

ZORNIČKA

Ladies
Pennsylvania
Slovak
Catholic
Union



1898-2009

MORNING STAR

Vol. 68, No. 814 November-December 2009

LPSCU Announces ~ **2009 Post-Graduate Award Recipients**



COLIN J. ACKERMAN

of Bethlehem, PA
Master of Science
East Stroudsburg University
East Stroudsburg, PA
Member of Branch 83
Bethlehem, PA



NICOLE CHMARNEY

of Dallas, PA
Master of Business Admin.
Wilkes University
Wilkes-Barre, PA
Member of Branch 7
Exeter, PA



CAROLYN STOOPS

of Cleveland Heights, OH
Master of Arts in Psychology
Cleveland State University
Cleveland, OH
Member of Branch 38
Whitehall, PA

& **2009 Bishop Grutka Scholarship Recipient**



ANTHONY C. BUCHA

of Center Valley, PA
Freshman
Lehigh Carbon
Community College
Schnecksville, PA
Member of Branch 38
Whitehall, PA

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Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

- 14** — Free Slovak film showing: "If I Had a Gun" at 1:00 p.m. at South Side Library, 2205 E. Carson Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- 14** — Dinner commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association, at 6:00 p.m. at the Slovak Social Club, 2912 E. Carson Street, South Side, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Reservations are necessary. Tickets are \$35.00 per person. (See page 21 for more details.)
- 18** — Friends of Slovakia Gala Dinner in Washington, D.C.
- 20** — **Deadline to submit articles for January/February Zornicka.**
- 29** — Rev. Baloga Okres annual Christmas Party. Location to be announced. Branches 163 and 180 will host.

DECEMBER

- 5** — LPSCU Teleconference Meeting
- 6** — Rev. Dianiska District's annual Christmas Party at Wyoming Hose Company, 3rd Street, Wyoming, Pennsylvania. Branches 37, 58, and 94 will host. Please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to local food banks. Contact your Branch Secretary before November 23rd to make a reservation.
- 6** — Lehigh Valley Okres Christmas Party in the Lehigh Room, Best Western Lehigh Valley Hotel and Conference Center, 300 Gateway Drive, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, beginning at 12:00 noon. Call your Okres officers or Branch Secretary by November 30th to make a reservation.
- 9** — Msgr. Beeda District Christmas Party at St. Joseph's Rectory, 600 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania, beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- 9** — Fraternal Societies of Northeastern Pennsylvania Christmas Social.
- 13** — Pittsburgh District Christmas Party at the Comfort Inn, Penn Hills, Pennsylvania, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

JANUARY 2010

- 20** — **Deadline to submit articles for March/April Zornicka.**
- 22** — Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. (See page 6 for details.)

MARCH

- 1** — Deadline to nominate a member as our 2010 Fraternalist of the Year. (See page 15.)
- 1** — Deadline to nominate a member for our 2010 Youth Achievement Award. (See page 15.)
- 8-9** — Slovak Catholic Federation Meeting, Cleveland, Ohio
- 12-14** — LPSCU Annual Meeting
- 20** — **Deadline to submit articles for June/July Zornicka.**



(USPS 699-520)

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Margaret A. Ferri, 428 East Frankford Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018; 610/866-8945

Spiritual Advisor's Message

Christmas is for Children!



Fr. Altavilla

At Christmastime, a favorite activity is the singing of Christmas carols. As quoted in the article, "A History of Christmas Carols," by Karen Sutherland in the December 2007 issue of *The Priest* magazine, Maria Von Trapp (whose life was immortalized in "The Sound of Music") wrote: "Singing at Christmas goes back to the early centuries of Christianity. It is the oldest of those innumerable folk customs still alive throughout the world during the Christmas season."

As a child in grade school, I can fondly recall learning many Christmas carols in English, Slovak, and even Italian. Treasured in many different languages, our Christmas carols are the beautiful means to make the Christmas story come alive.

It is believed that Saint Francis of Assisi, back in 1223, was the first to build a life-size manger scene so that people could visualize the Nativity of Our Lord. He would have live people – and animals – play the roles of those who were present for the birth of Jesus. Francis would also encourage people to sing songs about Christmas. Many credit Francis not only with developing the use of the manger scene, but also with beginning the art of caroling.

Some will say that Christmas carols are a means of evangelization. Evangelization is the process by which the Gospel message is shared with others. Each of us, through baptism, is called to engage in the work of evangelization. Written by a variety of authors and composers and sung by all of us, Christmas carols help to share the Gospel message of the birth of the One who came to save us from our sins.

As the angel reminds the shepherds, "This is Good News of great joy that is for all the people!" There are many in the world today who long to hear this Good News of God's love for them. The celebration of Christmas reminds us, as we read in the Gospel of John, that "God so loved the world that God sent his only Son so that all who believe in the Son might have eternal life." At Christmas, we rejoice in the fact that the Father sent his Son, Jesus, not to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through him. We sing of this reality in our Christmas carols.

I have always found that no matter what mood people might be in, if someone starts singing a Christmas carol, and people join in, everyone really lightens up and the joy of the season seems to help melt away any negativity or coldness of heart. It is in the simplicity of singing these carols that we can find the depth of the Christmas message and also the call that Jesus extends to each of us to share the light of his love with others. Children especially teach us this reality when they experience the joy of the Christmas season, even through the singing of favorite Christmas carols.

In a recent edition of *Connections* (ideas, resources, information for homilists and preachers), a beautiful story is

shared from a 1988 book, *Family Centered Intergenerational Religious Education (FIRE)* by Catholic educator and author Kathleen Chesto.

Kathleen tells of the December evening her family gathered to light their Advent wreath. She asked her daughter what song they should sing as they lighted the candles.

"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," the five-year-old said. "But we should sing a 'Jesus song,'" Mom insisted.

Her daughter was equally insistent that "Rudolph" was a Jesus song, but could not explain why. As her eyes filled with tears trying to articulate her reasons, Dad said quietly to Mom, "You're making too much out of this . . . anything can be a prayer."

. . . children possess an uncomplicated but genuine, straight-to-the-heart understanding of the things of God . . .

So they sang "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." And Mom had a revelation: "Have you ever listened, really listened, to the words of 'Rudolph'? How he was an outcast and was laughed at and excluded? Sounds a lot like the Suffering Servant songs in the prophet Isaiah. And how did Jesus come to us? As a light, on Christmas Eve, bringing us gifts."

When they had finished singing, Mom shared her newfound insight with her daughter. "You meant that Jesus suffered, too, and that he comes as a light on Christmas."

"Yes, Mommy!" she responded, delighted that Mom had finally overcome her stupidity.

As we seek to share the true message of Christmas, this story, and the Christmas carol it highlights, reminds us that children possess an uncomplicated but genuine, straight-to-the-heart understanding of the things of God that for some reason we adults sadly outgrow. In a profound, yet simple way, Kathleen's daughter recognizes that like Rudolph, Jesus was rejected for being different yet he helps to guide people through the darkness. Although we may not hear this Christmas carol at Midnight Mass, this child's interpretation of the song helps us better understand who Jesus is and who we are called to be, as we seek to lead others through the darkness of sin and evil in the world.

As we get older, we each experience a variety of situations which can turn some folks into cold, bitter, and angry people. If Christmas is for children, than perhaps each of us – especially us "know-it-all" adults – should pray hard for a renewal of "child-like faith." Such a faith never becomes discouraged, never becomes cynical or jaded, and never ceases to be amazed and grateful for the many ways God reveals His presence in our lives.

How many of us have marveled at the excitement in the eyes of a child on Christmas morning as they look at the gifts that are before them under the Christmas tree? The faith of a

continued on page 24

A Fun New Contest ~

WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE LPSCU FAMILY WITH THE MOST MEMBERS!

In keeping with our LPSCU motto, "From Generation to Generation," we are seeking the LPSCU Family that has the greatest number of current LPSCU members. Current LPSCU family members includes parents, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, in-laws, brothers, sisters, and their families. The family with the greatest number of current LPSCU members in its family tree will have the family's name imprinted on a Leaf on our LPSCU Tree of Life which adorns the lobby of our Home Office in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

If you think your family could be the one, please complete the following FAMILY ENTRY FORM, listing the total number of current LPSCU members in your family. Mail the form to Cecilia B. Gaughan, LPSCU Fraternal Activities Director, 325 Florida Avenue, Whitehall, PA 18052 or e-mail the form to cbgaughan@msn.com **before June 30, 2010**. If you have any questions, call Ceil at 610/433-4610. If your family's number turns out to be the highest, you will be contacted and asked to submit a list of family members.

**ENTRY FORM
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM**

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/ZIP _____
 Phone and/or E-mail address _____
 Number of LPSCU Family Members _____

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

(Act of October 23, 1962, Section 4369, Title 39 U.S. Code.)
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Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions	0	0
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Total Paid Distribution	5,717	5,714
Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County	0	0
Free or Nominal Rate In-County	0	0
Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other	0	0
Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail	0	0
Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution	0	0
Total Distribution	5,717	5,714
Copies not Distributed	258	261
Total	5,975	5,975
Percent Paid	100%	100%

Publication of Statement of Ownership will be printed in the November/December issue of this publication

CENSUS 2010 - It's In Our Hands

The U.S. Constitution requires that a population and housing count be taken every 10 years. This information is used to determine our congressional representation and how much funding is allocated to each community for senior citizens' programs, schools, health care services, and much more. Census Day is April 1, 2010.



In March 2010, you will receive a short questionnaire from the U.S. Census. Please take a few minutes to answer 10 easy questions. Questionnaires are available in six different languages. All responses are confidential. The 2010 Census is easy, important, and safe. Visit www.2010census.gov for more information.

Let your voice be heard. You count!

Letters

Dear Ladies,

Thank you for selecting me for the Catholic High School Award. I appreciate your help in paying for my high school education.

Sincerely,
Kelsey Crossin
 Branch 122
 Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Kluchinski,

It was an honor to be selected as a scholarship winner by the LPSCU. With the cost of college continuing to escalate, awards are so much appreciated for college expenses. I would like to thank the LPSCU for their continued dedication to youth in offering these educational benefits. I am very much looking forward to my work and experience at St. Joe's this coming year.

Sincerely,
Michael M. Klophaus
 Branch 38
 Whitehall, Pennsylvania

*The National Officers and Staff
of the LPSCU
Wish You and Yours
a Very Happy Thanksgiving,
a Joyous and Blessed
Holiday Season,
and a New Year Filled
with Health and Happiness!*



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*Radosne Vianoce sviatky
a Bohom pozehnany Novy Rok!
Linktu jum's geru, In. Kaledu
te mieldu bei laimingu Naujiju Metu!*

A Message from Our Episcopal Protector

BISHOP'S RESIDENCE
Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown
Christmas 2009



Most Rev. Adamec

“When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, Magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage’”(Mt. 2:1-2).

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union,

The Christmas Season, unlike any other, gives me a good feeling – one of security and peace, a sense that everything will be all right. I do not think that I am alone in this, nor was it absent with the shepherds or the Magi. After all, the long-expected One had arrived!

Soon after the birth of Jesus, however, when He was presented in the temple, Mary and Joseph heard Simon prophesize, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted. . . .” This was followed by the Holy Family having to flee to Egypt and the massacre of a multitude of boys, in an effort to kill Jesus.

The Apostles had a difficult time understanding this totality of the Lord’s mission. They wanted to accept His teachings, but found them difficult because they did not understand that it involved entering into the very life of Christ. That life included acceptance of unpleasant situations, the way of the cross. May we be different and, perhaps, more like Simon and the Magi.

I pray that our observance of the birth of the Savior be an observance not only of Jesus’ birth into the history of humankind, but a birth into our personal lives as well. In all of life’s situations – be they pleasant or difficult – may we find peace and joy knowing that the Christ was born to free us from the prisons of this world.

That is my wish for you – so that you will truly have ***a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year of 2010!***

Fraternally yours in the Lord,
+ *Joseph*
(Most Rev.) Joseph V. Adamec
Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown
Protector, LPSCU

REV. DIANISKA DISTRICT

The Reverend Dianiska District's Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 6, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the Wyoming Hose Company, 3rd Street, Wyoming, Pennsylvania. The event will be hosted by Branches 37, 52, and 94.

Members should contact their Branch Secretary by November 23 to make a reservation. Branch Secretaries are asked to contact Margaret Jollimore with the total count by November 25.

Susan Worth

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Members of the Pittsburgh District met on September 20, 2009, at the Eat 'N' Park at the Waterfront, Homestead, Pennsylvania, to discuss upcoming events. Following a delicious spaghetti lunch, a raffle was held, with raffle prizes generously donated by members. Pictured below are some of the members who attended.

Sylvia Goda



Support Your Local Branch
— Participate in Branch Activities —

In Memoriam

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

— Matthew v.5

Name	Branch	Location
*Mary Hawley	6	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Martha Souchak	9	Mahanoy City, PA
Margaret Tortorello	19	Swoyersville, PA
Anna M. Pladziejewicz	21	West Lake, MA
*Helen L. Arlotto	33	Hazleton, PA
Mary Kapral	42	Pittsburgh, PA
Ann T. Ruprecht	64	Pittsburgh, PA
George J. Wasko	65	Munhall, PA
Sarah Ballough	65	Munhall, PA
William J. Lucas, Sr.	72	Stratford, CT
Mary K. Toth	77	Lorain, OH
Eleanor Bucsanyi	79	Whiting, IN
Mary D. Kacar	83	Bethlehem, PA
Anna Cirkel	132	Youngstown, OH
Helen Gora	132	Youngstown, OH
Florence Trubitva	132	Cleveland, OH
Anna Kovalick	134	Luzerne, PA
John Soberick	156	Coaldale, PA
Josephine Klementovic	156	Coaldale, PA
*Anthony M. Zahora	156	Coaldale, PA
Anna Phillipovich	156	Coaldale, PA
Adele Kapushinskiene	197	Wilkes-Barre, PA
*Johanna F. Batory	197	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Stanley Wolanin	197	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Genovaite Orlauskis	L0100	Chicago, IL

**Multiple certificates*

37TH ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE

Friday, January 22, 2010 - Washington, D.C.

For the past several years, members of the LPSCU have been invited to participate in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. The LPSCU is proud to join other Slovak/Catholic fraternal organizations (First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, First Catholic Slovak Union, and the Slovak Catholic Sokol) in this peaceful demonstration showing our support of and respect for the unborn.

Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton Area

A bus will leave Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, with a stop in Hazleton, Pennsylvania. Local Branches and Districts help sponsor the cost of members wanting to attend. Anyone interested in attending can call Theresa Kluchinski at 888/834-6614 or 570/823-3515 for more information.

Cleveland/Pittsburgh Area

A bus will leave Cleveland, Ohio, with a stop in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Anyone interested in attending can call Mary Ann Johaneck at 888/464-4642. Area students can participate at no charge.

Minutes of the Executive Finance Committee

Home Office, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

August 19, 2009

President Theresa Kluchinski called the meeting to order and offered a prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Attendees: Theresa Kluchinski, president; Anita Gregory, vice president; Mary Jo Savidge, secretary-treasurer; and Mary Ann Ewasko, chairperson of trustees. The committee reviewed and accepted the Minutes from the July 22, 2009, Executive Finance Committee meeting.

Requests

The committee acknowledged all requests and approved the following:

- ❖ Ohio Fraternal Congress requesting a donation for their 92nd Annual Meeting. *Approved \$100.00*
- ❖ Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress requesting donation for scholarship program and charitable project. *Approved \$50.00 for each*
- ❖ Polish Union of the USA requesting an ad in their 31st Anniversary Debutante Ball program book. *Approved \$100.00*

Financial Statement

The committee reviewed the following checking accounts as of July 31, 2009: M&T Bank – General Operating Account, M&T Bank – Home Office Checking Account and Smith Barney Checking Account.

Bond/Stock/Pension Portfolio

The committee was provided copies of all reports from July 31, 2009, reviewing all activity, including CDs, Common Stocks, Preferred Stocks, Bonds and International Investments. Schedule D – Part 3 and Part 4 will be reviewed quarterly. The Employee Retirement Plan was also reviewed.

The committee reviewed the LPSCU Statement of Investment Policy Objectives and Guidelines.

Other Business

The committee discussed the following: Unclaimed Property; President Kluchinski and Secretary-Treasurer Savidge's meeting with the Ambassador of Slovakia in Washington, D.C.; dental plan; and staff.

There being no further business, the EFC adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jo Savidge
National Secretary-Treasurer

September 23, 2009

President Theresa Kluchinski called the meeting to order and offered a prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Attendees: Theresa Kluchinski, president; Anita Gregory, vice president; Mary Jo Savidge, secretary-treasurer; and Mary Ann Ewasko, chairperson of trustees. The committee reviewed and accepted the Minutes from the August 19, 2009, Executive Finance Committee meeting.

Requests

The committee acknowledged all requests and approved the following:

- ❖ Western Pennsylvania Slovak Hour requesting the purchase of tickets for the 27th Annual Dinner-Dance Celebration at \$35.00 each and an ad in the program book. *Approved 10 tickets and \$100.00 ad*
- ❖ Slovak Benedictine Fathers requesting donation for Mass. *Approved \$25.00 for Mass for the deceased members of the LPSCU*
- ❖ President Kluchinski recommended a donation to the Indiana Fraternal Congress of \$50.00. *Approved*
- ❖ President Kluchinski recommended a \$50.00 donation for the Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress towards a basket for their Fraternal Night. Proceeds go towards the Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress Scholarship Fund. *Approved*

Financial Statement

The committee reviewed the following checking accounts as of August 31, 2009: M&T Bank – General Operating Account, M&T Bank – Home Office Checking Account, and the Smith Barney Checking Account.

Bond/Stock/Pension Portfolio

The committee was provided copies of all reports from August 31, 2009, reviewing all activity, including CDs, Common Stocks, Preferred Stocks, Bonds and International Investments. The Employee Retirement Plan was also reviewed.

Other Business

The following was discussed and approved: Comprehensive Microfilm and Scanning will store our scanned data, for which we will be billed annually.

There being no further business, the EFC adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jo Savidge
National Secretary-Treasurer

Thanks...

FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

Once again this year, we had a very gratifying response to our call to honor our recent graduates and our veterans/active military through your tributes in our magazine. The salute to our 2009 grads can be found on pages 18 and 19 of this issue, and the military tribute appears in the centerfold. Again this year, your generous contributions are being sent to the Catholic War Veterans. We appreciate all of you who took the time to participate in these two fraternal projects and we look forward to continuing to bring these worthwhile activities to our members.

Cecilia B. Gaughan, Fraternal Activities Director

Kidz' Korner

This poem was written by Mary Beth Gaughan for a 7th grade class writing assignment. Mary Beth, 12, is now an 8th grade student at the Lionsville Middle School in Downingtown, Pennsylvania. She is a member of Branch 38 in Whitehall, Pennsylvania.

'Twas the Hour Before Bedtime

*'Twas the hour before bedtime and I was tired,
Though I wouldn't admit it, my energy expired.
I trudged up the stairway to wash my face,
Staring blankly at the bleak empty space.*

*And soon I was done, with scrubbing my head,
I was thinking about myself in the bed.
I quickly put on my PJs with care,
I wanted to fall into slumber with my bear.*

*I brushed out my hair, and heard my parents knock,
Then I looked upward and glanced at the clock.
Fifteen 'til ten, and it's time to hurry,
Now I would finally start to scurry.*

*Now I squeezed out the contents onto my hands,
The lotion spilled out onto my nightstand.
I ate my snack, getting food on my teeth,
I grabbed my toothbrush, in the cupboard underneath.*

*As I opened my book, my marker fell out,
I'll hurry and finish my book before they shout.
My parents came in, at ten, right on queue,
It's time for 'lights out,' and that one I knew.*

*I soon drifted off, at who knows what time,
I woke up the next morning, and it was a crime.
As I lay in my bed, thinking of sleep,
Time to get up, said my clock with a beep.*

If you would like to contribute a poem you have written, a piece of your own artwork, a review of a book you have read, or tell us about a hobby or sport you enjoy or an instrument you play, please send your information to Kidz' Korner, c/o Cecilia Gaughan, 325 Florida Avenue, Whitehall, PA 18052 (or email Ceil at cbgaughan@msn.com). Be sure to include your name, address, Branch number, and a phone or email where you can be contacted if we have any questions. Kidz' Korner is your column! We look forward to your participation.

5% For First Year!

LPSCU Introduces New Flexible Annuity

Effective November 1, 2009, the LPSCU will offer a Flexible Annuity. The LPSCU Board of Directors has approved the first year interest rate of 5%. For more information on our NEW FLEXIBLE ANNUITY, contact Theresa Kluchinski at the LPSCU Home Office: toll free 888/834-6614, local 570/823-3513, or e-mail theresa@lpacu.org.

Member Receives Goldwater Scholarship Honorable Mention



Katherine Tsamis

Katherine Tsamis recently received a 2009 Honorable Mention from the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation.

Kathy will graduate in December 2009 from Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, with a Bachelor's degree in Biology. She launched her research career in the Schnable Laboratory's Maize Genome Mapping Project as part of ISU'S Freshmen Honors Mentor Program. She also held summer research positions at Duke University Medical Center's Institute for Genome Sciences and Policy and the Mayo Clinic Medical School's Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program.

In addition to her work in the laboratory, Kathy served as a Freshman Honors Program Leader, a Destination Iowa State team leader, and is a Residence Hall Community Advisor and Academic Tutor. She plans a career using science in the clinic to enhance medical diagnostic methods and treatment options.

Kathy is a member of LPSCU Branch 210. Her proud grandfather is George Havrilla of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Congratulations, Kathy, on being a stellar student and an achiever. Keep up the good work. The LPSCU is proud of you!

New Insurance Issued

State	Branch Representative	Aug/Sep 2009	Year-to-Date Total
PA	Mary Ann Ackerman	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 63,000.00
PA	Joan Ellen Frendak	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
PA	Elva Silay	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 41,000.00
PA	Cecilia B. Gaughan		\$ 36,000.00
PA	Jean Kosalko		\$ 30,000.00
PA	Margaret A. Ferri		\$ 30,000.00
PA	Ann Tirpak		\$ 20,000.00
IN	Joan T. Hladek	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
PA	Mary Ann Ewasko	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
IN	Ann Dobias		\$ 10,000.00
PA	Charles Simalchik		\$ 10,000.00
PA	Anita Gregory		\$ 10,000.00
IL	Mary Ann Siska	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
PA	James Tomasic		\$ 6,000.00
OH	Lucille Komorosky	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
PA	Elizabeth Pipon		\$ 6,000.00
PA	Agnes McLaren		\$ 5,000.00
PA	Theresa Kluchinski	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
PA	Janice Mathews	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
PA	Verna Prawdzik		\$ 4,000.00
PA	Cecilia Sarocky		\$ 4,000.00
PA	Br. Joseph Venonsky		\$ 3,000.00
		\$ 56,000.00	\$ 396,000.00

UTILIZATION REPORT

	For July 2009	Year-to-Date 2009
Prescriptions Filled:	24	154
Normal Retail Pricing:	\$ 950.68	\$ 6,675.95
ScriptSave Pricing:	\$ 735.52	\$ 4,488.16
Total Dollars Saved		
by LPSCU Cardholders:	\$ 215.16	\$ 2,187.79
Average Saved per		
Discounted Prescription:	\$ 11.95	\$ 19.19
Overall LPSCU Discounted Prescription Savings:	25.22%	35.52%

Our group's discounted prescription savings for July 2009 amounted to 25.22%. During these tough economic times, a ScriptSave® card will provide savings to you on your prescriptions. The ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Program is available to you at **NO COST** from the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union. There are **no monthly or ongoing fees, no limits on usage, and no income or age restrictions**. Your entire household can use the card to receive substantial savings on brand name and generic prescriptions at over 54,000 participating pharmacies nationwide.

Everyone Can Save!

Use your ScriptSave® card for any brand name or generic prescription you or a family member pays for out-of-pocket. If you have health insurance coverage, use your ScriptSave® card for any prescriptions that are not covered by your insurance or for savings for your family members not covered by insurance. The ScriptSave® card also provides savings on prescriptions that are excluded by Medicare Part D law, if you have Medicare and are enrolled in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan.

The ScriptSave® card provides you:

- Average savings of more than 23%, or more than \$13.00 per prescription, (based on national program savings data) on both brand name and generic prescriptions for you and your entire household.
- Easy access to everything you need – right online! Look up drug prices, find a pharmacy nearby and get answers to your questions.

Any LPSCU member (including the membership of LCA) can receive a ScriptSave® card at no cost. If you are interested in receiving a ScriptSave® card, please contact the Home Office at lpescu@lpescu.org. You are eligible for the card as long as you are a member of the LPSCU (or LCA) in good standing.

DISCOUNT ONLY—NOT INSURANCE. This program is not an insurance policy and does not provide insurance coverage. Discounts are available exclusively through participating pharmacies. AR, SC, SD, and TN residents: You may cancel your registration under this program within thirty (30) days from the date your discount card is issued.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009

Trustee Joan Hladek Elected IFC President

The Indiana Fraternal Congress held its Annual Meeting on August 28-29, 2009, in Indianapolis, Indiana, at which time LPSCU National Trustee, Joan Hladek was elected as President for the 2009-2010 term on the Congress.

Joan has served on the IFC for many years, working her way up through the chairs to this top office.

The LPSCU would like to thank Joan for all her work with the Indiana Fraternal Congress. We wish her the very best as she embarks on her presidential year!



Pictured with Joan (center) and in attendance at the IFC Annual Meeting are LPSCU National President Theresa Kluchinski (right) and LPSCU National Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge (left).

Cooking Corner

PUMPKIN BARS

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 cup oil | 4 eggs |
| 2 cups sugar | 1 (15 oz.) can pumpkin |
| 1 tsp. baking soda | 2 tsp. cinnamon |
| 2 cups flour | ½ tsp. salt |
| 2 tsp. baking powder | |

Cream together the oil, eggs, and sugar; blend pumpkin and baking soda to creamed mixture. Mix salt, baking powder, cinnamon, and flour together and add to creamed mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes in a 9x13 baking pan with sides.

Frosting

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 3 oz. cream cheese | ¾ stick margarine |
| 1 tsp. milk | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 1½ cup powdered sugar | |

Beat together cream cheese, margarine, milk, and vanilla until smooth. Gradually add powdered sugar to mixture and beat until creamy. Spread frosting over cooled cake and cut into bars.



Richard Wilson Becomes an Eagle Scout



Richard Wilson

Richard Wilson, a member of Boy Scout Troop 22, received the rank of Eagle Scout on May 15, 2009. Troop 22 is chartered by St. Christine Church in Youngstown, Ohio. The Scout Master is Matt Sweely.

Richie has earned 27 merit badges over the course of his scouting adventures and has been a very active part of Troop 22. He has served as patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, den chief, and scribe for his troop. He has also earned his five-year pipestone award and his religious emblem.

For his Eagle project, Richie worked with Joyce Gottran, park supervisor of Austintown Township Park, in a landscaping project in May of 2008. He raised the needed funding through donations and led his troop in a bringing the project to a successful conclusion.

Richie is in honors classes at Fitch High School and will be graduating in 2010. He is on the Fitch High School bowling team and bowls on a league at Boardman Lanes. He also holds a part-time job and plans to attend college after graduation to study engineering.

Richard is the son of Rich and Angie Wilson of Canfield, Ohio. He and his mother belong to Youngstown Branch 159.

The LPSCU congratulates Richard on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. We are proud of his accomplishment and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

LPSCU Presents Catholic High School Awards

LPSCU National President Theresa Kluchinski and National Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge recently presented 2009 Catholic High School Awards to three of our 2009 recipients. The awardees attend Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The presentation was made on the second day of the new school year and the administration of Holy Redeemer graciously allowed us to present the awards personally.



Pictured L-R: Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge, President Theresa Kluchinski, Michelle Druby (Branch 7), Kelsey Crossin (Branch 122), Alexander Nicholas (Branch 17), and Holy Redeemer High School Principal James Redington.

In honor of Veterans Day, November 11, we publish the following poem submitted by Elva Silay, LPSCU Branch 64, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, reprinted with permission of George Lichauer, Adj., Riverview Post 681, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Poppies Grow Again in Flanders

The Minnesota Legionnaire, October 1944

In Flanders Fields again they grow.
Between the crosses row on row,
The brilliant hue of poppies red,
Mark new-filled graves of brave men, dead!
The larks still bravely singing, fly,
'Tho death rides master of the sky.
And in the fading evening light,
Stand crosses new, unweathered, white!

And added are the thousands more,
The crosses on some distant shore;
In jungles dense, in northern lands,
On mountain heights, on desert sand,
Each points its finger to the sky,
Accusing men, both you and I;
Accusing that we soon forgot
The freedoms they so dearly bought!

What will ye then,
Ye foolish men,
Forget so soon the lesson taught?
Shall tears and sorrows go for naught?
Nay, gird thy loin for greater work,
That greater task no man may shirk;
Pick up the torch and dedicate –
Thy will to peace not born in hate!

Carl Lundgren

Minneapolis North Side Post
Department Chairman of WW II Liaison

LPSCU Offers Group Dental Insurance Plan

Caring for your teeth should be part of a sound health care program. Yet such basic care can cost hundreds—if not thousands—of dollars annually. Now you can enjoy important dental protection designed specifically to meet the needs of you and your family. As a member of LPSCU, you are entitled to quality dental insurance at economical group rates.

Dental care isn't cheap. Why risk paying expensive dental bills out of your own pocket? Go online and visit www.membersdental.com/lpsc to start taking advantage of the LPSCU Group Dental Insurance Plan today or call 1-866-795-6128 for more information.



Steve Bacon, President, Youngstown Sister Cities



Steve Bacon

Steve Bacon, co-founder of Youngstown-Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities (YSC), died on August 29, 2009, in Youngstown, Ohio. He was 93 years old.

Prior to retiring in 1980, Steve was president of Poling and Bacon Construction Company, which he founded in 1946. The company was the first pipeline to carry coal. It built pipelines and gas tank farms in 19 states and fueling facilities in major airports around the country. Upon

Steve's retirement, the operation of the company was taken over by his sons.

As president of Youngstown Sister Cities, Steve was responsible for sending 42 teachers of English to Nova Ves, Slovakia; 12,500 textbooks, computers and printers, and \$15,000,000 of medical equipment. He organized 15 YSC tours to Slovakia and brought four Slovak folk song and dance groups to the United States to perform. Working with International Rotary, Youngstown Sister Cities has brought 23 high school students from Slovakia to the United States and had American students attend classes in Slovakia.

Steve is survived by his wife Ghislaine; son Vince and daughter-in-law Phyllis; son James and daughter-in-law Carol; daughter Shirley and son-in-law Bruno Mileta; sisters Estelle (Slanina) Chizmar and Bernadette (of LPSCU Branch 130, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania) and brother-in-law Edward Demechko; cousin Maria and husband Ivan Hrubin; eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

A Mass and memorial service were held in Dlhe Straze, Slovakia, which was attended by relatives, friends, and representatives from Nova Ves.

Bernie Demechko

The LPSCU extends sincere sympathy to the Steve Bacon's entire family, and especially to our fraternal sister, Bernadette Demechko, for their loss. May he rest in peace.

Drexlers to Mark Golden Anniversary

Philomena Drexler and her husband, Donald, will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 21, 2009. The couple lives in Rochester, New York. Philomena is a member of LPSCU Branch 8, Jessup, Pennsylvania.

The LPSCU extends congratulations to the Drexlers as they mark their special day. We ask God's blessings upon them for good health and many more years of happiness together.



Donald & Philomena Drexler

LPSCU PRIVACY COMMITMENT

The Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union (LPSCU), a fraternal life insurance society, shares your concerns about privacy. We believe in protecting the confidentiality and security of the information we collect. This notice describes our privacy policy and how we treat the information we receive about you.

Why We Collect and How We Use Information

We use the information we collected about you for business purposes with respect to our insurance and fraternal relationship with you. The business purposes include evaluating a request for our products, services or benefits; evaluating benefit claims; administering our products, services or benefits; and processing transactions requested by you. We may also use the information to contact you about other products and services we provide.

How We Collect Information

Much of the personal information that we have comes directly from you. The information you give us when you apply for our products or services generally provides the information we need. If we need to verify information or need additional information, we may obtain this information from third parties such as health care providers. Information collected may relate to your employment, finances, health, avocations, or other personal characteristics.

How We Protect Information

We treat the information we collected about you in a confidential manner. Our employees are required to protect the confidentiality of this information. Your personal information is available only to our employees who may need to see it to fulfill and service your needs. We maintain safeguards to protect the information and our employees are required to comply with our established policies. Should your relationship with us end, your personal information will remain protected in accordance with our privacy practices as outlined in this notice.

What We Do With Personal Information We Collect

We do not disclose your personal information to companies or organizations not affiliated with us that would use the information we have provided them to contact you about their own products and services.

We may disclose information about you in order for us to conduct our business, or where law requires disclosure. For example, information may be disclosed to others to enable them to provide business services for us, such as performing general administrative activities. We may use your personal information for marketing purposes or to help with your overall insurance program. Information may also be disclosed for audit or research purposes, or to law enforcement and regulatory agencies.

Further Information

Federal law has established these privacy standards and requires us to provide this summary of our privacy policy once each year. For additional information regarding our privacy policy, please contact us in writing at:

Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union
ATTN: Mary Jo Savidge, Secretary-Treasurer
71 South Washington Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Honoring



Those who Serve...

With love and gratitude to family members who served our great country – my father, **Stanley A. Gluc, Sr.** and my brothers, **Andrew C. Macko** and **Stanley Gluc, Jr.** Thank you! ~ *Theresa*

To all who have served and to all who continue to protect the United States of America. God bless you and keep you safe! ~ *National President Theresa Kluchinski*

In honor of the **Holencik Family** – My **Uncle Adam**, who was a war hero in WWI, fighting in five major battles and receiving five Bronze Stars; **Cpl. Alois Holencik**, who served in the Marine Corps; and **Sgt. Steven Holencik**, who served in the Army during the Korean War. And in loving memory of **Seaman 1st Class Adam Holenick**, who died aboard the *USS Hallegan* when the ship exploded after hitting a mine, and **Joseph Holencik**, who died in a North Korean prison camp. I think of all of you with love and pride and I am so proud to be part of this family. ~ *Your loving niece and cousin, Cecilia Gaughan*

In memory of my dad, **SPS William J. Ewasko**, U.S. Army. ~ *Loved and deeply missed by daughter Diane K. Jason and grandchildren, Paul G. and Marissa*

In memory of my husband, **SPS William J. Ewasko**, U.S. Army. I miss you and love you. ~ *Your wife, Mary Ann*

In memory of **Branch 6 Dads, Brothers, Sons and Husbands** who served in the military. Thank you! ~ *Mary Ann Ewasko, Secretary, Branch 6*

In memory of our brother-in-law and uncle, **Corporal Joseph E. Schulter**, who served in the Aleutian Islands during WWII. We will never forget you. ~ *The Gaughan Family*

With pride, the **Bucha Family** displayed the 6-Star Flag for our servicemen and woman who served our country during World War II: **Franky, Joey, and Tony** in the Army, **Marty** in the Seabees, **Mary** and **Johnny** in the Navy. You are missed so very much. ~ *Your kid sister, Ceily*

In honor of our dad, “The Big Guy,” a Korean War Veteran, **Thomas F. Gaughan, Jr.** We are proud of you, Dad. ~ *Your kids, Patty, Tom, and Tim*

In honor of our pop-pop, **Thomas F. Gaughan**, who served in Pusan, Korea, during the Korean War. We are proud of our tank driver, Pop-Pop. ~ *Your loving grandchildren, Michael, Patrick, Mary Beth, Colleen, and Bridget*

In loving memory of our dad and husband, **John (Jack) Polaha**, who served in the U.S. Army’s branch of the “Screaming Eagles.” You are deeply missed by all of us and by everyone who knew you. You will never be forgotten. ~ *Your loving wife, Regina, and children, John, David, Kathy, and Jim*

In loving memory of my father, **Bernard “Mickey” McDade**, who served in the U.S. Navy in World War II. I love and miss you, Dad. ~ *Mary Jo*

In loving memory our mother, **Specialist 2/c Mary Bucha Schimeneck**, who served in the Navy during WWII. You are missed and never will you be forgotten. ~ *Your loving family, The Schimeneck Kids*

In honor of our father, **Tech. Sergeant Herbert J. Schimeneck**, who served in HQCO 1759th Special Shop Battalion during WWII. Dad, words can never express how great you were for all of us. You are so deeply missed. ~ *The Schimeneck Kids: Billy, Georgie, Donna, and Mary*

In honor of our beloved brother and husband, **Lieutenant Herbert A. Schimeneck**, who proudly served his country in Vietnam. We miss you, Herby. You were the greatest! ~ *Your loving wife Helene, brother Bill, and sisters Mary, Georgie, and Donna*

In honor of our uncle, **Staff Sergeant William P. Schimeneck**, who made the supreme sacrifice while serving in the 394th Infantry Regiment during WWII. ~ *Given by the Schimeneck Family with our deepest pride and love*

In honor of my family members who served or are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces: father, **Cpl. Joseph M. Bucha** (U.S. Army, 1946-1947); brother, **COL Peter J. Bucha** (U.S. Army, Retd., 1971-2001); husband, **Sgt. Daniel A. Roach** (U.S. Marine Corps, Vietnam Veteran, 1968-1972); son, **LCpl. Daniel J. Roach** (2002-2007); brother-in-law, **COL Patrick Crabb** (our thoughts and prayers are with you as you serve our country); brother-in-law, **Jim Baker** (with gratitude for serving our country in the U.S. Navy). ~ *With love and pride, Mary Ann (Bucha) Roach*

In honor of my husband, **T.Sgt. Leo L. Lichman**, who served 44 months in the Air Force. ~ *With love and pride, your wife Dorothy*

In honor and memory of my father, **Michael G. Lichman**, who proudly served our country in WWI. I am proud of you, Dad. ~ *Your loving son, Leo*

In honor of **all our servicemen and women** protecting our freedom and security around the world. We’re proud of you. Be safe. ~ *Alan and Nancy Knoche*

In honor of our father, **Army Corporal William Gaughan**, military police investigator, who served in the Korean War, stationed in the South Pacific, Eniwetok, Marshall Islands. Thanks for serving our country. ~ *From five proud daughters, Deborah, Laura, Cecilia, Theresa, and Colette*

In honor and memory of our parents, the late **Romanza Fairman Krajsa** (“The Chief”) and **Joseph C. Krajsa**, who met while both serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II. ~ *With love from your sons and family*

In memory of my brother, **John Shinal**, U.S. Navy. I miss you. ~ *Your sister, Mary Ann Ewasko*

God bless **all our veterans**. ~ *Joan Hladek, National Trustee*

In fond memory of my loving husband, **John Kosalko**. I am forever grateful and proud of your service in the U.S. Army contributing to our peace and freedom, and naturally for being a loving, caring husband. ~ *Jean Kosalko*

In memory of my dear brother, **George Legenza**, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps. May you rest in peace, dear brother. ~ *From your sister, Jean Kosalko*

In our thoughts and prayers you will forever be in our hearts, dear **Dad**. Thank you for serving our country with honor and raising us to be strong, patriotic, Catholic gentlemen. ~ *Eric (and wife Tiffany) Kosalko and Jeffrey Kosalko*

In loving memory of our dear uncles, **George Legenza** and **George Kosalko**. We are proud to be your nephews, knowing how proud you were to serve our country. ~ *Eric (and wife Tiffany) Kosalko and Jeffrey Kosalko*

In memory of our father, **Tec 5 John P. Evanko**, U.S. Army Company I, 255th Infantry Regiment, WWII, recipient of the Purple Heart. We are so proud of you! ~ *Love, Dolores and Fr. Joe*

In memory of my dad, **Michael F. Guza**, who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII. ~ *Sadly missed by daughter Anita and family*

In honor of our brother, **Vincent J. Guza**, who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. ~ *With pride from your sister, Anita and family, and brother, Jack*

In honor of our dad, **John H. Gregory**, who served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. ~ *With love and pride from your sons, Chris and Jonathan*

In loving memory and with our deepest respect for you, Dad, **Sgt. John A. Kurtz**, who died in August 2009, served his country during WWII. We will miss you, Dad. ~ *From your proud sons, Joe, Jack, and Rich*

Remembering the late members of the Kurtz family who served in the military for generations – grandfather, **Joseph Kurtz** (U.S. Marine Corps, WWI); beloved father, **John A. Kurtz** (U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division, WWII); uncle, **Joseph Kurtz** (U.S. Navy, WWI); uncle, **James Kurtz** (U.S. Marine Corps, Korean War); uncle, **Paul Kurtz** (U.S. Marine Corps, 1946-1968 – Korean War); brother, **John Kurtz** (U.S. Army Signal Corps, Korean War); brother, **Richard Kurtz** (U.S. Army 82nd Airborne, Korean War); and **Joseph J. Kurtz** (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). Currently serving in the Middle East are nephew, **John M. Kurtz** (U.S. Army) and nephew, **James Kurtz** (U.S. Army). ~ *With pride and love, The Kurtz Family*

In loving memory of our beautiful mother, **Aux. Agnes (Gavenda) Bucha**, who served in the U.S. Army WAACS during WWII. You left us with beautiful memories. ~ *Your loving daughters, Maryjo, Martine, Monica, and Aggie*

In memory of our father, **SF2C Martin G. Bucha**, who served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. We are and always have been proud of you, Dad! ~ *Your loving daughters, Maryjo, Martine, Monica, and Aggie*

In loving memory of **Pfc. John J. Oravec**, U.S. Army, 129th Infantry Division, killed in action at age 19 on January 18, 1945, Luzon, Philippine Islands, in the Pacific Theater of War, WWII. ~ *Sadly missed by sister, Margaret Ferri*

In loving memory of **Aviation Machinists Mate 2nd Class Joseph A. Oravec**, who served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and is known to all as “Sailor.” ~ *With fond memories, your sister, Margaret Ferri*

In honor of my husband, **Radioman 3rd Class John Ferri**, who served in the U.S. Navy during WWII on LST 175 in the Normandy Invasion and the European Theater. ~ *With love and pride, your wife, “Peggy”*

In memory of **Corporal Thomas C. Zak**, Medic, U.S. Army, European Theater, WWII. You will always be our hero. We love and miss you. ~ *Chris, Ann, and Michael Zak (grandchildren and great-grandchildren)*

Thank God for all of our **Catholic War Veterans** ~ *Elizabeth Melko, National Trustee of the LPSCU*

In memory of our dad, **Peter Papst**, who served in World War II. We love and miss you. ~ *Petra, June and Beth*

In memory of all **past members of Pittsburgh Branch 64 who served our country**. God bless you and thank you. ~ *Officers and Members of Branch 64*

In honor of all **veterans and present members of Pittsburgh Branch 64 who are serving our country**. Thank you, and God bless you. ~ *Officers and Members of Branch 64*

Margaret and John Ferri Awarded Papal Honors

By Justine Wesnak

This is a report on two special events which took place this past spring and summer. First, the awarding of the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal from Pope Benedict XVI to Margaret and John Ferri and second, the celebration that was held to honor the couple for having received this coveted religious award.

Awarding the Papal Honor

The opening banquet of the Slovak Catholic Federation Convention, held on Sunday, April 26, 2009, at the Best Western in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, was the perfect setting for the awarding of Papal Honors to Margaret and John Ferri. Marge was the convention chair of what turned out to be a very successful and historic event from the inspiring opening Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated at St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church on Fullerton Avenue in Allentown, Pennsylvania, to the closing social and luncheon held at the St. Francis Center for Renewal in Bethlehem. However, both Marge and her husband, John, were totally unaware of the special honor that would be bestowed on them at the conclusion of the formal program of the opening banquet.

The honor, the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal, is awarded to those whose life-long works are dedicated to the advancement of the goals of the Church and the Holy Father. At the banquet, as the Founding President of the Cardinal Tomko Chapter of the SCF, it was my pleasure to build to the moment of ultimate surprise for the audience as well as Marge and John as I told the story of their dedicated service. I did not reveal their names until the end of my introduction of them to accept their honor.

What follows is that introduction, which also explains why they were chosen.

"I'm very grateful for this opportunity to introduce to you a very special couple. Their leadership and accomplishments for the good of the Catholic Church, especially during their nearly 20 years of affiliation and active membership in the



LPSCU Board members offer their congratulations and present a monetary gift to Marge and John Ferri (fourth and fifth from left, respectively). L-R, Dolores Evanko, Mary Ann Ewasko, Anita Gregory, Mary Jo Savidge, and Cecilia Gaughan.

Slovak Catholic Federation since 1990, has been exemplary. Our Chapter, the Cardinal Tomko Chapter of the SCF, was named in honor of the Cardinal. Its members have been dedicated to helping the Cardinal with his Church work for the past 24 years.

"From the beginning, and until [Cardinal Tomko] retired from his duties as the head of the Evangelization of Peoples, few worked harder than this wonderful couple in helping to raise the money our Chapter contributed to build at least ten churches in Africa. Presently, and for every year since Cardinal Tomko retired, our Chapter has donated more than one half of a scholarship awarded in his name annually by the SCF to educate a seminarian who will serve the Church in Slovakia.

"She has served our Chapter as vice president for five years until she graciously consented to serve as our president. She has held that position since 1996. Thankfully, she has had her husband's encouragement and his untiring efforts as they successfully lead our members in raising funds for the good of the Church. They have been married for 56 years and during their entire married life both have served as officers of various committees of their parish church in Bethlehem, which until recently was known as the Church of SS. Cyril and Methodious.

"This loving couple, although in their 80s, remain both young and enthusiastic in spirit and their dedication to God's work on earth. I thank God that these dear and personal friends have been chosen to receive the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal for their work for the Church and our Holy Father.

"And now would you please join me in recognizing Margaret and John Ferri as they come forward to receive their earthly reward."

Their medals were presented to them by Cardinal Jozef Tomko with Bishop Joseph V. Adamec, Episcopal Moderator of the SCF. Also present for the presentation was Bishop Edward P. Cullen, Bishop of the Allentown Diocese, where Marge and John have lived all of their lives.



John and Marge Ferri (second and third from left, respectively) receive the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice award from Pope Benedict XVI at the opening banquet of the Slovak Catholic Federation on April 26, 2009. Presenting the award on behalf of the Holy Father was Jozef Cardinal Tomko (left), as, L-R, Bishop Edward P. Cullen, Bishop of the Allentown Diocese, Fr. Philip A. Altavilla, V.E., president of the SCF, and Justine Wesnak, founder of the CTC, offer their congratulations.

continued on page 17

Attention:

LPSCU Branch & District Members

*We're Looking for a Shining Star
in the LPSCU for the
2010 Fraternalist of the Year*



Do you have a member who, through example and accomplishment, provides outstanding volunteer service?



Do you have a member that should be recognized for outstanding fraternal and volunteer efforts?



If you can answer "yes" to the above, then you have a "Shining Star" member to be nominated as our 2010 LPSCU Fraternalist of the Year!

To receive a Nomination Form, contact the Home Office at 570/823-3513 or toll free 888/834-6614; e-mail: lpescu@lpescu.org or visit our website: www.lpescu.org.

Hurry — The Deadline for Nominations is **March 1, 2010**

Member Sienna Baker Baptized

Say hello to our beautiful Sienna Catherine Baker, the newest member of LPSCU Branch 38. Sienna was born on January 29, 2009. Her parents are Bradley and Michelle Baker. The family lives in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Sienna was baptized on July 26th at Saint Catherine of Siena Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Her uncle, Monsignor Andrew Baker, performed the ceremony. Sienna's aunt and uncle, Carolyn and Randy Stoops, are her godparents.

Sienna, her parents, and her godmother Carolyn are all members of Branch 38 in Whitehall, Pennsylvania. Her great-great-aunt is Cecilia Gaughan, LPSCU fraternal activities director.



Let an outstanding youth know. . .

You Are Appreciated

We all know someone between the ages of 13 and 18 who deserves recognition for his or her scholastic, athletic, fraternal, volunteer, and/or other achievements.



To receive a Nomination Form, contact the Home Office at 570/823-3513 or toll free 888/834-6614; e-mail: lpescu@lpescu.org or visit our website: www.lpescu.org. The deadline for nominations is **March 1, 2010**.

Help the LPSCU show an outstanding young person that "You Are Appreciated" by nominating him or her for the Youth Achievement Award!

Miners' Exhibit Opens

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association and NSS Heritage Museum have joined forces to sponsor a photo exhibit entitled "Coal Mines and Patch Towns: Interpreting Slovak-American History in the Northern Appalachian Landscape." The 25-picture exhibit is the work of Chris DellaMea, who has been photographing more than 400 Appalachian coal company towns for over a decade. Chris, a graduate of Marshall University, has also put together a collection of maps, historical images, and other mining tidbits on his website, www.coalcampusa.com.

The exhibit opened on September 28, 2009, at the NSS Heritage Museum located at 351 Valley Brook Road in McMurray, Pennsylvania.

Museum hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. It is recommended that you call the museum (724/731-0094) before visiting for this self-guided tour.

LPSCU 2010 Educational Benefits



College Award — \$500 One-Time Award

- Member of LPSCU for two (2) years with \$2,000 permanent reserve life insurance plan (excludes term insurance).
- Must be high school senior, college freshman, sophomore, or junior to apply.
- High school senior must provide letter of recommendation from a school representative (ex: teacher, guidance counselor or principal).
- Submit official transcript from high school that includes test scores; college students must submit documentation indicating latest overall GPA.
- Provide detailed list of extracurricular activities, honors and awards.
- Provide detailed list of church, community, volunteer and work activities including honors and awards, with reference(s) included.
- Attend an accredited college/university on a full time basis for the 2010-2011 academic year.
- Submit a brief essay (no more than 200 words) on the topic "Why is life insurance important?"
- Provide wallet size color photo.
- Submit proof of acceptance for fall semester.
- **Application must be postmarked by March 1.**

Catholic High School Award — \$150 One-Time Award

- Member of LPSCU for two (2) years with \$2,000 permanent reserve life insurance plan (excludes term insurance).
- **Application must be postmarked by June 30.**
- Provide wallet-size color photo.
- Must be Catholic high school freshman, sophomore, junior or senior.
- **Application must be postmarked by June 30.**

Bishop Grutka Award — \$1,000 (Maximum of \$2,000 per member)

- Member of LPSCU for two (2) years with \$5,000 permanent reserve life insurance plan (excludes term insurance).
- Be a lay person between 18–35 years of age.

- Must be of the Catholic religion (Latin Rite or Byzantine).
- Must be initiated fully into the Church (Baptized, Eucharist, and Confirmed) and continuing to be eligible to receive the sacraments of the Church.
- Must be a member of a Catholic parish.
- Must be active in parish/diocesan/campus ministry as a Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Adult Altar Server, Catechist/Aide, member of parish RCIA/C Team, Youth Minister, Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council and/or other parish committees or organizations.
- Active in organization or activity that promotes awareness of our Slovak heritage, culture, and traditions.
- Endorsed by their pastor and LPSCU branch secretary with additional endorsement provided by campus minister, youth minister or pastoral associate.
- Attend or will attend an accredited college/university as a full time student.
- Provide a notice of acceptance or tuition receipt for the coming scholastic year.
- Provide wallet-size color photo.
- **Application must be postmarked by June 30.**

Post Graduate Award — \$300 One-Time Award

- Member of LPSCU for five (5) years with \$2,000 permanent reserve life insurance plan (excludes term insurance).
- Provide photocopy of Master or Doctorate diploma received.
- Provide wallet-size color photo.
- Degree must be awarded between July 1, 2009 and August 30, 2010.
- **Application must be postmarked by August 31.**

St. Theresa of the Little Flower, Blessed André, St. John Vianney — \$300 Annually (For applicants entering Religious Life)

- Member of LPSCU for two (2) years with \$2,000 permanent reserve life insurance plan (excludes term insurance).
- Provide wallet-size color photo.
- Must re-apply each year while attending/completing studies for Religious Life.
- **Application must be postmarked by August 31.**

Applicants must meet all criteria and provide data indicated to be eligible. Incomplete applications or data requirements will not be considered. All materials become the property of the LPSCU and will not be returned.

Phone — 570-823-3513 • Toll free — 888-834-6614
Fax — 570-823-4464 • E-mail — lpscu@lpscu.org
Website — www.lpscu.org

Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union
Educational Benefit Committee
P.O. Box 32, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703

Margaret and John Ferri Awarded Papal Honors

continued from page 14

Celebration of the Award

The Cardinal Tomko Chapter of the SCF was delighted to host the special celebration of the papal honor bestowed on Margaret and John Ferri on Saturday, July 25, 2009. The observance began with a solemn Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated at 11:00 a.m. by Monsignor Robert F. Kozel, chaplain of the CTC, with Monsignor Michael J. Chaback, former pastor of the now closed SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, at the Carmelite Monastery in Lanark, Pennsylvania.

Immediately following the Mass, a luncheon reception was held at Gus's Cross Roads Inn in Bethlehem. Attending these events, in addition to the members of the Chapter, were Marge and John's family and other personal friends.

On behalf of the Chapter, it was my pleasure to present the couple with roses. On behalf of the LPSCU, its National President Theresa Kluchinski, and its Board of Directors (on which Marge serves as Public Relations Director), a monetary token was presented by Vice President Anita Gregory and Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge.

In summation, I feel confident that the following words quoted from the toast that I made at the luncheon expresses the sentiments of all those who know and love Marge and John Ferri.

"A special toast to Marge and John. We thank you for devoting your entire 56 years of married life to making the world a better place. Even while raising a lovely family you gave of your precious time to volunteer your numerous talents to strengthening your parish church and school and to improving your community. We thank God for enabling you to work so hard for so many years. We thank God also for the privilege of gathering together today to celebrate your reception of a very prestigious and coveted earthly reward, the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal bestowed on you by the Holy Father.

"We pray that God will grant you a continued interest in volunteering to continue to advance the goals of Cardinal Tomko in his service of the Holy Father and the Church. Marge and John, we wish you many more years of good health and happiness here among us, your loving family and friends, until you make that last and happiest of journeys to join our Heavenly Father for your ETERNAL reward. God bless you both, now and forever."



The Ferri brothers and their wives, L-R: James and Dorothy, John and Marge, Carmen and Maria, and Sam and Maggie.



Marge and John Ferri (center) with, L-R, daughter-in-law Christie and son Jack, daughter Patricia Kienzle, and granddaughter Tori Kienzle.

LPSCU Educational Book Buy Program

The LPSCU introduced this fraternal benefit on January 1, 2007. The Book Buy Program assists our members attending college by reimbursing 10% of their college book expenses. This award is in addition to any Educational Award members may have received from the LPSCU.

How to qualify? You need only to purchase a **new 20 Payment Life or Whole Life Policy** during the student's freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior years of college. Premiums must be paid on an annual, semiannual, or quarterly basis and must be current in order for the member to be eligible for this program. Student-members can submit an LPSCU Educational Book Buy Program Application each school year and receive a 10% refund based on books purchased (limited to the amount paid for the annual premium on your 20 Payment Life or Whole Life Policy).

Example: A 21-year-old student purchases a \$10,000 20 Payment Life policy having an annual premium of \$124.00. (This does not include administration fee.) The student submits receipts totaling \$815.00 for book purchases. The benefit will reimburse student \$81.50 (10% of the books purchased).

Student-members may take advantage of this program for a maximum of four (4) years. Simply complete the LPSCU Educational Book Buy Program Application and attach your book receipt. It's as simple as that! And in addition to receiving this reimbursement, you are protected with valuable life insurance!

For an application, please contact the Home Office at 570/823-3513, toll free at 888/834-6614, e-mail us at lpescu@lpescu.org, or check our website at www.lpescu.org.

A Salute to Our 2009 Graduates



ASHLEY N. WILLIAMS

Austintown, OH – Branch 132
Ashley graduated from Ursuline High School. *Good luck at Mount Union College as you cheer for the Purple Raiders and begin your studies toward a pre-med degree! We're proud of you! ~ Love, Mom, Dad, and Michael*



JOSEPH MATUYA

Mars, PA – Branch 42
Joseph graduated from Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. *Joseph, we are proud of your accomplishments and pray that God will continue to bless you as you embark on your college career. ~ Love, Mom and Greg*



FRANK ROCHE

Pittsburgh, PA – Branch 38
Frank graduated from Sto-Rox High and made the National Technical Society of Parkway West Technical School. *Love you Frankie! ~ Mom, Grandma, Great-grandma*



MICHAEL M. KLOPHEUS

Pipersville, PA – Branch 38
Michael graduated from Pennridge High School and will attend St. Joseph's University. *Congratulations on your accomplishments! Keep alive your kindness, faith, work ethic, and love for people – all markings of future success! We are proud of you! ~ Love, Mom, Dad, and Ben*

DANIELLE LOMBARDO

Exeter, PA – Branch 6
Danielle graduated from Wyoming Area High School. *We are so proud of you and wish you the best of luck at Penn State. We love you! ~ Mom, Dad, Ria, and Melanie*

EVAN W. MARTINO

Bethesda, MD – Branch 19
Evan graduated from Landon School in Bethesda, MD. He attends Harvard University in Cambridge, MA. *Evan, we are so proud of you and your accomplishments and know that you will continue to shine at Harvard. ~ With all our love, Mom, Dad, Adrian, and Uncle Joe*

MEGAN WAGNER

Lansford, PA – Branch 156
Megan graduated from Panther Valley High School and will attend Lehigh Carbon Community College, majoring in Physical Therapy. *Congratulations, Megan! May you always dance to the melody of your own music. ~ With much pride and love, Mom, Dad, and Heather*

MEREDITH SEPESY

North Huntingdon, PA Branch 52
Meredith graduated from Norwin High School and will attend Clarion University. *Congratulations Mer! ~ Love, Aunt Mary*



STEPHANIE GILL

Wilkes-Barre, PA – Branch 213
Stephanie graduated as a Valedictorian from Meyers High School in Wilkes-Barre, PA and will be attending Villanova University. *We are very proud of you and wish you the best. ~ Love, Mom, Dad, and Nicole*



JAMES E. MATTERN, JR.

Tyrone, PA – Branch 24
James graduated from Bellwood Antis High School in June. *Good luck at Lock Haven University and God bless you. We're proud of you, Jimmy. ~ Love, Mom, Dad, and Joey*



DEREK WARING

Wilmington, DE – Branch 33
Derek graduated from Salesianum School in June. He will be studying Civil Engineering at the University of Delaware. *Congratulations! ~ Love, Mom, Dad, and Reece*



DANIELLE C. COOPER

Pittsburgh, PA – Branch 64
Danielle graduated from Northgate High School. *We love you Sweetie! ~ Mom, Dad, and Vicki*



ANTHONY C. BUCHA

Center Valley, PA – Branch 38
Anthony graduated from Allentown Central Catholic High School and began college this fall. *We're proud of you Tony! ~ Love, Mom and Dad, and sisters Ann and Mary*

NICOLE VAN ETTEN

Dallas, PA – Branch 213
Nicole graduated from Dallas Senior High School and attends Florida International University. *We are so proud of you! We wish you every success! ~ Love, Mom, Mike, and Family*



RJ MANCUSO

Pittsburgh, PA – Branch 64
RJ graduated from North Hills High School and attends Pittsburgh Film-makers, majoring in photography. *Congratulations and good luck! ~ Love, The Mancuso Family*



A.J. MAGOA

Wilkes-Barre, PA – Branch 213
A.J. graduated from G.A.R. High School in Wilkes-Barre and is currently working with the Carpenters Union Local in Scranton, PA. *Congratulations, A.J.! Good luck as you start this new career! ~ Love, Aunt Theresa*



MACIE MACKO

Wilkes-Barre, PA – Branch 213
Macie graduated from Myers High School in Wilkes-Barre and is currently attending Coastal Carolina University in Conway, South Carolina. *Good luck in South Carolina! ~ Love, Aunt Theresa*



SARAH EGAN

Salisbury Twp., PA – Branch 83
Sarah graduated cum laude from Cabrini College with a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. *Congratulations, Sarah! ~ Love, Mom and Dad*



LPSCU SINGLE PREMIUM LIFE PLAN

The Single Premium Life Plan offered by the LPSCU is a unique type of insurance option, providing the desired amount of life insurance with one premium payment. The greatest advantage to the Single Premium Life Plan is that the certificate is paid for the rest of the insured's life after just a single premium payment is made. The certificate remains in full force and effect for the life of the insured without the necessity of making any further premium payments after the single payment. Issue ages are from age 0 to age 85. The ages and limits of insurance coverage for Non-Medical Rates are: 0-40, \$30,000; 41-60, \$20,000; 61-70, \$10,000; 71-85, \$5,000. The LPSCU does reserve the right to require a medical examination on any applicant.

Upon the death of the insured, the face amount of the certificate is paid to the insured's named beneficiary (except as provided within the contract regarding Suicide and Contestability).

A member with a Single Premium Life Plan is entitled to all fraternal benefits of the LPSCU including educational awards, youth and adult activities, newborn

benefits, prescription discount card, official publication, and discount car rental.

The Single Premium Life Plan is perfect for both youth and adults — especially anyone who prefers to have their life insurance paid in full with one premium payment. If you would like to give a special gift to anyone, consider the Single Premium Life Insurance certificate. This insurance plan would make an appropriate and thoughtful gift for anyone.

During these unstable economic times, the Single Premium Life Plan offered by the LPSCU is economical and beneficial for estate planning and can especially help with the high cost of funeral expenses.

To apply for this specific plan, or any other insurance plan offered by the LPSCU, contact your Branch Secretary or the LPSCU Home Office.

Listed below are the schedules for the Single Premium Life Insurance Plan. The premiums listed are based on \$1,000 of life insurance coverage. A Branch Administration Fee of \$10 must be added to the total premium.

SINGLE PREMIUM LIFE PREMIUM RATES PER \$1,000 Based on 2001 CSO Male and Female Mortality Tables Based on Age at Last Birthday

Issue Age	Single Premium Life	
	Male	Female
0	68.00	57.00
1	70.00	59.00
2	72.00	61.00
3	74.00	63.00
4	77.00	65.00
5	80.00	68.00
6	83.00	70.00
7	86.00	73.00
8	89.00	76.00
9	93.00	79.00
10	96.00	81.00
11	100.00	85.00
12	104.00	88.00
13	107.00	91.00
14	111.00	94.00
15	115.00	98.00
16	119.00	101.00
17	123.00	105.00
18	127.00	109.00
19	132.00	113.00
20	135.00	116.00
21	139.00	120.00
22	144.00	124.00
23	149.00	129.00
24	154.00	133.00
25	159.00	138.00
26	164.00	143.00
27	170.00	148.00
28	175.00	154.00

Issue Age	Single Premium Life	
	Male	Female
29	181.00	159.00
30	188.00	165.00
31	194.00	171.00
32	201.00	177.00
33	208.00	183.00
34	215.00	190.00
35	221.00	195.00
36	229.00	202.00
37	237.00	209.00
38	245.00	216.00
39	254.00	224.00
40	263.00	232.00
41	272.00	240.00
42	281.00	249.00
43	291.00	257.00
44	301.00	266.00
45	311.00	276.00
46	321.00	285.00
47	332.00	295.00
48	343.00	305.00
49	354.00	315.00
50	366.00	326.00
51	378.00	337.00
52	390.00	347.00
53	403.00	359.00
54	416.00	370.00
55	429.00	382.00
56	442.00	393.00
57	455.00	405.00

Issue Age	Single Premium Life	
	Male	Female
58	469.00	417.00
59	483.00	430.00
60	497.00	442.00
61	511.00	454.00
62	525.00	467.00
63	538.00	479.00
64	552.00	492.00
65	566.00	505.00
66	580.00	519.00
67	594.00	532.00
68	608.00	545.00
69	622.00	559.00
70	636.00	573.00
71	651.00	587.00
72	666.00	602.00
73	681.00	617.00
74	696.00	631.00
75	711.00	646.00
76	725.00	661.00
77	740.00	676.00
78	754.00	690.00
79	768.00	705.00
80	781.00	720.00
81	794.00	734.00
82	807.00	749.00
83	819.00	762.00
84	831.00	776.00
85	842.00	789.00

WPSCA to Host Commemorative Dinner

The Velvet Revolution, which took place in Czechoslovakia in 1989, derived its name from its nonviolent disobedience which ended 41 years of communist dictatorship in the former Soviet block country. For the Czechs and Slovaks it was a long and bitter experi-

ence. On November 16, 1989, students in Bratislava rallied, and on the 17th the police brutally dispersed a student rally in Prague. Students went on strike and the theaters joined in. The coordination center, called Civic Forum, was founded in Prague, while in Bratislava a parallel

center began its operation under the name Public Against Violence. There were mass gatherings around the country on a daily basis. The Government of National Understanding was formed and Alexander Dubcek was elected Chairman of the Federal Assembly and Vaclav Havel, the leading personality of the dissident movement, was elected as President of the Republic.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of this historic event, the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association will host a dinner at 6:00 p.m. at the Slovak Sokol Club in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, November 14. The meal will be preceded by a cash bar.

The evening's program will include two speakers who were in Czechoslovakia when the Velvet Revolution took place. They will relate first hand their personal experiences as witnesses to the demonstrations which took place. There will also be a photo exhibit and a Power Point presentation of the uprising.

The first speaker, Mike Lawlor, a member of the Connecticut State House of Representatives, will relate his experience as a U.S. visitor witnessing many of the demonstrations and meeting many of the leaders of the Velvet Revolution.

The second speaker, Vilma Privarova, is president of the Office for the Slovaks Living Abroad. She will describe the effect that the Velvet Revolution had on the local residents.

The owners of Double Cross premium vodka, which is distilled in Slovakia, will also be present offering taste samples.

Make reservations as soon as possible to attend this historic event. Tickets for the buffet dinner are \$35.00 per person. Reservation checks should be sent to WPSCA at Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220 (or call Pam at 412/531-2990). Reservation deadline is November 6th.

The Slovak Sokol Club is located at 2912 E. Carson Street on the South Side. Limited free parking is available.

Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union 2nd Quarter Report

Assets	2nd Quarter 2009	2nd Quarter 2008
Investments	\$ 12,990,332.00	\$ 13,434,995.00
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 671,000.00	\$ 1,343,000.00
Cash on Deposit	\$ 330,078.00	\$ 847,666.00
Mortgage Loans	\$ 19,802.00	\$ 25,188.00
Real Estate Owned	\$ 136,216.00	\$ 135,518.00
Other Assets	\$ 60,108.00	\$ 68,626.00
Totals	\$ 14,207,536.00	\$ 15,854,993.00
Liabilities & Fund Balance	2nd Quarter 2009	2nd Quarter 2008
Fund Balance	\$ 3,889,060.00	\$ 5,356,796.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	\$ 301,663.00	\$ 333,066.00
Amt. Retained as Trustee	\$ 63,289.00	\$ 49,372.00
Aggregate Reserve-Life Certificates	\$ 9,724,619.00	\$ 9,645,665.00
Other Liabilities	\$ 228,905.00	\$ 470,094.00
Totals	\$ 14,207,536.00	\$ 15,854,993.00
Revenues	2nd Quarter 2009	2nd Quarter 2008
Premium Income	\$ 75,879.00	\$ 97,794.00
Investment Income	\$ 351,863.00	\$ 336,372.00
Income - Other	\$ 65,577.00	\$ 35,904.00
Profit/Loss - Sale of Bonds/Stocks	\$ -	\$ -
Totals	\$ 493,319.00	\$ 470,070.00
Expenses	2nd Quarter 2009	2nd Quarter 2008
Death Claims	\$ 154,613.00	\$ 196,957.00
Endowments	\$ 12,114.00	\$ 30,375.00
Cash Surrenders	\$ 38,634.00	\$ 29,711.00
Dividends	\$ -	\$ 27,612.00
Increase in aggregate reserves	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
Commissions (new and renewals)	\$ (5,815.00)	\$ 26,369.00
General Operating Expenses	\$ 138,346.13	\$ 147,534.87
Officers and Committee Expenses	\$ 19,974.88	\$ 6,864.55
Actuarial/Accounting Expense	\$ 58,425.00	\$ 49,465.00
Investment Mgt. Fee	\$ 8,092.14	\$ 12,622.13
Official Publications	\$ 34,960.91	\$ 27,958.65
Travel Expense	\$ 1,904.67	\$ 5,976.86
Bureau and Association Dues	\$ 675.00	\$ 1,275.00
Donations	\$ 3,970.00	\$ 4,005.00
Scholarships	\$ (100.00)	\$ (2,040.00)
Fraternal Activities	\$ 6,672.27	\$ 6,024.94
Insurance Taxes, Licenses & Fees	\$ 21,561.00	\$ 15,656.00
Sub Total	\$ 515,028.00	\$ 593,367.00
Net Gain/Loss From Operations	\$ (21,709.00)	\$ (123,297.00)
Net Realized Capital Gain (Loss)	\$ (44,683.00)	\$ (76,755.00)
Total	\$ (66,392.00)	\$ (200,052.00)

**SIGN A NEW MEMBER
TODAY!**

Dear Junior Members,

November and December are the giving months. These are the months when, as I quote from Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*: "...men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people as if they really were fellow passengers...not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore...I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, "God bless it."

This seems like the appropriate time to share the following poem with you all.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Today, upon the bus I saw a lovely girl with golden hair,
I envied her, she seemed so gay, and I wished I was so fair.
When suddenly she rose to leave, and I saw her hobble down the aisle.
She had one leg, and wore a crutch, and as she passed, a smile.

Oh God forgive me when I whine...

I have two legs. The world is mine.

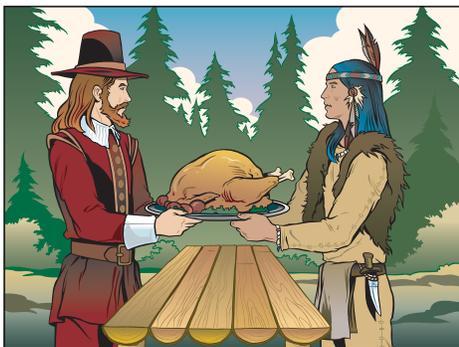
Our Nation's Oldest Feast

November's Thanksgiving holiday is our country's oldest celebration. This is a special day set aside for us to reflect on all our blessings. Giving thanks to God began in 1621 with the pilgrims in Massachusetts. In 1789, President George Washington recommended to the people of the United States a day of "public thanksgiving," recounting many favors he felt God had granted him and our country. Washington begged God's forgiveness for personal and national transgressions.

For the next 60 years Thanksgiving remained a local holiday, not a national one, until it began to be promoted by Sarah Hale in 1827. Finally, President Lincoln established Thanksgiving as a national holiday in the third year of the Civil War, 1863. Lincoln offered thanks to God and urged the people to do the same. He saw the good that came out of the war in spite of the evils it brought. Lincoln then asked his fellow citizens "to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and offer praise to our benevolent Father who dwells in the heavens."

What had begun with a few pilgrims and Indians almost 240 years before finally became a national holiday. In 1941 Congress officially designated the fourth Thursday of November as Thanksgiving. Since then, Americans have set aside this day to mark our nation's belief in the providence of God and to express our gratitude to Him.

A very Happy Thanksgiving to you all!



And then I stopped to buy some sweets.

The lad who sold them had such charm.

I talked to him, he seemed so glad...

If I were late 'twould do no harm.

And as I left he said to me: "Thank you. You have been so kind.

It's nice to talk to folks like you. You see," he said, "I am blind."

Oh God forgive me when I whine...

I have two eyes. The world is mine.

Later walking down the street, I saw a child with eyes of blue.

He stood and watched the others play; it seemed he knew not what to do.

I stopped a moment, then I said, "Why don't you join the others, dear?"

He looked ahead without a word, and then I knew he could not hear.

Oh God forgive me when I whine

I have two ears. The world is mine.

With legs to take me where I'd go,

With eyes to see the sunset glow.

Two ears to hear what I would know.

Oh God forgive me when I whine...

I am blessed indeed. The world is mine.

Author unknown

We can all learn a lesson from this poem and I know that you will count your blessings. I wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas!

Cecilia B. Gaughan, Fraternal Activities Director

Kids in the Kitchen

What's cooking for Thanksgiving?

How about some

CRANBERRY-APPLE CRISP

You will need:

Fresh cranberries (12-ounce bag)

5 or 6 Golden or Red Delicious apples

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup whole wheat flour

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cinnamon

$\frac{3}{4}$ stick butter or margarine

Ice cream

With an adult to help you, preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Put berries in a colander and wash them under cold water, removing all stems and picking out any spoiled berries. Shake off all the excess water and pat the berries dry with paper towels. Set them aside in a large bowl. Peel and cut out the cores of the apples and slice enough apples to make three cups. Add them to the berries and stir together.

Grease a pie pan and put the berry/apple mixture into it. Put the flour, sugar, brown sugar, and cinnamon into a mixing bowl. Cut in the butter (or margarine). Using a pastry blender or your fingers, blend this mixture until it looks and feels crumbly. Sprinkle the mixture over the cranberries and apples in the pie pan.

Bake for about 45 minutes, until the top looks quite brown. Remove the pan from the oven. Let it cool for about 45 minutes, then spoon into dessert bowls. Serve with ice cream on top. Serves 8.

Christmas Around the World

Slovakia

In a Slovak home, the appearance of the first star in the heavens signals the beginning of the celebration of the birth of Christ. The family prepares for this holy holiday for weeks, cleaning, baking, and preparing a festive dinner.

The Christmas tree is prominent in the Christmas celebration. It was probably introduced from Germany in the late 18th century but even prior to that a similar custom dated from the pagan era. The practice of bringing green branches into the home during the winter solstice symbolized the germination of new life. Children are enchanted by the tree, which is decorated with nuts, candles, figs, berries, and apples. Bird figures and gingerbreads also decorate a Slovak tree.

As midnight approaches, all the streets become silent and empty as entire families attend midnight services in the village church.

Lithuania

“Kaledos,” the Lithuanian Christmas, is a holiday of joy and hope. After weeks of Advent fasting, and in anticipation of the holiday, the home is made immaculate.

The most important event is “Kucios,” the Christmas Eve supper. The table is set in a very special manner, with

religious reminders of the Christ Child born in a manger. A crucifix and a plate of *plotkeles* (blessed wafers) are placed in the center of the table. The family is seated according to age.

Following the meal, the most exciting event is the presentation of the Christmas tree. It is an unusual tree. You will find no glitter or tinsel on it; only decorations that can be fashioned from commonplace materials such as straw, wood, eggshells, crocheted items, and seedpods. It takes hours to make these beautiful ornaments and the family appreciates their special beauty.



Ireland

The Irish have contributed several Christmas customs that are still popular today. Christmas is observed with deep religious overtones, nativity scenes appearing in every home and all churches. The glossy-leaved holly wreath with its red berries can be traced to the early settlers from southern Ireland who came to the United States during the potato famine. A lighted candle in the window on Christmas Eve is an Irish symbol of welcome to Mary and Joseph, who sought shelter on the first Christmas Eve.

An old custom formerly observed is the tolling of the bell in the village church on Christmas Eve from eleven o'clock until midnight for the “devil’s funeral,” for it was believed that the devil died when Christ was born.

Traditional food served includes round cakes filled with caraway seeds, mince pies baked in cradle-shaped tins symbolizing the manger, and the traditional plum pudding and soda bread.

Arts and Crafts

The Christmas season is a time for family get-togethers and projects. We can all relate to this and really enjoy it. This would be a nice time to make some gingerbread figures. To add some excitement, a little prize can be awarded to the maker of the most creative one.

GINGERBREAD MODELING DOUGH

You will need:

- ¼ cup margarine
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup molasses
- 3½ cups unbleached flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon cloves
- ½ teaspoon ginger
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ⅓ cup water



Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, mix the margarine and the sugar. Beat in the molasses. Mix in the flour, soda, cloves, cinnamon, ginger, and salt. Then add the water. Mix well, using your hands until the dough becomes stiff.

Now the dough is ready to model into gingerbread figures: people, animals, or any other form you would like to create. Place the figures on a greased cookie sheet about an inch apart. Bake for 8 minutes (or longer, depending on their thickness).

You can even paint these or use them as Christmas ornaments. Remember, though, that these are for decoration only, not to be eaten!

This recipe makes about 8 thick figures, 5 inches long.

Christmas Gift List

You must rearrange the spelling of these gifts so Santa’s elves can read them. They are all jumbled but the first one is done for you as an example.

- ALOOAFTB = **FOOTBALL**
- ETKTNI = _____
- EIKB = _____
- LDLO = _____
- HCRECSKE = _____
- RETWASE = _____
- OSOBK = _____
- DAYNC = _____
- KTSSEA = _____
- ESDL = _____

Answers: football, kitten, bike, doll, checkers, sweater, books, candy, skates, sled

Christmas is for Children!

continued from page 3

child is anything but “childish.” To be childish means that one can be immature and selfish. Rather, Jesus calls us to embrace a “childlike” quality of faith. This type of faith does not separate words and actions. It is a faith that is centered in loving God and others without condition or expectation. The power of such simple faith is its ability to overcome every rationalization, fear, complication, and agenda in order to mirror the selfless generosity of Christ Jesus. Only in embracing child-like kindness, compassion, and forgiveness can we be lights for others and attain true greatness in the kingdom of God. To me, this is the message of Christmas!

This Christmas, as we bake our goodies, decorate our homes, and sing our Christmas carols, let us pray that God grant us the gift of “child-like faith.” Together, let us strive to be generous and faithful messengers of Jesus, the Light of the World.

On behalf of myself and the Board of Directors of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, I wish you and your loved ones a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Blessed and Joyous Christmas! Be assured of a remembrance in my prayers, especially when I celebrate Mass during this holy season. May our hearts overflow with great love at Thanksgiving, Christmas, in the New Year, and always! As children of God . . . Christmas is for all of us!

Láskavý Otče, pomôž nám udržať v pamäti narodenie Ježiša, aby sme sa mohli propojiť k piesni anjelov, k radosti pastierov, a k poklone troch kráľov.

Zatvor dvere nenávisťi a otvor dvere lásky pre celý svet. Nech milosť príde s každým darom a dobré túžby s každým pozdravom. Požehnaním, ktoré prináša Kristus, zbav nás zlého a nauč nás radosť sa s čistým srdcom.

Nech Vianočné ráno nás naplní radosťou, že sme Tvojimi deťmi, a večer Vianoc nech nás privedie k našim posteliám s myšlienkami vdácnosti a odpustenia skrze Ježiša. Veselé Vianoce a šťastlivý Nový Rok!

Rev. Philip A. Altavilla, V.E.

Slovak and Lithuanian Christmas Trees Displayed

Bring your family and friends to view the Slovak and Lithuanian Christmas trees on display at Chicago’s Museum of Science and Industry’s annual “Christmas Around the World.” The Slovak tree is decorated with imported ornaments purchased by our brother Slovak fraternal, the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota), and the Lithuanian tree is decorated with traditional Lithuanian straw ornaments supplied by the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture. Over 50 beautiful ethnic trees are featured in the exhibit, which runs from November 16th through January 3rd. The museum is located at 57th Street and South Lake Shore Drive on Chicago’s south side. For more information, call 773/684-1414 or visit www.msichicago.org.

Robert Tapak Magruder
Slovak Tree Committee Publicist

Slovak Fraternal Organizations Hold Historic Meeting

His Excellency Peter Burian, Slovak ambassador to the United States, recently hosted a meeting with representatives of the Slovak fraternal organizations, Slovak League of America, Slovak Gardens, and Friends of Slovakia at the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C. The goal of the gathering was to establish relationships, exchange information about the priorities and the needs of Slovaks in the U.S., and explore the opportunities for cooperation among all participants.

The organizations present at this meeting were the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, represented by our National President, Theresa Kluchinski, and National Secretary-Treasurer, Mary Jo Savidge, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, the First Catholic Slovak Union, the National Slovak Society, the Slovak Catholic Sokol, the Slovak League of America, Slovak Gardens, and Friends of Slovakia. The Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol of the USA was also invited to attend this historic meeting, but was unable to send a representative due to a scheduling conflict with their national convention being held at the same time.



Pictured in front of the Friends of Slovakia Wall of Honor containing brass plaques given by various Slovak American organizations, individuals, and corporate supporters are, from left, National Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge, Ambassador Peter Burian, and National President Theresa Kluchinski.