

## ***2024 Annual Report of the FCSU Fraternal Activities Director – March 2025***

Dear Father Nasta, President Arendt, Executive Officers, Board of Directors, and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union,

I am pleased to present my annual report as the National Fraternal Activities Director of the First Catholic Slovak Union. This year continued to be a wonderful experience getting to know more members at events and building my relationships with hoe office staff and with the Board.

It was also challenging, as we decided to end our participation in the joint fraternal bowling and golf tournaments with the GCU, Sokols and NSS organizations. It required much time and effort to bring back the FCSU tournaments. The support and encouragement of President Arendt contributed to our success in these endeavors.

### **2024 March Madness**

The annual collegiate hoops competition attracted basketball fans again with 173 entries. \$2,550 in prize money was awarded to the top five finishers, as follows: first \$1,000, second \$750, third, \$500, fourth \$150 x 2 (tie). Winners included: 1<sup>st</sup> Robert Gavenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Dobrosky, 3<sup>rd</sup> Charles Smith, 4<sup>th</sup> tie John Murray and Leonard Javor

### **2024 FCSU Bowling Tournament - NEW**

AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes in suburban Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania set the stage for the much-anticipated return of the FCSU International Bowling Tournament in April 2024 --after many years of the combined fraternal tournament. Sixty-four bowlers participated in the two-day event, including 50 FCSU members and 14 of their guests.

The FCSU was happy to bring together friends, both old and new, to enjoy two days of spirited bowling competition, along with delicious and bountiful food. Topping off the experience was the chance to win an amazing array of raffle prizes, door prizes and two 50/50 jackpots. Overall participants won \$10,000 in cash awards and prizes. Bowlers gave great reviews to the bowling venue, the headquarters hotel and rave reviews for the food and raffles, with many calling it a tremendous success

Many thanks to Jay Fazek for organizing the bowlers' teams/lanes/handicaps and calculating the scoring throughout the tournament. He did an outstanding job. Also, Barbara Sutila, FCSU event coordinator, was on top of the myriad of details with her home office team, including bowler registration.

And, as with any FCSU event, we were blessed to have Father Thomas Nasta celebrate Mass before we capped off the tournament with our outstanding celebration dinner at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Sincere thanks to our Tournament Patrons and Lane Sponsors. We appreciated their generous financial support. **Tournament Patrons:** UBS Hardy Wealth Partners - Platinum, ENDepersis - Gold, AQS Asset Management - Silver, Pinpoint Computer Systems - Silver, Father Thomas Nasta, Kenneth Arendt, Kevin Collins, and Joanne Fibbi - Bronze. **Lane Sponsors:** FCSU Branch 35, FCSU Branch 162, FCSU Branch 731, FCSU Branch 785, FCSU Branch 857, Tom and Terri Ivanec, Michael Jones, Gary Matta, Larissa Matta, Milos and Anne Mitro, Damian Nasta, Nicole Nasta, John Tokarsky, Toronto Slovak Bowling League.

### **2024 Top Bowlers and Prize Money Awards**

#### **Teams Event - Handicap**

**1st Place** \$500 - Psycho Strikers  
**2nd Place** \$300 - Angry Birds  
**3rd Place** \$200 - Jednota 553  
**4th Place** \$100 - Team Bokor  
**Highest Game \$50** - Alvin Ferreira

#### **Teams Event - Scratch**

**1st Place** \$250 - Short and Tall  
**2nd Place** \$200 - Canuckleheads  
**Highest Game \$50** - Stephen Reed

#### Doubles Event - Handicap

1st Place \$250 - C. Tokarsky/Ricciuti  
2nd Place \$200 - Bradshaw/Walters  
3rd Place \$150 - Roebuck/Rice  
4th Place \$100 - Ungvarsky/Ungvarsky  
5th Place \$ 75 - Lutes/Painter  
6th Place \$ 50 - P. Collins/Sinagra  
Highest Game \$50 - Nicole Nasta

#### Doubles Event - Scratch

1st Place \$150 - N. Nasta/Ramos, Jr  
2nd Place \$125 - J. Tokarsky/Grys  
3rd Place \$100 - Ferreira/Reed  
Highest Game \$50 - John Ramos, Jr

#### Singles Event - Men's Handicap

1st Place \$200 - John Ramos, Jr  
2nd Place \$175 - Anthony Gray  
3rd Place \$150 - James Saul  
4th Place \$125 - Greg Maurer  
5th Place \$100 - Steve Snyder  
6th Place \$ 75 - Rick Ungvarsky  
7th Place \$ 50 - Matt Painter  
8th Place \$ 25 - Wally Roebuck  
Highest Game \$ 50 - Chip Thayer

#### Singles Event - Men's Scratch

1st Place \$150 - Jay Fazek  
2nd Place \$125 - Chip Thayer  
3rd Place \$100 - Dave Sinagra  
4th Place \$ 50 - Alvin Ferreira  
Highest Game \$ 50 - John Ramos, Jr.

#### Singles Event - Women's Handicap

1st Place \$175 - Gwynn Maximo  
2nd Place \$125 - Anne Mitro  
3rd Place \$100 - Judy Ostoich  
4th Place \$ 50 - Christine Tokarsky  
Highest Game \$50 - Gwynn Maximo

#### Singles Event - Women's Scratch

1st Place \$125 - Nicole Nasta  
2nd Place \$100 - Diane Cincar  
Highest Game \$50 - Nicole Nasta

#### All Events Men

1st Place \$50 - Alvin Ferreira  
2nd Place \$50 - John Ramos, Jr

#### All Events Women

1st Place \$50 - Gwynn Maximo  
2nd Place \$50 - Nicole Nasta

### [2024 FCSU Golf Tournament - NEW](#)

This past July, sixty-four FCSU golfers and guests gathered at Oglebay Resort for our first sole sponsorship of the annual golf tournament in many years. It was certainly worth the effort, as the golfers said it was the best tournament in recent memory. They complimented the quality lodgings, excellent food, generous raffles, and challenging rounds of golf. The weather was hot, but our golfers still brought in some great scores.

Many thanks to John Tokarsky for managing the flights/handicaps and calculating scores throughout the tournament. We appreciated his contributions. Barbara Sutila, FCSU event coordinator, and her team organized registration and check-in throughout the tournament weekend.

Thanks to our **2024 Tournament Patrons:** AQS Asset Management, Kenneth Arendt, Father Thomas Nasta and our **2024 Hole Sponsors:** FCSU Branches 38, 162, 857, Kevin Collins, Joanne Fibbi, Tom & Terri Ivanec, Ray Lako, Brad Matta, Gary Matta, Larissa Matta, Damian Nasta, Nicole Nasta, John Tokarsky. We look forward to welcoming even more members to the tournament in 2025!

### 2024 Top Golfers and Prize Money Awards

#### A Flight

1st Place \$200 - Patrick Quinn  
2nd Place \$150 - Dave DeGol  
3rd Place \$100 - Brad Matta  
4th Place \$ 50 - Jerry Hromada

4th Place \$ 50 - Lou Wolford

#### B Flight

1st Place \$200 - Andrew Kozusko  
2nd Place \$150 - Derek Kochis  
3rd Place \$150 - Darren Yokopenic

#### C Flight

1st Place \$200 - John Grottenthaler  
2nd Place \$100 - Greg Maurer  
3rd Place \$ 50 - John Tokarsky

#### D Callaway Flight

1st Place \$200 - Dustin Rothrock

2nd Place	\$150 - Austin Matta	
3rd Place	\$ 87.50 - Rece Henneman	W Women's Flight
3rd Place	\$ 87.50 - Jake Sweitzer	1st Place \$100 – Larissa Matta
5th Place	\$ 50 - Shawn Adam	
		SC Callaway Senior Flight
S Senior Flight		1st Place \$100 - Jeff Beattie
1st Place	\$200 – Tim Kozusko	1st Place \$100 - Gary Ketterer
2nd Place	\$175 – Mike Nemcheck	
3rd Place	\$137.50 - Anthony Menich	All Tournament Lowest Gross Scores
3rd Place	\$137.50 - John D. Pastorek	1st Place 141 - \$200 Sean Adam
5th Place	\$100 - Rusty Groner	2nd Place 151 - \$150 Dave DeGol
7th Place	\$ 75 - Frank Miscovich	3rd Place 154 - \$100 Brad Matta
8th Place	\$ 50 - <u>Jim Yokopenic</u>	

### **2024 Hot Dog in the Summertime Photo Contest - NEW**

Our furry family members ruled the summer of 2024. With 120 entries, the competition was as heated as the summer weather and required several rounds of judging to select the finalists.

Entries were judged within one of four categories, Playing Around, Keeping Cool, Looking Alike and Making Mischief. Members submitted photos of pets wearing their shades, floating on rafts, lounging at the pool, and walking on the beach. While others were busy tearing pillows apart and shredding toilet paper. Some members showed extraordinary skills with great photo composition. They also captured beautiful scenery and submitted many delightful poses of adorable pets. The finalists were chosen based on the best representation of the summertime theme and categories. The sixteen finalists received monetary prizes of \$200 - 1st place, \$150 - 2nd place, \$100 - 3rd place, \$50 - 4th place. A total of \$2,000 was awarded, making this one of our most successful contests.

### **2024 Spooktacular Pumpkin Carving Contest**

We conducted our second pumpkin carving contest in October. 37 members entered the contest, 10 fewer than last year. It offered members an opportunity to win \$100 for the best entry in each of the three categories, scary, artistic, and realistic. Competition was further divided into eight age groups ranging from 8 to 55+. This was, in hindsight, too many divisions. I recommend using three age categories - child, youth, and adult - next year.

I have concerns about how the finalists were determined. I did not submit the winners for publication, as is the norm. I have no idea who chose the winners. It was not my panel of independent judges. No one contacted me in advance nor after this decision was made. As a result, six winners were published in the Jednota, without my knowledge. It included a statement that we did not receive the minimum number of entries for more prizes to be awarded. (*I realize that rule was the "letter of the law," but I planned to follow the "spirit of the law."* This rule was created because members entered prior Derby Hat contests with little effort and won by default, as there was no competition.) In this contest, members showed much time and effort was put into carving their pumpkins, and I had planned to recognize the most outstanding work, regardless of the number of entries in any given category. This would have been a more appropriate response for a fraternal organization working to engage members. Instead, we discouraged future participation and created negative commentary from members/branches. I hope that this avoided in the future.

### **2024 Family Fall Festival - NEW**

Our first Fall Family Festival was a wonderful event that brought members from 4 weeks old to 90 years of age together at Simmons Farm in McMurray, PA on October 5<sup>th</sup>. It was a beautiful day for families (many with three generations in attendance) to enjoy the sunshine on the farm, with hayrides, pumpkin picking, a myriad of field activities, bingo, and an abundant buffet of hearty Slovak foods. Comments from attendees were

extremely positive and all are looking forward to the return of this event in 2025. I would like us to reserve more space and include live music next year.

### **2024 Losers Pool**

The popular contest awards first, second and third place prizes of \$700, \$500, and \$250 for selecting losing NFL teams throughout the season. 1st Place: Kelly Shedlock, 2nd Place: Matthew Grish. Six members tied for 3rd Place: Jean Korhely, Dolores Kocis, Gary Kapitan, Mary Dubber, Susan Moynihan, Joseph Wojnar.

### **2024 FCSU Sole Mates Across America - NEW**

This was our first opportunity for a coordinated community service project across the FCSU. We recognize and thank Branch 162 from Uniontown, Pennsylvania for their outstanding effort in collecting socks on three weekends at their local churches. In all they donated 1,450 pairs of socks to local charities. Region 1: Districts 4 and 16 and Branches 45, 716, 290 and 746 donated three hundred pairs of socks. Branch 587 from Aliquippa, Pennsylvania collected 150 pairs of socks for the homeless at their annual meeting. We hope to have more participation in the 2025 campaign.

### **2024 Christas Coloring Contest**

The Christmas coloring contest continues to have strong participation from members of all ages, with 197 entries. It was wonderful to see multiple entries from within our families, often spanning two or three generations. We are glad the Coloring Contest has become a holiday tradition for so many.

Members aged 4-13 competed within their FCSU Regions, with a possible twelve finalists per Region. Participation varied by age and Region. Prizes were awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> - \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$35 and 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$25, with a total of 69 finalists, as announced in the March 2025 Jednota.

The adult categories were highly contested. The winners were chosen at large, not within specific Regions. This year we added an additional adult category for ages 40-64. We had nine adult finalists. Prizes were awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> - \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$75, and 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$50. Based on the number of adult entries, this could easily expand to five finalists, or we could consider judging the adult categories by Regions. Unfortunately, this year we received several entries from individuals who are not members of the FCSU, which lead to their disqualified.

## **LOOKING AHEAD IN 2025**

### **2025 Bowling Tournament**

The FCSU Bowling Tournament returns this year on April 26-27, 2025, to Kent Lanes in Kent Ohio. Our headquarters hotel is Kent State University Hotel. Bowling will begin Saturday morning with breakfast and lunch at the alley, sponsored by the FCSU. Saturday evening will feature Mass, a cocktail hour and dinner buffet with raffles. The competition will continue Sunday morning, with breakfast at Kent Lanes again. Each member bowler may invite a non-member to bowl in the tournament. We have asked for lane sponsors and event sponsors to increase the amount of the bowling and raffle prizes.

### **2025 FCSU Golf Tournament**

The FCSU will again host our own Golf Tournament, July 18-20 at Lakeview Golf Resort, at Cheat Lake, just outside Morgantown, West Virginia. Each FCSU member may register one non-member guest. Events include a welcome buffet on Friday evening, two days of tournament play, two breakfast buffets, Mass, cocktails, and dinner buffet on Saturday.

### **2025 Summer Picnics and Family Fall Festival**

Dates have been selected for FCSU summer events at Knoebels on Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, and at Wiegand Lake Park on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The Family Fall Festival at Simmons Farm is set for October 4<sup>th</sup>.

**I would like to continue to offer new opportunities for fraternal activities for our members in the coming year focused on faith, patriotism, and family.**

**My attendance/participation in 2024 fraternal activities**

2024 FCSU Bowling Tournament

2024 FCSU Golf Tournament

2024 National Picnic at Wiegand Lake Park

2024 National Picnic at Knoebels Amusement Park

2024 Family Fall Festival

2024 Sole Mates Across America

Attended and spoke at the Pittsburgh District Annual Meetings April and November 2024

Attended/participated in all FCSU 2024 Board Meetings

I am happy to respond to any questions or suggestions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Fibbi

National Fraternal Activities Director

First Catholic Slovak Union