



Catholic Fraternal

Jednota

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Volume 133

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024

NUMBER 6041

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See What's Inside!

New National
FCSU Contests
Loser's Pool Page 20



Dog Days of
Summer
Page 13



Update from the President

Happy Fourth of July to all! Let us celebrate the freedom of America and the country we have! I hope everyone enjoyed their 4th of July, whether with family and friends at a cookout or celebrated watching fireworks. I also would like to wish our members in Canada a Happy Canada Day!

Now that we are in the middle of summer, many people have been hosting their picnics and summer events while the weather is nice. I like to see all the photos everyone submits for the Jednota and reading about the good times in our fraternal.

Recently, the FCSU celebrated our first National Picnic of the summer at Knoebels Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA. Although it was a scorcher outside, we had an amazing turn out of Members coming from all over to have some fraternal fun. It was a true pleasure to spend time with our Members and welcome newcomers to our events. Thank you to everyone who came to spend time with the FCSU!

I would like to say a big thank you to our Home Office staff, Barbara, Fran and Pam, who helped organize and assist guests to ensure everything ran smoothly for us to have a good time. I would also like to thank National Chaplain Fr. Thomas Nasta for celebrating Mass at the picnic, as well as National Officers: Executive Secretary Kevin Collins, Vice Presi-



Kenneth A. Arendt
President

Continued on page 3

July Reflection

St. Augustine said it so well, "Our hearts are restless, O Lord, until they rest in You." (Confessions, Bk I, Ch I). With this divine attraction we are welcomed by our Eucharistic Lord Jesus Who so desires to be in our lives that He created the means for His ongoing being part of our very being begun for us in our baptism in Christ.

During the Eucharistic Sacrifice of Mass, we hear at the consecration, "Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my body, which will be given up for you." This is the Lord's personal invitation to each of us. Jesus knows that we are not free of all faults and that we can grow more in His image and like-ness. He yearns to fill us with Himself as spiritual Food for our life's pilgrimage. As we prepare to receive Communion we pray, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof." Yet, our Lord chooses to come into our hearts and cleanse and enrich them for Himself.

In the United States the 10th National Eucharistic Congress takes place in Indianapolis, July 17-21. With the participants of this Congress let us renew our faith and fervent love for our Eucharistic Lord. Vatican Council II proclaimed the Eucharist "the source and summit of the Christian life." (Lumen Gentium—The Light of the Nations, 11; Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1324).

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.

RADOŠŤOU OPLÝVAM

1. Radosťou oplývam, keď sa ja pozerám,
Ježišu môj,
na Teba v Sviatosti,
plného milosti, ô Bože môj!

SBOR: Nech je pochválená
svätosť Tvojho mena, Ježišu môj.

2. Ježišu, pred Tebou s úctou a velebou
na zem padám
abyš ma požehnal a väčšiu lásku dal,
vrúčne žiadam.

3. Srdce Ti darujem, Tebe sa venujem,
Kriste Pane!

Ty mi dáš milosti a večné radosti,
zmlovanie.

4. Daj mysli pokojnú, odvráť mor,
hlad, vojnu, Ježišu môj!
Zachráň nás od škody, od ohňa, vody,
ó Pane môj!

WITH JOY MY HEART RESOUNDS

(Poetic translation to melody of Radosťou Oplývam.)

1. With Joy my heart resounds, as your great Love
abounds on the altar.

Here your love-gift I see, mercy so graciously
now you offer.

CHORUS: I praise Your Holy Name,
Your Sacrifice acclaim, Jesus, Savior.

2. Jesus, I humbly bow, praise and adore You now,
with grateful love.

Blessings and strength I pray, be with me day by day,
sent from above.

3. My heart I give to You, my mind and whole self, too,
my God and Lord.

You bless me gen'rously, with joy and clemency,
merciful Lord.

4. Bless us with peace secure, safe from all wars, and
sure of Your great care.

From dangers rescue us, o'er land, sea, sky, we trust
Your Presence there.

Message from the National Chaplain

Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana is the site of the National Eucharistic Congress this month. The stadium will be hosting a variety of activities over the five days of the Congress, from exhibits and conferences, to Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

This very special event in the life of the Church in the United States presents an opportunity to remind ourselves or perhaps to learn something about the Eucharist and Holy Communion:

1. Churches have low gluten hosts available for people unable eat food with gluten.

2. Saint Pius X (1903-1914) lowered the age for a person to receive Holy Communion to the age of reason.

3. A Catholic may receive Holy Communion for a second time in a day if the person is attending Mass.

4. Catholics are to abstain from eating and drinking for one hour before receiving Holy Communion. Water and medications are permitted at any time.

5. The action at Mass of a priest putting a small portion of the host into the chalice containing the Precious Blood is a holdover from a common practice in the early church. A host at a bishop's Mass would be broken into several small pieces. These portions were given to deacons to take and distribute to locations where priests were having Mass. A piece of the bishops' host was put into the priest's chalice to signify the union of the local church with the bishop.

6. The Last Sacrament is Holy Communion under the form of Holy Viaticum.

7. Ordained clergy and instituted acolytes are Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. They have no restrictions as to where they can distribute Holy Communion. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion have permission to distribute Holy Communion only within their parish or for their particular ministry. (That's why they are Extraordinary Ministers.)

8. A Catholic who knows he or she is guilty of mortal sin is to receive the Sacrament of Penance first before receiving Holy Communion.

9. The Roman Catholic Church uses unleavened bread for Holy Communion. The Eastern churches use leavened bread.

10. There are two main reasons for the Church not permitting intercommunion between Catholics and other Christian denominations. First, the Eucharist is a sign of unity of faith and dogma. Second, a question remains as to the validity of the ordination of non-Catholic ministers.



**Rev. Thomas Nasta
Chaplain**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFiIKgHx4o>
Radosťou Oplývam - organist plays and sings with lyrics.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=er6RY40hAmM>
St. Elizabeth Church, Kosice, Slovakia; Congregation sings at
Distribution of Sacred Hosts at Mass of Ordination of Priests.

**Check out our website:
www.fcsu.com**

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

| Copy Date | Issue Date |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Monday, August 5 | Wednesday, August 14 |
| Monday, September 3 | Wednesday, September 11 |
| Monday, September 30 | Wednesday, October 9 |

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

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Update from the President

continued from page 1

dent Damian Nasta, Treasurer John Tokarsky, Chairman of Auditors Greg Maurer, General Counsel Gary Matta, Fraternal Activities Director Joanne Fibbi, Regional Directors Martha Zavada and Nicole Nasta for attending.

As we continue through our summer fun, you may have seen some new contests and events coming up. Firstly, the Losers' Pool is now open again. We also are starting a new contest, Dog Days of Summer, to show off your furry friends. Lastly, don't forget to register for our National Picnic at Wiegand Lake Park in Wiegand, OH. I hope to see many more Members there!

I hope you continue enjoying your summer and getting together with your Branches. I look forward to bringing our fraternal together again soon and seeing more faces at the International Golf Tournament.

Fraternally,
Kenneth A. Arendt

SS. Cyril and Methodius July Appeal

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 46th year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day-to-day operations. Today, the Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. A direct mailing asking for donations was sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and previous donors.

As of June 26, 168 donors have given \$24,727.94 for the 2024 Appeal. Among the 46 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branch 1, Branch 3, Branch 19, Branch 35, Branch 38, Branch 45, Branch 85, Branch 96, Branch 112, Branch 153, Branch 213, Branch 320, Branch 382, Branch 450, Branch 484, Branch 743, Branch 746, Branch 796, Branch 853, District 2, District 9 and the Home Office of the FCSU have donated a combined total of \$4,690. Donations have also been received from 7 churches, 25 clergy and religious and 90 individuals. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2024 Appeal but did not receive a letter asking for a donation is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. **Gifts received after November 30, 2024 will be credited toward the 2025 Appeal.** Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdovic, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harvey's Lake, PA and Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Parochial Vicar with Senior Priest status at Our Lady of Grace Church, Penndel, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

46th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

Email _____

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

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2024

- 2 Br. 746 – Mass in Linden, NJ
- 3 Region 1 Picnic in Linden, NJ (RSVP 7/28)
- 4 Br. 254 – Meeting in Mt. Lebanon, PA
- 10 **FCSU National Picnic at Wiegand Lake Park in Novelty, OH**
- 11 Br. 166 Ice Cream Social in Windsor, NY
Br. 393 Meeting & Dinner in Greensburg, PA (RSVP)(ELECTIONS)
- 12 Br. 853 – Lunch at Washington County Agricultural Fair
- 16 Dist. 17 – Railriders Baseball Game in Moosic, PA
- 18 Br. 55 – Zoom Meeting
Br. 89 – Meeting in Milwaukee, WI (RSVP 8/13)
- 24 Br. 382 – Picnic in Scranton, PA (RSVP 8/17)

For more info go to the Branch and District announcement pages.

Facts About July

- July was named after the famous Roman general Julius Caesar by the Roman senate; as it was the month he was born in.
- As the second month of Summer, July is, on average, the warmest month of the year in the northern hemisphere. Its southern hemisphere equivalent is January.
- On July 4, 1776, the 13 American colonies declared their independence from the British monarchy. The 4th of July, formally known as Independence Day, has been a federal holiday since 1870 in the United States of America.
- July has some pretty delicious month-long observances, too! In the US, at least there are three, in particular, that stand out – It's National Watermelon Month, National Hot Dog Month, and National Ice Cream Month. Yum!
- July has two birth flowers – the water lily and the larkspur.
- The birthstone of July is the ruby, considered by many to be the king of gems. At one point in time, it was considered to protect warriors on the field of battle if it was embedded in their armor. Nowadays, as a birthstone, it's said to protect against evil.
- July was an important time for the space race of the '60s. The first crewed mission to the Moon, the Apollo 11 Mission, launched on July 16, 1969



59th Anniversary of the Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel

Branch 856 has again arranged to have a mass to celebrate the 59th anniversary of our Slovak chapel Our Mother of Sorrows in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on September 14, 2024. We will begin with the rosary in English and Slovak at 1:00pm and mass at 1:30pm. Let's keep this tradition going. Come to see our beautiful chapel. It is one of the most visited Chapel in the Basilica. For more information call Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363.

Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski, President



JOIN US FOR THE
 First Catholic Slovak Union
REGION 1 PICNIC
SAT, AUG 3rd at 1PM

Al Kalla Park

2801 Highland Ave., Linden, NJ

RSVP by July 28 to Joanne: 732-762-3148

Members FREE; Non-Members: \$20

Branch 853 - Let's celebrate the Happy Ways of our Summers Days

With schools being closed for the summer and vacations being planned - everyone looks forward to fun summer activities. It could be sitting on the beach watching the ocean waves, or gardening or maybe relaxing in the house in the cool AC. The possibilities are endless.

Branch 853 - What will you do in the summer?

Branch 853, let's celebrate the 'Happy Ways you are enjoying your Summer Days'.

Email a photo of you enjoying your summer activity to FCSUBranch853@gmail.com. Include your name and what you are doing.

Event is open to only current Branch 853 members. Photo must be a current and a tasteful picture of branch 853 member. Decisions made by branch officers are final. One entry per member. Each email submission will receive a \$10 gift card with the possibility of their photo being in the Jednota. The event is open until July 15, 2024.



Branch 553 & Akron Slovak J Club

Please join us for the following events open to the public

JULY 17 Baked Chicken Dinner
 4:30 - 6:30pm

JULY 27 Annual Kielbasa Open \$85/person
 Shotgun start at Mayfair Country Club in Uniontown OH
Reservation must be made with foursome payment

JULY 28 Breakfast Buffet
 Served 9:00 am - 11:45 am

Every Friday we have "Burgers & Beers"
 \$5.00 Hamburgers
 \$6.00 Cheeseburgers
 Domestic Beers - 5 for \$10.00.
 This runs thru the end of August.

Open Bowling NOW thru August
Every Wednesday Starting at 11:00am
Every Friday evening from 7:00 - 10:00pm

485 Morgan Ave.
 Akron, OH 44311

Executive Secretary's Message

We, at the Home Office, recognize that our FCSU branches and districts come in all shapes and sizes. We appreciate all of our dedicated branch and district officers and members who plan their activities and events in a spirit of fraternalism.

The FCSU brings back 2 refreshed programs for our branches and districts.

1. BRANCH/DISTRICT REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM to help branches/

districts offset the cost of activities/events for their members

2. FRATERNALISM IN ACTION to promote the charitable functions within their branch or district.

Please see examples of the Fraternalism in Action Program below.

As always, the Home Office is always here to help you.

Kevin J. Collins



Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary



Fraternalism In Action

FCSU Launches All-New Program to Fortify Your Fraternalism in Action

Many of our districts and branches have been practicing Fraternalism in Action for many years – helping organizations and communities throughout our Society with generous donations of goods and services. Now, the FCSU Home Office has launched an initiative to support our members' efforts with an all-new Fraternalism in Action Program.

Through this program, the FCSU is helping members help others by donating \$250.00 directly to a charitable organization

of your choice. For example, when District 10 members donated cleaning supplies for St. Augustine's Community Cupboard, the FCSU supplemented the charitable outreach with \$250.00. Similarly, Branch 855's diaper drive for mothers in need was further enhanced by FCSU's donation of \$250.00 directly to Womankind.

Bring your ideas to your next branch or district meeting and introduce your ideas for helping others in your community.

Branch 855 Collects Diapers for Womankind



Members of Branch 855 held a Fraternalism in Action diaper drive at their spring meeting. Members of the branch along with Region 6 Director, Tom Ivanec and District 10 President, Greg Petrasek donated diapers and baby wipes to Womankind, an organization in Garfield Heights Ohio that gives hope, help and possibly to women by providing free prenatal and maternal care to women lacking the resources needed to access traditional care providers.

District 10 Collects Cleaning Supplies for St. Augustine



Members of District 10 put Fraternalism in Action to work at their spring meeting by collected cleaning supplies, canned good and household items for the St. Augustine Community Cupboard in Cleveland Ohio. The St. Augustine ministry has helped the impoverished in the community since 1860. In response to the growing need for food and clothing assistance, St. Augustine established the Community Cupboard where those in need can "shop" in their neighborhood for items they need, especially cleaning supplies which cannot be purchased using their government assistance. District 10 is proud to help support the needs of our brothers and sisters in need.



L-R Barbara Sutila, District 10 Secretary and Branch 855 President, Anthony Camino, Director Community Cupboard at St. Augustine, Ann Sutila, District 10 and Branch 855 Treasurer.



L- R Executive Director of Womankind Mary Ann Meitin and Barbara Sutila Branch 855 President



**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
FOR THE CLEVELAND GUARDIANS AND PITTSBURGH PIRATES GAME AT
PROGRESSIVE FIELD IN CLEVELAND, OH, HOSTED BY THE OHIO REGION**

- **ALL CLEVELAND, YOUNGSTOWN AND PITTSBURGH AREA DISTRICTS AND BRANCHES ARE INVITED**
- **Date: Sunday, September 1st, 2024**
 - Tailgate prior to game in the FCSU parking lot starting at 11AM
 - Game starts at 2:40PM
 - Arrangements are being made for transportation from the tailgate party to the game and back
- **Cost: \$39.00/ticket**
 - Seats are together in Sections 171/172 (lower box along the 3rd base side)
 - **Deadline to order tickets is July 30, 2024**
- **RSVP to: Bradley Matta, Jim Marmol, Debbie Speck, Barbara Sutilla or Joe Tarquinio**
 - Contact Information to reserve tickets and make arrangement for payment:
 - Brad Matta: bmatta41@gmail.com / 412-378-7988
 - Jim Marmol: jimmarmol@k2engineering.net / 724-970-7642
 - Debbie Speck: dspeck@dspeckcpa.com /330-620-1794
 - Barbara Sutilla: ohiodistrict10@yahoo.com / 440-864-4744
 - Joe Tarquinio: Tark918@gmail.com / 724-929-9788
 - E-tickets will be issued prior to the game
- **Hotel accommodations available at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South**



**Saints Cyril & Methodius District 17
Party Box Event at PNC Field**

Friday, August 16, 2024

Game Time – 6:05 P.M.

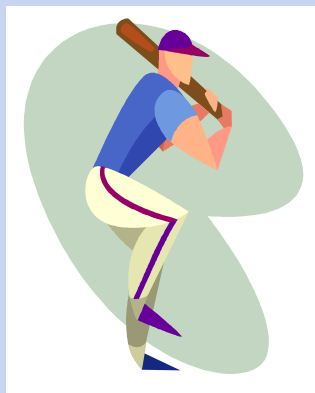
Scranton-Wilkes Barre RailRiders

PNC Field
Moosic, Pennsylvania

Members: \$15 per person
Non-Members: \$40 per person

Includes
Entrance to PNC Field

Entry through the Mohegan Sun Club Entrance!
Food and beverages on covered deck in right field!
Food is available from 5:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.
All the friendly socializing you can get!
Fireworks after the game!!!!



Deadline for reservations: **Friday, August 9, 2024**

Contact **your** branch officer for reservations:

- Branch 005P – Martha Zavada 570.954.3771
- Branch 166K – Morgan Dendler 607.206.7243
- Branch 173K – Carl Ungvarsky 570.868.6066
- Branch 382K – Elizabeth M. Slovenkai 570.344.3854

RESERVATIONS MUST BE PAID FOR BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2024.

Make your check payable to *your* Branch!

BRANCH 24 AND BRANCH 855 MEMBERS

Jingle all the way to Walton Hills to mingle and paint an ornament for Christmas!

When: July 28, 2024

Time: 1:00pm

Where: Walton Hills Village Hall; 7595 Walton Rd. Walton Hills, OH 44146

What to Bring: Your favorite cookie or treat to share

Fraternalism in Action: Bring a jar of peanut butter and/or jelly to donate to a local food bank

RSVP REQUIRED by July 17th to:

**Fran Strekal, Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director, at 216-308-1728 or
Stephanie Sutilla, Branch 855 Fraternal Activities Director, at
440-409-9405.**



District 10 Supports Cleveland Slovak Radio Club 2024 Slovak Festival

On the afternoon and evening of June 22, 2024, the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club hosted its popular Slovak Festival to a well-attended crowd of more than 400. The event was held on the beautiful picnic grounds of St. Sava Parish in Broadview Heights, OH. Music was provided by Anthony Culkar Band for dancing and listening pleasure under a large, covered pavilion. There also was face painting for kids and those young-at-heart as well as opportunities to join in lively games of corn hole and soccer on the adjacent spacious field and basketball on the nearby courts.

Delicious Slovak food including klobasa, halusky, schnitzel, pirohy, and halupky was prepared onsite by members of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club, many of whom also are FCSU members. Radio Club President Henry Horvath is an FCSU National Supreme Court Member and Branch 855 Auditor; Karin Scally is the Radio Club Treasurer and also Branch 855 Vice President; Radio Club Trustees Vlad Cvicela and Dana Glova are members of Branch 24; and Radio Club Trustee Martin Kulik is a member of Branch 1. Other members of both organizations who worked at or contributed to the event included: Tim Scally, Joe Elias, Jana Horvath, Andrew Horvath, Jana Chuba, Jessica Chuba, Susie Halley, Lily Halley, Maria Cvicela, Terezia Nosek, Milka Anderko, Anita Anderko, Joe Oros, Terri Ivanec, and Tom Ivanec. In addition, four local-area FCSU Branches offered their members food and beverage tickets -- Branches 1, 24, 450, and 855. All in all, ninety-five members of the FCSU came out in support of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club, including National Medical Examiner Dr. Richard Ungvarsky and District 10 President Greg Petrasek.

Thanks to the FCSU Home Office for helping to sponsor the event. A very special round of applause to the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club for working so hard to put together a wonderful event that brought us together and helped to keep our great Slovak traditions alive.

**Submitted by Thomas Ivanec,
Region 6 Director**



Br. 2 and Br. 853 Held Join Hands Day Event



Join Hands Day is about generations, old and new working together as volunteers toward a greater purpose for their communities. Memorial Day is a holiday set aside for honoring and mourning the military personnel who had died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

This year members of Br. 2, Northside and Br. 853, Charleroi joined hands with, St. Gabriel VFW Post 1365, and members of Assembly L-161 of the National Slovak Society, to place flags on the graves of Veterans in Christ Our Redeemer Cemetery, (formerly North Side Catholic).

Several afternoons and evenings were needed by the volunteers to place the 5,724 flags honoring Soldiers from Korea, WWI, WWII, and Vietnam, as well as the recent wars on terrorism.

Pictured are a few of the volunteers from each of the participating groups. Many thanks to all the volunteers, but especially to Carol Lako, Br. 2 member for coordinating the efforts from ordering and picking up the flags at the County Office, to organizing all the groups involved.

Submitted by Sue Ondrejco

Donald and Charlotte Nasta Celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary



Donald and Charlotte Nasta of Branch 857 in Levittown, PA celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on July 5, 2024. They were married on Monday July 5, 1954, at Holy Trinity Church in Duquesne, PA. In October 1955, due to the opening of US Steel's Fairless Works and the big expansion from the big cities to the suburbs, they moved from Pittsburgh, PA to Levittown, PA a suburb of Philadelphia PA, where they became one of the original homeowners in Levittown; the house they still live in today. They have four sons, who are all involved in the FCSU. Rev Thomas Nasta currently serves as the FCSU National Chaplain, Damian Nasta currently serves as FCSU National Vice-President, James Nasta has been a convention delegate for the past 2 conventions and Edward Nasta currently serves a member of the FCSU Supreme Court. Donald and Charlotte also have 7 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. In addition, Damian's daughter Nicole is currently the Regional Director for Region 2 and his son Andrew is a former member of the FCSU Supreme Court.

On June 25, 2024, family and friends attended a Trenton Thunder baseball game to help them celebrate their anniversary. Congratulations and Happy Anniversary!

Submitted by Damian Nasta, National Vice-President

Scranton Branch 382 to Host Summer Picnic 2024

SS. Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382 K of Scranton, Pennsylvania, will hold its Summer Picnic on Saturday, August 24, 2024, from Noon to dusk. Branch members and guests will gather at the Pavilion on the grounds of the Holy Family Social and Welfare Club, 480 Jubilee Road, Covington Township, Pennsylvania.

Planning committee members are Laura Christianson, Becky Czankner, Michael Czankner, and Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr.

All Branch 382 K members and guests are cordially invited to join them for an afternoon of good food and friendly socializing in the beautiful outdoors of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

A catered lunch will be served. Members and guests will enjoy beverages and snacks throughout the afternoon. A late-afternoon cook-out and corn roast will end the day.

Reservations are required!

To make reservations for the Summer Picnic and to obtain directions to the Holy Family Social and Welfare Club grounds, contact Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Branch President, at 570.344.3854. Messages can be left on Voice Mail. The deadline to make reservations is Saturday, August 17, 2024.

The cost of the event for Branch members is \$10 per person. The price for a guest is \$15 per person.

Your check guarantees your reservation and should be received by Wednesday, August 21, 2024.

Checks are to be made payable to FCSU Branch 382 K and mailed to: Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, 505 Emmett Street, Scranton, PA 18505-1016.

92nd Annual Slovak-American Day

Sunday, July 28th, 2024

11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Holy Mass at 12:00 Noon

Cultural presentation featuring the Tatra Slovak Dancers and the Slovak Catholic Sokol Drillers at 2:30 p.m.

Hot food and refreshments will be available, including imported beer.

FREE ADMISSION

Croatian Park
9100 S. 76th Street
Franklin, WI 53132



<https://www.washingtonwildthings.com/>

vs



On Aug 17, 2024, Branch 320 is hosting a night of fraternal minor league baseball. All are welcome to attend the Washington Wildthings vs Lake Erie Crushers in Washington PA.

THIS IS "A BASEBALL FOR ALL NIGHT"

Tickets are \$30 which includes a picnic style meal. All Branch 320 members will receive a game stipend.

For tickets and information: Please RSVP by Aug 8 to Joseph Tarquinio at 724.929.9788 or tark918@gmail.com.

District 14 Members Enjoy Youngstown's 2024 Simply Slavic Festival

The Simply Slavic Festival began in 2011 in Youngstown, OH, to educate both the region's large number of Slavic descendants and the community-at-large about Slavic heritage. As in years past, the 2024 Festival showcased the rich traditions of the Mahoning Valley's Slavic ethnicities – including Slovakia – June 14 - 15. Simply Slavic, which was held at the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheater in downtown Youngstown, featured ethnic food, a Slavic beer garden, and an ethnic marketplace, as well as music, exhibits, folk dancers, and much more. The FCSU was there to support and help our members in the area enjoy all of it.

This year, any current member of an active FCSU Branch in District 14 who registered in person at the Festival received \$20 from their branch to use toward purchases at the event that day. Children (12 and under) received \$10. All five of the active branches in District 14 – Branches 259, 260, 682, 731, and 764 -- participated in the program, resulting in 61 Jednotars at the two-day event. Thank you, District 14 Branches for showing that membership has its privileges!

In addition, FCSU Executive Secretary Kevin Collins was on hand at the FCSU Booth throughout the Festival to pass out information and answer any questions about our Society. FCSU National Treasurer John Tokarsky stopped by with his wife Christine and mother-in-law Gloria Drapcho, both members of Branch 731. FCSU Executive Assistant Beata Begeniova-Fedoriouk, Alex Fedoriouk, and Artem Fedoriouk – all members of Branch 24 – wowed the crowd from the stage as key performers in the award-winning band Harmonia on the afternoon and evening of June 15. Harmonia also closed out the event later at Simply Slavic's popular Vatra (bonfire). I was honored to be tapped as the Slovak Flag Bearer during the opening ceremony of a parade of Slavic Nations.

All in all, it was a great event filled with fun and fraternalism. Look for upcoming issues of Jednota for more activities and events in your area – and make sure the FCSU has your email address by emailing it to fcsu@fcsu.com so you are included in the many email blasts our Society sends out specific to your branch or district.

Fraternally,

Tom Ivanec
Region 6 Director



Insights and Viewpoints

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 6: 7–13

Gospel Summary

Jesus summons the Twelve and sends them out two by two. He gives them power over unclean spirits, and instructs them to take nothing for their journey but a walking stick. He warns them about rejection: people will not always welcome them or listen to them. The disciples go out and preach repentance, drive out many demons, anoint the sick with oil and cure them.

Note that the English word “repentance” does not adequately convey the meaning of the Greek verb that Mark uses in his gospel (literally “to change the mind”). In Mark’s usage the word implies a prophetic call to interpret reality in a radically new way, as from blindness to sight. “Repentance” is at once a gift and the task of turning and surrendering to God in a way that embraces every aspect of life. A New Testament example of the reality to which the word points is the conversion experience of Paul. For Paul, that radical change of direction means to live with the mind and heart of Christ (1 Corinthians 2: 6–16).

Life Implications

If you visualize Mark’s dramatization of one of the most theologically significant events in his entire gospel, its comic character may strike you. It’s a scene right out of the musical *Godspell*. Here is Jesus sending out these disciples (not the best and brightest of that society) on a mission to overthrow the reign of Satan and to proclaim the coming of God’s reign. The comic aspect, if not for the disciples at least for the onlookers, is apparent when the size of the mission is juxtaposed with the means to accomplish it. The disciples, whose obtuseness and little faith Mark frequently highlights, now are instructed to go out with nothing but a walking stick—no food, no sack, no money in their belts, not even a bible.

Mark, in telling us about the beginning of the church in so dramatic a fashion, wants to be certain that disciples in his church and in our church will be mindful of some important implications. We, like the first disciples, are inadequate for the task; yet Christ’s mission for God’s kingdom is given to us. The comic contrast of mission and means may point to something essential about the church. If we labor under the illusion that we can bring about God’s reign by our own resources, perhaps even replacing the walking stick with a sword, we will be advancing something other than God’s kingdom on earth.

Paul refers to his experience of preaching the gospel not as comic, but as foolishness (1 Corinthians 1: 18–31). He relishes saying “we are fools for Christ’s sake” because he understands that it is because of his weakness that the power of Christ can dwell in him (1 Corinthians 4: 10 and 2 Corinthians 12: 9). Perhaps we in the United States, who have so many of the world’s resources, might reflect on the reality that in terms of accomplishing Christ’s mission, all our high-tech resources should be regarded as no more than a walking stick.

At the beginning of Mark’s gospel, we learn that the Spirit descended upon Jesus, God’s beloved Son, at his baptism by John in the Jordan. In this awareness and by the power of the Spirit, Jesus overcomes the power of Satan in the wilderness; and after John’s arrest he sets out to accomplish his mission for God’s kingdom. He preaches repentance, casts out unclean spirits, and cures many who are ill. By the time Mark wrote his gospel, the connection between Jesus’ mission and the extension of his mission to the church was quite clear. Because disciples share the Spirit and are beloved by the Father, they also share Christ’s power to preach repentance, to drive out demons, and to cure the sick.

This gospel of the Lord’s commissioning disciples to carry forward his mission may remind us of our inadequacy, but paradoxically it also reminds us of our dignity and importance. God depends not only on Jesus in his humanity, but on the successors of the Twelve and on each of us to be co-creators and co-Christians in bringing about a kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Campion P. Gavaler, O.S.B

Jednota Publication Schedule for 2024

| Copy Deadline Date: | Issue Date: |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Monday, Aug. 5 | Wednesday, Aug. 14 |
| Tuesday, Sept. 3 | Wednesday, Sept. 11 |
| Monday, Sept. 30 | Wednesday, Oct. 9 |
| Monday, Nov. 4 | Wednesday, Nov. 13 |
| Monday, Dec. 2 | Wednesday, Dec. 11 |

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Yes, St. Christopher is Still a Saint

Fr. Ed Dougherty, M.M., The Christophers’ Board of Directors

Though it no longer appears on the Church’s universal liturgical calendar, July 25th marks the feast day of Saint Christopher. Yes, Christopher is still recognized as a saint, and it is a wonderful thing to honor him and to celebrate the many Christian virtues associated with this legendary figure.

A piece published in *Saint Anthony Messenger* a few years ago explains that Saint Christopher’s name was removed from the universal calendar only because his story is shrouded in mystery. Notre Dame theologian Dr. Lawrence Cunningham explained, “I think what happened was that St. Christopher entered into the popular culture. He became an icon well beyond whatever historical veracity we have relative to his name.”

Nevertheless, Dr. Cunningham believes the story of Saint Christopher can be traced to a historical figure who was martyred in Lycia, present-day Turkey, under the reign of Emperor Decius, stating, “It’s not clear, but there probably was a martyr during the period of Decius with whom all kinds of stories got identified... One of the ones that lasted was that he was a person who took people across a river and was given a name that means ‘one who bears Christ.’”

Legend states that Saint Christopher was originally named Offerus and grew to be a large man, perhaps even large enough to have been considered a giant. He spent his early years in search of a cause to serve, drawn for a time to worldly power until realizing Christ as the only one to whom he should pledge his allegiance.

It is said that he set up camp along the banks of an untamed river with the intention of helping people across, and one day was approached by a small boy requesting safe passage. So he hoisted the boy on his shoulder, grabbed his staff, and started across, only to find that the boy grew heavier as the river grew stronger, making it a perilous journey to the other side. Upon reaching the other side, Christopher said, “Child, thou hast put me in great peril; thou weighest almost as if I had all the world upon me: I might bear no greater burden.”

To this, the child replied, “Christopher, thou hast not only borne all the world upon thee, but thou hast borne Him that created and made all the world, upon thy shoulders.”

In this way, he was given the name, Christopher, which means Christbearer, and his legend grew throughout the centuries as he came to be known as the protector of travelers. “That popularity never wavered,” states Dr. Cunningham, highlighting that devotion to Saint Christopher has persisted into modern times, perhaps most notably with our own organization, The Christophers.

“Even somewhat recently,” Dr. Cunningham states, “organizations such as ‘The Christophers,’ founded by Father James Keller, M.M., in 1945, are named after him.” Dr. Cunningham goes on to declare how perfectly the mission of The Christophers aligns with the ideals embodied by Saint Christopher, saying, “The Christophers’ purpose is to encourage all individuals to celebrate ‘their abilities and use them to raise the standards in all phases of human endeavor.’ It’s a fitting principle.”

It is indeed a fitting principle to connect to this amazing saint. And the image on our Christopher Awards is also quite fitting because it depicts Saint Christopher with a staff in one hand, carrying a child on his shoulder, evoking the truth at the heart of the legend: that Christ is found in the small and the humble who ask for our help.

Monsignor Andrew Hlinka Makes Contribution to St. Andrew the Apostle Food Bank



Hlinka District Secretary Monica Boone and Fr Tom Kadlick, Parochial Vicar with the boxes and bags of food for the church's food bank.

Recently at the Monsignor Andrew Hlinka 4th annual district picnic, the district again collected non-perishable foods for the St Andrew the Apostle Parish Food Bank in Charleroi, PA. The number of foods and cash collected tripled from past campaigns. Thank you all who helped make the project such an overwhelming success.

News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

Novým slovenským veľvyslancom na Ukrajine bude Pavel Vízdal

Bratislava 24. júna (TASR) - Minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Juraj Blanár (Smer-SD) v pondelok informoval o vyslaní nového veľvyslanca SR na Ukrajinu. Bude ním doterajší veľvyslanec s osobitným poslaním pre Ukrajinu Pavel Vízdal. TASR o tom informoval komunikačný odbor Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí (MZVEZ) SR.

Šéf diplomacie priblížil, že vojnový konflikt na Ukrajine je pre Slovensko najakútnejšou zahranično-politickou a bezpečnostnou výzvou. "Prioritou v tejto oblasti pre nás naďalej ostáva poskytovanie humanitárnej pomoci, podpora mierového riešenia a čo najskoršieho ukončenia konfliktu," dodal.

Rezort diplomacie podotkol, že Slovensko ukotvilo napĺňanie svojich zahranično-politických a hospodárskych záujmov v súvislosti s Ukrajinou v Programovom vyhlásení vlády SR na roky 2023 - 2027. Zároveň aj v Spoločnom vyhlásení predsedov vlád SR a Ukrajiny v Užhorode a v Pláne spoločných aktivít medzi SR a Ukrajinou, takzvanej Cestovnej mape, na ktorej sa v Michalovciach dohodli oba štáty počas spoločného zasadnutia vlád.

"Výsledkom je dohoda na realizácii konkrétnych cezhraničných projektov aj v oblasti dopravnej infraštruktúry či energetiky, čo momentálne predstavuje mimoriadne dôležitú pomoc pre tamajších obyvateľov a ich život," povedal Blanár.

Ako priblížil nový veľvyslanec, diplomatické zastúpenie na Ukrajine bude pod jeho vedením pokračovať v posilňovaní bilaterálneho dialógu. "Mám jasné priority, ktoré budem na Ukrajine implementovať. Nosnými piliermi nášho programu je rozvoj slovensko-ukrajinských vzťahov, spolupráca pri poskytovaní pomoci Ukrajine s orientáciou na humanitárne projekty a rozvojovú agendu, prehĺbenie ekonomickej spolupráce, integrácia Ukrajiny do európskych štruktúr," ozrejmil.

Slovensko má podľa MZVEZ záujem podieľať sa na obnove a povojnovej rekonštrukcii východného suseda a slovenské veľvyslanectvo v Kyjeve bude poskytovať maximálnu súčinnosť štátnym i neštátnym aktérom v konkrétnych obchodných príležitostiach.

Zároveň v spolupráci s Generálnym konzulátom SR v Užhorode a sieťou honorárnych konzulátov v krajine bude nový veľvyslanec podľa rezortu diplomacie pokračovať v udržiavaní a zintenzívnení kontaktov s miestnou krajskou komunitou a zastupiteľstvo bude poskytovať slovenským občanom nevyhnutné konzulárne služby a pomoc v núdzových situáciách.

"Zo strany Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR platí na území Ukrajiny stále štvrtý stupeň cestovného odporúčania, ktoré odporúča občanom SR bezodkladne opustiť územie Ukrajiny a vyhnúť sa cestovaniu do tohto štátu," dodalo MZVEZ.



In the archive photo, Pavel Vízdal. Photo: TASR

Pavel Vízdal will be the new Slovak ambassador to Ukraine

Bratislava, June 24 (TASR) - Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic Juraj Blanár (Smer-SD) informed on Monday about the dispatch of a new Slovak ambassador to Ukraine. It will be the current ambassador with a special mission for Ukraine, Pavel Vízdal. TASR was informed about this by the communication department of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MFEA) of the Slovak Republic.

The head of diplomacy explained that the war conflict in Ukraine is the most acute foreign policy and security challenge for Slovakia. "The priority in this area remains the provision of humanitarian aid, support for a peaceful solution and an end to the conflict as soon as possible," he added.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs noted that Slovakia has anchored the fulfilment of its foreign-policy and economic interests in connection with Ukraine in the Programme Statement of the Government of the Slovak Republic for 2023-2027. At the same time, in the Joint Statement of the Prime Ministers of the Slovak Republic and Ukraine in Uzhhorod and in the Plan of Joint Activities between Slovakia and Ukraine, the so-called Road Map, which was agreed by both countries in Michalovce during a joint meeting of governments.

"The result is an agreement on the implementation of specific cross-border projects also in the field of transport infrastructure or energy, which currently represents extremely important help for the local inhabitants and their lives," said Blanár.

As the new ambassador explained, the diplomatic representation in Ukraine will continue

to strengthen bilateral dialogue under his leadership. "I have clear priorities that I will implement in Ukraine. The main pillars of our program are the development of Slovak-Ukrainian relations, cooperation in providing assistance to Ukraine with a focus on humanitarian projects and the development agenda, deepening of economic cooperation, integration of Ukraine into European structures," he explained.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovakia is interested in participating in the reconstruction and post-war reconstruction of its eastern neighbor, and the Slovak embassy in Kiev will provide maximum cooperation to state and non-state actors in specific business opportunities.

At the same time, in cooperation with the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in Uzhhorod and the network of honorary consulates in the country, the new ambassador will continue to maintain and intensify contacts with the local compatriot community, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the embassy will provide Slovak citizens with the necessary consular services and assistance in emergency situations.

"On the part of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, the fourth level of travel recommendation is still valid on the territory of Ukraine, which recommends Slovak citizens to immediately leave the territory of Ukraine and avoid traveling to this state," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs added.

Prezident Pellegrini prijal šéfa českej diplomacie Lipavského

Bratislava 18. júna (TASR) - Prezident SR Peter Pellegrini v utorok v Prezidentskom paláci prijal ministra zahraničných vecí Českej republiky Jana Lipavského. Informoval o tom na sociálnej sieti s tým, že hovorili najmä o oblastiach, v ktorých je možné v budúcnosti prehĺbiť bilaterálnu spoluprácu.

"Vzťahy medzi Českou republikou a Slovenskou republikou sú mimoriadne nadštandardné a výnimočné. Našu vzájomnú blízkosť však nesmieme brať ako samozrejmosť," uviedol Pellegrini. Deklaroval, že počas celého mandátu bude robiť všetko preto, aby bola hĺbka a kvalita partnerstva zachovaná aj naďalej.

"O tom, ako sa o náš jedinečný vzťah ďalej starať, budem hovoriť aj budúci týždeň na mojej prvej oficiálnej zahraničnej pracovnej ceste v Prahe, kde sa okrem prezidenta Petra Pavla stretnem aj s predsedom vlády Petrom Fialom a vedením oboch komôr parlamentu," dodal prezident.



Pictured on the right, President of the Slovak Republic Peter Pellegrini during the reception of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Jan Lipavský (left) on June 18, 2024 at the Presidential Palace in Bratislava. Photo: TASR

President Pellegrini received the head of Czech diplomacy Lipavský

Bratislava, June 18 (TASR) - Slovak President Peter Pellegrini received Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavský at the Presidential Palace on Tuesday. He informed about this on the social network, saying that they talked mainly about areas in which bilateral cooperation can be deepened in the future.

"Relations between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic are extremely above standard and exceptional. However, we must not take our mutual closeness for granted," said Pellegrini. He declared that he would do everything possible throughout his mandate to maintain the depth and quality of the partnership.

"I will also talk about how to continue to take care of our unique relationship next week on my first official foreign business trip to Prague, where I will meet not only President Petr Pavel, but also Prime Minister Peter Fiala and the leadership of both chambers of parliament," the president added.

NATIONAL PICNIC
Saturday, August 10, 2024
Wiegand Lake Park
9346 Kinsman Rd, Novelty, OH 44072



FREE Admission and FREE parking for all FCSU Members, Family and Guests from 11:00am –7:00pm.

With clean, beautiful grounds, there is plenty to do for everyone. You can enjoy paddle boats, playgrounds, softball, horseshoes, swimming, as well as lots of great food served all day long. Shuttle service available from parking lot to picnic grounds and to restrooms.

- Check in begins at 11:00am
- Free all you can eat food from 12:00pm – 6:00pm
- BINGO 1:00pm – 2:00pm
- MASS at 4:00pm celebrated on wedding deck
- Unlimited ice cream treats, hot and cold drinks, popcorn all day.

FREE ACTIVITIES

Corn hole, Sand Volleyball, Basketball, Horseshoes, Soccer field, Softball field, Playgrounds, Springfed Lake with paddleboats and swimming, Face Painting, Bingo. No alcohol or pets permitted on premises. Rain or shine event.

To register for the picnic, call the Home Office at 800 533 6682 ext. 110 or email events@fcsu.com by 7/19/2024



Save the Date

Family Fall Festival

DATE: Saturday, October 5, 2024

TIME: 12:00 - 5:00 pm

LOCATION: Simmons Farm, McMurray, PA 15317

Fall Fun for Everyone

Hayrides, Corn Maze, Pumpkin Patch, Children's Games, Petting Zoo, Food, Music and More!

Also available: apple picking, flower picking, farmer's market



Free to FCSU members of all ages.

Watch for more details coming soon.

Annual Toronto Slovak Open Golf Day

Sunday, September 22, 2024
 Centennial Park Golf Centre
 Etobicoke, Ontario

FIRST TEE OFF AT 1:00 PM

Golf, Food, Prizes and Fun!

(includes 18 holes of golf, buffet dinner and prize table)

All members of the Jednota and guests are welcome

For more information and to register:

John Tokarsky
 Fraternal Activities Director
 (416) 948-6606
jednota-sports-toronto@outlook.com

Sponsored by Toronto/Mississauga District and Branch Jednota



Hot fun in the summertime!

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER 2024 PHOTO CONTEST



Enter a Favorite Photo of your Furry Friend

Four Categories of Photos - Open to Dogs and Cats

- Keeping Cool
- Playing Around
- Looking Alike
- Making Mischief

Keeping Cool Show us how your pet keeps cool in the summer sun and heat. How do they chill?

Playing Around Capture your pet in action -- jumping, running, catching -- just having fun.

Looking Alike Send us your best lookalike photo of you with your fur baby. Who resembles whom?

Making Mischief Catch your furry friend in the act of being naughty. "Who me?"

Cash prizes of \$200, \$150, \$100, and \$50 will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places within each category.* 16 prizes in total. Limit of one photo submission per member. The pet may be yours, belong to a friend, neighbor or another family member. Winning photos will be published in the Jednota. **Entry Deadline: August 17, 2024**

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Email your digital photo and completed entry form to contest@fcsu.com Missing information will result in disqualification of entry. Each member's entry must be in a separate email. Subject line: Dog Days Entry.

Name _____ Branch # _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Select One Category: Keeping Cool Playing Around Looking Alike Making Mischief

Pet's Name _____

Photo Caption _____

Please print in ink or fill-in online, save and email.

*The decisions of independent judges are final.

Chewy's Corner

Hey guys, it's me Chewy again! How have you been? Wow, it sure has been hot in Independence! I have been wading in my doggie pool just about everyday to keep cool! How have you been keeping cool this summer.

I had a BLAST attending the picnic at Knoebels Amusement Park this year! Did you see me there? I must admit, I was on the rides ALL DAY! It was so fun! I went on the carousel so many times, I was so dizzy I couldn't walk! But the most fun I had was seeing all our members come together and enjoy a fun day at the park! I was so happy to see all my old friends, and meet lots of new ones too! But the fun is just beginning this summer. We still have so much to do! I'll keep my eye out for you at the next picnic in August at Wiegand Lake Park in Ohio!

Anyway, one of my favorite holidays just passed... 4th of July, also known as Independence Day. This is a day to celebrate America's freedom. A lot of people celebrate this federal holiday with family and friends. Typically, my human friend will host a cook out. They grill lots of hamburgers and hotdogs, and we all hang out in the backyard eating lots of yummy food. We play lots of games too like cornhole or run through the sprinkler! What did you do for the 4th of July?

After enjoying the day, we attend the main event...the fireworks! At first, I was pretty scared.

They were so loud, I had to put my paws over my ears. But then, I realize how cool fireworks are! There were all different colors, sizes and shapes like a smiley face and a flag. Then we pulled out the sparklers! Did you watch the fireworks?

I hope you are having a great summer so far; I am sure you have lots more to do! I can't wait to hear all about your adventures!

Your friend,
Chewy



Facts About July

The Continental Congress voted for independence on July 2, 1776.

John Hancock was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence on August 2, 1776.

In 1781, Massachusetts became the first state to declare the 4th of July an official state holiday

The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia is tapped 13 times every July 4th in honor of the original 13 colonies.

The Star-Spangled Banner became the United States' national anthem in 1931.

Americans consume approximately 150 million hot dogs every July 4th.

Americans spend more than \$1 billion on fireworks annually.

July Word Scrambler

- swikerfor _____
- lujy _____
- lagf _____
- tsasr _____
- rsearlkp _____

Learn Slovak

July – Júl (YULE-la)
 Beach -pláž (PUH-lash)
 Vacation – dovolenka (DOVO-len-ca)
 Fireworks - ohňostroj (OH-nose-tro-yay)
 Ice Cream – zmrzlina (ZAH-murz-lina)

Answer Key

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| July | Fireworks |
| Flag | Stars |
| Sparkler | |

Where's Chewy?

Well, how did you guys do last game? Did you find me?

Remember to hold onto the news paper clippings and send in all once the game is done! Now, are you ready to find me again?

Here are the instructions once again, just in case you missed it last issue!

Here's how to play:

For the June, July and August issues of the Jednota, I will be hiding my sticker somewhere in the paper. It could be on somebody's photo, on a flyer or hidden in the corner of a page. Your job, if you decide to play, is to find me!

After I have hidden my sticker in three issues, send the three newspaper clippings of my hidden sticker to the Home Office: 6611 Rockside Rd. Suite #300, Independence, OH 44131. I will be selecting one special winner for a grand prize*! Make sure to include your name, branch number and return address so I know where to find you. Remember, if you do not have a physical copy of the Jednota, or forget to cut out my sticker, you can always find the issues online at www.fcsu.com/newspaper/.

Here's your hints for this issue:

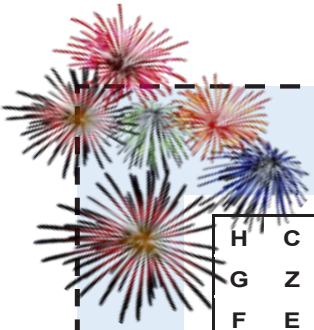
- You haven't passed the page I'm on yet
- I am on a page with a lot of branch information
- I am on the bottom of the page

Where am I?

Let me know if you can find me! I'll catch you next time!

***Must be a Member in good standing 12 years of age or younger**





FCSU PUZZLE CONTEST ENTRY

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

"4th of July" Word List

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| ŠTVRTÝ JÚL (4th of July) | REVOLUTION |
| FARBY (Colors) | STATES |
| SLOBODA (Freedom) | CELEBRATION |
| VLAJKA (Flag) | LIBERTY |
| HVIEZDY (Stars) | INDEPENDENCE |
| PRUHY (Stripes) | SPARKLE |

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

RULES

All FCSU members are eligible to enter. One entry per member! 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 **August 29, 2024**.

Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

Each winner will receive \$50.

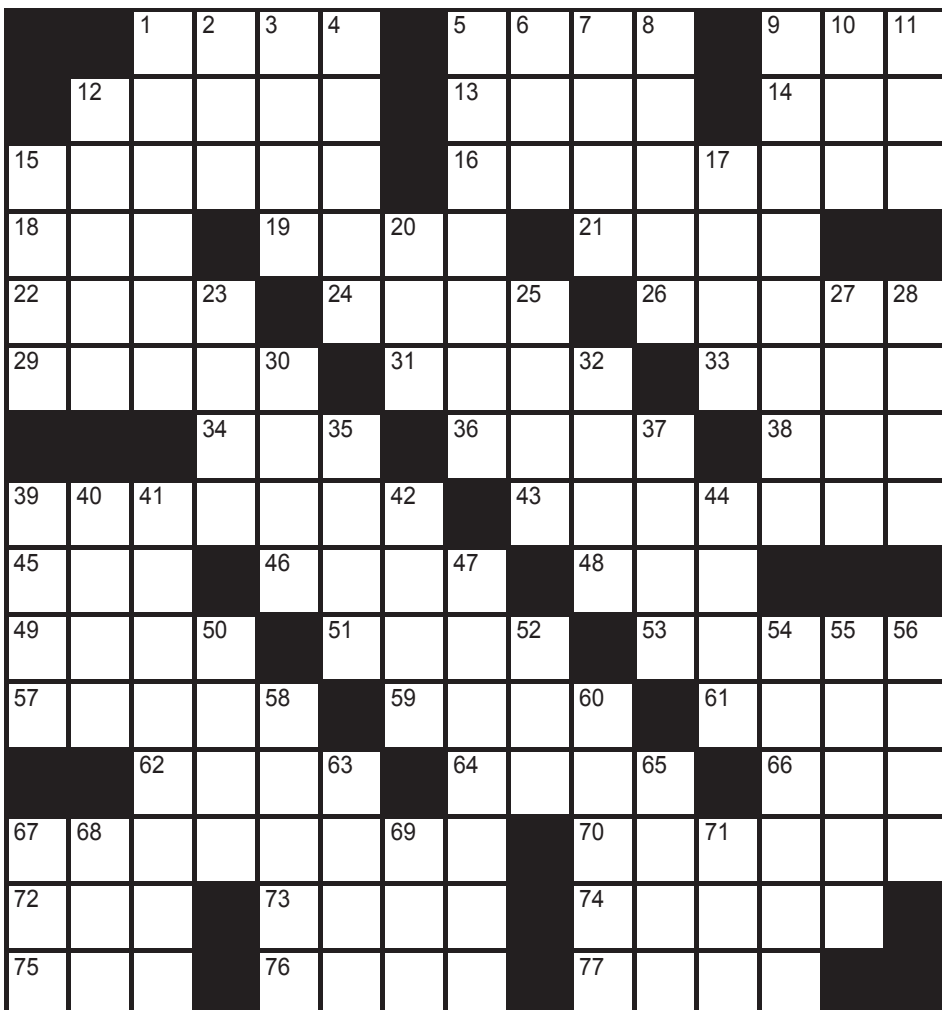
Congratulations to

MAY PUZZLE WINNERS

- Christina R Tisdale, Br 24 Donna M Shemon, Br 200
 Donald Merriman Jr, Br 96 Constance G Widmer, Br 746
 Maureen Murphy, Br 831

KEEP PUZZLING!

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Perry Como's "___ Loves Mambo"
- 5 Comedian's stock
- 9 Quaint dance
- 12 Freshen
- 13 Paella pot
- 14 Commotion
- 15 Kind of map or pitcher
- 16 Spunky
- 18 Lab eggs
- 19 Goobers, e.g.
- 21 One of TV's Simpsons
- 22 Yanks
- 24 Kind of cloth
- 26 Root beer brand
- 29 Eyeglasses
- 31 Sonata, e.g.
- 33 Net-surfer's stop
- 34 Symbol of strength
- 36 Censor's target
- 38 Pool tool
- 39 Flattop
- 43 Burglary
- 45 Witch's work
- 46 ___ Kringle
- 48 Mr. Potato Head piece
- 49 It has six sides
- 51 W.W. II turning point
- 53 Gets promoted
- 57 Office papers
- 59 Chinese dollar
- 61 Crowning point

- 62 Corn Belt state
- 64 Omit
- 66 King topper
- 67 Woman's silk or lace scarf
- 70 He was in the dell
- 72 "A Chorus Line" number
- 73 Fleur-de-lis
- 74 Balderdash
- 75 Slot machine symbol
- 76 Use a keyboard
- 77 Sounds in pounds

Down

- 1 Fleece, e.g.
- 2 Cuckoo bird
- 3 Hammer part
- 4 More than bad
- 5 Dishes the dirt
- 6 Matterhorn, e.g.
- 7 Very smooth
- 8 Singer Vaughan
- 9 Hockey feat
- 10 Dedicated lines
- 11 Herd of seals
- 12 Increase
- 15 Deteriorates
- 17 Spring bloom
- 20 Very
- 23 Harbor vessel
- 25 Unfeeling
- 27 Pocketbook
- 28 No longer secret
- 30 Big bag
- 32 "You betcha!"
- 35 Middle East native
- 37 Mobile device card
- 38 Bluecoat
- 39 Gasteyer of "Mea Girls"
- 41 Scrutinizer
- 42 Shipshape
- 44 "Mi chiamano Mimi," e.g.
- 47 Wurst
- 50 Catcall
- 52 Beast of burden
- 54 Holy terrors
- 55 Mike holder
- 56 Prophet
- 58 Fleet
- 60 Peachy-keen
- 63 Comrade in arms
- 65 Prefix with graph
- 67 Unruly crowd
- 68 Bibliophile's suffix
- 69 Race unit
- 71 Rend

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new **BRANCH** Announcements should be sent to branch@fcsu.com

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, IL

The St. Stephens Society, branch 006K, Streator, Illinois, will hold a SEMI-ANNUAL meeting on Saturday, July 27, 2024, 11:30am at the Eastwood restaurant, 2000 Eastwood Ave., Streator, Illinois.

The members attending will discuss the branch's scholarship awards for college bound students and a fall fraternal activity for its members. We welcome all members to attend our meeting and enjoy a meal and fraternalism. Please contact Paul Chismar, 815-822-8851 if you plan on attending the meeting.

Submitted by **Paul Chismar**,
Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its regular meeting via Zoom and in-person at the offices of Kurt P. Solek, Fairfield, Connecticut on Sunday, September 8, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. At this meeting, we will plan our scholarship meeting for November 10, 2024

We cordially invite our members to virtually attend our meeting and take advantage of the opportunity to spend time getting together with their fellow branch members. Please contact me at csteacher3@gmail.com if you plan on attending the meeting.

Submitted by **Deborah M. Nelson**,
Secretary

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 24 members and guests are invited to attend the Cleveland Guardians vs Pittsburgh Pirates game at Progressive Field in downtown Cleveland, hosted by our District. The game is on September 1, 2024, Sunday, at 2:40 pm. There will be a tailgate before the game in the FCSU parking lot (6611 Rockside Road, Independence, OH 44131) beginning at 11:00am. Arrangements are being made to provide transportation from the tailgate to the game and back. If any Branch 24 member is interested in attending this event, please call or text Fraternal Activities Director, Fran Strekal at 216-308-1728 or email ohiodistrict10@yahoo.com by July 30, 2024 to reserve your spot.

Tickets are \$39.00. Branch 24 members must pay for their ticket in advance and will be reimbursed \$30.00 at the game. All non-member guests must pay the \$39.00 ticket cost. No refunds for no-shows and the tickets are non-transferable. No reservations will be accepted after July 31st.

See the flyer in this issue of the Jednota for more details.

Submitted by **John Moynihan**, President

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 24 & Branch 855 are co-hosting Christmas in July! Join us for a fun filled day to mingle with fellow members and paint your own ornament Sunday July 28th at 1pm. The event will be held at the Walton Hills Village Hall; 7595 Walton Rd. Walton Hills, OH 44146. Each member will receive a free ornament of your choosing to paint. Non-members are welcome and may purchase and paint an ornament at the discounted cost ranging from \$7-\$10 (cash or check only). All pottery will be fired and ready for pick up in early August (TBA). Please bring your favorite cookie or treat to share. And to show our Fraternalism In Action, we'd like to ask everyone to bring a jar of peanut butter or jelly to donate to a local

food bank. This event is guaranteed to be fun for the whole family!

Reservations are required by July 17th. To sign up, please call or text Fran Strekal, Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director, at 216-308-1728 or Stephanie Sutila, Branch 855 Fraternal Activities Director, at 440-409-9405.

Submitted by **John Moynihan**, President

BRANCH 40 – STREATOR, IL

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday July 28th at Chipper's Grill 1733 N. Bloomington St. Streator, IL at 2:00 PM. All members are urged to attend the meeting. Lunch will follow. Please RSVP by calling (815) 257-6142 (leave a message) by July 25, 2024.

Submitted by **Theresa Graves**,
Financial Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 55 – PHILADELPHIA, PA

The Semi-Annual Meeting of St. Joseph Society Branch 055 K is scheduled to be held on Sunday, August 18, 2024, at 2:00 P.M. as both Live Meeting and a Zoom meeting. All members are cordially invited to attend. Please send your Email address to helen.agaydos@outlook.com, so we can send you the private Zoom link to attend the meeting.

Along with conducting regular business, we will honor our Scholarship Winners and we will make honorable mention of all our recent Graduates. We will also be holding discussions on upcoming Fraternal Gathering Activities and the possibility of making a bus trip to Washington, DC for Mass at the Basilica to celebrate the 59th Anniversary of our Jednota Chapel dedicated to Our Mother of Sorrows.

Attention! Any high school or college student that attends this meeting will receive a copy of Joseph Trojcek's essential book, FOCUS ON YOUR LIGHT. For those interested in building a successful career, Joe presents helpful ideas for anyone interested in starting a business or furthering his/her career.

Submitted by **Helena T. Gaydos**, Secretary & Treasurer

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WI

Please join us for our meeting on Sunday, August 18, 2024, at 11:30 AM. Members are free. Guests are welcome, but will pay for their own meal. Cost is \$40.00 per person.

Location: Bandero County Wood Grill (formally Brisco County) N96W16865 Cumberland Ct, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051.

That is at Highway 41 North and Country Q Exit

Please call to make your reservation by 8/13/2024. You MUST CONFIRM. Please call Mike Novak, Branch 89 President at 414.445.5382.

Please make checks payable to KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY AND JOSEPH BR 89. Mail to Mike Novak 3237 N. 93rd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Submitted by **Michael Novak**, President

BRANCH 132 – BOONTON, NJ

132 will also be attending the Simmons Farm National Picnic on October 5th and we will be having a meeting at 5 PM on October 4th and there is still room for one more in the van. This also is a free event open to all members!

Please note that our Christmas meeting is December 5th at 7 PM and Josephine

will be bringing her delicious Christmas cookies. Please try to join us for the skiing, weather permitting, on Saturday! One of our members has moved to South Carolina and welcomes you to visit when in the area. Call Sue for phone number and address!

Submitted by **Sue Salko**, Secretary

BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, IL

The Tribute Show will take place on Sunday, October 13 at the Theater at the Center in Munster, IN. The show begins at 3:00 pm and will be preceded by Brunch at 1:00 pm. If you are not a member, the cost is \$81.60. If you are a Branch 153 member, the District will pay \$38.00 and Branch 153 will pay the remainder. So, there is no cost to Branch 153 members. However, a \$25.00 deposit is required prior to July 31. The deposit will be refunded once you attend the event. Reserve with Dorothy.

Submitted by **Dorothy Jurcenko**,
Financial Secretary

BRANCH 166-BINGHAMTON, NY

Greetings Members of St Joseph the Protector Branch 166! We hope you are enjoying the beautiful summer weather! Please join us for our Second Annual Ice Cream Social to be held August 11, 2024, from 1:00-3:00 pm at Schoolhouse Creamery 17 Fox Farm Road, Windsor, NY 13865. Come out for a good time and enjoy a Sundae on Sunday (Free for members) Aug 11th. Hope to see you there! Direct any questions about this event to Morgan Dendler (607) 206-7243.

Submitted by **Judie Dendler**, Secretary

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PA

Summer brings much fun around family, reunions, picnics and vacations. Wishing you all a wonderful summer in whatever ventures you are participating in. Maybe it's a backyard or community pool. Be safe in all you do!

We welcome all members to attend our meetings the 1st Thursday of each month except June & July. The meetings are held at 7:00pm at the Slovak CU at 910 Sixth Ave in Ford City. Call me @ 724-763-9229 or email me @ vschaub123@gmail.com for any details or suggestions of what you would like to see happen in 2024.

Submitted by **Vicki Schaub**,
Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 will hold their next meeting on Monday September 16, 2024 at 7 P.M. IN-PERSON at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio.

We would like to congratulate all the Jednota Scholarship award winners and a special shout out to Br. 228 members Anthony Angotti and Alana Williams. We are proud of you!

We once again ask all our members to please pray for world peace and a calm environment. Dear Lord, please hear our prayers.

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

BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

Special Announcement: The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 members and guests have been invited to attend the Cleveland Guardians vs Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game at Progressive

Field in downtown Cleveland on Sunday, September 1, 2024, at 2:40 pm. There will also be a tailgate party in the FCSU parking lot (6611 Rockside Road, Independence, OH 44131) before the game. The ticket cost is \$39 and must be paid in advance. Br. 228 will reimburse each attending branch member and 1 guest the full price of the ticket. Any Branch 228 member or guest interested in attending this event needs to call Lisa Trifiletti-Palos at 440-960-2111 for details and to make a reservation by Wednesday July 24, 2024.

Look for the Guardians/Pirates flyer in this issue of the Jednota.

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

BRANCH 254 - PITTSBURGH, PA

Branch 254 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, August 4, 2024, at 1:00pm at Panera's restaurant located in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. The meeting will include past, present and future 2024 activities.

For reservations, contact financial secretary Joseph Senko at 412-956-6000 or jtsenko@aol.com.

Submitted by **Joseph T. Senko**,
Financial Secretary

BRANCH 260 – COITSVILLE, OH

The officers of Branch 260 invite all of our members to join us this year at any or all of our meetings. Our meetings for 2024 will be as follows: Thursday September 12th and Thursday December 5th (this will be our election of officers meeting and holiday celebration). All of our meetings begin at 5:00pm and are held at Belleria Restaurant in Struthers, Ohio. Hope to see all of you in the coming year and God Bless!

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

BRANCH 320 – ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP, PA

Summer is here... Time to join other FCSU members. Please check the Jednota for all scheduled events. Various Branch 320 members reached out with interest in the following:

August 10: Wiegand Lake Park Novelty, OH. FCSU National Picnic. All are welcome. Please see Jednota for details.

August 17: Wildthings Park Washington, PA. Branch 320 will be hosting a Wildthings Baseball event. All are welcome. Branch 320 members please RSVP to Frances Tarquinio at 724.929.9788 by Aug 8, for reduced ticket pricing. Please see Jednota for details.

September 1: Guardians vs Pirates Baseball Cleveland, OH. The FCSU Ohio Region is hosting a fraternal outing. Guardians vs Pirates baseball at Progressive Field with tailgating before the game. Branch 320 members, please RSVP to Joseph Tarquinio at 724.929.9788 by July 30th for reduced ticket pricing. Please see Jednota for details.

October 5: Simmons Farm McMurray, PA. FCSU National Picnic. All are welcome. Please see Jednota for details.

Special Thanks... District 12 would like to thank all involved in planning and executing our successful 2024 District Picnic. A special thanks to Maureen Massafra (Branch 670) for going

continued on page 17

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 16

above & beyond, and Branch 320 for booking the pavilion at Cedar Creek Park.

Mary Anne Higginbotham (President - Branch 320) would like to thank American Legion (Post 949), Sons of the American Legion (Post 949), Boys Scouts of America (Troop 1313) and all Branch 320 members who partnered in multiple events to remember and honor our veterans this Memorial Day.

Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio,
Vice-President

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PA

SS. Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382 K of Scranton, Pennsylvania, will hold its Summer Picnic on Saturday, August 24, 2024, from Noon to dusk. Branch members and guests will gather at the Pavilion on the grounds of the Holy Family Social and Welfare Club, 480 Jubilee Road, Covington Township, Pennsylvania.

Planning committee members are Laura Christianson, Becky Czankner, Michael Czankner, and Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr.

All Branch 382 K members and guests are cordially invited to join them for an afternoon of good food and friendly socializing in the beautiful outdoors of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

A catered lunch will be served. Members and guests will enjoy beverages and snacks throughout the afternoon. A late-afternoon cook-out and corn roast will end the day.

Reservations are required!

To make reservations for the Summer Picnic and to obtain directions to the Holy Family Social and Welfare Club grounds, contact Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Branch President, at 570.344.3854. Messages can be left on Voice Mail. The deadline to make reservations is Saturday, August 17, 2024.

The cost of the event for Branch members is \$10 per person. The price for a guest is \$15 per person. Your check guarantees your reservation and should be received by Wednesday, August 21, 2024.

Checks are to be made payable to FCSU Branch 382 K and mailed to: Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, 505 Emmett Street, Scranton, PA 18505-1016.

Submitted by Elizabeth Slovenkai,
President

BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PA

The Saint Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold a meeting and dinner on Sunday, August 11th, at 4:00pm. It will be held at New City Buffet, 5142 State Route 30 Suite 175, Greensburg PA 15601.

It is necessary to RSVP to make sure we have enough space. Please call Eileen at 724-539-2764 or email FCSU.branch393@gmail.com with the number of people planning to attend by August 5, 2024. All members and their families are invited to attend. Members are encouraged to bring a guest. This meeting will include election of officers. Please attend with someone in mind to nominate for office. We will also be discussing future plans and activities.

For updates, follow the branch on Facebook or Instagram at FCSU Financial Br 393, Greensburg (@fcsu.branch393).

Submitted by Eileen Myers, Secretary

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PA

The SS Peter and Paul Branch 410 of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Wednesday October 23, 2024 at 1:30 at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

All members are encouraged to attend. Please call for reservations by October 21, 2024 at 724-245-2576.

Submitted by Geraldine Buchheit,
Financial & Recording Secretary

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OH

Saint Joseph the Guardian Branch 450 members and guests are invited to attend the Cleveland Guardians vs Pittsburgh Pirates game at Progressive Field hosted by District 10. The game is on Sunday, September 1, 2024, at 2:40 pm. There will be a tailgate before the game in the FCSU parking lot (6611 Rockside Road, Independence, OH 44131). The start time of the tailgate is 11:00am. Arrangements are being made to provide transportation from the tailgate to the game and back. If any Branch 450 member is interested in attending this event, please call George Carny at 440-885-5702 by July 30, 2024 to reserve your spot. Tickets are \$39.00. Branch 450 members must pay for their ticket in advance and will be reimbursed \$29.00. All non-member guests must pay \$39.00. No refunds for no-shows and the tickets are non-transferable. No reservations will be accepted after July 31st.

Submitted by George Carny, President

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH

Below are the summer events happening at the Slovak J Club – 485 Morgan Ave – Akron OH which are open to the public and all members of Branch 553:

Open Bowling NOW thru August – Every Wednesday starting at 11:00am – Come and enjoy the newly refurbished lanes plus the great people that bowl!!!

Every Friday we have “Burgers & Beers” which consists of \$5.00 Hamburgers, \$6.00 Cheeseburgers and Domestic Beers – 5 for \$10.00.

This runs thru the end of August.

JULY

17th – Baked Chicken Dinner – 4:30 – 6:30pm

27th – Annual Kielbasa Open - \$85/person – Shotgun start at Mayfair Country Club in Uniontown OH – Reservation must be made with foursome payment

28th – Breakfast Buffet – 9:00 – 11:45am

AUGUST

7TH – Spaghetti Dinner – 4:30 – 7:00pm

21st – Lent in August! – Fried Fish Dinner – 4:30 – 6:30pm

25th – Breakfast Buffet – 9:00 – 11:45am

31st – State of Ohio Football Bash – Akron University vs. Ohio State – 3:30pm

SEPTEMBER

4th – Spaghetti Dinner – 4:30 – 7:00pm

7th – Ohio State vs. Western Michigan – 7:30pm

8th – Cleveland Browns vs. Dallas Cowboys – 4:25pm

Come join us for and see what fraternalism is all about! Any questions please call the club at 330-620-1794

Submitted by Debbie Speck, President

BRANCH 628 – W HOMESTEAD, PA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel, will be held on Thursday, July 18, 2024 at 3:00 PM at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin prior to the 4:00PM Slovak Mass on Slovak Day. We will gather in the same pavilion in which Mass will be celebrated.

The agenda will include current and upcoming events in the branch and district.

Submitted by Sylvia Vehec,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PA

On behalf of the officers of Branch 670 – we wanted to update you on the activities for 2024 and inform you of opportunities for high school seniors.

Members are invited to participate in any and all activities of the Branch and are encouraged to bring along guests (fee for attending guests)

June thru October Other extracurricular activities (i.e., Polka Party, Festivals, FCSU Pirates game, Slovak Day at Kennywood Park, etc.)

Branch 670 has a Facebook page. Please log on and follow to see activities and events for the Branch. Facebook page: FCSU Financial Br 670, Donora.

If you would like to get emails regarding the activities of the branch, or if you have any questions please feel free to reach out to: Joseph Matinko (Branch President) at 724-565-5150 or matinko305@comcast.net, Maureen Massafra (Branch Secretary) at branch670secretary@gmail.com, or Nicole Hyatt (Activities Coordinator) at branch670activities@gmail.com.

We hope you can join us.

Submitted by Maureen Massafra,
Secretary

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Branch 682 members and guests have been invited by District 10 to attend the Cleveland Guardians vs Pittsburgh Pirates game at Progressive Field in downtown Cleveland. The game is on September 1, 2024, Sunday, at 2:40 pm. There will be a tailgate before the game in the FCSU parking lot (6611 Rockside Road, Independence, OH 44131). The start time of the tailgate is 11:00am. Arrangements are being made to provide transportation from the tailgate to the game and back. If any Branch 682 member is interested in attending this event, please call or text Barbara Sutilla (FCSU Branch Liaison) at 440-864-4744 or email ohiodistrict10@yahoo.com by July 30, 2024 to reserve your spot. Tickets are \$39.00. Branch 682 members must pay for their ticket in advance and will be reimbursed the cost of the ticket. All non-member guests must pay the \$39.00 ticket cost and will be reimbursed \$10. No refunds for no-shows and the tickets are non-transferable. No reservations will be accepted after July 31st.

See the flyer in this issue of the Jednota for more details.

Submitted by Drew Hirt, President

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Branch 731 has been invited by the Cleveland District to attend the Cleveland Guardians vs Pittsburgh Pirates game at Progressive Field. The game is on September 1, 2024, Sunday, at 2:40 pm. There will be a tailgate before the game in the FCSU parking lot (6611 Rockside Road, Independence, OH 44131). The start time of the tailgate is TBA. Arrangements are being made to provide transportation from the tailgate to the game and back. If any Branch 731 member is interested in attending this event, please call Jackie (330- 503-3260) by July 30, 2024 to reserve your spot. Tickets are \$39.00 – Branch 731 members will be reimbursed the cost of the ticket. Non-member guests will pay \$39.00. No reservations will be accepted after July 31st.

Branch 731 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, July 14, 2024 at 5 pm at Belleria Boardman (8485 Market Street, Boardman, Ohio 44512).

Submitted by Anna Schwanitz,

Recording Secretary

BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NJ

Branch 746 is hosting a Summer Picnic in the Park for Region 1. Join us on Saturday August 3, 2024, at 1:00 PM at Al Kalla Park (2801 Highland Avenue, Linden, NJ) to gather for food and fun. Branch scholarships will also be presented this afternoon. Food will be provided by Julie Rada Catering. Members are free. Non-members are welcome to attend for a nominal fee of \$20. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @ 732-762-3148 by July 27th if you plan to attend.

Save the Date - The annual pilgrimage to the Basilica in Washington, DC will be on Saturday, September 14, 2024.

Submitted by Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NJ

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 members living and deceased as follows: August 2nd, September 6th, October 4th, November 8th, and December 6th.

Submitted by Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ON

Branch 785 will be holding its annual Toronto Slovak Open Golf Outing on Sunday, September 22, 2024 at Centennial Park Golf Centre. See ad in this issue of the Jednota newspaper for more details. For more information and to register, call John Tokarsky at (416) 948-6606.

Submitted by John Tokarsky, Fraternal
Activities Director

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PA

Attention Branch 853 members - make your summer plans now! Come join us as we have interesting events planned:

July 15 ending deadline of our annual photo event. “Happy Ways of our Summers Days”.

What are you doing this summer? Everyone who participates will be acknowledged.

July 18 - American Slovak Day at Kennywood. Branch will purchase ticket for entry. Contact the branch president for where to meet.

July 24 - Rostraver Township Historical Society Mining Museum. Meet at Museum. Email for time to meet.

August 12 – Lunch at 1:00pm, then fun, at the Washington County Agricultural Fair. Entrance paid by branch.

For the events with an entrance fee, a reservation is required so the entrance fee can be paid by Branch 853 for its members. Events are subject to change. For more information and reservations email FCSUB-ranch853@gmail.com.

Submitted by Monica Boone, President

BRANCH 855 – CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 855 members and guests are invited to attend the Cleveland Guardians vs Pittsburgh Pirates game at Progressive Field hosted by District 10. The game is on Sunday, September 1, 2024, at 2:40 pm. There will be a tailgate before the game in the FCSU parking lot (6611 Rockside Road, Independence, OH 44131). The start time of the tailgate is TBA. Arrangements are being made to provide transportation from the tailgate to the game and back. If any Branch 855 member is interested in attending this event, please call or text Barbara at 440-864-4744 or email ohiodistrict10@

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 svieti. 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 |
|--------|------------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|------------------|--------|----------------------|
| 002K | Gregory Anthony Lizak | 112K | Joseph Pucklavage | 260K | Steve H Roth | 553K | Samuel Krempasky |
| 002K | Robert G Kuntz | 157K | Mark Davis | 276K | Margaret Ratesic | 587K | John Paul Zahorsky |
| 002K | Robert Madia | 162K | Ambrose Briscar | 276K | Vera S Polak | 764K | Maureen S Malys |
| 006K | Donald E Havrilka | 166K | Joyce Mezzadonna | 292K | Marie A Kordie | 780K | Veronica W Karbowski |
| 035K | Joseph Raymond Stankay | 173K | Donald J Kavulich | 393K | Charles Debich | 831K | Carl M Chernan |
| 040K | Mary A Ziano | 173K | John J Filicko | 401K | Eugene Omasta | 900K | Doris Budinscak |
| 075K | Patricia Land | 181K | Patricia A Burns | 553K | Carole A Gifford | 900K | Woodrow Wedge |
| 096K | Ellen Mary Wolanin | 181K | Raymond W Patrick | 553K | Edward Kacsanek | 916K | Clara Long |

* Processed in the month of June 2024

Nekrológy – Obituaries



Eternal Rest

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Florence “Flo” Matta, Mother Of FCSU General Counsel, Gary Matta, And Wife And Mother Of FCSU National Treasurers George F. Matta (Deceased) And George F. Matta II (Deceased) Passed Into Eternal Life June 24, 2024

Florence (Kelmeckis) Matta, 89, of White Oak, formerly of Duquesne, passed peacefully on June 24, 2024.

Visitation was held 3:00 – 8:00 PM on Thursday, June 27, 2024 at Pittsburgh Cremation and Funeral Care. A Blessing service was celebrated at Pittsburgh Cremation & Funeral Care, Friday, June 28 at 10 am, followed by burial at the Jefferson cemetery mausoleum, and repass at South Hills Country Club.

The most important thing to Florence was spending time loving her family, and she now leaves her family on earth to be welcomed in heaven by her late husband George Matta, daughter Jodie Dillinger, son George Matta II, daughter-in-law, Rona (Stein) Matta, and granddaughter, Devin Matta.

Florence is survived by her son, Gary Matta and wife Larissa Rathway Matta, son-in-law George Dillinger and wife Cindy (Pazehoski) Dillinger, daughter-in-law, Cathy Matta, and 11 grandchildren; Bradley and Gretchen Matta, Logan and Keith Haselhoff, Brittany and Darin Kowalski, Tyler and Liz Dillinger, Langley and Tyler



Shope, and Austin Matta, and 11 great-grandchildren; Nolan, Kash, Hagen, Miles, Bannon, Oakleigh, Kinley, Tyson, Warren, Greta and Tatum. Florence is also survived by her brother Edward Kelmeckis and wife, Geraldine, along with nieces and nephews and beloved friends.

In between family vacations, attending grandchildren’s sporting and school events, and great grandchildren’s baptisms, birthdays, and parties, Florence was a member of the Duquesne Women’s Club, Pennsylvania State Democratic Committee, Democratic Committee of White Oak, and Secretary of Branch 38 of the First Catholic Slovak Union, and treasured the personal friendships made through the First Catholic Slovak Union.

In lieu of flowers, Florence and her family request that any memorial contributions be made either to the “JMD Foundation”, <https://www.jmdf.net/>, or the First Catholic Slovak Union Scholarship Foundation. c/o FCSU – 6611 Rockside Rd – Independence, OH 44131. Please view and sign the family’s online guest-book at www.pittsburghcremation.com.

EUGENE OMASTA, BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PA



Eugene Omasta, age 89, from Troy, Alabama died on Sunday, April 28, 2024. Funeral services will be at 11:00am at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church on Friday, May 3, 2024, with visitation one hour prior to the service.

Gene was born in Pennsylvania on July 18, 1934, to Joseph and Stephanie Omasta whose parents immigrated to the United States from Czechoslovakia. He began his education in a one room schoolhouse in Pennsylvania through eighth grade. After high school, he proudly served in the US Navy before going on to graduate with his Bachelors and Master’s degree in Applied Mathematics from Auburn University. He concluded his academic journey with a PhD in Physics from the University of Iowa. A dedicated and passionate professor, his students at Troy University awarded him the

Ingall’s Award for Excellence in Classroom Teaching. He served as State Director of the Alabama Junior Academy of Science, and President of the Alabama Academy of Science.

Gene played an active role in various ministries in the community and at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church. He served on the church vestry, the jail ministry team, Habitat for Humanity, the Pike County American Heart Association, as well as President of the Pike Teachers Credit Union.

Outside of his professional life, he enjoyed playing the accordion, sailing, and traveling with his wife, friends, and family.

Eugene is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mary Kathrine “Kathy” Nichols Omasta; brother, Joseph Omasta (Dee); sister, Rose Marie De Szendeffy (Stephen); children, Debra Cox (Gary) and Mark Omasta (Amy); 5 grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Larry Omasta; and grandson, Angelo. Teaching was his passion. Sailing was his past time, and his family was his life.

Submitted by Mary Katherine Nichols Omasta

VERA SMIDER POLAK, BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PA



Vera Smider Polak, age 91, of North Las Vegas, Nevada, passed away suddenly on Friday, May 3, 2024. Vera was born to Mike and Anna Smider on August 31, 1932, in Gallitzin, Pennsylvania. She was raised in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, and when her mother passed away in 1955, she helped her father raise her younger brother, George. After graduating from St. Peter’s high school in 1950, Vera attended Douglas Business School to take secretarial classes, including shorthand. Vera found work as a secretary for the security department at the Bettis Plant, which was instrumental in manufacturing many of the parts used in the first atomic submarine, The Nautilus. She often commented on how she really loved that job, and that is where she met her life long best friend, Gerrie Hawk. In 1957, Vera met the love of her life, Ronald Polak, at a dance at the Palisades Hall. They married on June 7, 1958, at St. Peter’s Church. When their daughter, Karen, was born in 1962, Vera

became a stay at home mom. While Karen was in high school, Vera began working again as a temporary secretary, and eventually accepted a secretarial position with the McKeesport School District, where her husband was an educator. They were active in Holy Trinity Parish, which was comprised of many first and second generation immigrants from Slovakia. Ron and Vera shared a Slovak heritage of which they were very proud. The couple retired from the school district in 1993, and remained in McKeesport until 2006, when they relocated to North Las Vegas to be near Karen. Ron and Vera were members of St. John Neumann Roman Catholic Church in North Las Vegas.

Vera will be remembered for her kind and caring nature. She was intelligent, patient, and always there for her family and friends. She enjoyed playing slot machines, traveling (especially cruises), and playing cards (hand & foot). She also loved to read fiction, and enjoyed watching British detective shows. As a night owl, she absolutely loved the fact that one could stream any kind of show they want to see at any time. She supported Karen’s musical activities and attended most of her performances. Vera was a life-long Democrat who went to her grave

continued on page 19

Nekrológy – Obituaries

continued from page 18

wondering how anyone could support the MAGA movement.

In addition to her parents, Vera was preceded in death by her husband, Ron, brother, George, and sister-in-law, Carol.

Vera is survived by her daughter, Karen; brother-in-law, John Polak; and sister-in-law, Cynthia Smider. She leaves many friends and family members behind who will miss her greatly, as well as four cats (Toby, Ripley, Bailey, and Bruno) who adored her, and miss her very much.

Submitted by Karen Polak

AMBROSE J. BRISCAR, BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PA

Ambrose J. Briscar, age 90, of Mantua Twp., passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, Saturday, April 27, 2024. Ambrose was born on November 9, 1933 in Lemont Furnace, PA. He married his wife of 56 years, the late Irene (Lucas) Briscar, on May 28, 1956 in Uniontown, PA. In 1970, they settled in Mantua, Ohio and remained residents ever since.

Ambrose was a U.S. Navy Veteran, a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Mantua, a Mantua Twp. Trustee and a Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus. He was a machinist by trade, spent time as a Crestwood school bus driver and finished out his working career retiring from ODOT.

Ambrose is survived by his children, Andrew Briscar of Mantua, and Jean Marie Briscar-Smith (Keith) of Aliquippa, PA.; Grandchildren, Dylan Briscar and Kaitlyn Smith; sisters Dianne (Chuska) Mahallick (Lew) of

Smock, PA., and Bernadine "Dina" (Chuska) Creighton of Pittsburgh, PA., and many nieces and nephews. Ambrose was preceded in death by his parents, John Chuska and Helen Briscar, and a sister, Bette Anne (Chuska) Smithburger.

Submitted by Jean M. Briscar-Smith

SAMUEL A. KREMPASKY, BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH

Samuel A. Krempasky, age 93 of Massillon, passed away Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at his home.

He was born January 14, 1931, in Jacobs Creek, PA, the son of the late Clement and Maria (Roth) Krempasky.

He was an Army veteran. He was a graduate of Grove City College.

Sam retired from Akzo Salt Company in 1992.

He was a member of Divine Mercy Parish St. Joseph Campus and St. Mary Campus, St. Joseph Holy Name Society, 1st Catholic Slovak Union, and Knights of Columbus 3rd Degree #554. Sam enjoyed polka dancing, traveling, visiting relatives in Slovakia while teaching English, and visiting the Holy Land.

Sam is survived by Daughter, Kathryn Somogy; son, Samuel W. Krempasky; four grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Rose Marie Krempasky; son, John C. Krempasky; daughter, Margaret Jantzen; five brothers, Klement, Steve, Albert, Max, and Carl; two sisters, Agnes Dersy and Ann Mariana.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

**All new DISTRICT Announcements
should be sent to district@fcsu.com**

DISTRICT 1 - REVEREND MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT - BRIDGEPORT, CT

The Reverend Matthew Jankola District will conduct its annual meeting via Zoom and in-person at the offices of Kurt P. Solek, Fairfield, Connecticut on September 8, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. At this meeting, we will discuss plans for the coming year and hold the election of officers for the district. Please contact me at csteacher3@gmail.com if you plan on attending the meeting. We look forward to seeing our dedicated members.

Submitted by Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary

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

Reverend John J Spitzkovsky District 2 will sponsor a District outing on October 13, 2024 at the Theater at the Center in Munster, IN. There will be a Brunch at 1:00 and a John Denver Tribute Show at 3:00. If you are not an FCSU member, the cost is \$81.30. If you are a FCSU member, the District will cover \$38.00 of the cost. If you are interested, contact your Branch Officer before July 31 to find out how much the Branch will cover.

BRANCH OFFICERS: All money must be sent to Treasurer Pat LaPorte by August 15, 2024.

Submitted by John Jurcenko, President

DISTRICT 3 – GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT - PA

The George Onda District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, September 28, 2024, after the 5:00 P.M. Mass at St. Florian Parish, 4263 Route 981, United, Pa. The meeting will take place in the Parish Social Hall. The agenda will include Election of Officers, planning our upcoming Štedrý Večer, and receiving news from our branches. Food and refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Darlene Patty at 724-493-8712. We look forward to a great turnout!

Submitted by Darlene Patty, Vice President

DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH PA

The Pittsburgh District extends its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Florence Matta who passed away on June 24. Flo was a member of Branch 38 and also served as District Auditor.

Branch 254 will host the Fall Business Meeting on Sunday, November 24, 1:00 PM at Holy Trinity Church of St Thomas the Apostle Parish, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin PA. We will discuss business matters and plan events for next year. Officers for 2025 will be elected.

Other announcements of local interest.

- WPSCA: meets 7 PM first Mondays at Mt Lebanon Public Library. Meetings resume in October.

- WPSCA sponsors scholarships and hosts events such as wine tastings. Join the organization to get the newsletter.

- Slovak Day at Kennywood - Thursday, July 18.

- Guardians/Pirates baseball game - at Cleveland - Sunday, September 1 - contact Brad Matta(see flyer in this issue of the Jednota).

- September Fest at NSS - Saturday, September 28 - 11 to 4 - free admission

- Western PA Slovak Radio Hour Dinner Dance - Saturday, October 13

- Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt - Sunday, November 3 - noon to 5 - free admission

- Western PA Slovak Radio Hour - WPIT 96.5 FM / 730 AM

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

Submitted by Margaret A Nasta, Secretary

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

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 20, 2024, at 1:00 P.M. at the Dairy Queen Grill and Chill, 575 West Main St., in Uniontown, PA

This is a special election meeting for the office of auditor.

Regional Director James Marmol will be informing the members of upcoming Jednota events.

Submitted by Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 12 – THE MONSIGNOR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT - PA

On July 28, 2024, District 12 is hosting a night of fraternal minor league baseball. All are welcome to attend the Washington Wildthings vs. New York Boulders in Washington PA. Come early to this 5:35pm game.

Sundays are family day at the park. This Sunday is Disney Night with appearances by Bluey and Bingo

Tickets are \$30 which includes a picnic style meal.

For tickets and information:

District 12 members please contact your Branch President.

Since this is an open event, anyone outside of District 12 can email Joseph Tarquinio at tark918@gmail.com.

*All requests must be received by July 12, 2024.

Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, Vice President

DISTRICT 14 – REV JOSEPH L KOSTIK DISTRICT – OH, PA

Following are the currently Scheduled District Meetings for Calendar Year 2024.

1. Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace.

2. Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. (Annual Meeting for Election and Installation of Officers for 2024); Fireplace.

3. Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. (Short Meeting and Christmas Dinner); Location TBD

An Additional meeting might be called/scheduled if needed for fraternal activities.

Meetings will be held at The Fireplace 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd. Poland, OH 44514; unless otherwise specified, indicated, or announced. For questions or additional information please contact John L. Leskovyansky Jr. at home (330) 549-3788 or by cell (330-559-5981).

Submitted by John L Leskovyansky, Jr., President

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT - NYC

The District 16 annual meeting of the Msgr. Stephen Krasula District in New York City will be held on Sunday, November 10th, 2024, at 1:00pm at the rectory of the St. John Nepomucene Church at 411 E. 66th St. in New York City. The agenda will include discussion of upcoming activities for year 2024. After our meeting, refreshments will be served. We are kindly asking all officers and members to attend.

Submitted by Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Financial Secretary

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT - NYC

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční výročná členská schôdza Okresu č. 16 – Msgr. Stephen Krasula v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v nedeľu 10. novembra, 2024 o 13:00 hodine na fare slovenskeho kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 66th Street a 1st Avenue, New York City. Láskaovo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Autorka textu Renáta Jurášiová-Vasiľ, Pokladníčka

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 17

yahoo.com by July 30, 2024 to reserve your spot. Tickets are \$39.00. Branch 855 members must pay for their ticket in advance and will be reimbursed the cost of the ticket. All non-member guests must pay \$39.00. No refunds for no-shows and the tickets are non-transferable. No reservations will be accepted after July 31st.

Submitted by Stephanie Sutilla,
Fraternal Activities

BRANCH 855 - CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 24 & Branch 855 are co-hosting Christmas in July! Join us for a fun filled day to mingle with fellow members and paint your own ornament Sunday July 28th at 1pm. The event will be held at the Walton Hills Village Hall; 7595 Walton Rd. Walton Hills, OH 44146. Each member will receive a free ornament of your choosing to paint. Non-members are welcome and may purchase and paint an ornament at the discounted cost ranging from \$7-\$10 (cash or check only). All pottery will be fired and ready for pick up in early August (TBA). Please bring your favorite cookie or treat to share. And to show our Fraternalism In Action, we'd like to ask everyone to bring a jar of peanut butter or jelly to donate to a local food bank. This event is guaranteed to be fun for the whole family!

Reservations are required by July 17th. To sign up, please call or text Fran Strekal, Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director, at 216-308-1728 or Stephanie Sutilla, Branch

855 Fraternal Activities Director, at 440-409-9405.

Submitted by Barbara Sutilla, President

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON DC

Plans for the 59th anniversary of our Slovak Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on September 14, 2024 starting a 1:00 with the rosary and 1:30 with the mass. Would like to see more of our branch members come to our meetings and the mass. For more information call Katherine Nowatkoski at 919 -651-0363.

Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski
President and Financial Secretary

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PA

St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 857, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Tuesday, July 16, 2024. This will be a virtual meeting and will begin at 7:30PM. If you wish to attend, please send an email to dnasta@fcsu.com and we'll send you a link to the meeting. The agenda will consist of updates on fraternal events and branch activities.

Submitted by Anthony Nasta,
Recording Secretary



Branch 716 June Events

Lysak & Stedina Family



(L-R) Maria Bozekova, Peter Gaspar, Eva Lysakova, Tatiana Stedinova, Jan Lysak, Jan Skrkon, Tonko Kucharovic and Zelmira Kucharovic

(L-R) Branch 716 members Anna Bilikova, Jan Lysak, Jan Skrkon, Maria Bozekova, and Eva Lysakova



On June 28, 2024, branch members had a fun-filled outing to Coney Island with our new branch members, Jan Stedina and his daughters Karolina and Anna. We're thrilled to have them join our community and look forward to many shared experiences together!

On June 29, 2024, branch 716 held a barbecue-style lunch for members and parishioners at St. John Nepomucene Church to celebrate an early 4th of July as well as the Peter & Pavel name day. Lunch was prepared with hot dogs, burgers, home-made egg salad, and coleslaw which were served by branch members. The event was a success, with many in attendance. We would like to thank everyone who attended and wish everyone a wonderful 4th of July holiday!

Finally, we would like to congratulate Viera Pulver from our branch for receiving the 2024 Jednota Scholarship award! We wish her much success in her academic journey and future endeavors.

Submitted by Emily Lysakova, Recording Secretary

Correction:

In the July issue on page 12, it was mistakenly published the Jednota FCSU Branch 682 Scholarship was in W. Homestead. The correct city of Branch 682 is Youngstown, OH. We thank you for your understanding and congratulate Gianna Cannon on her achievements!



Get ready for some FOOTBALL and the 2024 FCSU Losers' Pool

Are you hard pressed to ever pick a winner? Then try your luck in the 2024 FCSU Losers' Pool. It's easy to play. Each week simply pick one NFL Team that you think will lose their game. Be the best at picking losers to be the big winner!



Contest Entry Rules

- You must be an FCSU member in good standing, age 18 years or older.
- Mail or email the official entry form below to the FCSU. Entry must be received no later than 4 pm ET, Monday, August 26, 2024.
- Once your entry is received you will be sent a link to the Run Your Pool game site where you will enter your player information online. Check your inbox or junk/spam folders for this email from contest@fcsu.com
- The email address on your official entry form must be used for your online registration. The email address may only be used once.
- The **deadline** to enter your information on the official Run Your Pool game site is **Tuesday, September 3, 2024 by 4 pm (ET)**. Late entries will not be accepted.

Making your picks

- Pick one NFL Team each week that you think will LOSE their game
- Picks are "Straight Up", and do not use a point spread
- You may only pick an NFL Team to lose ONCE throughout the 2024 season and playoffs, so pick strategically.
- If your pick (team) loses that week, you advance to the following week!
- The deadline for submitting your pick on the Run your Pool website each week will be determined by the start time of the first NFL game.

You will be eliminated if --

- Your team wins
- Your team's game ends in a tied score
- You miss the deadline to enter your team for that week

Losers' Pool Official Entry

Name _____

Player Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

FCSU Branch # _____

Email _____

Mail to: FCSU, Football Pool, 6611 Rockside Rd, Suite #300, Independence OH, 44131 OR Email to: contest@fcsu.com

Entry form must be received before 4 pm (ET) Monday, August 26, 2024. Sorry, No exceptions. **PLEASE PRINT IN INK.**

Thank You and Good Luck to All!

Minutes Of The Annual Meeting Of The Board Of Directors Of The First Catholic Slovak Union Of The USA And Canada March 16, 2024 Home Office

OPEN MEETING:

President Kenneth Arendt called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM and asked Reverend Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Kevin Collins, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present:

Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain – present
Kenneth A. Arendt, National President – present;
Damian Nasta, National Vice President – present;
Kevin Collins, Executive Secretary – present;
John Tokarsky, National Treasurer – present;
Gregory Maurer, Chairman of Auditors – present;
Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director – present;
Sabina Sabados, Regional Director, Region 1 – present;
Nicole Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2 – present;
Martha Zavada, Regional Director, Region 3 – present;
James Marmol, Regional Director, Region 4 – present;
Bradley Matta, Regional Director, Region 5 – present;
Thomas Ivanec, Regional Director, Region 6 – present;
Timothy Graves, Regional Director, Region 7 – present;
Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Region 8 – present;
Gary J. Matta, General Counsel – present.

READING OF THE CALL:

The Call to the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union was posted on our website and published in the Jednota newspaper.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

President Arendt presented the agenda for the Annual Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by James Marmol and seconded by Bradley Matta to accept the agenda and to allow the President to change the order of the agenda, if necessary, as he presents each item on the agenda with appropriate comments or recommendations. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 16, 2023:

A motion was made by Timothy Graves and seconded by Damian Nasta to accept the minutes of the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting held December 16, 2023, as presented. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEES:

The President appointed the following committees:

DONATION COMMITTEE

Thomas Ivanec
Rev. Thomas Nasta

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

Timothy Graves
Rev. Thomas Nasta
Martha Zavada

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME:

The President welcomed the Board of Directors to the 2024 Annual Meeting.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT:

President Arendt presented his Annual Report for review and answered the Board's questions. The President's report will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

AQS REPORT:

Larry White, representing AQS Asset Management, presented an extensive PowerPoint presentation detailing our Investment Portfolio Transaction Report to the Board of Directors. Each member of the Board received a copy of the presentation in advance for his or her review. During and after the presentation, Larry White answered questions from the Board.

Mr. White reviewed our investment policy and suggested that the allocation to section 144 investments should be raised to 50% based on current economic conditions. A motion was made by Bradley Matta and seconded by Damian Nasta to raise the allocation percentage. Motion carried.

OUTSIDE AUDITORS REPORT:

Stephen Niedenberger, CPA, of the accounting firm of Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP, joined the meeting. Mr. Niedenberger presented his annual report to the Board. He indicated the scope of his work and found all FCSU financial reports in excellent order. Mr. Niedenberger answered all the Board's questions to its satisfaction.

ACTUARIAL REPORT:

Nick DePersis of ENDePersis Fraternal Consulting, Inc., presented his Management's Discussion and Analysis Report and the actuarial report for 2023 from Edward Cowman of Miller & Newburg. Mr. Cowman was available to join the meeting and answer questions, if necessary. Mr. DePersis stated that since each Board member received a copy of both reports, he will not read the entire report, but will just give the highlights. He gave a very extensive positive report for 2023. The FCSU continues to be a well-run profitable fraternal with outstanding financials as noted in our excellent RBC (Risk Based Capital) rating. A motion was made by Gregory Maurer and seconded by Bradley Matta to accept the reports as presented. Motion carried.

A report prepared by Mr. DePersis regarding the FCSU pension plan was distributed to the Board for any questions. The report indicated the plan is in compliance with federal regulations.

Our Actuary, Edward Cowman, recommended that a dividend be paid in 2024 using the same format as used in 2023. A motion was made by Bradley Matta and seconded by Martha Zavada to pay the dividend. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2023:

Executive Secretary's Report

President Arendt presented the financial summary report for the year ending 2023 and answered the Board's questions.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Board of Directors giving a complete update of the investments and all current transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

Portfolio Custodian

The Executive Secretary updated the Board of Directors on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank. Everything was found in order, and he answered the Board's questions.

Investment Updates

The President, Executive Secretary and Treasurer led a review on the investments and transactions with the UBS Fund, MAI Fund, and the Clutterbuck Fund.

Following the reports, the President and the Executive Secretary answered the Board's questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer John Tokarsky presented a detailed Treasurer's Report for 2023 summarizing all the financial reports. The Treasurer's Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS REPORT:

Chairman of Auditors Gregory Maurer presented the 2023 Auditors' Annual Report and found everything in excellent order. Following the report he answered the Board's questions.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The President recognized the Executive Secretary Kevin Collins, who presented his annual report to the Board of Directors.

The Executive Secretary stated that our trademark of the new FCSU logo has been approved for use on new business cards and letterhead. He presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation on rebranding our new website, a new seminar presentation for the Branches/Districts to use at their meetings and changes in our newspaper.

The Executive Secretary stated that we are on Facebook.

The Executive Secretary stated that we are launching a television commercial to test run on the local Fox 8 TV station in Cleveland.

The Executive Secretary stated that we are advertising on the Slovak radio station and during the Cleveland Guardian baseball games.

The Executive Secretary presented an update to the Matching Funds Program. Once all the details are finalized, the program will be printed in our Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

The Executive Secretary presented a new Fraternalism in Action program to help Branches

Minutes Of The Annual Meeting Of The Board Of Directors

continued from page 21

get more involved in fraternalism. Once all the details are finalized it will be printed in our Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

The Executive Secretary stated that we are working on getting licensed in 11 additional states to expand our marketing base.

The Executive Secretary stated that we are looking for better ways to recruit independent agents to sell our products.

The Executive Secretary's Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

The President recognized Director of Fraternal Activities Joanne Fibbi, who presented a detailed report of all the 2023 activities to the Board of Directors.

The following activities are upcoming in 2024: the FCSU Bowling Tournament on April 26-27, 2024, the FCSU Golf Tournament July 12-14, 2024, and two National Picnics: one at Knoebels Amusement Resort and Golf Tournament in Elysburg, Pennsylvania on June 22, 2024 and the other at Wiegand Lake Park in Novelty, Ohio on August 10, 2024. She is also working on a fall festival to be held in early October.

Fraternal Activities Director Joanne Fibbi stated that the FCSU bowling and golf tournaments will not be a joint venture with other fraternal societies.

Fraternal Activities Director Joanne Fibbi stated that she is working on an activity calendar listing all of our fraternal activities to be published in our Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

She also thanked Rev. Thomas Nasta for holding the online Easter basket blessing.

The Director of Fraternal Activities Report will be posted on the FCSU website at <https://www.fcsu.com/>.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND NATIONAL CHAPLAIN:

The Regional Directors and the National Chaplain presented their annual reports and answered the Board's questions.

All reports will be posted on the FCSU website at <https://www.fcsu.com/>.

ACTUARIAL FIRM:

The President requested a motion to re-appoint Edward Cowman of Miller & Newberg as our Actuary. A motion was made by Thomas Ivanec and seconded by Bradley Matta. Motion carried.

JEDNOTA INC.:

The President requested a motion to re-appoint himself, Kevin Collins, James Marmol, Gary Matta and Damian Nasta to the Jednota, Inc. Board of Directors.

A motion was made by Rev. Thomas Nasta and seconded by Bradley Matta. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Executive Committee Meetings. He stated that in accordance with the Bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Executive Committee meets monthly and whenever else it is necessary to take care of the business of the Society.

Investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the investment policy adopted by the Board of Directors. All investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee members work very closely with the Society's Investment Advisor, AQS Asset Management.

Pension Committee

The Executive Secretary gave an update on the current FCSU Pension Plan which was passed out to the Board of Directors for review. He stated that we are in full compliance with all federal regulations and answered the Board's questions.

Scholarship Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Scholarship Committee, which is comprised of three independent professionals led by Father Gerard Gonda, OSB. Applications for the current FCSU scholarship program are being received and they will be sent to the Scholarship Committee. The Executive Secretary also gave a report on the Jednota Benevolent Foundation and answered the Board's questions.

MIDDLETOWN MEMORIAL:

The President stated that he has been in contact with the landscapers for the Memorial in Middletown, Pennsylvania. They will work on planting new flowers, trim overgrown shrubs, and power wash the Memorial.

BUDGET COMPARISON:

The President led a review of actual expenditures vs. what was budgeted for 2023. Everything was all inline as budgeted. He answered the Board's questions.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL:

General Counsel Gary Matta gave his 2023 report and answered the Board's questions.

OFFICE RENOVATIONS:

The President stated that the office renovations have been completed and gave a tour of the office to the Board of Directors. The Board was very pleased with the results.

The President stated that he will publish an article with pictures in the Jednota newspaper on the office remodel.

SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM FOR 2024

The President stated that we are receiving applications for the 2024 FCSU Scholarships. The applications will be sent to the scholarship committee for review. The winners will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

DONATION COMMITTEE:

All donation requests were reviewed. A motion was made by Thomas Ivanec and seconded by Sabina Sabados to accept the recommendations of the committee. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING:

A motion was made by Nicole Nasta and seconded by Gregory Maurer to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF ALL REPORTS:

A motion was made by James Marmol and seconded by Milos Mitro to accept all the reports as presented. Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Milos Mitro and seconded by Martha Zavada to adjourn. Motion carried.

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with a Mass and memorial service for our deceased members and officers.

Kenneth A. Arendt
President

Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary

FCSU MEMBER PORTAL ACCESS

Right at your fingertips!



As an FCSU member you are now able to LOG IN & PAY online anytime!

CREATE

- Go to www.fcsu.com
- Click MEMBER LOGIN
- Click **Create Account**
- Enter the required information
- Create your username & password
- Click Create User

VERIFY

- Verify your phone number and click TEXT
- Enter the 4 digit code and click OK
- Congratulations! You've created your account!

LOG IN

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Minutes Of The Executive Committee Meeting Friday, May 17, 2024 Videoconference

OPEN MEETING:

President Kenneth A. Arendt opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and asked Damian Nasta to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Kenneth A. Arendt, National President (videoconference)
Damian Nasta, National Vice President (videoconference)
Kevin J. Collins, Executive Secretary (videoconference)
John Tokarsky, Treasurer (videoconference)
Nicole Nasta, Regional Director (by invitation of the President) (videoconference)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE APRIL MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the April 19, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by John Tokarsky and seconded by Damian Nasta to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White and Byron White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction and Review Report to the Executive Committee. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, they answered the Committee's questions.

Mr. White explained a new procedure set up by Key Bank to process trade tickets. This process is to insure the trade tickets are processed on a timely basis.

The President led a discussion on the first quarter financial statement. He reviewed the highlights and answered the Committee's questions. The statement will be sent to the Board and published in the Jednota newspaper.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer John Tokarsky presented his monthly written Treasurer's report to the Executive Committee. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

Annuity Rates:
The President led a discussion on the current annuity rates.

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

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates
The President and 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 President and the Executive Secretary presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the first quarter of 2024 and answered the Committee's questions.

Portfolio Review
The President and 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. The President stated he will invite representatives from MAI, UBS and Clutterbuck to attend a future Executive Meeting to review our investment portfolios.

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages
The President and the Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of April 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 April:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Death Benefits & Accumulations | \$ 252,471.00 |
| Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations | \$ 53,091.00 |
| Matured Endowments & Accumulations | \$ 0.00 |
| Trust Fund | \$ 0.00 |

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report.

The Committee reviewed the remainder of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary

answered all questions.

The President led a review of our FHLB advances and their current rates for possible future advancements.

OFFICE RENOVATIONS:

The President stated that the office renovations are 98% complete and pictures of the office will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

CYBER SECURITY:

The President stated that to stay in compliance with the states, we hired an outside firm to initiate a cybersecurity program. All information will be documented and filed with the states we are licensed in.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Executive Secretary stated that commercials for FCSU are now running on local TV station Fox 8 and we have had an excellent response.

The Home Office is also working on a new program to recruit independent agents and a new insurance promotional program.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

The President stated that the Fraternal Activities Director is working with the Home Office on the upcoming golf tournament on July 12-14, two National picnics on June 22 at Knoebels Amusement Resort and on August 10 at Wiegand Lake Park and a family picnic on October 5. She is also working on upcoming events.

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 Damian Nasta and seconded by John Tokarsky to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Damian Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Kenneth A. Arendt
President

Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary

Answer to Crossword Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 15

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