



Za Boha a národ

For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL · MEMBERSHIP 30,000 · HOME OFFICE: 205 MADISON ST., PASSAIC, NJ 07055

Periodical Postage Paid at original entry of Passaic, NJ 07055 and additional mailing offices

VOLUME CXV

PASSAIC, NJ, JANUARY 1, 2026

NUMBER 5201



MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPREME PRESIDENT

LARRY M. GLUGOSH

To all of the members, local officers and Supreme Officers of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I would like to offer you a very happy new year



and hope you and your families had a safe, enjoyable and healthy Christmas season and took some quality time to count your many blessings.

It is customary each year at this time to set goals for the coming year and some of us establish resolutions too. What things will you do differently in 2026 that you have not tried or changed in the past? What can you do to help and improve your local community or church? Is there a family member or friend that could use your time and support? Whatever changes and/or improvements you set out for yourself, we hope and pray you have a safe, healthy and happy year.

As we begin a new year, I would like to take a moment and thank our Supreme Officers, local officers and youthful leaders for their tireless and devoted efforts throughout 2025. I would also like to thank our home office staff under the leadership and direction of our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec for all of their support, commitment and dedication to our membership and society as a whole. Lastly, I would like to thank the members of our Board of Directors for their dedication and contributions to our organization. It was a difficult year but with their support, we managed to host some good fraternal events, help promote our Slovak culture and Catholic faith and ensured our financial and operational objectives and targets were all met by year end.

In a few weeks, our Board of Directors will host our next quar-

terly meeting and we will review our overall financial health, life insurance and annuity sales results, new products and our athletic fraternal programs. However, we will quickly focus our attention to 2026 and establish our financial forecast, targets and discuss new improvements that we can incorporate into our society for the betterment of our membership. In general, our Board of Directors are pleased that our ongoing efforts and leadership to control our discretionary spending, improve our sales results and make sound fiscal investment decisions, that have all contributed to our success this past year.

During our deliberations, we will also review the 2025 Fraternalist of the Year program. We have received some very worthy candidates from a variety of groups and will take some quality time to review their individual contributions to their community and select our 2025 next recipient. We hope our Board of Directors will meet in the early spring for our quarterly meeting and join in the celebration ceremony with the 2025 winner and their family and friends. It is something we started last year and hope it can continue moving forward.

Later in January our Supreme Physical Fitness board will meet for their annual meeting. This year the meeting will be conducted virtually, since the agenda does not require a face to face gathering and the board is also trying to reduce cost for our society. As part of the meeting, the board will be once again soliciting input from our local leaders and officers to ensure we are exploring new ideas for our future events and meeting their expectations with regards to our current program. We want to maintain our events but recognize our youth have lots of op-

(Continued on page 4)

Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

ISSN:0897-8107

Established April 15, 1911

Official Publication
of the Slovak Catholic Sokol

Issued bi-monthly

Editorial Staff:
Livia Karak

Annual Subscription Rates:
United States \$40.00
All others countries \$45.00

POSTMASTER: Send address changes
to
Slovak Catholic Falcon
P.O.Box 899, 205 Madison Street
Passaic, NJ 07055

Member of the Catholic Press Association
and the
Slovak Newspapermen's
Association of America
Proprietor and Publisher
SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL
P.O.Box 899
205 Madison Street
Passaic, NJ 07055

HOME OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
FRIDAY
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PHONE NUMBERS:
TOLL FREE NUMBER: 1-800-886-7656
HOME OFFICE: (973) 777-2605
or 777-2606

FAX NUMBER: (973) 779-8245
E-MAIL: Sokol205@aol.com
WEB SITE: www.scslife.org

FOLLOW US ON:
TWITTER: www.twitter.com
INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:
Slovak Catholic Sokol Public Group

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPREME SECRETARY

SCOTT T. POGORELEC, F.I.C.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members and friends a happy and healthy New Year 2026! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends.



The beginning of a new year is always an opportunity to think positively and set our priorities for the year ahead. If you made any of the traditional New Year's resolutions (exercise more, do more around the house, save more money, etc.), I hope that you are staying strong and are still faithful to them. If I may, I would like to add one more resolution to your list. Get involved in our activities.

Not many institutions can boast of more than a century of success with outstanding fraternal and sporting activities, along with our stable financial strength. It was on July 4, 1905, that a group of your Slovak immigrants met in Passaic, NJ and established our great organization. We have been able to sustain our strength due to a membership that has always remained active. We need our membership, especially our youngsters, to stay engaged. Try to make a commitment this year to get more involved in your local Assembly/Wreath and/or Group. Local level functions are the cornerstone of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. It is through these events that our message is delivered to our current members and potential members.

What is another way that you can help our Society? You can tell someone, whether it be a family member or friend, about our organization and the benefits that go along with being a member. You can ask if

their insurance needs are being met, and if not, give them the phone number of our Home Office. These are just a few things that do not take a lot of time but can go a long way in insuring our Society's future.

This time of year is also a wonderful opportunity to look at your very own insurance needs. Life insurance can be a financial blessing during a challenging time. The purchase of it can mean saving your home, sending your children to college, or preserving the quality of life for your family. If your children do not have an S.C.S. policy yet, it is a wonderful time to get them one. Since premiums are based on age, your child's premium will never be lower than it is currently right now. Along with financial protection, your child or grandchild will enjoy the many benefits our Society offers including our scholarship program. If you have any questions, please contact the Home Office and we would be glad to assist you.

We are looking forward to a successful fraternal year in 2026, and we realize that we need to continue to evolve. Change is not something that comes easy, but it is necessary given our current fiscal environment. We will be getting started early with our Supreme Board of Directors meeting on January 15th and our Supreme Physical Fitness Board meeting on January 17th. Both meetings will be held virtually as we continue to find ways to be more efficient and cost effective. If you have any thoughts for either Board, please reach out to the Home Office.

Until next time, have a blessed and healthy New Year, stay warm, and may God bless you!

Stay safe, stay strong,
and STAY POSITIVE!

Zdar Boh!

SOKOL CALENDAR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026
THE MILWAUKEE FASIANGY (PRE-LENTEN DANCE) sponsored by Slovak League of America - Assembly 20 will be held at 3 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church Hall, 917 N. 49th Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Slovak food and bakery will be available. A live band will provide music for dancing and your listening pleasure. The Tatra Slovak Dancers will have a performance. Donation is \$5.00 per person. We are inviting all Wreath 93 and Group 4 members to attend. For more information, contact our Betty at 414-425-6137 or Ellen at 262-893-7483.

— **Kathy Valent, Slovak League of America #20 Secretary**

32ND ANNUAL SLOVAK BALL at The Royal Manor in Garfield, NJ. The black-tie affair will begin with cocktail hour at 7 p.m., followed by dinner, live music by Express Band, a midnight buffet, premium open bar raffle featuring unique prizes. More information at the website: SlovakAmericanCC.org

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026
GROUP 2 MEETING. Mass at 10 a.m. in HNJ. Lunch will be provided in the chapel. RSVP by February 8, 2026 to Anne Neudeck, tel. 203-335-8418.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON PUBLICATION DATE

The next issue of the **SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON** will be that of **MARCH 1, 2026**. **DEADLINE** for all photos and information for this issue will be **FEBRUARY 22, 2026**.

The next **SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL NEWSLETTER** will be posted on our website on **JANUARY 15, 2026**.

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic

REFLECTION ON THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

The Corporal Works of Mercy call Christians to make God's love visible through concrete action.

Rooted in Jesus' words in Matthew 25—"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me"—they remind us that faith is not only something we profess but something we live.



To feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty challenges me to notice not only physical hunger but also the hidden poverty around me. It invites generosity, even when giving costs time, comfort, or resources. In serving basic human needs, I encounter Christ himself, often in unexpected places.

To clothe the naked and shelter the homeless confronts the dignity of every human person. These works push me beyond charity that is convenient toward compassion that restores worth. They remind me that no one should be reduced to their circumstances and that solidarity requires both action and advocacy.

To visit the sick and visit the imprisoned are perhaps the most demanding works of mercy, because they require presence more than solutions. They call me to overcome fear, judgment, and discomfort. In accompanying those who suffer or are forgotten, I learn that mercy is often expressed simply by being there listening, praying, and loving without conditions.

Finally, **to bury the dead** teaches reverence for life even after death and affirms our hope in the resurrection. It is an act of mercy that comforts the grieving and reminds us of the eternal perspective of our faith.

Living out the Corporal Works of Mercy transforms both the one who serves and the one who is served. They draw me out of self-centeredness and into a deeper relationship with Christ, who identifies himself with the poor, the suffering, and the marginalized. Through these works, the Church becomes the hands and feet of Christ in the world, witnessing to a love that is active, sacrificial, and real.

MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPREME PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 2)

tions in their local communities. We want to sincerely thank the members of our Supreme Physical Fitness board for their commitment to our program and their ongoing focus on the health, fitness and fraternalism for our organization.

In closing, I want to thank our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec for his tireless and focused commitment, dedication and leadership to our society. Brother Scott works on our behalf with a very small staff, to help achieve our business objectives, financial targets and overall operational needs. He proactively works with our professional advisors and board of directors, to gain their direction and guidance but still has the important job and responsibility to execute and deliver on our key projects and goals. It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to have worked with him over the past year and look forward to working together in the future and building on our accomplishments.

From our family to yours, we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday season. May you continue to experience good health, happiness and prosperity in the coming year and hope all of our members had a safe, joyous and memorable New Year!

May God Bless you all!

MINUTES OF ASSEMBLY 163 ANNUAL MEETING

Assembly 163, Donora, PA held the annual meeting on December 7, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., election of officers were discussed with no one willing to run. The officers will remain the same as in the past.

Discussion was held regarding getting new members with no suggestions or ideas.

It was agreed that the semi annual meeting will be held via zoom in April. No further items to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Terri Gardner

FACTS ABOUT NEW YEAR

New Year's celebrations date back 4,000 years to ancient Babylon, but the January 1st date was set by Julius Caesar in 46 BCE with the Julian calendar. Traditions vary globally, from Spain's 12 grapes to Japan's long noodles, symbolizing good fortune, while resolutions, like the Babylonian promises, often fail, with many people quitting by January. The Times Square ball drop, a fireworks ban substitute, began in 1908, and other customs include midnight kisses (from Roman festivals) and eating certain foods (like beans for luck) to move forward in the new year.

GROUP 1 ANNUAL MEETING



Group 1 annual meeting was held on Sunday, November 16, 2025, in the Church Hall, following the 10:30 a.m. Slovak Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Clifton, NJ. Fr. Vladimir Chripko (right) celebrated the Mass with Fr. Richard Bay (left), Chaplain of Group 1.



**Introducing our
newest members**



Theodore Jack Bakita, born March 30, 2025 is the son of Alex and Katya Bakita from Barberton, OH. He is a member of Assembly 167, Barberton, OH.



Reese Jean Richnavsky, born July 15, 2025 is the daughter of Kyle and Tracey Richnavsky from N. Royalton, OH. She is a member of Wreath 153, Parma, OH.

**Find us on Facebook:
Slovak Catholic
Sokol Public Group**

MINUTES OF GROUP 16 ANNUAL MEETING

Opening: President John Papcun **Called to Order** the **Annual Meeting** of the Slovak Catholic Sokol's Group 16 at 3:00 PM at St. Cyril and Methodious Church in Sterling Heights Michigan.

John began the meeting by submitting the following Agenda:

- *Meeting Called to Order
- *Opening Prayer
- *Opening Statement
- *All Attendees Sign in Sheet Officers and Members
- *Roll Call of Officers
- *Review and Approval of Prior Years Minutes
- *Group 16 Officers Reports
- *Assembly 36 Officers Reports
- *Report of 2025-2026 Activities
- *Discussions and Proposals
- *Contributions to Charities
- *Adjournment

The opening of the meeting began with a **Prayer** by President John Papcun with encouraging words, asking God to Bless our meeting and God Bless Group 16 and may we prosper for many years to come.

President John Papcun presented his **Opening Statement**.

Sign In Sheet (Officers and Members)

The opening statement was followed by an Officer **Roll Call** which noted the attendance of the following:

Officers: President: John Papcun

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Sharon Papcun

Treasurer: Deceased August 20, 2025

Financial Secretary/Treasurer: Stephen Papcun

Auditor: Paula Papcun

Auditor: Sharon Papcun

Members: Donald Papcun

Members via Phone: Colleen Papcun, Brian Papcun

Enter **MINUTES** from Previous Year (Motion to Accept) Stephen Papcun, Donald Papcun.

Group Officer Reports, as well as Assembly/Wreath President Reports, were subsequently submitted. Highlights of each **Officer Reports** are noted here: Approved and entered for the record.

President John Papcun:

Report and Opening Statement:

"God Bless Group 16 and may we prosper and continue for many years to come."

As your President I begin this report with sadness due to the passing of our Beloved treasurer of many years Laverne Eland. She passed away on August 20th, 2025 at the age of 94. We have displayed a memorial table as a tribute to her life and service to Slovak Catholic Sokol. Our faith teaches us to Celebrate life and remember those who have passed before us. In the year 2025 we had four participants at the international bowling tournament and three participants at the international golf tournament. Congratulations are in order for Stephen Papcun who was awarded the Frank Petruff award for sportsmanship and dedication to SCS at the golf tournament.

In coordination with assembly 36 we have donated to Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center and a donation to All Saints Church in Rossford Ohio. Also, we have a shuffle of officer positions. In addition to Stephen Papcun assuming the duties of Group Treasurer he will be the interim sports Director due to the

retirement of Beth Penxa. I would also like to Welcome Colleen Papcun as Vice President for Assembly 36. It was 99 years ago that my grandfather, John Brehovy along with his cousin John Names founded Group 16. It is my intention to Celebrate 100 years in 2026. An announcement will be forthcoming at our Assembly meeting in April 2026. ZDAR BOH!!! Fraternally yours, John M. Papcun

Vice President Stephen Papcun:

Stephen Papcun vacated Vice President position due to becoming Financial Secretary/Treasurer, in the wake of LaVerne Eland's passing. President nominated Brian Papcun for Vice President of Group 16 via phone, would you accept? Brian replied, Yes! Colleen Papcun approved seconded by Stephen Papcun.

Secretary: Sharon Papcun:

Secretary Sharon Papcun reported that in accordance with our Slovak Catholic Sokol Bylaws, as secretary of our Group 16, I have fulfilled my clerical obligation to record the Minutes of our 2025 meeting.

Treasurer Laverne Eland:

Laverne Eland entered Eternal Life on August 20, 2025. Stephen Papcun will assume and perform her duties as Financial/Secretary Treasurer. Group 16 Financial Report will be forthcoming, due to the passing of Laverne Eland. *Let it be noted that LaVerne Eland as our treasurer of Group 16, fulfilled her duties to the best of her ability having kept the books, the banking, making deposits and disbursement checks when needed up until the time of her passing just one and a half months prior to our Group 16 meeting, on October 11, 2025.....

Auditors:

Auditor Sharon Papcun verified the accuracy and integrity of the Treasurers Financial Report.

Auditor Paula Papcun is not in attendance. Unable to attend.

Sports Director Stephen Papcun:

Stephen Papcun has accepted the position as Sports Director.

Sports Director Assistant:

Paul Papcun has accepted the position as assistant Sports Director.

A Motion to Accept in unison all submitted reports was proposed by member John Papcun, seconded by Sharon Papcun and unanimously approved.

Assembly 36:

The minutes of April Assembly 36 meeting were accepted.

Assembly 36:

Deceased: Janet Brueck

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Janet Brueck of Sturgis Michigan June 14, 2025, Age 84

Report of 2024-2025 Activities: *Refer to President's Report

President John Papcun highlighted the year's activities. See John's Report in his Presidential Report. He encourages all members, to the extent possible, to continue participation in these types of fraternal events.

OPEN FORUM: Discussions and Proposals**2026 Celebrate 100 Year Anniversary**

Proposals: Participating or sharing any Ideas or any feedback would be appreciated. Please contact John Papcun at: jmp_0713@yahoo.com

Contributions to Charities:**Donation designations as follows:**

*Capuchin Soup Kitchen \$100.00

*St. Paul of Tarsus "Food Pantry" \$250.00

*Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center #100.00

Note: *All Recommendations Welcome. Recommendations will be considered. Contact President John Papcun with your ideas to Donate to Charities. jmp_0713@yahoo.com

2025 Planned Activities:

Sokol Walking Program (January 2026)

- Email Initiative *Brian Papcun
- Group 16 Facebook Page *Brian Papcun
- Assembly Meeting (April 2026) To Be Announced
- Hands Across America (May 2026) To Be Announced
- Summer Reading Program (2026) To Be Announced
- Recommendations Welcome

A **Motion to Adjourn** the meeting submitted by Laverne Eland. The motion was seconded by Stephen Papcun. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned.

These **MINUTES** dutifully submitted by Secretary, Sharon Papcun. – **Sharon Papcun**



Assembly 36 supports All Saints Church in Rossford, Ohio. All Saints Church continues to represent the former St. Cyril and Methodius Church in Rossford Ohio by displaying the statues of Saints Cyril and Methodius within the vestibule of the Church. This display represents the tradition of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. A check for \$150 was presented to Father Scott Woods.

John M. Papcun, President Assembly 36

MINUTES OF GROUP 14 ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Group President Kathy Watkins who welcomed all officers and members. Dinner was provided for all in attendance and President Watkins noted that to go containers were available. President Watkins thanked Julie Kotvas for supplying the delicious desserts.

The opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance were completed with roll call following. A total of 19 officers and members were in attendance. Minutes of the last meeting and officer reports were given and approved. Auditors reviewed and approved the financial books.

A discussion was held regarding thoughts and opinions on the format of the Heritage Slet. Physical Directress Haley Schank advised that there was a total of 31 participants from our group with various age ranges, some of who were first time attendees. She indicated that everyone had a great time. Supreme Physical Directress Katie Swift and President Watkins noted that this was a very family-oriented and fraternally organized event as members of groups were paired together for the activities so as to mix up and meet new people. In fact, it was noted that Rich Walkowiak from our group took 1st place in the cornhole tournament, paired with Megan Antosy. President Watkins stated that several members who attended the golf tournament expressed their desire to attend the next Heritage Slet. Everyone provided extremely favorable feedback on this new format and expressed desire to attend this event in the future. The next Heritage Slet is tentatively scheduled for July 16 through July 19, 2026.

Future planned international and local group activities were discussed as follows:

- Christmas dinner delivery for senior member scheduled for December 10th
- Donation to Brothers Brother foundation – motion approved
- Bowling Tournament May 15 and May 16 at Meadows Casino
- Golf Tournament August 7 to August 9 at the Poconos
- Group 14 reunion ideas were discussed - our local Fitness Board will be considering options for an event tentatively scheduled for February, 2026

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made and seconded to close the meeting. All joined in for a closing prayer for our living and deceased members, with a special prayer for our beloved Aunt Joanie (Joan Yanosick).

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Walkowiak
Group 14 Secretary

MINUTES OF GROUP 6 ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of Msg. Andrew Hlinka, Group 6 was held Sunday, October 19, 2025 at Caparella Restaurant, Uniontown PA. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President, Anna Mae Warnick. President Warnick welcomed everyone in attendance then led the group in opening prayers and Grace. A buffet lunch was served. After lunch, the business began. Secretary, Terri Gardner read the minutes from the semi annual meeting held in April, 2025. Motions were made and the minutes were accepted. Reports were given by the officers, Vice President Dorothy Rudinec had nothing to report, President Anna Mae Warnick reported that all forms and business were taken care that the main office required Treasurer Mary Ann Erdley, read the treasurers report which was accepted. She also stated that the salaries were paid the yearly reports were sent to the main office as required. Secretary Terri Gardner stated she takes the minutes at the minutes and submits to the main office for publication. Election of officers were held. The new officers are President, Anna Mae Warnick; Vice President, Terri Gardner; Treasurer, Mary Ann Erdley and Secretary David Matty. Mike Mattros will remain as the Sports Director. Anna Mae Warnick informed the group we will not be having a Christmas Party this year and David Matty stated everyone is invited to the Sokol Christmas party in Perryopolis, this party is usually held the second Saturday in December at the sokol hall. The semi annual meeting will be held on April 19, 2026. Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. at which time President, Anna Mae Warnick led the group in closing prayers.

Zdah Boh,
Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Terri Gardner

Introducing our newest member



Anna Carolyn Matlon born May 8, 2025, is the daughter of Kevin and Julia Matlon from Boonton, NJ. She is a member of Assembly 24, Boonton, NJ.

MINUTES OF GROUP 1 ANNUAL MEETING

The Group 1 Annual Officers Meeting held at Slovak Catholic Sokol Headquarters, 205 Madison Street, Passaic, NJ 07055 was called order at 11:16am on Saturday, October 18, 2025 by Group I President John Pogorelec, Jr.

The Opening Prayer was said by Group I Secretary Peter Walentowicz.

The Flag Salute was led by Group I Sports Director Eric Topczij.

Group 1 Secretary Walentowicz took the roll call of Officers. The following Group I Officers were present: President John Pogorelec, Jr.; Vice President/Treasurer John Termyna; Secretary Peter Walentowicz; Sports Director Eric Topczij; Assistant Sports Director Joseph Krzysik; and members of the Physical Fitness Board Clifford Ainsworth, Christine Smith, and Maria Topczij. Also in attendance was Jason Adamo.

Secretary Peter Walentowicz read the minutes of the Group I Annual Meeting of May 4, 2025. A motion to approve the Minutes was made by VP/Treasurer John Termyna and seconded by Christine Smith. The motion carried.

Treasurer John Termyna gave the Treasurer's Report. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Joseph Krzysik and seconded by Eric Topczij. The motion carried.

Under Old Business, Vice President John Termyna reported on the Eastern District Bowling Tournament held on the weekend of May 16 -18, 2025. Group I was represented by one team of bowlers.

Also under Old Business, Vice President Termyna reported on the Eastern District Golf Tournament held in August.

Still under Old Business, Eric Topczij reported on the Group I Golf Tournament held on October 11, 2025 at Preakness Valley Golf Course in Wayne, NJ. It was a rainy day and due to various factors and prior commitments only three teams of four, or twelve total golfers, participated in this year's tournament.

Under New Business, John Termyna expressed his desire for Group I to restart its annual bowling tournament. He will look into possible venues but one possibility is Parkway Lanes.

Also under New Business, Eric Topczij expressed his desire to restart the annual Group I spaghetti dinner fundraiser.

Further under New Business Maria Topczij suggested that begin to expand beyond their traditional activities and begin more modern activities such as a cornhole tournament and a pickleball tournament.

Expanding on Maria Topczij's idea of incorporating new events, Clifford Ainsworth suggested the possibility of a video game tournament.

Lastly the Annual Group I Meeting was scheduled for Sunday, November 16, 2025 at Saints Cyril and Methodius Roman Catholic Church, located at 218 Ackerman Avenue in Clifton, NJ immediately following the 10:30am Slovak Mass.

A motion to adjourn was made by Maria Topczij and Seconded by Joseph Krzysik.

Secretary Walentowicz said the Closing Prayer and the Meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.

“SLOVAK CUSTOMS BOOKLETS”

Submitted by Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.

If you are interested in carrying on Slovak traditions, I highly recommend a series of booklets by Larry Kozlowski.

1. His newest publication is “Old World Honey Cakes ... Slovak Style,” which explains historical traditions and includes recipes to make a medovník (a honey cake or cookies). Slovaks and neighboring nations each had their own traditions but shared many as well. One of these was the Honey Cake. Before the availability of cane and beet sugars, honey was the main source of sweetener. This rare substance as found in the forests and because of its rarity, pagans thought it was a gift of the gods. Animal fats such as butter and lard were used in baking instead of cooking oils except during Advent and Lent. In addition to the production of honey, bees wax (candles) and mead (fermented honey wine) were made. Today the word Gingerbread is often considered synonymous with the words Honey Cake or Honey Spice Cake, but this is not the case. A true Honey or Honey Spice Cake begins with honey and/or spices. A true Gingerbread is made from dough to which honey, sugar, spices, and ginger are added. Learn more and buy this amazing booklet!

2. “Celebrate Christmas ... Slovak Style” is a unique collection of Slovak customs, traditions (Christmas Eve Dinner Menus Recipes and Symbolism), folklore, recipes: (Potato Pancake, Potato Dumplings & Cheese, Dumplings & Fried Cabbage, Honey Cakes, Pagáč - Filled Dough, Hot Brandy, Sour Mushroom Soup with Dumplings, Baked Fish, Filled Dumplings - Pirohy, Bread Biscuits - Bobalky, Sweet Rolls - Koláče Filled Cookies - Rožky, Christmas Bread - Vianočka, Rye Bread, Roast Goose, Jellied Pig’s Feet, Spiced Wine, Carnival Crullers - Čieregy, Roast Pork & Sauerkraut, Bishop’s Bread, and many more holiday favorites. Learn of the custom of the “Up-Side Down” Christmas Tree, make Slovak Straw Christmas Ornaments or a paper Slovak Nativity Creche for under your holiday tree. Keep your precious Slovak heritage alive and celebrate the priceless treasures of Slovak Christmases of the past with an inspiration for Slovak Christmases of the future.

3. “Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style” is a unique collection of Slovak customs, traditions (Easter Basket Blessing Symbolism) , folklore, recipes (Rezanky, Čeregi, Palacinky, Pirohy, Halubky, Halušky, Pagač, Syrek, Paska, Chren, Klobasi, Kolačky, Rožky, Babovka, Pečene & more) , and folk arts (Easter Whips, Palm Weaving & Egg Decorating). Keep your precious Slovak heritage alive and celebrate the priceless treasures of Slovak Easters past and is an inspiration for Slovak Easters of the future.

4. “Christmas Cookies, Cakes & Pastries ... From the Old Country.” This is a 40-page collection of recipes to bake and fry during the Christmas holidays from the



Celebrate Christmas... ... Slovak Style

By: Lawrence G. Kozlowski



SLOVAK
 *Customs
 *Traditions
 *Folklore
 *Recipes
 *Folkarts

traditions of Slovaks, Carpatho-Rusyns, Poles, Croatians, Germans, Italians, Lithuanians, Russians, Slovians, and Ukrainians.

1 – Any One Booklet \$15.00 -or- Any 3 Booklets \$30.00 --- Free Shipping.

Enjoy one free packet of oplatky (Christmas wafers) for the whole order if ordered before Christmas and FREE Shipping!

To order directly, mail check or money-order payable to: L. G. Kozlowski

---Free Shipping---

Larry G. Kozlowski
 525 Beatty Road
 Monroeville, Pa. 15146
 e-mail: Lgk505@aol.com

Lawrence Kozlowski, is a past recipient of the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award, for his lifelong service to the Slovak American community and his lasting contributions to promote Slovak language, culture, folk arts and heritage in Western Pennsylvania.

\$64,500 IN S.C.S. SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS AVAILABLE IN 2026

*Qualified Trade School Students & High School Seniors with 12 College Credits Can Apply
Increased Scholarship Awards – Krista L. Glugosh & SCS Memorial Scholarships*

The Slovak Catholic Sokol is pleased to announce that \$64,500 in scholarship grants will be available to eligible members in 2026. Previous recipients may reapply for a grant in 2026; however, please note that, per a Convention mandate, each student may receive a maximum of two Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grants and only one grant in each of the other categories. Additionally, the Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors is excited to share enhancements to our Scholarship Program. We are proud to include now trade school students and high school seniors who have earned 12 or more college credits, opening new opportunities for success. Furthermore, the Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship and the Slovak Catholic Sokol Memorial Scholarship now offer increased awards, helping our members pursue their dreams. We encourage all qualified members to take advantage of this opportunity and move closer to achieving their goals through our distinguished Scholarship Program.

“Slovak Catholic Sokol College Grant” Eligibility Changes

The Slovak Catholic Sokol College Grants are now open to students currently attending trade schools and high school seniors who have earned 12 or more college or university credits and have been accepted into an accredited college or university. These exciting new opportunities empower our members to pursue their dreams—academically and professionally—and turn their aspirations into reality.

“Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship” Award Increase

The Glugosh family has proudly increased the “Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship” award to \$2,000, inspiring students pursuing majors in computer science, information technology, or related fields. Their unwavering commitment ignites a passion for innovation and academic excellence in the next generation of technology leaders.

The “Slovak Catholic Sokol (SCS) Memorial Scholarship” Award Increase

The Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors is proud to announce the elevation of the “Slovak Catholic Sokol (SCS) Memorial Scholarship” to \$1,500, opening new opportunities and support for our dedicated members who give to their community.

A total of 30 Slovak Catholic Sokol college grants of \$1,000 each, one Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship for \$2,000, two Theodore and Mary Jane Rich Memorial Scholarships one for a male and female in the amount of \$2,000 each, two Emil Slavik Memorial Scholarships one for a male and female in the amount of \$2,000 each, one The Doctors’ Lesko Medical Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000, one Yencha Scholarship for \$1,000, one John J. Yanosick Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000, and at least three Slovak

Catholic Sokol (SCS) Memorial Scholarship for \$1,500.

The collegiate application process starts on **December 1, 2025**, and is **ONLY ONLINE** on the Slovak Catholic Sokol website. Please take the time to review the application process and the required documentation to meet eligibility. You can find instructions, frequently asked questions (FAQ), and the application at https://www.slovakcatholicsokol.org/family_scholarships.asp.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 31, 2026

Applicants may submit one application to be considered for all scholarships for which they are eligible. We strongly encourage applying for multiple scholarships, but please be aware that only one grant will be awarded per applicant.

College scholarship eligibility requirements: SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL (a total of 30, \$1,000 grants will be awarded)

- Must have a \$3,000 Permanent Whole Life Plan
- A member of the organization for at least 5 years
- One parent must be a Slovak Catholic Sokol member
- Must have an accumulated grade point average of at least 2.5 or better while attending a credited college or university.
- High school seniors must have 12 or more college or university credits and an accumulated grade point average of at least 2.5 or better.
- Trade school students must have an accumulated grade point average of at least 2.5 or provide proof of mastery of the currently required trade skills.
- Essay- “How has being a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol influenced my life?

KRISTA L. GLUGOSH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (1 grant in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded)

- The same collegiate requirements as the SCS scholarship AND
- Majoring in a curriculum focusing on computer science, information technology, or related subfields.

THEODORE AND MARY JANE RICH (one male and one female grant in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded)

- The same collegiate requirements as the SCS scholarship AND
- One parent must be of Slovak ancestry.
- Must be majoring in a medical curriculum.

EMIL SLAVIK (one male and one female grant in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded)

- The same collegiate requirements as the SCS scholarship AND

- Both parents must be members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.
- Must be majoring in liberal arts, the sciences, pre-law, pre-medical, or business curriculum.

THE DOCTORS' LESKO MEDICAL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

- The same collegiate requirements as the SCS scholarship AND
 - Majoring in a nursing or medical curriculum.
 - One parent must be of Slovak ancestry.

YENCHA SCHOLARSHIP (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

- The same collegiate requirements as the SCS scholarship AND
 - Majoring in a liberal arts curriculum.

THE JOHN J. YANOSICK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

- The same collegiate requirements as the SCS scholarship AND
 - Group 14 scholarship candidates will be given preference.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (3 grants in the amount of \$1,500 will be awarded to the applicant who best exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism)

- The same collegiate requirements as the SCS

- scholarship AND
 - Essay- "Describe the one volunteer experience that made the biggest personal impact on you- how/why."

Catholic High School and Catholic Grade School Grants

To inspire greater participation in Catholic education, the Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors is thrilled to announce the removal of the two-grant limit for all Catholic School recipients. This new policy reflects our unwavering commitment to supporting your parochial academic journey.

18 Catholic High School Grants, each in the amount of \$500, and 36 Catholic Grade School Grants, each in the amount of \$250, are available to qualified students. You can find the applications starting December 1, 2025 online at https://www.slovakcatholicsokol.org/family_scholarships.asp or in each of the next few issues of the Falcon.

If you have questions regarding the Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Program, please contact:

Andrea M. Tadlock
Supreme Vice-President
Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee
vp@slovakcatholicsokol.org

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL SCHOLARSHIP TIPS FOR SUCCESS

You can start applying online at

https://www.slovakcatholicsokol.org/family_scholarships.asp

from December 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026.

To help you put your best foot forward, here are a few friendly tips for a successful application:

1. Take some time to explore the application process online and check the eligibility requirements for each scholarship. This will help you identify which scholarships you can apply for.

2. Prepare your essay(s) beforehand so you can easily upload them when applying online.

3. Have a wallet-size (2x3) headshot photograph ready in jpeg format to submit with your application.

4. When you fill out the online application, please answer ALL questions. If something doesn't apply to you, simply put N/A. For example, if you're fully independent from your parents and they can't claim you on their tax returns, enter N/A in the

parent income field.

5. Don't forget to request your official transcripts from your university or college after your fall term wraps up. For trade school students, please provide your current official transcripts or proof of current mastery of the currently required trade skills. Make sure the transcripts are sent to the Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee by email or mail:

Andrea M. Tadlock
Supreme Vice-President
VP@slovakcatholicsokol.org
100 Fletcher Farm Rd
Vermontville, NY 12989

I encourage you to apply for all the scholarships you qualify for to enhance your chances of receiving one! Just so you know, applicants can only receive one scholarship each year.

Make sure all your required documents are submitted by the DEADLINE of March 31, 2026. It's a good idea to submit everything early to ensure your application, essay(s), photograph, and transcripts are all received on time. If you're mailing documents, remember they must be postmarked by the deadline.

Although not every applicant will receive a scholarship this year, we encourage you to apply again next year if it doesn't work out this time! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at vp@slovakcatholicsokol.org.

Wishing you the best of luck, and Zdar Boh!

Andrea M. Tadlock
Supreme Vice-President
Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL GRANTS

As a fraternal benefit, the Slovak Catholic Sokol is pleased to offer \$250.00 Grants to our young Sokols and Sokolky in each of our organization's nineteen Groups. Two grants each per Group are available to any qualified Sokol member entering a Catholic Grade School (Grades 2 through 8).

ELIGIBILITY

A. Applicant must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in good standing, holding a permanent Life Insurance Certificate in the amount of **not less than \$3,000, and has been a member for at least five years.**

B. One parent must be a S.C.S. member.

C. The principal of the Catholic Grade School must verify the enrollment of the applicant.

APPLICATION

This application must be received on or before, **March 31, 2026** with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.



SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION

Group # _____ Assembly/Wreath # _____ Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Date of Birth _____ Current Age _____

Home Phone (_____) _____
area code School Phone (_____) _____
area code

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Father's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Mother's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Are you a previous Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Recipient? _____
(yes/no)

If yes, what year? _____

School verification (to be completed by Grade School Principal)

I, _____
(Principal's signature)

Principal of _____
(Name of School)

Catholic Grade School, verify that _____

(Name of student)

is a student at the above school and will be attending _____ Grade in the 2026-2027 school year.

Are you currently participating in Slovak Catholic Sokol Activities? Yes _____ No _____

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THIS APPLICATION IS MARCH 31, 2026. Return completed application to:
SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, 205 MADISON ST., P.O. BOX 899, PASSAIC, NJ 07055

MINUTES OF THE SUPREME BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY

Thursday, October 9, 2025 – 3:00 p.m.

Supreme President, Larry M. Glugosh, **Called to Order** the Quarterly Meeting of the Supreme Board of Directors at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 9, 2025, and greeted all the members of the Board.

Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, offered the **Opening Prayer**.

Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift, led the Board members in reciting the **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**.

Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. took the **Roll Call** and the following members responded:

Supreme Chaplain.....	Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic
Supreme President	Larry M. Glugosh
Supreme Vice-President.....	Andrea M. Tadlock
Supreme Secretary	Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.
Supreme Treasurer	Michael J. Horvath
General Counsel	John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq.
Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors.....	James C. Matlon
Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics	Kathleen S. Watkins
Supreme Physical Directress	Katie Swift
Supreme Physical Director	Dusan Dorich

The record will show that all ten members of the Board of Directors are present. Acknowledged

President Glugosh informed the Board that they all have received the **Minutes** from our last Board meeting held on June 19, 2025, and published in the September 1, 2025, issue of the Slovak Catholic Falcon. Brother President entertained a motion for their acceptance, so moved by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James C. Matlon, seconded by Supreme Physical Director, Dusan Dorich.

Approved

President Glugosh then asked our Supreme Secretary to give a brief overview of the **Membership/Sales Report**.

Brother Secretary gave the Board a brief overview of our life and annuity business to date, agency update, and the current agent sales campaigns. He also informed the Board of the various advertising efforts that are currently in place and will be expanded upon in the new year.

Several questions were presented and addressed to the satisfaction of the Board and President Glugosh thanked Brother Secretary for presenting the report. President Glugosh then asked for a motion to accept the report, so moved by Supreme Vice-President, Andrea M. Tadlock, seconded by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq.

Approved

Brother President then called upon Mr. Ralph Primavera and Mr. Nicholas Cimino, PNC Institutional Asset Management, for the **Investment Report**.

Mr. Primavera provided an overview of the recent performance of the economy, financial markets, and PNC's outlook for the balance of 2025 and 2026. Mr. Cimino then reviewed the overall asset allocation, the equity markets,

and corporate earnings. They also reviewed the expectations for the Federal Reserve, inflation trends, and recent activity in the fixed income portfolio.

The team addressed various questions from the Board and President Glugosh thanked Ralph and Nicholas for their report. Acknowledged

Brother President then called upon our General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. for the **Legal Report**.

Brother Counsel updated the Board on the status of the appeal to the City of Passaic regarding our property tax.

Brother Counsel also updated the Board on the efforts of Brother Secretary and himself in engaging potential buyers for the entire property. He will keep the Board informed of any developments.

Brother President thanked the General Counsel and entertained a motion to accept the report, so moved by Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift, seconded by Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic. Approved

Brother President then called upon the Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, Kathleen S. Watkins, for the **Physical Fitness Board Report**.

Sister Watkins updated the Board on the successful 70th International Golf Tournament held in West Middlesex, PA. Over one hundred Sokol golfers enjoyed this wonderful event. All in attendance had a wonderful time and were continually updated on all developments. The final scores have been posted on the website and photos have been published in the Falcon. Congratulations to the Frank S. Petrucci Memorial Sports Award recipient, Stephen F. Papcun.

Supreme Physical Director, Dusan Dorich, and Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift, updated the Board on the Heritage Slet held in June and the thought of potentially trying to do something annually. The Board exchanged ideas and will reconvene at a future date after going through the data to run the event.

Brother President thanked Sister Kathy, Sister Katie, and Brother Dusan for their report and entertained a motion to accept, so moved by Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, seconded by Supreme Vice-President, Andrea M. Tadlock.

Approved

President Glugosh questioned if there was any **New Business** to address.

The Board discussed the Fraternalist of the Year Nominations and the deadline for submission is November 30, 2025.

Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, Supreme Vice-President, Andrea M. Tadlock, brought forth a handful of recommendations for our Scholarship Program. Supreme Physical Directress, Kathleen S. Watkins, made a motion to accept all recommendations, seconded by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. The recommendations will be included in all advertising of our Scholarship Program. Approved

Sister Tadlock also informed the Board that she has been collaborating with the Supreme Secretary and Viktoria Tadlock on updating the website. A beta version will be distributed to a select few individuals for input. We hope to launch the new site by the Spring of 2026. **Acknowledged**

After discussions with our Supreme President, Larry M. Glugosh, the Supreme Secretary informed the Board members that the date for the **next Supreme Board of Directors meeting** will be January 15, 2026, and it will be a virtual meeting. **Acknowledged**

Having completed all the business on the agenda, Supreme President, Larry M. Glugosh, entertained a motion to **adjourn**, so moved by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, Kathleen S. Watkins, seconded by Supreme Physical Director, Dusan Dorich. **Approved**

Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, offered the **Closing Prayer** for all those in need as well as for all the ill and deceased members of the Organization.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. Zdar Boh!

Respectfully Submitted,
Scott T. Pogorelec F.I.C.
Supreme Secretary



SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS APPEAL OF THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC FEDERATION

Thank you everyone who supported the 2025 Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. It is with great pleasure to announce that **176 donors gave \$23,243 to the 2025 Appeal**. Here is a breakdown of donors and the amount given:

Parish Collections	5	\$ 3,682.40
Slovak Fraternal Organizations (including Home Office donations)	56	\$ 9,820.00
Clergy and Religious of Slovak Heritage.	21	\$ 2,425.60
Individual Donations	94	\$ 7,315.00

A direct mailing for the 2026 Appeal will be sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and previous donors. Your support is needed each year because money collected in the Appeal goes to help pay for the operating costs of the Pontifical Slovak Institute and College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the 2026 Appeal but did not receive a letter asking for a donation is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. **Gifts received after November 30, 2026 will be credited toward the 2027 Appeal**. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

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



48THANNUAL SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS APPEAL

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

Please make check payable to Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to: Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President, Slovak Catholic Federation, Our Lady of Grace Church, 225 Bellevue Avenue, Penndel, PA 19047-4052

MINUTES OF GROUP 7 ANNUAL MEETING

Group 7 "Rev. Joseph Murgas" held its 2025 annual meeting on Friday, November 14, 2025, at North End Slovak Citizens Club, Wilkes-Barre, PA. A Mass to celebrate the Liturgy and remember the living and deceased members of Group 7 will be celebrated by Fr. Richard Cirba on November 30, 2025, 11AM at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Amy Degnan Blasco called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM. Amy welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending.

Father Richard Cirba opened the meeting with a prayer.

Terri Palchanis asked all to join in for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken by Frank Lipski, Recording Secretary. There were officers present (Amy Degnan Blasco, Father Cirba, Gary Blasco, Tony Rasimas, Heather Horvath, Pam Lipski, Dawn Palchanis, Kelly Palchanis, Frank Lipski, and Jennifer Kuren; Joe Hvozdovic Jr & August Palchanis 1 excused (Mathew Malenovich) for a total of 14 officers. There were also 6 delegates (Michael Horvath, Sue Horvath, Robert Palchanis, Robbie Palchanis, Kelci Kuren & Fr. Andy Hvozdovic).

Amy Degnan Blasco thanked to all for participation throughout the year & described the events of 2024-2025 year-to-date which included the Annual Meeting held on Friday December 6, 2024, with Mass celebrated on Sunday December 8, at St. Robert Bellarmine in Wilkes Barre, PA., the Annual 89th Sokol Day held in Plains in August 2025. Assembly 59 Butch Hvozdovic Memorial Golf Tournament in September, Joining Hands cleaning of North End Slovak Citizen Club. Members attended the Penguin's Hockey Game in March 2025. Held annual flower fundraisers for Christmas 2024 and Easter 2025. Lush with a Brush mat painting in April. March 2025 Fraternalist of the Year for Marty Degnan, June Heritage Slet, July sign painting & October Halloween party in conjunction with NESCC. Upcoming events include the 2025 Christmas Flower Sale and sponsoring 2 families in need during the holiday seasons, Psanky class in November, Hockey night in March.

Minutes of 2024: The minutes of 2024 prepared by Frank Lipski were read. A motion to accept the minutes as prepared and read by all was made by Sue Horvath and seconded by Dawn Palchanis. All in favor.

Correspondence: Frank Lipski reported receipt of 3rd quarter assessment on 10/13/2025 of \$1155.30

The Officer's Reports: All reports were submitted and read by all present and since they were in good order a motion was made by Pam Lipski and seconded by Jennifer Kuren to accept the entire Officer's Reports as submitted. All in favor.

15-minute break:

The Auditors' Report: The auditors report was given

by Gary Blasco, Joe Hvozdovic Jr and Tony Rasimas. Books are in order. Motion made by Kelly Palchanis and seconded by Kelci Kuren to accept the report as presented. All in favor

The Treasurer's Report: Frank Lipski gave the treasurer's report which was supported with an outline of income and expenses for the year. Balance in the checking account as of November 14, 2025, was \$6432.05 and \$17,866.13 in the Sokol Secure Fund as of 6/30/2025. for a total of \$24298.18. A motion was made to accept the report by Jennifer Kuren and seconded by Terri Palchanis. All in favor.

The Verifications Report was presented by Amy Degnan Blasco. It was verified that there were 14 officers present: 1 excused (Matthew Malenovich), for a total of 15. There were also 6 delegates for a total of 20 in attendance. A motion to accept the report was made by Kelly Palchanis and seconded by Robbie Palchanis. All in favor.

The Bonds and Salary Committee: Amy Degnan Blasco and Frank Lipski. The Bonds and Salary Report was presented by Amy Degnan Blasco. The committee reported that they saw no need to increase salaries at this time. A motion to accept the report was made by Kelly Palchanis and seconded by Tony Rasimas. All in favor

The Resolution Committee: Father Cirba, Pam Lipski and Jennifer Kuren. The Resolutions Report was presented by Pam Lipski.

RESOLVE: To remember in prayer: Pope Leo, that God Bless him in all his endeavors as Vicar of Christ.

RESOLVE: To Pray for Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton as we continue to build up the kingdom of God. We especially support through our prayers the ongoing Parish Pastoral Planning in our Diocese as we vision forward in 2026 and prepare for the challenges we will face as presented by Bishop Bambera.

RESOLVE: To Pray for our Clergy and Religious, that God grants them the strength and guidance they need in their Ministry. We especially, pray for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life and for those struggling in a Vocation and Prayers for healing.

RESOLVE: To work together for the growth of membership in our Group 7 Slovak Catholic Sokol.

RESOLVE To pray for the success of the holy year of hope..

RESOLVE: To acknowledge anyone observing a special occasion this year.

RESOLVE: To thank and appreciate all who helped with the preparation and participation in all the events of this year.

RESOLVE: To pray for Respect of Human Life

and Religious Freedom in our Country.

RESOLVE: To encourage support and participation in all or any of the activities of Group 7's Parent's Club.

RESOLVE: To continue to work within Group 7 and our organization with the current officers, contributing our time and effort to the best of our ability and keep them in our Prayers.

RESOLVE: To pray for Peace in our Country and World especially in Ukraine and Middle East during these violent and hostile times.

RESOLVE: To pray for all sick members of Group 7 who are suffering at home and/or in a health care facility.

RESOLVE: To pray for all the deceased members of Group 7.

RESOLVE: To ask for prayers as we celebrate the 250th Birthday of America. God Bless America

RESOLVE: To celebrate the consecration of the Sacred Heart in conjunction with the 250th Birthday of America

A motion to accept the report was made by Heather Horvath and Seconded by Kelci Kuren. All in favor.

The New Motions Committee: Michael Horvath, Fr. Andy Hvozdovic, Robert Palchanis & Terri Palchanis

1. Recommend that all Group 7 officers hold a four-year term coinciding with the Convention rules.

2. Recommend that a donation be given to the parish of the annual meeting Mass. Amount of \$200.00.

3. Recommend the minutes of the meeting be submitted within 90 days of the meeting (per the bylaws) to be published in the Sokol paper.

4. Recommend holding Sokol Day with all assemblies and wreaths supporting the event.

5. Recommend an annual donation of \$300.00 to the North End Slovak Citizen's Club for the use of the club for monthly meetings.

6. Recommend that the Group 7 logo be worn for all group activities.

7. Recommend that the Group Physical Director and Directress make a report at the annual meeting and include the number of participants in each program throughout the year an event is held.

8. Recommend that a donation of \$100.00 be sent to the SCS Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of all deceased members of Group 7.

9. Recommend that a donation of \$150.00 be sent to the Slovak Catholic Federation at the time of the Annual Appeal.

10. Recommend that the Group President send a letter quarterly to the Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors wishing them a successful meeting on behalf of Group 7.

11. Recommend that we participate in Join Hands Day.

12. Recommend supporting new events on all levels of the Slovak Catholic Sokols.

13. Recommend exploring new fundraising events for Group 7.

14. Recommend the group auditors conduct semi-annual audits to help with fiscal year compliance.

15. Recommend that a donation of \$150.00 be sent to the Sisters of Ss. Cyril & Methodius.

16. Recommend that a donation of \$125 to the St. Vincent DePaul Kitchen in honor of living and deceased members of Group 7.

17. Recommend continuing to adopt a "Families in Need" for Christmas when funds are available.

18. Recommend a donation of \$125.00 to the celebrant of the Memorial Mass for living and deceased members of Group 7.

19. Recommend annual cleaning and planting at the Fr. Murgas Memorial Gravesite in the Sacred Heart Cemetery.

20. Recommend moving funds from general checking account to Sokol Secure Fund when funds are available.

A motion to accept the report was made by Jennifer Kuren and Seconded by Dawn Palchanis. All in favor.

The Technical Board Report: (Heather Horvath, Dawn Palchanis, Kelly Palchanis and Rob Palchanis) Kelly Palchanis read the recommendations for the upcoming year.

• To prepare and send letters to all Assemblies and Wreaths to survey the groups to determine eligible participants for the Slet.

• To send qualified participants for the upcoming Slet/Clinic/Heritage Slet.

• To use available facilities for practices and social events, e.g., North End Slovak Club or other facilities available.

• To pay entrance fees for tournaments; continue to charge for T-shirts.

• To apply to headquarters for allotments for gymnastic/track coaches.

• To continue activities within the Group such as bowling, golf tournament and to award prizes.

• To continue to encourage the Parent's Club with fundraisers for the upcoming year.

• To have all background checks updated when necessary and for all new coaches.

• For the Group to purchase props for drilling for the upcoming year, this would also include sporting equipment and first aid supplies when needed.

Motion to accept the report was made by Tony Rasmussen and seconded by Joe Hvozdovic Jr. All in favor.

The Nominations Report was presented by Fr Andy Hvozdovic. Current officers will retain their positions for another four-year term. It is noted Matthew Malenovich

(Continued on page 21)



KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik "

January 2026



An **anagram** is a word or phrase made by rearranging the letters of another word or phrase. Change each of the following anagrams into words or phrases that relate to New Year's Eve.

Change isle on tour into a firm decision to do something.	
Change tock well cove into the time the new year begins.	
Change my more into something recalled from the past.	
Change Jay a run into the first month of the year.	
Change dim thing into twelve o'clock at night.	
Change duct on now into the act of calling out numbers in reverse order.	
Change as tot into a call to raise glasses in honor of something or someone.	
Change risk for we into the spectacular explosions displayed in the sky for a celebration.	
Change Team Squire into a place in New York City.	
Change land sang yule into the song that bids farewell to the old year.	

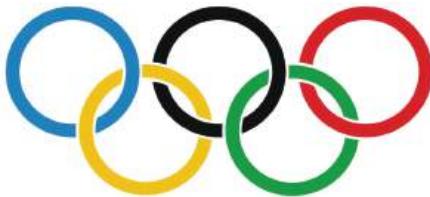




KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik "

January 2026

The 2026 Winter Olympics will be held in Milano & Cortina, Italy from February 6 to February 22.



Here are some fun facts about the Winter Games

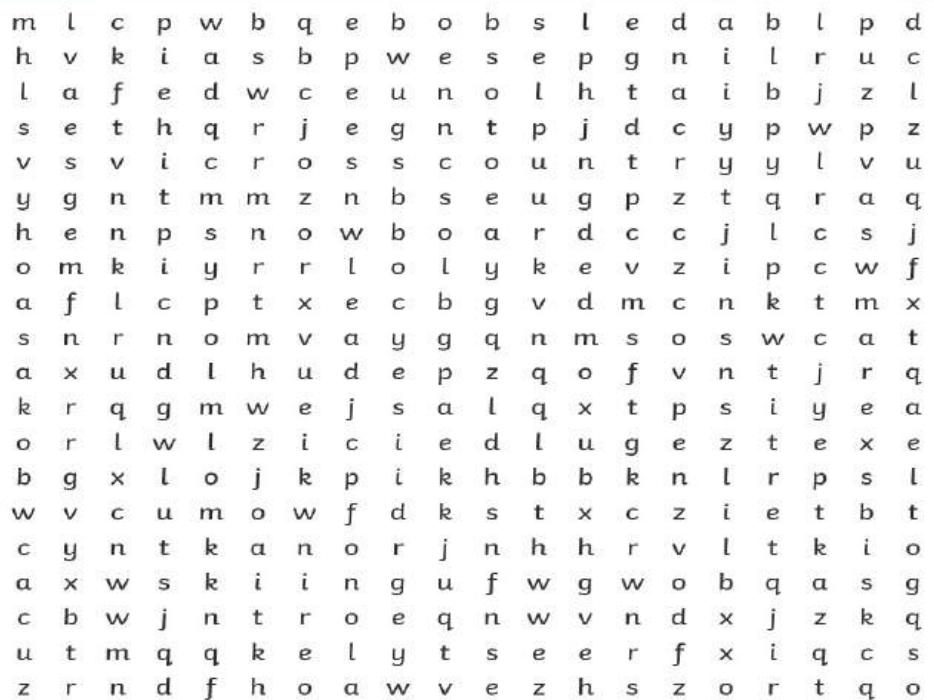
- The first Winter Olympic Games were held in 1924, in Chamonix, France.
- The United States has hosted the Winter Olympics a record four times. Lake Placid in 1932 and 1980, Squaw Valley in 1960, and Salt Lake City in 2002.
- The Winter Olympics were held in the same year as the Summer Olympics until 1992.
- Before the Winter Olympics began in 1924, ice figure skating was part of the Summer Olympics in 1908 and again in 1920 (along with ice hockey).
- Four athletes have won medals at the Summer and Winter Olympic: Eddie Eagan (USA), Jacob Tullin Thams (Norway), Christa Luding-Rothenburger (East Germany), and Clara Hughes (Canada).
- Walt Disney was the chairperson of the opening and closing ceremonies at the 1960 Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley, California.
- Military patrol was in the 1924 Winter Games and was a demonstration sport in 3 other Games. Athletes competed in cross-country skiing, ski mountaineering and rifle shooting. The event was later to become the Biathlon.



KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik "

January 2026

Winter Games



ceremonies

alpine

bobsled

biathlon

cross-country

curling

freestyle

skiing

luge

skating

Nordic

snowboard

skeleton

ski jumping

ice hockey

Send me your January Word Search for a Chance to Win a Prize!!

If you want to win a **\$25 gift card**, send me a copy of your word search by January 31st. I'll randomly select a winner from all the entries I receive. **GOOD LUCK!!**

Send your completed entry by email to vp@slovakcatholicsokol.org with your name, group, address, and email address.

MINUTES OF GROUP 7 ANNUAL MEETING

(Continued from page 17)

has resigned his office as Physical Director

Chaplain – Fr. Richard Cirba

President – Amy Degnan Blasco

Vice President – Terri Palchanis

Financial Secretary/Treasurer – Frank Lipski

Recording Secretary – Frank Lipski

Reporter – Pam Lipski

Auditors (3) – Gary Blasco, Joe Hvozdovic Jr., Tony

Rasimas

Sports Director – Dawn Palchanis

Assistant Sports Direct – Heather Horvath

Assistant Physical Director – Position Open

Physical Directress – Kelly Palchanis

Assistant Physical Directress – August Palchanis

Historian – Jennifer Kuren

Motion made by Jennifer Kuren to accept the Nominations report, seconded by Gary Blasco. All in favor.

Old Business: Amy Degnan Blasco – no old business.

Motion made by Jennifer Kuren, seconded by Gary Blasco to close Old Business. All in favor.

New Business: Amy Degnan Blasco

1. Hockey Night – Tentative date April 12, 2026, Penguins Hockey Game (set up by Home Office)

2. Families in Need for the Holidays – Donations will be made to Fr. Richard Cirba & Fr. Andrew Hvozdovic's parish families in need.

3. Parent's Club – Dawn Palchanis - Treasurer's report as of November 14, 2025, Balance in account is \$4209. 74. Sold Superbowl tickets

4. Psanky Class -2 classes will be on November 23, 2025.

5. Donations

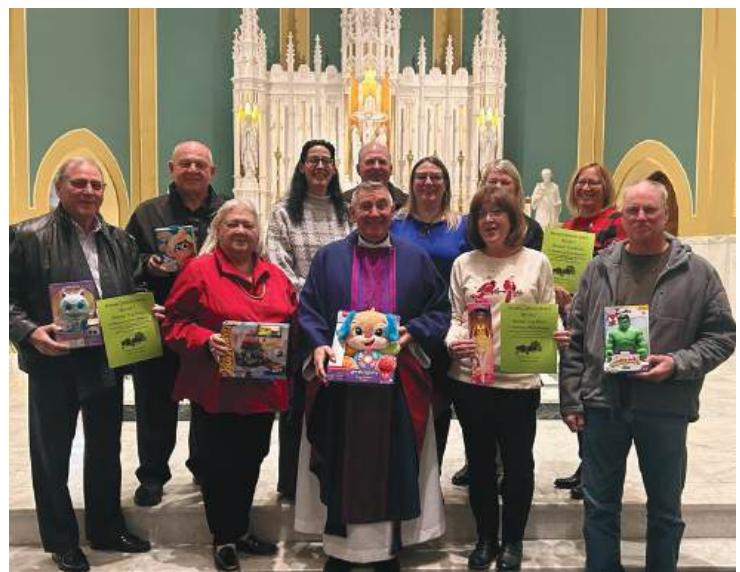
6. Christmas Flower Sale – sign up by 12/1/2025 orders to be picked up TBD 4:45PM.

7. 2026 Annual Meeting - Date and time TBD.

8. 2026 Sokol Day Pending insurance requirements, to be researched

9. Flowers to Past Officers – will send Christmas flowers to past officers to brighten their day.

10. Technical Board – to look into local area activities/fundraisers (skating party)to give back to the community and give the Group a presence.



11. Kelly Palchanis-Gave a Sports Activity Report for 2025

International Bowling Tournament had 12 participants. International Golf Tournament had 14 participants. Mike Horvath & Frank Lipski placed in the Super Senior Division.

Scholarship applications by 3/31/2026.

A motion to close new business was made by Jennifer Kuren and seconded by Heather Horvath. All in favor.

Good of the Order: Amy Degnan Blasco thanked everyone for helping throughout the year. Sue Horvath added special thanks to Amy for her leadership, time and patience.

Kelci Kuren made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Dawn Palchanis. All in favor.

Fr. Richard Cirba closed the meeting with a prayer.

**Zdar Boh!
Frank Lipski
Group 7 Recording Secretary**

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL J. PJONTEK, JR. OBITUARY HONORARY SUPREME OFFICER

Michael J. Pjontek Jr., 87, passed away on December 12, 2025.

He dedicated 35 years of service to the U.S. Postal Service and was a active member of Group 14.

He is survived by his loving wife of nearly 63 years, Patricia Buechel Pjontek, and his three daughters, Gail (James) Jarnigan, Wendy (Mike) Scatteregia, and Amy (Jim) Frink.

Michael was the proud grandfather of seven grandchildren, Joshua Schaff (Baily Campbell), Cassandra (Kevin) Lambright, Jordan (Kaetlyn) Schaff, Hunter (Heather) Adams, Jared (Kaitlyn) Schaff, James Frink, and Alexandra Frink.

He was blessed to know and love his great-grandson, Kade Lambright.

He is also survived by his brother John (Kathy) Pjontek, numerous cherished nieces and nephews, and lifelong friends.

Michael was proud to have honored his country as a United States Marine. He was laid to rest privately at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests your consideration of memorials to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-9959, www.stjude.org/memorial

Michael's legacy of love, faith, and family will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

NANCY STECKER HOECK

Our dear Group 4 Sister Olga "Dolly" has joined the Slovak angels. She will forever be missed and in our hearts forever. Dolly, her parents, and husband Wally started our Sokol journey that is now five generations strong.

Olga "Dolly" Stecker (née Letko) of Germantown passed away peacefully at her home on Monday, October 6, 2025, at the age of 98, surrounded by her loving family. God called her home after a long, full life marked by love, devotion, and grace.

Beloved mother of Nancy Hoeck and devoted and loving grandma of her three sons Bradley (Lisa), Anthony, and Jeremy. Supportive great-grandma, "Babicka", of Bret (Tony's son), Riana, Juliana, and Carissa (Brad and Lisa's daughters).

Cherished mom of Lori Stecker and proud and loving grandma of her daughters, Cassandra and Alexandra. Also survived by her sister-in-law, Marlea Lenchek (née Stecker), nieces, nephew, relatives in Slovakia, great-nieces and nephews, and dear friends. Preceded in death by her husband Walter "Wally" E. Stecker, her parents, Paul and Julia Letko (née Tichak), sister, Lydia, and many relatives and dear friends.

Dolly was born in Milwaukee on September 22, 1927. She spoke Slovak fluently with her parents who emigrated from Slovakia. She attended St. Michael Catholic Grade School, where she



learned to speak English and later graduated from Washington High School. Dolly attended business college and was a secretary when she was first married. She was a homemaker when her daughters were growing up, but started working again as a secretary at Milwaukee Public Schools when her daughters were in middle school.

Dolly married the love of her life, Wally, on April 15, 1950, at St. Stephen Martyr Catholic Church and were happily married for 55 amazing years. Dolly and Wally spent their life together centered on God, their church, and their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Dolly was a woman of remarkable talent and creativity. An accomplished seamstress, she lovingly sewed many of her daughters' clothes, every dance recital costume, and homecoming and prom dresses over the years. She was also proud to have sewn the very first traditional attire for her daughters who danced for the Tatra Slovak Dancers, sharing her heritage and craftsmanship with the community. Her hands were rarely still and the garments she made were stitched not just with thread, but with deep care and devotion.

Dolly was very active in her church and community. As a dedicated Girl Scout leader, Dolly loved all of her "girl scouts". Dolly belonged to Christian Mothers, was Home and School Vice-President, and a member of the Wisconsin Slovak Historical Society. Her parents started the tradition of becoming lifetime members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 93, by enrolling Dolly, and then Nancy and Lori at birth. Dolly and Wally continued the tradition by enrolling their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, which is proudly five generations strong in their family and ongoing. Olga always held her Slovak heritage close to her heart and kept it alive by carrying on many Slovak traditions with her family. She loved to cook and passed on many traditional Slovak recipes to her daughters.

Dolly loved to play cards and solve crossword puzzles. Her love of playing cards carried on throughout her entire life. Dolly and her life-long friends from grade school and high-school started a card club that later included their husbands. The every other week and then monthly gatherings were filled with fun and friendship and became a beloved ritual that lasted for many years. The husbands became good friends as well and the club had summer picnics with their entire families and a "round robin" New Year's Eve celebration every year. The card playing continued with Dolly's grandchildren and great-grandchildren where many games of cribbage and Uno were played and she typically won!

Dolly was a supportive cheerleader at her daughters' and grandchildren's school and sporting events, including attending every one of her daughters' Sokol competitions known as "Slets." She treasured the time with her cherished grandchildren, Brad, Tony, Jeremy, Cassi, and Lexi, on weekend sleepovers, weekday suppers, family gatherings, and regular visits. Dolly was retired when Lori's daughters were born so, along with Wally, she provided full-time child care for Cassi and Lexi from their birth on, which included driving them to and/or from Catholic grade school. She thoroughly enjoyed creating countless memories at their "Up North" cottage on Summit Lake each summer. This started when her daughters were teenagers, continued with her grandchildren, and the memories kept growing with her great-grandchildren all the way through this past summer. Dolly's sacrifice of time and devotion to provide for and take care of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will always be a cherished memory of her entire family.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all her friends who kept in contact with her over the years, to Angela Michor, APNP, who was Dolly's



primary physician for many years, the many physicians who regularly treated Dolly throughout the years, and all the healthcare workers who treated her with love, care, patience, and respect.

With deep sadness and loving remembrance, we will miss Dolly, but we take comfort in our faith that we will be reunited in eternal happiness.

To our dear Mom, Grandma, Great-Grandma "Babicka": You have been the matriarch of our family, its strength and unceasing love. We will love and miss you forever, but we will always carry your love and memory in our hearts. Until we are all together again - "Dovidenia!"

The Mass of Christian Burial was held at the Blessed Savior Catholic Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Interment followed at the Holy Cross Cemetery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

FR. JOACHIM PASTIRIK, OSB

Shortly after vespers on Sunday evening, October 19, 2025, Fr. Joachim Pastirik, OSB passed into eternity at Regina Health Center. He had been under hospice care since inoperable cancer was found a month earlier. "Fr. Joe" as he was known by so many, spent his life bringing the joy of Christ to many lives.

Born in Lakewood, Ohio with his twin brother John on December 9, 1941, Joseph Pastirik is the son of John (deceased) and Margaret (Bobovnick). He attended Sts. Cyril and Methodius Elementary School and graduated from Benedictine High School with his brother John in 1960. After two years of studies at St.

John's University in Minnesota, he entered the Benedictine Order at St. Andrew's Abbey in Cleveland and received the religious name of 'Joachim' after the saintly father of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

He completed his Bachelor's degree in classical languages from Borromeo Seminary College in 1965 and continued studies for the priesthood at Blessed Sacrament and St. Mary's Seminary being awarded a Master of Divinity degree in 1969 when he was ordained with his classmates Fr. Dominic Mondzelewski, OSB and Fr. Timothy Buyansky, OSB by Bishop William Cosgrove on June 7, 1969.

Fr. Joachim taught senior theology, technical drafting, studio art, and art appreciation at Benedictine High School from 1969 to 2001. He earned a B.A. in art education from Baldwin-Wallace College in 1976. His third floor art studio was one of the most popular classrooms at BHS during those years with a relaxed atmosphere and background music conducive to fostering creativity. The free-flowing conversations in the art room also became a means for Fr. Joachim to offer guidance and practical advice to students who would hesitate to bring up some topics with their parents. He was moderator of the Benedictine Parent-Booster Club, a position he held for over 20 years.

Fr. Joachim forged many life-long friendships with former students and encouraged a number of them into successful art-related careers. He celebrated more weddings than most of his brother monks and continued to minister to many of these families through times of joy, challenge, and sorrow over the years.

It is hard to find a photo of Fr. Joachim without a smile because he enjoyed making others smile and laugh. He was famous for giving out pictures of the "Smiling Jesus" and would liven up Christmas parties at nursing homes or Booster Club meetings or abbey gatherings in costume as Santa, Pope John Paul II, or any number of celebrities and personages.

Fr. Joachim's command of the Slovak language was much appreciated in his work with numerous Slovak-American frater-

nals and organizations. He was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota), First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (Ženská Jednota), Slovak Catholic Federation, Slovak League of America, Cleveland Slovak Radio Club, and served as chaplain to Group 5 (Northern Ohio) Slovak Catholic Sokols and Cleveland Slovak Zemplin Club.

Together with his talented brother John, Fr. Joe has added energy and fun to many fundraisers, dinners, anniversary parties, and weddings with his rendition of a variety of dance styles from polka and csardas to "electric slide" and line dancing. His own musical talent contributed to the prayer life of the monastery where he served as one of the abbey organists since the time he was a seminarian.

In the monastery, Fr. Joachim has also served his confreres generously in a variety of positions: Subprior (3rd superior) 1991-1995 and Prior (2nd superior), 1995-1999. He served on the Senior Council, was a member of the abbey evaluation committee and served as a community barber for over four decades.

He offered weekend assistance at the following parishes in the Diocese of Cleveland: St. Peter (Lorain) 1969-1972, St. Charles (Parma) 1972-1975, Assumption Parish (Broadview Heights) 1975-1991, St. Barbara (Cleveland) 1991-1994, Sts. Cyril and Methodius (Lakewood) 1994-2014.

Due to declining health, Fr. Joachim moved to Regina Health Center in Richfield, Ohio, in December of 2014. He continued to enliven fellow residents and staff by drawing, celebrating Mass, assisting with the sacraments and visiting. As time went on, he lost the use of his legs and was confined to a wheel chair. However, he never lost that interest in others, continued to use his talents in the various activities at Regina Center, and enjoyed the company of his confreres, who visited him monthly as a community.

A month before his death, Fr. Joachim was diagnosed with inoperable metastatic cancer. He decided to let things take their course. He passed away peacefully on the evening of Sunday, October 19.

The community received the body in the abbey church at 2:30pm on Thursday, October 23, followed by a wake and Mass of Resurrection at 7:00pm that evening. Burial was Friday morning, October 24, in the monastic plot at Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland. Please remember our confrere, Fr. Joachim in the customary Masses and prayers. May the Loving Lord, whom Fr. Joachim served, and the many people touched by his service, smile and good humor, welcome him into the heavenly realms.

Abbot Gary A. Hoover, OSB

and the Benedictine Community of St. Andrew Abbey
Cleveland, Ohio

SISTER SUSAN MARIE HAZENSKI, SS.C.M.

Sister Susan Marie Hazenski, SS.C.M. died on November 8, 2025 at Maria Hall in Danville, PA. Born in Pittston PA on September 7, 1958, she was the daughter of Joseph Hazenski and Grace Emma, of Pittston, PA.

She attended St John the Baptist Elementary School in Pittston and graduated from St. John the Evangelist High School in Pittston. Sister studied at Lackawanna Junior College in Scranton, PA, and received an Associate Degree in Medical Secretarial Science, and worked for several years as a medical secretary until she entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius on November 1, 1985, and professed her final vows on July

(Continued on page 24)

OBITUARIES

(Continued from page 23)

31,1993. She received a BA from Kings College in Wilkes Barre, a Masters in Education from Marywood University PA, and a Masters in Theology from Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio TX. Sister served as a teacher at St Simon School in Chicago and St Columba School in Bloomsburg PA, and as principal at St. Joseph School in Hazleton, PA and at St Joseph School in Columbia, SC. Sister Susan then served on staff and then as manager of the retreat center at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. From 2007 – 2019. In 2019 she came to Danville where she served as Finance Office Assistant, Clerical Assistant for the Saint Cyril Retreat Center, and baker.

Sister Susan Marie believed that her parents and her grandmother provided not only for her material needs but also taught her important lessons that have guided her life. She believed that she and her sister received the gift of faith and reliance on God from the examples they witnessed in the lives of our parents and grandmother. She recalled that hardly a day passed without her grandmother saying, "God will take care of everything. Don't worry." Sister's gift of faith prompted her to advocate for those often overlooked including maintenance and cafeteria personnel, clerical and nursing staff, students who didn't stand out, and international seminarians.

Sister Susan battled multiple cancers during her final years, but she says of this time, "Despite all of my illnesses I continue to remain joyful, hopeful, and have a terrific sense of humor; all of which I believe has been instrumental in my survival." Sister is survived by her sister, Mary Grace Kabacinski of Wilkes-Barre, a nephew, Adam, and 2 grandnieces and a grandnephew. Funeral Services and a Mass of Christian Burial were held on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at Maria Hall in Danville, followed by burial in the Sisters' cemetery.

Donations in memory of Sister Susan Marie can be made to the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Villa Sacred Heart, 1002 Railroad St., Danville, PA, 17821.

GLORIA ANN SCUGLIK

Gloria Ann Scuglik, age 94, passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 27, 2025 surrounded by her family.

She was the daughter of the late Frank V. and Josephine L. (Konz) Bobusch Sr., born on August 22, 1931 in Kenosha, WI. She attended St. George's grade school in Kenosha and St. Catherine's High School in Racine. On September 30, 1950, Gloria was united in marriage to Anthony "Tony" L. Scuglik Sr. at St. Anthony's of Padua Catholic Church.

Gloria was Chairman of the Board and Secretary for the Bobusch Furniture Company until retiring in 1991. She was an active member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, Assembly 113, participating in the Group 4 and National Track & Field events. She held the office of Secretary for the Slovak Catholic Sokol Group 4 for 16 years until retiring in 2011. She was also a member of St. Anthony's Rosary Society and sold Christmas Oplatky since 1994. She enjoyed traveling, shopping, puzzle making, and spending time with her



children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Gloria is survived by five of her children, Linda (Mel Jacobs) Parsons, David (Christine) Scuglik, Frank (Vicki) Scuglik, Kim (Vic) Scuglik-Majdan, Stephen (Peg) Scuglik, Jean (Johnny) Wisdom; twelve grandchildren, Aaron (Rachel), Jarrod (Eugenie), Jason (Lily), Tiffany (Daniel), Taylor, Kari, Corey (Jess), Cody, Emma (Sean), Gabriel (Trish), Krystle (Matthew), and Katie; and fifteen great-grandchildren: Aida, Amara, Vera, Nathan, Ethan, Hudson, Lily, Lonnie, Zelie, Eilis, Roisin, Audrey, James, Evelyn, and Jameson.

In addition to her parents, Gloria was proceeded in death by her husband, Tony L. Scuglik, Sr.; son, Anthony L. Scuglik, Jr.; brother, Frank V. Bobusch; sister, Rose Marie Trokan; and son-in-law, Pete Parsons.

In lieu of flowers, memorial remembrances to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital <https://www.stjude.org/> would be appreciated.

The Mass of Christian Burial was held on December 4, 2025 at the St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Kenosha, WI.



Life insurance is always a perfect gift for that special loved one. It's a gift that will last a lifetime. It cannot be lost, stolen, broken or squandered away. It is economical, worth something immediately and appreciates in value over the years.

Of course it is a Slovak Catholic Sokol life insurance policy or annuity plan. By providing your child, grandchild or other members of your family and friends with a Sokol insurance policy, you have a number of advantages which should be considered. It is first and foremost a lifetime of insurance protection at a cost that can never be replicated. It also creates a cash value account that may be used for future college expenses or some other of life's emergencies. And, you will have also protected that loved one's insurability which means that no matter what happens to their health in the future, they will always be insured under the policy you purchased for them.

Another important fact about life insurance is that it is the cornerstone of any financial plan. By purchasing a policy today when rates are low, you will have started that special child or grandchild off on the right road to financial success.

And in addition, the Slovak Catholic Sokol offers a number of fraternal benefits. Our athletic and gymnastic programs emphasize our belief in both physical and mental health, as well as our commitment to our fraternal way of life. Each year, our organization provides scholarship grants to our members. As a firm believer in the Catholic school system, we provide grants to students attending Catholic grade school and high school. We also offer a generous number of college scholarships as well.

So why not purchase that life insurance policy or annuity plan now so that the new year can start that loved one on the road to financial success. Give a call to our Home Office at 1 800 886-7656. We will provide you with all the rates and applications or see your local Assembly or Wreath officers.

Sokol life insurance policy makes a wonderful birthday gift, first Holy Communion, Confirmation or graduation gift as well. Think about it and start that favorite loved one on the road to financial success.


OCTOBER 2025 - NOVEMBER 2025

ASSEMBLY/WREATH	NAME	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 9	Robert C. Grega of Stratford, CT	75	September 18, 2025
Assembly 9	Joseph Maco of Milford, CT	73	November 28, 2025
Assembly 10	William S. Lawrence of Masury, OH	80	October 9, 2025
Assembly 10	Michael K. Andrews of Rio Vista, CA	85	November 1, 2025
Assembly 11	James J. Gruber of Chicago, IL	84	September 19, 2025
Assembly 11	Jason Gillen of Oak Lawn, IL	49	November 18, 2025
Assembly 11	Dorothy Volk of Oak Forest, IL	96	November 2, 2025
Assembly 25	Harry E. Johnston of Phoenix, AZ	79	December 1, 2025
Assembly 34	Mor Vang of St. Paul, MN	58	September 1, 2025
Assembly 48	Dale E. Cunningham of Doylestown, PA	88	Spetember 16, 2025
Assembly 59	Helen Romanowski of Walden, NY	97	September 9, 2025
Assembly 71	Brian Kopack of Edwardsville, PA	68	September 6, 2025
Assembly 78	Charles Husovsky of Bethlehem, PA	95	October 1, 2025
Assembly 78	Mildred F. Petko of Bethlehem, PA	91	December 5, 2025
Assembly 79	William Clinemyer of Lilly, PA	64	October 19, 2025
Assembly 79	Jeffrey Paul Talko of Cresson, PA	58	October 21, 2025
Assembly 108	Bernadette J. Demechko of PA	91	October 8, 2025
Assembly 108	Richard J. Mrosko of Altoona, PA	74	November 21, 2025
Assembly 167	Fred F. Stewart of Stow, OH	84	November 11, 2025
Assembly 167	Jo Ann Jones of Surfside Beach, SC	85	November 14, 2025
Assembly 180	Thomas A. Blackburn of Mineava, OH	74	September 5, 2025
Assembly 255	Elizabeth Kosman of Northampton, PA	94	November 13, 2025
Assembly 312	Robert Dvorsky of State College, PA	82	August 31, 2025
Assembly 312	Joseph Stahon of Erie, PA	95	November 12, 2025
Assembly 312	Martha Salvatore of Campbell, OH	86	November 12, 2025
Assembly 312	John Halupka of Clifton, NJ	80	November 13, 2025
Wreath 13	Florence Gazak of Philadelphia, PA	90	April 15, 2025
Wreath 15	Mildred Ann Kulchock of Uniontown, PA	94	August 25, 2025
Wreath 15	Dawn E. Hegyes of Perryopolis, PA	52	October 23, 2025
Wreath 14	Nancy J. Davies of Dobois, PA	86	October 14, 2025
Wreath 22	Joan J. Yanosick of Moon Twp. PA	92	October 7, 2025
Wreath 34	Rev. Joachim Pastirik of St. Andrew Abbey	83	October 19, 2025
Wreath 93	James George Preston of Brandon, WI	96	August 14, 2025
Wreath 93	Yeng Thor Lao of Milwaukee, WI	86	September 24, 2025
Wreath 93	Doris E. Brice of Green Bay, WI	93	November 5, 2025
Wreath 93	Gloria A. Scuglik of Kenosha WI	94	November 27, 2025
Wreath 93	Olga Stecker of Germantown, WI	98	October 6, 2025
Wreath 111	Patricia Billick of Amherst, OH	79	September 18, 2025
Wreath 153	Michael A. Miziker III of Cleveland, OH	53	August 23, 2024
Wreath 155	Ann Weinbel of Reading, PA	66	October 16, 2025

ÚPN ZVEREJNIL VYŠETROVATEĽOV ŠTB Z KRAJSKÝCH ÚTVAROV 1966 - 1971

Ústav pamäti národa (ÚPN) na svojej webovej stránke zverejnil organizačnú a personálnu rekonštrukciu útvarov vyšetrovania Štátnej bezpečnosti (ŠtB) na Slovensku v rokoch 1966 až 1971, ktorá dopĺňa doteraz zverejnených vyšetrovateľov ŠtB.

„Zoznam doplnilo 82 príslušníkov, ktorí v rokoch 1966 až 1971 pôsobili na slovenských krajských útvaroch vyšetrovania ŠtB a na doteraz nezverejnejnej Správe vyšetrovania ŠtB Ministerstva vnútra Slovenskej socialistickej republiky. Z nich 12 nebolo doteraz zverejnených na iných útvaroch ŠtB,“ priblížil hovorca ÚPN Michal Miklovic. Spolu s aktuálne zverejnenými príslušníkmi Ústav pamäti národa od roku 2007 zverejnil 5301 príslušníkov útvarov ŠtB na Slovensku.

Útvary vyšetrovania Štátnej bezpečnosti vyšetrovali vybrané, predovšetkým politické trestné činy, spolupracovali najmä s kontrarozviedkovými útvarmi ŠtB. Podielali sa tým na ochrane komunistického režimu pred tzv. vnútorným a vonkajším nepriateľom. Celoštátnu Správu vyšetrovania ŠtB so sídlom v Prahe dopĺňali celoslovenské a krajské útvary vyšetrovania ŠtB a útvary vyšetrovania ŠtB vo vojenskej kontrarozviedke.

FICO DOSTAL POZVANIE DO USA

Premiér SR Robert Fico informoval, že dostal pozvanie na návštavu Spojených štátov amerických a stretnutie s prezidentom USA Donaldom Trumpom. Pozvanie mu doručil štátny tajomník ministerstva energetiky USA James P. Danly.

„Je pre mňa čľou, že mi osobitný posol amerického prezidenta D. Trumpa odovzdal písomné pozvanie na návštavu USA a stretnutie s ním,“ uviedol premiér vo svojom príspevku na sociálnej sieti.

Podľa Fica má byť súčasťou plánovanej návštevy aj podpora spolupráce v oblasti energetiky. „Chceme spoločne podporiť podpísanie medzivládnej dohody medzi SR a USA o spolupráci v jadrovej energetike a vymeniť si názory na najaktuálnejšie svetové témy,“ napísal predseda vlády.

Premiér zároveň uviedol, že časový rámec jeho návštavy by mal byť spojený s významnými udalosťami v Spojených štátoch. „Časovým rámcom mojej návštavy budú oslavy 250-teho výročia nezávislosti USA a konanie Majstrovstiev sveta vo futbale,“ dodal.

Pozvanie od amerického prezidenta premiér vníma ako potvrdenie smerovania slovenskej zahraničnej politiky. Podľa jeho slov „suverénna zahraničná politika orientovaná na všetky štyri svetové strany prináša svoje výsledky“. Zároveň tvrdí, že Slovensko má „rešpekt, dostáva ponuky na investície.“

Robert Fico v tejto súvislosti pripomeral, že sa v tomto roku stretol s prezidentmi Číny, Ruskej federácie, Brazílie, Vietnamu, Juhoafrickej republiky, rokoval s najvýznamnejším hráčom v EÚ s nemeckým spolkovým kancelárom“ a absolvoval desiatky iných dôležitých bilaterálnych stretnutí“.

KYSLÁ KAPUSTA POSILNÍ VÁŠ ORGANIZMUS

Kyaslá kapusta sa považuje za veľmi zdravú potravu, o jej účinkoch na naše zdravie niesť pochýb. Podobne je na tom aj šťava z kyslej kapusty a rozhodne má nášmu telu čo ponúknutť. Obsahuje dôležité vitamíny a minerály, ako aj baktéria mliečneho kvasenia, ktoré sú prospéšné pre trávenie a takisto pre zdravie črev. Zjesta iba kapustu a a šťavy sa zbaviť by preto bolo chybou.

Pri výrobe kyslej kapusty necháme kvasiť bielu kapustu. Živiny obsiahnuté v bielej kapuste sa zachovajú a výnimočné látky si uchováva aj šťava z kyslej kapusty. Tá okrem iného poskytuje cenný vitamín C, ktorý podporuje imunitný systém a takisto vitamín K, ktorý je spojený so zdravými kostami. Ne treba opomenúť kyselinu listovú a vitamín B12, ktoré hrajú dôležitú úlohu pri tvorbe krvi.

Špeciálny význam však majú baktéria mliečneho kvasenia, ktoré šťava v značnej miere obsahuje a ktoré vznikajú počas fermentácie. Vďaka tomu je šťava z kyslej kapusty prírodným probiotikom, ktoré podporuje črevnú flóru a tým aj zdravie črev. A to naozaj výrazne.

Kedže trávenie a zdravie črev ide ruka v ruke s našou hmotnosťou, šťava z kyslej kapusty je nápomocná pri chudnutí. Existuje aj špeciálna diéta, pri ktorej sa šťava z kyslej kapusty pije ráno a kyaslá kapusta sa konzumuje na poludnie aj večer.

Šťava má mierne laxatívne účinky a môže u niektorých ľudí spôsobovať zažívacie ťažkosti – hnačky, plynatosť. Piť by sa mala iba v malom množstve – nie viac ako jeden pohár denne.

ŠALÁŤ S KYSLEJ KAPUSTY

½ brokolice, 1 nakrájaná červená paprika, ½ hrnček kyslej kapusty, 2 strúčiky cesnaku, 2 lyžičky nastrúhaného čerstvého zázvoru, 2 lyžice olivového oleja, himálajska sol' podľa potreby.

Brokolicu rozoberieme na malé ružičky. Dáme ju na 5 minút variť do pary, popripade ju vložíme do vriacej vody na cca 3 minúty. Červenú papriku nakrájame na drobné kocky. Kyslú kapustu vložíme do misy a premýjeme ju pod tečúcou vodou, aby nebola veľmi slaná. Potom ju nakrájame na menšie kúsky. Brokolicu necháme vychladnúť a zmiešame ju spolu s paprikou a kyslou kapustou. Do misky si nastrúhame čerstvý zázvor, pretlačíme cesnak, pridáme olivový olej a spolu premiešame. Takto pripravený dressing vmiešame k zelenine.

NOVOROČNÉ TRADÍCIE A POVERY

Jedlo: Bravčové (symbol hojnosti), šošovica, hrach.

Hydina sa nejedla, aby šťastie neuletello.

Práca: Na Nový rok sa nemalo pratiť, šítiť, vynášať smeti (kvôli šťastiu) ani robiť ťažkú prácu, aby sa únava neprehnala celým rokom.

Vnútorné prostredie: Dom mal byť čistý a bez hádok, aby bol taký celý rok. Používali sa zvončeky alebo sol' na odohnanie zla.

Ohňostroj: Vznikol z tradície vyháňania zlých duchov (pôvodne bičom).

Positívna nálada: Vyhýbanie sa plaču a smútku, aby sa nepremenili na celý rok.

Dobre premyslené rozhodnutia: Vyhnuť sa unáhleným krokom, aby neovplyvnili celý rok.

KÚTIK HUMORU

Dvaja šestnástroční sa bavia po silvestrovskej noci: „Dedko mal pravdu, keď mi hovoril, že do toho erotického klubu nemám chodiť, že tam sú veci, ktoré by som nemal vidieť.“ „Prosím ťa, čo si tam videl?“ „Dedka“.

Manželia práve veselo zapíjajú príchod nového roka, keď náhle manželka zosmutne. „Čo je?“ pýta sa manžel. „Ale,“ hovorí manželka „práve som si uvedomila, že mám všetky šaty z minulého roku.“

„Tak čo, ako si prežil posledného Silvestra, priateľu?“ „Ale... najprv som nevedel, kam mám ísť a teraz si nemôžem spomenúť, kde som bol.“

Jano pozýva priateľa na silvestrovský večierok a vysvetľuje: „Dostaneš sa k nám autobusom číslo 26, vystúpiš na predposlednej zastávke a ja bývam hned' naproti, v dome číslo 28. Zazvoníš laktom pri bránke a ako sa ozve bzuciak, strčíš do bránky kolenom a už si u mňa.“ „Prepána,“ žasne Fero, „a prečo by som mal zvoníť laktom a kolenom kopať do bránky?“ „Prepána,“ zhrozí sa Patrik, „a to by si sa, človeče, nehanbil prísť na silvestrovský večierok s prázdnymi rukami?“

Kapitán dal zavolať vojakov a pýta sa:
“Chlapci moji, potrebujú vtáci peniaze?”
“Nepotrebuju!” zaznie odpoved.
“To je dobre, sokolíci, lebo ja som prepil váš žold...”

Colník zastaví na hranici auto a povie vodičovi, aby vystúpil. Prehľadá auto a najde vrecko s bielym práškom. Ochutná ho a pýta sa vodiča: „Heroín?“. Vodič: „Nie, jed na potkany.“

Na lavičke v parku sadí zamilovaný párik. Nesmelo s k nim prísadne muž a začne hlaďť ženu po ruke. „Čo si to dovolujete?“ opýta sa rozhorčený mladík. „Nehnevajte sa,“ vráví nesmelo muž, ktorý si prisadol. „Chcem iba, aby mi manželka dala kľúče od bytu.“

KRÁTKE SPRÁVY ZO SLOVENSKA

Slováci a Slovenky zo svojho života však strávia v zdraví len necelé tri štvrtiny. Potom prichádzajú choroby, ktoré znižujú kvalitu života a zvyšujú finančné výdaje jednotlivcov a ich rodín. Ako sa môžu lepšie vyzbrojiť do ďažších časov? Pomôcť môžu zdravší život, prevencia i zodpovedné finančné správanie. Až tretina Slovákov nemá žiadne úspory, tretina má nasporených maximálne 2 000 eur a len 8 % Slovákov má nasporených vyše 20-tisíc eur. Za uplynulé štvrtstoročie sa priemerná dĺžka života Slovákov zvýšila o päť rokov. Pre porovnanie, kým priemer EÚ bol vlanej 81,7 roka, pričom muži sa dožívali 79 a ženy 84 rokov, na Slovensku to bolo 78,1 roka (muži 74,9 roka a ženy 81,5 roka). Najdlhšie žijú Taliansi, Švédi a Španieli (84 rokov), najkratšie Bulhari, Rumuni a Lotyši (menej ako 77 rokov), ukazujú údaje Eurostatu. Najčastejšou príčinou úmrtia Slovákov zostávajú dlhodobo kardiovaskulárne ochorenia nasledované rakovinou. Spolu tvoria až 70 percent dôvodov skonu. Štatistika ochorení má rovnakú prvú priečku, no na druhé miesto sa dostali duševné ochorenia nasledované cukrovkou.

V spoločnosti ZVS holding v Dubnici nad Váhom spustili do prevádzky novú výrobnú linku na veľkokalibrovú delostreleckú muníciu. Ide o najmodernejšie zariadenie svojho druhu v Európe a výrazne prispeje k zvýšeniu výrobnej kapacity v Dubnici nad Váhom na asi 280-tisíc kusov 155-milimetrových delostreleckých nábojov ročne.

Americká zbrojárska spoločnosť Lockheed Martin oznámila, že dokončila výrobu všetkých stíhačiek typu F-16 Block 70 pre Slovensko. Kontrakt na 14 stíhačiek F-16 C/D Block 70 americkej výroby uzavrelo Slovensko koncom roka 2018 s cieľom zmodernizovať svoje vzdušné sily a nahradíť vtedy nepoužívané stíhačky MiG-29, ktoré boli spolu so systémami protivzdušnej obrany medzičasom odovzdané ako pomoc Ukrajine napadnutej Ruskom.

Dodanie amerických stíhačích lietadiel na Slovensko sa oneskorilo pre pandémiu ochorenia COVID-19. Slovenské vzdušné sily majú k dispozícii zatiaľ sedem z objednaných strojov, prvé z nich prileteli na vojenské letisko v Kuchyni pri Malackách v lete minulého roka. Zvyšné majú byť dodané postupne do roku 2027.

Kompletné letky lietadiel F-16 Block 70 umožnia Slovensku zabezpečiť svoju protivzdušnú obranu a podporovať hliadkovanie NATO prostredníctvom moderných, plne interoperabilných stíhačích lietadiel. Tieto lietadlá sa priamo pripájajú k systémom NATO a majú podporu misií, ktoré už teraz vykonávajú prevádzkovatelia lietadiel F-16 v celej Európe. – TASR





Slovak Catholic Sokol

205 Madison St., P.O. Box 899, Passaic, NJ • USA • 07055

Our Ever-Popular, 304-Page Sokol Cook Book

is Now in its Fourth Edition

Just \$15.50 which includes postage and handling
Sokol Assemblies and Wreaths can order a case of
12 cook books for just \$170.00

Place your order today!

Make check or money order payable to:

Slovak Catholic Sokol
P.O. Box 899 – 205 Madison Street
Passaic, N.J. 07055
(Canadian orders kindly add an additional \$15.00 for postage)



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP _____

NUMBER OF BOOKS _____

(Effective January 1, 2015)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR REQUEST FOR SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON

P.O.BOX 899 • 205 MADISON STREET
PASSAIC, N.J. 07055

NEW CHANGE CANCELLATION

Certificate No. _____

Name _____

New Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Old Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Have you found yourself looking for a way to memorialize a lost loved one or fellow Group/Wreath/Assembly member? Why not make a donation in their honor to the newly developed Memorial Scholarship fund? Your donation will assure that an annual scholarship be given out to a college age student who best exemplifies the meaning of fraternalism and volunteerism. Here's how it works: Send a check or money order to the Memorial Scholarship Fund clearly indicating the name to be memorialized. You can find a donation form on line at

<http://slovakcatholicsokol.org/members/memorialfrmframe.htm>



or simply send your donation to: Michael J. Horvath, SCS Museum Treasurer, 185 Lawrence St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702. Your bequest will be recognized in the Falcon as well as permanently added to the Memorial Scholarship Donation Log which will be kept at the Sokol Museum. Depending on the amount of funds collected, we will be able to award at least two \$1,000 scholarships annually. The hope is that the donated funds will begin a self-perpetuating interest bearing scholarship account.

Have you recently lost a loved one? You might consider earmarking donations to this fund in their memory.

Follow Us On TWITTER

- * Upload the Twitter app on your phone or go to www.twitter.com
- * Click "Sign up for Twitter."
- * Provide basic information about yourself. ...
- * Choose your username. ...
- * Click "Create my account."
- * Search physicalfitnessboard and click follow

INSTAGRAM

- * Upload the Instagram app on your phone or go to www.instagram.com
- * Click "Sign up" and enter your e-mail
- * Create a username and password
- * Provide basic information about yourself. ...
- * Click "Create my account."
- * Search physicalfitnessboard and click follow