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to Our 2011 LPSCU Post-Graduate Award Recipients

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Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

- 6** — The Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh sponsors "Kidz Bowling for Kidz" at AMF Mt. Lebanon Bowling Lanes, 1601 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Proceeds benefit the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.
- 12** — Lucina Slovak Folk Ensemble's fall dinner gala at Pokrava Hall, 6812 Broadview Road, Parma, Ohio.
- 16** — Meeting with leaders of Slovak organizations, Slovak Embassy, Washington, D.C.
- 17** — Annual Slovak-American Awards Dinner, Slovak Embassy, Washington, D.C.
- 20** — **Deadline to submit articles for January/February Zornicka.**

DECEMBER

- 2** — Msgr. Beeda District's Christmas Party at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish, North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Any member wishing to attend should contact District President Anita Gregory (570-788-3263) by November 21.
- 3** — LPSCU Telephone Conference Meeting
- 4** — Viliya Supper held by the monks of St. Andrew's Abbey at the Benedictine High School cafeteria, 2900 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Cleveland, Ohio, following the 12 noon Mass at the Abbey Church. Tickets (\$20) must be ordered in advance. Deadline for orders is November 28. *See page 15 for more details.*
- 4** — Branch 52's annual Christmas Party at the Grandview Golf Club, North Braddock, Pennsylvania, beginning at noon. Contact Jim Tomasic (412-824-0390) to make reservations.
- 4** — Lehigh Valley Okres Holiday Luncheon in the Lehigh Room of the Best Western Conference Center, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Please bring an unwrapped toy for our "Toys for Tots" collection. Deadline for reservations is November 28.
- 4** — Rev. Dianiska District's Christmas party at the Ramada Inn, Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Branch 19 will host.
- 5** — The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association's Slovak Heritage Group will meet at 7:00 p.m. at Mt. Lebanon Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Sue Ondrejko will present a program on Slovak Christmas customs.
- 11** — Pittsburgh District Christmas Party at the Westwood Golf Club, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Attendees are asked to bring canned goods to be distributed to the local Food Bank.

2012

JANUARY

- 12** — Meeting with the Pennsylvania Insurance Department.
- 20** — **Deadline to submit articles for March/April Zornicka.**
- 23** — 38th Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

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Spiritual Advisor's Message

“Christmas Trees”



Fr. Altavilla

One of my favorite Christmas cartoons is “A Charlie Brown Christmas.” In order to enhance the decorations on the set of the school Christmas pageant, Charlie Brown is sent on a mission to find a worthy Christmas tree. Much to the disappointment of his classmates and friends, he comes back with sad, skimpy little tree that cannot even sustain the weight of one ornament. After receiving the chastisement of his peers, and after Linus clues them in to the real meaning of Christmas, the children surround the poor little tree with great excitement and creativity, transforming it into a beautiful Christmas tree that radiantly and proudly shines for all to see as they sing, “Hark the Herald Angels Sing.”

If it wasn't for Charlie Brown, no one would have selected that little tree and if it wasn't for the care and devotion of those who saw past its unfortunate state, it would never have become a beautiful expression of the Christmas message. Here is another little story, told by Suzanne Lieurance, about a tree that didn't think it would ever be accepted or wanted.

“The big pine trees make the prettiest trees,” the little pine says to himself. It is Christmastime in the forest, and all the trees are excited about the season. Their thick branches are covered with blankets of snow – all the branches except for the little pine's, that is.

“Who would want such a little tree with such thin branches?” he says.

“Don't worry,” says the biggest spruce in the forest, “someone will think you're special.”

“All trees are special,” chirps a little bird, sitting on a snowy bough. But the little pine isn't so sure. His branches droop a little.

Moments later, a family ventures into the forest, looking for the perfect Christmas tree.

“Remember,” says Mom, “it can't be too broad, or it won't fit through the door.”

“And it can't be too tall,” says David, “or it will scrape the ceiling.”

“We'll know the perfect tree when we see it,” says Sarah.

Soon the family arrives at the forest. The trees can't wait to see which tree will be picked. The children race right past the giant spruce trees. They stop at the little pine.

“This one!” decides Sarah.

“Yeah! It's perfect!” says David.

“See,” says the biggest spruce, “someone thinks you're special already.”

“They can't mean me,” says the little pine. “Look at my thin little branches.”

“What beautiful, straight branches,” says Mom. “Oh, such a lovely little tree.”

“See? They don't think your branches are skinny,” says the biggest spruce. “They think you're special.”

The little pine still drooped. “They think I'm special now. But wait 'til they get me home.”

“Where will we put the tree?” asks David.

“In front of the window,” says Mom, “so everyone can see our perfect little tree.”

“The decorations will be so beautiful!” Sarah says. “Our tree will be the best one ever!”

“I hope the decorations look right on my skinny little branches,” the little pine thinks. “I don't want to disappoint my new family.”

“Look,” says Sarah. “People can see our tree from both front windows.”

“You're right,” says Mom. “Everyone will get to admire our beautiful tree.”

“Oh, no,” thought the little pine. “Everyone will see how silly the decorations look on me!”

The family begins to decorate the tree with colored

ornaments of all shapes and sizes. Then, after they place the ornaments on its branches, they very carefully place the Christmas angel on the top of the tree. The little tree's branches shine with the festive ornaments. What

a lucky tree to wear such beautiful ornaments!

The little pine perks up. “The family isn't disappointed. Maybe the big spruce trees were right.”

The little pine stands proud and straight. “The big spruce trees were right,” he thinks. “Being special doesn't always mean being the biggest or the most beautiful. In the forest, I thought that I was a scrawny little pine. But now I know that I truly am special.”

In both cases, little trees that were thought to be worthless were transformed in magnificent Christmas trees that brought joy and delight to people. It was because of the love and determination of Charlie Brown and friends as well as that family, searching in the forest for the perfect tree, that these little scrawny trees were given a chance to shine.

What do we truly celebrate at Christmas? At the appointed time, our Heavenly Father sent his son, Jesus, into the world to redeem and transform humanity. Broken and fragile because of choices for sin, Jesus came to reveal God's enduring love for all people in a very unique way — by becoming one like us and by dying on the cross for us. We sing of this reality in the Christmas hymn, “O Holy Night,” which states: “Long lay the world in sin and error pining. Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.” As Saint John tells us in his Gospel: “(For) God so loved the world that he sent his only Son that whoever believes in him might not perish, but might have eternal life.” (John 3:16). The great preacher, Reverend Billy Graham, once said: “The very purpose of Christ's coming into the world was that He might offer up His life as a sacrifice for the sins of men. He came to die. This is the heart of Christmas.”

Like both the Charlie Brown Christmas tree and little tree

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The message of Christmas is a clear statement from God that all human life matters and has value . . .

Agnes M. Janinek, Former Branch 8 Secretary



Agnes M. Janinek

Agnes M. Janinek, 88, a resident of Clarks Summit Senior Living, and formerly of Jessup, Pennsylvania, died August 10, 2011, at Asera-Care Hospice at Mid Valley Hos-

pital, Peckville, Pennsylvania.

Born in Jessup, Agnes was the daughter of the late Joseph and Mary Podrasky Janinek. She was a graduate of St. Michael's School, Jessup; St. Cyril Academy, Danville, Pennsylvania; Lackawanna Business College, Scranton, Pennsylvania; and attended George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Agnes was a member of St. Michael's Church, Queen of Angels Parish, Jessup, where she served as a lector, Eucharistic minister, parish council member, and RCIA director. She was actively involved in St. Michael's School in Jessup, where she served as librarian and substitute teacher. For many years, she served as secretary for LPSCU Branch 8 in Jessup, and she attended many National Conventions throughout the United States.

During a career with the federal government that spanned 42 years, Agnes worked as administrative assistant to the assistant secretary of the U.S. Air Force and to three Atomic Energy commissioners. She served as an executive secretary in the Kennedy White House and was the assistant to Dr. John von Neu-

mann, who was an award winning mathematician and creator of the first computer systems.

From 1961 to 1971, Agnes was appointed as executive assistant to Nobel Prize winner and Atomic Energy Commissioner Dr. Glenn Seaborg. During that time, she was assigned to the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy to research the future energy resources of the United States. She was a delegate to the first Nuclear Disarmament Conference held by the United States, Britain, and the Soviet Union for six months in 1963 held in Geneva, Switzerland. In 1971, she was transferred to the newly created Nuclear Regulatory Commission where she served as liaison officer for the National Governor's Association, the State Legislatures, and served as a board member of the State Radiation Control Program Directors. In 1967 she was nominated by the Atomic Energy Commission to be Federal Woman of the Year and was awarded the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Meritorious Service Medal in 1979.

Surviving are five sisters, Marie Homentosky, Jessup; Veronica LaMacchia, Lansing, Michigan; Josephine Palmer

and husband Jack, Palm City, Florida; Ann Simeone, Jackson, Tennessee; Barbara Smith and husband Dan, Silver Spring, Maryland; one brother, Joseph Janinek and wife, Patronella, Carbon-dale, Pennsylvania; three godchildren, Jean Fetcho, Joanne Kingsley, and John Palmer; and many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews. She was preceded in death by three brother-in-laws, Joseph Homentosky, James LaMacchia, and Ralph Simeone.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on August 15, 2011, by the Reverend Joseph Kopacz, former pastor of St. Michael's Church. Interment was held at St. Michael's Cemetery, Jessup.

Many members of LPSCU Branch 8 in Jessup from the Janinek, Homentosky, Smith, Fetcho, LaMacchia, and Batzel families were in attendance.

The officers and members of the LPSCU are deeply saddened at the loss of our beloved fraternal sister, Agnes M. Janinek. She was a dedicated fraternalist and served the LPSCU Branch 8 members with honor and respect. We are grateful for her service to Branch 8. She will be missed dearly by the LPSCU. We extend sincere sympathy to Agnes's family. May she rest in peace.

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

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Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution	0	0
Total Distribution	5,570	5,535
Copies not Distributed	10	45
Total	5,580	5,580
Percent Paid	100%	100%

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

Get involved
 in the LPSCU!
 Meet new friends!
 Attend Branch &
 Okres meetings!
 Sign up a new
 member!

*The National Officers and Staff
of the LPSCU
wish you and yours
a very Happy Thanksgiving,
a Blessed and Merry Christmas,
and a New Year filled
with Health and Happiness!*



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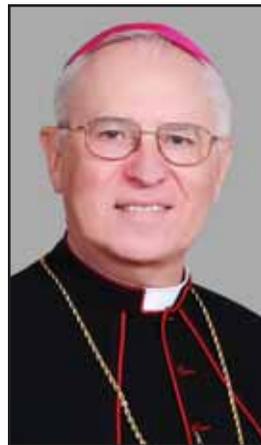
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*Radostne Vianocne sviatky
a Bohom pozehnany Novy Rok!
Linkiu jums geru Sv. Kaledu
ir mielu bei laimingu Naujuju Metu!*

A Message from Our Episcopal Protector

Christmas 2011



Most Rev. Adamec

“And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

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

The truth that this passage
from the Gospel written by the
Apostle John conveys is both simple
and awesome. We love and cele-
brate its simplicity each Christmas
Season. Nevertheless, our minds
can hardly begin to grasp the depth

of its significance for us as regards the rest of the year —
actually, the rest of our lives.

However, the Magi did comprehend to the extent that they
were able. That awareness of something great having occurred
did not remain simply as a matter of knowing and believing. It
prompted them to embark on a journey at whatever cost and
inconvenience. Their goal was to encounter the “Newborn
King.” This they did; but, not where they expected to do so.

Their journey gives us an insight into our own earthly
journey. Would that we, like the Magi, might act on that
awesome event whose anniversary we celebrate every year.
May the rest of our lives reflect the reality of what we believe.
Out of love, God came to be with us in the person of Jesus
Christ. That is truly awesome!

I pray that all of you in our Society experience a very
Blessed Christmas and a New Year that will continue for the
rest of your earthly journey.

Fraternally yours in the Lord,

+ Joseph

(Most Rev.) Joseph V. Adamec
Bishop-Emeritus of Altoona-Johnstown

Slovak Institute Has Unique Slovak Gifts

Looking for a unique or special holiday gift for your
Slovak friends? The Slovak Institute of Cleveland, Ohio,
sells oplatki, large maps of Slovakia, large or small
Slovak flags, and English books relating to Slovakia and
the Slovak people, learning the Slovak language, and
Slovak songs and dances. Also available are Slovak or
English Christmas cards and Christmas cards to Canada.
For information, contact Andrew F. Hudak, Jr. or the
Slovak Institute at 216-721-5300, ext. 294.

REVEREND DIANISKA DISTRICT

A meeting of the Rev. Dianiska District of the LPSCU was held on Sunday, September 18, 2011, at St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception Hall in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Theresa Kluchinski welcomed everyone on behalf of host Branches 6 and 213.

The meeting was called to order by District President Mary Ann Ewasko. She led the members in prayers for sick and deceased members of the District and for everyone in our communities who were involved in the recent flooding. The Pledge of Allegiance followed; Marissa Jason served as flag bearer.



Marissa Jason bears the colors as members recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Financial Secretary Marge Zinkavich read roll call. Barbara Kalish and Debbie Adamchak read the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, respectively; both reports were approved. Barbara Kalish read correspondence and mentioned that the District received a thank you note from the board and staff of the Wyoming Valley Children's Association for our recent donation.

The following items were discussed:

On May 7, members participated in "Join Hands Day" at The Laurels Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. The event was very successful.

The annual Youth Bowling Party was held on July 16 at Modern Lanes, Exeter, Pennsylvania. Hope and Lori Ann Napkora co-chaired this successful event once again. President Ewasko noted that one child said to her on the way out, "See you next year!"

President Ewasko thanked members for the cleaning supplies donated to the Catherine McCauley House in Plymouth, Pennsylvania for "Make a Difference Day."

A donation will be sent from the District to the Wyoming Valley Red Cross to help with flood recovery.

The District's annual Christmas Party will be held on

December 4 at the Ramada Inn in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, hosted by Branch 19. A flyer with details was passed out to the members. Four college award recipients from Branches 6, 7, 19, and 197 will be honored at the affair.



National President Theresa Kluchinski (right) presents Jean Kapral with a plaque honoring her as 2011 LPSCU Fraternalist of the

The next District meeting, which will be held in 2012, will be hosted by Branches 7 and 214.

National President Theresa Kluchinski announced that Sarah Brassington of Wilkes-Barre Branch 6 was honored with the 2011 Youth Achievement Award. Sarah attends Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts, and was not available to accept her award, so in her absence, her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Fino, accepted the award on her behalf. President Kluchinski also announced that she recently learned that Sarah is the recipient of the 2011 LPSCU Bishop Andrew G. Grutka Memorial Scholarship.

The President also presented Jean Kapral of Branch 19, Swoyersville, Pennsylvania, with the 2011 LPSCU Fraternalist of the Year award. Branch 19 honored Jean with a bouquet of flowers to celebrate her achievement.

After the meeting was adjourned, guest speakers Melissa



Melissa Chisdock and Sheryl Ziobro, guest speakers from Med Express.

Chisdock and Sheryl Ziobro from Med Express in Wilkes-Barre and Edwardsville, Pennsylvania, informed the group about their organization, which is a walk-in medical facility with doctors and nurses on staff seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The facility also has an in-house x-ray

department. They have a one-hour in and out policy for most medical treatments. Melissa and Sheryl held a drawing and raffled prizes to the members. Melissa is a member of the LPSCU.

Susan Worth



National President Theresa Kluchinski presents a plaque to Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Fino honoring their granddaughter, Sarah Brassington, as the 2011 LPSCU Youth Achievement Award recipient.

LPSCU Annuities

Br.	Branch Representative	Month(s) July/Aug. 2011	Year-To-Date Total
64	Elva E. Silay	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
122	Theresa Kluchinski	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 3,292.59
			\$ 23,292.59

ZORNICKA

Then and Now

A Fun New Photo-Matching Contest for Our 2012 Convention

With the help of our members, we're planning a fun Photo-Matching Contest for our 2012 Convention. Here's how it will work: Members will send in two photos of themselves, one from their childhood (at least 2 years of age) or teen years and one from the present day. The photos will be randomly displayed at our 40th National Convention, to be held June 23-26, 2012, at The Inn in Pocono Manor, Mt. Pocono, Pennsylvania. Then, convention delegates will have a chance to guess which past and present photos belong together. Those with the most correct answers will win the cash prizes listed below.

Members, start looking through your photos now and choose the pair you would like to submit for this fun Photo-Matching Contest. Please identify your photos **on the back** and mail them to Cecilia Gaughan, LPSCU Fraternal Activities Director, 325 Florida Avenue, Whitehall, PA 18052. Also, be sure to list your Branch number on your entry. **Photos from the first 50 entrants will be accepted.** If you would like to have your photos returned after the contest, please provide a stamped, self-addressed return envelope with your entry.

Entries for this contest will be accepted until March 1, 2012. However, because of display space limitations, we can only accept the first 50 entries, so we encourage you to send in your photos as soon as possible.

As an incentive and "thank you" for our members who participate, the names of two of the 50 chosen photo-senders will be drawn during the convention. Those lucky two will each receive a \$25 gift card to a restaurant or store in their area.

If you have any questions, you may contact Ceil at 610-433-4610 or email cbgaughan@msn.com.

PRIZES

1st Prize (Most correct answers) - \$100

2nd Prize (2nd most correct answers) - \$75

3rd Prize (3rd most correct answers) - \$50

(In case of a tie, prize money will be split)

We encourage our Board members to send in their "Then and Now" photos too. However, Board members are not eligible for photo contest prizes.

Remember, this contest will only be successful if YOU help make it so by your participation, so dig out those old photos today and see if you can stump our delegates!

**An LPSCU insurance policy
makes the perfect gift!**

LPSCU EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

2012 College Award

\$500 One Time Award

The LPSCU is offering a \$500, one-time College Award to our members who will be attending college during the 2012-2013 academic year. A total of 25 College Awards will be granted.

These are the guidelines for those applying for this award:

- Must be a member of the LPSCU for two (2) years with at least a \$2,000 permanent reserve life insurance plan (excludes term insurance).
- Applicants must be a high school senior, college freshman, sophomore, or junior.
- High school seniors must provide a letter of recommendation from a school representative (ex: teacher, guidance counselor, or principal).
- High school applicants must submit an official transcript from high school that includes test scores; College students must submit documentation indicating latest overall GPA.
- Provide a detailed list of extracurricular activities, honors, and awards.
- Provide a detailed list of church, community, volunteer, and work activities including honors and awards, with reference(s) included.
- Must be attending an accredited college/university on a full-time basis for the 2012-2013 academic year.
- Submit a brief essay (no more than 200 words) on the topic "Why is life insurance important?"
- Provide a wallet-size color photo.
- Submit proof of acceptance for the Fall 2012 semester.



Applicants must meet all criteria outlined and provide data indicated to be eligible. Those applications with incomplete data or requirements will not be considered. All submitted materials become the property of the LPSCU and will not be returned. The LPSCU reserves the right to publish the entire essay or excerpts of the applicant's essay, in its own discretion, in its official publication, *Zornicka*.

Applications are available from the LPSCU Home Office or its website. **Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2012.**

Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union
Educational Benefit Committee
P.O. Box 32

Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703

Phone: 570-823-3513 ❖ Toll free: 888-834-6614

Fax: 570-823-4464

E-mail: lpscu@lpscu.org ❖ Website: www.lpscu.org

ATTENTION!

LPSCU Branch & District Members



**We're Looking for a Shining Star in the LPSCU
for the 2012 Fraternalist of the Year**



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



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



If you can answer "yes" to the above, then you have a "Shining Star" member to be nominated as our 2012 LPSCU Fraternalist of the Year!

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

Hurry — The Deadline for Nominations is **March 1, 2012**

Let an outstanding youth know. . .

YOU ARE APPRECIATED

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



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

The deadline for nominations is **March 1, 2012**.

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

Sarah Ann Brassington Awarded Bishop Grutka Scholarship



Sarah Ann Brassington

Sarah Ann Brassington of Saugus, Massachusetts, is the 2011 recipient of the Bishop Andrew G. Grutka Memorial Scholarship. Sarah is currently a freshman at Stonehill College, North Easton, Massachusetts, majoring in accounting.

In May of this year, Sarah graduated from St. Mary's High School, Lynn, Massachusetts, where her curriculum included all Honors programs. She was also our 2011 Youth Achievement Award Winner. (A feature article

relating to her achievements and accomplishments was published in the May/June 2011 *Zornicka* on page 8.)

To qualify for the Bishop Grutka Memorial Scholarship, Sarah received two outstanding recommendations on her behalf. A letter from Reverend John E. Farrell, S.T.D., pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Lynnfield, Massachusetts, of which Sarah is a member, states "Sarah is an awesome gift" to his parish. Father Farrell particularly appreciates Sarah's leadership with the Youth Ministry Program and especially with children at the 9 a.m. Sunday Family Mass. He expresses that their religious education director, confirmation director, and youth music director all rely on Sarah's competence and commitment in those areas. He further notes that the children of the parish readily trust Sarah and quickly accept her guidelines – she is generous with her talents and time. Fr. Farrell concludes, "Sarah knows herself as a disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ. If as a model or teacher herself in some future, Sarah is fully aware that she is His student and ever grateful for the gifts given to season and share."

Mrs. Judy Dixon, director of religious education at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, states in her recommendation letter that she has "grown to know Sarah as a faith-filled disciple of Christ." Sarah's duties as "Host Class Mass Coordinator" at the 9 a.m. Family Mass on Sundays entail that Sarah greet the students and catechists, ensure the Lectors are adequately prepared, find "back-up" Lectors if necessary, organize and assemble the processional, sit with the classes, ensure the smooth transition of the Lectors to the pulpit, and coordinate the gifts to be brought from the table to the altar.

It was through Sarah's perseverance and determination that the parish's youth room was renovated. She reached out to a fellow senior classmate who was looking for an Eagle Scout project, and she organized and executed a successful three-day renovation.

Sarah also served as youth liaison on the parish pastoral sub-committee for youth, requiring a monthly, and sometimes a bi-monthly commitment. Mrs. Dixon notes, "The insight, experience, and joy that Sarah brought to each meeting has offered each committee member hope for the future of the youth at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish."

Sarah is the daughter of Leann and Richard Brassington, Sr. She has one brother, Richard, Jr. Sarah, her mother,

brother, uncles, and many cousins are all members of LPSCU Branch 6, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Sarah's outstanding volunteer commitment to the youth of her parish is remarkable. She is an outstanding young lady and most deserving of the 2011 LPSCU Bishop Andrew G. Grutka Memorial Scholarship. The LPSCU is very proud of Sarah's volunteer service to her parish. We congratulate her on receiving this prestigious award and wish her continued success in her college years at Stonehill College and in her faith-filled dedication to the youth of her parish.

Magdalen Benish Receives Service Award

Magdalen Benish of Plains, Pennsylvania, recently received the Dean School of Business Outstanding Alumni Service Award at a reunion luncheon held at Wyoming Seminary, Kingston, Pennsylvania. Ms. Benish received the award in appreciation of her many years of dedicated service to Wyoming Seminary.

Magdalen is a member of St. Andre Bessette Parish in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and a former member of Sacred Heart Slovak Church, where she was actively involved as a lector, Eucharistic Minister, a member of the choir, and a member of the finance committee.

She is a retired vice president of the First Union Bank in Wilkes-Barre, a member of the President's Council at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, and a financial adviser on the Board of Directors of the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Magdalen is a member of LPSCU Branch 122, Wilkes-Barre.

The LPSCU congratulates Magdalen Benish on receiving this prestigious award.



Shown at the award presentation, from left, are John Shafer, vice president of Advancement, Wyoming Seminary; Magdalen Benish, award recipient; and Dr. Kip Nygren, president of Wyoming Seminary.

Minutes of the Executive Finance Committee

August 17, 2011 – Home Office, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

President Theresa Kluchinski called the meeting to order and offered a prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendees: Theresa Kluchinski, president; Anita Gregory, vice president; Mary Jo Savidge, secretary-treasurer; and Mary Ann Ewasko, chairperson of trustees. The committee reviewed and accepted the Minutes from the July 20, 2011, Executive Finance Committee meeting with two corrections.

The committee acknowledged all the correspondence read and approved the following requests:

- ❖ 34th Slovak Heritage Festival requesting an ad for their program book. *Approved \$75.00.*
- ❖ Polish Union of the USA requesting an ad for their 33rd Anniversary Debutante Ball program book. *Approved \$100.00.*
- ❖ Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance requesting a donation for scholarship program and charitable project. *Approved \$50.00 for each.*

Financial Statement

The committee reviewed the following checking accounts as of July 31, 2011: M&T Bank — General Operating Account, M&T Bank — Home Office Checking Account and Smith Barney Checking Account. The committee was provided and reviewed the June 2011 Quarterly Statement.

Bond/Stock/Pension Portfolio

The committee was provided copies of all reports from July 31, 2011, reviewing all activity, including CDs, Common Stocks, Preferred Stocks, Bonds, and International Investments. The Employee Retirement Plan was also reviewed.

New Insurance Issued

Branch	Branch Representative	May-June 2011	Year-to-Date Total
83/130	Mary Ann Ackerman		\$ 89,000.00
8/197	Christine Zak		\$ 80,000.00
7/9/19/197	Maureen Grohowski	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
213	Mary Jo Savidge		\$ 46,000.00
38	Cecilia B. Gaughan		\$ 41,000.00
213	Theresa Kluchinski		\$ 40,000.00
60	Anita Gregory	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
14	Verna Prawdzik		\$ 10,000.00
19	Deborah Adamchak		\$ 10,000.00
202	Eleanor Papst		\$ 10,000.00
64	Elva E. Silay	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
6	Mary Ann Ewasko	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
52	James E. Tomasic		\$ 8,000.00
130	Margaret A. Ferri		\$ 7,000.00
60	Anita Gregory		\$ 5,000.00
76	Celeste Palscey		\$ 5,000.00
42	Dolores Sakal		\$ 5,000.00
156	Joan Ellen Friendak	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
17	Marion DiCalogero		\$ 2,000.00
194	Ann Dobias	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
19	Regina Kapral		\$ 1,000.00
		<u>\$ 72,000.00</u>	<u>\$476,000.00</u>

Budget

The committee was provided and reviewed the budget for July 31, 2011.

There being no further business, the EFC adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Savidge

National Secretary-Treasurer

2011 Catholic High School Award Recipients



Ryan Joseph Crossin

Freshman
Holy Redeemer High School
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
Branch 122
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania



Christian Nonnemacher

Freshman
Marian Catholic High School
Tamaqua, Pennsylvania
Branch 124
Hazleton, Pennsylvania



Teresa Ann Toomey

Freshman
Holy Redeemer High School
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
Branch 6
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania



Emilianna Wasko

Freshman
Seton Catholic Central High School
Binghamton, New York
Branch 7
Exeter, Pennsylvania

Fr. Philip Altavilla Installed as Pastor of St. Peter's Cathedral, Named Vicar General

On Sunday, July 24, 2011, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, formally installed the Reverend Philip A. Altavilla, V.G., as the new pastor and rector of the Cathedral of Saint Peter, the Mother Church of the Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania. Attending this special liturgical celebration were Father Phil's mother, Anne Altavilla (who also celebrated her birthday that day) and his aunt, Marie "Mayme" Gryczko. Concelebrating with Bishop Bambera and Father Phil was the Reverend Thomas M. Muldowney, V.E., Vicar for Clergy, assisted by Deacon Edward Shoener. Father Brian J.T. Clarke served as Bishop Bambera's Master of Ceremonies and liturgical music was provided by the Cathedral choir and guest instrumentalists, under the direction of Mr. Danny Marx. Father Phil's appointment was effective as of July 11, 2011.

To better serve the needs of the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton, effective on September 12, 2011, Bishop Bambera further appointed Father Phil as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia. Father Brian J.W. Clarke also serves as Vicar General and Canonical Consultant. A Vicar General is the principal deputy of the bishop of a diocese for the exercise of administrative authority. As vicar of the bishop, the Vicar General exercises the bishop's ordinary executive power over the entire diocese and, thus, is the highest official in a diocese or other particular church after the diocesan bishop or his equivalent in canon law. The Moderator of the Curia is entrusted with the oversight of those officials who assist the diocesan bishop.

Father Altavilla will continue to serve the diocese as the Director of Ecumenism and Interfaith Affairs and Chaplain for Scouting.

Father Phil, who serves as National Spiritual Advisor of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, is also the current National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation, which celebrated the centennial of its founding at St. Peter's Cathedral on Sunday, May 15, 2011.

He is a graduate of the former Sacred Heart Slovak Elementary School in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, where his teachers were the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Father Phil graduated from Bishop Hoban High School (now Holy



L-R: Marie Gryczko, Fr. Phil's aunt; Anne Altavilla, his mom; Rev. Philip A. Altavilla, V.G.; Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton; Rev. Thomas M. Muldowney, V.E., Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; and Deacon Edward R. Shoener, Cathedral Deacon.

Redeemer High School), Wilkes-Barre, and received his undergraduate degree in Philosophy and History at the University of Scranton. Father Phil completed his theological studies for the priesthood at the North American College and the Pontifical Gregorian University, both in Rome, Italy.

On April 30, 1992, he was ordained a Deacon by the late Cardinal Pio Laghi, then Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, and then on June 27, 1992, he was ordained a priest by the Most Reverend James C. Timlin, D.D., Bishop of Scranton, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, where he now serves as rector and pastor. He celebrated his first Mass at Sacred Heart Slovak Church in Wilkes-Barre. LPSCU Honorary Spiritual Advisor, Monsignor Francis J. Beeda, served as homilist for his first Mass, having been Father Phil's pastor and mentor while growing up at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish.

On March 6, 2006, His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI bestowed the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (for the Church and the Pontiff) Medal on Father Phil in recognition of his outstanding priestly ministry and involvement with the Slovak Catholic Federation.

Our congratulations and prayerful best wishes go out to Father Phil on his new pastoral assignments. Ad multos annos!

Heritage Group Talk on Slovak Christmas Customs

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association announces that its monthly Slovak Heritage Group will meet on Monday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m. at Mt. Lebanon Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A special program on Slovak Christmas customs will be presented by Sue Ondrejco, a member of the WPSCA Board of Advisors. Sue will talk about the Slovak customs surrounding St. Andrew, St. Lucy, St. Nicholas, and much more, including a visit from St. Nicholas. For additional information call (888) SLOVAKS or (412) 531-2990.



Bishop Bambera (left) and Fr. Altavilla at the altar.

The LPSCU Honors Our

Once again, we've had a tremendous response to our call to honor our veterans and active duty military. Our members' outpouring of support for this annual tribute is most gratifying. Again this year, all donations that accompanied your submissions will be presented to the Catholic War Veterans. Thank you for continuing to support this most worthy cause and all our fraternal activities throughout the year.

~ Cecilia B. Gaughan, Fraternal Activities Director

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

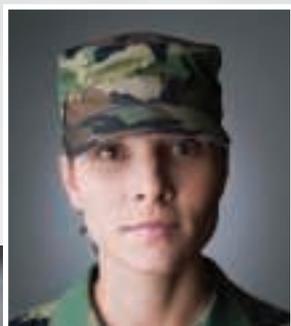
In honor of our father, **Tech. Sergeant Herbert J. Schimeneck**, who served in HQCO 1759th Special Shop Battalion during WWII. Dad, words can never express how great you were for all of us. You are so deeply missed. ~ The Schimeneck kids: Billy, Georgie, Donna, and Mary

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

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

In honor and memory of our father, **Army Corporal William Gaughan**, military police investigator, who served in the Korean War, stationed in the South Pacific, Eniwetok, Marshall Islands. Thanks for serving our country. We will never forget you, Dad. ~ From five proud daughters, Deborah, Laura, Cecilia, Theresa, and Colette

For the safety of **all our troops** everywhere. ~ Elizabeth Melko



Veterans and Military

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

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

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

Grateful thanks to and my prayers for **those who served and are serving**. ~ Joan Hladek, National Trustee

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In honor of our brother, **Vincent J. Guza**, who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. ~ With pride from your sister Anita and family and brother Jack
In honor of our dad, **John H. Gregory**, who served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. ~ With love and pride from your sons, Chris and Jonathan

With gratitude to **all the men and women who unselfishly protect our freedom**. God bless you! ~ Anita and John Gregory and family

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

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

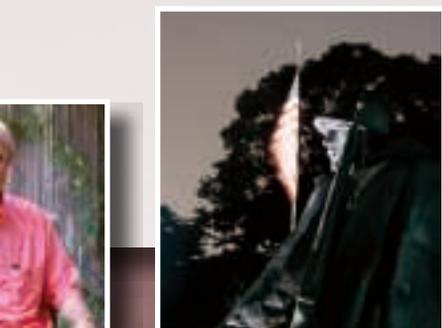
In memory of our father, **SF2C Martin G. Bucha**, who served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. We are and always have been proud of you, Dad! ~ Your loving daughters, Maryjo, Martine, Monica, and Aggie

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

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

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

continued on page 14



The LPSCU Honors Our Veterans and Military

continued from page 13

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

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

In loving memory of my husband, **T/Sgt. James R. Ford**, who served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War at Pleice in 1966. ~ Your loving wife, Mary J. Ford

In loving memory of my father, **T/Sgt. James R. Ford** (USAF, 1954-1975). ~ Your loving daughter, Marie S. Ford-Clemens

In loving memory of our uncle, **John Gavenda**, who served in the U.S. Army during WWII. We miss you, Uncle John, and we are so proud of you. ~ The Bucha girls, Mary Jo, Martine, Monica, and Agnes Ann

We are proud of our cousin, **Sgt. John Gavenda**, who served courageously during the Vietnam War. ~ Your proud cousins, Mary Jo, Martine, Monica, and Agnes Ann

In honor of our husband/dad, **Staff Sgt. Robert Sopko**, who served in the Korean War. We are proud of you, Dad! ~ Love, Mom and family

In honor our son, **Lt. Commander Joseph Sopko (Retd.)**, who proudly served in the military. We are proud of you! ~ Love, Mom, Dad, and family

In honor of **Cmdr. Robert Sopko, Jr. (Retd.)**, who proudly served our country during the Korean War. ~ Love, Dad, Mom, and family

In loving memory of my brother, **Sgt. Joseph Sopko II**, who made the supreme sacrifice during the Korean War. ~ Your brother Robert and family

In honor and memory of all the military who are serving or have served to keep this nation safe. May God bless you!

In honor of **Adam**, a Marine who safely concluded his tour of duty in Afghanistan and returned home to his new baby daughter. Welcome home, Marine! ~ Nancy and Alan Knoche

In honor of **Edward A. Silay**, husband, father, and grandfather, who served in Korea with the 25th Lightning Division. We all love you and honor you. ~ Your family

In honor of all servicemen past and present. Thank you for service. We are proud of you! ~ The officers of Branch 64, Pittsburgh

In memory of our dad, **F/3d Class Peter Papst**, who served aboard the *USS Craven* in WWII. We love and miss you. ~ Petra, June, and Beth

In honor of our dad, **Peter Papst**, who served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. ~ Petra, June, and Beth

In honor of my brother, **Albert Durica, Jr.**, who served with the U. S. Army during the Vietnam War. ~ Jan Mathews

In loving memory of my dad, **Albert J. Durica**, who served as a proud U.S. Marine during World War II. ~ From your loving daughter, Janice Mathews

In loving memory of **James E. Sakal, Sr.**, a veteran of the Korean War. ~ Dolores Sakal

In memory of **Ed Lutheran**, a Korean War veteran who served with the U.S. Army. ~ With love, Patti, Eddie, and David

In loving memory of my husband, **Karl Lazur**, who served as a medic during World War II. ~ Dorothy

In memory of my husband (also a father and grandfather), **Marine Gunny Sgt. Charles G. Stearney**. You are missed. ~ Love, Pat



Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union
Minutes of the Board Conference Call

June 18, 2011

Call to Order – Prayer

President Theresa Kluchinski called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Spiritual Advisor Rev. Philip Altavilla offered a prayer.

Roll Call

All were present except for Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge, who was excused, and there was no response from Trustee Elizabeth Melko.

Welcome Remarks

President Kluchinski thanked everyone for attending.

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

The agenda for this meeting was approved, along with the Minutes from the March 25-27, 2011 meeting, with three changes.

Correspondence/Requests

Correspondence received was read. The Board approved \$2,000.00 annual donation for the Conference of Slovak Clergy.

Financial Report

Board members were provided and reviewed the following information:

- ❖ Quarterly Statement
- ❖ Month End Balance Sheet/Revenue and Expense Statement
- ❖ Summary Market Value 2011
- ❖ April 2011 Custodial and Clearbridge Accounts
- ❖ Anne Cichy and Bishop Grutka Awards
- ❖ Smith Barney Checking Account
- ❖ Employee Retirement Plan
- ❖ Transaction Summary Report
- ❖ CPA Audit/Recommendations
- ❖ Budget

Home Office

The Board was provided information on the following:

- ❖ Unclaimed Property
- ❖ Employment Practice Liability Insurance
- ❖ Building

New Business

The Board was provided information and discussed the following:

- ❖ American Fraternal Alliance CompliancePlus
- ❖ Annuity Rate
- ❖ New York State Insurance Department
- ❖ 990N Form

Meeting Reports

The Board was provided reports from the following:

- ❖ Vice President Anita Gregory – Fraternal Societies of Northeast Pennsylvania seminar.
- ❖ Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge – Fraternal Societies of Northeast Pennsylvania seminar.
- ❖ Public Relations Director Margaret Ferri – Slovak League of America meeting.

Committee Reports

- ❖ Fraternal Activities — Board members were provided a report on fraternal activities from Fraternal Activities Director Cecilia Gaughan.

Calendar of Events

- ❖ The Board was provided the calendar of events for 2011 and 2012.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jo Savidge
National Secretary-Treasurer

**Viliya Supper
at St. Andrew's Abbey**

The monks of St. Andrew Abbey will hold a Viliya Supper on Sunday, December 4, 2011 at the Benedictine High School Cafeteria, 2900 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Cleveland, Ohio. The Viliya will begin following the 12 noon Mass at the Abbey Church.

Tickets (\$20.00 per person) are by advance sale only. **The deadline for orders is November 28.**

To order tickets, send a check payable to "Saint Andrew Abbey – Viliya" to 2900 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Cleveland, OH 44104, together with a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Anyone with questions may call 216-721-5300, ext. 0, Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

In Memoriam

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted. —
Matthew v.5

Name	Branch	Location
Margaret Waivada	7	Exeter, PA
Agnes M. Janinek	8	Jessup, PA
Rosemarie Skovira	8	Jessup, PA
*Anna R. Budzena	9	Mahanoy City, PA
Elizabeth Gasper	23	Hazleton, PA
Joan Brown	38	Whitehall, PA
Helen B. Nevedal	60	W. Hazleton, PA
Betty L. Mayer	64	Pittsburgh, PA
Mary E. Wagner	83	Bethlehem, PA
Barbara A. Korpics	83	Bethlehem, PA
Jimmie M. Fowler, Sr.	109	Hammond, IN
*Jean M. Golden	122	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Ethel M. Mozek	158	Chicago, IL
Anna S. Rustaka	197	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Sister Huberta Novak	197	Wilkes-Barre, PA

*Multiple certificates

Need a Gift for Someone?

Purchasing a LEAF or STONE from the TREE OF LIFE Program makes a unique and perpetual gift.

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.

District Members Prepare Slovak Fare

Members of the Pittsburgh District, along with parishioners from Holy Trinity Church of West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, prepared about 600 halupki (stuffed cabbage), as well as haluski, cheregi, and kolbasi, which were served July 21 at the Slovak Kitchen during Slovak Day at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin. Every year, these hard working ladies and gentlemen help to make this annual event such a success.

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Committee is very grateful to Holy Trinity Church for allowing us to use its facilities, and to all who devote their time to this wonderful Slovak event.

Some of the Pittsburgh District members and Holy Trinity parishioners who helped in the food preparation are pictured below.

Sylvia Goda

Publicity Chair, Pittsburgh District



**SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER
T O D A Y !**



What the Holidays Mean to Me

Member **Patricia Stearney** recalls fond holiday memories:

The big day was always and still is Christmas Eve. It starts with a meal and then a gift exchange for the entire family.

Oplaky and honey is passed around first and everyone puts a small piece on an empty plate which is there for those in Heaven. The rest of the meal is usually meatless, sauerkraut soup, pierogi, smoked fish, dumplings with poppy seed, and fruit. Meat was eaten after Midnoc Mass.

Once my daughters married, we had to adjust the meals to their husbands' and children's liking, but it's basically the same. Christmas Eve is still the special day for the entire family.

Slovak Christmas Tree on Display in Chicago

Bring your family and friends to view the Slovak Christmas tree on display at the Museum of Science and Industry's "Christmas Around the World" exhibit in Chicago. The tree is decorated with imported ornaments by members of our brother Slovak Catholic fraternal, the First Catholic Slovak Union.

The annual exhibit features trees from 55 countries, and is on display November 20, 2011, through January 3, 2012. The museum is located at 57th Street and South Lake Shore Drive in Chicago. For further information, call (773) 684-1414, or visit www.msichicago.org.



Robert Tapak Magruder
Slovak Tree Publicity Committee

Calendar of Events

continued from page 2

MARCH

- 1** — Deadline to apply for the 2012 LPSCU College Award. *See page 7 for details.*
- 1** — Deadline to apply for the 2012 Anne (Shinal) Cichy Memorial Award. *See page 19 for details.*
- 1** — Deadline to nominate a member for the 2012 Fraternalist of the Year Award. *See page 8 for details.*
- 1** — Deadline to nominate a young member for the 2012 Youth Achievement Award. *See page 8 for details.*
- 8** — LPSCU Audit
- 9-11** — LPSCU Annual Board Meeting at the Home Office, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.
- 20** — **Deadline to submit articles for May/June Zornicka.**

Our Scholarship Recipients Explain...

The Importance of Life Insurance

Life insurance is the backbone to a family's financial stability after a death. Without it, many would struggle through this hard period, scrounging together money to pay for the funeral and cope with the loss. Life insurance gives people the confidence that their family will be taken care of, even after they are gone. It is that confidence that helps people remain happy and carefree knowing that everything is taken care of.

However, not all people have life insurance. This is a discouraging fact. Without life insurance, families are often left with little or no source of income. Funeral costs can be expensive, as well as medical costs and legal costs. These expenses rack up and become larger and larger every day. Without life insurance, the family is expected to pay for them all on their own. This could single handedly bankrupt an entire family. With life insurance, however, the family has help paying off funeral as well as everyday expenses, especially if the deceased provided the family income. While coping with a serious loss, it would be terrible for people to have to go through financial trouble as well.

Life insurance prevents hardships after death. It lets a family be a family and mourn a loss, without the burden of financial hardship. People often take life insurance for granted, or believe that it is only for old people. I hope that they understand that death does not discriminate, and takes all people regardless of health or age. Life insurance is family protection for the "what if" in life.

Cooking Corner

BISIATTES ~ HOLIDAY COOKIES

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| ½ lb. margarine (2 sticks) | 3 eggs |
| 2 cups granulated sugar | 1 lb. Ricotta cheese |
| 2 tsp. vanilla | 4 cups flour |
| 1 tsp. baking soda | |

Cream margarine, eggs, and sugar together. Add Ricotta cheese and vanilla to creamed mixture. Sift flour and baking soda and add to mixture and mix well. Drop batter by teaspoon onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 12-15 minutes at 350 degrees. Makes approximately 7 dozen cookies.

ICING

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| ½ box Confectioner's sugar | ½ cup Crisco |
| ¾ tsp. vanilla | 4 Tbsp. milk |
| Coconut or sprinkles (optional) | |

Beat ingredients together with electric mixer until creamed. Decorate each cookie with icing. Dip each cookie in coconut or sprinkles.

Bernie Kurzeja

Branch 62
Northampton, Pennsylvania



A Successful Slovak Day at Kennywood Park

The 105 degree temperatures didn't deter the faithful Slovaks from attending the 88th Slovak American Day at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. In spite of the heat, the Slovak kitchen was busy with Branch 42 volunteers Mary Heckel, Margaret Joschak, and Trustee Elizabeth Melko all working feverishly to keep up with the crowd. The menu consisted of halupki (stuffed cabbage), kolbasi and sauerkraut, haluski (cabbage and noodles), and cheregi (donuts).

While the kitchen was open, events were taking place for all to enjoy. Accordion player Pete Cimino entertained in the dining area with many Slovak songs. There was a cultural display — "Slovenske Kroje" — a special collection belonging to Branch 42 member Anne Krohmaly. The Pittsburgh Area Slovaks dance ensemble had a lovely collection of Slovak artifacts, as well as artwork handmade by PAS junior members. The LPSCU also hosted a display which included brochures on the various insurance plans, as well as miscellaneous giveaways.

At 12:30 p.m., children were invited to participate in games, then at 2:00 o'clock there were performances by the Junior Pittsburgh Slovaks and Pittsburgh Area Slovak Junior and Maly dance groups.

Pittsburgh District President and Slovak Day Chairperson Dolores Sakal officially opened the program at 3:00 p.m. by welcoming the audience. An invocation was given by Rev. Joseph R. Grosko, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, and president of the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Committee.

A Eucharistic celebration in honor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius began at 4:00 p.m. with principal celebrant and homilist Rev. Thomas J. Burke, pastor of Good Shepherd Parish, Braddock, Pennsylvania, officiating. Present were priests from the Pittsburgh, Greensburg, and Altoona-Johnstown dioceses and Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy. Old and endearing Slovak hymns included "Dusa Krestanska," "O Maria Bolestivam" and "Daruj Mi Jezu Srdce Tve."

Following the Mass, the Pittsburgh Slovaks and Pittsburgh Area Slovak Dance Ensemble entertained in native Slovak costumes. Music for dancing provided by George Batya brought a successful climax to the 88th celebration of Slovak Day at Kennywood Park.

Sylvia Goda



Slovak Day Chairperson Dolores Sakal extends a warm welcome to everyone.



Staffing the LPSCU display are, from left, Dolores Sakal, Elizabeth Melko, Sylvia Goda, Mary Ann Kaylor, and Tom Kaylor.



The Pittsburgh Area Slovaks perform for an appreciative audience.



Some young members of the Pittsburgh Slovaks.



Honorary Slovak Consul Joseph Senko (left) and Ann Krohmaly, both members of LPSCU Branch 42, at Ann's exhibit featuring traditional Slovak kroj.

in West Mifflin, Pa.



Branch 42 member Mary Heckel, who supervised the Slovak Kitchen staff, is flanked by volunteers Barbara Mina (left) and Diane Winand (right).



PAS musicians entertain.



The Pittsburgh Slovaks perform.



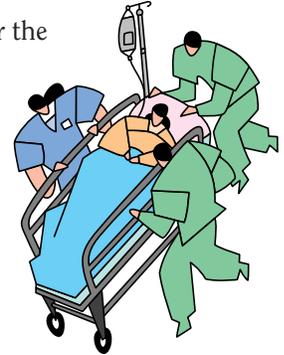
Branch 42 member Margaret Joschak (right) volunteers on the food serving line.

LPSCU EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

The Anne (Shinal) Cichy Memorial Award

\$500 Award

The LPSCU is proud to offer the Anne (Shinal) Cichy Memorial Award for students in the health care field. This award, instituted in 2006, is given in memory of Anne (Shinal) Cichy, the first LPSCU public relations director. The award is made possible through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Francis A. Shinal.

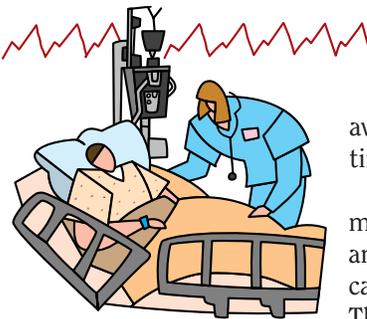


Those applying for the Anne (Shinal) Cichy Memorial Award must meet the following criteria:

- Must have a life insurance certificate with the LPSCU.
- Must attend an accredited college/university in the fall of 2012 on a full time basis, pursuing a degree in the health care field. Proof of acceptance/attendance must be provided.
- Provide a wallet-size photo.

The recipient of the Anne (Shinal) Cichy Memorial Award will receive \$500. The recipient of this award shall be selected by a random drawing from among all

the qualified applicants. No individual shall be eligible to receive this award more than two times.



Applicants must meet all criteria outlined and provide data indicated to be eligible.

Those applications with incomplete data or requirements will not be considered. All submitted materials become the property of the LPSCU and will not be returned.

Applications are available from the LPSCU Home Office or its website. **Applications must be post-marked by March 1, 2012.**

Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union
Educational Benefit Committee

P.O. Box 32

Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703

Phone: 570-823-3513 ❖ Toll free: 888-834-6614

Fax: 570-823-4464

E-mail: lpscu@lpscu.org ❖ Website: www.lpscu.org

20 PAYMENT LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

The 20 Payment Life Insurance Plan offered by the LPSCU is an economical and beneficial plan for anyone age 0 to 70. Premiums are low and can be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. The feature of this plan is that premiums are paid for a period of twenty years and then the certificate is paid in full. Coverage remains in full force and effect for the entire life of the insured without any additional premium payments required. In the event of death prior to twenty years, the face amount of the policy is paid to the insured's named beneficiary(ies), except as provided within the contract regarding Suicide and Contestability.

A member with a 20 Payment Life Insurance Plan is

entitled to all fraternal benefits of the LPSCU including educational awards, youth and adult activities, newborn benefits, prescription discount card, official publication, and discount car rental.

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

Listed below are the Annual and Monthly Premium Schedules for the 20 Payment Life Insurance Plan. The premiums listed are based on \$1,000 of life insurance coverage. Semiannual and Quarterly premium rates are also available by contacting your Branch Secretary or the Home Office.

20 PAYMENT LIFE — ANNUAL AND MONTHLY PREMIUM RATES PER \$1,000 BASED ON 2001 CSO MALE AND FEMALE MORTALITY TABLES — BASED ON AGE LAST BIRTHDAY

Issue Age	Annual		Monthly	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	7.16	7.09	0.64	0.64
1	7.20	7.13	0.65	0.64
2	7.24	7.17	0.65	0.65
3	7.28	7.21	0.66	0.65
4	7.32	7.25	0.66	0.65
5	7.36	7.29	0.66	0.66
6	7.40	7.33	0.67	0.66
7	7.44	7.37	0.67	0.66
8	7.48	7.41	0.67	0.67
9	7.52	7.45	0.68	0.67
10	7.56	7.49	0.68	0.67
11	7.61	7.53	0.68	0.68
12	7.60	7.57	0.68	0.68
13	7.88	7.61	0.71	0.68
14	8.17	7.65	0.74	0.69
15	8.47	7.69	0.76	0.69
16	8.77	7.73	0.79	0.70
17	9.06	7.77	0.82	0.70
18	9.36	7.95	0.84	0.72
19	9.68	8.24	0.87	0.74
20	9.90	8.46	0.89	0.76
21	10.22	8.76	0.92	0.79
22	10.56	9.07	0.95	0.82
23	10.91	9.40	0.98	0.85
24	11.27	9.74	1.01	0.88
25	11.65	10.09	1.05	0.91
26	12.04	10.45	1.08	0.94
27	12.44	10.83	1.12	0.97
28	12.86	11.22	1.16	1.01
29	13.30	11.63	1.20	1.05
30	13.76	12.05	1.24	1.08
31	14.23	12.49	1.28	1.12
32	14.73	12.94	1.33	1.16
33	15.26	13.41	1.37	1.21
34	15.81	13.89	1.42	1.25
35	16.38	14.39	1.47	1.30

Issue Age	Annual		Monthly	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
36	16.98	14.92	1.53	1.34
37	17.61	15.48	1.58	1.39
38	18.26	16.05	1.64	1.44
39	18.94	16.64	1.70	1.50
40	19.65	17.26	1.77	1.55
41	20.38	17.91	1.83	1.61
42	21.15	18.58	1.90	1.67
43	21.94	19.28	1.97	1.74
44	22.77	20.01	2.05	1.80
45	23.62	20.77	2.13	1.87
46	24.50	21.56	2.21	1.94
47	25.43	22.37	2.29	2.01
48	26.40	23.22	2.38	2.09
49	27.41	24.11	2.47	2.17
50	28.49	25.01	2.56	2.25
51	29.62	25.96	2.67	2.34
52	30.80	26.95	2.77	2.43
53	32.05	27.96	2.88	2.52
54	33.36	29.02	3.00	2.61
55	34.73	30.11	3.13	2.71
56	36.16	31.25	3.25	2.81
57	37.67	32.43	3.39	2.92
58	39.26	33.66	3.53	3.03
59	40.97	34.95	3.69	3.15
60	42.78	36.30	3.85	3.27
61	44.67	37.68	4.02	3.39
62	46.67	39.14	4.20	3.52
63	48.79	40.68	4.39	3.66
64	51.04	42.32	4.59	3.81
65	53.46	44.07	4.81	3.97
66	56.04	45.94	5.04	4.13
67	58.84	47.94	5.30	4.31
68	61.90	50.09	5.57	4.51
69	65.24	52.42	5.87	4.72
70	68.91	54.93	6.20	4.94

Slovak Flag-Raising Ceremony Held in Allentown

The Cardinal Tomko Chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation held a memorable Slovak flag-raising ceremony at Allentown City Hall Plaza on Monday, September 12, 2011, commencing at 12 noon. Twenty residents from the Lehigh Valley area, some of whom were dressed in "kroj" costume, attended this 27th Annual Slovak flag raising. The event was held in commemoration of the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, patroness of Slovakia, which was observed on September 15.

The program opened with a welcome extended to all by Margaret A. Ferri, president of the Cardinal Tomko Chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation. An inspirational invocation was offered by Rev. Dominick Kalata, pastor of St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church in Allentown.

After being introduced, the Honorable Ed Pawlowski, mayor of the City of Allentown, proudly read a Proclamation citing how the Slovak Catholic Federation, through its local Cardinal Tomko Chapter, works to keep alive the faith and heritage of the Slovaks in the Lehigh Valley area. The Proclamation also stated that the members of this organization have created an atmosphere of brotherhood and an opportunity to honor and perpetuate the values, traditions, and language of their forefathers, whose love of God, respect for hard work, and dedication to a democratic society have earned the respect of all their neighbors in each of their communities. The Mayor further proclaimed Monday, September 12, 2011, as the 27th Annual Slovak Flag Day in Allentown. Mayor Pawlowski then introduced city officials who were present at the ceremony.

A Proclamation signed by the Honorable Donald T. Cunningham, Jr., Lehigh County Executive, was also read. The Proclamation cited that Lehigh Valley residents of Slovak descent have made significant contributions to the quality of life and sense of community of the region and individuals of the Slovak culture emphasize loyalty to their culture, folklore, hospitality, and way of life.

Remarks were also made by Chapter President Ferri and Justine Wesnak, Chapter foundress and past president.



Margaret A. Ferri, president of the Cardinal Tomko Chapter, is shown with Rev. Dominick Kalata (left), pastor of St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church in Allentown, who offered the Invocation at the Slovak Flag Raising, and Msgr. Robert F. Kozel, the Chapter's chaplain, who offered the Benediction.



From left, the Honorable Ed Pawlowski, mayor of the City of Allentown, awaits to present his Proclamation while Cardinal Tomko Chapter members Michael Wesnak, Justine Wesnak, Ceil Gaughan, Ann Hancharick, and Msgr. Robert F. Kozel hold a Slovak banner at the Slovak Flag Raising.

As the Slovak flag was being raised to fly over Allentown City Hall by Mayor Pawlowski and Justine Wesnak, Father Kalata and Margaret Ferri led the assembled crowd in singing "God Bless America" and the Slovak National Anthem, "Nad Tatrou Sa Blyska." The program closed with a Benediction offered by Msgr. Robert F. Kozel, the Chapter's chaplain and pastor emeritus of St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church.

Afterwards, all were invited to a reception in the lobby of City Hall.

The entire program was televised by Service Electric Cable Television (Channel 2) and WFMZ Television (Channel 69).

Rev. Dianiska District Celebrates "Make a Difference Day"

At the September meeting of the Reverend Dianiska District of the LPSCU, members participated in "Make a Difference Day."

For this year's project, members donated cleaning supplies to the Catherine McCauley House in Plymouth, Pennsylvania. Sister Marie, director of McCauley House, was not available this year to personally accept our donation as she was escorting her mother back to Ireland after a month-long visit, but Sister sent word that she appreciates the efforts and kindness of the District members.



Pictured with the donated items are District and National Officers, from left: Barbara Kalish, Susan Worth, Margaret Jollimore, Mary Ann Ewasko, Theresa Kluchinski, Mary Jo Savidge, Hope Napkora, Debbie Adamchak, and Marge Zinkavich.

Dear Junior Members,

The mighty *Mayflower* set sail from England on September 6, 1620. Though the ship was called mighty, it was small, measuring about 106 feet long and 25 feet at its widest point. On board were 102 passengers, including 32 children, a captain, and a crew of about 26 men. Two people died on the long voyage, and a baby boy was born. He was named Oceanus. The voyage should have taken about a month, but instead it took the Pilgrims 66 days.

Because the *Mayflower* carried the Pilgrims, it became one of our country's most famous ships. Whereas normally ships traveled in pairs in case something happened, the *Mayflower* sailed alone on a big sea. Relieved to finally reach land on November 11, the Pilgrims anchored off Cape Cod, Massachusetts, near what is now Provincetown. After exploring the coast, the Pilgrims relocated to the mainland, disembarking at Plymouth Rock on December 16.

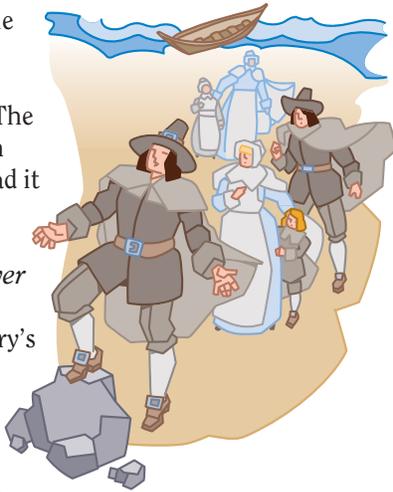
Of the 102 original *Mayflower* passengers, about 40 were "Separatists" who wanted to separate from the Church of England. The others were colonists in search of a new life. But all were called Pilgrims.

No one had planned for so many people to be on board the *Mayflower*. Some had planned to sail on a different ship, the *Speedwell*, but the ship leaked and many of its passengers were added to the *Mayflower*. There were at least two dogs and one cat, as well as chickens on board.

There were no such things as "passenger ships" at that time. Ships were built to transport goods from port to port. For its previous 12 years, the *Mayflower* had carried cargos of wine. Passengers had to build their own "cabins," or places to sleep. Many slept on the floor. There was very little privacy. Everyone feared a fire aboard the wooden ship. If the sea was calm, passengers cooked food in metal boxes filled with sand. But when there was wind, they didn't dare light a fire. They often ate cold food.

Meals consisted of hard biscuits, salted beef, pork, fish, and sheep, smoked fish, cheese, dried peas, and beans. Bugs were a problem. The water became unfit to drink, so everyone, including the children, drank beer. There wasn't enough room to bring much on board. The Pilgrims might have brought books, a few clothes, cooking pots, tools, weapons, small pieces of furniture, and goods to trade with the native people.

For about half of the 66 days at sea, the weather was so bad that the passengers had to stay below decks. It was hot and stuffy and air circulation was poor. Many were very seasick. The passengers probably never bathed or changed clothes. The smell in the crowded conditions below would have been awful. You can only imagine what these people



endured in order to reach their dream of a new life in the New World.

During that first winter, about half of the Pilgrims died. Thankful to have survived, the remaining Pilgrims held a harvest feast the following fall. They invited 90 Wampanoag Indians who lived in villages along the coast where the Pilgrims settled. These Native Americans helped the Pilgrims survive by showing the newcomers how to plant corn and other vegetables, how to build shelters that would withstand the harsh New England winters, which plants could be used as medicines, and how to dig and cook clams, among many other survival skills. Our present day Thanksgiving celebration can be traced back to this event.

The *Mayflower II* is a living history museum tied up at Plimoth Plantation in Plymouth, Massachusetts. A full-scale reproduction of the original *Mayflower*, it was built in Devon, England, and crossed the Atlantic in 1957. On board the ship at Plimoth Plantation today, role players in period costume recreate life on the famous crossing. Visiting the ship is an extraordinary experience with living history that will give you a renewed appreciation for the courage and fortitude of these brave voyagers.

Cecilia B. Gaughan, Fraternal Activities Director

Some Christmas Trivia

Roman Catholics first celebrated Christmas in 336 A.D. It was then known as the Feast of the Nativity.

Showing Christmas spirit in Boston between 1659 and 1681 would get the offender a fine because celebrating Christmas was outlawed.

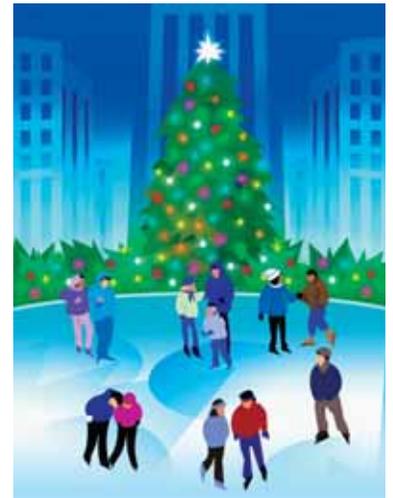
Christmas wasn't declared a federal holiday in the U.S. until 1870.

Franklin Pierce was the first president to introduce a Christmas tree to the White House in 1856. That tree was lit by candles, as was the custom of the time. Lights didn't appear on the White House Christmas tree until 1895, when Grover Cleveland had electric lights put on it.

The earliest Christmas tree lights were very expensive, costing upwards of \$300. (That is more than \$2,000 in today's dollars!) General Electric, the company founded by Thomas Edison, sold hand-blown bulbs that needed to be wired together by a "wireman" hired by the homeowner.

The first National Christmas Tree was lighted on the White House lawn in 1923 by President Calvin Coolidge.

There has been a Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center since 1931 but it was not lighted with electric lights until 1956.



Our Christmas Traditions

Slovak Christmas traditions during the week between Christmas and the New Year are the most interesting and beautiful. Many stories handed down from our Slovak forefathers attribute magical powers to this special time of the year.

The 25th of December, around the time of the winter solstice, had been celebrated as the day when the sun was “born again,” because after the solstice, the hours of daylight began to lengthen. In the 4th century, all of this changed when the Church designated this day as the day Jesus was born.

Although some of the pagan myths were changed, Christians have carried many over with a Christian twist. December 6th, St. Nicholas Day, was the traditional day for Slovaks to exchange gifts. On the evening of St. Lucia’s Day, when the powers of darkness were said to do more harm than usual, the women dressed up in fancy dress and ritually chased the evil spirits out of their houses.

December 24th, Christmas Eve, was the turning point between the declining and increasing light of the sun. This feast is even now linked in the minds of Slovak people with a large number of traditions. They said that whatever one did on that day, one would do all year round.

The lighting of the Christmas fire — known by some as the yule log — used to be a widespread practice observed by all Europeans. The Christmas fire was considered sacred. This fire was later replaced with candles burned in memory of loved ones no longer with us. This was then incorporated into the decorated Christmas tree, which was illuminated



with lit candles before the advent of “Christmas tree lights.” The tradition of erecting Christmas trees arrived from Germany and Austria in the latter half of 18th century, but did not expand to all of Slovakia until the first quarter of the 19th century. The trees were decorated with baked goods made with honey in the form of angels and other religious symbols, and candies, nuts, apples, and fruits. The tree was not taken down until the 6th of January, the feast of the Three Kings. At this time the children were able to finally have all the goodies and sweets from the tree.

We know today that the secret of Christmas is really the mystery and miracle of the birth of Jesus and the celebration of new life.

The Mayflower Compact

When the Pilgrims came to this country from England in 1620, they realized they had to have some agreement as to how they would run their new colony. While the *Mayflower* lay off the coast, the leaders on board wrote up a short agreement. The 41 men on board signed it.



In the Mayflower Compact, the men promised to make just and equal laws for the general good of the colony. They also agreed to live by these laws. This was the first time in the history of our country that a group of citizens set up their own kind of government.

The Mayflower Compact was not a constitution, but it was an important step in history. Using it as a guide, settlers in the New England colonies set up a government based on town meetings. Citizens gathered at these town meetings to discuss and act on the town’s problems. They set their taxes and elected leaders. They were able to speak out freely about their government and they learned a lot about self-government by doing so.

Kids in the Kitchen

STYLIN’ SNOWMEN

You will enjoy making these colorful and styling’ snowmen. Dress up pretzel rods in colorful candy scarves and top hats, and they will surely make a hit at your holiday festivities.

You will need:

- 10 8-inch-long pretzel rods
- 1 cup white chocolate chips
- 50 mini chocolate chips
- 10 gummy rings
- 10 gumdrops
- Fruit leather

Place the white chocolate chips in a 2-quart bowl. Microwave for one minute and stir with a wooden spoon until smooth.

(Microwave a bit longer if necessary.) Let the chocolate cool and thicken a bit. Dip one end of the pretzel rod into the melted chocolate and use a plastic spoon or knife to spread the chocolate two thirds of the way down the rod.

Place each pretzel rod on a sheet of waxed paper and press on mini chocolate chips for eyes and buttons. Use orange decorator’s gel to add a carrot nose. Then chill the pretzels in the refrigerator for 2-3 minutes until the chocolate hardens.

Stand the pretzel rods in a mug or glass and tie on strips of fruit leather around the neck for scarves. For the hats, stretch a gummy ring over the narrow end of a gumdrop and secure it to the pretzel rod with a dab of melted chocolate.



“Christmas Trees”

continued from page 3

of Lieurance’s story, it is easy for us to not believe in our own goodness, worth, and value. For a variety of reasons and circumstances, some may wonder if their life really matters or if anyone really cares about them. The message of Christmas is a clear statement from God that all human life matters and has value and even if no one seems to care, our God cares deeply for us. This love is clearly shown in his willingness to sacrifice his son, Jesus, for us.

Let us remember that Christmas is not just a day, an event to be observed and speedily forgotten. It is a spirit which should permeate every part of our lives. As God so affirms our worth and value, by sending us his Son, Jesus, to be our Savior, so may we affirm the worth and value of all persons through the respect and concern we extend to them. As Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, “It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you . . . yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand.” The message of Christmas reminds us that in God’s heart and eyes ALL are special and precious!

On behalf of the National Board of Directors of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, I wish to extend to you and yours best wishes for a very Happy Thanksgiving and a blessed and joyous Christmas! May the good news that God has been revealed to us in a babe born in Bethlehem open our hearts to the presence of God in one another. May we remember in our hearts our neighbor, living both near and far, wishing them peace and good will. May we lift up those whose spirits ache this day, that they might be mended. May the Christ Child, revealed in Bethlehem’s manger, reside in our hearts and minds this day, and every day. May God abundantly bless you on Thanksgiving, at Christmas, and always! Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Bože, daruj nám vianočné svetlo, ktoré je vierou; pohodlie vianoc, ktoré je láskou; žiaru vianoc, ktorá je čistotou; vianočnú bezúhonnosť, ktorá je spravodlivosťou; dôveru vianoc, ktoré je pravdou; prameň vianoc, ktorým je Kristus. Nech Vás Boh štedro požehnáva počas sviatkov Vďakyvzdania, sviatkov Vianoc a neustále. Šťastné sviatky Vďakyvzdania a Veselé Vianoce!

Rev. Philip A. Altavilla, V.G.

Member Enjoys International Festival

This past August, Sylvia Goda of Pittsburgh Branch 42 attended the annual International Village at Renziehausen Park, McKeesport, Pennsylvania. Thousands of visitors enjoyed foods at the many ethnic booths, as well as entertainment by various European cultures.



Sylvia Goda (left) visits the Pittsburgh Area Slovaks (PAS) booth at Renziehausen Park, where Slovak Christmas items were for sale. Pictured with her are Angie Lipchick (director/choreographer), performer Marge Rose, and John Lipchick (musical director) in Slovak costume.



The Rankin Junior Tamburitzans perform at the International Village.