

Catholic Fraternal

Jednota

THE UNION

USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Volume 132

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023

NUMBER 6025

Up to \$142,000 available in the FCSU Scholarships. Apply Now at www.fcsu.com!

A Scholarship Testimonial

Jednota Representatives,

Thank you for the scholarship, it was really appreciated. I have participated in jazz band, soccer, the school musical, and basketball as after school extra curriculars. Currently, quarter one of school ended, and I had a GPA of about 3.7. Thank you for your time and money.

Sincerely,

Juliana Oost

FCSU ANNUITY RATES

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Webinar Lecture Offered

February 23, 2023: Dr. Kevin Deegan-Krause, Professor of Political Science, Wayne State University ("30 Years of Slovak Domestic Politics"). To register to participate online in the February 23 event, please visit the Slovak American Society of Washington, DC (SASW) on Facebook, or go to the SASW website dcslovaks.org, or visit Friends of Slovakia on Facebook or LinkedIn.

The FCSU Home Office will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20, the President's Day holiday.

Inside

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Message from the President

On January 21st I held a Board of Directors Strategy Meeting at the Home Office. My purpose was to engage the Board in changes being introduced and to have a round table discussion of possibilities for our future. Topics of examination included updating our Jednota newspaper and our website, fraternal activities, branch merges and acquiring more independent agents. I formed 7 committees with each Board member serving on at least one committee. The committees include Audit, By-Law, Fraternal, Religious, Young Adult, Slovak Culture & Heritage, and Enterprise Risk Management. The committees will give their first report at the quarterly Board Meeting which will be held in the Home Office in March. In addition, each Regional Director will be contacting the branch and district officers in their region to establish a relationship with the officers and create an open dialogue between the Regional Director and the Home Office.



Kenneth A. Arendt

I asked Larry White from AQS Management, our asset consultant, to attend this meeting in person to make a presentation of the procedures he uses to present new investment opportunities. His presentation gave the board a better understanding of how the Executive Committee decides to purchase or sell investments.

In working with our in-house and outside marketing teams we are striving to keep our fraternal society relevant in the world of finance while remaining dedicated to our Catholic faith, fraternalism, and our Slovak heritage.

I look forward to sharing with you, our members, our mission to move our society forward both fraternally and financially.

Kenneth A. Arendt, President



Altar at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Windber, PA.
Photo: Dr. Michael Kopanic.

Reflection

As a religious of the Congregation of Saints Cyril and Methodius, it's appropriate for me to review a hymn dedicated to our patrons. Their patronal feast occurs on February 14, the date of St. Cyril's death. The date for St. Methodius has not been documented since the search for his burial site is in progress in Velehrad, Moravia, in the Czech Republic.

The hymn, Duša Kresťanská/Christian Soul, has long been a processional for celebrated pilgrimage. Its 14 verses review the sacramental teaching and evangelizing shared by Cyril and Methodius. Instead of translating each verse as written, I composed a summary of principal themes into five verses.

We can learn much from the example of these two missionary brothers:

- Adapting their teaching to the Slovak language of the country
- Promoting Eucharistic piety and faithfulness
- Instilling profound Scriptural and Marian devotions
- Being present to all, especially the poor and simple, for spiritual needs
- Being loyal to Rome's papacy
- 9th century traveling for papal approval of translations and liturgical presentations
- Ordaining numerous priests and training missionaries.

I find it interesting to honor Saints Cyril and Methodius on the same day we celebrate Valentine's Day here. Yet, what can be more proper than to honor these two Greek brothers shared with our Slavic nations. They fully gave their gifts and lives. Now we gratefully revere them for their sacrificial love.

Sr. Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.

Duša Kresťanská

1. Duša Kresťanská, zvelebuj Boha,
že nám Cyrila dal i Metoda.
Sbor:
Svätý Cyril, svätý Metod,
ľuď kresťanský ctí váš príchod,
že ste nám priniesli vieru Krista.
2. Prišli ste k našim pohanským predkom
Cvičili ste ich verne vo všetkom.
Sbor:
3. Máriu, svätých ctít ste učili,
keď ste Klementa telo nosili.
Sbor:
4. A Písmo sväté preložili ste,
do našej reči lahodne, čiste.
Sbor:
5. Posilnujte nás v tej pravej viere,
ktorá otvára do neba dvere.
Sbor:
Editor's note: This is one of the most popular hymn which Slovak-Americans sing. To listen to the hymns **Duša Kresťanská**, go to the youtube website: www.tinyurl.com/mw4yhhbz.

Duša Kresťanská – We Raise our Voices

1. We raise our voices in grateful chorus,
Praising the Lord for Cyril, Methodius.
Refrain:
O Saint Cyril, St. Methodius,
Down through the ages your names are
glorious,
You brought to countless souls the living
faith.
2. With ardent zeal you taught the Lord's mes-
sage,
Shared words of wisdom in their own language.
Refrain:
3. Preaching God's mercy, love, and redemption,
You helped our faith to grow with conviction.
Refrain:
4. You have inspired love for Christ's mother,
In joy and sorrow, our intercessor.
Refrain:
5. Pray for daily, strengthen and guide us,
To follow where God's Kingdom will call us.
Refrain:

Message from the National Chaplain

Ash Wednesday this year is February 22. That day is usually recognized by the Church as the Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter. This feast predates the ninth century and it commemorates several items of importance in the life of the Church.

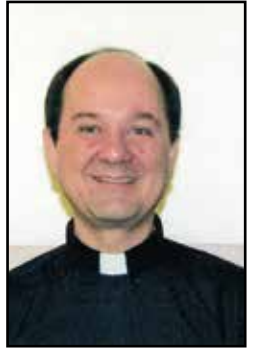
It primarily recalls the naming of Saint Peter by Jesus to be the supreme pastor of the Church Jesus was establishing and the unbroken line of succession since the time of Peter. It also celebrates the unity of the Church and her teaching office of the pope (magisterium).

The Solemnity of Ash Wednesday suspends the celebration of the Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter this year. We can find a connection between the two which we can carry over to our 40 days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

All four gospels record Peter three times that he denied knowing Jesus. After the third time, Scripture says Peter wept bitterly. He knew he sinned, sinned seriously. He deeply regretted what he did. Eventually, he was reconciled to the Lord.

If the one Christ appointed to be head of his church did penance and needed Christ's forgiveness for his sins, who is any of us to claim we are exempt from doing the same?

Saint Peter, pray for us that we will learn from your example and, through our works of penance these 40 days of Lent, we may seek forgiveness of our sins and be renewed in holiness of life.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

Insights and Viewpoints

Seventh Sunday Ordinary Time

Matthew 5: 38 – 48

Sometimes we allow the unworthiness that results from our sinfulness to overshadow the great love and mercy God has for us. We place low expectations on ourselves because, after all, we are unworthy and our sins prevent us from doing great things. This is contrary to what the Bible and Jesus tells us about our identity. The Old Testament begins by telling us that we are created in the image and likeness of God. No other creature can claim that distinction. Of all that God created we, alone, are his image and likeness. In the Reading from Leviticus God tells Moses and the people of Israel to be Holy. In the First letter of Paul to the Corinthians he tells us that we are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in us. These three passages should lift us from feeling that we can do little or nothing with our faith because of our sin, to realize that Jesus, the Word made Flesh, says the word that heals us from sin and makes us worthy to be what God calls us to be. God has not given up on us. He sent Christ to redeem, and the Spirit to sanctify us.

God desires us to have a unique and close relationship with him, and he gives us the gifts we need to draw close to him. As in any true love relationship, it is a commitment that opens us up to receive the blessings and gifts God has for us, as well as the desire to love him with all our heart, mind, soul and spirit, even to the point of great sacrifice. In our relationship with God the blessings, gifts, and ultimate reward, are far greater than any sacrifice we make for him. The gospel today tells us some of what we are called to sacrifice.

Because we are God's dwelling place, we are expected to live holy lives, and in the Gospel Jesus tells us how to do that. His message is bold and is contrary to the way most people of his time thought. It is a call to no longer look at justice as, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." It is a call to passivity in conflicts, generous response to those who are in need, and ultimately to love our enemies. This went against most of what they had been taught. For those who truly believed in Christ, they sacrificed their former way of thinking and acting out of love for Jesus. Look at all

Continued on page 3

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY BEFORE THE ISSUE DATE, unless otherwise stated below because of special holiday scheduling. Copy that is not received by this deadline will not necessarily appear in the following Wednesday's issue.

Issue Date	Copy Date
Wednesday, Mar 15, 2023	Monday, Mar 6, 2023
Wednesday, Apr 12, 2023	Monday, Apr 3, 2023
Wednesday, May 10, 2023	Monday, May 1, 2023

When submitting announcements for upcoming events, remember that JEDNOTA is printed MONTHLY, and time is lost in the postal system. Please plan to have your announcements to us in ample time for them to be edited and printed. **Please send all Branch & District announcements to branch@fcsu.com or district@fcsu.com.**

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:
Michael Kopanic, Editor; editor@fcsu.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398
FAX: 216-642-4310

JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Fraternal - Published Monthly

Publisher and Proprietor

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION of the United States of America and Canada

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

Independence OH 44131-2398

MICHAEL KOPANIC, Editor; editor@fcsu.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: UNITED STATES - \$25.00 All other countries - \$30.00

PRINTED AT: SUSQUEHANNA PRINTING, 1407 Hempstead Road, Lancaster, PA 17602

Telephone: 216/642-9406 Fax: 216/642-4310

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:
Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398

Periodical Postage paid at Cleveland, OH 44131 and additional mailing offices

Dear Fellow Fraternal Members and Readers,

February (február in Slovak) begins with Ground Hog Day and the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The rest of the month belongs to the celebrations of fašiangy (Carnival - Slovak Mardi Gras) until the start of Lent (pôst – pronounced “pwest”) on the 23rd of the month. Fašiangy is a time of merriment and weddings before Lent, a time to reflect on our sinful failings and do penance so that we will cleanse our souls in preparation for Easter in early April.

This issue also includes an article about Michael Krajsa, who received several awards for his outstanding service as a teacher at Penn State. He has served as Convention Chairman at the last two FCSU Conventions and we applaud his accomplishments.

Sister M. Paracleta Amrich, SS.C.M. pointed out a good BBC article which shows how Slovaks and Czechs have never got along better and are the best of friends since Slovakia became independent. What the article does not mention is the national issue and treating one another as equals had always plagued the Slovak-Czech relationship. Many leading Czechs held a patronizing and superior attitude toward Slovaks. Independence helped solve that issue. One may read about the now relaxed relationship between the two nations at this website: Czechoslovakia: Czechs and Slovaks mark 30 years since Velvet Divorce - BBC News <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-64076981>.

There is an important new change for announcements for Branches and Districts. Please send all announcements to the new addresses instead of sending them directly to the editor. The new e-mail addresses are: branch@fcsu.com and district@fcsu.com.

In ending, I would invite readers to let me know any additional features in the newspaper. One suggestion is that members send in a favorite recipe. Feel free to send a message to the editor by mail to the society or at the following e-mail address: editor@fcsu.com.

With sincere fraternal regards, s úprimným bratským pozdravom,

Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr.,
editor@fcsu.com

“For God and Nation” (Za Boha a národ).



Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

The Symbolism of Ashes

February 22nd is Ash Wednesday, and for those who can, finding an Ash Wednesday service is a great way to mark the start of Lent. The ritual of receiving ashes on the forehead dates to the Middle Ages but contains symbolism rooted in the Old Testament, when ashes signified mourning, mortality, and penance.

In one of the many examples of ashes being referenced in the Old Testament, the King of Nineveh responded to Jonah's call for conversion and repentance by covering himself in sackcloth and sitting in a pile of ashes. That took place in the 5th Century B.C., prefiguring Christ's words to the people of those towns who had heard His message of salvation and witnessed His miracles yet still refused to repent. Christ chastised those towns when He said, “If the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.” (Luke 10:13)

The early Church perpetuated the symbolism of ashes in connection with penance, and by the 8th Century, a custom had developed in which people facing death would lie upon sackcloth and have ashes sprinkled upon them. A priest would then bless them with holy water and say, “Remember that thou art dust and to dust thou shalt return.” Afterwards, the priest would ask, “Art thou content with sackcloth and ashes in testimony of thy penance before the Lord in the day of judgement?” The answer for believers would invariably be “yes” because they understood the need to turn to God with humble and contrite hearts.

Also in the 8th Century, the Gregorian Sacramentary references a Day of Ashes marking the beginning of Lent, and a quote from the Anglo-Saxon priest Aelfric dating to around 1,000 A.D. reads, “Now let us do this little at the beginning of our Lent that we strew ashes upon our heads to signify that we ought to repent of our sins during the Lenten fast.”

So, we see that the practice of using ashes to signify the start of Lent evolved from a long tradition. Today, we get our ashes from the burned palm branches of the previous year's Palm Sunday, which symbolizes repentance because the Palms were used to welcome Christ. By marking ourselves with ashes of burned palms, we acknowledge that we have fallen short of fully welcoming Christ into our lives.

The history of Ash Wednesday helps to shed light on why Lent is a time for reflection upon our standing before God. Christ called for repentance, fulfilling the call of the Old Testament prophets and John the Baptist. He did this because He understood that people had to renounce the world to fully welcome Him into their lives. But Christ also understood that we needed help in the effort to prepare ourselves for the perfect love God wants to shower upon us. So, we repent not because we expect to earn our way into a state of grace, but simply to do our part to be prepared to receive Christ's selfless gift.

Therefore, we humble ourselves with ashes to begin our preparations for the celebration of the coming of Christ into our lives at Eastertime. The ashes remind us of our humanity as imperfect people in need of salvation. And as with so many things in our faith, humility opens a window onto the wisdom of God so that we can be transformed by His tremendous love for us.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 2023

- 1 Br 553 – Spaghetti Dinner in Akron, OH
Postmark deadline for March Madness (rcvd. by 3/8)
- 2 Br 200 – Meeting in Ford City, PA
- 3 Br 746 – Mass in Linden, NJ
- 5 Br 162 – Meeting in Uniontown, PA
Br 173 – Meeting in Wilkes-Barre, PA
- 9 Br 260 – Meeting in Struthers, OH
- 11 Br 5P – Meeting in Wyoming, PA
- 12 Br 24 – Meeting in Walton Hills, OH
Br 743 – Mass/Meeting in Sterling Heights, MI
Br 746 – Meeting in Linden, NJ (RSVP 3/1)
Dist 4 – Meeting in Linden, NJ (RSVP 3/1)
Dist 9 – Meeting in Uniontown, PA (RSVP 3/8)
Dist 12 – Meeting in Butler, PA
- 15 Br 290 – Meeting in Middlesex, NJ (RSVP 3/8)
Br 553 – Mystery Dinner in Akron, OH
- 16 Br 410 – Meeting in Uniontown, PA (RSVP 3/13)
- 17 Br 367 – Friday Meeting in Smithfield, PA
- 18 Br 401 – Meeting in Export, PA
Br 856 – Meeting in Bethesda, MD
Dist 10 – Monsters Hockey game, Cleveland, OH
- 19 Br 670 – Meeting in Canonsburg, PA
Br 731 – Mass in Youngstown, OH
Dist 12 – Meeting in Canonsburg, PA
- 20 Br 228 – Meeting in Lorain, OH
- 26 Br 199 – Meeting in Latrobe, PA
Br 320 – Meeting, in Monessen, PA (RSVP 3/13)
Br 796 – Meeting in Whitehall, PA
Dist 16 – Meeting in NYC, NY
- 31 **FCSU Scholarship deadline**
February Puzzle Contest deadline

Seventh Sunday Ordinary Time

continued from page 2

that the early apostles and disciples suffered, and they did so while praying for their persecutors.

This is a great sacrifice for us, for who does not look for some sense of revenge toward an “enemy”? Even if it is not deliberate action on our part, don't we tend to smile when some little misfortune strikes an “enemy”? This is also a challenge for us at a time when society seems to confuse justice with revenge, and views mercy as weak and irresponsible. God is a just judge whose judgments are not made out of revenge, but out of justice and love. Revenge leaves no room for reconciliation, while justice seeks reconciliation in the midst of the consequences of our sins. Mercy is not a weakness it is a strength. The ability to look beyond the hurts we might have experienced, and to be able to forgive and love. This is difficult, but possible because God has great expectations for us to do great things, because of who we are in his eyes.

Father Killian Loch, O.S.B.



NEW SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

helps its young members succeed through education by awarding over \$142,000 in scholarships each year.

SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORIES

CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOLS (5-8 gr)	\$500
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS	\$1,000
COLLEGES	\$1,500
GRADUATE SCHOOLS	\$1,500
VOCATIONAL/TRADE SCHOOLS	\$1,000

RULES & REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must have: a minimum of \$5,000 of reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life, NOT a JEP -JEP members as of December 31, 2021 are still eligible as long as they have been a member for 3 years); or minimum of \$500 in an annuity or Coverdell IRA with the FCSU for at **least three years** prior to April 1st of the year in which they are applying.

Applicants are eligible to win once in each of the 5 categories.

All scholarship winners must maintain an active policy during their school years.

Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application obtained from a branch officer, the Home Office or www.fcsu.com and mail it to: Scholarship Program, FCSU, 6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131.

Winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee and checks will be made payable to the winners.

Find Scholarship Applications at WWW.FCSU.COM
(www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships)

Applications must be postmarked by **MARCH 31, 2023**
For more info call us at 800-533-6682

Branch 716 Birthday Celebrations

On Sunday December 18, 2022, members of Branch 716 along with friends and family gathered to celebrate Nina Holy's 90th birthday. Nina had also stepped down from her position as Vice President after Branch 716's 2023 election and we would like to thank her for her years of service to our community, and we wish her good health and happiness for more years to come.

On Sunday January 15, 2023, we had also celebrated the birthday of branch member Anna Bilik, with fellow Jednota members, family, and Fr. Martin Kertys of St. John Nepomucene Church coming to celebrate. We members at Branch 716 wish Anna a very happy birthday, and wonderful year to good health and happiness. Capuchin Felix Jan Tkac had also come to visit St. John Nepomucene Church that weekend, and he presided over Slovak masses with Fr. Martin along with playing his new music album titled "Som Taký", available on music platforms like Spotify and YouTube. New branch president Eva Lysakova invited Capuchin Felix to the New York Rangers vs. Montreal Canadiens Hockey game on January 15th along with other Jednota members. They had lots of fun cheering on for our New York home team. We thank Capuchin Felix for coming to New York and visiting the parishioners of St. John Nepomucene, and we wish you good fortune and success in the new year!

Submitted by Emily Lysakova



Branch 716 Anna Korcak and Nina Holy from Branch 45 at Nina's Birthday Party in New Jersey



(L-R) Jan Lysak, Maria Bozekova, Eva Lysakova, Capuchin Felix Jan Tkac, Alena Imrichova, Anna Bilik, Dominika Imrich and Fr. Martin Kertys at St. John Nepomucene Church



Branch President Eva Lysakova, Capuchin Felix Jan Tkac, and Ludmila Hlinkova at the New York Rangers vs. Montreal Canadiens hockey game at Madison Square Garden

Branch 785 Meeting in January Selects Officers

Branch 785 held its annual meeting on January 28, 2023. Ed Forma, Treasurer resigned and Dusan Doric was elected the new Treasurer. The board thanked Ed Forma for job well done over the years as a Treasurer and congratulated Dusan in his new Treasurer function.

Submitted by Helen von Friedl



Branch 785's new treasurer, Dusan Dorich.



Branch 670 Scholarship Announcement

Branch 670 of Donora, PA is excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2023 Scholarship Program. The committee will award, to the candidates who best satisfy the criteria up to three, onetime \$1000.00 scholarships. Any individual of Branch 670 that has had a policy for at least 4 years, is current in their premiums, is a high school senior and will attend an Approved Educational Institution is eligible to apply.

For applications, you may email your request or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Joe Matinko, 85 Crestline Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022 (email: matinko305@comcast.net)

ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY April 15, 2023.

Submitted by Joe Matinko, President Branch 670 Donora

Images from a Delightful District 14 Christmas Party in Youngstown, OH

FCSU Joseph L. Kostik District 14 held its annual Christmas party on the evening of Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at Davidson's Restaurant in Canfield, OH. The festivities were beautifully coordinated by Branch 682's Suzanne Carney. The celebration allowed the opportunity for the attendees to share fellowship and information among the branches. A raffle was conducted at the event and included many gifts for the attendees. Also, special thanks to Tom and Terri Ivanec and to Kevin Collins & Gary Matta who all traveled from Cleveland to attend our event.

Submitted by Drew Hirt



A room filled with members from Branches 259, 682, 731 and the FCSU National Office.



(L – R) Carlie Peshek (Branch 731) and Sue Carney (Branch 682). Sue arranged and hosted the event.



(L – R) Branch 682 President Drew Hirt and Vice President Barbara Hosa.



(L – R) Retired Jednota Newspaper Editor Terri Ivanec and Region 6 Director Tom Ivanec.



(L – R) Region 6 Director Tom Ivanec, National General Counsel Gary Matta & Executive Secretary Kevin Collins.



Door prizes galore to share with guests.



District 14 President & National Auditor John Leskovyansky,



Branch 259 Vivian Sedlacko & Branch 682 Barbara Hosa with 50/50 raffle tickets.



Literally the "icing on the cake" to a delicious full course meal - a Slovak-style Merry Christmas dessert!



(L – R) Branch 731 President Irene Makovec with Jackie and Jim Bobby



Branch 682 Financial Secretary Selma (Dots) Bolash with 2 of her daughters.

Branch 855 Fraternalism in Action

Branch 855 from Cleveland Ohio held a meeting on December 7th where they elected officers and had their annual Christmas party. Members were asked to bring socks, hats and gloves to aid the underprivileged this winter. With the help of a donation made by the Home Office we collected over 300 pairs of socks, hats, and gloves which were donated to the West Side Catholic Center. We would like to thank our National Officers who were in attendance and contributed to our charity drive: National President, Kenneth Arendt, National Executive Secretary, Kevin Collins, and Region 6 Director, Tom Ivanec.



Submitted by Barbara Sutila, Branch President (L - R) Ann Sutila, Treasurer - Karen Habian, Recording Secretary - Stephanie Sutila, Fraternal Activities - Barbara Sutila, President - Karin Scally, Vice President. Missing - Henry Horvath, Auditor.



District 16 in NYC Announces its Newly Elected Officers



(L-R) Maria Bozekova, Trustee; Julie Ann Gurega-President; Peter Gaspar, Vice-President; Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Secretary/Financial Secretary; Jozef Korcak, Trustee.



ATTENTION CLEVELAND-AREA JEDNOTA MEMBERS & FRIENDS



Hockey Night in Cleveland
Saturday, March 18, 2023
7:00pm



Monsters vs. Belleville Senators
 Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse -Cleveland, OH

Special Offer Includes:

Discounted Lower Goal End Tickets!!

- \$24 group rate per seat, with possible deeper discounts for MEMBERS ONLY through your branch
- GIVEAWAY – Denzel Ward Bobblehead, courtesy of Dominion Energy, to first 7,500 fans

To get your branch discount and order tickets, please contact the representative in your branch:

- Branch 1: Rochelle Popovich, 216-789-6390
- Branch 24: Tom Ivanec, 440-668-7797
- Branch 228: Lisa Trifiletti-Palos 440-960-2111
- Branch 450: George Carny, 440-885-5702
- Branch 553: Linda Hanko, 330-706-0151
- Branch 855: Stephanie Sutila, 440-409-9405



Special FCSU member rates, courtesy of your FCSU branch. Contact your branch officer for details!!

Deadline to order: Thursday, February 16, 2023
Seating is Limited: First Come, First Serve, So Don't Delay

TICKET DELIVERY:

From your branch officer or Ohio Regional Director Tom Ivanec

All orders are subject to availability. No ticket required for children under the age of two. Video cameras are not allowed in the arena. Offer and discounts not available at arena box office. No refunds or exchanges.

St. Stephen's Dance Celebrated in Parma, Ohio

On Friday, December 30, 2022, the first St. Stephen's Dance (Štefánsky Ples) took place at Holy Spirit Party Center in Parma, OH. It was sponsored by the Dormition of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church in Cleveland, Holy Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Church in Euclid, St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church in Brecksville, and St. John's Byzantine Catholic Church in Solon. This dance commenced the Grand Ball Season. About 190 people, including 46 kids and approximately 20 teenagers, attended this phenomenal event. The guests came from parishes from the Greater Cleveland area, Dayton, Columbus, along with from the following states: Michigan, Nevada, New York, and Indiana. There were even a few guests from Slovakia! Therefore, this was a great multicultural event with Americans, Slovaks, Czechs, Ukrainians, and Hispanics.

The Ball was opened by a very special guest, His Grace Milan Lach, SJ, Bishop of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma (FCSU member of Br. 450) by prayer, opening remarks and a toast. Afterwards, four young ladies—Zofia Jagerova who played on the violin, Sofia and Noemi Fedorisin who sang, and Caroline Visnovsky (FCSU member, Br. 450) who played on the piano—performed the carol "In the Town of

Bethlehem."

Then, the Grand Ball was opened with the guests dancing a waltz to "The Blue Danube" by Johann Strauss II. Afterwards, the guests danced to different genres of music from Polka and Czardas to 80s and 90s music deep into the night. The evening was full of entertainment with the taste of delicious, home-made Slovak and ethnic foods such as sauerkraut soup (kapustnica), chicken noodle soup (slepačia polievka), various meats, pasta, and much more.

Additionally, the evening included entertainment with children's games and the engagement of a young couple. It truly was a professionally done evening; most importantly, the children were exposed to a formal and elegant gathering. Many guests expressed their gratitude for being part of this extravagant family, some of the guests being from the following FCSU branches: 1, 24, 450, and 855.

In conclusion, "Veselica" means to enjoy each other's company. The highest form of rejoicing, even historically, always was through dance. Therefore, church and society are not dead; as long as we know how to enjoy each other at such events as this, church and society are truly alive!

Submitted by Caroline Visnovsky, Br. 450



Anička Nosek, Lexi Glova, Krystina Nosek, all of Branch 24.



L-R: Fr. Lukáš Mitro and his wife Stephanie, Branch 24.



Fr. Marek Visnovsky (Br. 24) and his wife Miriam (Br. 24)



(L-R): Caroline Visnovsky (Br. 450), Žofia Jagerova, Sofia and Noemi Fedorisin.



(L-R) Jana Horvath (Br. 1) and Vierka Fricky



(L-R: Žofia Jagerova (violin), Caroline Visnovsky on piano (Br. 450), Sofia and Noemi Fedorisin.



(L-R): Jana Horvath (Br. 1) and Henry Horvath (Br. 855) and Michael Carny (br. 450) in the back.



Milan Kobulsky (Br. 450) and Mária Zápotočková dancing



Dancing

September Slovakia Heritage Tour Returns, Connecting Slovak-Americans with Their Traditions and Roots

After a three-year break, the Slovakia Heritage Tour's September harvest festival tour is back this year from Sept. 8-17. This engaging tour reconnects people of Slovak ancestry with their family traditions as well as takes them on an exploration of the history of Slovakia from when our ancestors left this beautiful land to the thriving democracy it is today. Personalized day trips also offer opportunities to visit families and ancestral villages.

"The tour gets people out into the countryside and small towns where they can see how people live today as well as understand what village life was like when their grandparents or great-parents left," said Judy Northup-Bennett, who provides general travel advice for people wanting to travel to Slovakia to discover their roots. "The Heritage Tour is more than visits to cathedrals, museums and historic sites in principal cities. The Heritage Tour's goal is to immerse people in Slovak culture with special music, language, and craft programs to rekindle the customs many remember from their childhood."

Northup-Bennett can also connect Slovak-Americans with genealogical researchers who will help them fill out their family trees as well as find and visit relatives who

remained in Slovakia. "I've found that the Slovak families in Slovakia are thrilled to meet their Slovak-American cousins whom they've heard about in letter and photos," she explained. Often one of the travelers finds that these long-lost relatives have their childhood school photos that their grandmothers sent decades ago to their sisters and brothers who didn't come to America."

The September Slovakia Heritage Tour is now organized and operated by Peter and Jane Blazicek of Best Slovakia Tours (<https://www.bestslovariatur.com>) who partnered with founder Judy Northup-Bennett for 10 years. Judy is available to talk with you about the tour to see if it works for your Slovakia travel plans. She also consults on general Slovakia travel information, and how to trace your roots.

To discuss your Slovakia travel plans, as well as for more information on Best Slovakia's Slovakia Heritage Tour, and how you can create your own personalized journey to explore your family's story, contact Judy Northup-Bennett, 978-544-5144, slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com or visit the web site: www.slovakiaheritage.com

**Submitted by
Judith Northup-Bennett, Branch 918**



When Slovak-Americans meet their relatives, they often find photos from their childhood in the Slovaks' family album.



The Heritage Tour is a good time for siblings and parents and adult children to bond as they discover their ancestral stories.



At the Banská Štiavnica mining festival, Heritage Tour organizer recounts Slovak mining history to travelers whose family settled in Pennsylvania mining towns.



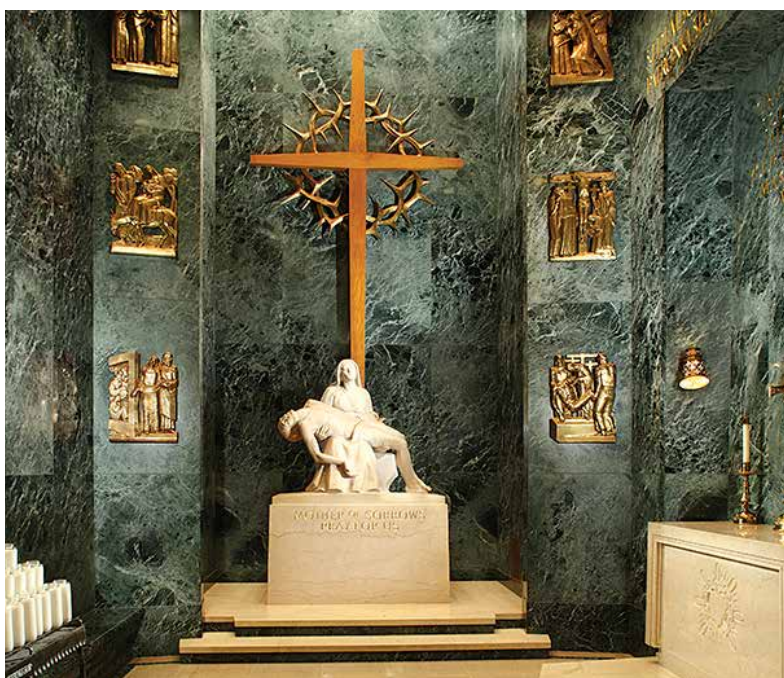
Slovakia's beautiful landscapes invite people (Judy Northup-Bennett on the right) to get outdoors in the mountains or villages as well as the many outdoor museums (skanzeny) that chronicle 19th century village life in the many regions our ancestors came from.

An Invitation to Attend the Celebration in Washington at the Jednota Chapel

Branch 856 would like to invite all Jednota members and Slovaks to come to Washington, D.C. to join in celebrating the 58th anniversary of our Slovak Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on September 23, 2023. We will start with the rosary at 1:00 and mass at 1:30. Celebrant will be The Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L. Bishop of Greensburg, PA. For more information call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-3856 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363.

**Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski,
Branch President**

The Jednota Chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows at the National Basilica Shine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.



Your Phone Call Is Important to Us!



and attention you deserve.

At the First Catholic Slovak Union, we take every phone call very seriously. Our goal is to deliver the best customer service possible – even in these challenging times.

Please take the following steps when you get our voice mail so that we can provide you with the level of service

1. Leave a brief reason for your call.
2. Be sure to state your full name, and spell your last name.
3. Along with your phone number, let us know the best time to contact you between the hours of 8:00AM and 4:30PM, M- F.
4. Remember that we can only discuss a contract or certificate with the owner or with permission from the owner.

Matthew Oros, Branch 24, inducted into the Dayton C. Miller Honor Society

On December 2, 2022, an Induction Ceremony was held at Baldwin Wallace University where Matthew Oros was enrolled as a Computer Science Major with a minor in Physics. Each year students inducted into the Dayton C. Miller Honor Society represent the top 100 students by grade point average who have earned a minimum of 70 semester hours with minimum of 45 semester hours at BWU.

The Dayton C. Miller Honor Society was founded at Baldwin Wallace University in the fall of 1948 and continues to recognize academic excellence. The Society honors the memory of Dayton C. Miller (Class of 1886), one of the most distinguished graduates of the University.

Matthew is active in many FCSU and Branch 24's activities. He won first place in the talent contest, third place in the 2021 Kentucky Derby hat contest, and second place in the 2020 Christmas tree decorating contest. He also showcased his talent with a piano performance for delegates and guests at the last convention.

He is grateful to have received a FCSU college scholarship in 2020 and last year was one of five students selected by the FCSU Scholarship Committee to receive



Matthew Oros inducted into the Dayton C. Miller Honor Society at Baldwin Wallace University.

the "Stephen C. Matula Scholarship". He is very appreciative to the First Catholic Slovak Union for its financial assistance in furthering his education. Upon graduation Matthew would like to pursue a career in the field of computer programming.

Submitted by Joe Oros

A Special Visit From Slovakia

On Sunday, January 22nd St. John Nepomucene Church in New York was visited by eight young Slovak priests from the Diocese of Spiš. The visiting priests concelebrated the 10:30 am Slovak Mass with Fr. Štefan Chanas, pastor of the St. John Nepomucene/St. Frances X. Cabrini parish. It was a beautiful celebration of the Eucharist.

Vzácná Návšteva Zo Slovenska

V nedeľu 22. januára navštívilo Kostol sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku osem mladých slovenských kňazov zo Spišskej diecézy. S otcom Štefanom Chanasom, farárom farnosti sv. Jána Nepomuckého/sv. Františky X. Cabrini, koncebrovali slovenskú sv. omšu o 10:30. Bola to krásna oslava nedeľných bohoslužieb.

Submitted by Želmíra Becková- Kucharovic



Otec Štefan Chanas a kňazi zo Spišskej diecézy (Father Štefan Chanas and visiting priests from the Diocese of Spiš).



Local Brothers Complete 2,200 Mile Hike of Appalachian Trail

**By Michele Collins, staff writer,
Chagrin Valley Times**

After completing their 2,200-mile hike of the entire Appalachian Trail over a 14 year period, brothers Dave Repko of Solon and Keiran Repko of Brecksville had one thing on their minds.

Relief.

Relief that they had completed their life's journey, their goal, one of their bucket list items, and they were still here, still healthy and still able to talk about it.

Their hiking adventure started in July 2008 and ended on July 31, 2022, when the hiking duo hiked down, after hiking up, Maine's Mount Katahdin. Dave, 69, was hiking in his running shoes rather than hiking boots, as his second pair of hiking boots from this adventure had literally fallen apart. Kieran, 70, said he took his hiking clothes off when he got home and threw them in the garbage.

Their hiking adventure was finished.

The 203 days of hiking the pair completed spanned 14 years and 14 states, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia. They said they never had any injuries or real "problems," on their adventures, although there were times that weather, or timing, or their fellow hikers being exhausted, meant they had to change their hiking plan a bit.

What they did have was lots and lots of time to talk with each other, and with the 22 different hiking partners they took with them along the way, as well as time to see the beauty, in all of its forms, of the United States.

While the hike included the chance to see wilderness, rivers and streams, mountains and villages, both men said their favorite part of hiking was the people they met along the trail.

"I met people from so many different places. I just hiked with a woman from Germany, and a man from Ireland. I met Australians. I met people from South America, from Japan, from many, many different places in the states. I once hiked a place called Priest Mountain with an Episcopal priest," said Dave.

"Sometimes you would just talk to someone for a few minutes," said Kieran. "But then we would talk about what we learned from them at that time. My brother used to tease me that

I could learn a person's whole life story after just talking to them for three minutes."

The Repkos used what's called "section hiking" to complete the 2,197 miles of the Appalachian Trail. They started in Pennsylvania, the state of their birth, and a place they had hiked as Boy Scouts.

"At first we thought we would just hike the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania," said Dave. "Then we would add another trail, and another section, and then we just got hooked."

Hooked on hiking the entire Appalachian Trail.

Dave said that some people will hike the entire 2,200 miles in one trek, called "thru-hiking." This would take four or five months to complete, even by an experienced hiker. But due to both Repkos having jobs, and families, they set out a few days at a time, sometimes for a week at a time, doing the hikes over years rather than months.

"It was a little easier to do long treks when we were younger," said Kieran with a laugh. "But honestly most of the people we hiked with were in their 70s or 80s."

They would hike 120 to 200 miles in a section.

Both of the brothers said they also enjoyed the chance to introduce new friends to the joy of hiking, by having them come along for a section or part of a section they were completing.

"I feel like we helped train new hikers, and helped them to pack correctly," said Kieran.

He added that the hiking packs can weigh from 30 to 50 pounds. He said every little bit counts, and he is a proponent of packing light.

"I like to keep that pack at about 30-35 pounds," he said. "I buy food, and re-package it into lighter containers. I even cut my toothbrush in half to save weight."

Dave said that another interesting aspect of hiking was to learn the "trail names," of the other hikers on the trail. Most introduce themselves with that name instead of the one they were given at birth.

"My name was ezduzit," said Dave. "I really picked it as an aspirational name."

Kieran said that his brother's name was just that- aspirational. "My brother is not really an ezduzit kind of guy," he said with a laugh.

Kieran's trail name was "Colombo," like the fictional tv character of the 1970s.

"We called my brother Kieran, "Colombo,"

Continued on page 20



Keiran and David Repko (Branch 32), in the black shirts (center), with two other hikers that accompanied them to the summit of Mt. Katahdin, the highest mountain in Maine.

News From Slovakia

Správy zo Slovenska

Štátna volebná komisia potvrdila neplatnosť referenda



Na snímke zľava viceprezident Policajného zboru Damián Imre, predseda Štatistického úradu SR Peter Peťko, predseda štátnej volebnej komisie Ladislav Orosz a riaditeľka odboru volieb, referenda a politických strán na ministerstve vnútra Eva Chmelová počas tlačovej konferencie k oficiálnym výsledkom referenda 22. januára 2023 v Bratislave (From left: the vice-president of the Police Corps Damián Imre, chairman of the Slovak Statistical Office Peter Peťko, chairman of the State Election Commission Ladislav Orosz and director of the Department of Elections, Referendum and Political Parties at the Ministry of the Interior Eva Chmelová during a press conference in Bratislava, Slovakia). Photo: TASR - Pavol Zachar

Bratislava 22. januára (TASR) - Štátna volebná komisia potvrdila neplatnosť sobotného (21. 1.) referenda o zmene Ústavy SR. Zúčastnilo sa na ňom 27,25 percenta voličov. Na platnosť referenda je potrebná viac ako 50-percentná účasť. Kompletne výsledky sú zverejnené na stránke volbysr.sk.

Predseda štátnej volebnej komisie Ladislav Orosz potvrdil, že všetci prítomní členovia bez výhrad podporili zápisnicu. "Referendum prebehlo v súlade so zákonom," doplnil s tým, že sa neobjavili žiadne skutočnosti, ktoré by výsledok spochybnili.

Orosz upozornil, že išlo o prvé referendum od nálezu Ústavného súdu SR, ktorý vyhlásil, že výsledkom referenda je bezprostredne záväzná rozhodnutie občanov s právnou silou ústavného zákona. Poukázal tiež, že aj v tomto referende bola kľúčovou skupina ľudí, ktorí svoj postoj vyjadrili neúčastou.

Na otázku, či súhlasia občania s tým, aby bolo možné skrátiť volebné obdobie referendom alebo uznesením Národnej rady SR odpovedalo 97,51 percenta zúčastnených kladne. Nesúhlas vyjadrilo 1,54 percenta zúčastnených.

Predseda Štatistického úradu SR Peter Peťko upozornil, že elektronizácia zmenila a zrýchliła proces spracovania. "Celková dĺžka spracovania bola tri hodiny a päť minút. O hodinu skôr ako pred ôsmimi rokmi v poslednom referende," priblížil. V okrskoch s výpadkom elektrickej energie odovzdali klasické papierové zápisnice.

Sumarizácia prebehla povinne elektronicky prostredníctvom Integrovaného volebného informačného systému (IVIS). Prvýkrát sa v referende spracovávali tiež výsledky hlasovania doručené poštou od voličov zo zahraničia.

Najvyššiu účasť zaznamenali v Trenčianskom kraji s vyše 36 percentami voličov. Najmenej voličov prišlo na referendum v Bratislavskom kraji, odhlasovalo tam 21 percent voličov.

Medzi okresmi v účasti dominovali podľa Peťka Kysucké Nové Mesto, Topoľčany, Turčianske Teplice, Púchov a Považská Bystrica, kde prišlo vyše 40 percent voličov. Najnižší záujem o referendum, pod 16 percent, zaevidovali v okresoch Dunajská Streda, Komárno a Bratislava 1.

Najmenej občanov v rámci obcí prišlo k urnám v košickom Luniku IX. s účasťou 0,1 percenta voličov a v Lomničke s jednopercenťou účasťou. V 288 obciach všetci zúčastnení voliči odpovedali na referendovú otázku kladne. V žiadnej nezaznamenali stopercentne negatívnu odpoveď.

Policajný viceprezident Damián Imre zhodnotil priebeh referenda ako pokojný, polícia zaznamenala iba drobné incidenty. Išlo napríklad o nespokojnosť voličov, ktorí prišli na referendum neskoro, či nevhodnú politickú agitáciu. Celkovo objasňuje polícia dva priestupky. Súviseli s extrémistickými znakmi na bilbordoch.

Deviate referendum v histórii samostatnej Slovenskej republiky inicioval Smer-SD s ďalšími opozičnými stranami.

www.tinyurl.com/3b5x34ps

The State Electoral Commission Confirmed the Referendum Invalid

Bratislava, 22 January (TASR) - The State Election Commission has confirmed the invalidity of Saturday's (21 January) referendum on changes to the Slovak Constitution. 27.25 percent of voters took part in the referendum. A turnout of more than 50 percent is required for the referendum to be valid. The full results are published on volbysr.sk.

Ladislav Orosz, chairman of the State Election Commission, confirmed that all members present supported the minutes without reservation. "The referendum was held in accordance with the law," he added, adding that no facts had emerged to cast doubt on the result.

Orosz pointed out that this was the first referendum since the ruling of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, which declared that the result of a referendum is an immediately binding decision of the citizens with the legal force of a constitutional law. He also pointed out that even in this referendum there was a key group of people who expressed their position by not participating.

When asked whether citizens agreed that the electoral period could be shortened by referendum or by a resolution of the National Council, 97.51 per cent of those who took part answered in the affirmative. 1.54 per cent of the participants expressed their disagreement.

Peter Peťko, Chairman of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, pointed out that computerization has changed and accelerated processing. "The total processing time was three hours and five minutes. One hour earlier than eight years ago in the last referendum," he added. In precincts with power outages, they handed in traditional paper minutes.

The tabulation was compulsorily done electronically through the Integrated Voting Information System (IVIS). For the first time, the referendum also processed the results of votes received by post from voters abroad.

The highest turnout was recorded in the Trenčín region, with over 36 percent of voters. The lowest number of voters came to the referendum in the Bratislava region, with 21 per cent of voters voting there.

Among the districts, Kysucké Nové Mesto, Topoľčany, Turčianske Teplice, Púchov and Považská Bystrica dominated the turnout, with more than 40 percent of voters turning out, according to Petek. The lowest interest in the referendum, below 16 percent, was registered in the districts of Dunajská Streda, Komárno and Bratislava 1.

The lowest number of citizens within the municipalities came to the polls in Lunik IX in Košice, with 0.1 per cent of voters participating, and in Lomnička, with one per cent participation. In 288 municipalities, all participating voters answered the referendum question in the affirmative. In none of them was there a one hundred percent negative answer.

Police vice-president Damián Imre assessed the referendum as peaceful, with only minor incidents recorded by the police. These included dissatisfaction from voters who arrived late for the referendum or inappropriate political agitation. In total, the police clarified two offences. They were related to extremist signs on billboards.

The ninth referendum in the history of the independent Slovak Republic was initiated by Smer-SD and other opposition parties.

Nové predsedníctvo Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS) prijal pápež František



Košický arcibiskup metropolita Bernard Bober (Archbishop of Košice, Metropolitan Bernard Bober), Foto: TASR - Ján Krošlák.

Svätý Otec František prijal v sobotu 21. januára vo Vatikáne predsedu Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS) Mons. Bernarda Bobera. Košického arcibiskupa metropolitu v sprievode nitrianskeho biskupa a podpredsedu KBS Mons. Viliama Judáka. V delegácii bol aj osobný tajomník arcibiskupa Bobera Jozef Kmec a výkonný tajomník KBS Ivan Ružička.

Pred audienciou slávil sv. omšu nad hrobom sv. Petra vo Vatikánskej bazilike a pomodlili sa aj pri hrobe zosnulého emeritného pápeža Benedikta XVI.

Program pokračoval návštevou Dikasteria pre komunikáciu s prefektom Paolom Ruffinim a Mons. Bober predsedal sv. omši v Pápežskom slovenskom ústave a kolégiu sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme.

Pope Francis Received the New Presidency of the Conference of Bishops of Slovakia (KBS).



Pápež František s mons. Pápež František s Františkom s mons. Bernard Bober, predseda Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS) a slovenskí duchovní (Pope Francis with Msgr. Bernard Bober, the president of the Conference of Bishops of Slovakia (KBS), and Slovak clergy). Photo: Vatican News.

On Saturday, January 21, in the Vatican, the Holy Father Francis received the president of the Conference of Bishops of Slovakia (KBS), Msgr. Bernard Bober. The metropolitan archbishop of Košice, accompanied by the bishop of Nitra and the vice-president of the KBS, Mons. William Judák. The personal secretary of Archbishop Bober, Jozef Kmec, and the executive secretary of KBS, Ivan Ružička, were also in the delegation.

Before the audience with the pontiff, they celebrated mass over the grave of St. Peter in the Vatican Basilica and they also prayed at the grave of the late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

The program continued with a visit to the Dicastery for Communication with Prefect Paolo Ruffini and Mons. Bober presided over mass at the Pontifical Slovak Institute and the College of St. Cyril and Methodius in Rome.

Source: Vatican News, www.tinyurl.com/3zhet4vx.

Edited and translated by Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.



FCSU, GCU, NSS & SCS COMBINED NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

The First Catholic Slovak Union, GCU, NSS
proaching and we are pleased to offer you the

Bowling... All bowling will take place at A
Cheektowaga, NY 14225. The phone num
<https://www.amf.com/location/amf-airport>

Hotel... The Buffalo Airport Hotel located
the location for the banquet and also has
thru Saturday nights. You can reserve you
Fraternal Societies Bowling Tournament

No applications will be accepted after April 17, 2023.

10th ANNUAL NATIONAL JOINT SLOVAK BOWLING TOURNAMENT
A JOINT TOURNAMENT OF FCSU, GCU, NSS & SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL
"USBC MORAL SUPPORT CERTIFIED"
AMF Airport Lanes ⇨ Cheektowaga, NY
Friday, May 19 & Saturday, May 20, 2023

Please note: Bowling Fees must accompany this application for the bowlers to be registered in the tournament.

No applications will be accepted after April 17, 2023.

BOWLER INFORMATION (LIST CAPTAIN FIRST)	FCSU TOURNAMENT INFORMATION
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2021-22 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team or <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Team) <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles or <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Doubles) <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2021-22 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team or <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Team) <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles or <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Doubles) <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2021-22 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team or <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Team) <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles or <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Doubles) <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2021-22 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team or <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Team) <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles or <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Doubles) <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events

Please check one: Men's Events Women's Events Mixed Events

DOUBLE & SINGLES EVENTS—SATURDAY, MAY 20
Bowling begins at 10 AM for all bowlers.

TEAM EVENT—FRIDAY, MAY 19
Hospitality Meal Served 5 PM at Airport Lanes Bowling Begins at 6:30 PM All Teams

Team Name: _____
(Please place team bowlers in the order they will be bowling.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Name of your Local USBC: _____
Association Secretary: _____
Address: _____
Make all Checks or Money Orders payable to: First Catholic Slovak Union
Mail to: **Joanne Fibbi, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241.**
Important: Every Individual and Captain on this entry agrees to relinquish his rights to prize money if it should be found that any information herein is false.

Financial Totals for this Application

___ Singles Event@ \$23 ea. = \$ _____

___ Doubles Event@ \$23 ea. = \$ _____

___ Team Event@ \$23 ea. = \$ _____

___ All Events@ \$5 ea. = \$ _____

___ Banquet Fee (Optional)@ \$0 ea. = \$ _____

___ Banquet Fee (Guests)@ \$65 ea. = \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

prizes which will continue to be paid as in
Squad Time Assignments... T
events. Team bowling will take place on
uled for **Saturday, May 20 at 10 am**
Friday Evening Hospitality... A
ism on Friday, May 19. The hospitality bu
Saturday Evening Banquet... I
& SCS Combined National Bowling Tour
Saturday evening May 20 at the Buffalo A
Guests are welcome at a fee of \$65 per g
they plan to attend the dinner. There is al
Payment must accompany requests.
Bowler's Banquet Fee... Bowler
included on the bowling application. Bow
If you do not plan to attend, please do no
Food & Beverage Reservatio
guarantees. We have enclosed a Hospita
April 17, 2023. This will enable us to
Membership Requirements...
side of the individual society bowling app
extra applications, all of the forms for the
FCSU website—www.fcsu.com; GCU—www.vakcatholiccsokol.org.
We'll be in Touch... An additional
prize list and other important information.

- The Tournament shall be conducted in accordance with the regulations of the United States Bowling Congress.
- This event is being sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union, Slovak Catholic Sokol, NSS and GCU. The goal of the tournament is to promote sportsmanship and to generate nationwide interest in bowling. The National Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Slovak Catholic Sokol, NSS and GCU extend a cordial invitation to attend the tournament.
- ELIGIBILITY:** This Tournament is open to all bowlers who are bona fide MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. No prize money is awarded.
- CONSENT RULES:** Any grade or high school student under the age of eighteen (18) must have written consent from their parent or guardian to participate in USBC Certified Tournaments. Said written consent must be on a form provided by the Tournament Committee at least one week before the tournament unless the student is accompanied by their parent. The parental consent form may be filed up to the time the student starts to bowl. USBC requires a parental consent form for all participants under the age of 18.
- The total cost per person for each event is as follows:
a. Prize Fee
b. Bowling Fee
c. Hospitality Fee.....
TOTAL COST (per event)
Banquet Fee (Optional).....
*All Events (Optional).....
- Prize money will be awarded to the top 10 bowlers in each event. PRIZE FEE WILL BE RETURNED 100 PERCENT. At least 1 of 10 of participants in each event must be a member of the sponsoring organization.
Note: Contestant may win only one cash prize per event. If a bowler's actual score is higher. Excluding special prizes. Awarded to the bowler who roll the highest gross and highest actual score.
- SUBSTITUTES.** Bowlers may compete in the tournament if they are not a member of the sponsoring organization. The tournament manager may allow a bowler who is not a member of the sponsoring organization to bowl in the team event rolled with his entering team. Substitutes may bowl in this tournament except those original team members or such substitutes who may be authorized by the tournament manager provided the individual whose name appears on the original application has a valid reason to attend the tournament at the time s

Application Format... Each society will receive applications from their own members, so that membership requirements can be verified. If you need additional applications: GCU members please contact: Basil Wahal-GCU Bowling Coordinator, bwahal@GCUusa.com or 724-683-3924. Slovak Catholic Sokol members please contact: James Matlon-Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, jmatlon@slovakcatholiccsokol.org or 973-647-8551. First Catholic Slovak Union members please contact: Joanne Fibbi-FCSU Fraternal Activities Director jfibbi@fcsu.com or 412-953-4721. NSS Life members please contact Pam Blum at 724-731-0094 or pblum@nsslife.org. **Application deadline is April 17, 2023.**

Bowling Events... The format will again be 4-Bowler Teams (Mens, Womens and new this year Mixed Teams). Bowlers may choose to bowl in their respective gender division for both team and doubles events or on a mixed team or mixed doubles team but cannot participate in both divisions. Singles and All Events are gender specific. Mixed team and mixed doubles scores will be used to calculate. All Events specific to the gender of the bowler. There **must** be at least 6 teams and 10 doubles teams to hold the mixed events. Team members may combine and send only one application if all fees are included. If bowlers are unable to fill all 4 positions on a team, we will assist you.

Additional Actual Prize Money... In an effort to increase participation from higher average bowlers, the GCU Board of Directors has again pledged an additional \$1,000.00 to be used to pay actual score prizes across all tournament events. This will not have any affect on the handicap

Life & Slovak Catholic Sokol Joint Bowling Tournament is fast approaching. The following details:

Airport Lanes located at 3754 Genesee Street, Buffalo, NY. Phone number is: **716.632.0655** and website is: www.airportlanes.com.

Airport Hotel located at 4600 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14225 will be offering guest rooms available for \$109/night + tax for Thursday through Saturday. Reserve your room by calling **716.634.6969** and using Block Code: **7166346969**.

In the past, there will be only one squad time for both the team and doubles & singles on **Friday, May 19 at 6:30 pm**. The doubles & singles squads are scheduled to begin at 6:30 pm.

All bowlers (and pre-paid guests) are welcome to join in for food and fraternal buffet will be served at Airport Lanes beginning at 5 pm.

In the interest of fraternal camaraderie and to celebrate the FCSU, GCU, NSS Tournament, a celebratory dinner for bowlers and their guests will take place on Saturday at Airport Hotel. The evening will include a buffet dinner and a two hour open bar. All guests must complete the enclosed Hospitality Questionnaire form if you wish to reserve a space to register any guests that will accompany bowlers for the dinner.

For those planning to attend the banquet on Saturday, May 20 the fee is \$31.00 and is included in the entry fee. Bowlers have the option of not participating in the banquet on Saturday, May 20. Do not pay the banquet fee with your entry fees.

Reservations... Must be made in advance so we can be precise in our attendance figures. Complete the Hospitality Questionnaire to complete and return with your application no later than April 17, 2023. We will prepare for the proper number of attendees.

Membership requirements for each organization are available on the reverse side of the application. Forms on Each Organization's Website... Remember, if you need more information, the National Bowling Tournament are available on your organization's website: www.GCUusa.com; www.nsslife.org or www.SlovakCatholicSokol.com—Slovak Catholic Sokol.

The tournament newsletter will be forthcoming with the complete bowling and event schedule. Plan now to have a great tournament!



Hospitality Questionnaire

FCSU, GCU, NSS & SCS
Joint Bowling Tournament

Please complete and return this questionnaire with your bowling application.

Bowler Name: _____

Friday Evening Buffet (Free for Bowlers)

_____ I will have a guest at the Friday Evening Buffet at Airport Lanes on Friday, May 19, 2023. Enclosed is my payment of \$15 per guest for the Friday Buffet.

Friday Buffet Guest _____

Friday Buffet Guest _____

Saturday Evening Banquet

Tossed Salad; Buffet Dinner; Dessert and a two-hour Open Bar.

_____ **YES**, I will attend the Bowlers Banquet at the Buffalo Airport Hotel at 6 PM on Saturday, May 20, 2023.

_____ I will have a guest(s) at the Banquet on Saturday, May 20. Enclosed is my payment of **\$65 per guest** for the Banquet.

Saturday Banquet Guest _____

Saturday Banquet Guest _____

Saturday Banquet Guest _____

_____ **NO**, I will **not** attend the Banquet on Saturday, May 20, 2023.

Do you or your guests have any dietary restrictions? If so, please explain:

Return this form with your bowling application by April 17, 2023.

Thank You!

Important to All Tournament Entrants

Read Carefully Information Given Below

Rules and Regulations of Annual FCSU/GCU/NSS/SCS Bowling Tournament

compliance with the rules and regulations of the United States Bowling Congress (USBC).

The purpose of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Slovak Catholic Sokol Joint Bowling Tournament is to promote fraternalism and good relations between the members of the First Catholic Slovak Union and GCU wish to extend to all members.

To all First Catholic Slovak Union male and female members. All winners will be checked before the tournament.

For a school student who has not attained the age of 18, the consent of his/her parents or guardian in order to receive cash or merchandise prizes are required. Prizes must be approved by USBC and must be on file with the tournament committee before the bowler is eligible for tournament. Prizes will be accompanied by his/her parents, in which case the prize will be awarded to them.

Rule No. 13. Prizes shall be:

- 1st Place.....\$10.00
- 2nd Place.....\$8.25
- 3rd Place.....\$4.75
- 4th Place.....\$23.00
- 5th Place.....\$0.00
- 6th Place.....\$5.00 *Only for cash awards.

PERCENT IN EACH EVENT. Prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Prize event (gross or net), whichever cash prize is higher. Prizes will be presented to the Contestants at the end of the event.

Prizes will be awarded only once in each event. However, the bowler who has previously bowled to substitute on a team if the bowler is absent. The score of such bowler must count for all events. No one may be substituted before the tournament opens. The bowler must be appointed by the captain of a team or his appointee. The bowler on the entry blank is unable for sufficient time to be substituted. The National Fraternal Director

shall have power as to the substitutes that are offered by the captain or his legalized representative, and if accepted, each substitute must bowl each event under his full name and only at scheduled time in each event. The substitutes score and handicap from the said event will be used.

7. Any contestant whose current average as of March 15, 2023 of at least 21 games is ten pins or more above his highest average from the previous season must use his current average. HANICAP - Handicap (Men) allowed will be 85% of the difference between 240 and last season's 2021-2022 highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games. Bowlers who have no established average will use their highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of March 15, 2023. Male bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as 175 average and will be handicapped accordingly. If the bowler does not have a sanctioned average over the last two years, but has competed in the Joint Fraternal Tournament, the most recent 5 year history from the Joint Fraternal Tournaments will be used. Male bowlers with an average over 240 will receive no handicap.

and will bowl scratch in the tournament. Handicap (Women) allowed will be 85% of the difference between 200 and last season's 2021-2022 highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games. Bowlers who have no established average will use their highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of March 15, 2023. Female bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as 150 average and will be handicapped accordingly. If the bowler does not have a sanctioned average over the last two years, but has competed in the Joint Fraternal Tournament, the most recent 5 year history from the Joint Fraternal Tournaments will be used. Female bowlers with an average over 200 will receive no handicap and will bowl scratch in the tournament. Under no circumstances will handicaps be increased after participant has bowled. Contestants in this tournament are not required to report any tournament prize winnings for the previous 12-month period.

8. FALSIFYING AVERAGES - PENALTY - The team captain is responsible for reporting all averages of the individual team members, and they are responsible to him. Should the Tournament Committee find at any time that the averages have been falsified, the team shall forfeit all claims for prize money as well as their entry fee and will be subject to disqualification and suspension from organized bowling. All prize winners are subject upon request to submit an affidavit of correct league averages.

9. Rerating of Bowlers - According to USBC Rule No. 319 A-E, bowlers may be rerated by the Tournament Committee.

10. All entry applications and bowling fees are to be sent directly to: Joanne Fibbi, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241; not later than April 17, 2023. Rule 310-A2 is in effect.

11. Bowlers who participate in tournament games must be dressed in a presentable manner to appear before public and when possible to use an emblem attached to shirt

or dress so that participant can be identified. 12. Both USBC and eligible non-USBC members may participate in moral support tournaments with high score protection automatically extended to USBC members. Eligible non-USBC members can qualify for high score

protection at their option by paying a \$21.00 fee for which the Congress will issue an unattached membership card.

13. NO MONEY WILL BE REFUNDED. All prize fee money will be paid in prizes.

14. Bowlers may choose to bowl in their respective gender team and doubles event or on a mixed team or mixed doubles team but cannot participate in both divisions. Singles and All Events are gender specific. Mixed team and mixed doubles scores will be used to calculate All Events specific to the gender of the bowler. Must have 6 teams and 10 doubles teams to hold the mixed events. 15. In the Doubles contest the names of both members of the team must be given, because entries with the word "Partner" will not be accepted. Entry blanks so compiled will be returned and the entry money retained until proper blank is received. If both entrants in the Doubles event appear when scheduled, it is understood that they must bowl as they have been entered on the original entry blank and no change in position will be allowed at any time after entry blank has been filed.

16. Assignment of Alleys - The Tournament Committee will make up the alley assignments for all entrants in the Doubles, Singles and Team Events. Entrants in the Doubles and Singles Events are required to report fully 30 minutes prior to the time they are scheduled to bowl. Captains of teams must report their line-up at least 30 minutes before scheduled to bowl.

17. In the Doubles & Singles Events bowling entrants will bowl all six of their games on the same pair of lanes. Bowlers entered in the Singles Event only will be assigned to alleys by the Committee.

18. A team may use a name other than its league name for tournament entry without the payment of additional membership dues as formerly required.

19. Failure to use the correct average shall disqualify score if submitted average is lower than correct average thereby resulting in a lower classification or more handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the correct average. However, corrections in averages may be permitted up to the completion of the first game of a series.

Entries will close at midnight April 17, 2023.

Please note: all forms must be filled in completely and sent to: Joanne Fibbi, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241. Entry fees, as stated on the front of this entry blank, must accompany this entry. All incomplete forms will be returned to team captain to be completed and resubmitted.



March Madness at the FCSU 2023

March Madness – one of the biggest, most exciting, fun events in all of sports – has once again come to the FCSU!

General March Madness Rules

The NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament is a single-elimination tournament comprised of 68 teams that compete in seven rounds for the national championship. The final round is known as the Final Four, when only four teams are left.

The NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Committee selects seeds and brackets the field for the NCAA Tournament. Then on Selection Sunday, a Selection Committee reveals the full NCAA tournament bracket, including all teams and all seeds.

In 2023, Selection Sunday is March 12th. The official bracket game of the NCAA will open immediately after the committee announces the field on Selection Sunday.

This is an online contest

FCSU March Madness Rules:

1. Each entrant in the FCSU March Madness Contest must have an active policy and be a member in good standing with the FCSU.
2. One (1) Entry per person ONLY.
3. Each Player must HAVE AND USE THEIR OWN EMAIL ADDRESS.
4. Each Player MUST FILL OUT AN ENTRY FORM.
5. After the office reviews your entry and you are ruled in good standing, an email will be sent to you to enter the pool. (The email will be sent to the email address you provide. Print Clearly).
(One email address may only be used once for the contest).
6. Please CHECK YOUR EMAIL OFTEN. ALSO CHECK YOUR JUNK EMAIL.
7. Once you receive the email, follow the instructions to sign up on the Official Contest Site.
8. Once you sign up on the Contest site, your account will automatically be FROZEN until the start of competition. Your account will RE-OPEN on Sunday March 12, 2023.
9. You must have your account set up by 5:00PM Thursday March 9, 2023.
10. All pool rules will be listed on the Official Contest Site.
11. Mail your entry form to the address on the entry form. Missing information is an automatic disqualification
12. Entry must be postmarked by March 1, 2023
13. Entry must be received by March 8, 2023

FCSU March Madness Prizes

1ST PLACE:	\$1000.00
2ND PLACE:	\$ 750.00
3RD PLACE:	\$ 500.00
4TH PLACE:	\$ 250.00
5TH PLACE:	\$ 50.00



Entry Form (PRINT OR TYPE CLEARLY -All information must be filled in)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

BRANCH NUMBER: _____

(EMAIL CAN ONLY BE USED ONCE. No exceptions)

MISSING INFORMATION WILL AUTOMATICALLY CAUSE DISQUALIFICATION

Mail entry form to:
 Joanne Fibbi
 FCSU Fraternal Activities Director
 1741 Hempstead Ln
 Pittsburgh, PA 15241
 (More than 1 entry form may be mailed in an envelope)

POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN Monday March 1, 2023

And be received by Wednesday March 8, 2023. PLEASE PLAN AHEAD.

“Save the Date” for these 2023 Fraternal Events

**FCSU National Picnic,
 Saturday, June 24, 2023**



Location: Frogbridge
 7 Yellow Meeting House Rd,
 Millstone Township,
 N.J. 08510

**FCSU National Picnic
 Saturday, July 15, 2023**

Location:
 Knoebels
 391 Knoebels Blvd.
 Elysburg, PA 17824



**FCSU National Picnic
 Saturday, July 29, 2023**



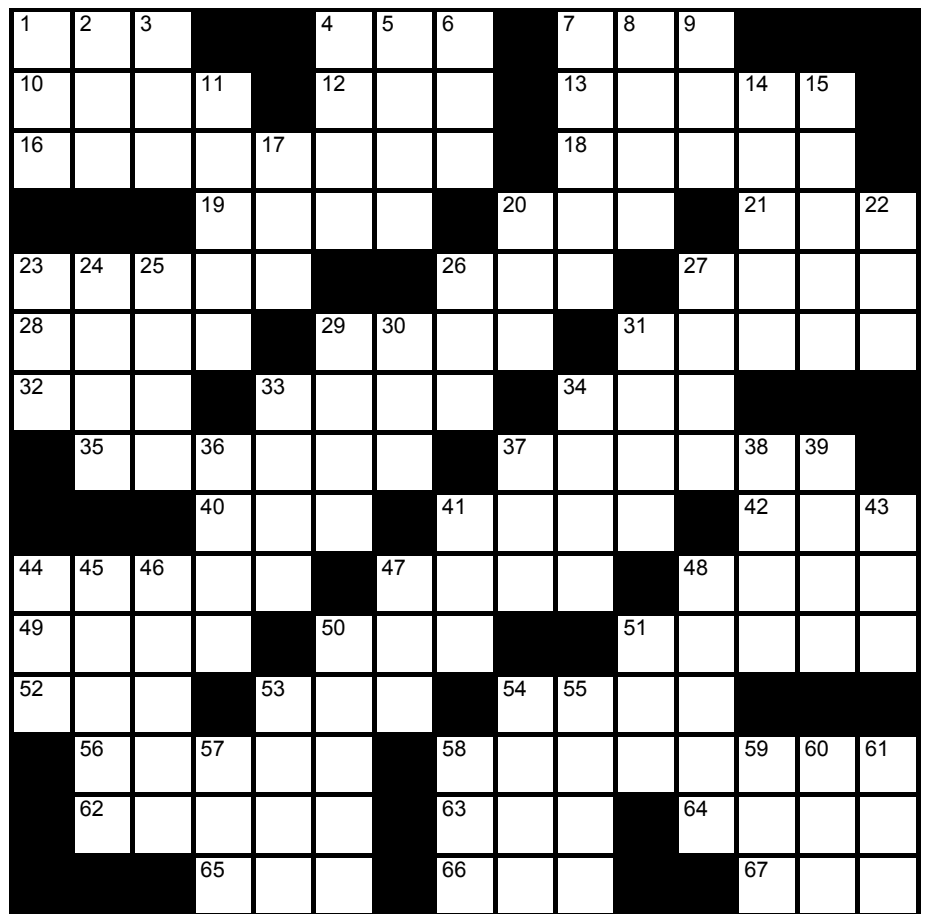
Location:
 Wiegand Lake Park
 9346 Kinsman Rd,
 Novelty, OH 44072

**2023 International Golf Tournament
 August 18-20, 2023**

Location:
 Kensington Golf Club
 4171 Westford Place,
 Canfield, Ohio 44406



Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 ___ vapeur (steamed)
- 4 Quick punch
- 7 Massage locale
- 10 Corgi and pug, e.g.
- 12 Be in arrears
- 13 Cocoon contents
- 16 Domicile
- 18 Door sign
- 19 Charged particles
- 20 Big Apple attraction, with "the"
- 21 Gesture of assent
- 23 Title-holder
- 26 Dead letters?
- 27 Garden-variety
- 28 Sweat source
- 29 Knee/ankle connector
- 31 Member of the Donner party?
- 32 Singer DiFranco
- 33 Sing the praises of
- 34 Islands dish
- 35 Border
- 37 Washed-out
- 40 Was in front
- 41 Like sour grapes
- 42 1773 jetsam
- 44 Parting word
- 47 Brewer's need
- 48 Owner's acquisition
- 49 Encourage
- 50 Youngster
- 51 Beat
- 52 Solidify
- 53 Jellied delicacy
- 54 Mine kind
- 56 Sinus of Valsalva locale

- 58 Period of time
- 62 Riding horse
- 63 Monopolist's portion
- 64 Scoop
- 65 Driver's need
- 66 Aircraft compartment
- 67 Squirt

Down

- 1 Put two and two together
- 2 Cattle call
- 3 Get older
- 4 Make one
- 5 Barley beards
- 6 Entreat
- 7 Kind of cycle
- 8 Huff and puff
- 9 It may be framed
- 11 Gunk
- 14 Animal toxin
- 15 Popped up
- 17 Prune
- 20 Time div.
- 22 Morse E
- 23 Busy bee in Apr.
- 24 Sharpen
- 25 Jejune
- 26 Purge
- 27 Earth
- 29 Hourglass contents
- 30 Embrace
- 31 Revolver inventor
- 33 Stead
- 34 Hair line
- 36 Kind of club
- 37 Goombah
- 38 News squib
- 39 Not shallow
- 41 Tiny bit
- 43 Foofaraw
- 44 Calendar abbr.
- 45 Chimera
- 46 White house?
- 47 "Cool" amount
- 48 Indian metropolis
- 50 "Hyperion" poet
- 51 Children's game
- 53 Sicilian rumbler
- 54 Fizzy drink
- 55 Kind of child
- 57 Toupee, slangily
- 58 Chem class
- 59 Orkin target
- 60 Tabloid topic
- 61 Fate

WELCOME TO OUR JEDNOTA FAMILY

FCSU welcomes one of our youngest members, Lincoln Lee Nasta, born in November 2022 to proud parents, Andrew and Danielle. Lincoln Lee is also the grandson of our Vice President, Damian Nasta and his wife, Margaret Nasta. Welcome to the First Catholic Slovak Union! Vitajte!



If you have a child or grandchild who recently became a member of the FCSU, please send us their photo to editor@fcsu.com so that we can feature them in an upcoming issue.



Fašiangy na severnom Spiši lákajú ľudí tradíciami aj osobitou kultúrou (Mardi gras carnivals in northern Spiš attract people with traditions and distinctive culture). TASR Photo: Erika Ďurčová

"Slovakia@30 Series Launches with Presentation by Ambassador Javorčík"

by Tom Skladony, FOS

Slovakia@30, a four-part lecture series commemorating the 30th anniversary of Slovak independence, launched on January 18, 2023, with a presentation by H.E. Radovan Javorčík, Slovak ambassador to the United States, entitled "30 Years of Slovak Foreign Policy."

The series was conceived by Helen Fedor, program chair of the Slovak American Society of Washington, DC (SASW), and is a collaborative project of SASW, Friends of Slovakia (FOS), and the Slovak Embassy in Washington.

Dr. Martina Hrvolová, vice chair of FOS, moderated the session, which included a lively question-and-answer period following the presentation. The in-person event at the Slovak embassy was also broadcast as an Internet live stream for participants in the United States, Slovakia, and elsewhere in Europe.

SASW, FOS, and the Slovak Embassy have recruited four exceptional speakers to address these questions for this Slovakia@30 lecture series. They are:

February 23, 2023: Kevin Deegan-Krause, Professor of Political Science, Wayne State University ("30 Years of Slovak Domestic Politics")

March 16, 2023: Ivan Mikloš, Chairman, Strategic Advisory Group for Supporting Ukrainian Reforms and former Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic ("30 Years of the Slovak Economy")

April 13, 2023 [date to be confirmed]: Zuzana Wienk, Director of Bystriny ("Currents"), a civil-society organization that helps civic initiatives and active citizens work together to improve their communities ("30 Years of Slovak Civil Society")

To register to participate online in the February 23 event, please visit the Slovak American Society of Washington, DC (SASW) on Facebook, or go to the SASW website <dcslovaks.org>, or visit Friends of Slovakia on Facebook or LinkedIn.

Fill out your Forms Online! Save your Time!

Now you can fill out the FCSU forms online at <https://www.fcsu.com/forms>

Take advantage of our Faster, More Readable and Time Saving Feature.

Fill them out, print, sign and mail them to the Home Office.

NEW

See Solution on Page 23

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new Branch Announcements should be sent to this new e-mail address: branch@fcsu.com.

BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OH

The next meeting of the Saint Joseph Society will be held on April 16, 2023, at 1:00 pm.

Those interested in attending, please contact Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390 by April 1, 2023. Social distancing will be observed so we need to know in advance if you will be attending.

All members are welcome to attend.

Branch 1 will also be attending the District 10 function Monsters hockey game on Saturday evening (7 pm), March 18, 2023, at Rocket Mortgage Field House in downtown Cleveland, OH. Reservations are required and available by calling Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390. The deadline to order tickets is February 16, 2023.

Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year filled with health and happiness.

Submitted by **Barbara J. Golias, Secretary**

BRANCH 05P EXETER, PA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 05P, will hold a meeting on Saturday, March 11, 2022, at 12:00 pm at Angelo's Restaurant and Pizza, Midway Shopping Center, 1000 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming, PA. Pizza luncheon will be provided.

On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and activities. Members are invited and encouraged to attend. Members who want to attend the branch meeting should contact Marion Rubino, President, by March 8, 2022, at 570-693-0399.

Submitted by **Mary Jo Rubino, Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold a meeting on Sunday, May 7, 2023, at 8:30 A.M. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church Parish Hall, 52 Parish St., Ramey, PA 16671. All members are invited to attend the meeting.

Submitted by **Joseph C. Cervenak, President**

BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PA

Branch 23 of Johnstown will hold its First Annual Branch Meeting on Sunday May 7, 2023. The meeting will take place at Denny's Family Restaurant in Richland on Theater Drive. The Meeting will start at 1:30 pm. Lunch will be served. All members of Branch 23 are welcome. We have a large Branch, and we are requesting and encouraging members to attend our meetings. If you have a policy, you are a member of a branch. At this meeting we will be discussing the great new rates FCSU is offering. We also would like to talk about what we can do this year as members. If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Cassat at 814-254-2532.

Submitted by **Theresa Cassat**

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 is providing special Branch 24 members-only pricing for the Saturday evening (7 pm), March 18, 2023, Monsters hockey game at Rocket Mortgage Field-House in downtown Cleveland, OH. A non-

branch member ticket is \$24. A Branch 24 member ticket is \$5. Reservations are required and available by calling Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797. The deadline to order tickets is February 16, 2023. Order now and join other FCSU members and guests from Branch 24 and other branches in District 10 for a family-friendly evening of fun and fraternalism.

Submitted **Tom Ivanec, Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director**
BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 24 will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 12, 2023. This will be a hybrid meeting that starts at 1PM. Branch 24 members will meet in the Walton Hills Village Hall, 7595 Walton Rd, Walton Hills, OH (corner of Alexander and Walton Rds; the parking lot is off of Alexander Road). All COVID protocols in place at the time will be observed at the in-person meeting. If preferred, members may participate in the meeting virtually.

Meeting RSVP Required: All members who plan to attend this meeting in-person must call Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797 by March 8, 2023, to make in-person reservations. To get details on how to join the meeting virtually, email Branch 24 Secretary Anna Gibson at branch24fcsu@gmail.com.

On the agenda: general branch business and fraternal activities. All members are welcome. We look forward to meeting with you then.

Submitted by **John Moynihan, President**

BRANCH 162, UNIONTOWN, PA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its branch meeting on Sunday, March 5, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., at the Uniontown Country Club, 25 Bailey Lane, Uniontown, PA.

Officers' Reports will be given, and branch activities will be discussed. A review of the last years activities will be given, and the Donations Committee will make its recommendations for the coming year. Regional Director, James Marmol, will advise us of developments from the home office, and the meeting will be followed by breakfast. Call Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 before February 27th for reservations for you and your guest to attend the meeting.

Submitted by **Dolores Marmol, Secretary**

BRANCH 173 – WILKES-BARRE PA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch 173, located in northeast Pennsylvania, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 5, 2023, at Norm's Restaurant, 275 N. Sherman St., Wilkes-Barre, PA, starting at 1 pm.

General business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, as will the insurance, annuities, and fraternal activities of the FCSU.

Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy Ungvarsky, at (570) 403-2067, so arrangements can be made.

Submitted by **Matthew Ungvarsky, Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 199 - HOSTETTER, PA

Members of Branch 199 are invited to meet at The Saint Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, 1215 Jefferson Street, Latrobe, Pa 15650 to honor a Branch 199 member for many years of volunteer service at Saint Vincent de Paul Thrift Store. Members will meet on Wednesday, March 15th at 12:30 pm. A branch donation in honor of Mrs. Tripoli's dedication over many years will be presented to a representative from St. Vincent de Paul. A tour of the store and volunteer hours will also take place.

Branch 199 will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 26th at 1:00 pm at Sharkey's Cafe, 3960 Lincoln highway, Latrobe, PA. Plans for summer activities will be discussed. Lunch will be provided by the branch. See you there!

Submitted by **Barb Patula**

BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PA

January meetings will be held at a restaurant chosen by the Board in December. Any member wishing to attend the dinner must attend at least 3 meetings during the year prior. We welcome all members to attend any meeting. We are open for suggestions and any comments or concerns you may have. We meet on the 1st Thursdays of the month except in June and July. In the event a special meeting is held or cancelled, there may not be time to publish in the JEDNOTA. Membership cards were recently mailed out to members 21 years and older. Please contact me with any changes you would like to make and don't forget to look your policy over especially beneficiary information. May you all have a successful, healthy, happy, prosperous "2023"! Fraternaly, Vicki Schaub. Contact at Vschaub123@gmail.com or 724-763-9229.

Submitted by **Vicki Schaub**

BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge Br. 228 will hold their next meeting on Monday March 20, 2023, at 7 P.M. IN-PERSON at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. Beginning in 2023, all quarterly meetings (March, June, September, and December) will be held in the IN-PERSON format at the American Slovak Club. All other monthly meetings will be held in the VIRTUAL format using the FreeConferenceCall.com Audio Conferencing service we have used since late 2020. All meetings will be conducted on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7 P.M. Please keep in mind that there are no meetings held in the months of January, February, July, or August. You may contact Lisa at 440-773-1442 for specific instructions to attend virtually if needed.

The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date of this year's election meeting is December 18, 2023. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors.

The December 2022 election results for

Branch 228 officers were as follows: President - Luis Palos, Vice-President - Ryan Trifiletti, Financial Secretary - Lisa Trifiletti-Palos, Activities Director/Auditor Theresa Arendt and Recording Secretary Thomas Zuffa were each re-elected to a 1-year term expiring on December 31, 2023. For representatives to the American Slovak Club Board of Directors, Kathleen Trifiletti and Ryan Trifiletti were each re-elected to a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2025.

We respectfully ask all of our FCSU members to please pray to our Lord God to bless us all with His love, peace and mercy. May He unite the leaders of all nations to diligently work together for world peace.

Submitted by **Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 259 - STRUTHERS, OH

St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259 will hold a meeting on February 15, 2023, at 2:00 P.M., 175 Harvey St., Struthers, Ohio. We will conduct an audit and discuss the activity for 2023. The members are invited and encouraged to attend. On behalf of all the officers. WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

Submitted by **Beverly Yurcisin, Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO

On Thursday, March 9, 2023, Branch 260 will hold a meeting at Belleria Pizza in Struthers, Ohio at 5:00 pm. On the agenda will be discussion of the year's activities and other business. Friday, December 8th, 2023, will be our annual Christmas celebration directly after the meeting. The location and time will be posted at a later date. God Bless!

Submitted by **Carlie M. Peshek, Vice President**

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PA

The meeting scheduled for March is postponed. The next meeting will be held Sunday, May 7 at 1 PM at Eat & Park Restaurant on Route 30, North Versailles, PA, across from the post office and the Great Valley Shopping Center. We will hear reports from the treasurer and financial secretary and discuss district events. The fall meeting is planned for November 12.

Submitted by **Margaret Nasta, President**

BRANCH 290 - RARITAN, NJ

St. John the Baptist Branch 290 will hold a dinner meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, starting at 6:00 pm for all members. The agenda will include report of officers, membership, and branch activities. The location is Carpaccio Ristorante at 651 Bound Brook Rd, Middlesex, NJ.

RSVP is required, so please call or text Steve Minarovich at (908) 507-0505 by March 8 if you plan on attending.

Submitted by **Steve Minarovich, Recording Secretary**

continued on page 17

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new DISTRICT Announcements should be sent to this new e-mail address: district@fcsu.com.

DISTRICT 2 - REV. JOHN J SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT - IL, IN, WI

A District 2 Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 2, at the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL. A Fraternal Social will begin at 1:30 pm followed by the meeting at 2:00 pm. A fraternal lunch will follow. Please reserve your place by calling Dorothy (708) 995-7378. Looking forward to seeing you.

Submitted by John Jurcenko, President

DISTRICT 3 - THE GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT, WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PA

The George Onda District of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold its Semi-annual meeting on Saturday April 1, 2023. We will meet in the Social Hall of St. Florian Church in United, Pa. at 6:30 P.M. Branch news and our successful Štedrý Večer will be discussed. Please RSVP to Vice President Darlene Patty at 724-493-8712 by March 24, 2023. Refreshments and food will be served. We look forward to a great attendance.

Submitted by Linda L. Gonta, District Secretary

DISTRICT 4 - MSGR. RURA DISTRICT, NJ

Happy New Year! The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 3:00 PM in the downstairs meeting room of Holy Family Church (210 Monroe Street, Linden, NJ 07036). The agenda will include discussion of this year's activities. Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to a local food pantry. Dinner will be served after the meeting. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @732-762-3148 by March 1st if you plan on attending.

Submitted by Mary Kapitan, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH, PA

The Pittsburgh District has scheduled the Spring Business meeting at Holy Trinity Hall of St Thomas the Apostle Parish, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin PA on Sunday, April 30 at 1 PM. Branch 38 will host the meeting. We will discuss business matters and plan events for the spring and summer.

The usual Fathers' Day Brunch has been cancelled. We are looking for suggestions for alternative activities. We also need a host for the fall meeting.

The FCSU has expanded its scholarship program. Tuition funding is available for grades 5 through 12, as well as college and trade school. Check the home page under Membership Benefits/Scholarships for forms and eligibility requirements.

Other announcements of local interest:

WPSCA: Meets at 7PM first Mondays at the Mount Lebanon Public Library. Consider joining the organization and get their newsletter. March 6: Summer School in Slovakia; April 3: Palm Weaving; May 1: New Slovak Citizenship Law; June 5: From Košice to Kiev.

- Slovak classes start again at the Greentree Public Library on Wednesday, February 22. For additional information, contact Bozena Hilko at bozi@comcast.net

- Slovak Day at Kennwood: Thursday, July 20
- Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt – Sunday, November 5 – 1-5 PM, performers, vendors, food – free admission

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as social events and contests. This is the time to be sure your beneficiaries are up to date. FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at www.fcsu.com.

Submitted by Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary, manasta@verizon.net

DISTRICT 8 - REVEREND STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT, PA, NC

The Reverend Stephen Furdek Districts wish a very Happy New Year to all its Branches and Members. We hope your Christmas was merry, joyous, and blessed. "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." - Romans 15:13

District 8 will hold its bi-annual meeting in April in Washington D.C. more information will be forthcoming.

Submitted by Joann Austin, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 9 - THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT, PA

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 1:00 PM at Caporella's Italian Ristorante at 90 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, PA. The election of officers will be on the agenda. Regional Director James Marmol will be informing the members of upcoming Jednota events.

Members who attend will be asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal. Reservations need to be made by Wednesday, March 8, 2023, by contacting President James Marmol at 724-970-7642. All members are urged to attend.

Submitted by Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 - REV. STEPHEN FURDEK, OH

District 10 will be holding our first meeting of 2023 on Sunday, April 30th at 2:00pm. The Lorain Branch will be hosting this event at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, OH 44055. All Elected FCSU officials and Branch members (from District 10) are invited to attend. Please contact Linda Hanko at 330-706-11 or email me at LHanko@neo.rr.com by Wednesday, April 26, 2023, with a head count for each Branch and FCSU elected officials that plan to attend to assist with refreshment preparation.

In addition, District 10, President Greg Petrasek is requesting that each branch share their planned meeting schedules with him. He would appreciate being able to attend your meetings in the future. You may email him your meeting schedules at energypet@aol.com.

Looking forward to spending time in fellowship with everyone at the meeting.

Submitted by Linda M Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 11 - MSGR. JOSEPH TISO, PA

Msgr. Joseph Tiso District 11 will hold meetings on the following dates for calendar year 2023:

Semi-Annual Meeting Sunday March 12, 2023 @ Monroe Hotel 400 E. Jefferson St. Butler, Pa. 16001 at 2 pm.

Another meeting will be on Sunday June 25,

2023, at the CU Club 914 6th Ave. Ford City, Pa. 16226 at 2 pm.

Annual meeting Sunday November 12, 2023 @ Villa Blanca 2740 Leechburg Rd., Lower Burrell, 15068 @ 2pm. This meeting will be for the election of officers.

The District is planning the Annual Picnic for late July or early August watch for updates.

Please plan to attend the District meetings as everyone's input is important and welcomed. Be safe, be well. May God be with you always.

Submitted by Karen Greggs, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 12 - THE MONSIGNOR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT, PA

The Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District will hold the first meeting of the year at the Kings Restaurant at 580 McClelland Rd, Canonsburg, PA, on Sunday, March 19, 2023, at 1pm. If you are unable to attend in person, the meeting will also be held via Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent to all Hlinka District members who attended the November 2022 meeting. Any district member wanting to attend the Annual Meeting via Zoom can contact District Secretary Monica Boone at hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Hlinka District members are urged to attend the March 2023 meeting.

Submitted by Monica Boone, Secretary

DISTRICT 16 - MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA, NEW YORK CITY, NY

Happy New Year! The semi-annual meeting District 16, of the Msgr. Stephen Krasula, in New York City will be held on Sunday March 26, 2023, at 1 pm at the rectory of the St. John Nepomucene Church. The agenda will include discussion of upcoming activities for year 2023.

After the meeting, refreshments will be served. We are kindly asking all officers and members to attend.

Submitted by Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Financial Secretary

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 16

BRANCH 320 - ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP, PA

Branch Meeting: Branch 320 members are invited to attend our Spring Meeting on March 26, 2023, at La Eda's Restaurant - 1723 Grand Blvd. Monessen, PA at 1:00 pm. MUST RSVP BY MARCH 13TH. Please contact Frances Tarquinio (Financial Secretary at 724-929-9788).

Summer Baseball. Any Branch 320 member interested in a baseball game this summer, please reach out to Frances Tarquinio, Financial Secretary, at 724-929-9788. We will be discussing the possibility of this event during our Spring 2023 meeting.

Submitted by Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 367 - FAIRCHANCE, PA

The first meeting of the year for Branch 367 will be on Friday, March 17, 2023, at 12:30 PM at Mountain View Cafe, 1618 Georges-Fairchance Road, Smithfield, PA 15478.

All officer reports and last year activities will be presented, as well as recommen-

dations for donations and activities for this coming year. All members are invited to attend. Please call Kathryn Baranek, secretary at 724-569-1006 if planning to attend.

Submitted by Kathryn Baranek

BRANCH 401 - EAST VANDERGRIFT, PA

St. Anthony of Padua, Branch 401 of East Vandergrift, PA, invites all branch members to attend the 2023 Semi-Annual Meeting which will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2023, at 2 pm at Devout Brewery which is located at 1301 Pontiac Court, #101, Export, PA 15632. Members are encouraged to attend.

Submitted by Kathy Froncek, Secretary

BRANCH 410 - UNIONTOWN, PA

The SS. Peter and Paul Branch 410 will hold its branch meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 1:30 PM at the Highland House, 92 West Main St., Uniontown, PA.

All branch members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Call for reservations by Monday, March 13, 2023, at 724-425-2576.

Submitted by Geraldine Buchheit, Financial & Recording Secretary

BRANCH 450 - CLEVELAND, OH

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, April 15, 2023, at 11:00 AM. The meeting will be held at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church - Hall, West 54-th Street, Parma, OH. 44129.

On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and activities, for summer.

Members are invited and encouraged to attend. Members who want to attend the branch meeting, should contact George Carny, (440) 885-5702. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Submitted by George Carny, President

BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OH

Please mark your calendars:

Feb 11 Valentine Karaoke – 6:30pm
\$10.00 Cover Charge – Finger Food – Cash Bar- Sign up at bar to reserve a spot.
Feb 15 Fried Chicken Dinner – 4:30-6:30 pm

Feb 26 Breakfast Buffet – 9:00 am – 11:45 am \$12.00

Mar 1 Spaghetti Dinner – served 4:30-7:00 pm – Adults \$10.00 Children \$8.00

SAVE THE DATE:
July 22- Annual Kielbasa Open, Mayfair Country Club, Shotgun start

Submitted by Linda M Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 670 - DONORA, PA

Branch 670 will hold a meeting at King's Restaurant at 580 McClelland Rd, Canonsburg, PA on Sunday, March 19, 2022, at 12 PM. If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, the meeting will also be held via Zoom. Any branch member wanting to attend the meeting via Zoom, please contact branch670secretary@gmail.com for the Zoom link. All Branch 670 members are invited to attend the meeting.

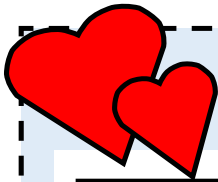
Submitted by Maureen Massafra, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 716 - NEW YORK, NY

Branch 716 will also hold its first semi-annual meeting of the year 2023 on Sunday, April 23, 2023. The meeting will be held in person at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York, NY following the conclusion of the Slovak mass at 12:30 pm. The agenda will include organization, financial report updates, and discussion of future branch activities and any events. Refreshments will be provided at the meeting and all members of Branch 716 are highly encouraged to attend.

Submitted by Emily Lysáková, Secretary

continued on page 18



FCSU PUZZLE CONTEST ENTRY

P L D C S W E R Y C C R E A W
 D O M O I K C H T Z R U L H G
 A V N K O U Y H W T D Z E E B
 R E J V B C M E O I S O E S O
 C A H E D U E R S C O V F K U
 E G F T E M O R A E O Y S K Q
 K K E Y O K L O V T U L E E U
 T I L A D R V V A E K R A W E
 E D S U T R A E H V N T G T T
 R Y O S C L O H Z I L Y W B E
 W C S C E K E D C Q O N M L V
 L E T N N S E R T A D R G J M
 O W T I R O Y Y S W E E T S N
 P I O T C N B U I L I O F V B
 N P E R T W E Y K I R K U C X

“Valentine’s Day” Word List

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Darček (<i>gift</i>) | Sweets |
| Kvety (<i>flowers</i>) | Love |
| Cukríky (<i>candy</i>) | Heart |
| Valentín (<i>Valentine</i>) | Chocolate |
| Červený (<i>red</i>) | Kisses |
| Ružový (<i>pink</i>) | Bouquet |

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip code: _____
 Email: _____
 Branch #: _____

RULES

All FCSU members are eligible to enter.
 Complete the word puzzle and email it along with your name, address, email and branch number to contest@fcsu.com or mail it to:

FCSU PUZZLE

6611 Rockside Rd, Independence, OH 44131

Entries must be received by **March 31, 2023.**

Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

Each winner will receive \$50.

February Puzzle Contest

Each month 5 winners of the FCSU Puzzle Contest will be announced in this section.

Each winner will win \$50 for their correct entry.

Happy Puzzling!

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 17

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Branch 731 recently held our election of officers for 2023. The officers elected were Chaplin Monsignor Robert Siffrin, President Irene Makovec, Vice-president Bridget Bobby, Recording Secretary Maura Blumer, and Financial Secretary Jackie Bobby. Two auditors, John J. Leskovyansky and Tom Krispinsky, were also elected. Our Mass for our Patron Saint will be on March 19, 2023, at 4:00 pm at Saint Columba Cathedral, 159 West Rayen Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio. We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.

**Submitted by Maura Blumer,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 743 - STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday, March 12, 2023, with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30 am. at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI. All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph's day.

A Branch meeting will take place at 1:30 pm. in the Slovak Heritage Room.

Any member who has recently moved or requires Branch services should contact

the Branch Secretary, Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr., Commerce Twp., MI 48382 or phone 248-714-9620. No obligation insurance quotes are free and simple, all that is required is date of birth and gender.

**Submitted by Joseph C. Rimarcik,
President/Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NJ

Happy New Year! The first meeting of 2023 will be on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 2:00 PM in the downstairs meeting room of Holy Family Church (210 Monroe Street, Linden, NJ 07036). The agenda will include discussion of this year's activities. Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to a local food pantry. The Okres (District) meeting will follow at 3:00 PM. Then an early dinner will be served. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @732-762-3148 by March 1st if you plan on attending.

Additional branch news:

Members are encouraged to attend Friday Holy Masses at 7:00 PM (in Slovak) at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. Masses are offered for the intention of all Branch 746 members living and deceased as follows: February 3rd, March 3rd, April 14th, May 5th, June 2nd, July 7th, August 4th, September 1st, November 3rd, and December 1st. October 6th mass is offered for blessings on Branch 746 on the occasion of its 101st Anniversary.

Jednota Branch 746 Scholarship deadline is April 30th. If you are currently accepted and/or enrolled in full-time college, post-secondary educational institution, or vocational school, and are active in Branch 746 or want to become active, you may be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship. For more information on the application criteria and requirements, go to <https://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>.

Submitted by Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 796 - EGYPT, PA

Branch 796 will hold their semi-annual meeting on March 26, 2023. Meeting will convene at 1pm at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic located at 4102 South Church St. Whitehall, PA 18052. We urge all members to attend, especially those who do not normally attend our Branch meetings. We would love to see some new faces. Stay Safe! Stay Strong! God Bless!

**Submitted by Monica Fabian,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 853 - CHARLEROI, PA

Branch 853, St. Pio, will hold its first meeting of the year on Saturday April 1, 2023, at noon at the Speers Street Grill in Speers, PA. The meeting will discuss activities for 2023. Branch members attending will be treated to lunch. If you want to attend virtually, leave a message and information will be given on how to

attend. Reservations are required for a seating count. Please leave a message at FCSUBranch853@gmail.com, or 412-341-1577 with your name, phone number, and the branch members attending.

Branch 853 members are also asked to put April 21 on their calendar for the branch to attend a 9am Mass at the Bentleyville, PA site of the St. Katharine Drexel Parish in memory of the departed FCSU Branch 853 members. Members will meet outside of the church at 8:50 a.m.

**Submitted by Monica Boone,
President**

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, D.C.

Branch 856 will hold their first meeting of the new year on Saturday March 18, 2023 at 1:00 pm at the home secretary, Marion Mistrik, 4513 Gladwyne Dr., Bethesda, MD 20814. All members are invited to attend. On the agenda will be a discussion on how to get more members involved with the branch, activities that members would like to do, financial report and report on survey taken last year. Plans for our mass in honor of our Slovak Chapel Our Mother of Sorrows at the shrine in Washington, D.C. in September 23, 2023. A light lunch will be served. For more information call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-3856 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363.

**Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski,
President**

Michael J. Krajsa Inspires Learning at Penn State University's Lehigh Campus

Looking back down the mountain of Michael J. Krajsa, Former Assistant Teaching Professor's Lifetime of Compassionate People-Centered Adventures

On the second floor of the Penn State Lehigh Valley campus Academic Building, just behind the Business Wall where you are reading this, you will see where Michael J. Krajsa or "Big Mike" as he was known to so many, positioned himself in between classes when the halls were full of students and faculty bustling from one place to another. Often, his arms would be outstretched on the banister, an inclusive, welcoming gesture that told everyone, "I'm here for you; come and tell me your story." And students did tell Big Mike their stories. They also shared their hopes, dreams and challenges and he was always there to listen and help. His favorite mantras: "It is not who you know, it is who you let know you." And "You've got to create your own weather system!" were two lessons he tried to impart to students. Mike was also there to guide many students who were trying to figure out how exactly to put their futures in motion. A human "idea machine" Mike Krajsa's mind constantly threw out ideas empowering people around him and many lives have been shaped by those ideas and his encouragement.

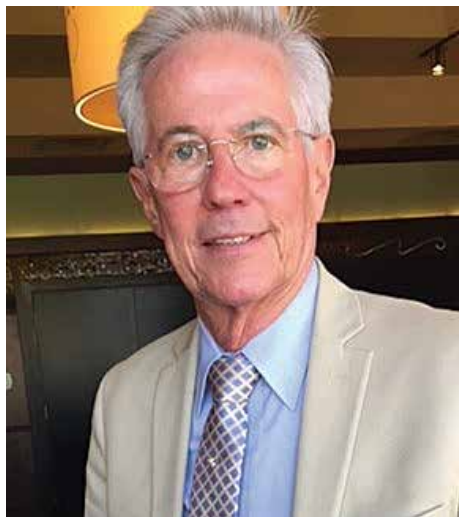
The grandson of Slovak immigrants, education and service, adventure, and curiosity were instilled in Mike by his parents at a young age, as he began honing his life skills as an Eagle Scout. He would go on later in life to expand these skills by hiking the Inca Trail, summiting Mount Rainier and wilderness backpacking in national parks.

As a twin engine instrument rated pilot, he learned through his aviation skills about training, flight planning, and the importance before each flight, and that the responsibility of agile decision making while in flight was the only way to get where you need to go, and he brought those strategic thinking skills and spirit to his life's work.

In his 1967 valedictorian speech at Perkiomen Prep School, Mike told his audience: "We each have an identity, and an obligation to maintain our individuality." One of the most empathetic and individualistic people ever, Mike never stopped being who he was, whether it was baking a delicious and much appreciated cherry cobbler to bring to his co-workers or navigating the Great Wall of China with twenty students in tow, Mike more than fulfilled the obligation to maintain his individuality, and he urged his students and friends to do so also.

In college, as a student at Catholic University in DC during the late 1960's, his strong sense of social justice emerged by advocating during those transformative times, and he worked as a tour guide at the National Shrine. Upon graduation he started his career as press secretary to the Secretary of Welfare of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg, PA, while simultaneously completing his master's degree at the Pennsylvania State University. He later served as a legislative aide in Congress and in 1980 he was a candidate for Congress in the 15th district in PA.

Mike never quite stopped being a tour guide, including serving as the executive director for tourism for Bucks County, PA,



Michael Krajsa

promoting area destinations. Mike was always discovering new places to go, people to meet and showing others the way to discover the most out of life for themselves.

As a publisher for Slovak v Amerike, one of the oldest Slovak-American newspapers in the world, he attended White House and State Department briefings attended also by United States presidents from Lyndon Johnson to Ronald Reagan. Later he published a popular regional and feature monthly magazine in the Lehigh Valley, Valley Monthly Magazine, often tackling issues no other publication would touch.

He brought his servant leadership and strategic thinking skills to LifePath where he served as director of development and created the most successful fundraising event in the history of the organization and the most sustained fundraising event in the Lehigh Valley, the LifePath PICPA Thanksgiving luncheon, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to date and is still a thriving endeavor each year. In 2022 it marked its twenty-fifth year. Click here to view video of Lifepath Community Service Award 2022 - <https://vimeo.com/766626365/7108dd6f3d>

His next career adventure was teaching, where he inspired students to create successful paths, whether he was motivating entrepreneurs at KU Tekpark, through Kutztown University or teaching MBA and undergraduate students at DeSales University. While at DeSales, Mike was awarded the prestigious Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) International Teacher Excellence Award for Creativity, Innovation and Community Involvement. Mike mentored students in SIFE (Students in a Free Enterprise) team, a team he began that traveled to Peru six times, and developed social enterprise outreach projects with Heifer International, and he hiked the Inca Trail.

At Penn State he served as Assistant Teaching Professor where he was awarded the prestigious, university-wide Atherton Award for teaching excellence. As a three-time elected faculty senator who chaired the Senate Global Programs Committee, Mike was an advocate of short-term study abroad experiences, taking students to China, Peru, the Netherlands, Costa Rica, and Jamaica. He also hosted, in his home, several exchange students from India and China over the years.

Former student Olympic cyclist Mandy Marquardt '14 recalled: "I walked into the classroom, and I found his energy to be in-



Michael Krajsa at Penn State Lehigh Valley Campus.

spiring. He asked the class, 'What are you passionate about?' I've never had a teacher ask me that before."

Mike is a founding board member of the entrepreneurial Penn State Lehigh Valley Launchbox program, where he also served as faculty liaison to the community, faculty, and students.

A helicopter crash (www.tinyurl.com/2td-5dzke) and two-time cancer survivor (Thank you PSU Hershey Urology!), Mike has gone from strength to strength in his life, he has encouraged countless others to do the same. The next time you pass the bridge, feel the warmth of Mike's outstretched arms and ask yourself: "How will I create my own weather system?" and

"Who can I let know me today?"

Michael J. Krajsa is a member of Branch 419, Mountain Top, PA, in District 17. He is the son of the late Joseph C. and Romanza Krajsa. His father was the Editor of JEDNOTA for over 32 years and the brother of the late Joseph J. Krajsa, who was Vice-President, Regional Director, and Manager of Jednota Press. Michael has attended every Jednota Convention since he was 21 and was honored to serve as Chairman of the last two conventions. He also donated "The Business Wall" at Penn State University, Lehigh Valley branch.

Sources: www.tinyurl.com/bdue25nm and www.tinyurl.com/mrxn25jm

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

FCSU HOME OFFICE
6611 ROCKSIDE RD
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO, 44131
SATURDAY MARCH 25, 2023

The ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on:

Saturday, March 25, 2023

8:30am Meeting

Mass will be after the meeting

All Officers are requested to consult Section 6.03(b) and Section 6.03(c) of our Bylaws for further information concerning officer participation and the conduct of this meeting.

Officers who are required to give reports at the Annual Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kevin J. Collins, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office on or before Friday, March 17, 2023.

All correspondence relative to the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kevin J. Collins and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to March 17, 2023.

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held following the Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday, March 25, 2023.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9406 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Kenneth A. Arendt
National President

Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary

Local Brothers Complete 2,200 Mile Hike of Appalachian Trail

continued from page 10

because he liked to figure out the backstory of the people we met along the way, piecing things together like a detective,” said Dave.

Along this adventure, the brothers said they had time to contemplate history and the priorities of past government leaders. The priorities others placed on nature and conservation, allowed them the opportunity to do the trail hike today.

“I would think about how grateful I was to the people that came before us,” said Dave. “I thought about Teddy Roosevelt who gave us National Parks. And FDR who used the works program to have workers clear the trails. I was just filled with gratitude, when I finished, for something like that, for people like that. Did you know that last year was the 100th anniversary of the Appalachian Trail? he asked.

For Kieran, the variations in the trail were what inspired him.

“In Maine, we hiked this area which was so difficult. It was a one-mile level section, with rocks the size of homes. And we had to hike around, under, even push our packs through the rock tunnels,” he said.

“I just realized how lucky we were to be able to do something like that, and complete it.”

One of the ways the brothers inspired each other during a long day on the trail was to have “happy hour,” waiting for them at the end of a day’s hike.

“We would bring a bottle of whiskey and would give ourselves a little shot of whiskey and water at the end of the day,” said Dave. We called it ‘Happy Hour.’ It was a way to end the day and say we had been successful, we had made it to our stopping point safely.”

Most nights the duo tried to camp at a trailhead or trail stop. This allowed them to have a bathroom or outhouse.

But sometimes, the trials were just miles and miles of wilderness.

“The last 100 miles we hiked in Maine were really just complete wilderness, 100 miles of it. And there was this trail through it that allowed us to see it in its natural form,” said Dave.

Dave, who is an attorney, worked in employee benefits for National City Bank, PNC, U.S. Steel and JC Penney, likes to categorize things.

“We saw 10-15 bears, 10 rattlesnakes and a lot of moose skat,” he said.

They hiked through small towns, through mountains and grasslands. The trail reaches its highest elevation, 6,643 feet as it crosses the summit of Clingmans Dome in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, near the Tennessee–North Carolina border. Kieran says the highest summit, however, in his opinion is not the hardest.

“I think the hardest part was hiking Kitadin, our last section of the trail,” he said. “It was a very rugged hike up.”

When asked what they did when they were done, done with all 14 states, all 2,197 miles of the Appalachian Trail?

They said they did as they always had done.

“We had our little happy hour and toasted the completion of that day’s hike,” said Dave, matter-of-factly.

Now that the Appalachian Trail hike is complete, what are their plans going forward?

“I think my hiking days are done. I think I might just play golf like a regular retired person” Dave said laughing.

However, after this interview, Dave and his wife Patti were headed on a trip to Italy, Croatia and the Aegean Sea, to see the views, experience nature, and as Dave and his brother Kieran have done throughout their lives, truly appreciate their opportunity to do so.

Both David Repko and his brother Keiran Repko are members of Branch 38, Holy Trinity Society.

Prayer for Healing

by Padre Pio

Heavenly Father, I thank You for loving me. I thank You for sending Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to the world to save and to set me free. I trust in Your power and grace that sustain and restore me.

Loving Father, touch me now with Your healing hands, for I believe that Your will is for me to be well in mind, body, soul, and spirit. Cover me with the Most Precious Blood of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, from the top of my head to the soles of my feet.

Cast anything that should not be in me. Root out any unhealthy and abnormal cells. Open any blocked arteries or veins and rebuild and replenish any damaged areas. Remove all inflammation and cleanse any infection by the power of Jesus’ Precious Blood.

Let the fire of Your healing love pass through my entire body to heal and make new any diseased areas so that my body will function the way You created it to function.

Touch also my mind and my emotion, even the deepest recesses of my heart. Saturate my entire being with Your presence, love, joy, and peace and draw me ever closer to You every moment of my life.

And Father, fill me with Your Holy Spirit and empower me to do Your works so that my life will bring glory and honor to Your Holy Name. I ask this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. - **Padre Pio**

Modlitba za uzdravenie

Nebeský Otče, ďakujem Ti, že ma miluješ. Ďakujem Ti, že si poslal svojho Syna, nášho Pána Ježiša Krista, na svet, aby ma zachránil a oslobodil. Verím v Tvoju silu a milosť, ktoré ma podporujú a obnovujú.

Milujúci Otče, dotkni sa ma teraz svojimi uzdravujúcimi rukami, pretože verím, že Tvojou vôľou je, aby som sa mal dobre na mysli, tele, duši a duchu. Prikrý ma najdrahšou krvou svojho Syna, nášho Pána, Ježiša Krista od temena mojej hlavy až po chodidlá.

Odstráň čokoľvek, čo by vo mne nemalo byť. Odstráň všetky nezdravé a abnormálne bunky a obnov všetky poškodené oblasti. Odstráň všetky zápaly a uzdrav akúkoľvek infekciu silou Ježišovej vzácnej krvi.

Nech oheň tvojej liečivej lásky prejde celým mojim telom, aby vyliečil všetky choré oblasti, aby moje telo fungovalo tak, ako si ho stvoril.

Dotkni sa aj mojej mysle a mojich citov, dokonca aj tých najhlbších zákutí môjho srdca. Nasýt celú moju bytosť svojou prítomnosťou, láskou, radosťou a pokojom a príťahuj ma stále bližšie k sebe v každom okamihu môjho života.

Otče, naplň ma svojím Svätým Duchom, zmocni sa ma, aby som konal skutky podľa tvojej vôle, aby môj život priniesol slávu a česť Tvojmu svätému menu. Prosim o to v mene Pána Ježiša Krista a na príhovor sv. Pátra Pia, môjho verného priateľa a patróna. Amen. - **Páter Pio.**

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION of the “JEDNOTA”

Name of editor: Michael J. Kopanic Jr. PH. D.

Owner: First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada

Publisher: First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada

Known bondholder, mortgages, or other security holders holding 1 percent or more of

total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: None

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title Jednota	2. Publication Number 1097-3392	3. Filing Date 01/29/2023
4. Issue Frequency monthly	5. Number of Issues Published Annually 12	6. Annual Subscription Price 25 USA 30 International
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) First Catholic Slovak Union of the USA & Canada 6611 Rockside Rd., suite 300 Independence, OH 44131		Contact Person Kenneth Arendt Telephone (include area code) (216) 642-9406
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) same as above		

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)	
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) First Catholic Slovak Union of the USA & Canada 6611 Rockside Rd., suite 300 Independence, OH 44131	
Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr. 20 Maplewood Ave. Crossett, PA 16830 1521	
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) n/a	

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)	
Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
First Catholic Slovak Union of the USA & Canada	6611 Rockside Rd., suite 300 Independence, OH 44131

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	
Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)	
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13. Publication Title Jednota	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 01/27/2023
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15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)			
(1)	Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	21,800	21,891
(2)	Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	600	21,275
(3)	Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	0	0
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(1)	Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	0	0
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(4)	Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		21,900	21,550
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		100	100
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		121.9	121.55
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		99.54	99.53

16. Electronic Copy Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a.	Paid Electronic Copies	0	0
b.	Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	621.8	21,490
c.	Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	21.9	21.55
d.	Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100)	21,800	21,891

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17. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 2/9/23 issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.	
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18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.	Date 01/27/2023
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Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

The First Catholic Slovak Union has a Mass said for each of our deceased members at St. Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio.

Odpočinutie večné daj im, Pane, a svetlo večné, nech im sviati. Duše všetkých verných zomrelých, pre milosrdenstvo Božie, nech odpočívajú v pokoji. Amen
Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
019K	Mary M Grich	075K	Monica Fitzpatrick	315K	Charles Seskey	746K	Barbara Andersen
019K	Phyllis H Ondek	085K	Robert Mark Tobias	333K	Anna K Rudella	746K	Christopher S Ankosko
023K	Robert Burgo	112K	Joseph J Wallace	333K	Pamela M Hughes	764K	Mark A Terpin
035K	Irene P Puhala	153K	Donald Kempiak	372K	Francis A Dill	844K	Elnora M Rusnak
035K	Regis Vlasaty	157K	Jeffrey D Landsberger	382K	Elizabeth M Pisarcik	890K	Bette A Ptaszek
038K	Michael John Gavula	162K	Andrew Kacmar Jr	393K	Gerald W Rowe	900K	Carol S Colosimo
038K	Sue Szewczyk	166K	Seth D Meeker	456K	Mary Ann Bloom	916K	Keith V De Grush
038K	Verna M Gajdos	181K	Patricia A Mehalic	484K	Catherine P Byich	916K	William S Paul
040K	Kathleen Jane Bourne	254K	Kathleen D Murphy	484K	Patricia Kirsch	924K	Rev William T Campion
045K	Andrew Palega	276K	Richard Bertoty	571K	Robert Rovder	926K	Judith A Naumann
045K	Jan Zeman	299K	Marie S Tobias	595K	Helen L Tietsort	926K	Mary A Dettmann
045K	Sue Anne Sikula Pape	313K	Frank M Bielik	260K	Sr Florence Sliva		

* Processed in the month of January 2023

NEKROLÓGY – OBITUARIES

JOSEPH A. BEDNAR, BRANCH 831 – TARENTUM, PA



Joseph A. Bodnar, 98, of Tarentum, passed away Thursday, December 29, 2022, at Allegheny Health Network Hospital, Wexford following a 3-month illness.

He was born January 22, 1924, in East Deer Township to the late Michael and Mary (Pollock) Bodnar. He lived most of his life in Tarentum. Joseph was a meat cutter for Sparkle Market, Loblaw's, and Giant Eagle for over 40 years. He was a veteran of the US Army serving in WWII in the 995 Field Artillery Unit, PFC First Class in the Artillery Transport. He served in the African, Italian, French and German campaigns, and assisted the army with the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp. He received an award from the PA Senate for his service during WWII.

Joseph was a member of the former St. Clement Church, Tarentum and was very active in his church. He was a member of St. Vincent DePaul Society, member of council, altar server, and played St. Nicholas at the holidays. He dedicated his life to the church, receiving the "Manifesting the Kingdom Award" from the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Survivors include his children, Joseph A. (Claudia) Bodnar, of Chesapeake, VA, Susan M. (Rev. Joseph) Martin, of Franklin, PA, Phyllis M. (James) Tonseth, of Salisbury, NC, Mark A. (Katie) Bodnar, of East Deer and Robert P. Bodnar, of Tarentum; 7 grandchildren Jodi Cantrell, Julie and Christopher Martin, Maria (Steven) Groover, Philip and Anna Tonseth and Sarah Bodnar; great grandchildren Merryn Cantrell, Garrett Voelker and Peyton Groover. Also surviving is his sister Mary (Raymond) Dauer, of Tarentum, numerous nieces and nephews and countless friends.

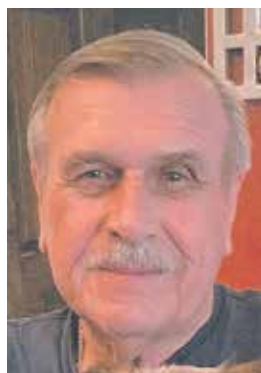
Besides his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, Agnes E. (Golgan) Bodnar in 2005.

Visitation took place at Duster Funeral and Cremation Services, Inc. in Tarentum. A Christian funeral mass was celebrated in Guardian Angels Parish, Our Lady of Victory Campus, Harmar Twp. Burial was at Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, Frazer Township with Military honors. Family suggests contributions to St. Vincent DePaul Society of one's choice.

VISIT: dusterfh.com

Submitted by Robert Bednar

ROBERT "BOB" M. TOBIAS, BRANCH 85 – BLAKELY, PA



Robert M. "Bob" Tobias, 81, a resident of Swoyersville, passed into eternal life Thursday afternoon, Nov. 17, 2022, in Geisinger Community Medical Center, Scranton, following a brief illness.

Born June 28, 1941, in Swoyersville, Bob was one of two children born to the late Joseph S. Tobias and Mary Margaret Asklar Tobias. A lifelong resident of Swoyersville, Bob was a graduate of the former Swoyersville High School, Class of 1959.

Prior to his retirement, Bob spent his career as a construction equipment salesman.

A man of great faith, Bob was a lifelong member of the former Holy Trinity Church, Swoyersville. Following the consolidation of his church, he became a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Swoyersville.

Bob had many enjoyments in life, especially classic cars, and, in his earlier years, boating and scuba diving. He was proud to acquire his pilot's license and was a staunch Republican who always enjoyed a fair political debate. He reveled in the "good old days of wine and roses" and told countless people that he had enough stories to write a book.

Above all, Bob was happiest spending time with his family and friends. He recently spoke of his life and how he felt he had a good run during his time here. Although his presence will be deeply missed, he will forever be remembered as a loving and devoted son, brother, uncle, cousin, companion, and friend.

In addition to his parents, Joseph and Mary Tobias, Bob was preceded in death by his sister, Florence E. Dezagottis.

Bob is survived by his loving companion of 23 years, Carol Kasper, Swoyersville; brother-in-law, James Dezagottis Jr., Mechanicsburg; three nephews, James Dezagottis III, who was his godson, and his wife, Judy, Annville; Mark Dezagottis and his wife, Linda, Purcellville, Va.; and Jon Dezagottis, New Cumberland; great-niece, Robin Dezagottis; great-nephew, Kevin Dezagottis; and cousins and friends.

Relatives and friends paid their respects at Wroblewski Funeral Home Inc. in Forty Fort, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Swoyersville, with the Rev. Joseph J. Pisaneschi, his pastor, officiating. Interment followed with the rite of committal at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Cemetery, Swoyersville.

To offer Bob's family a message of condolence, visit the funeral home's website, www.

wroblewskifuneralhome.com, or the Facebook page. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Bob's memory to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 116 Hughes St., Swoyersville, PA 18704.

Submitted by Jim Dezagottis

WILLIAM TURICIK, BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PA



William Turicik, 91, a resident of Messiah Village in Mechanicsburg died Wednesday August 3, 2022. He is formerly from Carlisle and Ford City PA.

He was born July 26, 1931, in Ford City, PA to Andrew and Katarina (Catherine) Turicik and was the fifth of six children. Bill started working for PPG Industries in 1949 as a machinist apprentice in Ford City, PA. He was sent for mandatory military service during the Korean War and served in the Navy aboard the USS Yosemite. Upon return from his service, he resumed his apprenticeship at PPG and worked for the company for 47 years. He ended his career working in management and engineering and excelled at both.

Bill married Jean Goodyear on June 18, 1955, in Cadogan PA. They had two children; Jeff Turicik (Lorraine) of Mechanicsburg and Lisa Dougherty (Ray) of Vacaville California. He leaves behind five grandchildren, six great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers and sisters: Mary, Tillie, Steve, Jenny, and Becky. Bill, as everyone called him, was very loved by his family and friends.

He was a kind and generous soul with a brilliant mind. He loved wood working and built a shop in his backyard. If you are one of the lucky ones, you have a carving, a bench, a clock, a cradle, or bookshelf from him. He had a green thumb and grew a leek and tomato crop in his backyard garden every summer. He was an avid trout fisherman, made mouthwatering buckwheat pancakes, and wrote beautiful haiku poetry. He loved classical music, especially Beethoven, but Neil Diamond and Willie Nelson were also favorites. Bill was a wonderful husband, father, artist, writer, cook, and craftsman.

A memorial service was held August 27, 2022

at Hoffman Funeral Home & Crematory in Carlisle, PA. Visitation was followed by a memorial service. Private interment too place at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Mechanicsburg, PA.

He will be greatly missed. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Parkinson's Foundation in his name. To sign the online guest book please visit www.HoffmanFH.com. www.pennlive.com/obits.

Submitted by Katherine M. Dunmire



Modlitba za mŕtvých k Božskému Srdcu Ježišovmu

Ó, Božské Srdce, pre nás zranené, naša potecha v živote a smrti, pozdravujem Ťa v zármutku všetkých verných duší a volám k Tebe úpenlivým hlasom: Milosrdné Srdce, zmiluj sa nad nimi. Dopraj im užívať ovocie Tvojho bolestného krvipreliať na kríži, dopraj im úžitok všetkých svätých omší, modlitieb a zásluh Cirkvi putujúcej na zemi. Vyveď ich z očistcových múk, z miesta zármutku a opustenosti. Poteš, občerstvi a vysloboď najmä tie duše, za ktoré som povinný(á) sa modliť. Zmiluj sa i nad dušami, ktoré sú najviac opustené a na ktoré si nikto nespomína. Zmiluj sa najmä nad tými, ktorí za života vzývali Tvoje najsvätejšie Srdce. Amen

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Slovak carolers visiting the Vatican on Jan. 1, 2023 (Slovenskí koledníci na návšteve Vatikánu, 1. januára 2023).

Slovenskí koledníci Dobrej noviny na omši s pápežom

V nedeľu 1. januára navštívila Vatikánsky rozhlas skupina dievčat z Liptovských Sliačov v tradičných koledníckych odevoch. Ako každý rok prišli slovenskí koledníci Dobrej noviny do Večného mesta, aby sa zúčastnili na novoročnej svätej omši, ktorej v Bazilike svätého Petra predsedal pápež František. Tohtoročný projekt má motto: „Zmeňme púšť na záhradu“ a je to už 28. ročník projektu Dobrej noviny.

Slovak Carolers of Dobrá novina at Mass with the Pope

On Sunday, January 1, a group of girls from Liptovský Sliač in traditional caroling clothes visited the Vatican Radio. As every year, the Slovak carolers of the Good News came to the Eternal City to participate in the New Year's Mass presided over by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Basilica. This year's project has the motto: "Let's turn the desert into a garden" and it is already the 28th year of the Dobrá novina (Good News) project.

You may listen to the carols (koledy) at the following Vatican website, which also has an interview with the carolers who express their joy to meet the Holy Father and sing Slovak carols for him: www.tinyurl.com/mr2x34wz

A Tribute to Anton Bernolák in Devín

On Sunday, January 15, 2023, we commemorate the 210th anniversary of the death of the great son of the Slovak nation – the priest, linguist, and the first codifier of written Slovak, Anton Bernolák.

PhDr. Daniela Suchá, president of the civic association CYRILOMETODIADA, ambassador PhDr. Marián Servátka, CSc., and director of the PRO PATRIA foundation PhDr. Anton Hrnko, CSc., honored Anton Bernolák by placing a wreath at his memorial plaque on the building of the Roman Catholic parish office near St. Cross in Devín.

In 1785, Anton Bernolák spent his vacation at the parish in Devín, where he wrote the work *Nova Bibliotheca Theologica Selecta*.

On the occasion of the unveiling of the memorial plaque in 2012, Msgr. Marián Gavenda, a scientist and local parish priest, stated:

It is an honor for the parish that he moved here and very diligently spent his holidays here. As a third-year theology student, he already knew the world's theological literature of the time, from which he made a selection of over 200 pages. This is also a great motivation for me, that such a young theologian has achieved so much, because within the walls of this rectory I am engaged in translation.

See: www.tinyurl.com/2p8r4bpb

Pocťa Antonovi Bernolákovi v Devíne

V nedeľu 15. januára 2023 si pripomínáme 210. výročie úmrtia veľkého syna slovenského národa – kňaza, jazykovedca a prvého kodifikátora spisovnej slovenčiny Antona Bernoláka.

PhDr. Daniela Suchá, predsedníčka občianskeho združenia CYRILOMETODIADA, veľvyslanec PhDr. Marián Servátka, CSc., a konateľ nadácie PRO PATRIA PhDr. Anton Hrnko, CSc., si uctili Antona Bernoláka položením venca k jeho pamätnej tabuli na budove rímskokatolíckeho farského úradu pri Kostole sv. Kríža v Devíne.

Anton Bernolák trávil v roku 1785 prázdniny na fare v Devíne, kde napísal dielo *Nova Bibliotheca Theologica Selecta*.

Mons. Marián Gavenda, vedec a miestny farár, pri príležitosti odhalenia pamätnej tabule v r. 2012 uviedol:

Pre farnosť je to pocta, že sa tu pohyboval a veľmi usilovne tu trávil prázdniny. Ako tretiak na teológii už poznal vtedajšiu svetovú teologickú literatúru, z ktorej spravil výber vyše 200 strán. Aj pre mňa je toto veľká motivácia, že taký mladý teológ toľko dokázal, lebo v múroch tejto fary sa venujem prekladaniu.

Daniel Suchá



Photo: Štefan Suchá

Pamätná tabuľa Antona Bernoláka na Devíne (The Memorial plaque to Anton Bernolák in Devín). Photo: Daniel Suchá translated by Dr. Michael Kopanic

The Independent Slovak Republic Was Established 30 Years Ago

Bratislava, 1 January (TASR) - After 74 years, two months and three days of the existence of a common state of Czechs and Slovaks, two separate state entities - the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic - came into being at the stroke of midnight on 31 December 1992. Sunday, January 1, 2023, marked the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Slovak Republic (SR).

The first of January is commemorated in Slovakia as a public holiday - the Day of the Establishment of the Slovak Republic, which is also a day of rest. In the Czech Republic (CR) this day is commemorated as the Day of Restoration of the Independent Czech State.

The establishment of the independent republics was preceded by the approval of the Constitutional Act on the dissolution of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic (CSFR), which was adopted by the Federal Assembly of the Czechoslovak Federal Republic on 25 November 1992 and entered into force at midnight on 31 December 1992 and 1 January 1993.

The approved constitutional law eliminated the 1991 constitutional law which allowed the division of the CSFR only by referendum. On the basis of the new constitutional law, on 31 December 1992, without a plebiscite, the CSFR was dissolved and two separate republics, the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic, were established.

The history of the Czechoslovak federation dates back to the former socialist Czechoslovakia. The Constitutional Law on the Czechoslovak Federation was adopted by the National Assembly of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (CSSR) on 27 October 1968. It was signed at a ceremony in the Hall of the Federation at Bratislava Castle by the then leading represen-

tatives of Czechoslovakia and entered into force on 1 January 1969.

A major turning point in the question of the federal structure came after 1989, when the first discussions on the dissolution of the federation began. The winners of the 1992 parliamentary elections - the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) and the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) - expressed their willingness to agree on the division of the federation. Already on 17 July 1992, the deputies of the Slovak National Council (SNR) approved the SNR Declaration on the Sovereignty of the Slovak Republic.

The final decision on the timetable for the dissolution of the CSFR was reached by representatives of HZDS and ODS in August 1992 in Brno. Subsequently, the Constitution of the Slovak Republic was adopted on 1 September 1992. After its entry into force on 1 October 1992, the name of the Slovak National Council was replaced by the National Council of the Slovak Republic (NR SR). This was followed by the aforementioned act - the approval of the Constitutional Act on the dissolution of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. Historically, the last session of the Federal Assembly of the CSFR ended on 17 December 1992.

On the very first day of its existence, the independent Slovak Republic was diplomatically recognized by 93 states of the world, among them the United States, Russia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and China.

On the first of January 1993, a joint meeting of the National Assembly and the Government of the Slovak Republic took place, at which they adopted a declaration on the establishment of the independent Slovak Republic.

In the first days of January 1993, the Slovak

Republic became a member of the World Bank or the United Nations (UN).

From 8 February 1993, the Slovak koruna (crown) began to be valid on the territory of the independent Slovak Republic. In March the Slovak Republic became a member of the Central European Free Trade Association (CEFTA) and on 30 June of the same year a member of the Council of Europe (CoE).

The first President of the Slovak Republic was Michal Kováč, who was elected Head of State on 15 February 1993 by the deputies of the National Assembly of the Slovak Republic as the candidate of the HZDS (HZDS).

The Slovak Republic became a NATO member state on 29 March 2004 and a member of the European Union on 1 May 2004. It joined the Schengen area on 21 December 2007 and introduced the euro as its currency on 1 January 2009.

Pred 30 rokmi vznikla samostatná Slovenská republika

Bratislava 1. januára (TASR) - Po 74 rokoch, dvoch mesiacoch a troch dňoch existencie spoločného štátu Čechov a Slovákov vznikli úderom polnoci 31. decembra 1992 dva samostatné štátne útvary - Česká republika a Slovenská republika. V nedeľu tak uplynie od vzniku Slovenskej republiky (SR) 30 rokov.

Prvý január sa na Slovensku pripomína ako štátny sviatok - Deň vzniku SR, ktorý je aj dňom pracovného pokoja. V Českej republike (ČR) si tento deň pripomínajú ako Deň obnovy samostatného českého štátu.

Vzniku samostatných republík predchádzalo schválenie ústavného zákona o rozpade Českej a Slovenskej Federatívnej Republiky (ČSFR).

Federálne zhromaždenie ČSFR ho prijalo 25. novembra 1992 a platnosť nadobudol o polnoci z 31. decembra 1992 na 1. januára 1993.

Schválený ústavný zákon eliminoval ústavný zákon z roku 1991, ktorý umožňoval rozdelenie ČSFR iba na základe referenda. Na základe nového ústavného zákona 31. decembra 1992 o 24.00 h bez plebiscitu zanikla ČSFR a vznikli dve samostatné republiky - SR a ČR.

História československej federácie siaha ešte do čias bývalého socialistického Československa. Ústavný zákon o československej federácii prijalo Národné zhromaždenie Československej socialistickej republiky (ČSSR) 27. októbra 1968. Slávnostne ho podpísali na Bratislavskom hrade v Sjeni federácie vtedajší poprední predstavitelia Československa a platnosť nadobudol 1. januára 1969.

Zásadný obrat v otázke federatívneho usporiadania nastal po roku 1989, keď sa začali prvé diskusie o zániku federácie. Víťazi parlamentných volieb z roku 1992 - Hnutie za demokratické Slovensko (HZDS) a Občianska demokratická strana (ODS) - prejavili ochotu dohodnúť sa na rozdelení federácie. Už 17. júla 1992 poslanci Slovenskej národnej rady (SNR) schválili Deklaráciu SNR o zvrchovanosti SR.

K definitívnemu rozhodnutiu o harmonograme zániku ČSFR dospeli predstavitelia HZDS a ODS v auguste 1992 v Brne. Následne bola 1. septembra 1992 prijatá Ústava SR. Po nadobudnutí jej účinnosti 1. októbra 1992 sa nahradil názov Slovenská národná rada názvom Národná rada Slovenskej republiky (NR SR). Potom už nasledoval spomínaný akt - schválenie ústavného zákona o zániku ČSFR. Historicky posledná schôdza Federálneho zhromaždenia

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2022
HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 10:30 AM and asked Rev. Thomas Nasta to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
 Kevin J. Collins, National Vice President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
 John Tokarsky, Treasurer (teleconference)
 Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain (teleconference)
 (by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the November 18, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Kenneth A. Arendt and seconded by Kevin J. Collins to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction and Review Report to the Board of Directors at the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting held prior to the Executive Committee Meeting. Each member of the Board received a copy of the presentation in advance for his/her review. Following the report, he answered the Board's questions.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer John Tokarsky presented his monthly report at the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting held prior to the Executive Committee Meeting. Following the report, he answered the Board's questions.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee Meeting on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), UBS, MAI Fund, and Clutterbuck Fund. The Committee discussed the report and the Executive Secretary answered the Committee's questions.

Financial Report

The Executive Secretary presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the third quarter of 2022 and answered the Committee's questions.

Portfolio Review

The Executive Secretary updated the Committee on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, found everything in order, and answered the Committee's questions.

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of November for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

Monthly Disbursements

The Executive Secretary reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of November:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 210,185.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 73,627.00
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Repo rt.

The Committee reviewed the remainder of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary answered all questions.

SALES AND MARKETING:

Vice President Kevin Collins presented an extensive sales report at the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting held prior to the Executive Committee Meeting. Following the report, he answered the Board's questions.

The Vice President updated the Executive Committee on the advertising campaign he is working on with Clear Channel for radio campaigns, he will update the Committee at the next meeting.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

Vice President Kevin Collins announced the many events that will be held in 2023. Mr. Collins stated that the bowling tournament will be held May 19-20 in Buffalo, New York, the golf tournament will be held August 19-20 in Ohio and three picnics are planned for Frogbridge in New Jersey, Knoebels Amusement Resort in Pennsylvania and Wiegand Lake Park in Ohio. All the information will be published in the Jednota and posted on our website.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

Annuity Rates:

The Executive Committee decided the annuity rates will remain the same and be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by John Tokarsky to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Rev. Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
 President

Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

Pred 30 rokmi vznikla samostatná Slovenská republika

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ČSFR sa skončila 17. decembra 1992.

Už počas prvého dňa existencie samostatnú SR diplomaticky uznalo 93 štátov sveta, medzi nimi Spojené štáty, Rusko, Francúzsko, Nemecko, Spojené kráľovstvo a Čína.

Prvého januára 1993 sa uskutočnila aj spoločná schôdza NR SR a vlády, na ktorej prijali vyhlásenie ku vzniku samostatnej SR.

V prvých januárových dňoch roku 1993 sa SR stala členom Svetovej banky či Organizácie Spojených národov (OSN). Od 8. februára 1993

začala na území samostatnej SR platiť slovenská koruna.

V marci sa SR stala členom Stredoeurópskeho združenia voľného obchodu (CEFTA) a 30. júna toho istého roku členom Rady Európy (RE).

Prvým prezidentom SR sa stal Michal Kováč, ktorého poslanci NR SR ako kandidáta HZDS zvolili za hlavu štátu 15. februára 1993.

Členským štátom NATO sa SR stala 29. marca 2004 a od 1. mája toho istého roku je aj členom Európskej únie. Do schengenského priestoru vstúpila 21. decembra 2007. Euro ako menu zaviedla od 1. januára 2009.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 15

A	L	A			J	A	B		S	P	A				
D	O	G	S		O	W	E		L	A	R	V	A		
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			I	O	N	S			M	E	T		N	O	D
C	H	A	M	P			R	I	P		S	O	S	O	
P	O	R	E		S	H	I	N		C	O	M	E	T	
A	N	I		L	A	U	D		P	O	I				
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Attention Branch 853

Spring is in the Air

On March 20, 2023 at 5:24pm EDT, we will welcome in Spring. Only a few weeks later on April 9, 2023 the Catholic Church will celebrate Easter.

Branch 853 members, let's see your excitement for Spring and Easter and let's celebrate in style! Branch 853 members participating in this event will receive a \$10 gift card – one entry per branch member.

The event is open between April 1 and April 15, 2023. Send your name and photo to 2670 Crosby Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216 or email to FCSUBranch853@gmail.com. The photo must be a current photo and needs to include:



- The branch 853 member with your Easter Basket OR
- The branch 853 member near your door decorated for Spring or Easter OR
- The branch 853 member inside or outside of your church with displays for Lent or Easter Sunday.

We are looking forward to an energetic participation. The participation is open to all Branch 853 members.

Submitted by: Branch 853 President Monica Boone, FCSUBranch853@gmail.com

FCSU MEMBER PORTAL PAYMENT



Log in. Pay/Deposit. Done.

WWW.FCSU.COM

TWO NEW WAYS TO PAY/DEPOSIT!

OPTION 1

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (ACH)



LOG IN TO YOUR MEMBER PORTAL AND CLICK ON PAY NOW OR DEPOSIT TO PAY/DEPOSIT MONEY TO YOUR POLICY BY E-CHECK

OPTION 2

CREDIT CARD



LOG IN TO YOUR MEMBER PORTAL AND CLICK ON PAY NOW OR DEPOSIT TO PAY/DEPOSIT MONEY TO YOUR POLICY BY CREDIT CARD



QUICK



SAFE



EASY



For assistance call us at 1-800-533-6682 ext. 129