

Fraternally Yours®

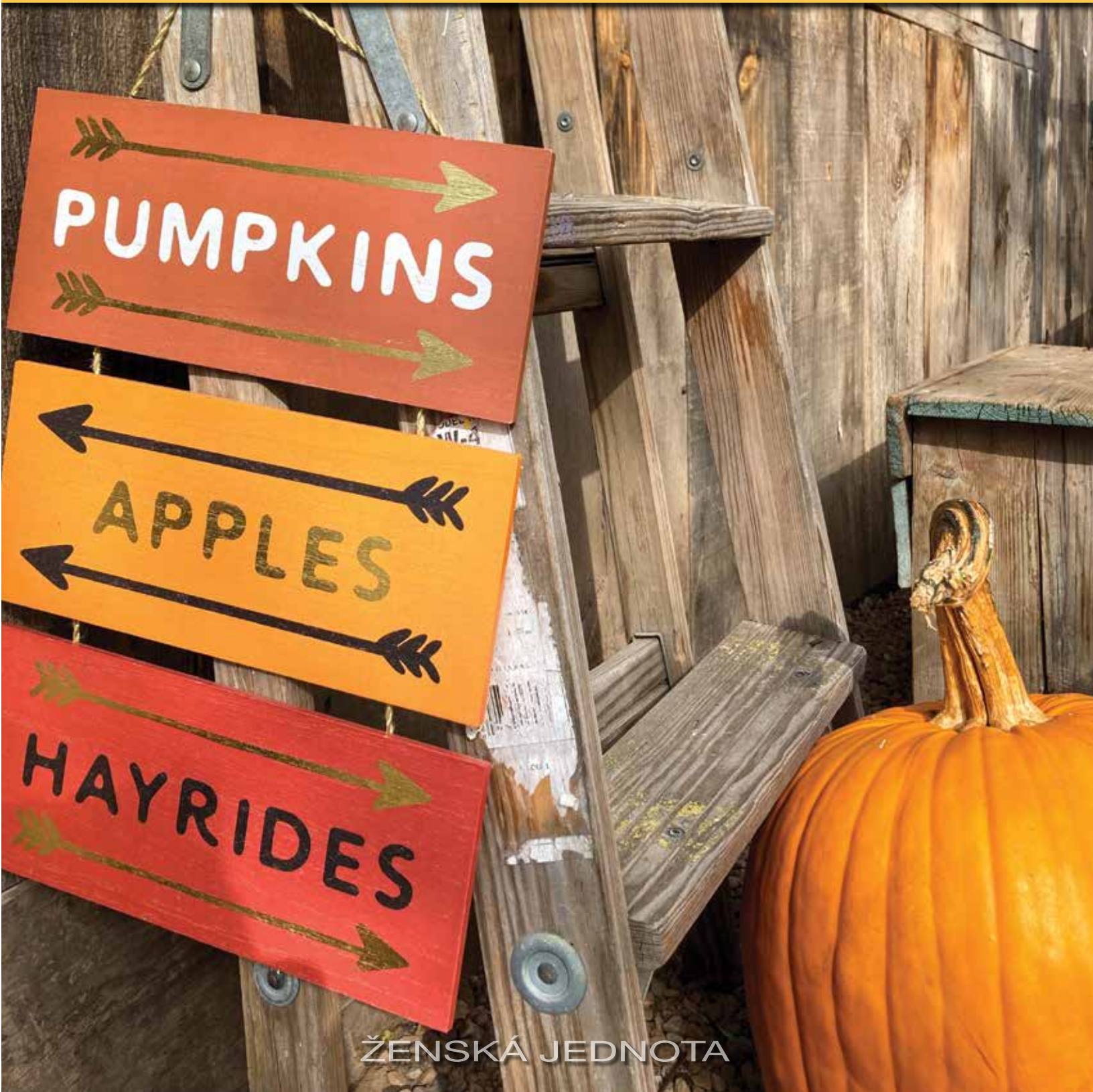


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First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

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EXPECTING SOMETHING UNEXPECTED

Have you noticed how life is full of surprises? A sailor tried to find a new trade route to China and stumbled upon a new (to him) continent. Alexander Fleming inadvertently left a culture dish on a window sill and discovered penicillin. Another scientist discovered saccharin when he noticed a strange, sugary taste in his sandwich. I read that in 1989, an unidentified “middle-aged financial analyst from Philadelphia” paid four dollars for a painting at a flea market. He didn’t even like the painting – it was the frame he wanted. So he took the picture apart...and when he did, a copy of the US Declaration of Independence fell out. It was folded up, about the size of a business envelope. He thought it might be an early 19th-century printing and worth keeping as a curiosity. A few years later, the man showed the print to a friend, who suspected it might be valuable and encouraged him to look into it. He did, and learned that only hours after finishing work on the Declaration in 1776, the Continental Congress had delivered the handwritten draft to a printer with orders to send copies of the Declaration to “the several Assemblies, Conventions and Councils of Safety and to the Commanding Officers of the Continental troops, that it be proclaimed in each of the United States and at the head of the Army.” This was one of those original copies. No one is sure how many were printed that night; today only 24 survive, and most are in poor condition. But the one in the picture frame was in excellent shape, having spent the better part of two centuries undisturbed. In 1991, it sold at auction for \$2.4 million.

Moral of this story – Life is full of surprises...full of many good things. Of course, most surprises are not nearly as dramatic as these, and it’s all too easy to miss the good things, commonplace as they are. Jesse Owens, 1936 Olympic gold medalist said, “Find the good. It’s all around you. Find it, showcase it and you’ll start believing in it.”

(Adapted from Steve Goodier – <http://www.LifeSupportSystem.com>)

Dear Friends, this month look for the unexpected and pleasant surprises that occur every day...random kindnesses from a stranger; would-be tragic accidents narrowly avoided; sicknesses healed; the neighbor that cut your grass or shoveled your snow; the person that let you go ahead in a long line because you only had one or two items; the driver that stopped a line of traffic so you could make that left turn If we take the time to look we will see good sprinkled over every day. And who knows? As Owens said, we may come to believe that goodness really is all around. In addition, start putting good out and I believe you will find that it will come back to you tenfold in many unexpected ways.

**Until next month,
Warmly, Carolyn**

Remembering Jozef Cardinal Tomko . . .

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

Jozef Cardinal Tomko was our Slovak Bishop, Cardinal and Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, the oldest member of the College of Cardinals, and chairman emeritus of the Pontifical Committee for International Eucharistic Congresses. He attended elementary school in his native village of Udavské in Humenné County, a little village of approximately 1300 people where he was born and raised. His Eminence entered the college preparation school in Michalovce in 1935, and finished his studies there in 1943. In that year, he began his studies at the Catholic University of Cyril-Method in Bratislava, Slovakia. In the fall of 1945, The Most Reverend Jozef Čársky recommended that he study in Rome. In the Pontifical College of Saint John of Nepomucene, he received priestly formation and studied at the Pontifical Lateran University. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Rome on March 12, 1949 by Cardinal Luigi Traglia at the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran in Rome, after a coup led by the communist party of Czechoslovakia in 1948 meant he was unable to return to his homeland. As a priest, he continued his studies, did pastoral work, and later served as vice rector and rector of the Pontifical College Nepomucenum, a theological seminary for Czech men. He received episcopal consecration on September 15, 1979, in the historic Sistine Chapel, by his Holiness, Saint Pope John Paul II.

In 1985, Saint Pope John Paul II appointed him as Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and chancellor of the Pontifical Urbaniana University. In 2002, the President of the Slovak Republic, Rudolf Schuster, bestowed upon him the highest state award – the Order of the White Double Cross of First Degree. As part of his multiple activities and travels, he gave many lectures and wrote several books. At the time of his death, he was the oldest cardinal of the order. He was one of the most influential dignitaries of the Vatican. He served seven popes before he died.

Cardinal Tomko returned to Slovakia in 1968, at the time of the so-called “normalization” and he continued his



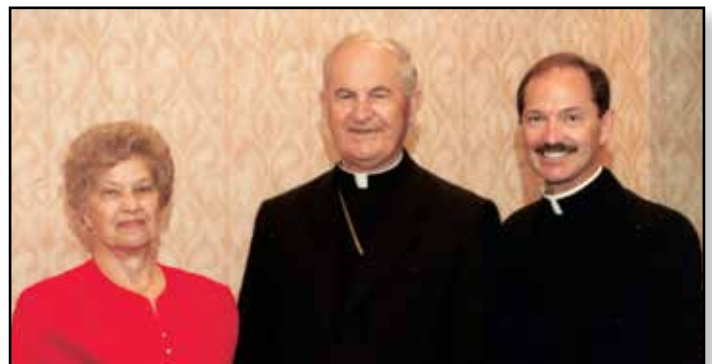
involuntary exile. He did not return to his homeland until 1989 and appeared at the plenary session of the Slovak National Council (SNR) on April 21, 1991, which was a historic event for him and the whole nation.

The Cardinal died in Rome on August 8, 2022 at the age of 98. He served 74 years as a priest and 43 years as bishop. He was buried at Saint Elizabeth Cathedral in Košice, Slovakia, beneath the main altar of the cathedral. The Cardinal's life was an example of faith, humility, modesty, and an example for new generations of spiritual leaders. He became a great figure of the Church and the Slovak nation.

I became a friend of the Cardinal because of my affiliations with the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association of which I have held office for 11 years and 15 years, respectively. There was a special relationship between us and whenever I was in Rome he invited me to his private residence on the Via Conciliatore, and when he was in Ohio, he stayed with me at Saint Matthias Church in Youngstown, Ohio. He had a special respect for my mother, as she spoke the “old” Slovak compared to the Slovak spoken today.

As I learned of the Cardinal's death by Monsignor Robert J. Siffrin, Vicar General of the Diocese of Youngstown, who would sometimes come visit with me in Slovakia or Rome, I represented the First Catholic Ladies Association, by concelebrating his funeral on August 16, 2022. We both flew to Košice, Slovakia on Sunday and returned to the United States on that Wednesday.

For all of us, we know how it is to hear and know about the death of a relative and friend. It hurts us in our inmost being. I ask you to pray for the repose of his soul and that he intercede for us in heaven. Nech odpočíva v pokoji, Amen.



Pope Francis praised “this esteemed and wise brother who, sustained by deep faith and great foresight, served the Gospel and the church with humility and self-sacrifice.”

Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Dear fellow members,

During the 130th anniversary year, we have a number of exciting and memorable events to share with you. On September 18th, we were so very fortunate to participate in the 100th anniversary celebration of St. Andrew's Abbey, Cleveland, Ohio. From the beginning of the Abbey in Cleveland with Father Stanislaus Gmuca, OSB, in the primary leadership role, Slovaks

in Cleveland and our society have stood together with the Benedictine Monks to support this fine, noble institution and its mission. Please make sure to watch for photos and stories about this momentous, historic occasion. We are privileged and honored to walk with the Benedictine monks for this one-hundred-year journey of faith.

Our society has also had a proud and long history with the preeminent His Eminence Jozef Cardinal Tomko, a native son of Udavské in eastern Slovakia, born there in 1924.

Cardinal Tomko entered the service of the Roman Curia in 1962 and was elevated to the position of Bishop and later Cardinal by Saint Pope John Paul II, serving from 1985 - 2001 as Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

For many years, Cardinal Tomko was actively involved in the establishment of the Slovak Institute

of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Rome, Italy. Over a number of years, our society has donated substantial sums to support the work of the Institute and its noble mission of training seminarians from what is now Slovakia for their life's vocation.

Cardinal Tomko holds a special place in the hearts of many of us. He endeared himself to us by personally visiting Slovak communities in the United States and Canada several times. For decades he regularly addressed Slovak Catholics on Vatican Radio and on Catholic TV Lux. I was honored to meet Cardinal Tomko when he received an Honorary Doctorate at Saint Vincent's College, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, during the tenure of Archabbot (now Emeritus) Douglas Nowicki, OSB.

At our 1991 Quadrennial Convention, FCSLA Life had the honor and privilege of awarding \$1M to the Cardinal Tomko Mission Fund.

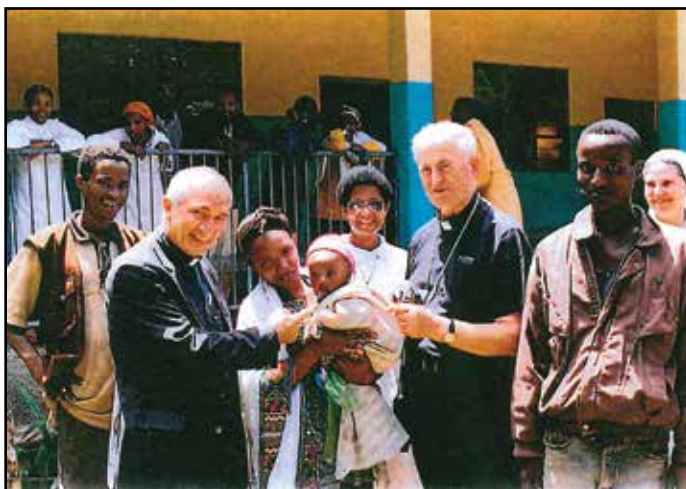
At a later time, our society funded the Slovak-to-English translation of his fine book "On Missionary Roads". By doing so, we were able to be a small part in showing gratitude for what he did over many years for the missionary well-being of the worldwide Church. Our National Chaplain, Monsignor Peter Polando was honored to attend the funeral Mass of Cardinal Tomko in Košice, Slovakia.

Cardinal Tomko will always hold a special place in the heart and soul of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association of the United States of America. May his fine work continue to bring faith to all in many lands and countries throughout the world!

Additional photos on facing page



Nairobi (Kenya): The Health Center of University of Trnava, Slovakia.



Missions in the South: A Health Center for Mothers

National President *(Continued)*



Northern Canada: Lake Saint Anne, "Pilgrimage into the Lake"

A personal note of remembrance Jozef Cardinal Tomko

In April, 1986 when the Slovak Catholic Federation observed its 75th Anniversary in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania Cardinal Jozef Tomko was the principal celebrant of Mass at Sacred Heart Church. I had the honor of meeting him at that event and feel certain I even had a photo taken with him. Then, 1991 at the Quadrennial Convention in Orlando, FL, I was honored to be a member of the board, as an auditor, when the convention awarded a \$1M donation to his Mission Fund. He was warm, gracious, and kind and that meeting of just a few minutes left a lasting impression on me, one that I carry with me to this day. He leaves behind a legacy of service and love for others. May He Rest in Peace.

Carolyn Bazik, National Editor

99th Annual American Slovak Day Celebration

On Thursday, July 21st, 2022, FCSLA Life was thrilled to take part in the 99th Annual American Slovak Day Celebration at Kennywood Park in Pittsburgh, PA. National President/CEO Cynthia M. Maleski lead the assembly in the National Anthem, after which FCSLA Life member Bishop Larry J. Kulick, alongside clergy from the Diocese of Greensburg and the Diocese of Pittsburgh, celebrated an open-air Mass. We shared the pavilion with local artisans and other fraternal societies, enjoying the traditional Slovak cuisine and connecting with members of the vibrant American Slovak community.



Slovak Day Trio – L-R: Mary Lou Wagner, National President Cynthia Maleski, Bishop Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L. of the Diocese of Greensburg.



Slovak Day group – L-R: Back row (standing): Martin Hanyak, Pittsburgh District Auditor; Monica LaFrankie; Gerald LaFrankie, Pittsburgh District Vice President; National President Cynthia Maleski; Sister M. Viannea Marekova; Katherine Bowes, Fraternal Director; Mila Jaroniec, Marketing Coordinator. Front row (seated): Sister M. Michaela Dungalova, Sister M. Geraldine Varga, Sister M. Alojziana Spisakova.

FCSLA Life Branch W018 Holds Annual Picnic

FCSLA Life Branch W-018 finally held its annual picnic at Mahoney State Park on Sunday, June 26th. The last time we met was June 2019, so the Board chose to make this picnic one to remember. The picnic was the venue for honoring the 14 National Scholarship winners and the two winners of the Tom and Jean Jelinek Memorial Schol-



Branch W018 packed a pavilion at Mahoney State Park for their annual picnic and scholarship presentations.



Rachel Diehm was one of two recipients of a Branch College scholarship.



Branch Scholarship Coordinator Julianne Popelka and the Branch's second College Scholarship recipient Lia Reckmeyer.

arship for Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School, and announcing and honoring the eight Branch W-018 scholarship winners.

Members were also asked to join in the 130th Anniversary celebration of FCSLA Life by bringing a pair of socks to the picnic. 115 members and guests attended the picnic. The Branch is so proud to announce that they donated over 300 pairs of socks!!! The socks were donated to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

After enjoying the meal provided by the Branch, everyone enjoyed catching up with members they knew and meeting the many first-timers at the event.

Members took advantage of the glorious weather - not too hot and not too cool - and played miniature golf, dove into the swimming pool, or paddled the paddle boats.



Branch Elementary Scholarship Winner with his mother is a very excited winner.

Announcing our 43rd Quadrennial Convention

JW Marriott Indianapolis
October 5-8, 2023





National Fraternalist of the Year 2022

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



GUIDELINES

- Any FCSLA Life member may submit a nominee for this award.
- Nominee must be at least 23 years old (received date will determine age).
- Home Office staff and National Officers are not eligible to be nominated.
- Previous awardees are not eligible.
- A headshot photo of the nominee must be included with the nomination.
- An independent committee will select the winner. Decisions are final.
- Nominations must be received at the Home Office by **Friday, November 4, 2022**.
- The winner will receive \$250 and be featured in *Fraternally Yours*, on our website, and social media pages!



The **nomination form** can be found on our website (fcsla.com)
or by contacting the Fraternal Department, 800-464-4642 x1051
or fraternal@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.



A Look Back at the 1970s . . .



FCSLALife

National Youth of the Year Award 2022

Do you know of a young member who exemplifies youth leadership and service? Someone who stands out as a role model for others? FCSLA Life has a long history of encouraging and supporting youth, beginning in 1905 with the first life insurance certificates sold for children. We continue the tradition of youth engagement with the National Youth of the Year Award. This is your opportunity to nominate that outstanding young person.

Our young members are the future of FCSLA Life.

GUIDELINES

- Any FCSLA Life member may submit a nominee for this award.
- Nominee must be an FCSLA Life member for at least three years.
- Nominee must be between **12 - 22 years old**. (Received date will determine the age.)
- Family members of Home Office staff and National Officers are eligible to be nominated.
- Previous awardees are not eligible.
- Service projects and volunteerism included on nomination form can only be from 2019 - 2022.
- A headshot photo of the nominee must be included with the nomination.
- Nominations must be received at the Home Office by **Friday, November 4, 2022**
- An independent committee will select the winner. Decisions are final.
- The winner will receive \$250 and be featured in *Fraternally Yours*, on our website, and social media pages!

The **nomination form** can be found on our website (fcsla.com)
or by contacting the Fraternal Department, 800-464-4642 x1051
or fraternal@fcsla.com.



FCSLA Chicago Holds Annual Scholarship Luncheon & Business Meeting

Following a two-year break due to the pandemic, the FCSLA Chicago held its annual Scholarship luncheon at Camelot Banquets in Hickory Hills, IL, on June 18th. Scholarship winners and their families were invited to share lunch with District branches to celebrate their academic success. The program began with welcome and prayer by Lorraine Gibas, District President, and Fay Hlubocky, District Vice President. The scholarship winners were then invited up individually and introduced to the group by reading a short bio sheet they were asked to prepare. The Chicago District Board members presented each winner with a certificate,

pin, bag, and white rose, and invited them to sign the FCSLA Chicago District Scholarship Book before returning to their families. Lunch was then enjoyed by all as branches and members had fun catching up after two years of being apart.

As Scholarship winners and their families left, the luncheon was then followed by the first District face to face Business meeting in 2 years. Participation was strong and plans for future district events were presented and finalized. Everyone appreciated how good it was to be together in person again with our fraternal family and celebrate our scholarship winners and plans for the future.



 Find us on
Facebook
FCSLA Life



Father Gregory Holicky Celebrates 50th Jubilee

Father Gregory Holicky, a member of S452 in Whiting, IN celebrated his 50th year of ordination to the priesthood. Prior to spring finally appearing, gifts celebrating this great event were presented to him at the Immaculate Conception Grotto by Betty Ortiz, Financial Secretary of Branch S452, Joann Skvarek Banvich, National Director and Auditor of Branch S452, and Agnes Chervenak, President of Branch S307. All three officers were also committee members of the Slovak Day Committee and represented that organization as well, especially since Father Greg participates in the annual event whenever his schedule permits.

Father Holicky was a son of the parish of Immaculate Conception Church, a graduate of the Immaculate Conception School, an altar boy and

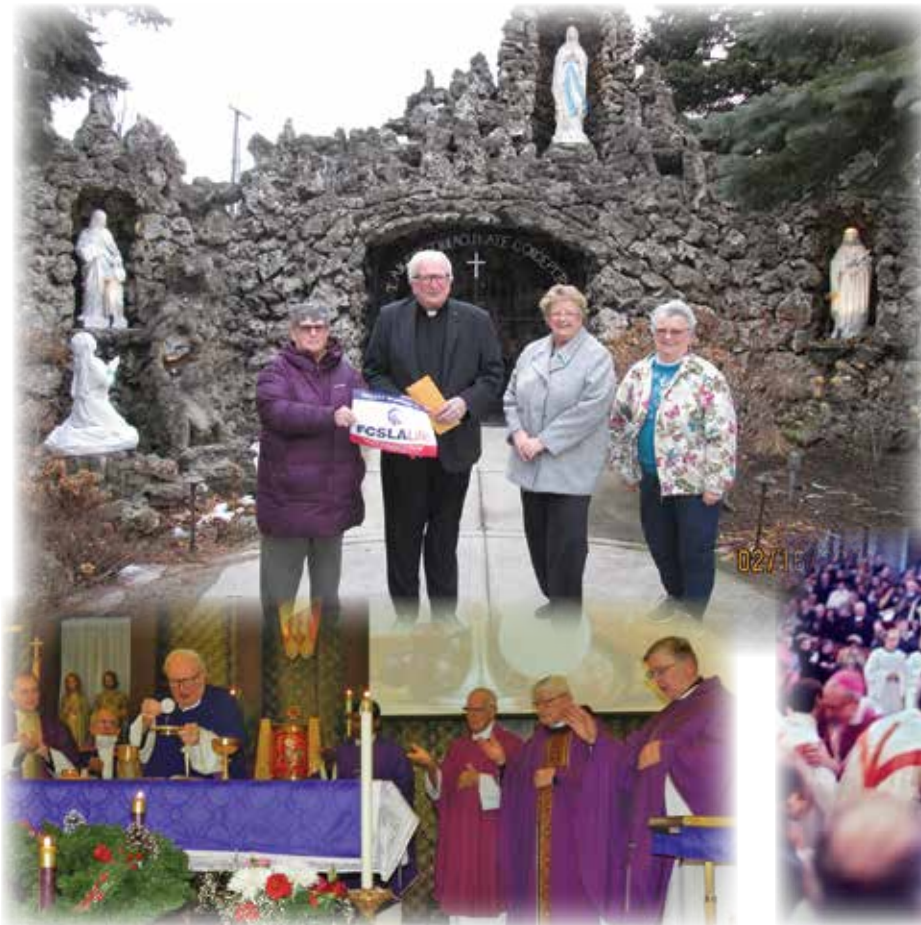


a boy scout. Since the Church was razed a few years ago and the memorial park of the parish is in architectural review, the members decided it would be meaningful to meet with him at the Grotto that remains on the property.

The Holicky family definitely belonged to the Slovak Church as his maternal grandparents were from Bobrovec and Ruzomberok and his paternal grandparents were from Orava and Bratislava.

They all immigrated to the United States in their teens and would be proud of their grandson today, as he is proud of his Slovak heritage and continues to carry on the family traditions with his siblings. Father Greg has one brother James who still makes dobri from the family recipe and two sisters Joan and Judy.

(Continued on facing page)



Member of Branch S452 in Whiting, Indiana

The Immaculate Conception Parish held a Sunday mass in Slovak along with Slovak hymns where he practiced what he learned in School, which was about 40 words. Both his parents, Paul and Mary were active in many church and school activities.

After graduating from Immaculate Conception School, Father Greg went to high school at St. Lawrence minor seminary and St. Mary's of the West major seminary in Cincinnati, OH. When his parents received the call that he would be continuing his formation in Rome, they were extremely proud, but

nervous, because he would be studying and living in a foreign country. Along with 33 other seminarians, he celebrated his Ordination on December 17, 1971 at St. Peter's in Rome. Attending the ordination were 15 of his friends and family, and Bishop Andrew Grutka from the Diocese of Gary in Northwest Indiana, who is seen blessing Father Greg. "It was a three and a half handkerchief occasion with my mother and grandmother crying," he fondly recalls.

His Jubilee mass was a special one, even though it could no longer be held at Immaculate Conception Parish. As a child he attended Sacred Heart Church with his grandma who lived across the street, which resulted in his familiarity with that Parish. He was assisted at mass by his nephew Rev. Stephen Felicichia, a member of S452 and a diocesan priest in Ft. Wayne, IN.

Several priest friends also assisted in the jubilee mass held in December, 2021. We all congratulate Father Holicky on a tremendous and blessed fifty years as a diocesan priest.

Frank Berkemeier Celebrates 75th Birthday

Members of S456 and J368 drove to celebrate this momentous occasion. The DelMedicos drove in from Akron, the Hentemanns drove in from Grand Rapids,



the Breljes drove in from Ann Arbor, the Berkemeiers drove in from Chicago to join the Berkemeiers from Jackson to attend mass at St. Mary Star of Sea Church. Standing in front (below) with FCSLA members is the newly ordained Fr. Tyler Arens, from Westphalia, MI. Many guests/

non-members of FCSLA were also invited to watch a private showing of Frank's favorite movies of all time: "Good Bye Mr Chips". Pop and popcorn were provided for all. Everyone commented how much fun they had. Only the FCSLA members of S456/J368 are pictured.



Do you

like to raise awareness and money for charities?

Are you

a good organizer who likes meeting new people?

Interested in

making a difference in your community?

Why not become an FCSLA Life branch officer!

The following branches are looking for new officers. To be an officer, you must currently be a local member in one of these branches, at least 22 years old, and a Principal member. If interested, contact the Fraternal Department - fraternal@fcsla.com or 800.464.4642 x1051 by 11/18/22.

S066 Streator, IL

S180 Chicago, IL

S191 Barborton, OH

S234 Newark, NJ

S620 DeMotte, IN

U275 Palos Park, IL

Eastern PA Hosts Christmas in July at Knoebels Amusement Park

Even though the summer has passed and we are on to cooler weather, FCSLA memories still fill the air. On July 7th, members from the Frances Jakabcin district celebrated Christmas in July at Knoebels Amusement Park. The district had their own pavilion for the day. Over 125 children and adults came out for our District event. Members were given \$20 in tickets which were a gift from their branch as well as snacks to munch on. Tickets could be used for food and rides. Members were also allowed to purchase more tickets at a 10% discount.

This event was a great way for families to see each other and friends to reconnect. The district has already scheduled next year's Kneobel's event for July 13, 2022. Mark your calendars today.



Renley Ann Klug Baptism

Renley Ann Klug was baptized at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Salina, KS on June 8th, 2022, by Father Keith Weber. Her parents are Kevin and Mackenzie (Weiser) Klug, and brothers, Korbin & Hudson. Her baptismal gown was made from her grandmother's wedding dress from 1954, which was also worn by her mother. The Klug family are members of W074.



Combined Celebrations for Branches S114 and J198

- July Scholarship • FCSLA 130th Anniversary
- St. Ann's Day Luncheon

Members of S114 and J198 celebrated St. Ann's Day and FCSLA Life's 130th Anniversary naming Scholarship winners and applicants on July 17, 2022 at the American Slovak in Lorain, Ohio. Following a short meeting, Senor Branch President Bernie announced there were 2 FCSLA Senior winners of \$1,250, Cassandra M Pavlik and Ryan A Szczepanik and one other applicant, Ryan D Meyers. There were 4 Junior Branch applicants, winners of \$750, Camille Cook, Kendall Cook, Grace and Grant Szczepanski unfortunately, not any of the winners or applicants were able to attend at this time. All Senior and Junior winners and applicants will receive a monetary gift from the Lodge with congratulations and wished a successful school year.

In honor of the 130th FCSLA Anniversary, a short recap of the history and present and future was given, and it was voted and all in favor to make a donation of \$130 to the Anna Hurban Scholarship fund.

Afterwards, a light luncheon with dessert was served. The meeting ended with a raffle and gifts from S114 and FCSLA Life followed by prayer and adjournment.



Charlene Westfall Earns Title of 2022 National Miss Ohio

Charlene Westfall, daughter of Byran and Donna Westfall earned the prestigious title of 2022 National Miss Ohio. She will be attending the National Pageant to be held in Orlando, FL, during Thanksgiving week, representing the great state of Ohio, where she will have the chance to win her share of over \$100,000,000 in cash and prizes!



The National American Miss Pageants are dedicated to celebrating America's greatness and encouraging its future leaders. Each year, the National American Miss Pageants awards \$1.5 million dollars in cash, scholarships, and prizes to recognize and assist the development of young women nationwide.

National American Miss has added the ultimate door prize to Nationals 2022. Each girl that qualifies for the national pageant has a chance to win a new 2022 Ford Mustang Convertible. National American Miss is dedicated to developing the success of young women across our nation with a program that is designed to be age-appropriate and family-oriented. Pageants are held in each state for girls ages four to eighteen in five different age divisions

The National American Miss Pageants are for "Today's Girl" and "Tomorrow's Leaders." The pageant program is based on inner beauty, as well as poise, presentation, and offers an "All American Spirit" of fun for family and friends. Emphasis is placed on the importance of gaining self-confidence, learning new skills, learning good attitudes about competition, and setting and achieving personal goals. The pageant seeks to recognize the accomplishments of each girl while encouraging her to set goals for the future!

Miss Westfall is a member of FCSLA Life Branch 001. Her activities include being the manager of a couture bridal boutique, a travel and fashion blogger, and raising awareness for adaptive fashion to help people with disabilities get dressed on their own.

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 August 15, the 2022 Appeal has received \$28,868.87 from 193 donors. Among the 61 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branch 2, Branches S10 and J386, Branches S107 and J38, Branch S108, Branch J143, Branch S301, Branch 313, Branches S343 and J416, 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 \$2,850. Donations to date have also been received from 6 parishes, 32 clergy and religious, and 94 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. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. HvozdoVIC, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harveys Lake, PA and Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, PA Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Parochial Vicar with Senior Priest status at Our Lady of Grace Church, 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

New Prague Branch W001 Holds Annual Summer Picnic

Branch W001 of New Prague, MN held their annual Summer Picnic on Sunday, August 28th at Memorial Park in New Prague. Beautiful weather contributed to the great turnout and a wonderful afternoon of socializing was had by all who attended. The kids competed in games and enjoyed the treasure hunt. The Barbeque Chicken Dinner was a huge hit and door prizes were awarded to several lucky winners.



Members of W033 Help Maintain Upkeep on Organ in St. Wenceslaus Church

Branch W033 Spillville, IA Organ Project In 1876 this pipe organ was purchased and installed in St. Wenceslaus Church in Spillville, IA. At that time, records show that parishioners donated \$1,100 on the first Sunday set for the collection. Fr. Francis Mikota was the parish priest from 1867-1881 and known for his wise foresight, genuine character and excellent management of the parish. Fr. Mikota's final resting place is a marble slab in the center aisle of the church. The parish's beautiful organ was played by Antonin Dvorak, a famous Czech composer and organist, best known for his New World Symphony. Dvorak spent the summer of 1893 in Spillville and played this organ each morning. He became a prominent member of the Spillville, IA community. Throughout all these many years since its first installation the organ has been continuously played while being cleaned, retuned, restored and maintained. On May 23, 2022 brothers John and Jim Streufert of the Dobson Pipe Organ Company came to Spillville to continue the upkeep of the organ. Several members of W033 were thrilled to work with them; taking out all the pipes and wooden bellows of the organ.

Wearing rubber gloves and getting a lesson on how to handle the pipes and bellows that were taken out of the back

of the organ in the balcony by Jim Steufert and handed to Judy Adams and then onto Dan Silhacek, Rebecca Kuhn and Tom Novak. Jeff Adams set up on scaffolding took the items and passed them onto John Steufert and Ken Jarosh. The metal pipes were done first and placed in lined boxes; then the wooden bellows were taken out and put on the backs of pews with blankets. It all had to be done in perfect order. It was very interesting to see and to be a part of the process. Some of the wooden bellows had Fr. Mikota's name stamped on and few more had Conover, IA as shipped by train to Spillville, IA. They were sized from small to large, the largest wooden bellow being 16 feet long. In May of this year repairing and returning was done by brothers John & Jim. On May 26th & 27th, once Dan Silhacek, Jeff Adams, Ken Jarosh, Alan Hauber and Jim Ryan helped with putting the cleaned organ back together again. The members of W033 involved in this project were honored to be part of keeping this historic instrument alive and well. Our work should keep the organ healthy for another 30 years and allow many to enjoy the beautiful sound of this 1876 organ.





IN MEMORIAM

Marian M. Gura, S156



Marian M. Gura, 89, passed away May 28, 2022 in Winchester, MA. Marian was born January 31, 1933, in Struthers, OH, one of 14 children born to the late John M. Gura and Anna Marie Lucas Gura. At the age of 13, Marian entered the Daughters of St. Paul Convent, where she served for 31 years. After her separation from the Daughters of St. Paul, she was a member and supporter of St. Eulalia Church, a member of the church choir and was active with The Voice of the Papal. Marian is survived by her three sisters, Regina Graygo, Ann Marie Fabilli and her twin, Monica Gura; a brother, James Gura; and many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Alvin Volesky, W121



Alvin Volesky passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home in Texas on June 1, 2022 after an extended illness. Al was born on December 18, 1952 to Robert and Otillia (Bob and Tillie) Volesky in Dickinson, North Dakota. He grew up on the family dairy near Dickinson where he learned how to work hard, play hard, love family, and have faith in God. He joined the Air Force and served during the Vietnam War as a Morse code analyst in Taiwan. His career in software development, software management, and data warehousing spanned 30+ years. He also owned a digital printing company before retiring to Morning Hill Ranch to raise goats. He married Dawn in 1991 in San Antonio where they formed a family with their children: Stacey Elstun, Jennifer Volesky, Tom Hollick, and Crystal Siller. He had seven grandchildren. Stacey and Chad Elstun have three grown children: Devin, Katelyn, and Ethan. Tom and Jenny Hollick have one daughter, Tenley. Crystal and Trevor Siller have three children: Makenna, Jace, and Addison. Before becoming ill, Al excelled in any sport he tried. His favorites were basketball, which he played in high school and in the Air Force, and golf. Throughout his life, he loved watching his kids and grandkids in their sports whether in-person or watching live-streamed events during COVID. He remained a kind, intelligent, capable man despite the limitations his condition presented. Dawn, his children, his family, and his friends will miss him terribly. He is survived by his wife Dawn, and their four children and seven grandchildren. He is also survived by his mother, two sisters (Roberta and Karla) four brothers (Fritz, Kevin, Ken, and Keith), many in-laws, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Margaret Frances Dintino, S202

Margaret F. Dintino (Marge), 87, was welcomed into God's loving arms on June 5, 2022. She was born on October 30, 1934 on Blaine Avenue on the Eastside of Youngstown, OH, the daughter of Michael and Mary (Fabry) Guzy. A graduate of East High School, Marge worked in various roles for several insurance agents and insurance companies including the late Lou Kreider, the late Lamar Jacobs, and Moore-Peterson Insurance Company. Marge met the love of her life, Joseph C. Dintino (Joe) at a wedding and were married on February 15, 1958 for almost 50 years until his death on June 10, 2007. They raised their three children, Michele, Joseph Jr. and Susan, in the home they built in Campbell, OH. She was

an active member of the former St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Campbell, where she served on the parish council, and was the right hand for her husband in various church activities and fundraisers. Marge also was a proud member of FCSLA Life. Marge was an avid reader, enjoyed trivia, crossword puzzles, bingo, and travel. She especially looked forward to her annual trip to Bethany Beach with her family. Her outlook on life, sense of humor, and faith in God made her an excellent role model. Her favorite sayings were "God will provide" and during difficult times, "This too shall pass". She had a special devotion to St. Jude. She will be deeply missed by her children, Michele (Chuck) Ferguson of Ashland, Joseph (Jackie) Dintino of Canfield, and Susan (Ed) Bartos of Hudson. Also left to cherish her memory are her six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; her sister Mary Hrinko and brother Thomas Guzy who were very dear to her.

Marian Irene Peroutka (Tikalsky), W001



Marian Irene Peroutka (Tikalsky), age 95 of New Prague, passed away peacefully in Edina, MN on July 2, 2022. Marian was born on the home farm just west of Union Hill (Belle Plaine), MN to Mary Tikalsky (Trcka) and William Tikalsky on May 17, 1927. Growing up with three siblings, Marian frequently reminisced about the challenges of life on the farm during the depression years. Marian lived a life of hard work and dedication, influenced by her upbringing and experiences. She attended New Prague High School where Marian met her high school sweetheart, Francis Peroutka. Marian and Francis were married on October 23, 1948, at St. Wenceslaus Church, in New Prague. They made their home on the 4th generation family farm, where they raised not only a family, but cattle, hogs, chickens, ducks, and geese. They also forged a path in organic farming for 20 years and supported caring for the earth. Marian and Francis were proud of their Czech heritage and would enjoy attending polka dances, listening to KCHK radio station and reading *The New Prague Times*. Marian delighted in being a farm wife. Marian was also employed at Mala Strana Nursing Home for 35 years before retiring at the age of 81. She was a great cook and loved to bake. Marian enjoyed sharing her treats with her family and friends. Marian had a green thumb and could make almost anything grow. Marian is survived by daughters Marjean (Peroutka) Beranek (Bill) of New Prague and Jane (Peroutka) Norton (Chuck) of Chaska, MN, three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

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

E-mail: zjbazik@comcast.net

IRS TOPIC NO. 421 SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIP GRANTS, AND OTHER GRANTS

<https://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc421>

A scholarship is generally an amount paid or allowed to a student at an educational institution for the purpose of study. A fellowship grant is generally an amount paid or allowed to an individual for the purpose of study or research. Other types of grants include need-based grants (such as Pell Grants) and Fulbright grants.

Please note that emergency financial aid grants under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, the COVID Relief Act, and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for unexpected expenses, unmet financial need, or expenses related to the disruption of campus operations on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, are not includible in your gross income. See Higher Education Emergency Grants Frequently Asked Questions for more information.

Tax-Free

If you receive a scholarship, a fellowship grant, or other grant, all or part of the amounts you receive may be tax-free. Scholarships, fellowship grants, and other grants are tax-free if you meet the following conditions:

- You're a candidate for a degree at an educational institution that maintains a regular faculty and curriculum and normally has a regularly enrolled body of students in attendance at the place where it carries on its educational activities; and
- The amounts you receive are used to pay for tuition and fees required for enrollment or attendance at the educational institution, or for fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for courses at the educational institution.

Taxable

You must include in gross income:

- Amounts used for incidental expenses, such as room and board, travel, and optional equipment.
- Amounts received as payments for teaching, research, or other services required as a condition for receiving the scholarship or fellowship grant. However, you don't need to include in gross income any amounts you receive for services that are required by the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program, the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship and Financial Assistance Program, or a comprehensive student work-learning-service program (as defined in section 448(e) of the Higher Education Act of 1965) operated by a work college.

Please visit the link above for more detailed information on this important topic.

Branch S030 Honors Scholarship Winners

Branch S030, St. Ann's Lodge, honored its scholarship winners at the Maria E. Grega District meeting held on August 21, 2022 in Youngstown, OH. Pictured are Deacon John Rovnak, college graduate scholarship winner, who is completing his last year at St. Mary's Seminary & Graduate School, and Nathan Smrek, college freshman attending Youngstown State University. Missing from the photo: John Joyce, college senior attending Cleveland State University. Congratulations and thanks to the parents and families who support these scholars!



Branches S089 and S319 Combined Christmas Party Scheduled

FCSLA Life Branches S089 (Hellertown, PA) and S319 (Allentown, PA) will host a joint Christmas Party for members on Sunday, November 27, 2022 at the Heintzelman Carriage House, 326 Main St., Rear, Hellertown. The dinner will be followed by a seasonal reflection presented by Fr. John Krivak. Plan to join us at the 11 a.m. Mass at St. Theresa Parish in Hellertown before the event. We will meet at the Carriage House 12-12:30 p.m. Reservations are required for the luncheon. Please contact Loretta Ulincy at (610-737-8207) or email (lordolo27@outlook.com) no later than Friday, November 18th.

Annual Bingo Social at American Slovak Club

St. Ann Lodge Branch S114 in Lorain OH, will hold their Annual Bingo Social on Sunday, October 16 at 1:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway, Lorain, OH. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Please make your reservations by calling Bernie Danevich at (440) 960-2605. Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, October 12.

A REMINDER: Our Annual Meeting and Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 18.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

FCSLA Life Branches J058 & S081 Race for Education 2022

The Race Is On!



St. John the Baptist Race For Education was put on pause due to rain on the scheduled date of May 6th, 2022. The delay to May 13th seemed to create more excitement among the students. It encouraged Jayce Dunn to create a poster to motivate fellow junior high members. The students were given an extra week to collect pledges for the school.

Principal Jessica Gonzales reported that the donated amount was \$18,514. Although it was short of the projected goal of \$40,000, the school will benefit from the generous pledges. The school also received a \$600 matching funds check from the FCSLA Life Home Office.

The top students with the highest pledges were awarded prizes. J058 member Jayce Dunn won second place, which was Chicago White Sox tickets. Another member Reagan Klapak won third place which was DeepRiver Waterpark



tickets. Congratulations to both of our members on a job well done!

Branch J058 with the help of S081 members were proud sponsors of this very important fundraiser for this school and the students who live their faith. May they all be blessed with a great education. A heartfelt thank you to all who donated to this worthy cause.



FCSLA Life Branch S230/S417 Block Party Support

FCSLA Life Branch S230 and S417 participated in a Matching Funds activity to support St. Mary's Block Party, Catasauqua, PA which was held June 23-25, 2022 from 6-10 p.m. Pictured among the volunteers, in the kitchen, are Charlene Sabol (S230) 2nd from left in the back row and Karen Stanz (S417) in the back row, far right.



MATCHING FUNDS

FCSLA Life Branch S114

Flea Market Benefit

Light of Hearts Villa held a successful Flea Market on July 22-23 to benefit the Sr. Helen Therese Scasny, SC Benevolent Fund. The Benevolent Fund assists residents who have outlived their finances. The event was held at La Casa Bella due to COVID restrictions still in place for Assisted Living Facilities. The successful event raised \$3,400 for the Fund. Multiple volunteers transported, displayed and assisted guests with their purchases. Two residents, Marcia Mlachak and Sam Jackson greeted guests at the door and thanked them as they left with their treasures. Sr. Helen Therese (S114), who applied for the Matching Funds Program, was on hand to encourage sales and to provide a bit of spiritual wisdom.



Sam Jackson and Marcia Mlachak, residents, greeted guests.



Volunteers preparing tables of treasures.



Guests had a wide range of treasures to choose from.

United in Marriage

Jennifer Marie Terry (Branch S089) and Thomas Daniel Garippa were married, May 20, 2022 at Saucon Valley Acres in Bethlehem, PA.



The bride, a native of Bethlehem, is the daughter of Keith Terry and, the late, Patty (Mitko) Terry. The groom is the son of Kenneth and Donna Garippa. The bridal party consisted of

the Bride's two sisters, her nieces and nephew, the Groom's two brothers, and 4 of their closest friends! The bride is a graduate of Moravian University, Bethlehem, PA, and is also licensed in Massage Therapy. She is self-employed as an LMT, with her own therapeutic massage office in Coolidge, AZ. The groom is a graduate of Lock Haven University, Lock Haven, PA. He is employed at the United States Postal Service (for 20 years this past June) and currently works in Phoenix, Arizona. The happy couple resides in Coolidge, AZ with their 8-year-old "dogter", a Belgian Malinois/ Black Lab mix named Kimber.

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.

Branch J157 Breakfast with Mr. & Mrs. Santa in Monessen, PA



Monessen Branch J157 will hold a breakfast with Mr. and Mrs. Santa on Sunday, December 18, 2022 from 9:30 to 11:30. The breakfast will take place at Epiphany of Our Lord Parish, 44 Pennsylvania Blvd., Monessen. For reservations call: Rosemary Betza 724-684-9778 by December 16, 2022.

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF MAY 31, 2022

ASSETS

Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 19,755,064
Bonds	1,079,151,816
Preferred Stock	2,208,446
Common Stock	7,916,720
Investment Income Due & Accrued	14,447,667
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	4,524,035
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,895,804
Other Assets	824,337
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,130,723,889

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 308,157,198
Annuity Reserves	687,083,812
Death Claims Payable	2,266,016
Unearned Premiums	428,577
Matured Endowments	369,514
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,400,000
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	5,038,892
Accrued Convention Donations	400,000
Provision for Future Conventions	466,616
Asset Valuation Reserve	12,441,146
Interest Maintenance Reserve	532,280
Other Liabilities	2,140,094
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 1,020,724,144
Surplus	\$ 109,999,745
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS FUNDS	\$ 1,130,723,889

INCOME STATEMENT For the Fifth Month Ending May 31, 2022

REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 1,973,212
Annuity Premiums	20,223,579
Investment Income	21,018,347
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	32,815
Rental Income	171,474
Other Revenue	34,872
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 43,454,299

EXPENSE

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 1,061,198
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	12,641,792
Insurance Benefits	3,929,666
Annuity Benefits	18,050,611
Commission Expense	598,296
Surrender Benefits	1,124,542
Matured Endowments	13,044
Interest Expense	168,961
Salaries — Employees	298,842
Tax Expense	23,800
Underwriting Expense	20,887
LIFE AND ANNUITY EXPENSES	\$ 37,931,639

Revenue Less Life and Annuity Expenses

Bank Service Charges	\$ 5,522,659
Data Processing Service Fees	60,096
Accounting Fees	127,075
Actuarial Fees	86,131
Legal Fees	88,465
Consulting Fees	30,239
Employee Benefits	3,111
	293,736

Fees — Directors	79,973
Salaries — Employees	608,120
Salaries — Officers	269,937
Temporary Office Expenses	73,913
Tax Expense	77,722
Depreciation Expense	96,795
Utility Expense	54,214
Postage and Printing	103,822
Advertising & Marketing	31,407
Travel Expense	35,684
Insurance Department Fees	42,113
Sales Expense	57,313
Rental Expense	171,474
Building Expense	72,019
Insurance Expense	23,601
Office Equipment & Supplies Expense	52,461
Dues & Subscriptions	30,771
Human Resources	22,925
Other Expense	837

SALES & OPERATING EXPENSES

\$ 2,593,953

Revenue Less Sales & Operating Expenses

\$ 2,928,706

Post Mortem Benefits	705,710
Misc. Member Benefits	28,862
Donation Expenses	48,586
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	62,500
Convention Expenses	72,935
Branch and District Funding	306,665
Fraternal Activities	78,550
Official Publications	251,215
Scholarship Awards	214,292
DIRECT FRATERNAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,769,314

Income (Loss) from Operations

\$ 1,159,392

Dividends to Members	592,299
Subtotal Income (Loss)	\$ 567,094
Capital Gains (Loss)	(6,519)
NET INCOME (Loss)	\$ 560,574

Monessen Branch S088 Christmas Party

Monessen Branch S088 Christmas Party will be held December 4, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Doors will open at 1:15 p.m. The event will be held at the Cedarbrook Golf Club, Route 981, Rostraver, PA. Your attendance will result in the return of your deposit. No show will forfeit deposit.

Send deposit of \$15.00 per member to Dorothy Urbanowicz, 27 Crescent Drive, Monessen, PA 15062-2550. **Deposits must be received no later than November 16.**



Happy Polish Heritage Month

FCSLALife®
Insurance You Can Trust Since 1892.



It's fall y'all!

GUINNESS BRAISED SHORT RIBS

- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon salt or to taste
- ¼ teaspoon pepper or to taste
- 4 pound beef short ribs
- 2 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 large onion chopped
- 1 large carrot chopped
- 2 stalks celery chopped
- 6 cloves garlic
- 2 tablespoon tomato paste
- 440 ml Guinness stout (1 can)
- 2 cups beef broth
- 1 tablespoon liquid smoke (such as Mesquite)
- 2 sprigs fresh rosemary
- 4 sprigs fresh thyme

1 tablespoon fresh parsley chopped
Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.

In a shallow plate whisk together the flour, salt and pepper. Dredge the short ribs through the flour mixture, making sure all sides are covered in flour.

In a large Dutch oven, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the ribs, only half of them at a time, do not over crowd them and sear them on all sides, about 3 to 4 mins. per side until browned. Repeat with remaining ribs. Remove the ribs from the pot and set aside.

In the same pot add the onions, carrot, celery, garlic and saute for about 3 to 4 minutes or until the onion has softened and the garlic is aromatic.

Stir in the tomato paste. Add the Guinness stout, beef broth, liquid smoke, rosemary and thyme to the pot and bring to a boil. Season with salt and pepper, if needed. Add the short ribs back to the pot and cover with a lid.

Place the pot in the oven and cook for 2½ to 3 hours, until the ribs fall off the bone.

Remove the rosemary and thyme, then garnish with parsley. Serve hot over mashed potatoes.

AUTUMN APPLE SALAD

- 4 tart green apples, cored and chopped
- ¼ cup blanched slivered almonds, toasted

- ¼ cup dried cranberries
- ¼ cup chopped dried cherries
- 1 (8 ounce) container vanilla yogurt

In a medium bowl, stir together the apples, almonds, cranberries, cherries and yogurt until evenly coated.

BUTTERNUT SQUASH FRIES

- 1 (2 pound) butternut squash, halved and seeded
- salt to taste

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees.

Use a sharp knife to carefully cut away the peel from the squash. Cut the squash into sticks like French fries. Arrange squash pieces on a baking sheet and season with salt.

Bake for 20 minutes in the preheated oven, turning the fries over halfway through baking. Fries are done when they are starting to brown on the edges and become crispy.

APPLE PIE CHEESECAKE BARS

For Crust

- 6 tablespoons butter melted
- 2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon ground

For Cheesecake Filling

- 16 ounces cream cheese at room temperature
- 3 large eggs
- ¼ cup sugar
- ¼ teaspoon salt

For Apples

- 2 large apples peeled, cored and sliced in small pieces
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 3 tablespoons sugar

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Line a 9x9 baking pan with parchment paper, spray it with cooking spray first so that the parchment paper sticks to the pan. Set aside.

In a medium bowl mix together the melted butter, ½ teaspoon cinnamon, sugar and the graham cracker crumbs. Pour the mixture into the prepared baking pan and press evenly. Use bottom of a glass to press

the crumbs down to make a thin layer. Bake for 10 minutes.

In a medium bowl mix together the apples with the sugar and cinnamon.

To the bowl of your mixer add the cream cheese, sugar, eggs and pinch of salt. Beat on medium high for at least 5 minutes or until the mixture is smooth. Gently fold in the prepared apples into the cheesecake mixture.

Pour the cream cheese filling over the crust in the baking pan. Level the top off with a spatula.

Transfer the baking pan to the oven and bake uncovered for about an hour or until the filling is set. Let the cheesecake cool completely before slicing into it.

Once the cake is cooled slice it into squares. Optional: Drizzle with caramel sauce and sprinkle with sea salt.

Note: Wrap and store in refrigerator.

FALL SANGRIA

- ½ cup Triple Sec
- 1 (750 milliliter) bottle dry white wine
- 3 cups apple cider
- 2 medium apples, cored and diced
- 2 medium oranges, cut into wedges
- 2 medium lemons, cut into wedges
- 3 cinnamon sticks
- Ice
- Soda water

Add all ingredients except soda water into a large pitcher and stir to combine.

Allow to sit in the refrigerator for 3 to 24 hours.

Pour sangria and fruit into glasses with ice. Top with soda water.

OREO COOKIES & CREAM DESSERT

- 1 (8 ounce) package ½-less-fat cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 4 tablespoons butter, room temperature
- 3 cups milk
- 2 (3.5 ounce) packages instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1 (8 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 ounce) package chocolate sandwich cookies, crushed into chunks.

Combine cream cheese, powdered sugar, and butter in a large bowl; beat with an electric mixer until creamy. Add milk and vanilla pudding mix and beat until well combined and all lumps are gone. Fold in whipped topping.

Distribute ½ of the chocolate sandwich cookies on the bottom of a 9x13-inch dish. Cover with the pudding mixture and top with remaining cookie chunks. Cover and refrigerate for at least 8 hours or overnight.

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.