

# ZORNIČKA

Ladies  
Pennsylvania  
Slovak  
Catholic  
Union



MORNING STAR

Vol. 73, No. 839

November-December 2014

## *Congratulations to Our 2014 Post-Graduate Award Recipients*



**CHRISTINE ELIZABETH  
MARLEY**

Dallas, PA

*Doctor of Physical Therapy  
University of Scranton  
Scranton, PA*

BRANCH 214, DURYEA, PA



**JAMES MATTERN, JR.**

Tyrone, PA

*Master of Science –  
Sports Administration  
Lock Haven University  
Lock Haven, PA*

BRANCH 24, WINDBER, PA



**LAURA  
ANZALDI MIKE**

Renfrew, PA

*Doctor of Philosophy  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, TN*

BRANCH 64, PITTSBURGH, PA



**JOSEPH N. OROS**

Reading, PA

*Master of Science  
Albright College  
Reading, PA*

BRANCH 213, DALLAS, PA

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# Calendar of Events

## NOVEMBER

- 6** — LPSCU Branch 213 is holding an Art & Wine Matching Fund Project with Gift Card Raffle to benefit the Matthew Mursch, Jr. Foundation at Cross Valley Center, 677 N. River Street, Plains, Pennsylvania, at 6:00 p.m. Seating is limited so reserve ASAP by calling Theresa Kluchinski at 570-829-5410 or 570-817-4756.
- 20** — **Deadline to submit articles for January/February 2015 Zornicka.**
- 22** — The Lehigh Valley Okres is hosting a luncheon meeting at Nick's Restaurant, 822 Main Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, beginning at 12:30 p.m. All members and potential members are cordially invited to attend. Call Marge Ferri (610-866-8945) to make a reservation. *More details on page 5.*

*continued on page 19*

### Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

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Toll Free 888/834-6614  
Fax: 570/823-4464  
E-mail: [lpescu@lpescu.org](mailto:lpescu@lpescu.org)  
Website: [www.lpescu.org](http://www.lpescu.org)**

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## What About Those Aliens?

Are we Roman Catholic Christians allowed to believe in aliens—in the possible existence of intelligent life on other planets? What could be the religious ramifications of such a possibility?

Scientists in the Vatican are saying that life on other planets poses no threat to Christianity. True science and true religion are never at odds with one another. That includes how we may have come to exist as a human race—understanding, of course, that an Almighty-Creative-Loving-Force, which we call God, had something to do with it. This appears to have a reference to the theory of evolution.

Most Catholic Christians probably do not realize that it was a Catholic who first claimed that the world was round and not flat. It was a Catholic monk who discovered some of the basic principles of heredity. What is today known as the Big Bang Theory regarding the origin of the universe was first proposed by a Catholic priest.

In recent years, the Vatican has taken a position of leadership in the search for extraterrestrial life. This should not surprise us. Father George Coyne, director and senior scientist at the Vatican Observatory Research Group is quoted as saying, "...nothing we learn about the universe through science threatens our faith. It only enriches it."

That was true with the Magi, who were truly wise men. They allowed their scientific knowledge to lead them to the Truth. Their scientific knowledge happened to be in the field of astronomy, the study of stars and planets in the cosmos. It was a star that led them to the Christ.

Our destiny may very well be "in the stars," as well. Astronomers continue to search for our origins as well as for our destiny. I have often wondered if an astronaut could actually be a confirmed atheist. How could they be after observing the beauty, order, and vastness of the universe around them?

Several months ago, we were informed that one of our satellites has arrived at the atmosphere of the planet Mars, following a year-long journey. Some months before that, astronomers discovered a planet many light years away that has characteristics similar to that of earth. In other words, it probably could sustain life.

The Vatican has some of the best telescopes on earth, both at the site of the popes' summer residence and in Arizona. It is interesting to note that it is the Catholic Church that has been paving the way for new instruments that may finally enable us to detect life on other planets. At the beginning of 2014, it cosponsored a major conference of 200 astronomers on extraterrestrial life at its Arizona site. Do other intelligent beings besides us actually exist somewhere in outer space? Are there others like us?

Arthur C. Clarke, a scientist-astronomer, is quoted as saying, "Sometimes, I think we're alone in the universe and sometimes I think that we're not. In either case, the idea is quite staggering."

Why shouldn't there be intelligent life elsewhere? Who is to say that the Almighty would limit himself to the creation of only one "colony" of intelligent beings? Suppose there are several of different sorts? For us Christians, questions such as those do pose other questions. One of those questions relates to redemption. Did Christ come to them like He did to us? Were they also in need of being saved from Satan and his armies?

"If aliens exist, they may be a different life form that does not need Christ's redemption," Jesuit Father Jose Funes, the Vatican's chief astronomer said. "This is not in contrast with the faith, because we cannot place limits on the creative freedom of God." Father Funes stated further, "...if there are also other intelligent beings, it's not a given that they need redemption. They might have remained in full friendship with their creator."

The Sacred Scriptures and Christ's redemptive act have only to do with us. They do not apply to anyone outside of planet Earth. We are the community of humans who have sinned by believing that we can be like God, as the tempter Satan promised in the Garden of Eden. What if we are the only ones that have sinned, and intelligent beings on other planets did not? It is possible that they may have remained faithful to the Lord while we have not.

Isn't that a sobering thought—and a very sad one at that!

A renowned physicist called Stephen Hawking is quoted as warning, "If aliens ever visit us, I think the outcome would be much as when Christopher Columbus first landed in America, which didn't turn out very well for the Native Americans."

While that comparison has validity, we should also hope that the aliens that could visit us some day might come on more friendly terms. Perhaps, the Lord our God will have sent them to teach us how to live—how to get along with each other—how to live according to God's laws. Will we welcome them or be threatened by them?

Let us not forget that, if and when other intelligent beings visit us from outer space, we will be aliens to them. Neither they nor we will be aliens to God.

**Bishop Joseph V. Adamec**

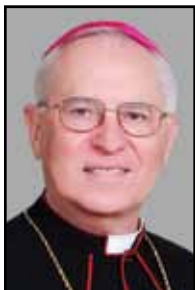
This issue's guest religious columnist is no stranger to our readers as Bishop Joseph Adamec serves as the LPSCU's Episcopal Protector. After studies at Michigan State University and the Pontifical Nepomucene College in Rome, he was ordained in Rome on July 3, 1960. Then Father Adamec returned to his home state of Michigan where he served in many positions from Assistant Pastor at several parishes to eventual Chancellor of the Diocese of Saginaw. From 1977 to 1984, he served as Pastor of two parishes in Bay City and Saginaw, Michigan. He was honored with the "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" medal for service to the Church and Pope in 1980 and named a Prelate of Honor with the title of Monsignor in 1985. He was elected National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation in 1971, a position he held for 17 years. Named Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown, Pennsylvania, on March 12, 1987, he served there until his retirement in January 2011. Interests in photography, sailing, model trains, and writing keep him busy in retirement.

# A Christmas Message from Our Episcopal Protector

**“When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is the newborn king of the Jews?’”**

~ Matthew 2:1-2

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



**Most Rev. Adamec**

For years, these particular verses have portrayed my favorite Christmas scene. It presents much for one's reflection.

The powerful did not consider it below their status to submit themselves to a greater Power. Science (in this case, astronomy) served to give direction to a deeper discovery of God. No difficulty was too much in order to journey in search of the ultimate Truth.

The wise went in search of true Wisdom because they were truly wise.

Our lives are destined to be very much like that journey of the Magi. Years after Jesus' birth, we still seek a deeper knowledge of and a closer relationship with God. And, as did the Magi, we ought to be willing to put into service all that is about us for that search.

I pray that this year of 2014 has been for all of you a coming closer to that precious goal. May the new year of 2015 present us with new signs showing direction so that one day you and I may enter “the house” and see “the Child with Mary his mother.” (Matthew 2:11)

In this vein, I wish you a very BLESSED and MERRY CHRISTMAS and a very HOLY and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Fraternally yours in the Lord,

+ *Joseph*

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

## Lehigh Valley Okres to Hold Matching Fund Event

In conjunction with the LPSCU Matching Fund Program, members of the Lehigh Valley Okres are planning to hold a themed gift basket raffle for the benefit of the Allentown Diocesan Soup Kitchen located at 177 Chew Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. The raffle will be held at the Lehigh Valley Okres's Holiday Luncheon on Sunday, December 7, 2014, beginning at noon at the Best Western Lehigh Valley Conference Center in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.



We ask our Lehigh Valley area LPSCU members to support this worthwhile project by either donating a themed gift basket or by attending the Holiday Luncheon and purchasing raffle tickets. For further information, call Marge Ferri at 610-866-8945.

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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Maureen Grohowski

Radostne Vianoene sviatky  
a Bohom pozehnany Novy Rok!

Linkiu jums geru Sv. Kalėdu  
ir mielu bei laimingu Naujuju Metu!

# The LPSCU Announces the Appointment of James Yocum as National Trustee

On Saturday, September 20, 2014, James Yocum of Hazle Township, Pennsylvania, was officially appointed a National Trustee of the LPSCU by the Board of Directors at its Semi-annual Board Meeting held at Best Western Conference Center in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. James will serve as National Trustee until September 1, 2016.

His academic achievements and many years of administration and managerial experience in the Information Technology field qualify James for his new position. As part of his education, he has taken classes in business, accounting, ethics, business law, and information systems. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Scranton and an Applied Science degree from Luzerne County Community College. Currently, James is pursuing an MBA degree from Marywood University with a concentration in Management Information Systems.

James has worked for several Fortune 500 companies during which time he was responsible for managing teams of IT professionals, acted as project manager on a variety of projects, and has worked with teams of auditors, both internal and external, providing them with information regarding their internal controls and best practices, in compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.



**New Trustee James Yocum**

James has been a member of the LPSCU for 40 years and has been actively involved with our organization for many years. He is currently serving his 11th year as Secretary-Treasurer of LPSCU Branch 39, Hazle Township. He also serves as Vice President of the Msgr. Beeda District of the LPSCU.

He is a member of Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, where he is a member of the parish choir and serves as Cantor and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

James and his wife, Angella, are proud parents of two daughters, Gina and Donna. The whole Yocum family belongs to LPSCU Branch 39.

We congratulate James and welcome him to our Board of Directors.

## In Memoriam

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

Name	Branch	Location
*Theresa Shinal	6	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Margaret Klejnowski	7	Exeter, PA
Stephen Furmanski	19	Swoyersville, PA
Eva Bush (Jieva)	21	West Lake, MA
Mary Rubocki	28	Joliet, IL
Charles D. Bobelis	32	Pana, IL
*Anna Krohmaly	42	Pittsburgh, PA
Lizzie Stankovich	42	Pittsburgh, PA
*Bernard G. Harcarik	52	N. Braddock, PA
William S. Oldaker	64	Pittsburgh, PA
Elizabeth Patton	65	Munhall, PA
Virginia Hruskocy	79	Whiting, IN
*Mary Ann Ackerman	83	Bethlehem, PA
Judy Norkaitis	94	Larksville, PA
Joan Morini	124	Hazleton, PA
Dorothy Sency	124	Hazleton, PA
Mary Ann Cvengros	132	Campbell, OH
Stefania Kotus	156	Coaldale, PA
Marie Kaminski	158	Chicago, IL
Josephine Sakalik	172	Pittsburgh, PA
Dorothy Borota	196	Hellertown, PA
Margaret Bufalino	197	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Margaret R. Camisa	197	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Virginia Comfort	197	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Barbara C. Dorish	202	McKees Rocks, PA
*Eleanor Papst	202	McKees Port, PA
Leonard A. Farkas	204	Northampton, PA
Margaret Cipriani	213	Dallas, PA
Johanna Rembellas	213	Dallas, PA
Mollie Shinal	213	Dallas, PA
Angeline Skudla	213	Dallas, PA
*Mark Zawilinski	213	Dallas, PA

\*Multiple certificates

## Lehigh Valley Okres Plans Luncheon, Invites New Members

The Lehigh Valley Okres will host a luncheon meeting on Saturday, November 22, 2014, a 12:30 p.m. at Nick's Restaurant, 822 Main Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The Okres cordially invites LPSCU members of Allentown/Whitehall Branches 38 and 40, Northampton Branches 62 and 204, Bethlehem Branches 83 and 130, and Hellertown Branch 196 to this very important meeting. Over the course of this year, we've lost many members due to illness and death. We'd like to increase our member base and urge existing members to invite any potential members they may know to the meeting. If you have a friend, relative, or neighbor who has expressed an interest in the LPSCU, this is a great chance for them to get to know other LPSCU members and to learn what our wonderful organization is all about. There is plenty of parking in the rear of the restaurant. Please call Marge Ferri (610-866-8945) before November 20, 2014, to make a reservation.



## Cecilia B. Gaughan National Fraternal Activities Director



**Cecilia B. Gaughan**

Cecilia B. Gaughan, 83, of Whitehall, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully on September 14, 2014, at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown, Pennsylvania, from complications related to congestive heart failure. Cecilia was the daughter of the late Peter and Anna (Holenchik) Bucha. She was the wife of Thomas Francis Gaughan, Jr., who survives her. They celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on February 14, 2014.

Though primarily a homemaker, Cecilia worked at Hess Brothers Department Store and at the Western Electric Company in Allentown, and for over 25 years, she worked as a clothing consultant for numerous retail stores, including as a bridal consultant at the Personality Shoppe in Allentown.

Cecilia was a life-long parishioner of St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church in Allentown where she served as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, and choir member, among many other capacities. She was a member of the First Catholic Ladies Slovak Association, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union (LPSCU) and its Lehigh Valley Okres, and the Cardinal Tomko Chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation. For 30 years, she served as National Fraternal Activities Director of the LPSCU. During that time, she enjoyed serving as editor of the Junior Branch Journal of the LPSCU's fraternal magazine, *Zornicka, Morning Star*. She also greatly enjoyed putting together pages in the magazine that honored our mothers and fathers and paid tribute to our veterans and military over the years, as well as organizing contests for young members, the most recent of which was a Poetry Contest in 2013. At the time of her death, she was working on a Calendar Art Contest for our upcoming convention.

Cecilia was predeceased by five brothers, Frank, Martin, Joseph, John, and Tony Bucha, and three sisters, Stephanie, Mary, and Anne. In addition to her husband, she is survived by a daughter, Patrice DeFazio and husband Jerome of Orefield, Pennsylvania; and two sons, Thomas F. Gaughan III and wife Janine of Martinez, Georgia, and Timothy P. Gaughan and wife Beth of Holly Springs, North Carolina; and five grandchildren, Bridget, Colleen, Mary, and Patrick Gaughan, and Michael DeFazio, as well as many nieces and nephews.

A viewing was held on Friday, September 19, 2014, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., at Kohut Funeral Home, Allentown, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church concelebrated by Rev. Dominic Kalata, pastor, and Msgr. Robert F. Kozel, pastor emeritus of the church. Burial was private at the convenience of the family.

Attending the viewing and Mass were members of the LPSCU Board of Directors: Theresa Kluchinski, Anita Gregory,

Mary Jo Savidge, Mary Ann Ewasko, Dolores Evanko, Margaret Jollimore, and Margaret A. Ferri. The church was filled to capacity with relatives, friends, and parishioners.

The officers and members of the LPSCU are deeply saddened at the loss of our beloved fraternal sister, Cecilia B. Gaughan. Her dedication as National Fraternal Activities Director for 30 years and as secretary of Branch 38 for over 30 years as well as her recent undertaking of Branch 40 is a testament to her love for the LPSCU. She not only served her offices with respect, intelligence, and integrity, but she lived for the LPSCU and her Slovak heritage. May we all be inspired by the remarkable legacy that she left to our organization and the Slovak community. We express our sincere sympathy to Ceil's family, members of Branches 38 and 40, and the Lehigh Valley Okres. May she rest in peace.

### LPSCU Branch 213 Makes Matching Funds Donation

LPSCU Branch 213 recently donated \$50.00 to The Jarad Grohowski Foundation and, through the LPSCU Matching Funds Program, the Foundation received an additional \$50.00.

The Jarad Grohowski Foundation was established by Brian and Maureen Grohowski in memory of their son, Jarad, who passed away in October 2002. Through this foundation, kids are sent to football camp at no expense to them and scholarships are given to the top male and female student athletes at G.A.R. High School, Jared's alma mater. In addition, the Foundation also donates to help sick children and youth athletic organizations.

Maureen Grohowski is employed by the LPSCU and is a member of LPSCU Branch 213.



**Branch 213 Secretary-Treasurer Theresa Kluchinski presents a check to Jarad's parents, Maureen (left) and Brian Grohowski.**

## Member Jeff Kosalko Makes Heroic Attempt to Save Victim of Garage Fire

On September 10, 2014, at 3:10 p.m., as Jeff Kosalko was driving down State Route 229 from Lily Lake to his home in Hellertown, Pennsylvania, he noticed smoke coming from a garage at the back of a home on South River Street in the Wapwallopen section of Conyngham Township. Jeff immediately got out of his vehicle, banged on a window of the residence and alerted a woman inside that smoke was coming from her garage. The woman told him that her husband was in the garage.

Before running to the garage, Jeff called 911 and handed the phone to the resident's granddaughter who gave the

911 dispatcher the address. Jeff later said he got into the garage through a side door. He tried making his way inside but recalled, "The wall of smoke, the heat in there – I could hear the fire roaring." He called out to the man and he heard him say, "I'm hurt, I need help." Jeff was able to get the main garage door open, clearing most of the smoke, and the victim's granddaughter gave Jeff a garden hose to extinguish the flames. The victim, Edward Strzelecki, 80, told Jeff there was an explosion. Mr. Strzelecki's burns were so horrific that Jeff couldn't touch him anywhere to drag him out.

The Pond Hill/Lily Lake Fire Depart-

ment responded and the state police fire marshal arrived to investigate the scene.

Mr. Strzelecki was taken to a ball field near Heller's Orchards, where a MedEvac helicopter

touched down to transport him by air to the Lehigh Valley Regional Burn Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Sadly, despite Jeff's heroic efforts, the victim died of severe burns at 8:06 p.m. at the hospital, according to a news release from the Lehigh County Coroner's office. The state police fire marshal later determined that the cause of the fire was accidental.

Jeff Kosalko is an Emergency Medical Service employee and a state fire instructor in the Lehigh Valley. He is a member of LPSCU Branch 196, Hellertown.

As is so often the case in emergency situations, firefighters and EMTs run into danger while others are running away. The LPSCU is proud of Jeff's heroic actions, risking his own life in attempting to rescue a citizen in need.

Excerpts taken, with permission, from a news article by Steve Mocarisky of the *Times Leader*, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.



**Jeff Kosalko**

### Donate to the LPSCU Scholarship Program

Would you like to help our young members who are facing ever increasing tuition expenses? You can by donating now to our LPSCU Scholarship Program!

Send your check payable to:

LPSCU  
P.O. Box 32  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703-0032

Include your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. And be sure you remember to tell us it's a donation to fund our scholarship program! It's such a rewarding feeling to know you've helped our young members pursue and achieve their educational goals through our LPSCU Scholarship Awards.

Donations of any amount are gratefully accepted and donors will be recognized in the *Zornicka!*

**And, donations of  
\$100 to \$499 will receive a Leaf  
and \$500 or more will receive a Stone  
on our Tree of Life**

*See page 21 for more information  
on the LPSCU Tree of Life*

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



**ILLIANA OKRES**

The Illiana Okres of the LPSCU held a business meeting on October 29, 2014, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, East Chicago, Indiana, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was followed by a Bunco Party sponsored by the KC Women's Club.

Additional business/fundraising meetings and winter social events are still being scheduled. Call Joan Hladek at 815-895-0431 for the dates, times, and locations of these meetings.

**PITTSBURGH DISTRICT**

The Pittsburgh District enjoyed a combination District meeting and picnic on July 27, 2014, at Beach Grove, White Oak Park, White Oak, Pennsylvania. The 21 members and guests in attendance enjoyed a luncheon prepared by Branch 65 members Janice and Dave Mathews.



**2014 Youth Achievement Award Presented**



LPSCU National Vice President Anita Gregory (right) recently presented Rebecca Marie Martonik (center) with the 2014 LPSCU Youth Achievement Award. The award was presented to Rebecca at her home. Rebecca's mother Emily (left) and her sister (not pictured) witnessed as Rebecca accepted the honor and received a plaque.



**UTILIZATION REPORT**

	<b>For Aug. 2014</b>	<b>Year-to-Date 2014</b>
Prescriptions Filled:	7	114
Normal Retail Pricing:	\$ 427.03	\$ 6,582.84
Discount Program Pricing:	\$ 202.08	\$ 3,002.65
Total Dollars Saved by LPSCU Cardholders:	\$ 224.95	\$ 3,580.19
Average Saved per Discounted Prescription:	\$ 32.14	\$ 37.78
Overall LPSCU Discounted Prescription Savings:	52.68%	58/77%

August 2014 was an excellent savings month for our ScriptSave® card members. Our group's discounted prescription savings for the month amounted to 52.68%. With our group's year-to-date 2014 discounted prescription savings averaging 58.77%, or \$37.78 per discounted prescription, it's easy to see how our members benefit from the program every day. During these tough economic times, a ScriptSave® card will provide savings to you on your prescriptions.

The ScriptSave® Prescription Savings Program is available at **NO COST** to you. There are **no monthly or ongoing fees, no limits on usage, and no income or age restrictions.** Your entire household can use the card to receive instant savings on brand name and generic prescriptions at over 62,000 participating pharmacies nationwide.

If you do not have health insurance coverage, use the ScriptSave® card for any brand name or generic prescription you or a family member pays for out-of-pocket. If you have health insurance coverage, use the ScriptSave® card for everyone in your household who is not insured and for any prescriptions that are excluded by Medicare Part D law or drugs not covered by your health insurance. In addition to prescription savings, the ScriptSave® card also provides savings on vision and Lasik, hearing, diabetic supplies, lab testing, chiropractic, X-rays and imaging, fitness, safety, and medical supplies, and gym memberships.

If you do not have a ScriptSave® card, you may enroll online by visiting [www.scriptsave.com](http://www.scriptsave.com) and log-in with Group #S1000. On that web site, you can also find a participating pharmacy near you, look up drug pricing, and view the Preferred Medications List, health information, and more. Any LPSCU member (including the membership of LCA) can receive a ScriptSave® card at no cost. If you do not have access to a computer to apply for a card, call the Home Office and the Home Office will apply for a ScriptSave® card for you.

**Discounts are available exclusively through participating pharmacies. The range of the discounts will vary depending on the type of provider and services rendered. This program does not make payments directly to providers. Members are required to pay for all health care services. You may cancel your registration at any time or file a complaint by contacting Customer Care. This program is administered by Medical Security Card Company, LLC (MSC) of Tucson, AZ.**



# Semi-Annual Board Meeting Mass and Breakfast Held in the Lehigh Valley

The LPSCU held its Semi-Annual Board Meeting on September 19-20, 2014, at Best Western Conference Center in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

During Saturday's meeting session, Bernadine Kurzeja, secretary of Northampton Branch 62 and secretary of the Lehigh Valley Okres, and her sister, Elaine Molchany, vice president of the Lehigh Valley Okres, greeted the Board and presented them with a gift of homemade cookies. President Theresa Kluchinski thanked them for the visit and delicious treat.

On Sunday, September 21, the Board of Directors and LPSCU members from the Lehigh Valley area attended a 9:15 a.m. Mass at St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Rev. Richard O'Nyamwaro, a guest priest at the parish, was celebrant and Msgr. Robert F. Kozel, pastor emeritus of the parish, was concelebrant and homilist. President Kluchinski, Vice President Anita Gregory, and Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge served as gift bearers. The choir, which is comprised of many LPSCU members, sang beautiful English hymns during the service, and it was a delight to hear the choir and congregation singing some beautiful Slovak hymns as well.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, a delicious breakfast buffet was held in the Lehigh Room of the Best Western Conference Center in Bethlehem. Thirty-five members from the Lehigh Valley area attended as guests. Prior to the meal, President Kluchinski offered a warm welcome to all in attendance. Msgr. Robert F. Kozel said a special prayer in remembrance of Honorary Vice President Mary Ann Ackerman and Fraternal Activities Director Cecilia B. Gaughan, both of whom recently passed away. He then offered a prayer before meals.

After the buffet, President Kluchinski introduced the Board members and spoke about the various fraternal and educational benefits and insurance plans and annuity offered by the LPSCU.

Each attendee received an engraved pen from the Home Office and many door prizes were awarded to the members.

The program concluded with a closing prayer by Msgr. Kozel, after which the Board enjoyed socializing with guest members.



**Elaine Molchany and Bernadine Kurzeja (second and third from left, respectively) greet Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge (left), President Theresa Kluchinski (second from right), and Public Relations Director Margaret A. Ferri (right) at the Semi-Annual Board of Directors Meeting.**



**Pictured at the Board of Directors' Breakfast Buffet are, seated L-R, Trustee Joan Hladek, Msgr. Robert F. Kozel, and President Theresa Kluchinski. Standing L-R are Trustees Margaret Jollimore and Dolores Evanko, Public Relations Director Margaret A. Ferri, Vice President Anita Gregory, Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge, and Chairperson of Trustees Mary Ann Ewasko.**



**Members from the Lehigh Valley at the Board Meeting Breakfast Buffet.**



**Lehigh Valley area members enjoy the Breakfast Buffet.**

# Minutes of the Semi-Annual Board Meeting

## September 19-20, 2014 ❖ Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

### Friday, September 19, 2014

#### Call to Order-Prayer-Pledge of Allegiance

President Theresa Kluchinski called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and offered a prayer in memory of Fraternal Activities Director Cecilia Gaughan and Honorary Vice President Mary Ann Ackerman, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Roll Call

A quorum was present.

#### Submission of Insurance

One application was received from Margaret Ferri.

#### Welcome Remarks

President Kluchinski welcomed everyone to the Semi-Annual Meeting.

#### Approval of Agenda/Minutes

The agenda for the meeting was approved with one change. The Minutes from the June 14, 2014, Board Conference Call were approved.

#### Correspondence

Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge read the correspondence received. The following request was approved:

- ❖ The Slovak Province of the School Sisters of St. Francis in Zilina, Slovakia, is requesting a donation of \$10,000 towards the construction of a gymnasium for their students. *Approved \$1,000*

#### Financial Report

Board members were provided and reviewed the following information:

- ❖ Quarterly Statement, June 30, 2014
- ❖ Month End Balance Sheet/Revenue and Expense Accounts for July and August 2014

The meeting was adjourned until Saturday.

### Saturday, September 20, 2014

President Kluchinski called the meeting to order and offered a prayer.

#### Financial Report (continued)

- ❖ Minor Beneficiary Account Listing
- ❖ Summary Market Value 2014 Spreadsheet
- ❖ Budget
- ❖ Statement of Investment Policy Objectives and Guidelines
- ❖ Employee Retirement Plan and Statement of Investment Policy Objectives and Guidelines
- ❖ Transaction Summary
- ❖ Pension Form 5500-SF

#### Home Office Report

Secretary-Treasurer Savidge reported on the following:

- ❖ Building Improvements
- ❖ Membership
- ❖ Hardware/Software
- ❖ Home Office Projects
- ❖ Scanning Project

- ❖ Colonial Supplemental Insurance Cafeteria Plan Resolution

#### Unfinished Business

The Board discussed and approved combining a Scholarship Program with the Tree of Life.

#### New Business

The Board was provided information and discussed the following:

- ❖ Dividend Resolution
- ❖ Term to 25
- ❖ Annuity Rate
- ❖ Branch Deposit Rate

#### Job Descriptions

The Board was provided job descriptions for all Board positions and was asked to review the descriptions. Any suggested changes or corrections are to be submitted to President Kluchinski by November 5, 2014. With the passing of Fraternal Activities Director Cecilia Gaughan, President Kluchinski asked Board members to review the job description of the Fraternal Activities Director and to e-mail her any changes or corrections immediately since the position will be advertised in the November-December 2014 *Zornicka*.

#### Elder Law

President Kluchinski proposed an Elder Law benefit. After discussion, the Board approved the Elder Law benefit.

#### Convention 2016

The Board was shown two gift ideas for the delegates at the 2016 Convention. The Board approved the purchase of one of the gifts.

The Board of Directors would like to thank Bernadine Kurzeja and Elaine Molchany, officers of Branch 62, Northampton, Pennsylvania, for stopping by the hotel to provide delicious homemade cookies they made for the Board.

The Board was provided a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws and told if there are any changes to have them to President Kluchinski by November 5, 2014.

#### District/Branch Structure

The Board was provided and discussed the following:

- ❖ Secretary's Prompt Payment
- ❖ District Guidelines

#### Local/State and National Alliance Meetings

The Board was provided reports from the following:

- ❖ President Theresa Kluchinski – Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh Seminar
- ❖ Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge – Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh Seminar

#### Meeting Dates

The Board was provided a list of meeting dates for 2015.

#### Officer Reports

The Board was provided quarterly reports from the following:

- ❖ Vice President Anita Gregory

*continued on page 19*



# Lehigh Valley Okres Hosts Members to Baseball Game in Allentown

On Sunday, August 3, 2014, the Lehigh Valley Okres hosted a group of 17 LPSCU youth, 28 adult members, and 5 guests at a Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs Baseball Game at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown, Pennsylvania. The Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs, an affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies, played the Durham Bulls at 5:35 p.m. The weather was perfect for the game.

The Lehigh Valley Okres provided each youth with a complimentary entrance ticket to the game and a stipend toward their food purchase. Upon entering the ballpark, each child under 14 years of age received a complimentary Iron Pigs T-shirt.

As a special tribute, Lehigh Valley Okres members left a seat vacant in our section in memory of LPSCU Honorary Vice President Mary Ann Ackerman, who had planned to attend the game, but unfortunately passed away three weeks beforehand. Cole Geiger, Mary Ann's great-grandson, had the honor of throwing out the first pitch in memory of his great-grandmother. He received the Iron Pigs baseball that he threw as a memento of the occasion.

During the game, the names of the various groups in attendance were announced and appeared on a large screen over the ballpark. When the Lehigh Valley Okres of the Ladies Penn-



**Cole Geiger waives to the crowd as he walks out to throw out the first pitch of the game.**

sylvania Slovak Catholic Union was called out, our members stood up and cheered loudly.

Even though the Iron Pigs lost the game, our group raved about how much they enjoyed the evening. The Okres officers are delighted with the interest our members are showing in attending a baseball game as a fraternal activity. The Okres plans to host another baseball game next year.



**Cole Geiger receives last minute instructions on the mound before throwing out the first pitch.**



**Members and guests of the Lehigh Valley Okres enjoy a night at the ballpark in Allentown.**

## Slovak Catholic Federation Holds Fall Board Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Slovak Catholic Federation met at the Holiday Inn in Boardman, Ohio, on September 16, 2014. A morning prayer and reflection were given by Msgr. Thomas Derzack. Board members were welcomed by the Right Rev. Gary A. Hoover, Abbot of St. Andrew Abbey.

The Board reviewed financials, reports of the Slovak Catholic Federation Chapters, the report of the Slovak Religious, and a report of the Slovak Clergy. At the meeting, Rev. Andrew Hvozdic was elected to serve as the Federation's President, with Rev. Thomas Nasta elected to serve as First Vice President. Committees were given time to meet and give their reports.

A Mass was held at St. Columbia Cathedral followed by a dinner in the social hall. Guest speaker was Msgr. Vladimír Stahovec, rector of the Pontifical College of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Rome, Italy.

The next meeting of the Slovak Catholic Federation will be held on March 3, 2015, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Dear Lehigh Valley Okres,

We wanted to thank you all for the tickets to the Iron Pigs game on August 3, 2014. As we had intended to share in this evening with our mother and grandmother, Mary Ann Ackerman, it was a bittersweet event. Although we certainly missed her presence, it was a lovely night out and we enjoyed the fellowship and company of those present. Thank you again for your kindness.

*The families of  
Bernard Ackerman  
and Marilyn Geiger*

**Deadline Extended  
to June 30, 2015!**

## The LPSCU is Planning a Cookbook for our 2016 Convention



Wouldn't you love to share  
some of your favorite family recipes  
with other members of the LPSCU?

Recipes must be typed on 8½ x 11 paper  
and mailed to:

LPSCU Cookbook  
Margaret A. Ferri  
428 East Frankford Street  
Bethlehem, PA 18018-2915  
or you can email them to  
[cookbook2016@outlook.com](mailto:cookbook2016@outlook.com).

Please include your name, address, and a phone  
number (in case we have any questions  
about ingredients).

Your name will be published with your recipe.

**Help us make a great cookbook  
for the LPSCU!**

### **IMPORTANT!**

We will not accept copyrighted recipes nor recipes  
taken from another recipe book.

We need your family-tested recipes in order to  
authenticate our own LPSCU recipe book.

**Recipes will now be accepted  
until June 30, 2015**

## Msgr. Beeda District Celebrates LPSCU's 115th Anniversary

On Sunday, August 24, 2014, the Msgr. Beeda District celebrated the 115th Anniversary of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union. The event began with Mass celebrated by Rev. James Bechtel at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish at the Church of St. Joseph in Hazleton, Pennsylvania. The Mass was offered for the living and deceased members of the LPSCU. Several officers and members also took part in the liturgy.

After the service, a breakfast followed in the church cafeteria. District President Anita Gregory welcomed the 23 members and eight guests in attendance. Rev. Bechtel gave the blessing before the delicious meal, which everyone enjoyed. The breakfast was prepared and served by the White Haven Bakery.

Several door prizes made by District President Gregory were raffled off to the lucky winners. Each attendee received an engraved pen from the LPSCU to commemorate the occasion.

We were very happy to have our National President, Theresa Kluchinski, and our National Secretary-Treasurer, Mary Jo Savidge, join us for our celebration. President Kluchinski spoke to everyone about the founders of the organization and the importance of life insurance.

To conclude the event, prize winners were drawn for our Matching Fund Raffle. The proceeds from this raffle will be going to Catholic Social Services in Hazleton to be used towards the organization's holiday food drives.



## Plan Now to Order Your Christmas Oplatky

*Oplatky*, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers, will be available this holiday season from Jankola Library. Orders will be accepted from October 20 until December 19, 2014. The *Oplatky*, five per package, are thermal-sealed and can be purchased for \$4.00 per pack. In addition, the minimum cost of shipping and handling is \$5.75 and upwards, depending upon the number of packets ordered and the prevailing cost of Priority Mail. Orders can be customized to meet your needs. Checks should be made payable to **Jankola Library** and must accompany your order.

For more information or to place an order, contact Sister Catherine Labouré Bresnock, SS.C.M., at 570-275-5606 or write to Jankola Library and Slovak Museum, 580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.



# LPSCU PRIVACY STATEMENT

## Our Privacy Commitment

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

## Why we collect and how we use information

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

## How we collect information

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

## How we protect information

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

## What we do with personal information we collect

We do not disclose your personal information to companies or organizations not affiliated with us that would use the information we have provided them to contact you about their own products and services. We may disclose information about you in order for us to conduct our business, or where law requires disclosure. For example, information may be disclosed to others to enable them to provide business services for us, such as performing general administrative activities. We may use your personal information for marketing purposes or to help with your overall insurance program. Information may also be disclosed for audit or research purposes, or to law enforcement and regulatory agencies.

## Further Information

As required by law, we will notify you of our privacy policy annually.

### Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union

71 South Washington Street / P.O. Box 32

Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703-0032

Phone: 888-834-6614 • Fax: 570-823-4464

E-mail: [lpscu@lpscu.org](mailto:lpscu@lpscu.org)

## In Memoriam

# Anna Koscho Krohmaly Branch 42, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

In 1931 in the village of Sacurov, Slovakia, a beautiful child named Anna Koscho was born. Anna was a teenager when she, her parents and brother, John, arrived in America. As the *Queen Mary* approached Ellis Island, Anna told the story of her excitement as she ran to the top deck exclaiming, "Pozrite sa Socha Slobody!" (Look! The Statue of Liberty.)

Anna grew up in Swissvale, a suburb of Pittsburgh, and began her first job in America in the Jewish Home for the Aged, Homestead, Pennsylvania, where she earned 25 cents an hour. Her first pay check was \$20, which she proudly and hurriedly took to the bank to cash. Anxious to learn the English language, she enrolled in classes which she attended at the end of her work day.

Anna met her husband, Arnold, at a dance on Matta's Hill (now the grandiose Grandview Golf Course in North Braddock) and soon they began planning their future. They pooled their funds and in 1957 invested in a printing company (Krohmaly Printing) in Swissvale, which still thrives today. In spite of their lack of full knowledge of the English language, Anna and Arnold established a reputation for their hard work, professionalism, and excellence, and the business became a thriving family enterprise. During the last few months of her life, Anna worked every day in the print shop alongside Arnold and their son, Bob, daughter-in-law, Patti, and grandson, Michael. She made sure every job was completed to perfection.

Like many Slovak mothers, Anna's life mirrored her kindness, gentleness, and love of hard work. She and Arnold were blessed with two sons (Bill and Robert), and five grandchildren. During her last month of battling cancer, Anna still enjoyed her garden, even using a wheelbarrow to haul grass clippings! To the end she continued hosting get-togethers on her patio, serving delicious Slovak meals.

Anna and Arnold shared a marriage of 61 years and were the center of each other's lives as their love grew each day. They were entwined to each other in an everlasting embrace, which continues into eternity. Their strong Slovak heritage continues and will forever be honored by their children and grandchildren. (Anna was there at the gate of Heaven to welcome Arnold Home six weeks after her July 25th death.)

**Michael Krohmaly**, grandson, Branch 42

*The officers and members of the LPSCU are saddened at the loss of our beloved fraternal sister, Anna Krohmaly. The LPSCU extends its condolences to her family. May she and her dear husband Arnold both rest in peace.*



**Anna Koscho  
Krohmaly**

**Have you signed up  
a new member lately?**

## Msgr. Beeda District Concludes Successful Matching Fund Event

The Msgr. Beeda District concluded its Matching Fund Raffle on Sunday, August 24, 2014. The prizes were drawn at the District's celebration of the 115th Anniversary of the LPSCU. All the prizes were donated by the District officers and local Branches of the LPSCU.

On Thursday, September 11, 2014, a check for \$300 was presented to Lee Ann Lywiski of Catholic Social Services in Hazleton, Pennsylvania. The money donated from the raffle will be used towards the organization's holiday food drives in our community. Thank you to all who supported this project, especially to Rev. Michael Piccola and the parishioners of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish.



**Pictured L-R are District President Anita Gregory, Lee Ann Lywiski from Catholic Social Services, and District officers Mary Ann Litchock and Dolores Evanko.**

### Our Scholarship Recipients Explain

## The Importance of Life Insurance

When a tragedy occurs, life insurance helps to keep the situation under control. When a loved one passes away, life insurance helps to cover the financial burdens of his or her family, keeping costs from spiraling out of control. Losing a loved one gives a family more than enough with which to cope without the looming threat of immediate financial instability. Whether the loss indirectly signifies a loss of income or a sudden expense in funeral costs, an insurance policy can go a long way in easing the minds of a family, allowing them to focus on mourning for their loved one rather than becoming caught up in a web of funeral costs and worries about the immediate future. Overall, life insurance provides peace of mind both before and after the passing of a close relative. While they live, life insurance provides a supportive sense of security for their family. More importantly, however, after their death, it gives the family the opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the meaningful relationship and many memories they experienced throughout a life alongside a beloved relative.

**Philip J. Crompton**  
Branch 38, Whitehall, PA

## Notice of Vacancy LPSCU Fraternal Activities Director

In compliance with Article VIII Section 2(u) of the LPSCU Bylaws, notice of a vacancy in the office of Fraternal Activities Director is hereby published in our official publication.

Any LPSCU member qualified for the said office may submit a resume to the Board of Directors. Qualifications, pursuant to LPSCU Bylaws, are as follows:

- Must be at least 21 years of age, an active member with participation in LPSCU Branch or District activities for at least five years, and
- No two immediate family members can serve during the same term of office.

The Fraternal Activities Director is an officer elected by the delegates at the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union (LPSCU) National Convention held every four (4) years, and, as a result, is therefore a member of the National Board of Directors. Duties include, but are not limited to the following:

- Abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the LPSCU.
- Chair or is a member of a standing committee.
- Represent the LPSCU at functions as requested (e.g., seminars, local socials, meetings, etc.).
- Submit written report of actions at each Board Meeting and to the delegates at the National Convention.
- Responsible for the publication of the Junior Section in the official publication of the LPSCU.
- Responsible for all fraternal activities.
- Work with Branches/Districts regarding activities/programs and the reporting of activities/programs.
- Responsible for providing an annual report to the Board of Directors on the LPSCU Districts.
- Responsible for the development/maintenance of Fraternal Activities Manual.
- Coordinate reimbursement of LPSCU Branch/District functions.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Background in communications helpful, especially various forms of social media. Use of Microsoft Office programs, such as Word, Excel, and Power Point; as well as excellent organizational and writing/communication skills. Travel is required.

A written resume shall be submitted which states qualifications, personal background and history, as well as past experience.

Any member wishing to be considered for this position should send a resume to the attention of the LPSCU President, P.O. Box 32, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703-0032 **postmarked no later than February 2, 2015.**

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



Call your Branch Secretary or the  
Home Office at 570/823-3513 or toll free  
at 888/834-6614.



In Memoriam

## Mary D. Kametz LPSCU Branch 40

Mary D. Kametz, 81, of Whitehall, Pennsylvania, passed away on May 7, 2014, at Lehigh Valley Hospital-Muhlenberg, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Mary was the daughter of the late Joseph and Mary (Brezina) Polaha. She was married to Edward J. Kametz for 57 years.

Mary was a cafeteria worker for East Hills Junior High School and was previously employed at the former Western Electric Company in Allentown. She was a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Coplay, Pennsylvania. An avid polka dancer, she was a member of the Coplay Saengerbund.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by three sons, Kevin and wife Kim of Wescoesville, Pennsylvania, John J. and wife Brenda of Bethlehem, Edward J. and wife Sheri of Hellertown, Pennsylvania; five grandchildren, three great-granddaughters; brothers, Joseph and William Polaha; sister, Dorothy Lichman, and nieces and nephews.

A viewing was held on May 11, 2014, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Robert A. Hauke Funeral Home in Coplay. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on May 12 at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Coplay at 10:30 a.m. Interment was at Holy Saviour Cemetery in Bethlehem.

Mary was a member of LPSCU Branch 40 in Allentown. Her mother, Mary Polaha, was a well-known LPSCU fraternalist, having served as secretary of Branch 40 for over 40 years when, upon her retirement, she was succeeded by her daughter, Dorothy Lichman, who also held that office for approximately 40 years.

The LPSCU extends our sincere sympathy to the family of Mary D. Kametz and to the Polaha and Lichman families. May she rest in peace.

**SIGN UP A  
NEW MEMBER  
TODAY!**

## Notice of Vacancy LPSCU Spiritual Advisor

In compliance with Article VIII Section 2(u) of the LPSCU Bylaws, notice of a vacancy in the office of Spiritual Advisor is hereby published in our official publication.

Any LPSCU member qualified for the said office may submit a resume to the Board of Directors. Qualifications, pursuant to LPSCU Bylaws, are as follows:

- Must be at least 21 years of age, an active member with participation in LPSCU Branch or District activities for at least five years, and
- No two immediate family members can serve during the same term of office.

The Spiritual Advisor is an elected officer by the delegates at the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union (LPSCU) National Convention held every four (4) years; as a result, therefore is a member of the National Board of Directors. Duties include, but are not limited to the following:

- Abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the LPSCU.
- Decide any dispute regarding ecclesiastical questions of the LPSCU, whose decisions are final.
- Contribute to the LPSCU official publication educational articles of a spiritual nature.
- Submit written report of actions to the delegates at the National Convention.
- Represent the LPSCU on the Executive Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation.
- Represent the LPSCU at other functions as requested (e.g., seminars, local socials, other Slovak Catholic fraternal societies' conventions, etc.)
- Submit a written report of actions at each Board Meeting.

### REQUIREMENTS:

Must be a Catholic priest in good standing with his diocese and/or religious community, either of the Latin Rite or one of the Eastern Rites.

A written resume shall be submitted which states qualifications, personal background and history, as well as past experience.

Any member wishing to be considered for this position should send a resume to the attention of the LPSCU President, P.O. Box 32, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703-0032 **postmarked no later than February 2, 2015.**

## 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE

Thursday, January 22, 2015 ❖ Washington, D.C.

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

### **Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton Area**

On Thursday, January 22, 2015, a bus will leave Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania at 7:00 a.m. bound for Washington. Local Branches and Districts may sponsor the cost of members who want to attend. Anyone interested in attending can call Theresa Kluchinski at 888-834-6614 or 570-823-3515 for more information. Cost is \$55; this includes bus transportation, snack on the bus, and dinner buffet on the way home.

# LPSCU 20 Year Endowment Life Insurance Plan

A unique way to generate sizable funds for the purpose of future college education costs for young family members is through a 20 Year Endowment Life Insurance Plan. The payment of a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual endowment life insurance premium for a period of 20 years can help defray higher education tuition and costs. Planning for college education tuition and related costs should be implemented as soon as a child is born in order that the necessary resources will be available for the child to pursue a college degree when the time comes.

An endowment life insurance certificate can serve many other purposes as well, such as assisting with wedding expenses or towards the purchase of a home, furniture, car, or vacation.

After 20 years of premium payments, the insured will have the choice of any one of the following three options: (1) Immediate payment of the policy's face value; (2) Immediate payment of a portion of the face value and a paid-up certificate for the face amount of the existing certificate (Option A); or (3) Paid-up certificate for a larger face value (Option B). In the event of death prior to

20 years, the face amount of the endowment certificate is payable to the named beneficiary/ies.

The 20 Year Endowment Life Insurance Plan is offered from age 0 to 70 and premium payments can be made on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual basis. This plan offers the added fraternal benefits of educational awards, youth and adult activities, newborn benefits, prescription discount plan, official publication, and discount car rental.

Consider the LPSCU 20 Year Endowment Life Insurance Plan to build up savings for the future, while at the same time protecting the insured with life insurance. 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 Year Endowment Life Insurance Plan. The premiums listed are based on \$1,000 of life insurance coverage. Semi-annual and quarterly premium rates are also available by contacting your Branch Secretary or the Home Office.

## 20 YEAR ENDOWMENT ANNUAL & MONTHLY PREMIUM RATES PER \$1,000 Based on 2001 CSO Male and Female Mortality Tables — Based on Age at Last Birthday

Issue Age	Annual		Monthly	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	\$ 39.97	\$ 39.60	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.56
1	40.17	39.79	3.62	3.58
2	40.36	39.98	3.63	3.60
3	40.55	40.17	3.65	3.62
4	40.75	40.36	3.67	3.63
5	40.94	40.55	3.68	3.65
6	41.13	40.74	3.70	3.67
7	41.32	40.93	3.72	3.68
8	41.51	41.13	3.74	3.70
9	41.72	41.33	3.75	3.72
10	41.92	41.53	3.77	3.74
11	42.12	41.72	3.79	3.75
12	42.32	41.92	3.81	3.77
13	42.52	42.12	3.83	3.79
14	42.73	42.32	3.85	3.81
15	42.93	42.52	3.86	3.83
16	43.13	42.72	3.88	3.84
17	43.33	42.92	3.90	3.86
18	43.54	43.13	3.92	3.88
19	43.76	43.34	3.94	3.90
20	43.97	43.55	3.96	3.92
21	44.18	43.76	3.98	3.94
22	44.39	43.97	4.00	3.96
23	44.60	44.18	4.01	3.98
24	44.81	44.39	4.03	4.00
25	45.02	44.60	4.05	4.01
26	45.23	44.81	4.07	4.03
27	45.44	45.02	4.09	4.05
28	45.66	45.24	4.11	4.07
29	45.89	45.46	4.13	4.09
30	46.11	45.68	4.15	4.11
31	46.33	45.90	4.17	4.13
32	46.55	46.12	4.19	4.15
33	46.78	46.34	4.21	4.17
34	47.00	46.56	4.23	4.19
35	47.22	46.77	4.25	4.21

Issue Age	Annual		Monthly	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
36	\$ 47.44	\$ 46.99	\$ 4.27	\$ 4.23
37	47.67	47.22	4.29	4.25
38	47.91	47.45	4.31	4.27
39	48.13	47.68	4.33	4.29
40	48.36	47.91	4.35	4.31
41	48.59	48.14	4.37	4.33
42	48.83	48.37	4.39	4.35
43	49.06	48.59	4.42	4.37
44	49.28	48.82	4.44	4.39
45	49.52	49.06	4.46	4.42
46	49.77	49.30	4.48	4.44
47	50.00	49.53	4.50	4.46
48	50.24	49.77	4.52	4.48
49	50.48	50.00	4.54	4.50
50	50.71	50.24	4.56	4.52
51	50.96	50.47	4.59	4.54
52	51.19	50.71	4.61	4.56
53	51.42	50.94	4.63	4.58
54	51.66	51.19	4.65	4.61
55	51.92	51.43	4.67	4.63
56	52.16	51.67	4.69	4.65
57	52.40	51.92	4.72	4.67
58	52.64	52.16	4.74	4.69
59	52.89	52.40	4.76	4.72
60	53.12	52.64	4.78	4.74
61	53.36	52.89	4.80	4.76
62	53.61	53.14	4.82	4.78
63	54.19	53.39	4.88	4.81
64	56.03	53.64	5.04	4.83
65	58.08	53.89	5.23	4.85
66	60.34	54.14	5.43	4.87
67	62.84	54.39	5.66	4.90
68	65.63	55.44	5.91	4.99
69	68.76	57.38	6.19	5.16
70	72.26	59.56	6.50	5.36



# Letters

Dear LPSCU,

Thank you very much for awarding me such a generous scholarship. I am very excited to be named recipient of your scholarship and can't wait to make the most of it at school.

This fall, I will be attending Penn State University as an engineering major. As of now, I am undecided about the type of engineering, but I am certain I will find the right field for me at Penn State. I am incredibly excited to join the Penn State community and, again, thank you for making it easier for me to attend such an amazing school.

Sincerely,

**Phil Crompton**

Branch 38, Whitehall, PA

Dear Ms. Savidge,

I want to thank you and the LPSCU for awarding me the Catholic High School grant. It has allowed me to help my parents pay for an outstanding education that I feel fortunate to be receiving. I am very grateful for your generosity.

Sincerely,

**Taylor Meister**

Branch 180, Youngstown, OH

*More Letters on page 21*

## Magdalen Benish Recognized by The Salvation Army

Annual recognition of outstanding volunteer service to The Salvation Army is worthy of attention in communities throughout our country.

Magdalen Benish from Plains, Pennsylvania, was the recipient of this "Appreciation Award" recently by The Salvation Army in the Greater Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania area.

Ms. Benish is shown below, second from left, receiving the celebrated award from Herbert Goefrey, Jr., Advisory Board Member of The Salvation Army at the Annual Recognition Luncheon held in Wilkes-Barre. At left is Lt. Sharon Tressler and at far right, Lt. Ted Tressler, both Salvation Army committee representatives.

Ms. Benish is a member of LPSCU Branch 122, Wilkes-Barre, and is a Board Member (Financial Advisor) of the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The LPSCU congratulates Magdalen on this honor bestowed upon her. We are proud of her outstanding volunteer service to The Salvation Army.



## Kecera Slovak Folk Ensemble Performs

The folk traditions of the village of Jakubany, Slovakia, were presented by the Kecera Folk Ensemble at St. John's Cathedral, Munhall, Pennsylvania, on September 21, 2014, as the group performed on its first American tour. Their program was enjoyed by Munhall Borough's Slovak Mayor, Ray Bodner (below, center). The mayor is flanked by LPSCU Branch 42 members Joseph and Albina Senko and Sylvia Goda at far left. Also pictured are many members of the local dance troupe, Pittsburgh Area Slovaks (PAS) who came out to enjoy and support their fellow Slovak performers.



## Cooking Corner

### EASY QUICHE

3 slices bacon,	4 eggs
cooked and crumbled	½ cup Bisquick baking mix
½ cup chopped onions	½ tsp. salt
1 cup grated cheese	Dash of pepper
2 cups milk	

Grease a pie plate or pan. Sprinkle bacon, onions, and cheese over bottom. Beat eggs and milk together. Add remaining ingredients and beat until well mixed. Pour mixture into pie plate and bake at 350 degrees for 50-55 minutes. Quiche is done when a knife inserted in center comes out clean. Let stand 5 to 10 minutes before cutting and serving.



## FLEXIBLE ANNUITY

### 1st Year's Interest Rate is 3.5%



- ◆ 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)



# Calendar of Events

continued from page 2

- 24** — 24th Slovak Heritage Festival in the Commons Room of the Cathedral of Learning, University of Pittsburgh's Oakland Campus, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Pitt Slovak Studies Program, the festival includes lectures, Slovak dance performances, displays, ethnic food, and folk vendors. Admission is free.
- 30** — Pittsburgh District Christmas Party, Westwood Golf Club, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Please contact your Branch Secretary to make a reservation.

## DECEMBER

- 7** — Lehigh Valley Okres Holiday Luncheon at the Best Western Lehigh Valley Conference Center, Routes 22 and 512, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, starting at noon with a punch reception followed by luncheon at 12:30 p.m. A Matching Fund Raffle will be held at this event. For reservations, call Marge Ferri (610-866-8945) before November 20.
- 7** — The Slovak Heritage Society of Northeast Pennsylvania will sponsor a "St. Nicholas Hymn Sing" at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, at 2:00 p.m. The event is open to the public.
- 13** — LPSCU Telephone Conference Meeting

## ❖ 2015 ❖ JANUARY

- 20** — **Deadline to submit articles for March/April 2015 Zornicka.**
- 22** — Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. See page 15 for details.

## MARCH

- 2-3** — Slovak Catholic Federation Meeting, Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania
- 20** — **Deadline to submit articles for May/June 2015 Zornicka.**

## APRIL

- 16** — LPSCU Internal Audit
- 17-18** — LPSCU Annual Meeting, Home Office, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
- 19-20** — American Fraternal Alliance Mid-Year Meeting, Washington, D.C.

## MAY

- 20** — **Deadline to submit articles for July/August 2015 Zornicka.**

## JUNE

- 13** — LPSCU Mid-Year Meeting (Telephone Conference)
- 30** — **DEADLINE EXTENDED!** The deadline to submit a family recipe for our LPSCU Convention Cookbook has been extended to June 30, 2015.

## JULY

- 20** — **Deadline to submit articles for September/October 2015 Zornicka.**

- 30-8/4** — Slovak Catholic Sokol Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

## SEPTEMBER

- 10-11** — Slovak Catholic Federation Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 10-12** — American Fraternal Alliance Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana
- 12** — Slovak Catholic Federation Pilgrimage, Washington, D.C.
- 18-20** — LPSCU Semi-Annual Meeting, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
- 20** — **Deadline to submit articles for November/December 2015 Zornicka.**

## Minutes of the Semi-Annual Board Meeting

continued from page 10

- ❖ Chairperson of Trustees Mary Ann Ewasko
- ❖ Trustees – Dolores Evanko, Joan Hladek, and Margaret Jollimore
- ❖ Fraternal Activities Director Cecilia Gaughan
- ❖ Public Relations Director Margaret Ferri

### Committee Reports

The following committees provided reports:

- ❖ Youth Achievement Award Committee
- ❖ Fraternalist of the Year
- ❖ Campaign Committee
- ❖ Educational Committee
- ❖ Cook Book Project

### National Officer Vacancies

*National Trustee* – The Board was provided with applications received for the open position of National Trustee. After discussion, the Board selected James Yocum, Branch 39, Drums, Pennsylvania, for the position of National Trustee.

*Spiritual Advisor* – The Board was provided a letter of resignation from Spiritual Advisor Rev. Philip Altavilla. The open position will be advertised in the November/December 2014 Zornicka.

### Audit Procedures

Chairperson of Trustees Mary Ann Ewasko and Trustees Dolores Evanko, Margaret Jollimore, and Joan Hladek are working on Audit Procedures. President Kluchinski and Secretary-Treasurer Savidge will meet with Chairperson Ewasko and the Trustees to go over any proposed changes to be presented at the April 2015 Board meeting.

### Good of the Union

*Book Buy Program* – The Educational Committee will look at better ways to promote the Book Buy program and will present the suggestions at a future Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

**Mary Jo Savidge**

National Secretary-Treasurer

## LPSCU Makes Donation to Congregation of Slovak Sisters

For over twenty years, the Slovak Province of the School Sisters of St. Francis has been conducting the St. Francis School in Zilina, Slovakia. The sisters and lay staff offer an excellent Christian and academic formation to young men and women in the northwestern sector of the country, not only from the city, but from outlying areas as well.

But an ongoing need of the students is for some kind of area for physical education, and so the Province is undertaking the construction of a gymnasium. Construction on the new structure began in March 2014 and is due to be completed this December.

The Province has been able to cover a portion of the construction costs and has received additional funding from other grants, but financial help is still needed to complete the project. To aid in this regard, the LPSCU Board of Directors at its Semi-Annual Meeting held in September approved a donation to help with the costs.

Pictured is the progress of the construction as of September 2014. For more information and to follow the building's progress, log onto the gymnasium's website at [www.gsf.sk](http://www.gsf.sk).



Progress continues on the interior rooms.



The exterior of the new gymnasium takes shape.

## Slovak Heritage Society Installs Officers and Board Members

Officers and Board members of the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania for 2014-2015 were installed at ceremonies following elections at the Society's annual meeting held at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

The Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania was founded during the American Bicentennial in 1976 by Monsignor Francis J. Beeda, S.T.L., and other Slovak cultural activists. The Society hosts seasonal Slovak cultural events, most recently the Bratislava Boys Choir of Slovakia Concerts in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton in tribute to the 150th anniversary of the birth of Rev. Jozef Murgas, "Radio's Forgotten Genius." The group currently is following through on plans for a Special Room honoring Father Murgas in the King's College facilities on Public Square. Its annual "St. Nicholas Hymn Sing" is set for Sunday, December 7, 2014, at 2:00 p.m. in St. Matthew's Lutheran Church on N. Main Street, Wilkes-Barre. The event is open to the public.

For more information on the Society's programs, visit its website – [www.shsnep.org](http://www.shsnep.org).



**Newly elected SHS officers and Board members – Seated from left, Benevolent Chair Connie Plewniak, Wilkes-Barre Township; Recording Secretary Anna Hudock, Wilkes-Barre; Society Chair Philip R. Tuhy, Wilkes-Barre; Membership Chair Mary Migatulski, Wilkes-Barre; and Dorothy Sullivan, Nanticoke, Pennsylvania. Standing from left, Anthony Palischak and Dinner Chair Elaine Palischak, Plymouth, Pennsylvania; Treasurer Jackson Hendershot, Wilkes-Barre; Financial Advisor Magdalen M. Benish, Plains, Pennsylvania; Michael Stretanski, Kingston, Pennsylvania; Corresponding Secretary Bernadette Yencha, Wilkes-Barre; Education Co-Chair Andrew Sofranko, Hanover Township, Pennsylvania; Joseph Kowatch, Kingston; Education Co-Chair Helen Savinski, Swoyersville, Pennsylvania; and Public Relations Director William A. Zdancewicz, Edwardsville, Pennsylvania.**

## New Insurance Issued

Branch	Branch Representative	July/Aug. 2014	Year-to-Date Total
130	Margaret Ferri	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
38	Cecilia Gaughan	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
*197	Home Office	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 117,000.00
		\$ 60,000.00	\$ 172,000.00

\*Sold through Home Office, not included in the Campaign



## Rev. Hoover Named Seventh Abbot of St. Andrew's Abbey



**Rt. Rev. Gary Alan Hoover, OSB**

On October 5, 2014, the Monastic Community of Saint Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio, joyfully celebrated the Mass of Abbatial Blessing for their newly elected Abbot, The Right Reverend Gary Alan Hoover, OSB.

Abbot Hoover is the seventh Abbot of Saint Andrew Abbey.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Abbot Hoover professed vows as a Benedictine Monk on July 16, 1977. He was ordained a priest on April 29, 1983, appointed Administrator of the Abbey on July 26, 2013, and elected the Seventh Abbot on August 6, 2014.

The Mass of Abbatial Blessing was held at Saint Ambrose Church in Brunswick, Ohio, with a reception at Michaud's Towne 'n' Country in Strongsville, Ohio.

Abbot Hoover is a member of LPSCU Branch 209, Cleveland, Ohio. The LPSCU congratulates Abbot Hoover and wishes him the best in his vocation.

## Letters

*continued from page 17*

Dear LPSCU,

Thank you for the \$300 Catholic High School Award to further my education at Bishop Watterson High School. The 2013 award has been credited to my 2014-15 school year tuition.

Your generosity is a blessing.

Sincerely,

**Sara Dowler**

Branch 180, Youngstown, OH

Dear LPSCU,

Thank you very much for the beautiful marriage cross. We have hung it over our door and pray that God blesses our marriage.

Thank you again.

**Victoria Maskinas-Tucker**

Branch 19, Swyersville, PA

## Do you need a very special gift?

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 ...". Or you may also choose to simply have your name, the family name, or business name inscribed on a Leaf or Stone. Restrictions as to space and number of characters are listed below, based on whether you choose a fraternal Leaf (\$100) or larger 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 payments.

Please complete the Reservation Form below (a photocopy is also acceptable) and return it, along with your check, payable to LPSCU, to:

**LPSCU  
P.O. Box 32,  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703-0032**

*All proceeds received  
fund our  
Scholarship Program.*

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  Fraternal Stone  (Please check one) when fully paid. **(Minimum of \$20 per payment.)**
- My \$100 check as payment in full, entitling me to an engraved Fraternal Leaf
- My \$500 check as payment in full, entitling me to an engraved Fraternal Stone

#### 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.

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

## Dear Junior Members,

In the autumn of 1897, Dr. Philip O'Hanlon was asked by his 8-year-old daughter, Virginia, whether Santa Claus really existed. Dr. O'Hanlon suggested that she write to *The Sun*, a prominent New York City newspaper of the time, telling her that "If you see it in *The Sun*, it's so."

Little Virginia received an answer to her letter in the issue of *The Sun* published on September 21, 1897. One of the paper's editors, Francis Pharcellus Church, responded with what has become the most reprinted editorial ever to run in any newspaper in the English language. We share with you now this endearing part of popular Christmas folklore in America, beginning with Virginia's heartfelt letter...

*Dear Editor,*

*I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in *The Sun*, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?*

*Virginia O'Hanlon  
115 West Ninety-Fifth Street*



Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in

his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you

## Give Green

Sometimes thinking of a unique and meaningful gift to give can be quite a task. But there's a natural way to spread holiday cheer and be "green" at the same time. Give a live plant. Plants are not only beautiful, but they also cheer up any spot in a home or work place.

Here are a few things to remember when choosing a plant as a gift:

- Always include care instructions for the plant
- Select the plant based on the recipient. A plant that needs daily watering would not be a good gift for a frequent traveler. Instead, choose an interesting cactus or succulent which needs much less frequent care. For those with allergies or asthma, plants like palms, peace lilies, and ferns do an excellent job of improving air quality and filtering out toxins.
- Remember that containers make a difference. Plastic containers are not very attractive, so pop your plant into a colorful ceramic, glass, wood or metal container for a more interesting and personal touch.

If you need favors for a holiday party, little gifts from nature go a long way. Spray paint a small terra cotta pot in gold and plant some rosemary, thyme, or lavender in it. Or take a small, colorful pot, fill it with soil, and plant a bulb such as amaryllis, crocus, or paperwhites. The bulbs should bloom weeks later, reminding your guests of good times shared and brightening up the doldrums of winter.



ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

**WE MUST BELIEVE!**

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

*"Is There a Santa Claus?" reprinted from the September 21, 1897, issue of The New York Sun.*







## A Slovak Christmas Wish

The following is a traditional wish said at a Slovak Christmas Eve *Vilija*. It was sent to me from Anne Cichy, our first Public Relations Director.

*That we might live to celebrate another Christmas with greater blessings, with greater health, with greater peace and blessings from God.*

*A bountiful harvest; may your chickens have fancy combs, geese lay more eggs, calves have tender veal.*

*May you have sheafs of wheat, much grain, and sweetest fruit.*

*In your attic, kolbasa and bacon, plenty of clothes in your closet, and money in your treasure chest.*

*Grant it, O Lord Jesus Christ.*

This is my wish for you and your family as well.

## Arts and Crafts

### BUTTON CHRISTMAS WREATHS

We all have some vintage or colorful buttons laying around. This is a nice way to use them and show them off. These projects are for indoor display.

Purchase a straw or Styrofoam wreath at a crafts store. Wrap it in grosgrain ribbon, gluing or pinning the ribbon in place. Now glue on your buttons to cover the wreath. You can use all different colors of buttons or all one color (white or silver are nice, with a red velvet bow). Add glitter or spray on "snow" if you'd like. Attach some pretty ribbon for hanging and don't forget a bow!



Don't have enough buttons for a big wreath? How about some minis for tree ornaments? You'll need some 16-gauge copper wire or 22-gauge green floral wire. Cut to 8 or 9 inches in length. Using needle-nosed pliers, make a small loop at one end of the wire. Thread your buttons onto the wire until you have enough to form the size wreath you want. Use the pliers to bend the straight end of the wire around the looped end, forming a circle of buttons. Twist the ends together and clip off any extra wire. Use 1/2" wide ribbon to make a hanging loop, covering the spot where the wire is joined. Use another piece of ribbon to make a bow. Glue this to the hanging loop where it wraps around your button wreath. These make cute tree ornaments or decorations for atop Christmas gift boxes.

## Kids in the Kitchen

### APPLE LATKES

Latkes – potato pancakes – are often served at Hanukkah, the 8-day-long Jewish Festival of Lights. Here's a different twist on them using apples.

2 lbs. potatoes	¼ cup matzo meal
2 lbs. Granny Smith apples	Canola oil for frying
2 eggs	½ cup minced raisins (optional)
2 Tbsp. sugar	Maple syrup and/or powdered sugar for serving
1 tsp. salt	
1 tsp. cinnamon	

Grate the potatoes and apples into a colander in the sink to drain. After releasing all the liquid you can through the colander, and before the potatoes and apples start to turn brown, place them on paper towels to absorb more liquid. Then place them in a large mixing bowl. Mix together the eggs, sugar, salt, and cinnamon and add to the bowl of potatoes and apples. Add the matzo meal (available in the supermarket during the Jewish holidays), mixing in well. Add raisins if desired.



Heat oil in a large frying pan on medium heat. Using a ¼ measuring cup, ladle the mixture into the frying pan, patting each latke down with the bottom of the cup to make a 3-to-4-inch flat cake. Cook until well browned, about 3 minutes on each side. Drain on paper towels. Serve hot with maple syrup or sprinkled with confectioner's sugar.



As you may have read in this issue, Cecilia Gaughan, our long-time Fraternal Activities Director, passed away in September. One of Ceil's great joys was researching and preparing articles for the pages of the Junior Branch Journal, a section of our *Zornicka* dedicated to our Junior members. She truly loved sharing interesting stories, facts, information, and "how to" advice with the young and the young at heart in her pages. In true Ceil fashion, she was always ahead of the curve, and thus the articles in this issue's Junior pages, as well as some articles in the next issue, were prepared by Ceil before she passed. We'd like to dedicate this issue's Junior Branch Journal to Ceil and to thank her for the dedication and love she poured into her work for so many years. She will be greatly missed.



## Member Tyler Shaffer Has Quite the Talent



**Gymnast Tyler Shaffer**

Tyler Elizabeth Shaffer is someone who is highly enthusiastic about and totally enjoys gymnastics. She is in her fourth year of involvement, and now in her first year of competition, and continues to rapidly progress.

As a member of the Gym Khala Gymnastics School located in Plum Borough, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Tyler is fully involved. Practice is two evenings each week, plus Saturdays – a rigorous schedule for students. Now that Tyler is

involved in competitive programs, both her paternal grandparents, Walt and Dana Shaffer, and her maternal grandparents, Andrea and Bernard Tomasic, are involved in transporting her to and from and attending the meets.

Last spring, in her first competitive meet, Tyler participated in four tournament events and placed first in the All Around Performance Category in three of them. These events include bar, beam, floor and vault exercises.

In a recent highly rated competition, Tyler scored the top in her age group. Shortly thereafter, she was moved up to a much higher level for the upcoming Fall program. She is amassing a wall full of medals for her winning ways.

Tyler also excels in other creative areas. Last school year, as a third grade student at East Catholic Elementary in Forest Hills Borough, Allegheny County, she placed first in a county-wide Catholic school competition for the Adoptive Month Poster contest. The top prize was family tickets to the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium which Tyler enjoyed with her dad Ty, her mother Ramona, and her younger sister Taylor.

Tyler is a member of LPSCU Branch 52, North Braddock, Pennsylvania, of which her mother, Ramona Shaffer, is vice president.

The LPSCU is proud of Tyler and her gymnastic accomplishments. We wish her much happiness and continued success in her future endeavors.

## Slovak Church Honors Slovakia's Patroness

Holy Trinity Church, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, hosted an evening honoring Our Lady of Sorrows, patroness of Slovakia, on September 15, 2014. The Slovak and English Mass was concelebrated by Rev. Joseph Grosko, pastor, and priests from the Pittsburgh Diocese. Celebration of the Mass was preceded by the singing of many Slovak songs.

Following the service, everyone enjoyed a reception in the social hall where they were served Slovak foods prepared by Holy Trinity parishioners. Joining in the celebration were Branch 42 members and guests Jane Bodnar, Sylvia Goda, Marge Joschak, Sue and Rudy Ondrejko, Dolores Sakal, Albina and Joseph Senko, and Mary Lou Wagner.



**Rev. Joseph Grosko (center) and Pittsburgh area priests celebrate a Mass honoring Our Lady of Sorrows.**



**LPSCU Branch 42 members who attended the special service.**

## Convention Cookbook Deadline Extended

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