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First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

OFFICE HOURS — HOME OFFICE

Monday through Friday — 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Phone: (216) 464-8015 • Toll Free: 800-464-4642
Fax: (216) 464-9260 • Website: www.fcsla.com

EDITOR: Carolyn Bazik

P.O. Box 1617, Reading, PA 19603

E-mail: zjbazik@comcast.net

Phone (610) 373-2743 • Fax (610) 375-8333

FCSLA LIFE

24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Beachwood, Ohio 44122

National President/CEO: Cynthia M. Maleski, Esq. (216) 468-1011

National Secretary/COO: Kimberly Graham (216) 468-1012

National Treasurer/CFO: Stuart Collins (216) 468-1016

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Cathedral of Saint Columba, 159 W. Rayen Ave.,
Youngstown, OH 44503. Residence: (330) 744-5233.
Email: ppolando@youngstowndiocese.org.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT/CEO & CHAIR OF THE BOARD:

Cynthia M. Maleski, Esq., 24950 Chagrin Boulevard,
Beachwood, OH 44122. (800) 464-4642. Ext. 1011.

NATIONAL DIRECTORS:

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Crete, IL 60417. Residence: (847) 770-3508.
Email: jeanetteeve@outlook.com.

Joann Skvarek Banvich, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard,
Beachwood, OH 44122. (800) 464-4642.

Lawrence M. Golofski, 1114 Surrey Lane, Vandergrift, PA
15690. Residence: (412) 915-9035.

Email: LarryG.FCSLA@gmail.com.

Patrick Braun, P.O. Box 628, Whitewater, WI 53190.
Residence: (262) 473-1850.

Email: patbraun11345@gmail.com.

NATIONAL TRUSTEES:

Suzanne V. Strohl, 4619C 28th Road South,
Arlington, VA 22206. Residence: (703) 379-1148.
Email: svstrohl@msn.com.

Sue Ann M. Seich, 1433 Saxony Circle, NW,
Canton, OH 44708. (330) 478-2949.
Email: sams330@aol.com.

NATIONAL AUDITORS:

Dorothy L. Urbanowicz, 27 Crescent Drive,
Monessen, PA 15062. Residence: (724) 684-8243.
Email: doty8613@gmail.com.

Barbara A. Sekerak, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard,
Beachwood, OH 44122. (800) 464-4642.

Dennis L. Povondra, 102 South Janda Avenue,
Tabor, SD 57063. Residence: (605) 463-2571.
Email: povondra@hcinet.net.

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The Way We See It

The eye doctor instructed her patient to read a chart on the wall. He looked at it and read, "A, B, F, N, L and G."

The doctor turned the light back on and wrote in her notebook.

"How'd I do, Doc?" the patient wondered.

She replied, "Let's put it this way -- they're numbers."

"But Doc," he argued, "this is the way I see it!"

Much of my happiness or unhappiness is a result of my perception. "This is the way I see it," I tell myself.

I see some problems as challenges that energize me to action and others as obstacles that stop further progress. It's just the way I see it.

And sometimes I see new situations as fun, and other times I see them as fearful.

The busy nature of my life can be OK if I see it that way, or it can be a major source of stress. And an unexpected intrusion in my schedule can be an irritant or, if I see it that way, possibly the most important thing I could do that day.

Even an embarrassing mistake can be the beginning of a new learning experience or an occasion to berate myself. It's all in the way I see it.

One of the greatest blocks to my happiness is forgetting that it is not always about what is happening to me -- it's more about the way I see it.

Like Marcel Proust said, "The real voyage of discovery lies not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." It's in the way we see it.

(Steve Goodier – www.LifeSupportSystem.com)

Dear Friends,

This month remember that it is not what happens to you ... it's how you choose to see it and how you react that makes the difference in how your life works out.

Until next month,
Warmly,
Carolyn

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT FCSLA LIFE

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

A Public Journey and a Religious Journey

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

In July, there are two events we celebrate that make me feel great about being a citizen of the United States of America and being a member of the Catholic Church.

The *Fourth of July* is truly the highpoint in history of this country, breaking its ties with Britain, and becoming independent on its own. It was a process that took place for years of conflicts to become independent. But because of the hopes, the agony of battles, and the deaths of many from both sides of the Atlantic, the *Declaration of Independence* came into existence in 1776. Many American people since have gone to war for this country and many have died for the sake of democracy. The *Constitution* was later written and as time passed, there have been amendments added to keep up with times throughout the centuries.

When we say the *Fourth of July*, we think of picnics, boat rides and water skiing, baseball, and the grand finale, the fireworks. What wonderful ways to end the birthday of our country.

The feast of Saints Joachim and Anne is the highpoint in my personal, religious history. My paternal grandmother's name was, in Slovak, Anna, and two aunts on my maternal side of the family were Ann as well. And dare I say as we all know, Saint Anne is the Patroness of the FCSLA. My family had a devotion to Saint Anne because of these relatives, especially my grandmother, for Saint Anne and her husband Joachim are the patroness and patron of grandparents.

I thought it would be appropriate to remind all of us of the *Novena to Saint Anne and Joachim*:

O Holy Mother and Father of the Blessed Virgin Mary, as parents, you guided and nurtured Mary and, under your protection and love, watched her grow in holiness. Through your faithfulness and goodness, the Will of God was fulfilled, the fruits of your virtue; and faith brought salvation to the whole world with the birth of Jesus. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:14).

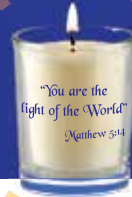


Most Holy Saints Anne and Joachim, come close to us and guide our hands and our hearts in the way of virtue. Help us parent our children and grandchildren with a gentle heart as you did. Show us how to raise our children in faith and bring our families into the Light of Jesus. Remain close to us and help us on our journey to salvation. Saints Anne and Joachim, we place our petitions in your hands and ask that you lay them before the child Jesus. Seek this my favor [state your request] but only if it be for the greater glory of God and the good of my soul. Amen. Pray the Our Father, a Hail Mary, and a Glory be for the closing prayers. Pray the Novena for nine days anytime before, during or after the feastday.

Saints Anne and Joachim, pray for us! God Bless America (I loved Kate Smith singing it)!

Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Hi Fellow Members!

On July 4, 2022, Independence Day, we celebrate the 246th Anniversary of this historic date in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress. The Second Continental Congress declared that the thirteen American colonies were no longer subject to the monarch of Britain and were now united,

free and independent states.

We as Americans have many customs associated with Independence Day, such as patriotic displays, family and community picnics and barbecues. Decorations are generally colored red, white and blue, the colors of the American flag. Parades are often held in the morning, while firework displays occur in the evening after dark.

Some of my favorite songs are patriotic, many sung on July 4th, such as *"The Star Spangled Banner"*, *"God Bless America"*, *"America the Beautiful"*, *"My Country 'Tis of Thee"*, and *"Yankee Doodle"*. Each has its own interesting history and origin.

For being such a young country, we have amassed great traditions which wrap around our core values of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

We are grateful that our foremothers and forefathers embarked on an awesome, often dangerous journey to the United States for a better life for themselves and their families. Our immigrant story is a story of faith, hard work, courage, vigilance, family, and our willing-

ness to reach out to our neighbor in our communities to give them a helping hand. As we celebrate together, may our church and town hall bells ring out in unison for the cause of liberty, freedom and our precious right of citizenship in the United States of America!

We held a very successful and productive district presidents' hybrid meeting on May 5, 2022. It was so delightful and refreshing to see so many of our fine leaders again! I was proud of the work of our team, including Stuart Collins, Kim Graham and Paul Smithers, who, along with myself presented a great deal of up-to-date important information about FCSLA. I would like to especially thank Katherine Bowes, National Fraternal & Youth Director, who organized the event and facilitated an excellent interactive session in the afternoon!

You will find more details and photos about the meeting in other sections of this magazine and on our website.

To round off the month of July, we will be celebrating the Feast Day of our Patroness St. Ann on July 26th. We will hold our wreath laying ceremony on our home office grounds in front of the St. Ann statue and hope to be part of other festivities in some of our districts. Perhaps you and your friends can attend Mass together on this important Feast Day or attend one of our branch or district events.



St. Ann Branch S114 Schedules Meeting/Luncheon

St. Ann Branch S114 in Lorain, OH invites its members to join in celebrating FCSLA Life's 130th anniversary as well as honoring our scholarship winners for this year. The meeting and luncheon will take place on Sunday, July 17th at 1:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway. Reservations are a must. Please phone Bernie Danevich at 440-960-2605 no later than Tuesday, July 12th. We hope to see you there.

2022 Scholarship Program

The Scholarship Committee of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance is announcing that the 2022 applications are now available for the annual Scholarship Program. The application and additional information can be found on the FCSLA Life website under the Fraternal tab, then under Scholarships. Completed paperwork must be postmarked to the PFA Scholarship Committee by September 1, 2022.

21st Annual District Presidents' Meeting

After two years of virtual meetings, the District Presidents (or their designees) and Division Representatives met in person for the 21st Annual District Presidents' Meeting on May 5, 2022.

National President Cynthia Maleski welcomed the attendees at a dinner the evening before and then opened the meeting the next morning with remarks on the current state of the Association. National



Sales Manager Paul Smithers discussed recommender sales and that a new recommender resource page would soon be on the company website. National Treasurer Stuart Collins gave a financial review of FCSLA and National Secretary

Kim Graham's presentation gave an overview of recent projects, such as the rebranding to FCSLA Life and the website refresh, and upcoming projects including a new illustration system for producers and an electronic application (e-app). President Maleski opened the afternoon session by discussing an idea to engage some of the young adults in the association. Katherine Bowes, National Fraternal and Youth Director, ended the day with a lively roundtable discussion on member engagement and succession planning. After two years, it was good to share information, laughter, and camaraderie finally in person.



PLEASE NOTE

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

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

ATTENTION!

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

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



The Power of One Person

Paul Smithers, CLU ChFC, National Sales Manager

God has gifted all humans with amazing talents and individual power. As the pinnacle of God's creation, we each possess untold creativity and abilities. Whether we choose to discover our gifts and use them for the betterment of mankind is solely up to each individual person.

Let's look at some examples from history of ordinary people using the gifts God gave them for good:

- **St. Peter** – fisherman who is the rock on which the Church is built.
- **Leonardo da Vinci** – illegitimate son who became one of the most influential artists, sculptors, painters, and engineers the world has ever known.
- **Harriet Tubman** – slave who escaped to lead many others to freedom and became a powerful abolitionist.
- **Abraham Lincoln** – country lawyer who led our country during its most tumultuous times and abolished slavery.
- **Albert Einstein** – patent clerk to Nobel Prize winner
- **Winston Churchill** – obscure Member of Parliament who saved western civilization from pure evil
- **Volodymyr Zelenskyy** – comedian who is in a war for the lives of his people and the freedom of his country.

Did any of these people think when they were young "I'm going to grow up and change the world forever!" I doubt it. A fisherman, slave, politician, and a comedian who were just going about their ordinary lives stood up and said "Yes!" when it was their time to exhibit the great power, skills and abilities that God endowed them with. The amazing thing is, few of them, if any, even knew they had those gifts until they were called upon to use them for good.

Let's talk about something you can do for good using power you may not know that you have. FCSLA Life is a fraternal benefit society. We offer fraternal benefits and financial security to our members. New membership is the lifeblood of any fraternal organization. Without new members to replace members who have passed on or left the organization for some reason, membership would decline.

You are likely a member of FCSLA Life because you are reading this article in the *Fraternally Yours* magazine. This magazine is one of the many great fraternal benefits FCSLA Life offers including:

- Educational Scholarships
- Charitable Contributions
- Community Involvement
- Fellowship
- Matching Funds Program

- Death benefit for Newborn Children

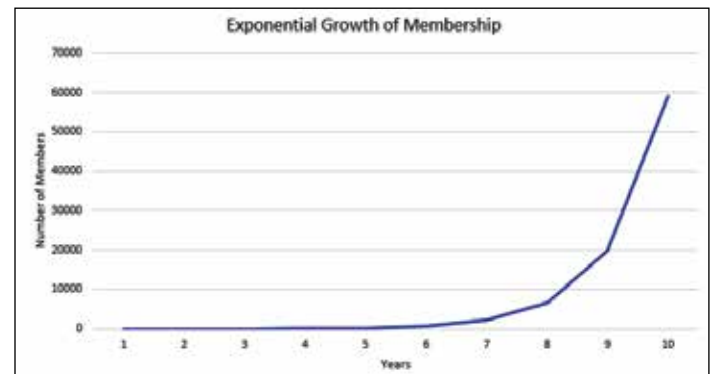
If you enjoy your membership in FCSLA Life and want to share your experience with others, you have incredible power to do so. Help FCSLA Life grow with new membership.

First, let's talk about the incredible power you have by just asking two people to join FCSLA Life per year. By you recruiting two people per year you could start a chain reaction of exponential growth in membership. When we think of the power of exponential growth we think of compound interest, nuclear chain reactions, spreading of a virus or the spread of weeds in our yards.

Exponential growth is a powerful mathematical function that you, and any of our members can harness to help FCSLA Life grow. Here is how it would work if just one member of FCSLA recruited two new members per year for 10 years and each new member then also recruited two new member per year:

Yr.

- 1 1 member recruits 2 new members: $1+2 = 3$ members
- 2 3 members each recruit 2 new members: $(3 \times 2) + 3 = 9$ members
- 3 9 members each recruit 2 new members: $(9 \times 2) + 9 = 27$ members
- 4 27 members each recruit 2 new members: $(27 \times 2) + 27 = 81$ members
- 5 81 members each recruit 2 new members: $(81 \times 2) + 81 = 243$ members
- 6 243 members each recruit 2 new members: $(243 \times 2) + 243 = 729$ members
- 7 729 members each recruit 2 new members: $(729 \times 2) + 729 = 2,187$ members
- 8 2,187 members each recruit 2 new members: $(2,187 \times 2) + 2,187 = 6,561$ members
- 9 6,561 members each recruit 2 new members: $(6,561 \times 2) + 6,561 = 19,683$ members
- 10 19,683 members each recruit 2 new members: $(19,683 \times 2) + 19,683 = 59,049$ members



Almost 60,000 new members over just 10 years. And you would only need to bring in 20 new members over those 10 years to potentially make this happen. Now that's some power!

How do you recruit your two new members this year? There are three primary ways:

In some states FCSLA Life can be recommenders. What
(Continued on Page 7)



FRIENDS & FAMILY

• REWARDS PROGRAM •

**FCSLA Life values and appreciates our Members!
Thank you for telling everybody you know about us!**

A valid referral meets ALL 3 of these requirements:

- Has completed contact information including address & phone number
 - Is interested in FCSLA Life and is not yet a member
 - Is willing to meet with an FCSLA Life representative

Each Valid Referral Earns You \$25!

To get a referral form, please
visit www.fcsla.com, call the home office at 800-464-4642 or email underwriting@fcsla.com

The Power of One Person *(Continued from Page 6)*

this means is that a member may sell a limited amount of life insurance within the fraternal system without a state license to sell insurance. If you have an interest in this, please contact me or the regional sales manager near you first for details before you solicit any life insurance sales.

The 2nd option is to become a licensed recommender in your state. This requires the completion of a life insurance license class in your state and passing the licensing exam. Again, contact one of us in the sales department for more information.

The 3rd option is the easiest, you can simply refer people you know who you think would benefit from membership in FCSLA. On this page you will see the Friends and Family referral form. For each qualified referral made by a current member FCSLA Life will pay a referral award of \$25. Please see the Friends and Family form or contact the one of us in sales for more details.

You should feel very powerful right now! By doing something small you can potentially leverage the awesome power of exponential growth and help FCSLA Life membership grow.

Paul Smithers, National Sales Manager,
Paul.Smithers@fcsla.com

John Gonsiorek, Regional Sales Manager Mid Atlantic/Northeast, John.Gonsiorek@fcsla.com

Amy Hull, Regional Sales Manager, Rocky Mountains,
Amy.Hull@fcsla.com

Derek Mizer, Regional Sales Manager, Pacific Coast/Southwest, Derek.Mizer@fcsla.com

Jim Morsovillo, Regional Sales Manager, Midwest,
Jim.Morsovillo@fcsla.com

Days Gone By . . .

This year, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, now known as FCSLA Life, celebrates its 130th Anniversary, providing insurance you can trust since 1892. Throughout this anniversary year, *Fraternally Yours* will feature select stories and photos to remind readers of our long and rich history of providing financial security to our members while embracing our Catholic values and Slavic traditions. Look for additional information on our website www.fcsla.com and on our social media feeds throughout the year.



Look Back to the 80s



Pictured (L-R) at the 1987 Convention in Anaheim, CA are five delegates from the Frances Jakabcin Eastern PA District: Veronica Bazik (S140), Marie Chuckran (S140), past National Editor & President Elizabeth Lipovsky (S89), past National Auditor Monica Anthony (S319), and Margaret Getz (S55).



Pictured by the plaque honoring the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association donation to the Abbey Church is (L-R): Franciscan Fr. Joseph L. Portasik, OFM, National Chaplain; Irene H. Sapara, National Secretary; Anna S. Granchay, National President and Louise Yash, Past National President.

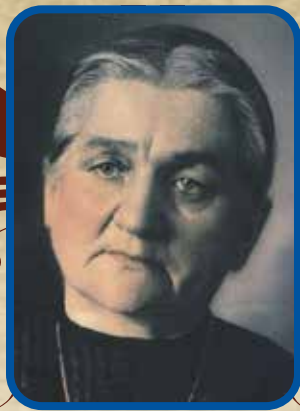




HOME OFFICE STAFF – Standing (L-R): Phyllis Adams, Angela Ungarsky, Helena Lazar, Mildred Pristas, Jane Madar, Margie Jandrokovic, Rose Krieger, Jean Buday and Charlotte Rawlings. **Kneeling (L-R):** Elaine Beno, Irene Demko, Stella Korecko, Noreen Carpenter, Debbie Streen, Paula Dalpiaz, and Elaine Kosarko.



National Board members, branch officers, members, and clergy pictured at the dedication of the Abbey Church under the title St. Andrew Svorad, Cleveland, Ohio, August 19, 1986.



Anna Hurban Scholarship Fund

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

24950 Chagrin Boulevard
Beachwood, OH 44122
800-464-4642 • www.fcsla.org

Get Involved. Make a Donation.

You can make a difference in helping to make education affordable for a deserving student. Your generous gift to the Anna Hurban Scholarship Fund gives our young members the opportunity to build an even stronger foundation as they begin their life journey and affirms them at a crucial time in their lives.

Sincerely,
Cynthia M. Maleski
National President and CEO

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association of the United States of America is a Fraternal Benefit Society organized under 501(c)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your contributions to our scholarship fund are tax deductible.

Your Contribution Information

Donor Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Amount _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

All donations, large and small, matter and are greatly appreciated. All donors and gifts will be proudly acknowledged in *Fraternality Yours* magazine unless you request that your name be withheld.

Method of payment: Please write your check or money order payable to FCSLA Anna Hurban Scholarship Fund.

Send your donations to: National President, FCSLA,
24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Beachwood, OH 44122.

Slovak Translations

NOUNS:

Slovak nouns have three genders: masculine, feminine and neuter. Masculine nouns end in a CONSONANT, for example: MUŽ, OTEC, CHLAPEC, PES, DRAK, STÔL, SCHOD/man, father, boy, dog, dragon, table, step. There are exceptions that end in A, and are still masculine, for example: TURISTA, STAROSTA, PREDSEDA/tourist, mayor, director.

The feminine nouns end in A, for example: ŽENA, SE-STRÁ, MAMA, KOČKA, STOLIČKA, TAŠKA/woman, sister, mother, cat, chair, bag. The exceptions are nouns that end in a consonant, but are feminine. SKÚSENOSŤ, TVÁR, KOSŤ, POSTEĽ, VEC, BUDÚCNOSŤ/experience, face, bone, bed, thing, future.

The neuter nouns end in O or E. LIETADLO, DIVADLO, MORE, POLE/plane, theater, sea, field. Exceptions are the nouns DIEVČA/girl and DIEŤA/child which end in A, but are neuter.

The plurals of animate masculine nouns are formed by adding I, or OVI/IA for example MUŽI, CHLAPCI, PSI/men, boys, dogs, or, OTCOVIA, SUSEDIA/fathers, neighbors.

The masculine inanimate nouns with hard endings will get Y, for example: STOLY, SCHODY/tables, steps. Masculine inanimate nouns with soft endings will get E, for example: TYŽDNE, STROJE/weeks, machines.

The feminine nouns will get Y, for example ŽENY, SES-TRY, MAMY, KOČKY, STOLIČKY, TAŠKY/women, sisters, mothers, cats, chairs, bags/. But TVÁRE, POSTELE/faces, beds are nouns ending with soft consonants, and SKÚSE-NOSTI, KOSTI, VECI, BUDÚCNOSTI/experiences, bones, things, futures are nouns with consonant endings.

Singular neuter nouns end in O, E, or IE. If they end in O, in plural they end in Á, for example: LIETADLÁ, DIVADLÁ/planes, theaters, and IA, if they end in E, or IE, for example: MORIA, POLIA/seas, fields.

Hard consonants: d, t, n, l, g, k, h, ch

Soft consonants: d', t', ň, í, dž, č, ž, š, dz, c, j

Consonants that can both hard or soft: b, p, m, v, f, r, z, s

PRONOUNS:

I	ja	we	my
you	ty (inf)	you	vy (formal)
he	on	they	oni
she	ona	they (fem)	ony
it	ono		

Formal VY is used when you address a stranger, or a person you do not really know, or a person of authority. This formal version of 'you', shows respect and distance. The informal version of 'you', TY, is used to address your family, good friends or animals. It shows friendliness, closeness and familiarity.

Founding of Branch S088 in Monessen, PA

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Branch S088 in Monessen, PA was organized by John Zelenak on February 11, 1900 at the home of Catherine Hromey, 320 Schoonmaker Ave., Monessen, PA. Original members were: Veronica Zelenak, Catherine Hromey, Mary Wargo, Anna Tesak (great-grandmother of Dorothy Urbanowicz), Philomena Sowko, Ann Skurkay and Mary Skurkay. They later organized Branch J157.

Photos below are of the 25th anniversary, 50th anniversary and 100th anniversary celebrations.



Kathryn Dzurik Receives College Chemistry Award



Kathryn Dzurik (S88), received the College Chemistry Award from the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP). Kathryn received her award at the SACP annual awards dinner May 25, 2022 at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA. The awards included both a monetary prize and a framed certificate of accomplishment. In addition, Dzurik will have an engraved nameplate added to the school's College Chemistry Awards Plaque of prior winners. The department faculty of the student's college selects each recipient. Kathryn is the daughter of Mary Dzurik and a 2018 graduate of Monessen High School. Her honors and activities include being named to the dean's list for several semesters, recipient of the Ruth O'Block Endowed Scholarship for three years, recipient of the Spellman McGrath Scholarship Fund, Kathryn Mueller Cunningham Scholarship, Walter M. Grushesky Endowed Scholarship, Mary Frances Zadzilko and Honorable Raymond Zadzilko Scholarship, Ann Featherston Cudhay Scholarship, Sister Mary Leon Bettwy Memorial Endowed Scholarship, Sister Miriam Grace Solomon Scholarship, Becky Kerns Endowed Scholarship, Minerva Prize for Philosophy, Audrey Fedyszyn Jakubowski Lazarus Basic Science Fund for Women Award. She is a member of the Chemistry Club, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, Peer Ministry Council and Library Committee.

Cleveland Slovak Benedictines Centennial Year Research Shows Vital Fraternal Support

The Benedictine monks of Saint Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland are marking their 100th year with a series of celebrations in 2022 that will culminate in the major public celebration on Sunday, September 18, 2022 with a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving at Assumption Parish Church in Broadview Heights, OH at 3:00 p.m. followed by a gala banquet at the Embassy Suites Hotel on Rockside Road in Independence. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. More information will be published during the summer.

However, while doing research for the written history that will be published later this year, Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB, came across early evidence of the generous support given to the Slovak monks by the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. Here are some examples:

From the book "Slovenske Rehole v Amerike" (Slovak Religious Orders in America) by Frantisek Hrusovsky, Ph.D. 1955:

"On June 17, 1931, the first class graduated from Benedictine High School in Cleveland. Present for the ceremony were representatives of the Slovak fraternal. The First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) later that year in December at their convention in Detroit agreed to donate \$25,000 to the Slovak Benedictines. Likewise the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA) voted to donate \$25,000 to the Cleveland monks at their convention that was held in Cleveland."

From the September 22, 1931 issue of the Benedictine High School newspaper:

"On the evening of September 3, the representatives of the Zenska Jednota Convention, 250 in number, headed by Mrs. Jakabcin, the National President, officially inspected Benedictine High School. This organization is always responsive to the needs of our school."

From the February 15, 1932 issue of the Benedictine High School newspaper:

"The first issue of the Zenska Jednota publication under its new editor, Fr. Ivan Kramoris, OSB of the Cleveland Benedictine Fathers was hailed with delight as several new features have been introduced among them being interesting stories, fine essays, and English page for the younger members, and a more attractive arrangement of material. It is expected that other improvements will be made in the future." (P.S. The first editor was Fr. John Liscinsky, a diocesan priest in Cleveland who resigned as pastor of St. Andrew's Parish in 1922 so that the Slovak Benedictines could come to Cleveland.)

From the March 27, 1934 issue of the Benedictine High School newspaper:

"On Wednesday evening, April 4, 1934, a monstrous charity ball will be held in the ballroom of the Cleveland Public Auditorium for the benefit of the Slovak Benedictine Fathers. The ball is being sponsored by the St. Benedict's Guild and the combined Cleveland and Lakewood societies of the First Catholic Slovak Men's and Ladies' Unions. There

will be good music furnished by American and Slovak dance bands. Tickets for the dance may be obtained at Benedictine for 50 cents."

From the March 2, 1936 issue of the Benedictine High School newspaper:

"On Thursday evening, February 27, a meeting was held of the aggregate groups of officers of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Union (Association) in the interest of a Grand Ball in the Trianon Ballroom on Easter Monday. The entire proceeds of this occasion will be given for the benefit of the new high school of the Slovak Benedictine monks. The chairman of this group is Mrs. M. Grega, Supreme Secretary of this organization. Admission price is 50 cents and tickets are available in the main office."



Pioneer Slovak Benedictine monks gather at St. Andrew's Independent Priory in Cleveland for the election of their first Prior Gregory Vaniscak, OSB (seated right) on October 3, 1929 with Abbot President Ernest Helmstetter, OSB from New Jersey (seated left). Standing (L-R) are Fr. Celestine Drexler, OSB, Fr. Leo Rehak, OSB, Fr. Charles Florek, OSB, Fr. George Luba, OSB, Fr. Ivan Kramoris, OSB, and Fr. Stanislaus Gmuca, OSB (who was elected the first abbot five years later). In the next row are seminarian clerics (L-R): Fr. John Zeman, OSB, Fr. Gilbert Stopko, OSB, and Fr. Sylvester Prisc, OSB who were later ordained. In the back row are the first brothers (L-R): Bro. Martin Seckar, OSB, Bro. Method Tokarcik, OSB, and Bro. Nicholas Pekar, OSB. Before this election, the monks in Cleveland belonged to St. Procopius Abbey in Lisle, IL.

PLEASE JOIN US!

90th ANNUAL

SLOVAK-AMERICAN DAY

Sunday, July 24, 2022

Croatian Park, Milwaukee, WI • 12:00 Noon – Holy Mass

Cultural Presentation Featuring:

• Tatra Slovak Dancers • Slovak Catholic Sokol Drillers

Beginning at 2:30 p.m.



Two Celebrations in the Month of May for Branch Z661



Branch Z661 welcomes our newest member Caylee Young. Caylee was born on January 18, 2022. She was baptized on May 1st at Saint Patrick Parish in Wadsworth, IL. Caylee is the second child born to Carrie and Casey Young. Caylee is pictured along with her cousins Lacey Cymerman (Z661), Jack and Charlie Faith (Z661), and big brother Caiden Young (J382) all who are members.



God bless Lacey Cymerman (Z661) who made her first Holy Communion on May 21st at St. Francis de Sales in Lake Zurich, IL. Lacey is pictured with her parents, Natasha and Craig Cymerman also a member. Both families come from a long line of members including lifelong member and their great-great grandmother Antonette Kmiec Czalka Czarnota.

Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal Update

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 44th 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 January 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 16, the 2022 Appeal has received \$23,203.70 from 175 donors. Among the 53 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branches S10 and J386, Branches S107 and J38, Branch S108, Branch J143, Branch S301, Branch 313, Branches S408 and J385, Branches S414 and J272, Branch S475, Branches S481 and J374, the Magdalen I. Iskra District, and the Home Office of the FCSLA have donated a combined total of \$2,475. Donations to date have also been received from 4 parishes, 31 clergy and religious, and 87 individuals. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

All wishing to contribute to the 2022 Appeal is 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, 2022 will be credited toward the 2023 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. Hvozdozovic, 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, Penndel, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

44th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

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

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

Pittsburgh District Holds Spring Meeting

The spring meeting of the Pittsburgh District was held on Sunday, April 24 at St. Vincent Seminary. The meeting was hosted by Branch S013, Braddock, PA.

President Judy Fedor welcomed Archabbot Martin de Porres Bartel. The Archabbot expressed his appreciation for the donation to St. Vincent for the FCSLA Life Distance Learning Center made at our 2019 convention. He recognized the Pittsburgh District for the significant contributions made by our branches to finance the balance of the funds. Archabbot then led the prayer before the meal, followed by the pledge of allegiance and "God Bless America".

Father Edward Mazich, Rector of St. Vincent Seminary and our District Chaplain, led the prayer following the meal and also expressed his appreciation for our contributions to the FCSLA Life Learning Center. The Learning Center is an important addition for the seminary, and was extremely beneficial during the pandemic.

Following the luncheon, Branch S013 President Larry Golofski pointed out the plaques on display in recognition of the National and District contributions to the FCSLA Life Distance Learning Center. He reminded the group of our continued support for St. Vincent.

Following the reading of the minutes and treasurers re-

port, the members were reminded of the Pittsburgh District's Youth of the Year award. Applications are due by August 31, 2022.

This is an election year for the District. Nominations will be held at the July meeting and the election of officers will take place at the October meeting.

President Maleski spoke and updated the members on home office business. Among other points of interest, she mentioned our ongoing strong friendship with St. Vincent, our new logo, increase in cookbook sales and the successful operation of our Association during the pandemic.

The District conducted its drawings for the share the wealth and lottery tree. Branch S013 held a drawing for beautiful baskets created by St. Vincent Gristmill.

The meeting was closed with prayer and "Hej Slovaci". The next meeting will be held at the Lamplighter in Delmont and hosted by Branch S343.



Father Ed leading prayer.



L-R: Archabbot Martin de Porres and National Officers – Dorothy Urbanowicz, Cynthia Maleski and Larry Golofski.



District photo is seated (L-R): Linda Killeen, Judy Fedor. Standing: Archabbot Martin, Jerry LaFrankie, Jim Dubina, Martin Hanyak, Tom Figura, Virginia Holmes, Father Edward Mazich.

Scenes from Pittsburgh District Spring Meeting





IN MEMORIAM

Dorothy Buranich, S202



Dorothy Buranich, age 97, received her angel wings on April 5, 2022. She passed peacefully at her home.

Dorothy was the seventh child of Michael and Mary Hovanec's eight children in Campbell, OH. Born a paternal twin, Dorothy was the last surviving sibling. This sadden her deeply. Dorothy attended the former St. Elizabeth's parochial School and Church in Campbell, OH. She was honored to be the May Queen crowning the Virgin Mary's statue. Dorothy attended Campbell Memorial High School and graduated in 1942.

Dorothy met Louis J. Buranich, Jr., at the Polish Dance Hall in Youngstown, OH. They wed in August 1947. Louis had just finished serving his country in the Navy, serving as the ship's cook in the South Pacific theater. Louis retired from the Youngstown, OH Police Department as a sergeant, in 1983. Dorothy and Louis moved to Phoenix, AZ in 1983, to be with their two sons, Thomas (Marilyn) and Louis III (Vickie). Dorothy loved to bake Slovenian Cookies and Kolace at Christmas and Easter seasons. She leaves five grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. Her soft touch and presence will be missed by all. She was a good listener and always made you feel comfortable knowing her.

Dorothy was proud to be a member of both the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Union (FCSLA) and the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU). Dorothy and Louis were members of St. Christine's Catholic Church in Youngstown, OH. She has been a member of St. Clements of Rome Catholic Church in Sun City since 1983.

Maria Mirecka-Loryś, Z693



Maria Mirecka-Loryś passed away peacefully on May 29, 2022, at the age of 106 in Warsaw, Poland.

She served as the Polish Editor of *Głos Polek* (Polish Women's Voice) from 1964–1995. Maria was an officer on both the Group level (Branch Z693) and Council 27 level of the Polish Women's Alliance of America for many years. Maria Mirecka was born in 1916 in Ulanów in the Podkarpacie region of Poland. In 1937 she began studies at the Faculty of Law of Lviv University. With the outbreak of WWII, she engaged in resistance activities, along with several of her siblings. She assumed leadership roles, heading women's sections of underground movements and by 1945 became Commander-in-Chief of the National Military Union of Women. After the end of the war, Maria resumed legal studies at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. In August 1945, she was arrested by the post-war secret police (UB) while visiting her hometown. Once released, re-arrest threatened, and in December 1945 Maria left Poland and emigrated, via Italy, to Great Britain and then to the United States. She was politically and socially active in America, extending humanitarian care to the diaspora in Southeastern Poland and Ukraine. She promoted Polish culture and language in her family, as well as within her orbit of activity in Chicago. She was a member of the Main Board of the Polish Women's Union in America and of the National Board of the Polish American Congress. Mirecka-Loryś was awarded many honors for her philanthropic undertakings, both in America and Poland, among them Poland's Cross of Valor and the Commander's Cross of the Order of Rebirth of Poland. The Order

of Polonia Restituta was presented to her by Poland's President Andrzej Duda in 2016. After intermittent visits to Poland over the years, in her 80s she returned to Poland permanently, visiting the US regularly. Her last trip to Chicago was at age 100 when the PWA membership and her family celebrated that landmark birthday. Maria was subject of numerous articles and films describing her achievements; she penned two memoirs of her wartime years, as well as of her life in America. Maria was predeceased in 1997 by her husband of 51 years, Henryk Loryś. Her survivors include son, Jan Loryś (Carleen), daughter Eva Regulski (Michał), grandsons Tomek Regulski (Zo) and Pavel Regulski, along with relatives in Canada, Germany, and the United States.

A woman of integrity, Maria served her causes with compassion, and she exemplified unwavering principles and committed action to several generations. May she rest in eternal peace.

Betsy Ann Ruda Whitaker, W074



Betsy Ann Ruda Whitaker of Atwood, KS died on January 1, 2022, after she lost her battle with Covid. Betsy was born on July 4, 1947, to Anton and Marian Ruda and was the fifth of seven children. Betsy graduated from Atwood High School with the Class of 1965. After graduation Betsy attended St. Francis School of Nursing in Wichita, KS. where she received her two-year degree as a diplomaed nurse. Betsy married

Mike Whitaker in February 1971 and to this union they were blessed with two children. They moved to Cheyenne, WY, where Betsy worked at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center. Betsy then worked at Sheridan County Memorial Hospital from 1975 to 2009. Upon her retirement, Betsy moved back to her hometown of Atwood to be close to her mother which turned out to be the highlight of her life. Betsy also took a position at Rawlins County Hospital until 2012 as she was continuing her education in which she earned her BSN in Nursing. In October 2012, her son Robert moved back to Atwood to spend time with his mom and Grandma. Robert was Betsy's Guardian Angel always there to help his mom. Betsy's faith was most important to her, and she attended Sacred Heart Church. Besides being very proud of her children, Betsy had many hobbies including crocheting, game shows and, of course, Bingo. Betsy was a very kind, considerate, loving, and caring Mother, Daughter, Sister, Aunt, Cousin, and Friend. Betsy is survived by her daughter Dr. Audra Winder (Tom), son Robert Whitaker, two granddaughters, brothers Ken Ruda (Shirley) and Dave Ruda (Pam), sisters Janice Shuck, Vicki Koch (Regan) and Carla Focke (Bill) along with many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and a great-great niece.

Ramona Marie McCarty, W074



Ramona McCarty, 80, passed on to heaven on April 4, 2022, at her home in Banning, CA. She was born August 15, 1941, in Stratton, NE to Steven and Frances (Pallas) Horinek. She married Richard (Dick) McCarty on April 27, 1963, in Atwood, KS. Ramona was a Registered Nurse Practitioner and started her career at Rawlins County Hospital and the medical clinic in Atwood, KS. After moving to Hays, KS, her

career continued at St. Anthony Hospital and then she oversaw Hays Convenient Care walk in clinic. Ramona then moved to

Oakley, KS where she worked at Logan County Hospital and New Frontiers Clinic until she retired on November 30, 2010, after 48 years of service. Survivors include her husband, Richard, a son, Scott McCarty and companion Margarita, Aurora, CO; daughters: Sheila Randa and husband, Doug, Banning, CA; Mona Funk and husband Mitch, Altamont, UT; Chardy Hern and husband, Brad, Topeka, KS; Sisters: Janice Braun, Paulette Miller, Maribeth McCarty; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Roger W. Simon, W 056



Roger W. Simon, age 74, died peacefully on Saturday, January 1, 2022, at St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, MN. Roger was born on January 11, 1947, in New Prague to Walter R. and Julia (Svoboda) Simon. He was raised in the Veseli area and graduated from New Prague High School, enlisted in the National Guard, and later graduated from Mankato State College. He married Carol J. Trnka on July 26, 1969, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Lonsdale, MN. They were happily married for over 52 years. Roger's first job after college was at Sheldahl Corporation, as an accountant. He continued his accounting career with International Dairy Queen and Minnesota Valley Breeders Association-Harvestore. In 1985, he and his wife Carol began Simon and Simon Liquor in downtown New Prague. In 1987, Roger went to work for Mahowald Motors while he and his wife Carol continued to own and operate the liquor store for two decades. In addition, Roger operated Simon Tax Service from his home. He was very active and found time to enjoy softball, baseball and being an umpire for softball leagues. He also enjoyed golf and bowling leagues, playing cards (Sheephead) with lifelong friends, and relaxing at his home on Lake Pepin with his family. Roger is survived by his wife, Carol of Montgomery; children, Kurt Simon of New Prague, Kris (Eric) Rish of Esko, MN; Holly Simon of Montgomery; six grandchildren; siblings, Karen (Phil) Kallal of New Prague, Butch (Deb) Simon of Webster, Ken (Gertie) Simon of Burnsville, Judy Simon (Mike Fox) of Edmonds, WA, Joyce Cassidy of New Prague, Tom (Amber) Simon of Minnetonka and sister-in-law Shirley Simon, New Prague. Also survived by in-laws Rita Chlan of Webster, Julie (Jim) Reiter of Montgomery, and Milton (Jean) Trnka of Lonsdale.

Joseph E. Langa, S522



Joseph E. Langa, 90, passed away March 11, 2022. Beloved husband of Margaret M. (nee Mudra); Loving father of Joseph G. CSJA, James P. (Vicki), John-Michael (Denise), Thomas M. (Shelly); Father-in-law of Leslie Jardy Magda; Cherished grandfather of James J. "Jimmy," Sarah E. Blaha (Adam), Jenna M., Tessa V., Thomas G. (Blair), and Michael P.; great-grandfather of Jacob, Hannah and Nathan Blaha and Brooks Langa; Brother of the late Vincent Langa and Eleanor Welker; Loving uncle and friend to many. Joseph and his wife Margaret are founding members of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Maple Heights. He was a long-time driver for SUNOCO. Joe loved spending time with his family, the Wild West, traveling, playing cards, and singing. Joe was a kind, generous, selfless, and faithful man who put his family and loved ones above himself and God above all. He was a loving, faithful

and caring husband to his "Maggie" – truly his best friend, soul mate and love of his life. Sweethearts since they were 14 years old, they would have celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary in May. They held hands sitting next to each other until the very end.

Ann (Radocha) Piech, S417



Ann (Radocha) Piech, 92, passed from this life into the loving arms of the Lord on June 25, 2021, surrounded by her family. Ann was born in Czechoslovakia on July 23, 1928 and was daughter to the late Ignatz and Catharine (Bratkova) Radocha. She was a loving wife and mother of four children. Ann was married to Michael Piech on October 28, 1950, and they spent 70 wonderful years together. She was a strong woman and a caregiver from an early age. She loved her faith and had a special devotion to our Blessed Mother. Ann loved to crochet, garden, and cook for her family. She also loved sports; hockey, baseball and football were her favorites. She is survived by her husband, Michael Piech; daughter Cathy (Charles) Rhein; daughter Patricia (Kevin) Smith and daughter Cheryl (Stephen) Armitage. She also had one son, David, who died in 1982. Ann's surviving siblings are sister Mary (Joseph) DeMatto and brother Bernard Radocha. She has grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews that will miss her.

Don "Dondi" Vrbicky, W080



Don "Dondi" Vrbicky, 70, of Clarkson, E, died February 24, 2022, at the Columbus Community Hospital, Columbus, NE. He was born on February 18, 1952, in West Point, NE to Lambert and Pauline (Vacha) Vrbicky. He graduated from Clarkson High School in 1970. After graduation he farmed with his dad north of Clarkson. He met and married Jan (Jerman) Vrbicky in 1979. They had three children: Lindsay, Shawn, and Joe. In 1998 the family moved to town and Dondi worked for the city of Norfolk for many years and retired in 2016. In 2018 he became seriously ill and struggled with ongoing health issues since then. Over the years he was a member of the St. John Neumann School Board, Farmer's Union Board, and president of the Catholic Workman. He enjoyed going to his children's and grandchildren's events and parties. He was always very proud that all three of his children graduated from college and went into professions that helped and cared for other people. The family all enjoyed his grandson, Theodore Dondi's 1st birthday party less than a week before his passing. He is survived by his wife, Jan, his children Lindsay (Brad) Schwartz of Columbus, Shawn (Drew) Schultz of Norfolk, and Joe (Tess) Vrbicky of Lincoln, six grandchildren, sister Marie (Bill) Gall of Clarkson, and many nieces and nephews.



Global Slovakia: Helping You To Connect With Your Roots

It is not always easy to find information about the land of our ancestors – their history, customs, folklore and old ways of life. In the Slovak case it is made more difficult by the fact it is a small country, still coming to grips with its profound identity and the ways in which to communicate it. Our busy lives do not make things any easier, who has the time to undertake the in-depth research needed to investigate this fascinating history?

What is worse, not everyone is aware of being a Slovak descendent and proprietor of Slovak roots!

The rocky 20th century that saw two World Wars wreak havoc. They were followed by a four decades of the Cold War that buried many memories as the Iron Curtain befell Europe.

Now nearly three decades into Slovakia's independence, organizations like Global Slovakia (www.globalslovakia.com) are emerging to help share Slovakia's rich legacy with a global audience. In doing so, they help to reconnect the country with her lost daughters and sons abroad. Some 2 million persons have full or partial Slovak roots in the U.S. alone!

Zuzana Palovic and Gabriela Bereghazyova first met in London, England when they were completing their doctoral studies. The shared interest in Slovakia, soon gave birth to Global Slovakia, a Slovakia-based NGO with the mission to spotlight Slovakia globally.

Zuzana, the daughter of Slovak emigrants grew up in Canada and the U.S. before returning to Europe. Gabriela completed her university studies in Slovakia, before spreading her wings abroad. It was while being away from their native homeland that they experienced on their own skin, the international anonymity of Slovakia. Why is a country that is so beautiful and fascinating, not known outside the region? And what could be done to change it?

Zuzana and Gabriela's efforts to make Slovakia known gave way to their first book, 'The Legend of the Linden: A History of Slovakia' (2018), the first cohesive national story of Slovakia ever written. The book was a hit, especially beyond the borders of Slovakia, and among the vast Slovak diaspora in North America. That received over 600,000 Slovaks migrants at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century.

Organically, Zuzana and Gabriela's efforts expanded beyond building a bridge between the descendants of Slovaks abroad and the country of their predecessors through books. Today, they host regular and free webinars, sometimes attended by upwards of 400 people keen to learn something new! These free webinars are a key part of their Global Slovakia Academy, an online platform for learning about all things Slovak.

What is more, Zuzana and Gabriela came across the same yearning in those who descended from Slovak immigrants in Canada and the U.S., a strong desire to reconnect with their ancestral homeland and heal old wounds of loss and separation. It is natural for people to want to know where they came from, but this privilege was denied or watered down for many generations of North Americans with Slovak

roots. Families were divided and contact was artificially severed especially during the Cold War.

Now is the time to reconnect and re-discover those roots and lost bonds!

Rediscovering one's lost cultural heritage is well worth the effort – the country from the heart of Europe is a priceless heirloom to claim.

Dr. Palovic and Dr. Bereghazyova do not shy away from the challenge to restore what was broken and forgotten for decades. Their new project 'Slovak Settlers' (www.slovaksettlers.com) speaks to all those who find themselves excavating their family stories and finding out that they have Slovak blood running in their veins.

This unique book is an anthology that documents this tremendous immigration legacy. It brings together 40 stories of Slovak settlers and their families to celebrate and honor those who dared to cross the ocean in search of a better life in the New World.

If that is you, take a look at Global Slovakia (www.globalslovakia.com) – their wonderful work, many books, online academy and free webinar series. Use this article as an invitation to get in touch with your own legacy and Slovak roots!

Slovak Settlers (www.slovaksettlers.com) is expected to be released at the end of this year.

FCSLA Life Branch S289 Presents Donation



FCSLA Life Branch S289 of Gary, IN recognized March Disabilities Awareness month by presenting a \$1,000.00 donation check to Share Foundation with the Handicapped of Rolling Prairie, IN. Executive Director, Bill Harmon of Share Foundation accepted the donation from Branch S289 officers TerryAnn Defenser and Emma Defenser. Share Foundation enables inclusion in speaking, working and thriving together in independent living for other abled individuals.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Branch J157

Car Show

Members of J157 in Monessen joined with Epiphany of Our Lord Parish on May 21, 2022 and organized a car show. Members sold tickets for the show, as well as, chances on baskets and helped sell food items in the kitchen. The day was a success with a profit of \$2,328 with the \$600 matching funds from FCSLA Life.



Find us on
Facebook
FCSLA Life

Branch W137

Kolach Festival Golf Tournament

FCSLA Life Branch W137 Cedar Rapids, IA, held a Matching Funds Event in coordination with the St. Ludmila Catholic Church Kolach Festival Golf Tournament. They sponsored a hole, solicited other sponsors, donated prizes and assisted in the planning of the tournament. On Saturday, June 4th, members rolled, filled, baked and packaged 78 dozen kolaches which included cherry, poppy seed, apricot, strawberry, apple and rhubarb for the tournament sponsors. On Sunday, June 5th, members posted sponsor signs on the 18 holes at Airport National Golf Course. A team comprised of Branch W137 members (Rick, Matt, Amanda and Beth Samek) won the 16-team 4-person best shot tournament, shooting an 11 under 52.



Branch W137 members Devin Samek and Beth Samek posted the FCSLA sponsor sign on hole #1 at the Kolach Festival Golf Tournament.



FCSLA Life W137 members/kolach bakers with the freshly baked and packaged kolaches to be delivered to golf tournament sponsors.

Matching Fund

Members of Helen Kocan District Helping Women and Children of Ukraine

Bishop Robert J. McClory of the Diocese of Gary in Indiana wrote a letter in early March that was read by Father Volodymyr Kushnir, pastor of St. Josephat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Munster, IN to his congregation. He expressed a spiritual solidarity between the Roman Catholic faithful of the Diocese of Gary and our Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Christ. According to a post on Facebook Bishop McClory also stated, "Catholics and other people of faith react with no less disgust or fear, yet gain peace of mind through the power of prayer, and the offering of material support."

Keeping this in mind as walking up the steps to the Ukrainian church hall to purchase Lenten Pyrohy for dinner, Agnes Chervenak, President of FCSLA Life Branch 409 along with Joann Skvarek Banvich, National Director of FCSLA Life began discussing what they could do to help the Ukrainian people

with their humanitarian needs during the horrific event in their homeland. The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCLA Life) was founded 130 years ago as a Fraternal Benefit Society by nine Slovak Catholic immigrant homemakers to protect their families and still continue today in several ways including sponsoring matching fund projects to raising funds for charitable and benevolent causes. What a better cause than the mothers and children of the Ukraine. The Helen Kocan District which consists of six senior branches and six junior branches are throughout the Diocese of Gary and one in Joliet, Illinois had never utilized their District matching funds, but this was a perfect opportunity.

A decision was made with Father Kushnir of St. Josephat Ukrainian Catholic Church that Agnes' Branch 409 would partner on March 25th with St. Josephat Church parishioners in PYROHY advertising making and selling. A decision with Father Kushnir's approval was made at the District meeting that the District would participate in several ways. They would assist branch 409 on March 25th and sponsor a District Matching Fund on April 1st with another team of PYROHY making and selling. A vote was also taken for each branch to consider donating \$130.00 to

the Ukrainian free will offering in honor of FCSLA Life's 130th anniversary. Other free will offerings were also collected from individuals and groups aware of the cause.

Members put on their aprons and learned to make Pyrohy the Ukrainian way. The parishioners and neighborhood friends welcomed the FCSLA Life volunteers. Those District members who couldn't participate sold orders to friends and families and then assisted in delivering the orders to their homes. Because schools were not on spring break some junior members helped with deliveries after school and Sophie Wagner, member of J317 who was on break was able to come and make Pyrohy. She received a special training from Father Kushnir on how to pinch the Pyrohy when he wasn't rolling out the dough. The experience also had a tasting in the afternoon after all of the orders were being boiled in the kitchen by Father Kushnir's wife. John Zaborske was asked to return to their annual Easter bazaar to promote FCSLA Life.

Both matching funds projects were successful as stated by the parish organizer when she mentioned there were quite a few names that were not part of their normal pyrohy orderings and their sales were up significantly during the FCSLA Life 2 projects. On May 13th representative from several branches met with Father Kushnir in the St. Josephat Church to present him the checks from the various offerings collected for the humanitarian needs of the people of Ukraine created by this War. The checks presented to Father Kushnir in the church totaled \$4,600.00 which included the matching funds from Beachwood, which we were all grateful to receive. Father never expected such a huge amount along with the sale increase during our projects.

Pictures were taken pro bono by Maggie of Maggie Russo Photography of Munster, IN.



Evelyn Lisek, former Indiana President of the Polish Woman's Alliance (PWA) who several years ago merged into FCSLA Life is seen meeting Father Kushnir for the first time. Her branch also participated in the \$130.00 gift in recognition of FCSLA Life's 130th Anniversary.





The presentation group picture consists of attendees from branches that were available from left to right: Betty Ortiz, Mary Markovich, Becky Coleman, Agnes Chervenak, Father Kushnir, Lillian Zaborske, John Zaborske, Geraldine Tumidalsky, Evelyn Lisek, and Carolyn Lisek. Absent, J. Skvarek Banvich.



REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2022

ASSETS

Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 20,500,142
Bonds	1,071,780,370
Preferred Stock	2,242,741
Common Stock	7,877,896
Investment Income Due & Accrued	15,063,742
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	4,563,105
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,902,959
Other Assets	687,366
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,124,618,322

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 307,265,428
Annuity Reserves	681,551,060
Death Claims Payable	2,920,602
Unearned Premiums	437,108
Matured Endowments	363,693
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,400,000
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	5,024,336
Accrued Convention Donations	362,500
Provision for Future Conventions	422,855
Asset Valuation Reserve	12,843,685
Interest Maintenance Reserve	(71,593)
Other Liabilities	2,690,848
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 1,015,210,521
Surplus	\$ 109,407,801
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS FUNDS	\$ 1,124,618,322

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Second Month Ending February 28, 2022

REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 791,722
Annuity Premiums	9,377,680
Investment Income	8,419,382
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	7,633
Rental Income	71,096
Other Revenue	1,574
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 18,669,087

EXPENSE

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 169,428
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	7,109,040
Insurance Benefits	1,623,978
Annuity Benefits	6,427,755
Commission Expense	240,473
Surrender Benefits	451,497
Matured Endowments	(4,448)
Interest Expense	56,478
Salaries — Employees	122,577
Tax Expense	10,607
Underwriting Expense	9,763
LIFE AND ANNUITY EXPENSES	\$ 16,217,149

Revenue Less Life and Annuity Expenses

Bank Service Charges	\$ 24,688
Data Processing Service Fees	39,161
Accounting Fees	20,245
Actuarial Fees	55,825

Legal Fees	17,505
Consulting Fees	3,111
Employee Benefits	123,840
Fees — Directors	31,989
Salaries — Employees	252,947
Salaries — Officers	107,759
Temporary Office Expenses	24,523
Tax Expense	36,155
Depreciation Expense	38,427
Utility Expense	21,365
Postage and Printing	40,910
Advertising & Marketing	8,749
Travel Expense	2,474
Insurance Department Fees	24,837
Sales Expense	23,073
Rental Expense	71,096
Building Expense	30,916
Insurance Expense	7,248
Office Equipment & Supplies Expense	24,698
Dues & Subscriptions	10,695
Human Resources	9,418
Other Expense	837
SALES & OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 1,052,490

Revenue Less Sales & Operating Expenses

Post Mortem Benefits	\$ 1,399,448
Misc. Member Benefits	329,072
Donation Expenses	6,852
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	16,413
Convention Expenses	25,000
Branch and District Funding	29,174
Fraternal Activities	122,666
Official Publications	64,640
Scholarship Awards	118,225
DIRECT FRATERNAL EXPENSES	\$ 86,667

Income (Loss) from Operations

Dividends to Members	\$ 600,739
Subtotal Income (Loss)	\$ 213,816
Capital Gains (Loss)	386,923
NET INCOME (Loss)	\$ 252

FCSLA Life Branch W093 Calendar of Events

July 1 – Deadline for W093 CW/FCSLA High School seniors to apply for local CW/Lodge W093 scholarships. Contact W093 officer for application.

July 2 – Monthly meeting after 6:30 p.m. Mass in Tabor, SD.

August 7 – Annual Potluck Picnic in Takota Park at 5:00 p.m. W093 will supply refreshments and hot dogs. Inclement weather location moved into Beseda Hall.

September 3 – Monthly meeting after 6:30 p.m. Mass in Tabor, SD.

October 30 – Annual Potluck Halloween Party, 12:00 noon. Prizes for best costumes/all ages, meeting, games, etc., Beseda Hall in Tabor, SD.

November 6 – District 13 SD State Meeting: Host/FCSLA W093 Beseda Hall, Tabor, SD at noon. RSVP for catered meal count to District Officer, It is requested all South Dakota FCSLA Life members attend.

Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance

2022 Fraternalist of the Year Nominations

Do you have a member residing in Pennsylvania who, through example and accomplishment, provides outstanding volunteer service? If so, consider nominating that member for the PFA Fraternalist of the Year Award. Nominating materials must be returned to the FCSLA Home Office by August 1, 2022. Information and an application can be found on the FCSLA website, under Fraternal, or by contacting the Fraternal Department, x1051.



Patriotic Faves!

PATRIOTIC BERRY TRIFLE

¼ cup plus ⅔ cup sugar
¼ cup fresh lemon juice
¼ teaspoon almond extract
1 premade angel food cake,
cut into 1-inch slices
8 ounce cream cheese at room
temperature (1 package)
2 cups heavy cream, at room temperature
2 pints blueberries
2 pints strawberries, hulled and sliced

Heat ¼ cup sugar, the lemon juice and
¼ cup water in a saucepan over medium-
high heat, stirring, until the sugar dissolves.
Remove from the heat and stir in the almond
extract.

Brush both sides of each slice of cake
with the syrup. Cut the slices into 1-inch
cubes.

Beat the remaining ⅔ cup sugar and
the cream cheese with a mixer on medium
speed until smooth and light. Add the cream
and beat on medium-high speed until
smooth and the consistency of whipped
cream.

Arrange half of the cake cubes in the
bottom of a 13-cup trifle dish. Sprinkle
evenly with a layer of blueberries. Dollop half
of the cream mixture over the blueberries
and gently spread. Top with a layer of
strawberries. Layer the remaining cake
cubes on top of the strawberries, then
sprinkle with more blueberries and top with
the remaining cream mixture. Finish with
the remaining strawberries and blueberries,
arranging them in a decorative pattern.
Cover and refrigerate 1 hour.

4TH OF JULY BROWNIE PIZZA

Brownie Crust

1 box brownie mix
¼ cup water
⅓ cup vegetable oil
1 egg

Cream cheese frosting and toppings

8 ounce cream cheese at room
temperature (1 package)
¼ cup sugar granulated
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup fresh blueberries

3 cups sliced strawberries

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Prepare
a pizza pan or a large cookie sheet with
parchment paper.

In your mixer add all the brownie
ingredients and mix just until everything is
well blended. Spread the brownie mix over
the parchment paper to form a circle that's
about 14 inches in diameter. Bake for 20
minutes. Let it cool completely.

In your mixer add the cream cheese,
sugar and vanilla extract and mix well until
smooth.

Using a spatula spread the cream
cheese mixture evenly over the brownie
crust. Arrange berries over the cream
cheese mixture. Slice and serve. Refrigerate
leftovers.

RED, WHITE AND BLUE SUMMER SALAD

¾ cup extra virgin olive oil
½ cup julienned fresh basil
⅓ cup white balsamic vinegar
¼ cup julienned fresh mint leaves
2 garlic cloves, minced
2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon sea salt
1 teaspoon sugar
1 teaspoon pepper
2 cups cherry tomatoes
8 cups fresh arugula
1 carton (8 ounces) fresh mozzarella
cheese pearls, drained
2 medium peaches, sliced
2 cups fresh blueberries
6 ounces thinly sliced prosciutto, julienned
Additional mint leaves

In a small bowl, whisk the first 9
ingredients. Add tomatoes; let stand while
preparing salad.

In a large bowl, combine arugula,
mozzarella, peach slices, blueberries and
prosciutto. Pour tomato mixture over top;
toss to coat. Garnish with additional mint
leaves. Serve immediately.

WATERMELON- BLUEBERRY SALAD

1 tablespoon honey
¾ teaspoon lemon juice

½ teaspoon minced fresh mint
1 cup seeded chopped watermelon
½ cup fresh blueberries

In a small bowl, combine the honey,
lemon juice and mint. Add watermelon and
blueberries; toss gently to coat. Chill until
serving.

STRAWBERRY-BLUE CHEESE STEAK SALAD

1 beef top sirloin steak (¾ inch thick
and 1 pound)
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
2 teaspoons olive oil
2 tablespoons lime juice
1 bunch romaine, torn (about 10 cups)
2 cups fresh strawberries, halved
¼ cup thinly sliced red onion
¼ cup crumbled blue cheese
¼ cup chopped walnuts, toasted

Season steak with salt and pepper. In
a large skillet, heat oil over medium heat.
Add steak; cook 5-7 minutes on each side
until meat reaches desired doneness (for
medium-rare, a thermometer should read
135°; medium, 140°; medium-well, 145°).
Remove from pan; let stand 5 minutes.
Cut steak into bite-sized strips; toss with
lime juice.

On a platter, combine romaine,
strawberries and onion; top with steak.
Sprinkle with cheese and walnuts. Serve
with vinaigrette.

RED, WHITE AND BLUE FROZEN LEMONADE

1 cup lemon juice
1 cup sugar
4 cups ice cubes
1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries
Maraschino cherries

Place lemon juice, sugar and ice in a
blender; cover and process until slushy.
Divide blueberries among 4 chilled glasses;
muddle slightly. Add lemon slush; top with
cherries.

MIXED BERRY SUNDAES FOR 2

¼ cup halved fresh strawberries
¼ cup each fresh raspberries,
blueberries and blackberries
3 teaspoons honey, divided
½ cup fat-free plain Greek yogurt
2 tablespoons pomegranate juice
2 tablespoons chopped walnuts, toasted

In a small bowl, combine berries and
1 teaspoon honey; spoon berries into 2
dessert dishes.

Combine the yogurt, pomegranate juice
and remaining honey; spoon over berries.
Sprinkle with walnuts.



PERIODICAL

7/22

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.