



## Slovak Catholic Fraternalists Participate in 37th Annual March for Life

Members of the LPSCU were among the thousands of pro-life participants who marched in the Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., on Friday, January 22, 2010. The peaceful demonstration marked the 37th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion.

Bus transportation to the March for Slovak fraternalists from the Northeast Pennsylvania region was coordinated by Rev. Andrew Hvozdivic, supreme chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, and Theresa Kluchinski, national president of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union. The trip was subsidized by LPSCU Branch 213 of which President Kluchinski is secretary.

The bus departed from Epiphany Church in Sayre, Pennsylvania, at 5:00 a.m. with 20 passengers, including Rev. Hvozdivic, who is pastor of Epiphany Church, fifteen 7th and 8th grade students from the parish school, and four parents. The next stop was in Wilkes-Barre where 13 fraternalists were picked up, including President Kluchinski, LPSCU National Spiritual Advisor Rev. Philip A. Altavilla, V.E., and LPSCU Court of Appeals member Barbara Kalish. The final stop was in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, where seven fraternalists boarded the bus, including Rev. Richard Cerba, pastor of Hazleton's St. Joseph Church.

Before the group continued on their journey, Father Hvozdivic offered a prayer for a safe trip and expressed the hope that this would be the last time such a march on Washington would be necessary, meaning the *Roe v. Wade* decision had been overturned.



*Marchers from the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, and Slovak Catholic Sokol join forces to represent the Slovak Catholic fraternalists at January's March for Life in Washington, D.C.*

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# Calendar of Events

## MARCH

- 1** — Deadline to submit a name for the LPSCU 2010 Fraternalist of the Year Award and the Youth Achievement Award. *(See page 10 for details.)*
- 1** — Deadline to apply for a 2010 LPSCU College Award.
- 8-9** — Slovak Catholic Federation Meeting, Cleveland, Ohio
- 12-14** — LPSCU Annual Meeting at the Home Office, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.
- 20** — **Deadline to submit messages for our Mother's/Father's Day Tributes.**
- 20** — **Deadline to submit articles for May/June Zornicka.**
- 27** — Msgr. Beeda District Meeting at Perkins Restaurant, Route 93, Hazleton, Pennsylvania, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Any District member wishing to attend is asked to call Anita Gregory (788-3263) by March 21.
- 31** — Deadline to tell us why your Mom's "the Greatest" and why your Dad's So Special. *(Details in this issue.)*

## APRIL

- 11** — Pittsburgh District Meeting at Eat 'n' Park in Homestead, Pennsylvania, beginning at 1:00 p.m.
- 11** — Rev. Dianiska District Meeting at St. Mary's Help of Christian Church Hall, Main Street, Pittston, Pennsylvania, at 1:30 p.m. *(Note time change for this meeting.)* Branches 7 and 214 will host.
- 25** — Rev. Baloga Okres annual Spring Meeting at Holy Trinity Church, Struthers, Ohio, at 1:00 p.m. Branch 180 will host. Donation is \$5.00.

## MAY

- 1** — Join Hands Day
- 2** — Lehigh Valley Okres Mother/Daughter Mass at Incarnation of Our Lord Church, Thomas and Buchanan streets, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania at 10:30 a.m. with punch reception and luncheon to follow at the Green Pond Country Club, 3604 Farmersville Road, Bethlehem Township, Pennsylvania. For reservations, call your Branch Secretary or Okres officers before April 26.
- 20** — **Deadline to submit articles for July/August Zornicka.**
- 23** — Rev. Dianiska District Meeting at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish Hall, 134 S. Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, at 1:30 p.m. *(Note time change for this meeting.)* Branches 6 and 48 will host.

## JUNE

- 5** — LPSCU Telephone Conference Meeting



(USPS 699-520)

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# Spiritual Advisor's Message

## “Rising from the Rubble”



Fr. Altavilla

Even as these lines are written, the world continues to focus on the country of Haiti and its people. As we all know, the country was rocked by a magnitude 7.0 earthquake – the most powerful to hit Haiti in a century – shortly before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2010. The epicenter was near the town of Léogâne, approximately 16 miles west of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital city. The earthquake occurred at 4:53 p.m. local time. By January 24, at least 52 aftershocks measuring 4.5 or greater had been recorded. An estimated three million people were affected by the quake; the Haitian Government stated on February 10 that an estimated 230,000 people were dead and an estimated 300,000 injured had been treated. They also estimated that 250,000 residences and 30,000 commercial buildings had collapsed or were severely damaged.

The earthquake caused major damage to Port-au-Prince, Jacmel, and other settlements in the region. Many notable landmark buildings were significantly damaged or destroyed, including the Presidential Palace, the National Assembly, the Port-au-Prince Cathedral, and the main jail. Among those killed was the Archbishop of Port-au-Prince, Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot. The headquarters of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), located in the capital, collapsed, killing many, including the Mission's Chief, Hédi Annabi. Many countries and relief agencies have responded to appeals for humanitarian aid, pledging funds and dispatching rescue and medical teams, engineers, and support personnel.

The Catholic Church's relief efforts are well represented through Catholic Relief Services (CRS). To date, CRS has provided food to more than 100,000 people in Port-au-Prince, many of whom are gathered at the city's largest camp run by CRS. Just days after the earthquake, CRS turned a Port-au-Prince golf course into one of the first formal camps for the homeless, delivering food, water, and hygiene materials to some 40,000 people. CRS is collaborating with the local Church in Haiti and its Catholic Caritas partners, including Caritas Haiti and the Caritas Internationalis confederation.

CRS has seen an overwhelming outpouring of support in response to the crisis in Haiti. "Catholic dioceses, parishes, and schools across the country started mobilizing their networks immediately, and have generously, and creatively, supported our work to help the victims in Haiti," said Joan Rosenhauer, CRS Executive Vice President for U.S. Operations. "For that, we are extremely grateful." To date (February 10, 2010), CRS has raised more than \$38 million for its emergency response. Parishes are reporting generous second collections for Haiti; Catholic colleges and universities responded immediately by setting up special websites;

Catholic schools held special Masses, prayer services, concerts and fundraisers. "We even heard of one little girl who sold all of her stuffed animals to raise donations. We really appreciate every effort, no matter how small or large," Rosenhauer said.

As these relief efforts continue, we have heard many, many sad stories of lives lost due to this earthquake. Yet, in the midst of these tragic stories of loss, we have also been blessed to hear of lives that have been saved. We have watched as rescue workers have freed people from their captivity under the ruins, despite being buried under the rubble for many days, without food and water. The hopeful spirit of these people buried, in the tombs of darkness and despair, and the undying determination of rescue workers to search for survivors have borne fruit as those considered lost have been found.



In the midst of the MANY pictures that I have seen since the day of the earthquake and in the days that followed, the one picture that truly stands out for me is the one taken of an outdoor shrine of the Crucified Jesus, standing in front of the ruins of a church. The majestic cross of Christ stands perfectly, amazingly untouched by the destruction caused by the terrible earthquake. In this particular picture, three young Haitians riding a motorcycle pass by the church ruins. One of the riders is seen turning toward the Crucified One. What a powerful image! This shrine reminds our Haitian brothers and sisters – and us – that despite the devastation that surrounds them, God is ever-present. God's presence is truly seen through the wonderful generosity of men and women of goodwill from all over the world who encourage the Haitian people not to lose their spirit of hope and courage as they rise from the ruins.

During these remaining days of Lent, and the Easter season which lies before us, as we continue to reflect on this profound tragedy, that picture of the Crucified Jesus amidst the ruins stands as a vivid reminder of what we truly celebrate during these days of grace, repentance, and renewal. The cross of Christ is for us the ultimate sign of surrender. After his ultimate act of self-giving, it is then from the tomb of darkness and death that Jesus bursts forth in glorified new life.

As Melissa Gayle West writes in "Okay, I Surrender," in the Winter 2003 issue of *Spirituality and Health*: "Surrender is a dirty word in our controlled-focused culture. Surrender smacks of defeat and failure. Surrender is to give up, to admit that we have made a mess of things, to let go of our dreams

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## Rev. Dianiska District Sets Meeting Schedule

The Rev. Dianiska District announces its meeting schedule for 2010. The first meeting of the year will be held on April 11 at St. Mary Help of Christian Church Hall, Main Street, Pittston, Pennsylvania, hosted by Branches 7 and 214. Because of prior activities taking place at the church, the meeting's start time is moved to 1:30 p.m..

The District's second meeting will take place on May 23 at Immaculate Conception Parish Hall, 134 S. Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Again, because of earlier church activities, the meeting will not begin until 1:30 p.m. Branches 6 and 48 will host.

The third meeting of the year will be held on October 17 at the North End Slovak Club, North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, hosted by Branches 58, 94, and 122. This meeting will begin at its normal 1:00 p.m. time.

If you have any questions, please contact your Branch Secretary or District President Mary Ann Ewasko. Thank you.

**Susan Worth**

## An Easter Message from Our Episcopal Protector

### **BISHOP'S RESIDENCE Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown**

*"Mary stood crying outside the tomb. While she was still crying, she bent over and looked in the tomb and saw two angels there dressed in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and the other at the feet." (John 20:11,12)*

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



**Most Rev.  
Joseph V. Adamec**

For some reason, Mary Magdalene decided to look for Jesus in the tomb, among the dead rather than the living. When she turned around, however, she saw him in the garden, very much alive. That first Easter morning brought a victory for life that Jesus wants to share with all of us.

I am still reminded of the earthquake and its many after-shocks that took place in Haiti earlier this year. While the devastation was tremendous and affected multitudes, my recollection centers on the faith and hope of the Haitian people, even in the midst of great deprivation.

Individuals who were buried in the rubble for as long as two weeks related how their belief and trust in the Lord Jesus saw them through. They focused on life and not on death. Their relationship with the Lord went way beyond the material. It did not depend upon what they had or did not have.

That is as it should be. Christians are to look for their Christ in the garden and not in the tomb. The Lord's Kingdom is not of this world, as Jesus himself stated to Pontius Pilate. Once we are able to grasp and accept that our true happiness has its foundation outside of this material world, we will truly be a People of the Resurrection and our lives will be an eternal alleluia.

May this year's Easter Blessings bring a genuine resurrection into your life and into mine, in such a way that others around us will experience the presence of the Risen Lord in the midst of life's challenges.

Fraternally yours in the Risen Lord,

+ *Joseph*

(Most Rev.) Joseph V. Adamec  
Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown  
Protector, LPSCU



### MSGR. BEEDA DISTRICT

The Msgr. Beeda District held its Christmas party on Wednesday, December 9, 2009, at St. Joseph's Rectory, Hazleton, Pennsylvania.

District President Anita Gregory welcomed the 23 members and seven guests to the holiday celebration. She thanked the group for their support of all the District's activities throughout the year.

Father Richard Cirba offered the invocation and also extended Christmas greetings on behalf of Msgr. Beeda and himself to those present as well as their families.

As everyone listened to the sounds of the season, a delicious buffet, prepared by the White Haven Bakery, was enjoyed by all. Afterwards the group played Bingo and several door prizes were raffled off.

Every year the District holds a Christmas raffle, the proceeds of which help to defray the cost of any LPSCU youth from our local Branches who wish to attend the annual March for Life (this year on January 22) in Washington, D.C. The drawing for the raffle was held during the Christmas party. Everyone's support of this project is greatly appreciated.

As the evening came to an end, everyone was given a ceramic Christmas dish filled with candy to take home and enjoy. Sharing an evening of friendship and fraternalism truly had everyone heading home in the holiday spirit.



**Pictured are members and guests of the Msgr. Beeda District who enjoyed the annual Christmas party on December 9, 2009.**

### LEHIGH VALLEY OKRES

A meeting of the Lehigh Valley Okres was held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 22, 2009, at Incarnation of Our Lord Church Social Hall in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The meeting opened with a prayer offered by Okres President Jean Kosalko. She extended a welcome to all and thanked them for their presence.

Okres Secretary Mary Shannon read the Minutes from the last meeting. They were approved as read. Treasurer Margaret A. Ferri presented the Financial Report, which was approved for audit.

Plans were finalized for the Holiday Luncheon to be held on Sunday, December 6, in the Lehigh Room of Best Western Hotel & Conference Center in Bethlehem. The group agreed to join Traditions of Hanover, an assisted living facility in Hanover Township, in supporting the Marines "Toys for Tots" program. Everyone was asked to donate an unwrapped toy or board game for the "Toys for Tots" project.

MARCH/APRIL 2010



**Lehigh Valley Branch Officers attending the Lehigh Valley Okres Meeting are (seated, L-R): Mary Ford, Margaret A. Ferri, and Mary Shannon of Bethlehem Branch 83. Standing, L-R: Mary Ann Ackerman of Bethlehem Branch 83, Cecilia Gaughan of Allentown Branch 38, and Elaine Molchany and Bernadine Kerzeja of Northampton Branch 62. (Jean Kosalko of Hellertown Branch 196 was the photographer.)**

After a discussion, the annual Mother/Daughter Mass and Luncheon was set for Sunday, May 2, 2010. The Mass will be celebrated at Incarnation of Our Lord Church at 10:30 a.m. Following the service, a luncheon will be held at the Green Pond Country Club, 3604 Farmersville Road in Bethlehem Township with a punch reception starting at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m.

President Kosalko announced that the Okres will participate in JOIN HANDS DAY on Saturday, May 1. Since the members enjoyed their JOIN HANDS DAY project last year, the group decided to again hold a huge clothing drive for "Second Sight," which benefits the Visually Impaired and Blind Association in the Lehigh Valley area. A JOIN HANDS DAY Committee was formed to finalize details of the project.

The next Okres meeting was set for February 14, 2010, at St. John the Baptist Church Social Hall at 1:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a prayer offered by President Kosalko. The group then enjoyed socializing and having refreshments.

### REVEREND DIANISKA DISTRICT

The Reverend Dianiska District held its annual Christmas party on Sunday, December 6, 2009, at the Wyoming Hose Company, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, hosted by Branches 37, 58, and 94.

The festivities started with everyone exchanging Christmas wishes by sharing Oplatky with one another. Margaret Jollimore led the tradition by reciting an Oplatky blessing. Afterwards, a delicious family-style dinner was served, followed by greetings and a game social.

National President Theresa Kluchinski wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year on behalf of the LPSCU.

District President Mary Ann Ewasko extended holiday greetings to members and guests. She introduced the college award recipient present, Danielle Lombardo of

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**REVEREND DIANISKA DISTRICT** *continued from page 5*

Branch 6. Also present were Barbara and Mark Van Etten, the grandparents of recipient Nicole Van Etten of Branch 213. Recipients who were unable to attend were: Evan Martino (Branch 19), Stephanie Gill (Branch 213), and Jon Linsenmann (Branch 122).

Mary Ann also announced that Susan Worth, a member of Branch 94, was the recipient of the special drawing for recommending members to her Branch Secretary.

Susan Worth thanked everyone on behalf of the hosting Branches for attending, their gifts for the raffle, and donations for the food pantry. She announced that the recipient of this year's door prize raffle will be Jen's House and asked her daughter-in-law, Teresa Worth, a member of Branch 94, who stayed at *Jen's House*, tell those present about the organization. Teresa explained that it is a home near the Lehigh Valley Hospital where she was able to stay for two weeks at a very reasonable rate until her newborn twins, David and Abigail (also members of Branch 94) were released from the NICU. The twins, who also attended the party until they had to go home for a nap, turned 8-months-old on that day.

Through the generosity of members and guests attending, a large amount of non-perishable food was collected.



**Those involved in the College Award presentation are, front row, L-R: Mary Ann Ewasko, district president and secretary of Branch 6; Melanie Lombardo, Lora Lombardo, and Theresa Olshefski, secretary of Branch 213. Back row, from left: Debbie Adamchak, district treasurer and secretary of Branch 19; Brian Lombardo; Theresa Kluchinski, national president; Mark Van Etten; Barbara Van Etten, Danielle Lombardo (award recipient), and Ria Lombardo.**



**College Award recipient Danielle Lombardo (2nd from right) and her family, from left, Brian, Ria, Melanie, and Lora Lombardo.**



**National and District Officers – Front row, L-R: Marge Zinkavage, financial secretary; Debbie Adamchak, treasurer; Hope Napkora, vice-president; Susan Worth, publicity; Barbara Kalish, recording secretary; and Carol Royer, historian. Back row, L-R: Mary Ann Ewasko, district president; Mary Jo Savidge, national secretary-treasurer; Theresa Kluchinski, national president; and Margaret Jollimore, national trustee.**

This year's recipient is the Wyoming County Food Pantry in Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania.

President Ewasko announced that there is one District member in a nursing home who was presented with a Christmas bouquet and she and five honorary members were remembered with Christmas Novena Mass cards.

The Reverend Dianiska District members wish everyone a healthy, blessed, and Happy New Year!

**Susan Worth**



**Young members in attendance at the District's Christmas party are, from left, Kendra Jollimore, Connor Jollimore, Ana Lombardo, Melanie Lombardo, Paul G. Jason, Marissa Jason, Collin Bradbury, Cecelia Chisdock, and Zeb Chisdock.**

**PITTSBURGH DISTRICT**

The annual Pittsburgh District Christmas party was held on December 13, 2009, at the Comfort Inn, Penn Hills, Pennsylvania. Following a holiday buffet, a Chinese auction was conducted and everyone went home with a door prize. The Clover Belles and Beaus, a talented group of senior citizens, entertained with singing and dancing. In spite of the bad weather, everyone was able to join the party.

Joseph J. Matvya of Branch 42, son of Annette Williams, was a \$500 LPSCU College Scholarship winner. Joseph is attending the University of Dayton in Ohio and due to class commitments, he was unable to be present at the Christmas



party. Pittsburgh District President Dolores Sakal presented a \$50 check on behalf of the District to Joseph's mother, and Cecilia Sarocky, secretary of Branch 42, presented a matching \$50 check. Annette is also a member of Branch 42. Joseph's late grandmother, Ann Chuckro, was also a very active member of the LPSCU and was a National Trustee for many years.

**Sylvia Goda**



**Annette Williams (left) of Pittsburgh Branch 42 accepts scholarship awards on behalf of her son, Joseph Matvya, from Dolores Sakal (behind podium) and Ceil Sarocky (right).**



**Members and guests enjoying the Pittsburgh District's Christmas party.**

## LEHIGH VALLEY OKRES

The Lehigh Valley Okres held its annual Holiday Luncheon on Sunday, December 6, 2009, at the Lehigh Room of the Best Western Lehigh Valley Hotel & Conference Center in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. A punch reception commenced at noon, followed by the luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Sixty-four members and guests attended the event.

Okres President Jean Kosalko extended a warm welcome to all present. Rev. Msgr. William T. Baker, S.T.L., pastor of Incarnation of Our Lord Church, offered an Invocation. Everyone enjoyed the delicious chicken marsala and stuffed flounder meal with all the trimmings and strawberry par-faits for dessert.

After dinner, President Kosalko introduced Okres Secretary Mary Shannon and Treasurer Margaret Ferri. She also introduced National officers present: Fraternal Activities Director Cecilia Gaughan, Public Relations Director Margaret Ferri, Honorary Vice President Mary Ann Ackerman, and former Public Relations Director Mary Ford. The local Branch officers of Allentown 38/40, Bethlehem 83/130, Hellertown 196, and Northampton 62 were also introduced. President Kosalko presented a monetary Christmas gift to Msgr. Baker.

Twelve Junior members in attendance entertained by singing Christmas songs. As they sang "Jingle Bells," Santa Claus (John Anthony of Allentown) entered the room ringing his own jingle bells and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. The children gathered around Santa by the beautifully decorated Christmas tree. Santa presented a nutcracker to each boy, jewelry to each girl, and a plush bear to each infant. As favors, everyone received a pack of Just Born white marshmallow snowmen candies and a green bayberry votive candle to burn on Christmas Day for good luck, according to folklore tradition.

Holiday prizes were chanced off and special prizes in the annual Holiday Raffle were won by Claudine Bertalan, Evelyn Cengeri, Donna Weimer, John Rybak, Ernest John, Jeff Kosalko, Joseph Polaha, Justine Wesnak, Marge Ferri, and Tom Gaughan, III.



**Children posing with Santa are, 1st row, L-R: Aliyah Caraballo (who is being held by her mother Sabrina), Anthony Caraballo, Tate Kienzle, Brigitte Marrero Guempel, and Alexandra Kosalko; 2nd row, L-R: Jace Kienzle, Christopher and Amy Shannon, Jamie Kessler, Michael DeFazio, Elizabeth Ackerman, and Cole Geiger (who is being held by his father Douglas).**

## St. John's Celebrates Polka Mass

On November 7, 2009, St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania, celebrated a Polka Mass. Principal celebrant was the Most Reverend John O. Barres, S.T.D., J.C.L., D.D.

On behalf of the parish, Rev. Monsignor Robert F. Kozel, pastor of St. John's, welcomed Bishop Barres, the newly-installed Bishop of the Allentown Diocese. Bishop Barres was greeted with the traditional symbols of Slovak hospitality – bread (*that you may never know hunger*), salt (*that your many years may always know the flavor of life*), and wine (*that joy and prosperity be forever yours*).



**Allentown Bishop John O. Barres (left) chats with Rev. Monsignor Robert F. Kozel, pastor of St. John the Baptist parish, which hosted the bishop at a recent Polka Mass.**

Msgr. Kozel offered an inspirational homily wherein he reminded the congregation that a bishop, in the fullness of his priesthood, is called by the Holy Spirit to be God's chosen steward of His Church. He further stated that a bishop is the chief shepherd of the faithful of the Diocese, holding fast to the authentic message of Christ.

Following the liturgy, Bishop Barres mingled with all the parishioners at a reception held in the church social hall.



**St. John's parishioners Cecilia (left) and Tom Gaughan (right) welcome the new Bishop of the Allentown Diocese, the Most Rev. John O. Barres, at a reception following a Polka Mass held at the parish.**

Msgr. Kozel offered an inspirational homily wherein he reminded the congregation that a bishop, in the fullness of his priesthood, is called by the Holy Spirit to be God's chosen steward of His Church. He further stated that a bishop is the chief shepherd of the faithful of the Diocese, holding fast to the authentic message of Christ.

Following the liturgy, Bishop Barres mingled with all the parishioners at a reception held in the church social hall.

## Bon Appetit

If any of our members have a favorite family recipe (especially a Slovak or Lithuanian classic), please consider sharing it with our readers. Send the details to Public Relations Director Marge Ferri at the address on page 2 or email it to [margeferri28@gmail.com](mailto:margeferri28@gmail.com). Please include your name and a phone number or email address in case we have any questions about your submission.

## Local Leaders Greet LPSCU Board

During the Semiannual Board Meeting of the LPSCU, held in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, from September 11-14, 2009, several officers of local fraternal societies made a visit to greet the Board.

On Saturday, September 12, at the conclusion of the Board's morning session, Public Relations Director Margaret A. Ferri introduced the following guests who visited the Board Room to extend fraternal greetings: George Kostelnik, president of Assembly 78 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, and Mary Shannon, Mary Ann Ackerman, and Mary Ford, president, secretary, and treasurer, respectively, of LPSCU Branch 83. After each local officer offered best wishes for a successful Board Meeting, President Kluchinski expressed her appreciation and thanks on behalf of the Board.

Prior to the start of the morning's business session, President Elaine Molchany and Secretary Bernadine Kurzeja, officers of Northampton Branch 62, delivered a tray of homemade cookies to the Best Western for the Board to enjoy during their meeting breaks.



**Seated, L-R, are Branch 83 Secretary Mary Ann Ackerman, LPSCU President Theresa Kluchinski, and Branch 83 Treasurer Mary Ford. Standing, L-R: Branch 83 President Mary Shannon, SCS Assembly 78 President George Kostelnik, LPSCU Fraternal Activities Director Cecilia B. Gaughan and LPSCU Public Relations Director Margaret A. Ferri.**

## OFFICE CLOSINGS

*The LPSCU Home Office will be closed on the following holidays during 2010:*

Friday, January 1	.....	New Year's Holiday
Monday, February 15	.....	President's Day
Friday, April 2	.....	Good Friday
Monday, May 31	.....	Memorial Day
Monday, July 5	.....	Day after Independence Day
Monday, September 6	.....	Labor Day
Monday, October 11	.....	Columbus Day
Thursday, November 25	.....	Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 26	.....	Day after Thanksgiving
Friday, December 24	.....	Christmas Holiday
Monday, December 27	.....	Christmas Holiday
Friday, December 31	.....	New Year's Eve Holiday



## *Offers Our New* **FLEXIBLE ANNUITY**



- ◆ The LPSCU Flexible Annuity is a flexible-premium, deferred annuity that accepts ongoing deposits of as little as \$100 per month.
- ◆ An annuity is a long-term investment where the interest earned is accumulated and compounded.
- ◆ Annuities are used to supplement retirement income, whereby at some point you stop paying into the annuity and start taking out.
- ◆ Upon maturity, LPSCU offers a number of distribution options, giving our members the convenience of selecting the one that is best suited for them.
- ◆ LPSCU's competitive interest rate is reviewed quarterly by the Board of Directors; however, your rate will never go below the guaranteed minimum rate established by the annuity contract.
- ◆ You can become a member of the LPSCU by purchasing an annuity and you can own an annuity regardless of your health status.
- ◆ Deposits can be made at your convenience!
- ◆ Minimum deposit is \$100.00.
- ◆ After the sixth year, there is no LPSCU penalty on annuity withdrawals.
- ◆ If the annuitant dies prior to settlement, funds on deposit are payable directly to the named beneficiary(ies).

- ◆ Settlement Options:
  - Payment of a specified amount.
  - Payments for a specified period.
  - Life Annuity.
- ◆ Payment options can be monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually, depending upon your needs.
- ◆ Prior to settlement, annuitant may withdraw the Cash Surrender Value at any time; however, the minimum withdrawal amount is \$250.00.

**NOTE:** *Withdrawals taken prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10% Early Withdrawal Penalty by the Internal Revenue Service.*



◆ ◆ ◆  
*For more information  
about our  
**Flexible Annuity**  
contact the LPSCU Home Office  
or your local Branch Secretary.*

71 South Washington Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

◆ ◆ ◆  
Phone 888-834-6614  
Fax 570-823-4464

◆ ◆ ◆  
e-mail: [lpscu@lpscu.org](mailto:lpscu@lpscu.org)  
[www.lpscu.org](http://www.lpscu.org)

# A JOIN HANDS DAY Reminder



JOIN HANDS DAY is the only national volunteer day that specifically targets and develops relationships between youth and adults through neighborhood volunteering. Young people and adults work together on an equal basis to plan, organize, and implement the day's activities. Building relationships across generations restores confidence, trust, and respect for each other and creates a sense of community. JOIN HANDS DAY, which is a program sponsored by the National Fraternal Congress of America, gives fraternal benefit societies and volunteer organizations the opportunity to reach out to people they don't know, to connect generations and develop new relationships.

This year, JOIN HANDS DAY is Saturday, May 1. Have you planned your project yet? If not, don't wait for someone else to make the move. Contact family members, church members, fellow LPSCU members, neighbors, friends, and their children. If you can't recruit enough participants, check around your area to see if you can combine your efforts with those of another group. There is always something you can do to make life better for another person, and in the end, you'll both benefit!

In planning your JOIN HANDS DAY project, be sure to invite the young people in your Branch and District to participate alongside your adult members. Remember to pre-register your project on the JOIN HANDS DAY website, [www.joinhandsday.org](http://www.joinhandsday.org). You can also check the website for project ideas and to view and read about past JOIN HANDS DAY efforts.

We look forward to hearing from you about your group's JOIN HANDS DAY activity. Write a short article and send it, along with a group photo or two, to the LPSCU Public Relations Director so it can be shared with our members in *Zornicka*.

## Join Hands Day Corp., NFCA Merge

The idea for JOIN HANDS DAY was conceived during a dinner meeting at the Capitol Grill in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1999. At that meeting, David Larson, who served as chair of the National Fraternal Congress of America, John Dutton from the Points of Light Foundation, and Michael Stivoric of the NFCA discussed the creation of a national day of volunteer service under the flagship of the fraternal benefit system. Their goal was to engage youth and adults in planning and executing JOIN HANDS DAY events throughout American communities. Thus, JOIN HANDS DAY was created.

Michael Stivoric, chair of the Join Hands Day Corporation, and Joseph Annotti, president and CEO of the NFCA, announced that, based on the Resolution adopted by the NFCA Board of Directors, JOIN HANDS DAY, the separate corporation, is being merged with the NFCA effective January 1, 2010. The Board of Directors of the Join Hands Day Corp. voted unanimously during its meeting on December 2, 2009, to concur with the NFCA Resolution. They announced that JOIN HANDS DAY is now an annual NFCA-sponsored event and part of the NFCA budget operation. They also want to assure the fraternal benefit system that JOIN HANDS DAY is here to stay and will flourish and continue to serve our societies and communities at large.

## Letters

Dear LPSCU,

I would like to thank you for the College Scholarship Award of \$500. It was very much appreciated.

Sincerely,  
**Danielle Lombardo**  
Branch 6, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

## Saint Casimir, Patron of Lithuania

For Lithuanians, March 4th is not only the anniversary of the death of the country's patron saint, Saint Casimir, but a national holiday as well. For the celebration of Saint Casimir's Day in Lithuania, pilgrims travel to Vilnius, the capital, to attend Mass at the Cathedral and then celebrate at *Kaziuko muge* ("Casimir's Fair"), a large folk arts and crafts fair whose origins go back to the beginning of the 17th century. Thousands of sellers, buyers, and visitors come to this annual outdoor event, which also features music and dance. A favorite traditional product of the *Kaziuko muge* is a heart-shaped honey cookie, decorated with colored sugar flowers, zig-zags, dots, and birds. Oftentimes, popular men's and women's names are written on the cookies. Those cookies are also popular at *Kaziuko muges* organized by Lithuanian scouts in Chicago and elsewhere.

The first church named in honor of Saint Casimir was built by the Jesuits near Ukmerge in Lithuania in the mid-to late-16th century. At approximately the same time, a church in the saint's honor was also built in Vilnius. In Lithuania, there are 12 churches named for Saint Casimir. Wherever Lithuanians live in foreign lands and have parishes, one can find churches or at least chapels bearing the beloved saint's name.

The first Lithuanian church in the United States that was named in honor of Saint Casimir was built in 1862 in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania. Saint Casimir's name is also maintained by a congregation of nuns established in 1907 in Paterson, New Jersey.

On June 11, 1948, Pope Pius XII named Saint Casimir the special patron of all Lithuanian youth. Thus, Saint Casimir became the patron of youth not only within Lithuania, but in all countries where Lithuanian young people reside.

SIGN UP A  
NEW MEMBER  
**TODAY!**



## Lehigh Valley Okres Participates in "Toys for Tots" Campaign

On Friday, December 11, 2009, toys that were collected from Lehigh Valley Okres members at their Christmas Party were delivered by Mary Ann Ackerman, past president of the Okres, and her daughter, Marilyn Geiger of Nazareth, Pennsylvania, to Traditions of Hanover, an assisted living facility in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Upon their arrival, Mary Ann and Marilyn were greeted by Traditions' marketing assistant, Jennifer Murphy, and three Marine Reserves from Northampton County, Detachment 298, U.S. Marine Corps Reserves.



**Jennifer Murphy, marketing assistant at Traditions of Hanover, interviews Mary Ann Ackerman regarding the Lehigh Valley Okres and the LPSCU.**

The Marine Reserves assisted Mary Ann and Marilyn to deposit the toys in the Toys for Tots container, which was soon filled to capacity with the Okres' donations. Ms. Murphy and Marine Reserve Joseph Pokojni, coordinator of the Toys for Tots program, were grateful for the large donation and expressed sincere thanks for the Okres' participation in this worthwhile cause. The Marine Reserves then carried the container of toys to their vehicle for delivery to their Marine Barracks, where the toys will be prepared for distribution to needy children.

Interested to learn more about the Lehigh Valley Okres and the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, Ms. Murphy asked Mary Ann a number of questions about our society. Mary Ann, who has been affiliated with the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union for over 60 years, was more than happy and proud to promote her fraternal organization.



**Mary Ann Ackerman, past president of the Lehigh Valley Okres, shows a toy donated by an Okres member to Marine Reserve Joseph Pokojni, coordinator of the Toys for Tots program, as two participating Marines stand by to receive the gifts.**

## Slovak Catholic Fraternalists Participate in 37th Annual March for Life

*continued from front cover*

The group arrived in Washington around 11:30 a.m., meeting up with other Slovak fraternalists from the Slovak Catholic Sokol and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association at 8th and Constitution Avenue. The program began with a rally on the

National Mall where the marchers heard speeches that centered on fighting the now-stalled healthcare reform package and ensuring that any future healthcare plans would prohibit the use of federal funding for abortion. The issue of healthcare reform dominated the speeches and prayers were heard



**March for Life participants as far as the eye can see walk along Constitution Avenue towards Capitol Hill and the U.S. Supreme Court.**

over loud speakers. From the Mall, the actual march began at 2:00 p.m. with marchers chanting and singing their way down Constitution Avenue, up Capitol Hill, and then to the Supreme Court building. As always, the march was orderly and peaceful. While the weather forecast had predicted rain, it ended up being a dry day, with the sun appearing in the afternoon.

The night before the march, a vigil Mass was celebrated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. With the Upper Church holding 6,000 people, the vigil Mass was an inspiring gathering of unified prayer and purpose. Participants overflowed into the side chapels and some even stood downstairs, watching the liturgy on television.

Early Friday morning, the day of the march, a youth rally was held at the Verizon Center. The rally, which was organized by the Catholic Diocese of Washington, featured bands playing religious musical numbers from the center floor, a Mass celebrated by bishops from across the country, and a "confess-a-thon" in which more than 100 priests heard confessions at stations set up in the area.

The theme for this year's march was "Stand Up, Now – Unite for the Life Principles – No Exception – No Compromise!"

Our fraternal group left Union Station at 4:00 p.m. and enjoyed a delicious buffet at the Cozy Restaurant in Thurmont, Maryland, on the way home.

# Minutes of the Executive Finance Committee

Home Office, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania — December 16, 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 October 21, 2009, Executive Finance Committee meeting. (No EFC meeting was held in November 2009.)

## Requests

The committee acknowledged all requests and approved the following:

- ❖ FSGP requesting donation to the Children's Hospital Drive. *Approved \$100.00*

## Financial Statement

The committee reviewed the following checking accounts as of October 31 and November 30, 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 October 31 and November 30, 2009, reviewing all activity, including CDs, Common Stocks, Preferred Stocks, Bonds, and International Investments. The Employee Retirement Plan was also reviewed.

## New Insurance Issued

State	Branch Representative	Dec. 2009	Year-to-Date Total
PA	Joan Ellen Frendak		\$ 74,000.00
PA	Mary Ann Ackerman		\$ 63,000.00
PA	Cecilia B. Gaughan	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 71,000.00
PA	Home Office		\$ 61,000.00
PA	Elva Silay		\$ 51,000.00
PA	Margaret A Ferri	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
PA	Jean Kosalko		\$ 30,000.00
PA	Theresa Kluchinski	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 42,000.00
PA	Ann Tirpak		\$ 20,000.00
IN	Joan T. Hladek		\$ 20,000.00
PA	James Yocum		\$ 20,000.00
PA	Mary Ann Ewasko		\$ 15,000.00
IN	Ann Dobias		\$ 15,000.00
PA	Anita Gregory		\$ 15,000.00
PA	Charles Simalchik		\$ 10,000.00
IL	Mary Ann Siska		\$ 7,000.00
PA	James Tomasic		\$ 6,000.00
OH	Lucille Komorosky		\$ 6,000.00
PA	Elizabeth Pipon		\$ 6,000.00
PA	Agnes McLaren		\$ 5,000.00
PA	Janice Mathews		\$ 5,000.00
PA	Verna Prawdzik		\$ 4,000.00
PA	Cecilia Sarocky		\$ 4,000.00
PA	Br. Joseph Venonsky		\$ 3,000.00
PA	Deborah Adamchak	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
		\$ 37,000.00	\$ 600,000.00

## Other Business

The following were discussed: QuickBooks and the Life Catalog.

The next meeting will be held on January 20, 2010. The committee will not meet in February.

President Kluchinski, Secretary-Treasurer Savidge, and Chairperson of Trustees Ewasko met with Ellen Bush and Karen Natishan, representatives of Smith Barney. Vice President Anita Gregory was excused. Ms. Bush provided the committee with the LPSCU Capital Market Overview and Employee Pension Report thru December 10, 2009. Discussion on the following occurred:

- ❖ Asset Allocation
- ❖ Market Value
- ❖ Maturity Distribution Graph
- ❖ Top Holdings by Market Value
- LPSCU Employee Pension
- ❖ Asset Allocation
- ❖ Top Holding by Market Value

Ms. Bush suggested we look into JP Morgan Income Opportunity Fund where equities are 100% funded. Ms. Bush will forward information on the fund to President Kluchinski for the committee's review.

There being no further business, the EFC adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

**Mary Jo Savidge**

National Secretary-Treasurer

## Tell Us Why Your Dad's So Special!



With Father's Day rapidly approaching, we thought our young members would like a chance to explain what makes their dad that special man in their lives. Is it the way he makes you laugh? The fun times you spend together playing sports or involved in a family activity? Does he always make the time to listen when you have a problem? Can he grill the world's

best hamburger or figure out the toughest math problem? In two or three sentences, why not share with our readers why your dad (or grandpa) is "The Best Dad Ever!" If you have one, send along a photo of you and Dad to accompany your letter. Please send or email your information **no later than March 31st** to Cecilia B. Gaughan, 325 Florida Avenue, Whitehall, PA 18052, [cbgaughan@msn.com](mailto:cbgaughan@msn.com).





## Theresa M. Nishnic, Former Lehigh Valley Okres Secretary

Theresa M. Nishnic, 66, of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, January 27, 2010, in her home. She was born on October 15, 1943, in Bethlehem, the daughter of the late George and Mary (Cuchran) Nishnic. She was employed in the accounting department of Durkee Foods Company in Bethlehem for more than 30 years before the company closed its business. For the past 10 years, she was a receptionist at Miller Keystone Blood Center in Bethlehem and was scheduled to retire on February 12 of this year.

Theresa was a life-long member of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Bethlehem (which in July of 2008 merged with four other churches under the new name of Incarnation of Our Lord). She was a lector at the church and a former cantor and choir member. She was a member of the choir that sang at the Liturgy held at St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania, for the 57th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation held in April 2009. She was also a member of the parish Senior Group, serving as its vice president.

Theresa was a life-long member of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, Branch 83, and was former secretary of the Lehigh Valley Okres. She was a devoted and dedicated member of the LPSCU, inheriting her fraternal attributes from her mother and maternal grandmother. Her mother, Mary Nishnic, was very active in Branches 130 and 83, and her maternal grandmother, Caroline Cuchran, served as president of both Branches from 1941 to 1953. The Cuchran/Nishnic/Clauser families are currently in their 5th generation of LPSCU membership. Theresa was also a member of the National Sokols U.S.A, Wreath 66.

Theresa is survived by an uncle, Michael Nishnic, and his wife Joyce of Emmaus, Pennsylvania; niece Mary Walsh and her husband Jerry of Bernville, Pennsylvania; nephews, Stephen Clauser of Bethlehem, Francis Clauser and his wife Patricia of Dover, Delaware, and James Clauser of Allentown; great-nieces Kimberly and Mary Clauser; great-nephew Jerry Walsh; and a great-great-niece, Hailee Sara. She was predeceased by her sister, Christine Clauser, and a nephew, Christopher Clauser, both in 2008.

A viewing was held on Sunday, January 31, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Pearson Funeral Home. It was attended by many LPSCU and Okres members who also participated in the rosary that was led by choir members, followed with prayers by Msgr. William Baker, pastor of Incarnation of Our Lord Parish.

On Monday, February 1, a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Msgr. Michael J. Chaback, former pastor of the former SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, at Incarnation of Our Lord Church, with Msgr. Baker as concelebrant. Msgr. Chaback was a classmate of Theresa's from 1st through 12th grades. Adult altar servers were John and Michael Vidumsky, president and treasurer, respectively, of the parish Senior Group.

In his homily, Msgr. Chaback relayed the many fond memories he has of Theresa during their school years, and then when he became her parish pastor, how she always brought him homemade bread. He remarked how pleased he was to see so many local LPSCU officers present for her services. Officers of Branches 83 and 130 and the Lehigh Valley

Okres attended the Mass in a body. Interment followed in SS. Cyril and Methodius Cemetery, Bethlehem.

The officers and members of the LPSCU are deeply saddened at the loss of our dear fraternal sister, Theresa M. Nishnic. Her dedication to her Branch and Okres is a testament to her love for the LPSCU and those who knew her remember with fondness what fun she was to be around. We extend sincere sympathy to her family. May she rest in peace.



**Theresa M.  
Nishnic**

### *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](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_ Br. # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and/or E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of LPSCU Family Members \_\_\_\_\_

# Tree of Life

## RESERVATION FORM

Your inscription may be personalized to recognize a loved one or special event with "In honor of...", "In memory of...", or "In celebration of...". You may also simply have your name, the family name, or business name. Restrictions as to space and characters are listed below, based on whether you choose a fraternal leaf (\$100) or stone (\$500).

Your contribution can be paid in one installment or several; however, we will not bill you for any remaining portion. It is your responsibility to monitor your installments.

Please complete the Reservation Form and return it (a photocopy is also acceptable), along with your donation, to: LPSCU Tree of Life, P.O. Box 32, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703-0032. Please make checks payable to the "LPSCU – Scholarship Fund."

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is: (please check one)

- my first donation toward my "Tree of Life," entitling me to an engraved fraternal leaf or stone (please circle one) when fully paid. (Minimum of \$20 per payment.)
- my \$100 check entitling me to an engraved fraternal leaf.
- my \$500 check entitling me to an engraved fraternal stone.

**PLEASE ENGRAVE MY FRATERNAL LEAF OR STONE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Leaf inscription:**

*Maximum of 4 lines with 20 characters per line, including spaces.*

**Stone inscription:**

*Maximum of 6 lines with 40 characters per line, including spaces.*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Tell Us Why Your Mom's "The Greatest!"



Mother's Day is fast approaching. Now you can tell your mother and the LPSCU in the pages of *Zornicka* why she is the very best. In two or three sentences, tell us what your mother means to you and why she is "The Greatest!"



If you have one, send along a photo of you and Mom to accompany your letter.

Please have your information to us before **March 31st**. Forward it to Fraternal Activities Director Cecilia B. Gaughan, 325 Florida Avenue, Whitehall, PA 18052

## Calendar of Events

*continued from page 2*

- 30** — Deadline to send in your entry for our "Family Membership" Contest.
- 30** — Deadline to apply for a 2010 Catholic High School Award and Bishop Grutka Award.

## Cooking Corner

### LITHUANIAN HONEY COOKIE HEARTS

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1 cup honey    | ½ teaspoon cinnamon  |
| 3 eggs         | ¼ tsp. cloves        |
| 3 tbsps. sugar | 1 tsp. baking powder |
| 3 tbsp. cream  | ½ tsp. baking soda   |
| 4 oz. butter   | 2 cups flour*        |

\*A little more flour may be needed if the dough is too soft to roll out.

Cream eggs with sugar, pour in honey, melted (cooled) butter, spices, and cream. Blend well. Mix the flour with the baking soda and baking powder; stir into the other ingredients.

Knead dough until it does not stick to hands anymore. Cover and refrigerate about half an hour. Roll out on floured surface. Cut out hearts with a cookie cutter or make your own pattern (especially if you want to make big hearts). Bake at 350° until golden brown (about 10-15 minutes). Decorate after the cookies cool completely.





# LPSCU Semiannual Board Meeting Synopsis

September 11-14, 2009 – Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Friday, September 11, 2009

## **Call to Order – Prayer – Pledge of Allegiance**

President Theresa Kluchinski called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Rev. Philip Altavilla held a morning prayer service which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge was asked for roll call; all were present.

## **Submission of Insurance Applications**

Applications for insurance were received from Anita Gregory and Cecilia Gaughan.

## **Welcome Remarks**

President Kluchinski welcomed everyone to the Semiannual Meeting and offered our appreciation and gratitude to Public Relations Director Margaret Ferri for securing the hotel for our meeting and the overnight accommodations, and coordinating the Mass at the Incarnation of Our Lord Parish.

President Kluchinski congratulated Anthony Bucha on being selected the LPSCU's 2009 Youth Achievement Award recipient and a Fraternal MVP (Most Valuable Participant) by the NFCA; John Ferri on being selected the LPSCU's 2009 Fraternalist of the Year and the Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress's 2009 Fraternalist of the Year; Spiritual Advisor Rev. Philip Altavilla on being reappointed regional Episcopal Vicar and being named Chaplain at Holy Cross High School in Dunmore, Pennsylvania; and Trustee Joan Hladek on being installed as President of the Indiana Fraternal Congress.

## **Approval of Agenda/Minutes**

The agenda for this meeting and the Minutes from the June 6, 2009, meeting were approved.

## **Correspondence**

Secretary-Treasurer Savidge read the correspondence received since the previous meeting. The following recommendations were approved:

- ❖ Donation for Incarnation of Our Lord Parish for the Mass that was attended by the Board. *Approved \$200.00.*
- ❖ Donation to Msgr. William T. Baker, celebrant of the Mass at Incarnation of Our Lord Parish. *Approved \$50.00.*
- ❖ Donation to the Cardinal Tomko Chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation in which two officers will prepare dinner. Recommendation made by President Kluchinski, seconded by Chairperson of Trustees Mary Ann Ewasko. *Approved \$200.00.*

## **Financial Report**

Board members reviewed and discussed the following information:

- ❖ Quarterly Statement – June 30, 2009
- ❖ Month End Balance Sheet/Revenue & Expense Accounts for July 2009
- ❖ Minor Beneficiary Account Listing
- ❖ Summary Market Value 2009 Spreadsheet
- ❖ Investment Portfolio

- ❖ Smith Barney Checking Account, Anne (Shinal) Cichy and Bishop Grutka Awards, and the First Eagle Fund
- ❖ Statement of Investment Policy Objectives and Guidelines
- ❖ Employee Retirement Plan
- ❖ Transaction Summary Report
- ❖ NFCA Ratio Calculations

## **Home Office Report**

Secretary-Treasurer Savidge reported on the following:

- ❖ Building
- ❖ Scanning
- ❖ QuickBooks
- ❖ Unclaimed Property
- ❖ Employee Benefits

## **Unfinished Business**

The Board reviewed the following:

- ❖ Tree of Life
- ❖ Annuity
- ❖ Pension
- ❖ Disaster Recovery
- ❖ Reinsurance
- ❖ Life and Health Foundation

The meeting was adjourned until Saturday morning.

Saturday, September 12, 2009

President Kluchinski opened the meeting and offered a prayer. Rev. Philip Altavilla was excused to attend the closing ceremonies of the 100th Anniversary of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pennsylvania.

## **Unfinished Business**

- ❖ Marsh Program
- The following was reaffirmed:
- ❖ Dividend Resolution
  - ❖ Term to 25

## **New Business**

The Board was provided information on and discussed the following:

- ❖ Branch Structure
- ❖ Procedures/Policies
- ❖ Office Procedures
- ❖ Branch Deposits
- ❖ Prompt Payments

## **State and National Congress Meetings**

President Kluchinski and Secretary-Treasurer Savidge attended or will be attending the following State and National Fraternal Congress meetings:

- ❖ Indiana Fraternal Congress, which was held in August.
- ❖ New Jersey Fraternal Congress, which will be held in October.
- ❖ Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress, which will be held in October. LPSCU President Theresa Kluchinski will be installed as President of the PFC and John Ferri,

*continued on page 16*

# Semiannual Meeting Synopsis

continued from page 15

husband of Public Relations Director Margaret Ferri, will receive the PFC Fraternalist of the Year award.

- ❖ National Fraternal Congress of America, which will be held September 17-20 in San Antonio, Texas.

## Calendar of Events

The Board was provided a Calendar of Events list. The Board of Directors meeting dates for 2010 are as follows:

- ❖ March 11 – LPSCU Annual Audit
- ❖ March 12-14 – LPSCU Annual Meeting
- ❖ June 5 – LPSCU Meeting (Telephone Conference)
- ❖ September 9-13 – LPSCU Semiannual Meeting in Youngstown, Ohio
- ❖ December 4 – LPSCU Meeting (Telephone Conference)

## Greetings

The following officers from Branch 83 gave greetings:

- ❖ President Mary Shannon
- ❖ Secretary Mary Ann Ackerman
- ❖ Treasurer Mary Ford

Also extending greetings was President George Kostelnik of Slovak Catholic Sokol Assembly 78 in Bethlehem.

## Committee Updates

The Board was provided an update from Fraternal Activities Director Cecilia Gaughan.

President Kluchinski announced that Margaret Ferri was the winner of "What's in the box?"

## Branch Procedures

The Board was provided a copy of the Branch procedures that they have been working on at previous meetings. Each procedure was reviewed for changes.

Committee meetings were held for the remainder of the day.

The meeting was adjourned until Monday.

## Monday, September 14, 2009

President Kluchinski opened the meeting and offered a prayer. Rev. Philip Altavilla was excused.

## Committee Reports

The following committees provided a report:

- ❖ Fraternalist of the Year
- ❖ Youth Achievement Award
- ❖ Educational Scholarship
- ❖ Fraternal Activities
- ❖ Campaign Committee

## Strategic Plan

The Board discussed the LPSCU Strategic Plan.

## Good of the Union

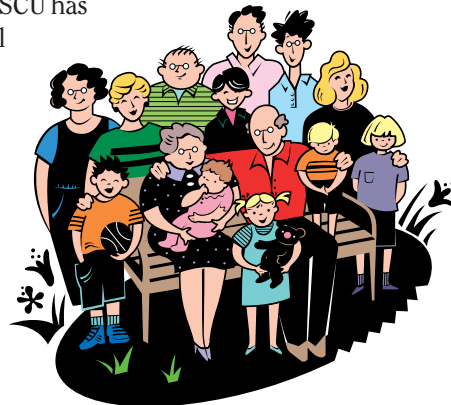
President Kluchinski asked if anyone had anything else for the good of the union. There being nothing else, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Mary Jo Savidge**  
National Secretary-Treasurer

# Mother's & Father's Day Tribute/Memorial Program

Once again this year, the LPSCU is offering a Tribute/Memorial Program to run in the May/June issue of *Zornicka*. We are pleased to report that this is the ninth year that the LPSCU has

sponsored this special tribute. The program will give our members an opportunity to honor their living parents or remember their deceased ones by placing a Mother's and/or Father's Day message in our May/June issue.



Because space is limited, Tributes/Memorials cannot be more than 2-3 lines and should not exceed 20 words. There is no charge for placing a message, but a good will donation of \$5.00 per greeting will be appreciated. In keeping with the benevolent and fraternal nature of our organization, all proceeds from the Mother's Day Tributes/Memorials will be donated to the Breast Cancer Research Center and all monies donated from the Father's Day Tributes/Memorials will go to the American Diabetes Association for diabetes research.

Donations (which are tax deductible) should be made by check *payable directly to the respective organization* — Breast Cancer Research Center for Mother's Day messages and American Diabetes Association for Father's Day messages.

Tribute/Memorial requests, along with all donation checks, should be mailed to Fraternal Activities Director Cecilia B. Gaughan, 325 Florida Avenue, Whitehall, PA 18052 (phone 610/433-4610).

**Deadline for submitting Mother's/Father's Day messages for the May/June *Zornicka* is March 20, 2010.**

A few examples of Mother's/Father's Day Tributes/Memorials follow:

In honor of our mothers  
Mary Jones and Susan Clark  
Given by George and Christine Clark

In loving memory of Joseph Smith, Sr.  
Given by his children and grandchildren

Happy Mother's Day to Betty J. Winston  
With love from her grandchildren

## The LPSCU reserves the right to edit messages.

We hope many of our members will participate in this worthwhile fraternal activity, which allows them to honor their mothers and fathers and donate to a very worthy cause. This is a wonderful way to show our love and appreciation to our parents (and grandparents) and to show the concern and compassion the LPSCU has for our fellowman.



# Catholic Sisters Under European Communism

This past September 13th, many ABC channels offered "Interrupted Lives" as part of the *Vision and Values* program. In some areas of the country this documentary was offered that day at a reasonable time, but in more than two-thirds of the United States, it was not only not mentioned in the TV listings, but also aired between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m., which is regrettable because this is a story which most Catholics in our country have never heard. The general population has frequently heard about the Holocaust, which of course, was an atrocity. However, they have never been told about what happened to more than one hundred million Christians who lived under atheistic Communism.

We, the descendents of immigrants from Eastern and Central Europe, should be informed of what happened in our ancestral land. Had our parents and/or grandparents not risked their ocean voyage, poverty, and hardship, we might have been among those caught in the throes of an unreasonable government.

"Interrupted Lives," which was recently released to the public by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, is the result of several years of research by two Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kansas: Sister Margaret Nacke and Sister Mary Savoie. Both Sisters, former college professors, spent 10 summers after the fall of Communism assisting Sisters in Romania as they tried to restore their lives in community.

Although the American Sisters did not understand Romanian, they began to piece together some of the experiences the Romanian Sisters were sharing with each other. They realized that what these Sisters had experienced between 1950 and 1989 had to be made known.

Sisters Mary and Margaret came to understand that

## *In Memoriam*

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

— Matthew v.5

Name	Branch	Location
Anthony W. Domeracki	72	Stratford, CT
*George A. Wilson	77	Lorain, OH
Mary M. Rogan	83	Bethlehem, PA
Helen M.. Evans	90	Johnstown, PA
Catherine Shabella	132	Campbell, OH
Genevieve Matuza	153	Perth Amboy, NJ
*Mary H. Clayton	159	Youngstown, OH
Robert M. Balog	163	Youngstown, OH
Raymond Coleman	163	Youngstown, OH
John R. Munda	172	Pittsburgh, PA
Mary T. Munda	172	Pittsburgh, PA
Kathryn Ligas	197	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Marcele Kacevicius	L0095	Chicago, IL

\*Multiple certificates

**Support Your Local Branch**  
— Participate in Branch Activities —

Religious in other countries had had similar experiences during the Communist regime. In some cases, what had happened to Religious in other countries was even worse.

They returned to the States determined to do something about it. The result is an hour-long documentary which hopefully will reveal the faith, courage, and trust in Divine Providence that sustained thousands of Religious women in the second half of the twentieth century.

From the cover of the documentary case we read:

*They were Greek and Roman Catholic Sisters of Eastern and Central Europe. At the end of World War II, Stalin seized control of their countries, imposing a 40-year reign of atheistic rule, suppressing religious practice and disrupting the Sisters' individual and community lives.*

*"Interrupted Lives" explores the experiences of these Sisters through interviews with survivors as well as with the "Secret Sisters" who joined religious life during this time. They lived out their vocations in the underground until after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.*

*Many of these Sisters endured imprisonment, forced farm and factory labor, deportation, exile to Siberia, expulsion from their convents, and seizure of their schools and hospitals.*

*Filmed on location in Ukraine, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, and the United States, "Interrupted Lives" is a powerful testimony to the faith, courage, and endurance of these women and all those who still today undergo persecution for political or religious beliefs.*

The documentary is available on a DVD, shipping and handling included, for \$25.00. (No postage charge if the DVD is received in person.) Anyone interested in purchasing a DVD may call or write to:

Sister M. John Vianney Vranak, SS.C.M.

Jankola Library

Villa Sacred Heart

Danville, PA 17821-1698

570/275-3581

## Rev. Baloga Okres Sets Meeting Schedule

The Rev. Baloga Okres of the Youngstown, Ohio, area has announced its schedule of meetings and socials for the balance of the year.

The annual Spring Meeting will be held on April 25 at Holy Trinity Church, Struthers, Ohio at 1:00 p.m., hosed by Branch 180. Meeting donation is \$5.00.

An Indoor Picnic Meeting is slated for 1:00 p.m. on July 25 at St. Matthias Church, Youngstown. Branch 163 will host; donation is \$5.00

The Okres' annual Christmas Party will be held November 28 at 1:00 p.m. The location will be announced at a later date. The party will be hosted by Branches 163 and 180.

If there are any questions regarding the aforementioned, please call Okres officers Mary Ann Strauss (President) at 330-758-2148 or Lucille Komorosky (Treasurer) at 330-788-0736.

# Life Insurance: Now More Than Ever



Recession, layoffs and falling stock and bond prices seem to be knocking over the pillars of our financial security, one by one. Many of us have either lost a job or have a friend or family member who has. All of us have been hit with painful losses in the value of our homes and in our savings and investment accounts. One source of financial security still stands strong, however, and that's life insurance.

## A Financial Product That Has Held its Value

While so many aspects of people's financial lives look bleak at the moment, life insurance continues to do exactly what it was designed to — serve as the foundation of your family's financial security. If you own a term life policy, the death benefit it would pay if you died tomorrow is unchanged from last week, last month or even last year. If you own a whole life policy, your death benefit is also guaranteed, and over the past year your cash values have actually grown, not declined. In this tumultuous economy, you can take comfort in knowing that life insurance — whatever type you may own or intend to buy — can provide some certainty and stability at a time when both are in short supply.

## Buy Yourself Time and Peace of Mind

With the stock market having lost roughly half its value, some have jokingly suggested we rename the 401(k) the 201(k). But the losses so many of us have experienced are no laughing matter. You may already be thinking about how to rebuild your lost assets. But what would happen to your loved ones if you die before your catch-up plan is in place? In the short-term, only life insurance can make up the difference between what you had and what your family would need to manage financially in your absence.

## Now Is the Time to Buy, Not Shed Life Insurance

Just meeting everyday living expenses is a big challenge these days. Even so, this is not the time to consider dropping or scaling back life insurance if a need for coverage remains. To the contrary, the coverage is more important today than it was a year ago because other aspects of your financial life are not what they used to be. Moreover, if you drop coverage now but decide to purchase a policy in a year or two, you'll likely be asked to take another health exam. You'll be older, your health might have worsened, and you may find it harder to qualify for coverage at an affordable rate.

## The Bottom Line

Today, your income is what is helping to put food on the table and keep a roof over your head. But what if you died tomorrow? In that unfortunate circumstance, your life insurance is what your family members would rely on to maintain their quality of life. So while it may seem difficult nowadays to look beyond the bills that are due at the end of the month, you should maintain your current life insurance or even consider buying additional coverage. It will provide an anchor of stability to your family finances, ensuring that your loved ones will be financially secure when you die.



The Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping consumers make smart insurance decisions to safeguard their families' financial futures. © 2009 LIFE. All rights reserved.



# LPSCU 2010 Educational Benefits



## 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).
- 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.

## John Ferri is NFCA “Fraternal MVP”

The National Fraternal Congress of America, the trade association of America’s fraternal benefit societies, named John Ferri, a member of LPSCU Branch 83, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, as a “Fraternal MVP” (Most Valuable Participant) for the week of February 1, 2010. John, who is our 2009 Fraternalist of the Year, had his name submitted by the LPSCU as best representing “the spirit of fraternalism and volunteerism.”

The NFCA recognizes Fraternal MVPs as “Fraternalists-in-Action” who volunteer their time, energy, and compassion to strengthen their communities through participation in local lodge activities and other charitable endeavors. As a Fraternal MVP, John embodies the heart of fraternalism through his hard work, dedication, and generosity. John’s outstanding accomplishments, which set him apart as our 2009 Fraternalist of the Year, were featured in the July-August 2009 issue of *Zornicka*.

The LPSCU congratulates John Ferri on adding the title of “Fraternal MVP” to his list of accomplishments. We are proud to see him receive this distinct honor from the NFCA.

MARCH/APRIL 2010

- 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](mailto:lpscu@lpscu.org)  
Website — [www.lpscu.org](http://www.lpscu.org)

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

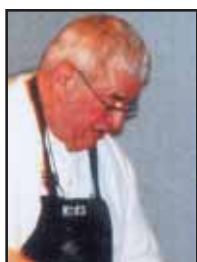
# Slovak Heritage Society Holds Cooking Class

It was like being in the audience of your favorite television cooking show. In reality, it was a recent cooking class sponsored by the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Three Slovak recipes, three talented Slovak cooks, and an audience of very interested participants, all eager to see the Slovak specialties prepared and then served for their tasting pleasure!



Anna Hendershot from Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, gave a light-hearted presentation, chopping mushrooms embellished with eggs, oleo, milk and flour to create “Fritters” – *Houbaové Žakusky* – looking more like small potato pancakes, to the surprise of all. They were ever so tasty, with a visual appeal that made the audience return for more and more – even those who weren’t sure they liked mushrooms!



Like a true television chef, Michael Stretanski from Kingston, Pennsylvania, took those in attendance through a slow, homemade approach to prepare all the ingredients for his “European-style Paprikas” (*Uherský Paprikaš*). Everyone enjoyed his comments during each step of preparation, both factual notes and aromatic fragrances from start to finish.



Andrew Sofranko from Hanover Township, Pennsylvania, prepared his “Fruited Cake” (*Ovocny Kolač*) recipe, which created interest by taking a relatively easy cake recipe, adding strategically placed fruit of one’s personal choice prior to baking, and adding a sweet touch of sprinkled powdered sugar before serving.

After the cooking and baking demonstrations, the three Slovak dishes were enjoyed by the 34 participants in attendance, each expressing great satisfaction and eager to try the recipes at home.

The atmosphere throughout the presentations transported the audience to memories of Mom’s kitchen – time lovingly spent providing Slovak recipe secrets we now treasure as adults. These memories were shared during the “feasting time” by all who enjoyed the Slovak dishes prepared.

Everyone received copies of the recipes, and a dozen audience members were also the lucky recipients of Slovak art treasures in a special raffle held at the affair. *We are happy to share these recipes with our readers here.*

Chairperson of the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania is Philip R. Tuhy of Wilkes-Barre. The group’s website is: [www.shsnepa.org](http://www.shsnepa.org).

**William A. Zdrancewicz**, Public Relations  
Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania

## MUSHROOM FRITTERS

### *Houbaové Žakusky*

½ pound mushrooms, chopped  
1 Tbs. butter or margarine  
2 eggs, separated  
¾ cup milk  
1 cup flour  
1 tsp. baking powder  
½ tsp. salt  
Pinch of paprika  
Frying oil

Saute the mushrooms lightly in butter. In separate bowl, beat the 2 egg yolks with milk and blend in flour, baking powder, salt, and paprika. Beat the batter until smooth and add mushrooms. Beat the egg whites until stiff and fold into the batter. Drop by spoonfuls into hot oil and fry on both sides until golden brown.



## EUROPEAN-STYLE PAPRIKAS

### *Uherský Paprikaš*

5 large onions, chopped  
2 lbs. beef or pork, cut in 1” cubes  
1 tsp. salt  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 cup tomato juice  
2 cups water  
1 bay leaf  
4 Tbs. shortening  
2 Tbs. paprika  
1 tsp. pepper  
¼ cup flour  
4 potatoes, cubed  
1 cup red wine

In a large skillet, saute the onions in the shortening until brown. Add meat and lightly brown. Add paprika, salt, pepper, garlic, and flour, stirring to coat evenly, and fry for 5 minutes. Add tomato juice, potatoes, water, wine, and bay leaf. Cover and let simmer until potatoes are done.



## FRUITED CAKE

### *Ovocny Kolač*

1 stick butter at room temperature  
1¾ cups sugar  
1½ cups flour  
1 tsp. baking powder  
1 tsp. vanilla  
3 eggs  
Fruit of your choice, sliced or halved, depending on size (Berries are good)

Cream the butter and the sugar. Add eggs one at a time and mix. Add the flour to which you have added the baking powder. Mix. Add vanilla. Finished product will be quite thick.

Put into a greased and floured pan. Place fruit on top and bake in a 350-degree oven until top is browned. Cool completely and sprinkle with powdered sugar just before serving.





## SCF Seeks Contributors for 'Good Shepherd' Annual

*Dobry Pastier (The Good Shepherd)*, edited by Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., and published annually by the Slovak Catholic Federation, compiles articles focusing on topics which are of interest to Slovak-American Catholics. The Federation is currently accepting articles for inclusion in the 2010 edition. Potential contributors should note that while the scope of the publication is broad, articles solely political in nature will not be accepted.

The deadline for all articles is **May 1, 2009. Due to the publication schedule, articles received after the deadline will not be included in the annual.** The annual will be available for distribution in the Fall.

In order to facilitate the editing and printing of *The Good Shepherd*, the following guidelines are established for authors who would like their work to be considered for inclusion in the annual:

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- ◆ All articles must be type-written, double-spaced in Microsoft WORD format in 12 point, Times New Roman font.
- ◆ It is strongly preferred that **English** articles be e-mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., Editor, at: [bernsscm@yahoo.com](mailto:bernsscm@yahoo.com). In this age of modern technology, it is faster and more cost effective to work from a text that is provided digitally instead of having to retype the entire article.
- ◆ If it is not possible for an article to be e-mailed, a "hard copy" may be mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.
- ◆ To be accepted for publication, articles must be between three and ten typewritten pages. Articles fewer than three pages or beyond ten pages will not be accepted.

### USE OF PHOTOS

- ◆ If at all possible, kindly send photos to accompany articles. Photos must be included at the same time the article is sent to the Editor. If sending photos digitally, save as separate JPGs to accompany the article. Please indicate where photos are to be placed within the body of the article. Be sure to properly identify the persons, places and/or situations depicted in the photo(s). **If no indication is given as to where, within the article, the photos are to be inserted, photos will not be included in the article.**
- ◆ In the event that an article is e-mailed and photos are not included as attachments, the actual photographs, along with a hard copy of the article, must be mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M. for inclusion into the article. (If more convenient, photos can also be saved to a CD which the printer can then link up with the article.) Once again, please be sure that the photos are properly identified and note where, within the article, the photos are to be inserted. Photos must always accompany the article for which they are intended.
- ◆ Captions must be included with the photos. This allows readers to better understand the relationship of the photo to the content of the article.

### ARTICLES IN SLOVAK

- ◆ It is preferred that articles be written in English. Articles submitted in Slovak will be sent to a third party for editing. **Please note:** Articles submitted in Slovak are typeset by a person who does not read Slovak; therefore, it is imperative that the author include all appropriate accent marks, diacritical letters and other special characters. Correct punctuation is essential. Use commas and periods where necessary, not dashes. **ALL SLOVAK ARTICLES NEED TO BE CHECKED FOR ACCURACY BEFORE THEY REACH THE TYPESETTER.**
- ◆ Slovak articles **can** be e-mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie. A hard copy (including all accents) must also be mailed to her. (Please indicate that the article was both mailed and emailed.) Frequently, accent marks, diacritical characters and other special characters do not come through properly when articles are e-mailed. Having a hard copy of the article, appropriately marked, will save valuable time and resources.

As Editor, Sister Bernadette Marie retains the right to correct grammatical errors, delete repetitions, rearrange ideas to make them clearer, etc. Sister Bernadette Marie also retains the right to determine the appropriateness of articles for the publication. However, she will not substantially change the author's ideas without first consulting the author.

Our sincere thanks to all the faithful contributors to *The Good Shepherd!* Your contributions, year after year, ensure that the Slovak Catholic Federation is able to provide a quality annual which helps celebrate our Catholic faith, preserves our Slovak heritage, and allows our readers to stay in touch with what's happening in the Catholic Church, in Slovakia, and in the Slovak-American community.

We are looking forward to your contributions again this year.

**Reverend Philip A. Altavilla, V.E.**, SCF National President

## SCF Schedules 32nd Annual SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal

When our ancestors came to these shores more than a century ago, they brought with them few monetary assets. However, their most precious possession was their faith. The seeds were nurtured by the Slovak priests who came with the immigrant people and helped build our Slovak Catholic fraternals, religious communities of men and women, and nearly 300 Slovak parishes. In response to this legacy, the Slovak Catholic Federation will sponsor the **32nd Annual SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal.**

The Church in Slovakia has enjoyed a great renaissance since the fall of Communism in 1989. We in America and Canada take pride in the fact that the Slovak Catholic fraternals, our parishes, and individuals of Slovak ancestry have responded generously to assist the Church in our ancestral homeland. The 2010 Annual Appeal begins during the month of February in churches of Slovak decent across the United States and Canada, and will continue to the end of the year.

**The 2009 Appeal collected \$50,322.49.**

**Since its inception, this Appeal has raised \$2,174,758.60.**

Funds raised from the Appeal will aid the priest-graduate students at the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril & Methodius, Rome, Italy. These fine priests are being called upon to be the future leaders of the diocesan churches in Slovakia both as vicars and bishops, in addition to providing qualified instructors/professors for the seminaries that educate future priests. As well, funds benefit those religious communities, both men and women, that share a counterpart belonging to the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Conference of Slovak Religious. These communities are: Vincentian Sisters of Charity (*Ruzomberok*); Dominican Sisters (*Dunajska Luzna*); School Sisters of St. Francis (*Zilina*); Daughters of St. Francis (*Bratislava-Prievoz*); Byzantine Catholic Sisters of St. Basil the Great (*Secove and Presov*), Franciscan Friars Minor (*Bratislava*), and House of St. Benedict (*Bacurov*).

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 under the spiritual leadership of Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the SCF is to federate individuals of Slovak origin under one banner, for cultural, religious, and educational needs. Serving as National President is Rev. Philip Altavilla, V.E., Episcopal Vicar for the Northern Pastoral Region of the Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania. The Episcopal Moderator is the Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, D.D., Bishop of Altoona/Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The National First Vice President, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic, pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, Pennsylvania, is the coordinator for this Annual Appeal.

In the Church today, we are finding that more and more individuals of Slovak descent/background do not attend traditionally founded Slovak parishes, for a number of reasons. Because of this reality today, the monies raised for this Appeal come both from the collections taken in our Slovak parishes as well as from individual donors.

Your tax deductible donation can be sent directly to the National Secretary/Treasurer of the Slovak Catholic Federation:

Dolores Evanko  
173 Berner Avenue  
Hazleton, PA 18201

Please make your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation, noting that it is intended for the Annual Appeal.

Thank you for your most generous support!

## Dear Junior Members,

Do you know why kids are so tired in April? It's because they just finished a long March! It sometimes seems like the snow doesn't want to leave us, but we know the days are getting longer and sun is getting warmer, which makes us begin to dream about those summer days that are just around the corner.

We are now in the Lenten season. We will be celebrating Easter on April 4th this year. Easter always makes us think of bright sunshine, flowers, and, of course, Easter eggs. For over four hundred years, eggs have been an important part of the Christian Easter.



You have seen all the fancy decorated eggs in Easter baskets, but some of the most beautiful eggs come from the natural world. You probably recognize the familiar aqua blue color of the robin's egg, but did you know that birds' eggs can

vary in color from pure white to almost black? The eggs of the tinamous, a South American game bird, are brightly colored in solid, glossy hues and are considered to be among the most beautiful of all birds' eggs. Birds with white eggs tend to be either those who lay their eggs in dark and enclosed spaces, such as holes in trees or special nests, like owls and kingfishers, or primitive birds such as pelicans and cormorants. Those of the killdeer, whip-poor-will, plovers, and terns, laid in exposed places with no protecting nests, are colored like the soil or gravel on which they lay, making them difficult to find. Colored and speckled eggs are laid in areas where they need to be camouflaged. The majority of birds that build protective nests lay eggs having a base color of some delicate tint with spots, streaks, or scrawls of a darker pigment such as purple or brown.

Birds' eggs are not even uniform in shape. The shape of the egg depends on where the bird nests. Most species lay eggs in the familiar oval shape, like the hens' eggs we eat for breakfast. Birds that lay their eggs on ledges or



sea cliffs, such as vultures and murrens, need eggs with a pointed end so they will not roll off the ledge. Round eggs are generally laid by birds like owls that nest in a protected area, such as a tree cavity. Birds that lay many eggs typically have eggs that are pointed. This allows the incubation of several eggs in a small space. By arranging them on the ground with the points inward, a brooding mother can more easily cover all her eggs.

Penguins, albatrosses, and sea birds lay only one egg. The wild duck and many game birds, such as quail and pheasants, lay 15 or more in what is called a clutch.

How would you like to have Easter-colored eggs all year round without dyeing them? You could if you owned an Araucana chicken. These hens come from a region in Chile in South America. They are the only domesticated hens that lay colored eggs. The original Araucanas were odd looking fowls without tails. They had round tufts of feathers like whiskers on each side of the neck. Today they are not tailless but still have their so-called neck whiskers. The coloring of their eggshells goes all the way through the shell, but the eggs themselves taste like the ordinary white or brown eggs with which we are familiar. None of these "Easter Egg Hens" produce multiple colors of eggs. If a hen lays pink eggs, all her eggs will be pink. But surprisingly, a hen that lays pink eggs may have an offspring that lays green or blue eggs. The American Poultry Association does not recognize the Araucana as a standard breed but people still enjoy raising them as a hobby and for their colored eggs.

Happy Easter to you all. I wish you an EGGSCLENT, fun-filled day!

**Cecilia B. Gaughan**, Fraternal Activities Director

## Some Facts About March

The month of March is named for the Roman god Mars. At one time, March was the first month of the Roman calendar. At this time of year – the beginning of spring – the Romans prepared to go off to war, so they named this month *Martius*, in honor of Mars, their god of war.

Long ago, March was called Lenten-month, meaning "lengthening month." And after the first day of spring (March 20th or 21st), the days do begin to get longer.

In the northern half of the world, there's an old saying that "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." This simply means that the weather in early March is often cold and stormy, but by the end of the month it is mild and warm. (A fun project is to mark your calendar, recording which days are mild and which are stormy, to determine whether that old saying is really true.)



We celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17th. You may hear many Irish songs about "The Wearing of the Green" and "When Irish Eyes are Smiling." On this day, many people do wear something green, even if they aren't Irish. The bit of green reminds us all of the beautiful green countryside of Ireland. In fact, this island nation is so green it is often called the Emerald Isle. Green is also the color of a shamrock, the national flower of Ireland.

On March 19th, we honor St. Joseph, the carpenter from Nazareth chosen to be the husband of the Virgin Mary and foster father of Jesus. St. Joseph was a very quiet, humble man, but a strong protector of Mary and Jesus.



## America's First Ladies

No known portrait exists of Thomas Jefferson's wife **Martha Jefferson**, who died 18 years before her husband became president. Their daughter, Martha Jefferson Randolph, served as White House hostess and was the first to give birth in the presidential mansion.

**Elizabeth Monroe** was the first First Lady to speak a foreign language fluently—French. Little else is known about her because her husband destroyed all of her correspondence after her death to protect their privacy.

**Louisa Adams**, wife of John Quincy Adams, was the only First Lady born in a foreign country—England. She played the harp, wrote satirical plays, and raised silkworms.

**Rachel Jackson** was an unintentional bigamist, having unwittingly married Jackson before she was divorced from her first husband. She died after Jackson was elected President, but before he was inaugurated. Her niece, Emily Donelson, served as hostess in the White House during Jackson's administration.

## Bible People and Places

Match the name with the correct description:

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Good News about Jesus               | A. Nazareth        |
| 2. Hometown of Jesus                   | B. Mary            |
| 3. Father of John the Baptist          | C. Caesar Augustus |
| 4. Father of King David                | D. Gospel          |
| 5. Foster father of Jesus              | E. Jesse           |
| 6. Place where Jesus died              | F. Joseph          |
| 7. Mother of Jesus                     | G. Calvary         |
| 8. Roman Emperor at the time of Christ | H. Zachary         |

**Answers** – 1-D, 2-A, 3-H, 4-E, 5-F, 6-G, 7-B, 8-C

## Good Egg Award

This is no yolk! Want to be recognized for your "eggscellent" behavior?

Here's how:

*Always keep your sunny-side up.*

*Never be too hard-boiled.*

*Maybe slightly cracked, but never rotten!*



## A Slovak Easter Basket

A traditional Slovak Easter basket contains these special foods: paska (a special bread made with butter, eggs, and sugar), ham, kielbasa (a spicy sausage), pisanky (decorated eggs), sirek (a cheese made from eggs, milk, and salt), butter, salt, beet and horseradish relish, and makovniky (nut and poppy seed rolls). The basket also contains a blessed candle that will serve as a centerpiece during the Easter meal. A special embroidered cloth is used to cover the basket. These covers have symbols related to the Resurrection and the celebration of Easter. In many families, these handmade Easter basket covers are prized possessions, passed on from generation to generation.

## The Life of an Alaskan Salmon

Alaskan salmon begin their lives as eggs laid in a gravel bed in a stream. The eggs are the size of a pea and the tiny salmon get nourishment from a pink yolk sac on their bellies. After the eggs hatch, the young salmon begin their journey downstream, eating tiny insects as they go. After a couple of years in the streams, the small salmon grow into juveniles called smolts. These smolts gather together at the mouths of the streams and rivers to form schools in preparation for their journey into the ocean. During this time, their bodies undergo changes that will adapt them to the salt water.



These young adult salmon head out into the waters of the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska

where they will spend the next several years. Once they have reached full maturity, they will return to their original stream and readapt to fresh water. Then they will begin the often hazardous and difficult journey of swimming upstream to their spawning grounds where they began their lives. Often, they must overcome obstacles like rapids and waterfalls, as well as hungry bears along their path, but their single-minded purpose helps carry them through. Once they reach the area where they were born, they breed and lay their eggs. The adult salmon generally die within a week or two of the time they spawn, but their bodies help fertilize the stream, creating a nutrient-rich environment for the hatchlings. And thus the cycle of life continues.

## Kids in the Kitchen

### LEPRECHAUN SOUP

Let's try the little Leprechaun's magic soup! You will need:

- 1 can low-sodium tomato soup
- 2 cans water
- 5 low-sodium beef bouillon cubes (or plain canned soup broth)
- 2 carrots,
- 2 small potatoes
- 4 stalks celery
- 1 small onion
- ¼ cup chopped cabbage
- 1 cup peas
- 1 cup corn



Wash and peel carrots and potatoes. Cut the carrots, potatoes, celery, and onion into small pieces (or ask an adult to help you chop these vegetables). In a big pot, heat the soup, water, and bouillon cubes. Add all vegetables. Cover and simmer for about one hour, adding more liquid if needed.



## “Rising from the Rubble”

*continued from page 3*

and wants, to see our self-respect and pride disintegrate before our crushed spirit. Only losers surrender.”

She goes on to say that “true surrender is not capitulation. The Latin root of our English word ‘surrender’ means to ‘give back.’ In surrendering, we give back to God what is not ours, we entrust back to God the ultimate ‘control’ of our lives in order to embrace and be embraced in the love of God who is the Author of all life.”

Through his death on the cross, Jesus gave the control of life into the loving embrace of his Heavenly Father. Though according to worldly standards, Jesus’ death on the cross seems like ultimate failure, for those of us who are his followers, we know that his ultimate act of surrender is true victory – victory over sin and death. Through baptism, we are given a share in this victory and are given the grace needed to live our lives in surrender, rising out of our tombs of selfishness and sinfulness, as we give back to God in thanksgiving for all that he has given to us.

During this holy season, we are challenged to surrender our lives, in imitation of Jesus who gave his life for us all. We are called to empty ourselves, our own needs and wants for the sake of others. As we pass by the image of the Crucified One in the midst of the ruins of a broken, hurting world, we pray that God’s will becomes our will. We strive to return to God the gift of our lives that he has so lovingly given to us, so that our lives may be transformed into something greater, something more complete, more God-like. We cannot hope to experience rebirth and transformation in our own lives until we “empty” ourselves of our self-centered wants, until we “crucify” those attitudes and approaches that make us less than what we are called to become in the eyes of God, until we “surrender” ourselves to the compassion and justice of God. Through this process of emptying ourselves and giving back, we are then open to receive the new life that is the Resurrection of Jesus and are then willing to share that new life with others!

On behalf of myself and the Board of Directors of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, may God abundantly bless you during these final days of our Lenten Season, at Easter and always! May God grant us the grace to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal of authentic Gospel living. As God’s holy people, may we be given the wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it that we may experience the joy that is Easter! Christ is Risen! He is truly Risen! Happy Easter!

Počas obdobia Veľkej noci, nech vás všemohúci Boh, ktorý skrze zmŕtvychvstanie svojho Syna nám daroval dar nehynúcej slobody, vovedie do večnej blaženosti! Ježiš vstal z mŕtvych! To je on, čo vstal z mŕtvych!

**Rev. Philip A. Altavilla, V.E.**

For further information on how to assist in the relief and rebuilding efforts in Haiti, contact your local diocese or visit Catholic Relief Services at: <http://crs.org/>. Thank you for your generosity!

## Students from Slovakia Hosted in Youngstown

Slovak students Matej Lukac of Spisska Nova Ves and Viktoria Vitekova of Bratislava, along with six members of their host families, were guests of Youngstown Sister Cities at the annual Vilija Dinner held in December 2009 at Saint Matthias Church Hall, Youngstown, Ohio.

Both students were introduced by YSC Secretary Bernie Demechko and were presented with a monetary gift from the organization. Matej is attending New Philadelphia High School and Victoria is studying at Saint Thomas High School, both in the Youngstown area.

Eight of the 12-member YSC Board were present. Newly elected officers include: President Bob Petruska, Vice President Jim Bench, Treasurer Ron Garchar, Directors John Pavlansky and Loretta Ekoniak, and, newly elected to the Board, Gigi Bacon, wife of its co-founder, the late Steve Bacon, and John Slanina, YSC Webmaster.

At a recent meeting of the Board, the Steve Bacon Memorial Scholarship Fund was established to financially assist any student from the United States who seeks to study for one year in the YSC’s Sister City, Spisska Nova Ves, Slovakia, or any student from that city who will come to Ohio, Pennsylvania, or Michigan to study. Rotary International works with Youngstown Sister Cities in running this program.

Youngstown Sister Cities thanks the LPSCU readers and the *Zornicka* magazine for the ongoing support they provide to enable YSC to continue its activities and to perpetuate our Slovak heritage.

**Bernie Demechko**



**Seated, L-R: Loretta Ekoniak, Jim Bench, Bob Petruska, and Bernie Demechko. Standing, L-R: Matej Lukac, Viktoria Vitekova, Gigi Bacon, John Pavlansky, John Slanina, and Ron Garchar.**