Presenting Our
2019 Award Recipients

Sarah Grace Bobeck
Allentown, Pennsylvania
Branch 130
Margaret Sabol Scholarship Award

Gabriella Marie Kupsho
Drums, Pennsylvania
Branch 60
Anne (Shinal) Cichy Memorial Award

Veronica Martonik
Conyngham, Pennsylvania
Branch 1
Lynda (Posivak) Mohlenhoff Memorial Award

See their respective stories in this issue.
Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

3 – Slovak Heritage Festival from 1:00-5:00 p.m. at the University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning Commons Room (Oakland). Contact Christine Metil at 412-624-5906 or at slavic@pitt.edu.

16 – Illinois and Indiana Branches (Illiana District) Business Lunch at 1:00 p.m. at Manny’s Deli in Chicago, Illinois. Any LPSCU member in the Illinois/Indiana area is welcome. Call Joan Hladek (815-895-0431) for more information or to make a reservation. See notice on page 3.

20 – Deadline to submit articles for January/February 2020 Morning Star.

DECEMBER

1 – Rev. Dianiska District Christmas Party at 1:00 p.m. at Genetti Hotel and Conference Center, Market Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Branch 6 will host. A Special Gifts Raffle Matching Fund Event benefitting the Catherine McAuley Center will be held at the party. Contact Mary Ann Ewasko (570-823-6432) for more information or see page 13 for further details.

1 – Branch 52’s Annual Christmas Party beginning at 12:00 noon at Grandview Golf Club, North Braddock, Pennsylvania. Contact Jim Tomasic to make a reservation (412-824-0390).

6 – Msgr. Beeda District Christmas Party at 6:00 p.m. at Rocco’s Restaurant, 245 Muir Avenue, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. Contact Anita Gregory (570-788-3263) by November 25th if you plan to attend. See notice on page 6.

7 – LPSCU Board Meeting (Telephone Conference)

7-8 – Msgr. Beeda District’s Matching Fund project, a Hershey’s Chocolate sale, takes place at Saints Cyril and Methodius Church, North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania, following all the weekend Masses. Proceeds benefit United Children’s Home of West Hazleton, Pennsylvania. See page 19 for more details.

8-9 – Pick-up dates if you ordered a wreath through Branch 213’s Christmas fund-raising project benefiting St. Andrew’s Parish. See page 24 for all the details.

15 – Lehigh Valley Okres Holiday Luncheon at the Steel Club (formerly Bethlehem Steel Country Club), 700 Linden Avenue, Hellertown, Pennsylvania. Punch reception at 12:00 noon; luncheon at 12:30 p.m. A Matching Fund event benefitting the Carmelite Monastery in Coopersburg, Pennsylvania, will be held at the luncheon. Call Marge Ferri (484-635-1733) or Jean Kosalko (610-839-8940) by December 7th if you plan to attend. See page 7 for more details.

28 – Illinois and Indiana Branches (Illiana District) Annual Lunch Social at 1:00 p.m. in Memoriam

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MORNING STAR
SLOVAK CATHOLIC UNION

LADIES PENNSYLVANIA SLOVAK CATHOLIC UNION

(USPS 699-520)

ZORNICKA (Morning Star), a bi-monthly magazine, is the official publication of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, National Headquarters, 71 South Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

Send articles for publication to Deborah McKinley, Public Relations Director, 39 Lafayette Avenue, Tamaqua, PA 18252; 610/704-7288; zornicka@lpscu.org.

Articles must be received by the 20th of the month, 5½ weeks prior to the due date.

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OFFICE HOURS

AT NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Monday through Friday:

November 1 — April 30

7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

May 1 — October 31

7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Phone: 570/823-3513

Toll Free 888/834-6614

Fax: 570/823-4464

E-mail: lpscu@lpscu.org

Website: www.lpscu.org

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Margaret Sabol Scholarship Award Recipient...

Margaret Jollimore, 1001 SR 292E, Harveys Lake, PA 18618-7829; 570/760-7970; jollimore@lpscu.org

Joan T. Hladek, 2138 Waterbury Lane E., Sycamore, IL 60178; 815/895-0431; jhladek@gmail.com

continued on page 4
A Message from Our National Spiritual Advisor

WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED!
A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND
September 13-22, 2020

I always dreamed of one day visiting the Holy Land to “walk through the footsteps of Jesus.” It became a reality for me way back in January of 1987. It was then that I came across a 10-day Pilgrimage to the Holy Land specifically for priests and religious.

It was an awesome and unforgettable experience. I was given the privilege of being the celebrant for Mass in the Garden of Gethsemane at the Church of All Nations. And I can only tell you that my heart was filled with great emotion and a joy that forever enriched my life. As the Gospel unfolded before my very eyes to the night before Jesus died, where He prayed in the garden, here I was standing with all the other pilgrims gathered in prayer in the same sacred place.

Every step you take throughout the Holy Land is a walk through the pages of Scripture. A visit to the sacred places of Christ’s birth, where He began His ministry, where He was crucified, buried, and rose from the dead.

As we prepare for the Christmas season, I would like you to seriously reflect on joining me next September on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land – to the sacred places where Jesus lived and preached. It will be a spiritual opportunity for you to encounter the Lord Jesus in the land of His birth.

Blessings,
Father Bob

New Insurance Issued

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*Sold through Home Office, not included in Campaign

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Right Reverend Gary A. Hoover, O.S.B.,
Spiritual Protector
Reverend Robert L. Seeman, Spiritual Advisor
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DIRECTORS
Susan M. Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities
Deborah McKinley, Public Relations

HOME OFFICE STAFF
Maureen Grohowski

Radostne Vianocne sviatky
a Bohom pozehnany Novy Rok!
Linkiu jums geru Sv. Kaledu
ir mielu bei laimingu Naujuju Metu!
Calendar of Events continued from page 2

at Uncle Julio’s in Naperville, Illinois. Any LPSCU member in the Illinois/Indiana area is welcome. Call Joan Hladek (815-895-0431) for more information or to make a reservation. See notice on page 11.

✧ 2020 ✧

JANUARY

20 – Deadline to submit articles for March/April Morning Star.
24 – March for Life in Washington, D.C.

MARCH

20 – Deadline to submit articles for May/June Morning Star.
25-26 – LPSCU Internal Audit
27 – LPSCU Annual Board Meeting, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

APRIL

20 – Deadline to submit articles for July/August Morning Star.
26-28 – American Fraternal Alliance’s Spring Symposium, Indianapolis, Indiana

MAY

20 – Deadline to submit articles for July/August Morning Star.

JUNE

25-28 – American Fraternal Alliance’s Spring Symposium, Indianapolis, Indiana

SEPTEMBER

13-22 – Join Father Bob Seeman for a trip to The Holy Land. For more information go to www.pilgrimages.com/frseeman/holyland or see notice on page 20.

OCTOBER

25-27 – Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Meeting

NOVEMBER

20 – Deadline to submit articles for January/February 2021 Morning Star.

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

(Act of October 23, 1962, Section 4369, Title 39 U.S. Code.)

Date filed: September 6, 2019.

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Average No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date

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

Pittsburgh District’s Clothing Drive a Success

The Pittsburgh District held a clothing drive for Dress for Success Pittsburgh at the District’s picnic on July 21. New and gently worn women’s interview and business-appropriate clothing, shoes, and accessories were donated to be distributed to women on their journey to financial independence. An entire carload of items was donated.

Dress for Success Pittsburgh promotes the economic independence of women by providing professional attire, a network of support, and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. The items were distributed at mobile events Dress for Success held over the rest of the summer. Dress for Success Pittsburgh and the women who received the items really appreciated the support.

Some of the items collected at the Pittsburgh District’s recent clothing drive.

EDITORIAL NOTICE

The editor reserves the right to edit submissions to Morning Star in order to correct grammatical or spelling errors, delete repetitions, clarify ideas, or reduce the amount of copy and/or photos to fit available space.
Our Scholarship Recipients Explain

The Importance of Life Insurance

Life insurance is important because it allows a person to continue to help their loved ones after they pass away. These funds are used to benefit family left behind. Day to day living expenses, education expenses, and possibly unexpected health expenses can be covered by insurance policies. Life insurance allows a light to shine on a difficult situation. More importantly, I believe that it allows the person to be remembered even after they have passed into the next life. The money left by an individual’s passing allows the family to continue to live, and hopefully prosper, affording the family some peace and reassurance while coping with the loss of their loved one. Individuals may not want to think this situation will arise, but it is a fact of life. Addressing and obtaining life insurance ensures peace of mind for the individual policyholder, as well as their family. As soon as I am able, I intend to obtain life insurance for my family.

Samuel Montante
Branch 7, Exeter, PA

A Message from Our Spiritual Protector

John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

I can’t believe that Christmas is here already. Where does the time go? Being busy with family, friends, school, work as well as other interests will call out to us and catch our hearts. Sometimes we are so caught up in everything else that it’s hard to take time, relax, and enjoy the moment and the season.

This Christmas season, pause and take that time to relax and look at a nativity scene once again. Right now, stop and pull out your favorite nativity crèche, or an ornament or a picture of the Holy Family. Get caught up in The MOMENT. Stay with that MOMENT until time is no longer on your mind. The moment when God’s Love becomes tangible, becomes real in our world and in your life, the moment when the Love of the Divine embraces our human condition, your humanity.

What draws you to this manger with the Christ Child in it? Is it the star that has guided you? Is it the angels who have called you out of the cold? Is it the animals that beckon you with their neighing, barking, chirping and their focus on the Child? Perhaps it is the light shining forth from the lantern held by Joseph over the child Jesus. Perhaps it is the soft, tender motherly love of Mary as she caresses her son in her arms. Perhaps it is the deafening sound of the silence as all shepherds, angels, villagers, and animals share in embracing the awe and majesty of God’s presence and love embracing humanity in His Son Jesus’s birth. The Christmas nativity is probably one of the most recognizable symbols of the season. Really take a good look at it, embrace the time with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Whatever journey you are on has brought you to this Divine Moment, just as Mary and Joseph came to this Divine Moment in their journey in life. Imagine a young holy couple journeying from Nazareth to Bethlehem in a strange place with no help and a baby on the way. The only place for the couple was a stable for the animals because there was no room at the inn. How many of you have gone in or near a barn with animals? The smell is foul, it is dirty and bugs are everywhere; not a place we could imagine having a baby. Imagine them experiencing the unknown, with only God and themselves to rely on. Yet this is where our Lord and Savior was born. Jesus was born in Love in order to die through Love so that through God’s Love we might live. Jesus Christ took on our human nature so that we might partake of the Divine nature.

Let us reflect on the nativity scene this year and go forth to spread the “GOOD NEWS” of Jesus Christ. The good news of Christmas is the gospel message of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

PEACE,

New Residence for Branch 64 Members

Pittsburgh
Branch 64 members Elva and Ed Silay recently enjoyed a visit from fellow members Mary Ann Kaylor and Helen Lorinc. Elva and Ed are settling into their new residence at New Hope Personal Care Home in Avalon, a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They enjoyed catching up on current happenings and would love hearing from other members.

New Residence for Branch 64 Members (Image)
PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

On Sunday, July 21, the Pittsburgh District hosted its annual summer picnic and meeting. The event was held at White Oak Park in White Oak, Pennsylvania. Twenty-four members and a few guests enjoyed a pizza picnic along with salad, fruit, and cookies organized by Janice Matthews of Branch 65.

President Dolores Sakal brought the meeting to order with a prayer. Activities for the rest of the year were discussed and planned. The dates for the annual card party and Christmas party were tentatively set. Further information will be sent out once the dates have been finalized. A Chinese auction and “Share the Wealth” raffles were held. Door prizes were also awarded.

Donations for the “Dress for Success” campaign were collected at the picnic. This District project was a huge success! Susan Ondrejco’s trunk and back seat were filled with all of the generous donations for this worthwhile cause. To all of the members who donated, we say a huge thank you. Also, a big thank you goes out to Janice and Dave Matthews of Branch 65 for planning and organizing this event.

Msgr. Beeda District to Hold Christmas Party

The Msgr. Beeda District’s annual Christmas party will be held on Friday, December 6, at Rocco’s Restaurant, 245 Muir Avenue, Hazleton, Pennsylvania, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Contact Anita Gregory (570-788-3263) by November 25th if you plan to attend. Cost for the party is $15.00 per person.
LPSCU Privacy Statement

Our Privacy Commitment

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

Why we collect and how we use information

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

How we collect information

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

How we protect information

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

What we do with personal information we collect

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

Further information

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

Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union
71 South Washington Street / P.O. Box 32
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703-0032
Phone: 888-834-6614 Fax: 570-823-4464
E-mail: lpscu@lpscu.org

LPSCU

Veronica Martonik Receives Lynda (Posivak) Mohlenhoff Memorial Award

The LPSCU is proud to announce that Veronica Martonik of Conyngham, Pennsylvania, a member of Branch 1, Hazleton, Pennsylvania, has been selected as the 2019 recipient of the Lynda (Posivak) Mohlenhoff Memorial Award. Veronica is attending Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, majoring in Occupational Therapy. Upon completion of her coursework, Veronica will have attained a Master’s Degree. She is a 2018 graduate from STEM Academy of Sciences which is part of Hazleton Area School District.

Some of Veronica’s activities while a student at the STEM Academy included: National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Executive Council, and SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions). Currently, at Elizabethtown College, she has been named to the Dean’s List each semester and is a member of the Student Occupational Therapy Club, Campus Ministry, Psychology Club, Photo Club, Art Club, and Best Buddies, a program where students work with special needs individuals within the community. Veronica is also a past recipient of the Bishop’s Youth Award, given by St. John Bosco Church in Sugarloaf, Pennsylvania.

Veronica is the daughter of Timothy and Emily Martonik. Emily and Veronica’s grandmother, Emily Degenhart, are also members of the LPSCU. All belong to Branch 1, Hazleton.

The Lynda (Posivak) Mohlenhoff Memorial Award was established through the generosity of Lynda’s parents, Peggy and Frank Posivak. The award is given to an LPSCU member pursuing a degree in, or relating to, the fields of Math, Science, or Technology.

The Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union congratulates Veronica Martonik as this year’s recipient of the Lynda (Posivak) Mohlenhoff Memorial Award.

Lehigh Valley Okres to Hold Holiday Luncheon

The Lehigh Valley Okres will hold a Holiday Luncheon on Sunday, December 15, 2019, at the Steel Club (formerly Bethlehem Steel Country Club), 700 Linden Avenue, Hellertown, Pennsylvania. A punch reception will be held at 12 noon followed by the luncheon at 12:30 p.m.

For reservations, call Marge Ferri (484-635-1733) or Jean Kosalko (610-838-8940) by December 7th. Any LPSCU member – no matter to which Branch you belong – is welcome to attend this festive event.
Minutes of the Semi-Annual Board Meeting
Washington, Pennsylvania September 13, 2019

Friday, September 13, 2019

Call to Order – Prayer – Pledge of Allegiance
President Theresa Kluchinski called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Spiritual Advisor Rev. Robert Seeman offered a prayer, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call
All Board of Directors members were present except Chairperson of Trustees Mary Ann Ewasko, who was excused. There was a quorum present to conduct business.

Submission of Insurance
Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge reported there were no new applications received for insurance.

Welcome Remarks
President Kluchinski welcomed everyone to the Semi-Annual Meeting and went over the schedule for the meeting.

Approval of Agenda/Minutes
The agenda for the meeting was approved, along with the Minutes from the June 8, 2019 Board meeting.

Correspondence
Secretary-Treasurer Savidge read the correspondence received.

Requests
The Board was provided with information on a donation request from the Tamburitzans, a multicultural song and dance group. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

Financial Report
Board members were provided the following information:
- Quarterly Statement – June 30, 2019
- Month End Balance Sheet/Revenue and Expense Accounts for July 2019
- Minor Beneficiary Account Listing
- Summary Market Value 2019 Spreadsheet
- Budget
- Statement of Investment Policy Objectives and Guidelines
- Employee Retirement Plan and Statement of Investment Policy Objectives and Guidelines
- Transaction Summary Report
- Pension

Home Office Report
Secretary-Treasurer Savidge provided the Board with the following information:
- Recipients of the Ann (Shinal) Cichy Award and the Lynda (Posivak) Mohlenhoff Memorial Award.
- Damage to the ceiling in the office from rain.
- Advertising

President Kluchinski provided a Home Office report on the following:
- Campaign
- Guaranteed Issue
- Dividend Checks

Convention
The Board was provided with information on the convention schedule, task list, and budget.

Unfinished Business
The Board was provided with an update to the Employee Handbook for the Board of Directors manual.

Strategic Plan
The Board was provided with updates to the Strategic Plan.

New Business
The Board was provided and discussed the following:
- Dividend Resolution
- Term to 25
- Annuity Rate
- Branch Deposit Program

Officer Reports
The Board was provided quarterly reports from the following:
- Spiritual Advisor Rev. Robert Seeman
- Vice President Anita Gregory
- Chairperson of Trustees Mary Ann Ewasko
- Trustees – Dolores Evanko, Joan Hladek, Margaret Jollimore, and James Yocum

Compliance Update
The Board was provided information on the NAIC Annuity Standard of Care Model Act.

Local/State and National Alliance Meetings
Trustee Joan Hladek provided the Board with a report from the American Fraternal Alliance meeting held May 28-30, 2019.

Calendar of Events
The Board was provided and reviewed the Calendar of Events.

Good of the Union
The Board discussed and acknowledged the request from the Tamburitzans, a multicultural song and dance group.

Fraternal Agent Agreement
The Board was provided and reviewed the Fraternal Agent Agreement and made minor changes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jo Savidge
National Secretary-Treasurer

Get involved in the LPSCU
Meet new friends!
Attend Branch & Okres meetings!
Sign up a new member!
Branch 39 Holds
Mass and Breakfast

Members of LPSCU Branch 39, Hazle Township, Pennsylvania, attended Mass together on Sunday, September 22, at 8:15 a.m. at the Church of Saint Joseph, Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish in Hazleton, Pennsylvania. Following the liturgy, members from Branch 39, Branch 60, and Branch 124 enjoyed a breakfast buffet at Four Blooms Restaurant, 668 North Hunter Highway, Drums, Pennsylvania. Candice Cilvik was the guest speaker at the breakfast and provided information on the Liberty Mutual insurance discount program, which is an LPSCU fraternal benefit.

This was a Matching Fund event and donations totaling $200 were received. The contributions, along with a $100 matching grant from the LPSCU Home Office, were given to the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pennsylvania, in support of their mission of evangelization, education, elder care, and ecumenism.
The LPSCU Flexible Annuity is a flexible-premium, deferred annuity that accepts ongoing deposits of as little as $100 per month.

An annuity is a long-term investment where the interest earned is accumulated and compounded.

Annuities are used to supplement retirement income, whereby at some point you stop paying into the annuity and start taking out.

Upon maturity, LPSCU offers a number of distribution options, giving our members the convenience of selecting the one that is best suited for them.

LPSCU’s competitive interest rate is reviewed quarterly by the Board of Directors; however, your rate will never go below the guaranteed minimum rate established by the annuity contract.

You can become a member of the LPSCU by purchasing an annuity and you can own an annuity regardless of your health status.

Deposits can be made at your convenience!

Minimum deposit is $100.00.

After the sixth year, there is no LPSCU penalty on annuity withdrawals.

If the annuitant dies prior to settlement, funds on deposit are payable directly to the named beneficiary(ies).

Settlement Options:
- Payment of a specified amount.
- Payments for a specified period.
- Life Annuity.

Payment options can be monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually, depending upon your needs.

Prior to settlement, annuitant may withdraw the Cash Surrender Value at any time; however, the minimum withdrawal amount is $250.00.

NOTE: Withdrawals taken prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10% Early Withdrawal Penalty by the Internal Revenue Service.
LPSCU Branch 60 held a breakfast and Matching Fund event in conjunction with the LPSCU Matching Fund program. The breakfast took place on Sunday, August 25, at Four Blooms Restaurant in Drums, Pennsylvania. Sixteen members and eight guests enjoyed a delicious breakfast buffet.

The highlight of the gathering was two guests from Prešov, Slovakia, Petra Bačinská and her husband, Matúš Bačinský. Petra was happy to talk to everyone and answer questions as she told us stories about her small village of five hundred people. She shared many of their customs and traditions and we in turn told her some of the Slovak traditions we still carry on from our ancestors who came from Slovakia. It was a wonderful experience for all of us as we could relate to some of the stories told to us by our own parents and grandparents. We would like to thank Pat and Val Genetti for bringing this great couple to our event.

Five lucky winners went home with gift cards, a fall wreath, and a Halloween pumpkin, all of which were raffled off by LPSCU Branch 60 Secretary-Treasurer Anita Gregory. Branch 60 also received donations from members and guests attending the event. Combined with Branch 60’s donation and the LPSCU’s Matching Fund contribution, a total of $325 was raised for this project, which will benefit United Children’s Home in West Hazleton, Pennsylvania. There are fifteen boys in residence at the home so a portion of the money raised was used to purchase movie tickets so the children could enjoy a day out. They were so excited and grateful for the donation. Thank you to all who supported our Branch project.

Accepting Branch 60’s Matching Fund donation is Jill Zapotocky (second from left), executive director of the Children’s Home, with four of the residents of the home. Branch 60 Secretary-Treasurer Anita Gregory (third from right) presents the donation, along with Branch 60 member Gabriella Kupsho (second from right) and Diane Kupsho (far right).

**Illinois and Indiana Branches Schedule Fall Meetings**

The Illiana District, encompassing LPSCU Branches from Illinois and Indiana as well as any LPSCU members living in those areas, has scheduled the following end-of-year meetings:

- Business Lunch, Saturday, November 16, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. at Manny’s Deli in Chicago, Illinois
- Annual Lunch Social, Saturday, December 28, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. at Uncle Julio’s in Naperville, Illinois

Any LPSCU member living in the area is welcome to attend. Call Joan Hladek at 815-895-0431 for reservations or more information.

**Rev. Dianiska District to Hold Christmas Party**

The annual Christmas party of the Reverend Dianiska District will be held on Sunday, December 1, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. The event will take place at Genetti Hotel and Conference Center, Market Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Branch 6 will host. Please call Mary Ann Ewasko at 570-823-6432 by November 13th to make your reservation.
For the 96th year, Slovaks in western Pennsylvania gathered at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin to celebrate their ancestral heritage. This year’s event was held on Thursday, July 18, continuing the tradition of holding the gathering on the third Thursday in July. The day was filled with games, authentic Slovak foods, cultural and fraternal displays, and entertainment.

The festivities were held in the picnic area of the park and began with games for the children. The line for the Slovak Kitchen was steady all day long. The kitchen served stuffed cabbage, kielbasa, haluski, pierogies, paskas, and cherigl, all handmade by the hardworking volunteers. Music in the kitchen area was provided by George Batyi.

The LPSCU had a display table filled with pamphlets on all of the service offerings and giveaways for adults and children alike. A special thank you to Sylvia Goda and Celeste Palscy for manning the table.

Entertainment was provided by the Junior Pittsburgh Slovaksians, PAS Junior Dance Group, PAS Dance Ensemble, and the Pittsburgh Slovaksians. Festival-goers of all ages enjoyed the Slovak music, sing-along, and dancing.

A Eucharistic Celebration was held at the main pavilion concelebrated by priests of the Pittsburgh, Greensburg, and Altoona-Johnstown dioceses and the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy. The organist was Leonard Potemra and the cantors were Karen Humphrey and Mauro Word. LPSCU Pittsburgh District President Dolores Sakal was the reader. David Palscy, Jr. was an altar server.

A roller coaster this year for those who were brave enough to take a ride. The “Steel Curtain” had been open less than a week so the lines were long throughout the day. Riders enjoyed a maximum speed of 75 mph with heights reaching 220 feet!

A special thank you to the Slovak Day kitchen workers and prep team from the Pittsburgh District who worked tirelessly to make all of the delicious Slovak entrees: Dolores Sakal, Gerri Kallay, Sylvia Goda, Margaret Joscak, Mary Hockel, Helen Lorinc, and Florence Matta.

A fun day was had by all who attended and everyone is looking forward to next year’s Slovak Day at Kennywood.
Msgr. Beedu District Goes to the Theater

On Friday, August 2, members of the Msgr. Beeda District headed to the Pennsylvania Theater of Performing Arts in downtown Hazleton, Pennsylvania. Fourteen members and three guests enjoyed an evening performance of the musical “Newsies.” The all-star cast from across northeast Pennsylvania was absolutely amazing! They really did a great job.

“Newsies” is based on the real-life Newsboy Strike of 1899. The Disney musical tells the story of Jack Kelly, a rebellious newsboy who dreams of a life as an artist away from the big city. After a publishing agent raises newspaper prices at the newsboys’ expense, Kelly and his fellow newsies take action.

It really was a joy to see so many talented young people on stage. Our group couldn’t say enough about how they enjoyed the performance and they hope to go see another show.


“Newsies” cast member Michael Ecker, who played the character Davey, poses with Msgr. Beeda District members and guests.

2019 Annual SS.C.M. Appeal

| Name _______________________________________________ |
| Address  _____________________________________________ |
| City ________________________ State ______ Zip__________ |
| Amount   $______________ |

Please make check payable to Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to:
Rev. Thomas A. Nasta
First Vice President, Slovak Catholic Federation
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
120 Jefferson Street
Swedesburg, PA 19405

2019 SS.C.M. Appeal Update

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 41st year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day to day operations. Today, the Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors, in addition to collections taken up in various parishes of Slovak ancestry.

As of August 31, $29,721.73 has been received from 159 donors. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2019 Appeal but who did not receive a solicitation letter in January is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article. Mail 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, 2019, will be credited toward the 2020 Appeal.

Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Margas, founding pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. 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, Ohio. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdovic, V.F., supreme chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, Pennsylvania. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, national chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Swedesburg, Pennsylvania, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

Morning Star contributors, send items to: zornicka@lpscu.org
**Lehigh Valley Okres to Hold Matching Fund Event**

The Lehigh Valley Okres will hold a Matching Fund event during its Holiday Luncheon on Sunday, December 15, 2019. The event will be held for the benefit of the Carmelite Monastery located in Coopersburg, Pennsylvania. We ask our members to donate a gift card or gift basket for this benefit. If you are unable to attend the Holiday Luncheon, kindly call Jean Kosalko at 610-838-8940 to make arrangements for delivery of your Matching Fund donation.

**Marge and John Ferri Donate Items to LPSCU**

President Theresa Kluchinski and Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge recently visited with past LPSCU Public Relations Director Margaret (Marge) Ferri and her husband, John.

In addition to enjoying the social visit, Marge was pleased to donate to the Home Office some items received by the Lehigh Valley Okres over the years. These included four Join Hands Day Awards that the Okres received in 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2008.

Join Hands Day awards have been presented by the American Fraternal Alliance for many years, but only a handful of fraternal organizations have received these awards. The LPSCU’s Lehigh Valley Okres, through the hard work and volunteerism of its officers and members, has received this award on numerous occasions.

Though retired from her Public Relations Director post, Marge continues to be a very active Branch and District member. The LPSCU would like to thank Marge for everything she has done and continues to do for the LPSCU and also John for his help and support of Marge’s work with our organization.

**Christmas Oplatky Order Yours Now**

Oplatky, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers, will be available this holiday season from Jankola Library. Orders will be accepted from October 21 until December 18, 2019.

Thermal-sealed in packs of five, the oplatky can be purchased for $5.00 per pack. In addition, the minimum cost of priority shipping and handling is $8.00 and upward, depending upon the number of packs ordered. Customized requests can be filled to meet your needs. Payment to Jankola Library is expected before orders are shipped.

For more information or to place an order, contact Sister Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SS.C.M. at 570-275-5606 or write to Jankola Library and Slovak Museum, 1002 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

**Sarah Grace Bobeck Receives Margaret Sabol Scholarship Award**

The LPSCU is pleased to announce that Sarah Grace Bobeck of Allentown, Pennsylvania, a member of Branch 130, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, has been selected as the first recipient of the Margaret Sabol Scholarship Award. Sarah is attending Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, majoring in Biology. She is a 2019 graduate of Salisbury High School, located in Allentown.

Some of Sarah’s activities while in high school included: National Honor Society, Student Government Advisory, Class Advisory, and Peer Mediation. Sarah was a champion member of Salisbury’s swim team, a school record holder, district champion in several events, a state qualifier, team co-captain, and two-time MVP. She was also a member of Salisbury’s field hockey and soccer teams. At Gettysburg College, Sarah is a member of the swim team and is looking forward to pledging a sorority next year.

As part of the application materials needed to be considered for this award, Sarah had to write an essay on “Why this degree is important to me.” She succinctly answered with the word “Teeth.” She went on to explain that her long term goal is to become a dentist or orthodontist and she wants to explore the possibility of re-growing a tooth.

Sarah is the daughter of Brian and Heather Bobeck. Sarah’s parents, as well as many other family members, including her grandparents, Dan and Helen Bobeck, are members of Bethlehem Branch 83.

The Margaret Sabol Scholarship Award was established in Margaret’s memory through the generosity of Margaret’s daughter. The award is given annually to an LPSCU member who is attending college full time pursuing a degree in Science (including Medical Science). It is with great pride that the LPSCU announces Sarah Grace Bobeck as the 2019 recipient of the Margaret Sabol Scholarship Award. Congratulations, Sarah!
The LPSCU has an economical and beneficial 5 Payment Life Insurance Plan for anyone from age 0 through 80. Under this plan, there is a minimum purchase of life insurance. For ages 0-70, the minimum purchase is $5,000; for ages 71-80, the minimum purchase is $2,000. Premiums are payable for five (5) years from issue date. If the insured dies within the 5-year period following the issue date, no additional premiums are due and payable, and the face amount of the certificate is paid to the named beneficiary/ies, except as provided within the contract regarding Suicide and Contestability.

The plan allows for premium payments to be made monthly, quarterly, semiannually, or annually. The certificate becomes fully paid at the end of five (5) years, and coverage remains in full force and effect for the entire life of the insured without any additional premium payments required. Upon the death of the insured, the face amount of the certificate is paid to the insured’s named beneficiary/ies.

A member with a 5 Payment Life Plan is entitled to all fraternal benefits of the LPSCU including educational awards, youth and adult activities, newborn benefits, prescription discount card, official publication, and discount car rental.

The 5 Payment Life Plan is perfect for both youth and adults – especially anyone who prefers to have their life insurance paid within five years.

During these unstable economic times, the 5 Payment Life Plan offered by the LPSCU is economical and beneficial for estate planning and can especially help with the high cost of funeral expenses.

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

Listed below are the Annual and Monthly Premium Schedules for the 5 Payment Life Insurance Plan. The premiums listed are based on $1,000 of life insurance coverage. Semi-annual and quarterly premium rates are also available by contacting your Branch Secretary or the Home Office.

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5 PAYMENT LIFE ANNUAL AND MONTHLY PREMIUM RATES PER $1,000
Based on 2001 CSO Male and Female Mortality Tables — Based on Age at Last Birthday
Rev. Robert Seeman Marks 40th Anniversary of Ordination

LPSCU Spiritual Advisor Reverend Robert Seeman celebrated his 40th Anniversary of Ordination on September 1, 2019. The 40th Jubilee Celebration Liturgy was held at St. Benedict the Abbot Church in McMurray, Pennsylvania. A number of LPSCU Board members were among those well-wishers attending the joyful event.

Branch 39 Members Enjoy Evening at the Ballpark

LPSCU Branch 39 sponsored an evening at the ballpark to see the New York Yankees Triple-A affiliate Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders on Friday, August 30. Branch 39 members and their guests attended the game on what was a beautiful summer evening.

The RailRiders battled against the Buffalo Bisons at PNC Field in Moosic, Pennsylvania. They came up short, losing 7-8, but almost won the game with a three-run ninth inning rally. Members who arrived at the game early took home a Scranton/Wilkes-Barre 30th Anniversary Season commemorative beer stein. The game was followed by a thrilling fireworks display.

A Matching Fund project was held as part of the event. Attending LPSCU members donated $100 and Branch 39 made an additional donation of $100. Along with the Matching Fund donation of $100 from the Home Office, a total of $300 was raised. The donation will be given to St. Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio, to sustain the Abbey and support its general needs.

Pictured below are some Branch 39 members and their guests enjoying the game.

Remember to notify the Home Office if your address changes!

In Memoriam

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

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<tr>
<td>Anna Sutherland</td>
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*Multiple certificates

Congratulating Rev. Robert Seeman (third from right) are LPSCU officers, L-R: Trustee Margaret Jollimore, Trustee Dolores Evanko, Vice President Anita Gregory, President Theresa Kluchinski, and Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge.
President Theresa Kluchinski called the meeting to order and offered a prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Attendees were: Theresa Kluchinski, president; Anita Gregory, vice president; Mary Jo Savidge, secretary-treasurer; and Mary Ann Ewasko, chairperson of trustees.

The committee reviewed and accepted the Minutes from the June 4, 2019, Executive Finance Committee meeting.

**Correspondence/Requests**

The committee acknowledged the correspondence read and approved the following:

- **Request from the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance for a charitable donation to Crabtree Kovacicek Veterans House City Mission. Approved $100.00.**
- **NNYFA requesting an ad for the 86th Annual Convention program. Approved a $100.00 ad.**
- **Times Leader requesting an ad in the Times Leader, Abington Journal, and Sunday Dispatch. Approved full page ad at $274.00.**
- **St. Andrew Abbey requesting an ad for its Fall Fest. Approved $500.00 ad.**
- **President Kluchinski suggested a gift for Spiritual Advisor Rev. Robert Seeman who is celebrating his 40th Anniversary of Ordination into the priesthood. Approved an appropriate gift.**
- **President Kluchinski suggested a gift for the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius’ 100 Year Celebration. Approved $100.00.**

The committee approved the following donations if received before the next meeting:

- **Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh donation for the Children’s Hospital Drive. Approved $100.00.**
- **Fraternal Societies of Northeast Pennsylvania donation to Domestic Violence for Make a Difference Day. Approved $100.00.**

**Financial Statement**

The committee reviewed the following checking accounts: M&T Bank – General Operating Account – The Outstanding Checklist for the M&T General Operating Account for May, June, and July 2019; the Morgan Stanley Smith Barney Checking Account for May, June, and July 2019 and the Home Office – Branch Deposit Account.

The committee reviewed the June 30, 2019, Quarterly Report and the Profit & Loss/Balance Sheet for May, June, and July 2018. The committee also reviewed graphs which provide a snapshot of the financial statement.

**Bond/Stock/Pension Portfolio**

The committee was provided and reviewed all activity from May, June, and July 2019, including Common Stocks, Preferred Stocks, and International Bonds. The Employee Retirement Plan was also reviewed.

**Home Office**

Secretary-Treasurer Savidge reported the following: The Home Office sustained water damage to the ceiling in different parts of the building from all the recent rain in the area. A roofing company was called and they cleaned out the blocked drains that were causing the damage. We contracted with Dino Disler to put sealant on the ceiling areas affected and to paint those areas.

We have started advertising in various diocesan newspapers and will look into advertising on billboards.

**Budget**

The committee was provided and reviewed the budget through July 2019.

**Other Business**

The committee conducted the random drawing for the following scholarships:

- **Ann (Shinal) Cichy Award – Two applications were received. Gabriella Kupsho is the recipient.**
- **The Lynda (Posivak) Mohlenhoff Memorial Award – Four applications were received. Veronica Martinik is the recipient.**

**Meeting Dates**

The next meeting will be November 20, 2019. There being no further business, the EFC adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

**Mary Jo Savidge**
National Secretary-Treasurer

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**Minutes of the Executive Finance Committee**

**August 20, 2019 Home Office, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania**

Members of the Rev. Dianiska District will hold a Special Gifts Raffle at their Christmas Party on Sunday, December 1, 2019. The event will be held in conjunction with the LPSCU’s Matching Fund Program and will benefit the Catherine McAuley Center.

Since 1984, the Catherine McAuley Center has been providing a temporary shelter for women and children in crisis. The Center offers a Family Support Program, 30 Day Emergency Housing, Transitional Housing, and a Women Leaving Prison Program. The Catherine McAuley Center is located at 121 Church Street in Plymouth, Pennsylvania. For further information on the Catherine McAuley Center, call 570-779-2801 or visit their website at www.catherinemcauleycenter.org.

We are asking our District members (or any LPSCU member) to support our project by donating a gift or by attending the Christmas Party. All donated gifts, valued at a minimum of $10.00, will be raffled off at the party. For further information, please contact Mary Ann Ewasko at 570-823-6432.

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Msgr. Beeda District Holds Pizza Party

Members of the Msgr. Beeda District avoided the summer heat for a few hours at Vesuvio’s Restaurant in Drums, Pennsylvania, on Friday, July 19. Twelve members and four guests attended the event. Everyone enjoyed an evening of fun, food, and camaraderie.

Clockwise from left are Jim Sharpe, Clare Sharpe, Diane Kupsho, John Gregory, Jack Guza, Mary Ann Litchcock, and Dolores Evanko.

Msgr. Beeda District members enjoy a night out at Vesuvio’s Restaurant.

Have Any News?

We welcome any news concerning honors, awards, or outstanding achievements received by our members, life events of our members (confirmations, graduations, weddings, promotions, etc.), news on a Branch or District social, or any letters, articles, or information of interest to our members.

Contact Debby McKinley, Public Relations Director
39 Lafayette Avenue, Tamaqua, PA 18252
or email zornicka@lpscu.org

Msgr. Beeda District to Hold Matching Fund Project

The Msgr. Beeda District will be holding a Hershey’s Chocolate fundraising project in conjunction with the LPSCU Matching Fund program. The District will be selling assorted Hershey candy bars for $1.00 each. The sale will take place at Saints Cyril and Methodius Church on North Laurel Street in Hazleton, Pennsylvania. Candy will be available after all the Masses on the weekend of December 7 and 8, 2019. The proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit United Children’s Home in West Hazleton, Pennsylvania. With the money we raise, we hope to purchase movie tickets for the children as well as Christmas gifts. Please come out and support this worthwhile project!

LPSCU Board Visits NSS Life Heritage Museum

On September 13, 2019, the LPSCU Board of Directors held its Semi-annual Meeting at the Hilton Doubletree Pittsburgh Meadows Land in Washington, Pennsylvania, site of the LPSCU’s 2020 National Convention. While the Board was in western Pennsylvania, David Blazek, president and CEO of NSS Life, invited board members to tour the NSS Life Heritage Museum which is located at the Home Office of NSS Life in McMurray, Pennsylvania.

We were greeted at the front door and were provided a tour of the museum by Sue Ondrejco, NSS Life director and the museum’s curator. President Blazek and NSS Board Chair Joseph Stefka accompanied us on our visit. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and conversation at Palazzo 1837 Ristorante.

Thank you to Dave, Fran, Joe, Annette, and Sue for their hospitality extended to LPSCU board members and their families while visiting Pittsburgh.

The LPSCU is proud to announce that Gabriella Marie Kupsho of Drums, Pennsylvania, a member of Branch 60, West Hazleton, Pennsylvania, has been selected as this year's recipient of the Anne (Shinal) Cichy Memorial Award. Gabriella is currently attending Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, majoring in Biomedical Engineering with plans to continue her studies at Drexel College of Medicine to become an interventional cardiologist. She graduated from MMI Preparatory School located in Freeland, Pennsylvania, in 2018.

At Drexel, Gabriella has been named to the Dean’s List each semester and is a member of both the Pennoni Honors College and Society of Women Engineers. She is also a Peer Mentor and was assigned to mentor three freshmen in her major. Gabriella attended Drexel’s Alternative Spring Break Experience over her spring break last year when she traveled to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to help repair and rebuild houses for Hurricane Katrina victims who are still displaced from their homes. Most recently, Gabriella participated in the Drexel Students Tackle Advanced Research (STAR) Scholars Program, where she spent ten weeks during her summer working in Dr. Amy Throckmorton’s pediatric cardiology lab.

Gabriella is also a past recipient of the following LPSCU awards: Youth Achievement Award, Lynda (Posivak) Mohlenhoff Memorial Award, and Life Insurance Award.

She is the daughter of Dr. Robert and Diane Kupsho. Her brother, RJ Kupsho, and godmother, Anita Gregory, are also members of Branch 60, West Hazleton.

The Anne (Shinal) Cichy Memorial Award was established through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Francis A. Shinal. Anne was the LPSCU’s first Public Relations Director. The award is given to an LPSCU member pursuing a degree in the healthcare field. It is with great pride that the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union announces Gabriella Marie Kupsho as the 2019 recipient of the Anne (Shinal) Cichy Memorial Award. Congratulations, Gabriella!

Team Building Exercise at LPSCU Headquarters

On August 6, 2019, the LPSCU invited employees and board members to join in on a team building exercise. The activity, sponsored by Erin Frank of Love Birks Wreaths, LLC, had each of us make our own fall wreath.

Participating in the creative session were President Theresa Kluchinski, Vice President Anita Gregory, Secretary-Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge, Home Office employee Judith Rinker, and Trustee Dolores Evanko. They are pictured below with their fall creations.

Join Father Bob Seeman for a trip to THE HOLY LAND
SEPTEMBER 13-22, 2020

$4,699 per person from Pittsburgh based on double occupancy

Tel Aviv · Caesarea · Stella Maris (Haifa) · Nazareth · Cana · Tiberias · Sea of Galilee · Mt. Tabor · Jericho · Jordan River · Jerusalem · Temple Model · Ein Karem · Bethlehem · Bethany · Dead Sea · Gethsemane · Mt. Zion (Upper Room) · Western Wall · Via Dolorosa · Holy Sepulchre

For more information: www.pilgrimages.com/frseeman/holyland

Have more questions? Call Cara at 1-800-206-TOUR (8687) or e-mail Cara@206tours.com.
Cooking Corner

SMACNY KOLAC
(Railroad Cake)

3 cups flour  1 cup oleo
½ cup sugar     1 egg
Pinch of salt   ½ cup sour cream
1½ tsp. baking powder  ½ tsp. vanilla
2 tsp. baking soda    Lekvar or apricot butter

Work the first six ingredients like pie crust. Add the remaining ingredients. Save small amount of dough for latticework. Roll out dough to fit 9 x 13 pans. Spread with lekvar or apricot butter. Place lattice on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes. Cut into squares.

In our September/October Cooking Corner recipe for Football Stew, 1 can of cream of mushroom soup was listed twice. Please eliminate the second listing as it is only necessary to use one can. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.
Mayflower Myths

The Mayflower brought the group of English settlers now known as the Pilgrims to North America. Leaving England in the fall of 1620, the Pilgrims were attempting to land near the mouth of the Hudson River, but instead ended up in Cape Cod Harbor. Plymouth, the colony established there by the Pilgrims in 1621, became the first permanent European settlement in New England. The story of the Pilgrims and their harvest feast has since become one of the best-known in American history, but you may not know it as well as you think. Discover the facts behind these well-known Thanksgiving myths!

Myth: The first Thanksgiving was in 1621 and the pilgrims celebrated it every year thereafter.
Fact: The first feast wasn’t repeated, so it wasn’t the beginning of a tradition. In fact, the colonists didn’t even call the day Thanksgiving. To them, a thanksgiving was a religious holiday in which they would go to church and thank God for a specific event, such as the winning of a battle. On such a religious day, the types of recreational activities that the pilgrims and Wampanoag Indians participated in during the 1621 harvest feast—dancing, singing secular songs, playing games—wouldn’t have been allowed. The feast was a secular celebration, so it never would have been considered a thanksgiving in the pilgrims’ minds.

Myth: The pilgrims wore only black and white clothing. They had buckles on their hats, garments, and shoes.
Fact: Buckles did not come into fashion until later in the seventeenth century and black and white were commonly worn only on Sunday and formal occasions.

Myth: The pilgrims brought furniture with them on the Mayflower.
Fact: The only furniture that the pilgrims brought on the Mayflower was chests and boxes. They constructed wooden furniture once they settled in Plymouth.

1. Thanksgiving is held on the final Thursday of November each year.
   Fiction. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln designated the last Thursday in November as a national day of thanksgiving. However, in 1939, after a request from the National Retail Dry Goods Association, President Franklin Roosevelt decreed that the holiday should always be celebrated on the fourth Thursday of the month in order to extend the holiday shopping season by a week.

2. One of America’s Founding Fathers thought the turkey should be the national bird of the United States.
   Fact. In a letter to his daughter sent in 1784, Benjamin Franklin suggested that the wild turkey would be a more appropriate national symbol for the newly independent United States than the bald eagle (which had earlier been chosen by the Continental Congress). He argued that the turkey was "a much more respectable Bird," "a true original Native of America," and "though a little vain and silly, a Bird of Courage."

3. In 1863, Abraham Lincoln became the first American president to proclaim a national day of thanksgiving.
   Fiction. George Washington, John Adams and James Madison all issued proclamations urging Americans to observe days of thanksgiving, both for general good fortune and for particularly momentous events.

4. Fact or Fiction: Macy’s was the first American department store to sponsor a parade in celebration of Thanksgiving.
   Fiction. The Philadelphia department store Gimbel’s had sponsored a parade in 1920, but the Macy’s parade, launched four years later, soon became a Thanksgiving tradition and the standard kickoff to the holiday shopping season.

~ History.com Editors
Christmas Tree Trivia

Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since about 1850. The tallest living Christmas tree is believed to be the 122-foot, 91-year-old Douglas fir in the town of Woodinville, Washington.

34 to 36 million Christmas trees are produced each year and 95 percent are shipped or sold directly from Christmas tree farms.

The best selling trees are Scotch Pine, Douglas Fir, Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir, and White Pine.

More than 1,000,000 acres of land have been planted with Christmas trees.

77 million Christmas trees are planted each year.

Christmas trees generally take 6-8 years to mature.

Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states including Hawaii and Alaska.

California, Oregon, Michigan, Washington, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina are the top Christmas tree producing states.

Most Christmas trees are cut weeks before they get to a retail outlet.

In the first week, a tree in your home will consume as much as a quart of water per day.

Other types of trees such as cherry and hawthorns were used as Christmas trees in the past.

~ History.com Editors

Christmas Traditions

According to the Gospel of Luke, the shepherds were the first to be notified of the birth of God’s son by the angels. Bethlehem strollers (Jasličkari) retell this story in Slovakia.

The Christmas tree first appeared in Slovakia in the 19th century.

Nativity scenes began to appear in the 13th century in Slovakia and were made mostly from wood.

The tradition of giving presents started in approximately the 16th century in Slovakia. The Infant Jesus (Ježiško) brings the presents.

Hey Kids ~

Watch your mailboxes for a special invitation to participate in the LPSCU Christmas Coloring Contest! Everyone's a winner (from first place to honorable mention), so send in your entries by December 31, 2019, to claim your prize!
A Matching Funds Project

LPSCU Branch 213 Christmas Fundraiser
All proceeds benefit St. Andrew’s Parish Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

- 24” Wreath - Douglas Fir with Boxwood Accents .... $13.00
- Stand ............................................................. $ 4.00

With Choice of Bow:
Red Velvet  ♦ Burgundy Velvet  ♦ Red & Green Plaid

Fundraiser is being held in conjunction with
Decker Florist, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Two Pick-up Dates:
- December 8th - St. Andrew’s Parish in Wilkes-Barre (10-11 a.m.)
- December 9th - LPSCU Home Office in Wilkes-Barre

Delivery of items can be arranged with LPSCU Branch 213 Secretary/Treasurer.
Anyone interested in ordering should contact Branch 213 Secretary/Treasurer Theresa Kluchinski at 570-829-5410 or 570-817-4657 (call or text).

Payment must accompany order.

Branch 83 Presents Matching Fund Check

On August 7, 2019, LPSCU Branch 83 presented a $100 Matching Fund check from the LPSCU Home Office to the officers of Incarnation of Our Lord Parish Senior Group. Margaret A. Ferri, president of Branch 83, presented the check to Irene Vidumsky, president of the Senior Group, prior to the group’s meeting at the church social hall in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. President Vidumsky was delighted to receive the check and expressed sincere thanks to the LPSCU on behalf of the seniors.

Branch 83 President Margaret A. Ferri (center) presents a Matching Fund check to Incarnation of Our Lord Parish Senior Group President Irene Vidumsky (second from left) as Senior Group Treasurer Michael Vidumsky (far left), Vice President Rosemarie Csaszar (second from right) and Secretary Josephine Zavecy (far right) look on.