Rabbi Daniel and the other group members had been working since December to put together a new declaration on climate change which was presented to the United Nations at their climate conference November 1-12 in Glasgow, Scotland. The group has met frequently online, discussing how religion and environmental policy can intersect, discussing what our different faith traditions from around the globe had to say about our responsibility to each other, to our common home, and to action on climate change. Rabbi Daniel was one of only a few Americans invited, and one of only two Rabbis. He entered this challenge with great hope, stating, "Hope is the belief that if you work hard enough, it can get better. And that's something faiths have carried since religion was invented – that possibility of hope. And so, we really want to preach hope to the world," Rabbi Daniel's group of religious leaders and scientists called climate change a moral issue, stressing the importance of education and the crucial role of religious traditions in bringing about an ecological conversion among all people.



## Branch S11 Participates in Community Day Event

On August 14, 2021, Life Branch S11 officers, Kristina Menke and Jim Deak, along with many other branch members, participated in the West Homestead Community Day Event, as well as, the 2021 West Homestead VFD Annual Fund Drive. Branch S11 was proud to represent FCSLA Life at this event and honored to meet many of the hardworking volunteer firefighters of West Homestead, PA.



## Shirley & Donald Caserta Celebrates 50 Years

Shirley (Tomcko) and Donald Caserta celebrated 50 years of marriage on Saturday, September 25. They were originally married at St. Benedict's Church in Cleveland, OH by the now Bishop Roger Gries, in 1971. They have three children and five grandchildren, many of whom are active members of FCSLA. Donald has owned and operated a small painting company, A. Caserta Inc., throughout their married life. Shirley worked for the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland for many years and now works for the Ursuline Sisters as their payroll administrator. Donald is a member of S009 Buffalo, NY.

To celebrate the joyous occasion, they renewed their vows at the 4:00 Mass at Our Lady of Peace Church in Cleveland, which was presided by Fr. Gary Chmura. They then had a reception for many family and friends with dinner and dancing. They are very thankful for the many blessings in their life, and look forward to many more to come.



## FCSLA Life Branch S114 Christmas Party & Meeting on December 19

St. Ann Lodge Branch S114 in Lorain, OH will hold their Annual Meeting and Christmas Party on Sunday, December 19 at 1:00 p.m. 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 or email Marge Thomas at [mug-sann@gmail.com](mailto:mug-sann@gmail.com). Due to the threat of Covid-19 causing cancellations, please leave a contact phone number. Deadline for reservations is December 15th. Hope you will join us.





## Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal Update

Thank you to all Branches, Districts and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association who made a donation to the 43rd Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. The final totals will not be known for a few weeks, but **as of October 15, 2021, the Appeal has raised \$23,521.49 from 211 donors.** Money raised goes to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day to day operations.

A solicitation for the 44th Annual Appeal is being prepared and will be mailed sometime in January. This mailing is sent to members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, clergy with Slovak ancestry, Branches and Districts of Slovak Catholic fraternal societies, and previous donors. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you everyone for your continued generosity and support.

Any member of the FCSLA who wishes to donate to the 2021 Appeal is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mail 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. **The 44th Annual Appeal runs from December 1, 2021 to November 30, 2022. Gifts received after November 30, 2021 will be credited toward the 2022 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. Hvozdivic, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harvey's Lake, PA and Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Parochial Vicar with Senior Priest status at Our Lady of Grace Parish, Pennel, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.*

### 43rd Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## Branches S23 and J130 Hold Multi-Function Event

FCSLA Life Branches S23 and J130 had a lot to pack into their September 2021 event at the beautiful Golden Mast Restaurant on the shores of Okauchee Lake, WI. There was a delicious brunch, an annual meeting, door prizes, matching funds activity, scholarship presentation and, most of all, a lot of fun and friendship.



## Calendar of Events Branch W093, Tabor, SD

**December 5** – St. Nick Christmas Party, Noon Potluck, cookie exchange, meeting, honor 50 year members and "Fraternalist of the Year", honor our scholarship winners, games and refreshments in Beseda Hall, Tabor, SD. Members, family and all parishoners are invited to potluck and all activities. Bring a dish to share. Branch will supply coffee and juice.

**January 9, 2022** – Election of officers meeting after Mass Potluck Brunch. Monthly meetings and locations subject to change (also, subject to Covid conditions). Any questions call Secretary Joyce Sestak at 605-463-2268.



# Inspiration for Mothers Day to Match Funds for the Infirmary

*By Frank & Janet (Gaydos) Berkemeier*

When sisters-in-law Milly Gaydos Roth (Westlake, OH) and Geri Hovanec Gaydos (Elkhart, IN) turned 90 in 2020, they were still proud lifelong FCSLA members. Over the years, both ladies had developed lasting friendships with Milly's cousin, Ron Rusnak from OH, now Fr. Anton, who lives at the Abbey of Gethsemane at the Trappist Monastery in Kentucky.

I first met this cousin of mine, Ron Rusnak, 23 years ago when our family drove down to Kentucky to witness him becoming a Trappist monk at the age of 55. Ron took the name Brother Anton. Five years later in June, 2003, we were invited again, but this time to Brother Anton's ordination to become a Trappist priest, so our family drove down again to witness Brother Anton becoming Father Anton! Several years later, Fr. Anton developed leukemia and was sent to the Jewish Hospital in Louisville, was eventually healed and has been in remission ever since.

Fr. Anton just turned 83. Some of his jobs at the Abbey

of Gethsemane have been Guest Master for the retreatants, computer analyst, Elections supervisor and now Secretary to the Abbott. He, like every monk, takes his turn at peeling potatoes, as cook and bottle washer. He usually doesn't bake the bread, make bourbon fudge or fruitcake, but he enjoys tasting all of them!

When Fr. Anton heard of Milly's idea to raise funds for the Abbey, Fr. Anton suggested any contributions go directly to the Infirmary for immediate care to the 40 infirmed monks / priests. Fr. Anton tied Mother's Day to a gift that members of FCSLA, his friends and family might make to the Abbey Infirmary. During the month of May, Fr. Anton offered mass intentions for all those who participated in this endeavor, for the mothers, and their mothers, both living and deceased. Fr. Anton was overjoyed and impressed with the generosity. FCSLA matched the \$2,500 donated to the Infirmary with \$2,400 for a total of \$4,900.



**Milly Gaydos Roth, aunt of Janet Berkemeier, who had the idea of the matching funds. Milly has been a lifetime member of FCSLA.**



**Pictured in 2003, Janet Gaydos Berkemeier with her parents John and Geraldine Gaydos, Fr. Anton Rusnak, and Janet's husband Frank Berkemeier.**



**On his Ordination in 2003, Fr. Anton stands next the the Frank and Janet Berkemeier family with children Franz, Gretche, Andrea, Henry and Geraldine.**



**In 2019, Janet Gaydos Berkemeier and her mom, Geri Gaydos making a visit to the Abbey of Gethsemane to visit Fr Anton.**



# The 2021 Virtual Slovak Heritage Festival

On Sunday, November 7, 2021, 1:00 p.m., the Slovak Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh hosted their Slovak Heritage Festival virtually. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 concerns this year, the festival was virtual again and live streamed on Facebook and YouTube.

The University of Pittsburgh is the only university in the United States where students can take Slovak language and culture classes and opt to receive a Minor in Slovak Studies. The Slovak Studies Program has welcomed students, professors, and employees from universities across the greater Pittsburgh area.

30 years ago the Slovak Studies Program and Slovak



Student Club at the University of Pittsburgh came together to celebrate the program with an annual cultural heritage festival.

The festival is the second largest Slovak festival in North America and the only festival to include an academic component. During the festival attendees regularly attend lectures and films about Slovak history, language, culture and genealogy.

Lyon Zeibak, the festival director, said that this year's virtual festival would be different. "We knew if we had to do it virtually again we'd have to do

it differently. Most of the staples you normally see or learn about at our festival were covered last year and are archived for everyone to watch for years to come." remarked Zeibak.

Zeibak said that this year's virtual festival includes a lecture on Slovak last names. Festival watchers were able to submit their last names over social media to possibly have their names featured in the lecture. There was also a lecture on Slovak Immigration and life in Braddock, PA as a case study of Slovak Immigration and assimilation into American life. This year's virtual festival also has more segments for kids. The festival was narrated by Pittsburgh's WQED's Rick Sebak.

You can watch the festival on it's Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/SlovakHeritageFestival/](http://www.facebook.com/SlovakHeritageFestival/)

Or it's YouTube channel:  
[www.youtube.com/c/SlovakHeritageFestival/](http://www.youtube.com/c/SlovakHeritageFestival/)

## John & Geraldine GAYDOS Scholarship Winner for 2021-2022 is Adam R. Saric

Adam Saric (S456) Denver, CO, is a rising Senior in Finance at Western Carolina in Cullowhee, CO studying Finance, with a concentration in Corporate Banking and hopes of becoming an investment banker or Certified Financial Planner. Adam spends quite a bit of time volunteering making sandwiches with the Box City for the Homeless, Campus Life where he assists the younger students in their faith formation, assisting at mass, Lake Norman litter pickup, Honors College tutoring for Beta Club and organizing 911 Memorial Services. Living in the mountains of North Carolina, Adam volunteered to perform routine maintenance on hiking trails.



Adam said proudly, "The Slavic Culture has influenced my life from the time I was very young. Some of my earliest memories are the Slavic celebrations at my grandparents house. My paternal grandfather had a room in his home full of colorful costumes from his native Croatia. The joyful sound of Slavic music, the prayers before the meal, starting every holiday meal with a delicious soup, and the many pastries on every visit. On my mother's [Slovak] side are the traditions of the Blessed Advent Candle, the specialness of midnight mass, the strudel, the beautiful glass Christmas ornaments from my great grandmother, the Holy Christmas Wafers..."

## Congratulations!

## 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.



# REPORT OF THE FCSLA LIFE NATIONAL TREASURER

## BALANCE SHEET AS OF JULY 31, 2021

### ASSETS

Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 27,763,643
Bonds	1,039,361,373
Preferred Stock	2,264,822
Common Stock	8,669,093
Investment Income Due & Accrued	15,452,975
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	4,681,243
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,973,688
Other Assets	756,469
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,100,923,305</b>

### LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 304,561,749
Annuity Reserves	661,819,639
Death Claims Payable	2,889,052
Unearned Premiums	469,111
Matured Endowments	385,891
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,400,000
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,937,378
Accrued Convention Donations	275,000
Provision for Future Conventions	323,131
Asset Valuation Reserve	12,714,395
Interest Maintenance Reserve	239,951
Other Liabilities	1,896,079
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 991,911,375</b>
Surplus	\$ 109,011,930
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS FUNDS</b>	<b>\$ 1,100,923,305</b>

## INCOME STATEMENT

For the Seven Months Ending July 31, 2021

### REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 3,456,855
Annuity Premiums	42,042,381
Investment Income	29,245,841
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	33,269
Rental Income	221,407
Other Revenue	17,817
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 75,017,570</b>

### EXPENSE

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 1,767,749
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	34,204,690
Insurance Benefits	5,091,377
Annuity Benefits	21,947,195
Commission Expense	1,352,493
Surrender Benefits	2,309,225
Matured Endowments	27,547
Interest Expense	268,189
Salaries — Employees	426,536
Tax Expense	33,472
Underwriting Expense	42,437
<b>LIFE AND ANNUITY EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 67,470,911</b>

### Revenue Less Life and Annuity Expenses

Bank Service Charges	\$ 7,546,659
Data Processing Service Fees	104,001
Accounting Fees	159,346
Actuarial Fees	135,636
Legal Fees	185,211
Consulting Fees	17,099
Employee Benefits	42,406
Fees — Directors	406,086
Salaries — Employees	109,768
Salaries — Officers	856,883
Temporary Office Expenses	350,151
Tax Expense	13,252
Depreciation Expense	109,580
Utility Expense	144,613
Postage and Printing	67,858
Advertising & Marketing	118,604
Travel Expense	57,610
Insurance Department Fees	16,662
Sales Expense	67,426
Rental Expense	80,278
Building Expense	221,407
Insurance Expense	85,510
Office Equipment & Supplies Expense	33,878
Dues & Subscriptions	84,774
Human Resources	39,788
Other Expense	32,955
<b>SALES &amp; OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 3,555,052</b>

### Revenue Less Sales & Operating Expenses

Post Mortem Benefits	\$ 3,991,607
Misc. Member Benefits	960,870
Donation Expenses	48,889
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	51,274
Convention Expenses	87,500
Branch and District Funding	98,770
Fraternal Activities	420,291
Official Publications	40,251
Scholarship Awards	315,682
<b>DIRECT FRATERNAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 2,256,977</b>

### Income (Loss) from Operations

Dividends to Members	\$ 1,734,630
<b>Subtotal Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 823,770</b>
Capital Gains (Loss)	\$ 910,860
<b>NET INCOME (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 348,595</b>

## MATCHING FUNDS



The Heun Ladies Guild has been sewing tea towels for many years. They have participated in many craft shows. They are helping with the Howells Community Catholic School fundraiser and with the FCSLA Life W006 matching grant. Back row: Linda Cech, Annette Sayers, Marvine Koliha. Middle row: Lois Sindelar, Kathleen Lodi. Front row: Marguerite Brodecky, Mae Verba.



Pictured are the participants helping with the Howells Community Catholic School fundraiser and with the FCSLA Life W006 matching grant. Back row: Annette Sayers, Linda Cech, and Marvine Koliha. Front row: Members of FCSLA and students of Howells Community Catholic School: Harper Mastny, Lynkin Mastny, Aiden Mastny; Students of HCCS: Reagan Bayer, Addison Heard, Emerson Coufal.





## **FCSLA**Life **Slovak-American Cook Book**

Thank you for your inquiry about our Slovak-American Cookbook. The Slovak American Cookbook still contains your favorite traditional Slovak recipes that were first published in the original edition over a half of century ago. We are proud to say with over a quarter million sold, the cookbook is in it's 26th printing. FCSLA Life offers the cookbook as one of the ways we promote and preserve our Slovak heritage and culture among our members and community.

The cookbook sells for \$9.00 each, shipping only to the 48 contiguous states. Make payable to: FCSLA Life. Please do not send cash. We do not ship books C.O.D.

Individual book orders will ship via media mail (3rd class). Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. If you would like your order to ship 1st class for quicker delivery, please add to your order cost \$1.00 for each book shipped. If your order is for a full carton of cookbooks, the carton will be shipped via FedEx and will arrive in 1-2 weeks.

*Fraternally Yours,*

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

**\$9.<sup>00</sup>**



Please call (800) 464-4642 x1080 with any questions.

Please send:

\_\_\_\_\_ Cookbooks @ \$9.00 ea U.S. funds, shipping only to the 48 contiguous states \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Cartons of 18 Cookbooks @ \$144.00 per carton \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Ordered by (if different than Mail to): \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose check or money order and mail this order form to:

**FCSLA Life - Attention: Cookbook Department • 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122**



# MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

## Pittsburgh District

### Superstar & Specialty Basket Event

On August 5, 6 and 7, 2021, the Pittsburgh District participated in the Superstar and Specialty Basket portion of Saints Joachim and Anne Parish Festival in Liberty Boro, PA. The preparation for the basket event goes on for the better part of the year under the direction of Cathy Esack, Festival Facilitator. As a result, the festival gives 75 baskets per night, all three nights, with the Superstar baskets being given on the last night. District members enjoyed great food, dance bands and camaraderie.



Front to back: Judy Fedor, District President; Cassie Fedor, branch S077, Cathy Esack, Festival Facilitator, Marian Gatto, District Financial Secretary and Father Tom Wagner, Sts. Joachim and Ann Parish.



## Branch W016

### Autumn Brunch Proceeds

On October 31, 2021, Branch W016 held a FCSLA Life Matching Grant project for the benefit of the Brainard Community Club.

Members of both groups worked together to plan and carry out the event. Over 100 diners were served a delicious Autumn Brunch. The menu included a variety of baked souflés, hash browns, a fruit cup, homemade bakery, and coffee.

Carry out, drive through and dine in was offered because of the pandemic.



Sit down diners at the Benefit for the Brainard Community Club.



Preparations for serving the brunch, carry out and dine in meals served.



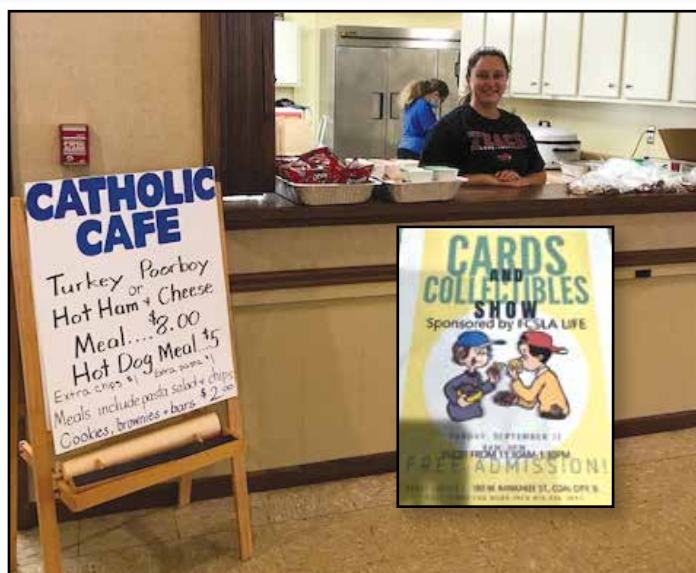


# MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

## Branches S53 & J83

### Cards & Collectibles Show

Joliet, IL Life Branches S53 and J83 partnered with Assumption Catholic Church on September 12, 2021 to present an all town Cards & Collectibles Show. Over 200 adults and kids came through to visit the vendors of comic books, coins and sports memorabilia, or to enjoy lunch at the Catholic Cafe and participate in the raffles. Senior branch members were on site distributing FCSLA Life brochures and supplying quotes to prospective new members. Multiple members of both branches are pictured. FCSLA sponsored this successful event through the matching funds program. A full page acknowledgement and thank you to FCSLA Life was included in the Church bulletin.



## ATTENTION CHICAGO DISTRICT MEMBERS

The annual in-person Junior and Senior Christmas parties for the Chicago District have once again been canceled for 2021 due to the continuing COVID 19 situation. We look forward to resuming these events next year as the situation improves. Look for our holiday Facebook postings and contests to join us in celebrating the holidays together.

## Justin Winger, Jr. Member of National Honor Society

Justin Winger, Branch J184 (Gary, IN), was inaugurated into the National Honor Society on November 3, 2021. Justin is a junior at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis, IN.

Justin's maternal grandmother is Mary Ann Weber, treasurer of Branch S289.







# IN MEMORIAM

## Josephine Kutsmeda, S154



Josephine Kutsmeda passed away at her home, surrounded by her loving family, on August 12, 2021. Born in Windber, Somerset County, PA, she was a graduate of Shade High School and during World War II she built Howitzers. Josephine was a member of the Bristol and Falls Township Senior Citizens Centers. She loved line dancing

and also loved traveling with her husband to the beaches in Florida and South Carolina. Josephine was wonderful at flower arranging, cake decorating and sewing. She was an avid Phillies and Eagles fan. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She is survived by her five devoted grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; and was a dear aunt to many nieces and nephews.

## Thomas Joseph Ruda, W074



Thomas Joseph Ruda passed away at the age of 78 on May 31, 2021, in Atwood KS. He was born March 3, 1943, to John and Rose (Sis) Ruda in Colby, KS. He lived most of his life in Rawlins County. He attended Maur Hill Catholic High School in Atchison, KS, for one year, then attended Atwood Community High School in Atwood,

graduating in 1961. He attended McCook Community College, Colby Community College and Fort Hays State University. He served in the Army Reserve. He was a retired farmer, and a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Parish in Atwood. Tom loved all things that were a part of nature. He enjoyed watching wildlife and hiking through the countryside. He enjoyed visiting with all members of his family and talking about family history. He was especially proud of his Czech heritage. His late-night phone calls to family members will be missed. Other interests and hobbies of his included drawing and oil painting, writing, music, reading, playing cards, (especially gin rummy), watching old western tv programs and western movies. He especially loved looking after his pets. He is survived by two sisters, Teresa Johnston (Lloyd) and Rose Lee Klenke (Tom); and one brother, Richard Ruda (Mary). He is also survived by special cousins, Delpha, Jarett, Marie and Jesse Sis, numerous nieces and nephews, cousins and friends.

## Emory Joseph Lehosit, S457



Emory Joseph Lehosit, 81, of Flemington, WV passed away on April 24, 2021. He was born August 4, 1939; a son of the late Joseph and Mary Helen Saliga Lehosit. Emory is survived by his wife, Samara A. Oliverio Lehosit; three sisters, Pauline Yurko of Brecksville, OH, Mary Doyle of Bridgeport and JoAnn Bodkin of Sylvania, OH; many nieces and nephews. Emory

graduated from Roosevelt Wilson High School, Class of 1957. He also graduated from Marshall University and Purdue University. He was retired from the United States Navy as a Navy Seal serving on the USS Ronquil during Vietnam. He retired from the California Highway Patrol with over twenty years of service. Following his Police duty, Emory was a Public Administrator in Orange County, CA managing estates. He was a member of All Saints Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus; Central WV Corvette Club, Life Member of the NRA, The Sons of the American Legion Post 68, Bridgeport; and Disabled American Veterans. He also active with the US Submarine Veterans. He was revered by his nieces, nephews, great nieces, nephews and stepchildren for his wealth of experience, intelligences, unwavering support, and firm guidance. Emory was an avid outdoorsman, hunter, fisherman, and marksman.

## Mary Elizabeth Lehosit Doyle, S457



Mary Elizabeth Lehosit Doyle, age 88, of Flemington, WV passed this life April 27, 2021 following an extended illness. She was born November 29, 1932 in Clarksburg, a daughter of the late Joseph Lehosit and Mary Saliga Lehosit. In addition to her parents, Mary was preceded in death by her husband, James Doyle; one beloved daughter Stephanie Marie Doyle; five

brothers Charles Lehosit, James Lehosit, Michael Lehosit, John Lehosit, and Emory Lehosit; and two sisters Ann Marie Lehosit and Carolyn Robinson Kovach. Mary is survived by two sisters, Pauline Yurko of Brecksville, OH, and JoAnn Bodkin of Sylvania, OH, as well as many nieces and nephews. Mary was raised in a loving family that will miss her. Mary was a 1950 graduate of Roosevelt Wilson High School. She was retired from GMAC where she worked as an accountant. She was a devout Catholic by faith. While in Pittsburgh, Mary worked at the Auto Palace and enjoyed working in the luxury car line and meeting the Pittsburgh Steeler players. Mary was a former model, wonderful cook, and experienced life all over the world. She lived in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Liberia Africa and in Pittsburgh, PA with her daughter, and enjoyed her many friends.

## Maxine J. Urich, W051



Maxine J. Urich, 87, of Cottage Grove, MN passed away on August 17, 2021. Maxine was born on June 8, 1934 in Miller, IA to Archie and Laura Beal. After graduating from Garner High School, she married Louis G. Urich, Jr. Maxine and Lou farmed in Duncan, IA for 14 years and raised three children. Maxine and her family moved to

Omaha, NE in 1970, then to Cottage Grove, MN in 1974. Maxine enjoyed music, participating in school bands and choirs as well as membership in the St. Rita's Catholic Church choir for over 30 years. She worked in several administrative support and customer service positions including two real estate offices and a glass repair shop. Maxine enjoyed her family, gardening, flowers, annual fishing trips and traveling. She is survived by her husband Louis of 68 years, daughter Lynn Urich of Cottage Grove, MN, Randy Urich (Katie) of La Crescent, MN, Mark Urich of Lindstrom,



MN, and four grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to the Church of St. Rita (Building Fund), Cottage Grove, MN.

### **Joanne M. Funtal, S88**



Joanne M. Funtal, 84, of Finleyville, PA died November 4, 2020. She was a member of Sr. Branch 88 of Monessen, PA. She was born February 24, 1936, in Pittsburgh, the daughter of Arthur Jacob and Catherine Jane Bennett Hengler. Joanne was a 1954 graduate of Langley High School in Pittsburgh. She was a member of St. John XXIII Parish, St. Francis of Assisi site in Finleyville, where she was active in the Christian Mothers and Ladies Guild and Requiem Choir. She loved cooking for the yearly parish festival. You would always find her in the church's kitchen the day before making halushki. She was also a member of the Columbiettes Council 13832 John Paul the Great, the Democratic Women's Club, and was Judge of Elections in Union Township. Joanne enjoyed cooking, sewing, and crocheting. She is survived by four sons, Andrew A. (Judy) of Suwanee, GA, Matthew P. (Merry Katherine) of Morehead City, NC, Robert A. (Flora) of Finleyville, PA, and Timothy E. (Deborah) of Beallsville, PA; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

### **Henry Emmery Cahoj, W074**



Henry Emmery Cahoj, 89, of McDonald, KS passed away July 28, 2021. He was the seventh child born to Joseph and Mary (Dvorak) Cahoj. Henry was born on June 3, 1932, in Beardsley, KS. Henry attended school in McDonald, where he and his siblings were raised on what was previously, the Ed Cahoj farm. At the age of eighteen, Henry served in the United States Navy from 1950-1954. Henry was an agent for Shelter Insurance, a farmer raising livestock and working the land, father of five, County Commissioner for three terms, basketball referee, member of the McDonald School Board, Fourth Degree Knight, member of the American Legion Post 229 and what was most endearing for him ... being a faithful and devoted husband to his loving wife, Eldean Marie Reinert Cahoj. They were married on August 10, 1954. His children were never deprived of anything and childhood memories of boating on the lake and playing cards with friends and relatives nearly every Sunday were very much enjoyed by all. He is survived by son Emery Cahoj and wife Teresa of Castle Rock, CO; daughters Collette Roscoe and husband, Bruce of Gardner, CO, Tonya Cahoj of Redmond, WA, Brenda Weiser and husband Mickey of Grinnell, KS, and Teresa Prochazka of Greely, CO. Grandpa Henry was loved dearly by his ten

grandchildren and got to see and spend some time with some of the nineteen great-grandchildren in his final moments.

### **Bernard T. Funtal, S88**



Bernard T. "Bernie" Funtal, age 87, of Whitehall, PA, died on May 18, 2020. He was the beloved husband of the late Eileen T. (Schmitt) Funtal and companion of the late Mary Milinski; loving father of Carol Ann (Joe) Rockenstein, Janet (Scott) Vanderslice and Diane (Loran) Skinkis; devoted grandfather of Amanda (Brian Alge) Pearsol, Amber Pearsol, Tony Pearsol, Kevin Skinkis and Audrey Skinkis; brother of Joseph Funtal and Francis Funtal. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a sister Catherine Krass and brothers Carl, Thomas, Andrew, and Albert Funtal. He was a lifelong member of FCSLA. Bernie was a social member of the VFW Post 1810. He enjoyed golfing, bowling, dancing to polka music, napping (but still watching TV) and spending time with family. He was selfless, giving, and ready to joke around with anyone around him.

### **Dorothy Mary Cahoj, W074**



Dorothy Mary Cahoj passed away peacefully on June 19, 2021 in Atwood, KS, at the age of 92. She was born January 4, 1929, in Stratton, NE, to Stanley and Albina (Chvatal) Vrbas. Dorothy married Louis Cahoj on September 22, 1948. While she was a wonderful wife, mother, grandma and great-grandma, Dorothy had many other talents, which she shared with others throughout her life. She was a wonderful cook. Homemade bread, cookies, candy, and pies were always plentiful. She also made the best kolaches ever and always had dozens in the freezer for family and friends. Another talent of Dorothy's was making and decorating cakes for weddings, birthdays, graduations, and any other occasion a cake was called for. Dorothy enjoyed crocheting also and made doilies and beautiful bedspreads. Whether she was sewing, making quilts, crocheting, or baking, it was always done with perfection. She raised and butchered chickens, always had a big garden, and canned all summer long. She cooked big meals for breakfast, dinner and supper and always included hired help and friends. Dorothy was the model farm wife and always made time for anyone who needed help. Those left to celebrate her life are her daughter Collette Honn; four granddaughters; one grandson; five great-grandchildren; along with a large extended family, and a multitude of friends, all who will mourn her loss, but cherish the many memories she gave them.





## APRICOT AND PINEAPPLE KOLACKY

6 cups flour  
1 pound shortening  
3 eggs  
1 cup cream, or canned milk  
1 cake yeast  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
Pinch of salt

### FILLING

1 pound dry apricots, cooked  
1 small can pineapple, drained  
Sugar to taste

Sift flour and salt, cut in shortening until it looks like cornmeal. Add eggs, cream, yeast and vanilla. Beat with hand until dough forms into a ball and hands are clean. Place in refrigerator over night, or for 6 hours. Cover board with granulated sugar. Roll out small portions of dough at a time. Spread with filling, roll up pieces, or fold over. Bake at 350 degrees about 10 to 12 minutes.

## SLOVAK FROZEN COTTAGE CHEESE SQUARES

6 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon sugar  
2 cakes yeast  
1 pound soft butter  
5 egg yolks  
1 whole egg  
1 cup cream or milk

### FILLING

2 cartons cottage cheese, partly drained  
½ box seedless raisins  
2 eggs  
1 cup granulated sugar  
(Combine and blend well)

Sift dry ingredients. Crumble yeast into butter and add to first mixture. Work together until well blended. Add yolks, whole egg and cream. Mix well. Chill over-night. Roll out dough about ¼ inch thick. Cut into 3 inch squares. Place a teaspoon of filling on each square. Gather up the four corners and fold one over the other and pinch

together. Place on ungreased baking sheet and allow to rise. Brush with beaten egg yolk, mixed with one tablespoon milk. Sprinkle chopped nuts combined with powdered sugar. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown.

## CREAM CHEESE ROZKY

4 (3-ounce) packages cream cheese  
1 pound butter  
4 cups sifted all-purpose flour

### NUT FILLING

1 pound nuts, ground  
1 cup sugar

Work ingredients into a smooth dough. Place in refrigerator over night. Divide dough and roll on powdered sugar covered board or pastry cloth. Cut in squares. Fill and bring opposite corners together, bringing one corner down and roll to prevent opening when baking. Bake at 350 degrees for about 20 minutes or until delicately brown. Remove from pan to cooling rack.

## WALNUT TORTE

1 cup plus 6 tablespoons walnuts  
(about 5 ounces)  
4 large eggs, separated  
½ cup sugar  
1 cup chilled heavy whipping cream  
3 tablespoons powdered sugar  
1 teaspoon instant coffee crystals dissolved in 2 teaspoons heavy whipping cream  
¾ teaspoon vanilla extract  
Walnut halves

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Using coarse grating disc (with large holes), grate walnuts in processor. Remove grating disc, leaving walnuts in processor bowl. Fit processor with metal blade. Using on/off turns, grind walnuts until finely ground but not pasty. Set aside 2 tablespoons ground walnuts for garnish.

Butter bottom (not sides) of 9-inch-diameter springform pan. Using electric mixer, beat egg yolks in large bowl until light and fluffy, about 4 minutes. Gradually add 1/2 cup sugar, beating until well blended. Stir remaining ground walnuts into yolk mixture. Using clean dry beaters, beat egg whites in another large bowl until stiff but not

dry. Fold whites into nut mixture in 2 additions. Transfer batter to prepared pan.

Bake cake until tester inserted into center comes out clean, about 40 minutes. Cool 5 minutes. Run knife between cake and pan sides to loosen; remove pan sides. Cool cake completely on rack (cake will fall in center). (Cake can be prepared 1 day ahead. Cover and store at room temperature.)

Using electric mixer, beat cream, powdered sugar, coffee mixture, and vanilla in large bowl until peaks form. Spread coffee whipped cream onto top of cake. Sprinkle top with reserved ground walnuts; arrange walnut halves in center of cake. Cut cake into wedges.

## THREE KINGS BREAD

7/8 pound butter  
2 cups sugar  
6 eggs, separated  
2½ cups flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1½ cups white raisins

Cream butter, add sugar and beat until sugar is dissolved. Add yolks one at a time, beating after each addition. Sift flour and baking powder, then gradually add alternately with raisins, stirring well. Beat egg whites, fold in well. Pour into greased loaf pan and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

## AMARETTI COOKIES

2½ cup almond flour  
1 cup sugar  
1 tablespoon lemon zest  
3 large egg whites  
1 teaspoon almond extract  
¼ cup sugar for rolling

Preheat your oven to 325 degrees. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.

In a large bowl add the almond flour, 1 cup of sugar and lemon zest. Whisk well.

To the bowl of your mixer add the egg whites and beat to a soft peak. Whisk in the almond extract.

Gently fold in the egg whites into the dry ingredients until the dough is moist.

Use a small cookie scoop to scoop out equal





amounts of dough, then roll into balls with slightly damp hands. Roll through the remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of sugar. Place cookies on prepared baking sheets.

Transfer the baking sheets to the oven and bake for 25 minutes or until the cookies start to slightly turn golden and bottom is golden brown. Cool completely on cooling racks.

**Notes:** The rolled mixture should be sticky but fairly firm, and should hold their shape when placed on the baking tray.

The cookies will expand slightly in the oven and crack, so make sure they have ample room. They should also flatten out a bit as well.

Cool the amaretti cookies completely, then freeze in a single layer on a baking sheet. Once they're frozen, you can transfer them to a bag or an airtight container. The cookies will keep for up to 6 months.

## SLOVAK NUT ROLL

### FIRST DOUGH

1 pound flour  
1 teaspoon salt  
2 tablespoons sugar  
4 egg yolks, unbeaten  
2 cakes yeast, dissolved in one cup lukewarm milk

### WALNUT FILLING

$\frac{1}{2}$  pounds walnuts, ground  
8 egg whites  
2 cups sugar  
2 teaspoons vanilla

Sift flour, salt and sugar. Add yolks and dissolved yeast. Mix well.

### SECOND DOUGH

1 pound sifted flour  
1 pound butter

Work butter into flour and mix well. Combine both doughs and mix well. Let rise 2 hours in covered bowl. Punch down, cover and let rise again for 2 hours. Punch dough. Roll out on powdered sugared board about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thick. Cut in desired shapes and fill with favorite nut filling.

OR: Make small balls the size of a walnut. Roll out on board which has been covered with powdered sugar. Fill with nut filling. Place on ungreased cookie sheet, about one inch apart.

Brush with beaten egg yolk. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

## CLASSIC SHORTBREAD COOKIES

$\frac{1}{2}$  cups butter salted and softened at room temperature (3 sticks)  
1 cup powdered sugar (4.4 oz)  
3 cups all-purpose flour (13.2 oz)

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Add the butter to a large bowl and blend it until smooth using an electric mixer set at medium speed for about 30 seconds.

Add the powdered sugar and continue mixing until well incorporated. Scrape down the sides of the bowl and combine thoroughly.

Add flour and mix at low speed until well blended. The mixture will be crumbled and soft.

Pat dough into an ungreased cookie sheet, lined with parchment paper, with the parchment paper hanging off the sides to make it easy to lift out the cookies.

Alternatively you can roll out the dough so that it's about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch in thickness, you can knead it a bit just so that the dough comes together, but don't overwork it, then cut into your desired shape.

Bake for 12 to 15 minutes, or until just done (slightly golden in color). Do not let them get brown. Remove from the oven. If using a cookie sheet, lift out the cookies from the sheet using the parchment paper and cut into desired shapes. Finish cooling the cookies on a rack.

**Note:** Because of using salted butter there's no need to add salt to the recipe; if you only have unsalted butter, add about  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt to the recipe.

## HOMEMADE EGGNOG

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar granulated  
6 eggs separated  
2 cups milk  
1 cup heavy cream  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon nutmeg  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon cinnamon  
 $\frac{1}{8}$  teaspoon ginger

1 cup bourbon

### Optional

4 candy canes crushed  
2 ounce chocolate melted  
6 cinnamon sticks

Set aside 1 tablespoon of the granulated sugar.

Add the egg yolks to the bowl of your mixer and beat until the lighten in color. Gradually add the remaining sugar to the bowl and beat until the sugar dissolves. Set aside.

In a medium saucepan add the milk, heavy cream, nutmeg, cinnamon and ginger. Stir and bring to a boil over medium heat. Stir occasionally. Remove from heat.

Add a ladle of the milk mixture at a time to the egg mixture and stir. Continue to add about 4 or 5 ladles of the milk mixture and stir. Return everything to the saucepan and cook over medium heat until the mixture reaches 160 degrees.

Remove from the saucepan from heat and stir in the bourbon. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and set in the fridge to chill for at least an hour.

Add the egg whites to a medium bowl and beat until soft peaks. Add the tablespoon of sugar and beat until stiff peaks form.

Whisk the egg whites into the chilled eggnog. Serve cold. Store leftover eggnog in the fridge for up to 3 days.

## SANTA'S SLEIGH COCKTAIL

White sugar crystals, preferably coarse  
2 cups store-bought eggnog, chilled  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup brandy  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup amaretto liqueur  
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
2 scoops vanilla ice cream  
4 cinnamon sticks

Dampen the rims of 4 martini glasses and then line the rims with sugar crystals.

Combine eggnog, brandy, amaretto, nutmeg, and ice cream in a blender; process until smooth. Pour mixture into martini glasses and garnish each glass with a whole cinnamon stick.



## 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.