



1898-2007

Special Olympics Benefits From LVO Join Hands Day Excellence Award



In early March of last year, the LPSCU's Lehigh Valley Okres invited Special Olympics from the city of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to participate in its Join Hands Day project. Approximately 30 Special Olympians and their parents teamed with Lehigh Valley Okres members for an "Old-Fashioned May Day Celebration" on Join Hands Day, May 6, 2006.

The event began at 1:00 p.m. with miniature golf at Two T's Golf Range in Easton, Pennsylvania. Prizes were awarded to four lucky golfers who had a "hole-in-one." Following the golfing, there was an old-fashioned May Day celebration. A May pole decorated with colorful streamers was erected for the participants to dance around to music. There was also a cake walk at which lucky winners received a cake, and a peanut scramble with winners awarded silver dollars.



Lehigh Valley Okres officers with representatives from Special Olympics are: President Jean Kosalko (seated) and standing, from left, Treasurer Margaret A. Ferri, Special Olympians Marianne Sopko and Duane Brown, Bethlehem Special Olympics Manager Louise Tusak, and Secretary Mary Shannon.

At 3:00 p.m., everyone was treated to sandwiches, chips, cookies, ice cream, and soda. At the event's 4:00 p.m. conclusion, all received a bag of candy treats to take home.

This proved to be a most successful project for both the Lehigh Valley Okres and the participants. At the Annual Meeting of the National Fraternal Congress of America held this past September, the LVO was named one of 10 JHD Excellence Award winners, selected from among thousands of projects. As an Excellence Award winner, the Okres received a \$1,000 monetary gift and a beautifully engraved glass plaque.

(continued on page 9)

In This Issue

Spiritual Advisor's Message	3	2007 LPSCU Educational Benefits . .	10
Branch and Okres News	4-5	Cooking Corner	11
LPSCU Book Buy Program	6	Member Scores Hole-in-One	11
Youth Achievement Award	6	SLA Hosts Slovakia Tour	12
Letters	6	Fraternalist of the Year Wanted	12
100th Anniversary of the SLA	7	In Memoriam	12
New Insurance Issued	7	SCF Annual Appeal Announced	13
Trustee Honored at Birthday Bash . . .	8	Roll the Dice Campaign	13
District Makes a Difference	8	Junior Branch Journal	14-15
Slovak Heritage Program Sponsored . .	9	YSC Plans Slovak Tour	16

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

- 9** — Deadline for members who reside in Illinois to apply for Illinois Fraternal Congress Scholarships and to nominate Illinois members as the IFC Adult and Youth Fraternalists of the Year.
- 20** — Executive Finance Committee Meeting, Home Office, 8:30 a.m.

MARCH

- 1** — Deadline for submitting your poster entry in our Earth Day Contest. *See page 16 for details.*
- 11** — Rev. Dianiska District Meeting at St. Stephen's Church Hall, Wadham Street, Plymouth, Pennsylvania, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Branches 37, 58, and 94 will host.
- 15** — Deadline for nominating a member as our 2007 LPSCU Fraternalist of the Year. *See page 12 for details.*
- 20** — Executive Finance Committee Meeting, Home Office, 8:30 a.m.
- 25** — Lehigh Valley Okres Meeting at St. John the Baptist Church Social Hall, 924 N. Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania, beginning at 1:30 p.m. All LPSCU members are welcome to attend.
- 31** — Deadline to apply for 2007 LPSCU College Scholarships and Ann (Shinal) Cichy Memorial Award. *See page 10 for details.*

APRIL

- 1** — Deadline for nominating a 13- to 18-year old member for the LPSCU's Youth Achievement Award. *See page 6 for details.*
- 12** — LPSCU Annual Audit
- 13-15** — LPSCU Annual Board Meeting
- 24** — Executive Finance Committee Meeting, Home Office, 8:30 a.m.

MAY

- 5** — Join Hands Day
- 6** — Lehigh Valley Okres Mother/Daughter Mass and Luncheon. Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, at 10:30 a.m. followed at noon by luncheon at the Best Western Lehigh Valley Conference Center. For luncheon reservations, call the Okres officers or your Branch Secretary. Reservation deadline is May 1.
- 6** — Rev. Dianiska District Meeting at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish Hall, 134 S. Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, beginning at **2:00 p.m.** (*Note time change for this meeting only.*) Branches 6 and 48 will host.
- 22** — Executive Finance Committee Meeting, Home Office, 8:30 a.m.

JUNE

- 1-3** — 100th Anniversary of the Slovak League of America. Celebrations in the New York area.
- 19** — Executive Finance Committee Meeting, Home Office, 8:30 a.m.
- 30** — Deadline to apply for 2007 Catholic High School Award and Bishop Grutka Award. *See page 10 for details.*

continued on page 11



(USPS 699-520)

ZORNICKA (Morning Star), a 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 Margaret A. Ferri, Public Relations Director, 428 E. Frankford Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. Articles must be received by the 25th of the month, five weeks prior to the issue date. Printed by Triangle Press, 6720 Allentown Blvd., Harrisburg, PA 17112.

Periodical Postage paid at Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701 and additional entries.

Subscription Rate: Members — free; non-members — \$15.00 per year.

Postmaster: Send address changes only to: Zornicka (Morning Star), Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, 71 South Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

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AT NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Spiritual Advisor's Message

Let Go of Those Twinkies!



Fr. Altavilla

Probably by the time you receive your February 2007 edition of *Zornicka*, we will be approaching the beginning of the holy season of Lent. Ash Wednesday this year falls on February 21st and again begins for us that 40 day time of grace which allows us to prepare, spiritually, to celebrate the great feast of Easter. Much like our New Year's Resolutions that we spoke of in last month's article, many of us, on Ash Wednesday, will set personal goals for ourselves. Of course, the challenge is to make sure that, with God's help and personal perseverance, we will follow through on those goals.

Each year, during Lent, the Church sets forth a special pattern for us in the readings that are proclaimed on the Sundays of Lent. This pattern is most especially experienced in the Gospel proclamations for each Sunday. For example, each year during Lent, the Gospel proclamation for the First Sunday of Lent takes us into the desert with Jesus for his fast of 40 days and 40 nights and his experience of being tempted by Satan. On the Second Sunday of Lent each year, we are taken along with Peter, James, and John up the mountain where we experience the Transfiguration of Jesus.

Deviations in the readings occur on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, especially if a parish is offering the RCIA process (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). A certain set of readings is set aside to be proclaimed in the event that there are those seeking to enter full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. If there are not, another set of readings is proclaimed.

For the First Sunday of Lent this year — February 25th — the story of Jesus' retreat in the desert and his temptations by Satan comes to us from Luke 4:1-13. Oftentimes in his Gospel, Saint Luke has Jesus "retreat" from the noise of everyday life so that he can spend time alone with his Father in prayer. It is obvious that these prayer-times are opportunities for Jesus to commune with his Father and to be energized by the Holy Spirit to carry on the mission that he was sent to accomplish, namely, our salvation! Immediately following his baptism in the Jordan River by his cousin John, Jesus is compelled by the Holy Spirit to go into the desert for a fast of 40 days and 40 nights, a time of spiritual preparation before he makes his public appearance in Israel. It is in the midst of this time of preparation that Satan also appears, trying to tempt or distract Jesus from the mission he is about to begin.

Lent is a wonderful opportunity to step aside from our busy, crazy, and noisy lives to recognize those temptations or distractions that Satan sends into our lives that try to knock us off course from our being partners with Jesus in the mission of making God's love known to the world. How, this year, can we perhaps more effectively use this holy season of Lent to name those distractions and, with God's grace, let go of them?

In the February 2007 issue of **Connections** (the newsletter of ideas, resources, and information for homilists and preachers) published by MediaWorks (7 Lantern Drive, Londonderry, NH 03053-3905), we are presented a great little story, encouraging us to find those distractions in our lives and then to have a willingness (or sadly, for some, an unwillingness) to let go of them.

A man steps onto the scale in his bathroom. "Darn," he says to his wife, "I started this diet yesterday, but the scale says that I'm heavier. Here, hold my robe...It still says I'm heavier! Here, hold my pajamas...Geez, I'm still heavier!" Finally, in desperation, the man says, "Here, honey, hold my Twinkies."

As Jay Cormier, the editor of **Connections**, notes: "Lent is a time to put down the 'Twinkies' that distract us from

becoming the people of God we are called to be, that weigh us down with unwanted and unhealthy pounds of cynicism and fear, that dull our tastes and senses to the compassion of God in our midst." (**Connections**, page 4). During the holy season of Lent, the Church

encourages us to utilize three special "tools" (or "marks") to help us but down the "Twinkies" that distract us.

Prayer. Simply defined, prayer is communicating with God. As Jesus went into the desert for 40 days and 40 nights to be in a special relationship with his Father, we proceed during this season of Lent working to build our relationship with the Father. Through our faithful attendance at Sunday Mass, our moments of daily prayer and reflection, and attending special Lenten devotions like "The Stations of the Cross" or other special spiritual activities, we can better center our lives on God's will for us. Sincere and honest prayer helps to transform and change us into the people we know the Father is calling us to be!

Fasting. Traditionally related to the idea of "giving up" something, Lenten fasting for some tends to focus on the giving up of "things" like cigarettes, candy, or other items that are perceived as unhealthy for one's physical well-being. While it certainly is a worthwhile personal goal to give up unhealthy "things," perhaps it would be more beneficial for us, spiritually, to give up unhealthy attitudes or habits which harm our relationship with God and possibly with others. This type of fasting before Easter allows us to use Lent as a time for deciding what we want our lives to be, what positive values we want to center our lives upon and which are truly important to God and to us.

Alms-giving. This mark of Lent helps us go outside of ourselves to help others in need through our acts of charity. Financial donations to Operation Rice Bowl, Catholic Social

Lent is a wonderful opportunity . . . to recognize those temptations or distractions that Satan sends into our lives that try to knock us off course . . .

continued on page 16

LEHIGH VALLEY OKRES

The Lehigh Valley Okres held its annual Holiday Luncheon on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at the Lehigh Room of the Best Western Lehigh Valley Conference Center in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. A punch reception commenced at noon, followed by the luncheon at 12:30 p.m.

Among the 62 individuals in attendance were honored guests Louise Tusak, manager of Bethlehem Special Olympics, and Duane Brown and Marianne Sopko, Special Olympians who participated in the District's Join Hands Day Special Olympics project earlier in the year.

LVO President Jean Kosalko extended a warm welcome to all present. She introduced our honored guests and offered a prayer before the meal. At the conclusion of the luncheon, President Kosalko introduced the Okres officers, Secretary Mary Shannon and Treasurer Margaret A. Ferri, and National officers, Fraternal Activities Director Cecilia Gaughan, Public Relations Director Margaret A. Ferri, and Honorary Vice President Mary Ann Ackerman. Also introduced were the officers of Allentown Branches 38/40, Bethlehem Branches 83/130, Hellertown Branch 196, and Northampton Branch 62. These branches comprise the Lehigh Valley Okres.

President Kosalko presented a check to Bethlehem Special Olympics through its representative, Louise Tusak, and thanked the organization for participating in our 2006 JHD project. Louise thanked the Okres for the donation and briefly discussed the good works of Special Olympics. Duane Brown also thanked the Okres for its generosity and presented a handmade Christmas Greeting to President Kosalko in appreciation of the support from Okres members.



Okres President Jean Kosalko (left) welcomes Anna Volna, a cousin of Okres member Valeria Lukish, from Malacky (a village near Bratislava), Slovakia, with a poinsettia plant and a kiss.



Young members with Santa Claus (John Anthony) are, L-R: Michael DeFazio, Nicholas Wingfield, Patrick Gaughan, Rachael Wingfield, Mary Beth Gaughan, Alexandra Wingfield, Molly Kerecz, Elizabeth Ackerman, Christopher Shannon, and guests Duane Brown and Marianne Sopko.

Entertainment was provided by nine Junior members who sang Christmas songs. As the youngsters were singing "Jingle Bells," much to their surprise, Santa Claus (in the person of John Anthony of Allentown) entered the room ringing jingle bells of his own. Santa walked around visiting with members, after which he greeted each youngster and handed out candycane-shaped containers filled with candies. He also presented a gift of a musical nutcracker to each boy and a bracelet watch to each girl.



Honored guest Duane Brown was delighted to meet Santa Claus.

Each attendee at the luncheon received a Christmas favor. Holiday prizes were chanced off and special prizes in the annual raffle were won by Stanley Grabias, John Ferri, Anthony Caraballo, Margaret Posivak, Susan Reiss, Julius Pekarik, Edward Lahovski, Annette Ackerman, and Jean Kosalko.

The group enjoyed singing Christmas carols in English and in Slovak prior to the conclusion of the festivities which closed with a Benediction offered by President Kosalko. A delightful time was had by all in attendance.



Santa with Lehigh Valley Okres officers and National officers, from left: Mary Ann Ackerman, Margaret A. Ferri, Mary Shannon (on Santa's knee), Jean Kosalko, and Ceil Gaughan.

REV. DIANISKA DISTRICT

Members of the Rev. Dianiska District held their annual Christmas party on Sunday, December 3, 2006, at A Touch of Class in Parson, Pennsylvania.

Debbie Adamchak welcomed the 65 members and their guests on behalf of host Branches 17 and 19 and Jean Kapral offered grace prior to everyone exchanging Christmas wishes by sharing *oplatky*. After a delicious family-style dinner, everyone enjoyed a games social.

Members and guests joined in a special gift raffle for this year's recipient, "Alex's Lemonade Stand." Everyone

attending also brought canned goods to be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen.

District President Mary Ann Ewasko announced that there were eight LPSCU College Scholarship awardees from our District. The District also presented a \$25 award to each of our College Scholarship recipients. In attendance to receive her award was Stephanie Stolarski-Swire of Branch 213, accompanied by her husband Tim and daughter Maddie. The other award recipients were: Samuel Siracuse, Branch 7; Lindsay Horvath, Branch 17; Marissa Druby, Branch 54; Jane Dahms, Branch 102; Mark Kavulich, Branch 151; Nicole Gill, Branch 213; and Sarah Witkowski, Branch 213. Sarah Kalish of Branch 7, a former College Award recipient, recently received the 2006 LPSCU Bishop Grutka Award.

President Ewasko stated that our members in nursing homes were remembered with poinsettia plants and that they and our honorary members were remembered with Christmas Novena Mass cards.

Mary Jo Savidge was the recipient of the special drawing for recommending a new member to her Branch Secretary.

National President Theresa Kluchinski offered Christmas greetings to everyone and installed the following District officers for 2007: Mary Ann Ewasko, president; Hope Napkora, vice president; Barbara Kalish, recording secretary; Debbie Adamchak, treasurer; Marge Zinkavich, financial secretary; and Susan Worth, publicity.

District members wish everyone a happy, healthy, and blessed new year!

Susan Worth



Newly installed District officers, from left: Susan Worth, publicity; Barbara Kalish, recording secretary; Mary Ann Ewasko, president; Hope Napkora, vice president; and Debbie Adamchak, treasurer.



One of the District's 2006 College Award recipients, Stephanie Stolarski-Swire (center) with her family, Branch officers of all the District's College Award recipients, and LPSCU and District officers.

FEBRUARY 2007



Members and guests at the District's Christmas party.



The Rev. Dianiska District has announced two upcoming meetings.

The last winter meeting will be held on March 11th at St. Stephen's Church Hall, Wadham Street, Plymouth, Pennsylvania. Branches 37, 58, and 94 will host. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m.

The first spring meeting will take place on May 6th at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish Hall, 134 S. Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m., which is a time change for this meeting only. Branches 6 and 48 will host.

Hope to see you there!

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Pittsburgh District members enjoyed their annual Christmas party on December 10th at the Edgewood Country Club, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where a delicious lunch was served. Thoughtful and generous members donated food for distribution by the McKees Rocks (Pennsylvania) Food Bank. A sing-along was led by entertainer Charlie Apple. Each District donated a raffle prize and many of the members contributed door prizes. Lovely table centerpieces, as well as three anonymously donated baskets full of miscellaneous goodies, went home with lucky winners. Everyone left with happy memories of another joyful Christmas get-together.

Sylvia Goda



Mary Ann Kaylor (left) and Helen Lorinc (right) enjoy the Pittsburgh District Christmas party with their mother, Mary Lorinc.

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

Letters

LPSCU Educational Book Buy Program

Beginning January 1, 2007, the LPSCU is introducing our newest Fraternal Benefit, the **LPSCU Educational Book Buy Program**. This award is in addition to any Educational Award you may have received from the LPSCU. The Book Buy Program will assist our members attending college by reimbursing 10% of their college book expenses.

How do you qualify? You need only to establish a **NEW 20 Payment Life or Whole Life Policy** during your freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior year of college. Premiums must be paid on an annual, semiannual, or quarterly basis and must be current for the member to be eligible for this program. You can submit an LPSCU Educational Book Buy Program Application each school year and receive a 10% refund on books purchased (limited to the amount paid for the annual premium on your 20 Payment Life or Whole Life Policy).

Example: A student age 21 purchases a \$10,000 20 Payment Life having an annual premium of \$124.00 (does not include administration fee). The student submits receipts totaling \$815.00 for book purchases. The benefit will reimburse the student \$81.50 (10% of the books purchased).

You may take advantage of this program for a maximum of four (4) years.

Simply complete the LPSCU Educational Book Buy Program Application and attach your book receipts. It's as simple as that! And, in addition to receiving this reimbursement, you are protected with valuable life insurance!

For an application, please contact the Home Office at 570/823-3513, toll free 888/834-6614, e-mail us at lpscu@lpscu.org or check our website at www.lpscu.org.

Dear LPSCU Members:

My sincere appreciation goes to each and every member of the LPSCU for the generous scholarship of \$300.00. I recently purchased a new laptop and the money will be used to pay it off. Your support of my continued education is appreciated beyond words. May God bless each of you as I have been blessed. Thank you again!

Sincerely,
Caryn Glassbrenner
Branch 64
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union,

Thank you so much for the academic scholarship for the 2006-2007 school year. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are greatly appreciated. Your gift has helped make this school year financially possible. Thanks again!

Sincerely,
Megan Nonnemacher
Branch 124
Hazleton, Pennsylvania

Let an outstanding youth know. . .

You Are Appreciated

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



To receive a Nomination Form, contact the Home Office at 570/823-3513 or toll free 888/834-6614; e-mail: lpscu@lpscu.org or visit our website: www.lpscu.org; or call Barbara Janicko at 412/367-1312. The deadline for nominations is **April 1, 2007**.

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

Dear Mary Jo,

I would just like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation and gratitude for the 2006 Scholarship Award. It will be put to good use. Thank you for your support.

I am sorry this thank you was delayed; I was away at school. Again, thank you very much for this honor.

Sincerely,
Nicole Ann Gill
Branch 213
Dallas, Pennsylvania

Dear Theresa A. Kluchinski,

I'm writing to thank you for the check for \$25.00 that I have recently received. It is greatly appreciated. It's nice to see that the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union is still going strong. It has helped a lot of our Slovak people at one of the greatest times of need. God bless all of you for your faithful efforts in keeping it alive.

Sincerely,
Mary A. Brazina
Branch 79
Whiting, Indiana

continued on page 11

Celebrating a Century of the Slovak Cause

By Daniel F. Tanzone

Two thousand seven marks an historic year in the life of the American Slovak community: The Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry, celebrates its 100th anniversary.

A century ago, the two greatest pioneer leaders of the Slovak community in the United States, the Rev. Stephen Furdek, founder of the First Catholic Slovak Union who also assisted in the founding of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, and Peter V. Rovnianek, founder of the National Slovak Society, the first Slovak fraternal to be organized, issued a call for a great mass gathering in Cleveland, Ohio, set for May 26, 1907.

Nearly 10,000 representatives of Slovak fraternal organizations, churches, cultural and civic institutions answered the call and gathered at Grey's Armory. It was the greatest manifestation of the Slovak American community to date. Nearly every city and hamlet in the Midwest and the Northeast where Slovak immigrants had settled were represented. The purpose of the gathering was to organize a great umbrella organization which would speak collectively on behalf of all American Slovaks, both those born in Slovakia and those born in the United States.

Advocating Freedom and Justice

A strong voice was needed to present the plight of the Slovak homeland, which was then one of the Slavic minorities of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In old Hungary, Slovaks were considered Slovak-speaking Hungarians by Budapest.

The Slovaks had endured more than a thousand years of Hungarian political domination. Beginning in the mid-19th century, Budapest inaugurated a new program known as Magyarization. Its plan was to make Hungarians out of the Slav minorities and in particular the Slovaks, who occupied upper Hungary. The names of cities, towns, rivers, streams, castles, and other historical landmarks, which had been a part of Slovak culture for a thousand years, were changed by law and given Magyar substitutes. Family names suffered the same fate as well. By persuasion, humiliation, or at times outright intimidation, more and more Slovak names disappeared and Magyar forms appeared in their place.

In 1898, the government decreed by law that all state and local officials Magyarize their names. Only those who claimed to be Hungarian were able to pursue higher education. Slovak newspapers were censored and the Slovak language was no longer taught in the schools. It was an intolerable situation and the Slovaks in America, who quickly learned to admire the freedom and justice enjoyed in their newly adopted land, wanted the same for their brethren in their ancestral homeland. The American Slovaks wanted to alert the world to the racial problems and oppressive regime of Budapest.

The American Slovak newspapers rallied to the cause and promoted the work of the Slovak League of America. In 1907, the circulation of Slovak language newspapers in the United States far exceeded those in Slovakia. Budapest closed the Matica Slovenska, the leading Slovak cultural and political

organization which had been founded in 1863, and suppressed newspapers which advocated a change in the political situation in Hungary.

Through its early efforts, the Slovak League of America became the rallying force of the Slovak nation. Those organizations affiliated with the League advocated freedom and justice for Slovaks at home. In their adopted homeland, American Slovaks found not only a new life but were also motivated by the patriotic zeal which gave birth to the United States in 1776. Inspired by American ideals, Slovaks here wanted their brethren at home to have the opportunity to determine their own national life. They felt that every nation, however large or small, should have the God-given right to self-determination and freedom.

~ To be continued ~

New Insurance Issued

State	Branch Representative	Current Month	Year-to-Date Total
PA	Theresa Kluchinski		\$ 173,000.00
PA	Cecilia B. Gaughan		\$ 138,000.00
PA	Mary Ann Ewasko		\$ 125,000.00
PA	Joan Ellen Frendak		\$ 104,000.00
PA	Dorothy Lichman		\$ 62,000.00
PA	Eleanor Papst		\$ 60,000.00
PA	Cecilia Sarocky	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 55,000.00
PA	Margaret A. Ferri		\$ 30,000.00
PA	Verna Prawdzik	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
PA	Deborah Adamchak		\$ 29,000.00
PA	Home Office		\$ 25,000.00
PA	James E. Tomasic	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 23,000.00
PA	Dolores Evanko	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 21,000.00
PA	Mary Ann Ackerman	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 17,000.00
IN	Amanda Kusbal		\$ 15,000.00
PA	Ann Tirpak		\$ 15,000.00
PA	Charles Simalchik		\$ 15,000.00
PA	Agnes M. Janinek		\$ 10,000.00
PA	Barbara Janicko		\$ 10,000.00
PA	Helen Arlotto		\$ 10,000.00
PA	Marion DiCalogero		\$ 10,000.00
PA	Helen Durica		\$ 8,000.00
PA	Theresa Olshemski		\$ 7,000.00
IN	Adele Blastick		\$ 5,000.00
IL	Agnes McLaren		\$ 5,000.00
PA	Ann Deegan		\$ 5,000.00
PA	Emily Degenhart		\$ 5,000.00
PA	Janice Mathews		\$ 5,000.00
IN	Joan Hladek		\$ 5,000.00
PA	Margaret Jollimore	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
PA	Margaret Maro		\$ 5,000.00
PA	Bernadine Kurzeja		\$ 4,000.00
IL	Ann Dobias		\$ 2,000.00
PA	Lucielle Komorosky		\$ 2,000.00
OH	Mary Ann Strauss		\$ 2,000.00
PA	Rose M. Hudak		\$ 2,000.00
		\$ 55,000.00	\$ 1,044,000.00

Trustee Dolores Evanko Honored at Birthday Bash

On November 12, 2006, LPSCU National Trustee Dolores Evanko of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, was honored at a 50th birthday party hosted by her brother, Father Joseph Evanko, at the Gavenda Hall of St. Joseph's Parish in Hazleton. Among the 90 guests in attendance were Dolores' relatives, parishioners from St. Joseph's Church, and friends from various organizations with which she is actively associated. LPSCU Board members in attendance were Spiritual Advisor Father Philip Altavilla, President Theresa Kluchinski, Vice President Anita Gregory, Fraternal Activities Director Ceil Gaughan, Public Relations Director Margaret A. Ferri, and Honorary Spiritual Advisor Msgr. Francis J. Beeda.

Knowing Dolores' fondness of bingo, Father Joe cleverly arranged for her birthday bash to have a bingo and casino hall theme. Adorning the tables were decorative centerpieces of bingo cards with dabbers and a sidewall featured large, colorful cardboard slot machines with several large, balloon-type, floor standing slot machines.

Following a delicious dinner buffet, everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to Dolores, after which she blew out the birthday candles on the specially made chocolate/peanut butter cake which was served for dessert.

Offering special accolades in praise of Dolores were her brother, Father Joe, Father Altavilla, Father Andrew Hvozdovic, and Msgr. Beeda, pastor of St. Joseph's Church.

Entertainment was provided by way of a bingo social. There was a "caller" of winning numbers, and prizes were

awarded to winners. At least six games were played and enjoyed by all. A DJ also provided music for everyone's listening and dancing pleasure.

Everyone was assured that Dolores had a wonderful 50th birthday as she expressed her delight at celebrating her special day with her family, parish family, co-workers, friends, and fraternal brothers and sisters.

Margaret A. Ferri



LPSCU Board members wish Dolores Evanko (3rd from right) a Happy Birthday as they celebrate with her. From left are Ceil Gaughan, Anita Gregory, Theresa Kluchinski, Father Philip Altavilla, and Margaret A. Ferri.

Rev. Dianiska District Makes a Difference

At their September 2006 meeting, members of the Reverend Dianiska District participated in Make A Difference Day by collecting new pairs of socks to be donated to local charities. Make A Difference Day is an annual event held in early October where we are asked to give a little of ourselves for someone else. District members collected so many pairs of socks that they were able to arrange to donate them to at least three worthy organizations through the Volunteer Action Group. Through their generosity, District members were able to "make a difference" in the lives of the needy and homeless individuals to whom the socks were distributed in time for "Make A Difference Day."

Susan Worth



Rev. Dianiska District members with a whole table full of donated socks.

Have a computer? You can e-mail us!

In this day and age of computers, cell phones, PDAs, and all other kinds of electronic gadgets, many of us just don't have the time or inclination to sit down and write an old fashioned letter. So we thought you'd like to know that those of you who prefer to make contact through e-mail can reach the Home Office and many of our Board members via the internet. We're supplying these e-mail addresses below and as more Board members go "on line," we'll update the listing for you.



LPSCU Home Office — lpscu@lpscu.org
President Theresa Kluchinski — theresa@lpscu.org
Secretary/Treasurer Mary Jo Savidge —
maryjo@lpscu.org

Mary Ann Ewasko — maewasko@lpscu.org
Cecilia Gaughan — cgaughan@lpscu.org
Dolores Evanko — devanko@lpscu.org
Joan Hladek — jhladek@lpscu.org
Barbara Janicko — bjanicko@lpscu.org
Margaret Ferri — MargeFerri28@aol.com

SCF's Cardinal Tomko Chapter Sponsors Slovak Heritage Program

On Sunday afternoon, September 10, 2006, the Cardinal Tomko Chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation held a Slovak Heritage Program at St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church Social Hall in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Approximately 80 Slovaks from the Lehigh Valley area attended the event. There were many displays of Slovak artifacts, crystal, linens, dolls, vases, *pysanky*, and children's *kroj* outfits. The items were provided by Chapter members: Msgr. Robert F. Kozel, pastor of St. John's Church, Valaria Lukish, Justine Wesnak, Mary Ann Ackerman, Edward Lahovski, and Margaret Ferri. Each member manned his or her own table display and provided information regarding their exhibits.

There were also some thirty large, tri-fold posters handcrafted by Edward Lahovski of Catasauqua, Pennsylvania, who acted as curator for his display. The posters depicted churches, castles, and historical scenes in Slovakia, as well as beautiful religious pictures which included Saints Cyril and Methodius, Pope John Paul II, and our beloved Cardinal Jozef Tomko. Mr. Lahovski was proud to explain the pictures on his posters, each of which was accompanied by an introductory paragraph. To create the posters, he took normal-size photos and enlarged them.

The program began at 1:30 p.m. with a welcome by Margaret Ferri, president of the CTC, and a prayer by Justine Wesnak, Chapter vice president. Margaret introduced each Chapter member with their respective display and also introduced Frances Omick and Andrew Krempasky, CTC secretary and treasurer, respectively. An announcement was made that a membership drive would take place following the program.

Justine Wesnak, who is also vice president of the Slovak Catholic Federation, made a presentation on a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve *Vilija* supper and the significance of the blessing of the Easter foods. Justine's display was beautifully set for the Slovak Christmas Eve *Vilija*. She even had the



Standing at the Slovak display of Mary Ann Ackerman (in center) are, L-R: Margaret Ferri, Mary Shannon, Frances Sefranek, and Justine Wesnak.

FEBRUARY 2007

traditional Christmas *oplatky* (wafers). Also featured was an Easter basket filled with typical Slovak Easter foods offered for the blessing, including ham, klobasy, paska, wine, lamb butter, hardboiled eggs, salt, and horseradish. Justine graciously invited all to partake of the *oplatky* and Easter foods at the conclusion of the heritage program.

In closing the event, Margaret Ferri thanked everyone for attending. She invited all to stay and socialize at a reception, and to become a member of this wonderful Slovak organization. Msgr. Kozel offered a prayer to conclude the program.



Msgr. Robert F. Kozel, host pastor for the Slovak display, holds one of his many beautifully created pysanky, an art which he has recently undertaken.

Special Olympics Benefits From LVO JHD Award

continued from front cover

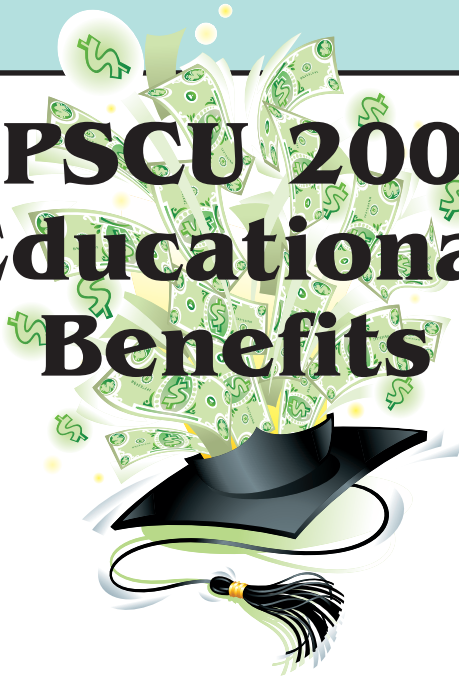
On December 10, 2006, at the Holiday Luncheon of the LPSCU held at the Best Western Conference Center in Bethlehem, the Okres shared its JHD monetary award with Special Olympics of Bethlehem. Okres officers presented a \$400 check to Bethlehem Special Olympics Manager Louise Tusak, who accepted the donation in the presence of Special Olympians Duane Brown and Marianne Sopko, who participated in the JHD event. Marianne is a member of LPSCU Branch 83 in Bethlehem.

The Lehigh Valley Okres is honored to have received a JHD Excellence Award for its fourth successive year. And the LVO is especially proud of the pride, respect, and recognition the JHD Excellence Award has brought to its parent organization, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union.



LVO President Jean Kosalko (right) listens as Louise Tusak, manager of Special Olympics of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, expresses thanks for the monetary gift donated by the Okres.

LPSCU 2007 Educational Benefits



Catholic High School Award — \$150 One-Time Award

- Member of LPSCU for two (2) years with \$2,000 legal reserve life insurance plan.
- Must be Catholic high school freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior.
- Provide a wallet-size color photo.
- Application must be postmarked by **June 30th**.

College Scholarship — \$500 One-Time Award

- Member of LPSCU for two (2) years with \$2,000 legal reserve life insurance plan.
- Must be high school senior, college freshman, sophomore, or junior to apply.
- High school senior must provide letter of recommendation from school guidance/principal.
- Submit official transcript from high school that includes test scores; college students must submit documentation indicating latest overall GPA.
- Provide detailed list of extracurricular activities, honors and awards.
- Provide detailed list of church, community, volunteer, and work activities including honors and awards, with reference(s) included.
- Attend an accredited college/university in the fall of this year on a full time basis.
- Submit proof of acceptance/attendance for fall semester.
- Submit a brief essay (no more than 200 words) on the topic "Why is life insurance important?"
- Provide a wallet-size color photo.
- Application must be postmarked by **March 31st**.

Post-Graduate Award — \$300 One-Time Award

- Member of LPSCU for five (5) years with \$2,000 legal reserve life insurance plan.
- Degree must be awarded between July 1, 2006 and August 30, 2007.
- Provide photocopy of diploma received.
- Provide a wallet-size color photo.
- Application must be postmarked by **August 31st**.

St. Theresa of the Little Flower, Blessed Andre, St. John Vianney — \$300 Annually

- Member of LPSCU for two (2) years with \$2,000 legal reserve life insurance plan.
- Must re-apply each year while attending/completing studies for Religious Life.
- Provide a wallet-size color photo.
- Application must be postmarked by **August 31st**.

Bishop Grutka Award — \$1,000 (Maximum of \$2,000 per member)

- Member of LPSCU for two (2) years with \$5,000 legal reserve life insurance plan.
- Must be a lay person between 18-35 years of age.
- Must be of the Catholic religion (Latin Rite or Byzantine).
- Must be initiated fully into the Church (Baptized, Eucharist, and Confirmed) and continuing to be eligible to receive the sacraments of the Church.
- Must be a member of a Catholic parish.
- Must be active in parish/diocesan/campus ministry as Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Adult Altar Server, Catechist/Aide, member of parish RCIA/C Team, Youth Minister, Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council and/or other parish committees of organization.
- Active in organization or activity that promotes awareness of our Slovak heritage, culture, and traditions.
- Endorsed by your pastor and LPSCU branch secretary with additional endorsement provided by campus minister, youth minister, or pastoral associate.
- Attend or will attend an accredited college/university as a full time student.
- Provide a notice of acceptance or tuition receipt for the coming scholastic year.
- Provide a wallet-size color photo.
- Application must be postmarked by **June 30th**.

Ann (Shinal) Cichy Memorial Award — \$500 (Maximum of \$1,000 per member)

- Must have a life certificate with LPSCU.
- Attend an accredited college/university in the fall of this year on a full time basis in the healthcare field.
- Provide proof of acceptance/attendance.
- Provide a wallet-size photo.
- Application must be postmarked by **March 31st**.

Applicants must meet all criteria and provide data indicated to be eligible. Incomplete applications or those missing data requirements will not be considered. Applications *must be* obtained by contacting the Home Office:

Phone — 570-823-3513
Toll free — 888-834-6614
Fax — 570-823-4464
E-mail — lpscu@lpscu.org

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

Calendar of Events

continued from page 2

JULY

3-17 — 13th Annual Tour of Slovakia sponsored by Youngstown Sister Cities. See page 16 for details.

AUGUST

31 — Deadline to apply for 2007 Post-Graduate Award and LPSCU Religious Awards. See page 10 for details.

SEPTEMBER

6-9 — NFCA Annual Meeting

21 — Slovak Catholic Federation Meeting, Danville, Pennsylvania

22 — Slovak Catholic Federation Pilgrimage, Danville, Pennsylvania

Young Member Scores Hole-in-One

Matt Tirpak, 16, of Toms River, New Jersey, carded a hole-in-one on May 28, 2006, at the Bey Lea Golf Course in Toms River. The ace occurred on the Number Four, Par 3, 150-yard hole. Matt used a seven iron.

Other members of the foursome who witnessed the hole-in-one included Mike Whalen, Ron D'Ambrosio, and Jim Ciancia.

Matt is a member of Branch 214, Duryea, Pennsylvania. His grandmother, Ann Tirpak of Exeter, Pennsylvania, is a retired member of the Board of Trustees of the LPSCU.

The LPSCU congratulates Matt on scoring a hole-in-one. We are proud of his accomplishment at such a young age and wish him continued success.



Matt Tirpak

Letters

continued from page 6

Dear LPSCU,

I would like to thank you for the \$500 [LPSCU] Scholarship and \$25 check [from Rev. Dianiska District]. I will put them to good use as I continue my education in Occupational Therapy.

Lindsay Ann Horvath

Branch 17

Swoyersville, Pennsylvania

Cooking Corner

MARASCHINO CHERRY CAKE

2¼ cups flour	¼ cup maraschino
1½ cups sugar	cherry juice
3½ tsp. baking powder	¾ cup milk
1 tsp. salt	4 egg whites
2 tsp. almond extract	18 maraschino cherries,
1 tsp. vanilla	cut into eighths
½ cup shortening	½ cup chopped walnuts
	(optional)

Sift together the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Blend in shortening, almond extract, vanilla, cherry juice, and milk. Beat on medium speed for 2 minutes. Add egg whites and beat for 2 minutes. Combine cherries and walnuts and stir into batter. Pour batter into 2 greased and floured 8" layer cake pans or a 13x9x2" rectangular pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes. Frost with fluffy white frosting tinted pink with red food coloring.

Fluffy White Frosting

1½ cups cold milk
1 envelope Dream Whip whipped topping mix
1 pkg. (4-serving size) Jell-O Instant Pudding/Pie Filling, vanilla* or strawberry

* If using vanilla, add a few drops of red food coloring for a pink tint.

Beat milk, whipped topping mix, and pudding mix in a deep, narrow bottom bowl with electric mixer on low speed until blended. Beat on high for 4 to 6 minutes or until mixture forms soft peaks. Store frosted cake in refrigerator.

Slovak League to Host Centennial Tour of Slovakia

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry. In recognition, the SLA will host a special Centennial Tour of Slovakia, May 5-16, 2007.

Departure is from New York's JFK International Airport on Saturday, May 5, returning Wednesday, May 16. The tour includes a 3-night stay in Kosice at the Hotel Slovan, 3 nights in the High Tatras at the Grand Hotel, and 3 nights at the Hotel Danube in Bratislava. Also included is a 1-day visit to Vienna, Austria.

The tour will include festivities in Bratislava where a special commemorative stamp will be issued by Slovak postal authorities to commemorate the centennial of the Slovak League in recognition of its century-long promotion of Slovakia's right to self-determination and independence. A

statue of the Rev. Stephen Furdek, co-founder of the Slovak League and pioneer Slovak spiritual leader in the United States, will also be unveiled and blessed in the Slovak capital. Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic will receive the tour participants at a special reception in Bratislava.

The group will visit Kosice, Presov, Bardejov, Spisska, Kezmarok, Kapitula, Stara Lubovna, Cernova, and area sight-seeing centers in the High Tatras region as well as Bratislava.

Cost of the tour via Czech Airlines is \$2,450 per person based on double occupancy. The price includes airfare, first class hotels, two meals daily, and sightseeing with an English-speaking guide. For additional information along with a complete itinerary, contact Anna Korcak at Danube International Travel, Inc., of Central Nyack, New York at 845/353-7792 or toll free at 866/232-0755; or fax 845/353-4798.

Attention:

LPSCU Branch & District Members

We're Looking for a Shining Star in the LPSCU for the 2007 Fraternalist of the Year



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



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



If you can answer "yes" to the above, then you have a "Shining Star" member to be nominated as our 2007 LPSCU Fraternalist of the Year!

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

Hurry — The Deadline for Nominations is March 15, 2007

In Memoriam

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

— Matthew v.5

Name	Branch	Location
Trude Check-Tuhy	6	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Joseph Vesci	9	Mahanoy City, PA
John M. Rebarchak	39	Drums, PA
Mary Polaha	40	Allentown, PA
Anna M. Fellock	40	Allentown, PA
Katherine Rossi	42	Pittsburgh, PA
Anna Pirnick	48	Kingston, PA
*Anna Basar	48	Kingston, PA
Edward Vozar	52	North Braddock, PA
Helen Hawrylo	62	Northampton, PA
Margaret Recknor	63	Mt. Pleasant, PA
Margaret Genes	65	Munhall, PA
Maria Lucas	65	Munhall, PA
Mildred Lasiowski	79	Whiting, IN
Helen Zahurak	90	Johnstown, PA
Agnes M. Gulla	124	Hazleton, PA
Monica A. Pretko	140	Mahwah, NJ
Rose J. Daderko	156	Coaldale, PA
*Joseph D. Mrofchak	159	Youngstown, OH
Lucy T. Schully	161	Youngstown, OH
Elizabeth Gavula	172	Pittsburgh, PA
Victoria Klimovich	197	Wilkes-Barre, PA
John Benus	197	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Joan Bruder	198	Whiting, IN
Helen Norvilas	L0057	Exeter, PA

**Multiple certificates*

Members —

Remember to send your news and photos to Public Relations Director Margaret A. Ferri.
E-mail margeferri28@aol.com
or send to 428 E. Frankford St., Bethlehem, PA 18018.

Slovak Catholic Federation Annual Appeal Announced

When our ancestors came to these shores more than a century ago, they brought with them few monetary assets. Their most precious possession, however, was their faith. The seeds were nurtured by the Slovak priests who came with the immigrant people and helped build our Slovak Catholic fraternal organizations, religious communities of men and women, and nearly 300 Slovak parishes.

Today, in response to this legacy, the Slovak Catholic Federation will sponsor the **29th Annual SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal**.

The Church in Slovakia has enjoyed a great renaissance since the fall of Communism in 1989. We in America and Canada take pride in the fact that the Slovak Catholic fraternal organizations, our parishes, and individuals of Slovak ancestry have responded generously to assist the Church in our ancestral homeland. *The 2007 Annual Appeal begins during the month of February in churches of Slovak descent across the United States and Canada and will continue to the end of the year.*

The 2006 Appeal collected \$63,000. Since its inception, this Appeal has raised \$2,007,028.90.

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

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

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

Your tax deductible donation (made out to the **Slovak Catholic Federation**, noting for the **Annual Appeal**), can be sent directly to the National Secretary/Treasurer of the Slovak Catholic Federation, Dolores Evanko, 173 Berner Avenue, Hazleton, PA 18201.

Thank You for Your Support

FEBRUARY 2007

Roll The Dice Campaign!



Issue Dates
January 1, 2007 to
June 15, 2008

Excludes the following policies:

Term
Face amount less than \$2,000
Guaranteed Issue
Any other programs

PRIZES

Anyone selling \$125,000 and over	Cost of airline ticket or \$300.00
Anyone selling \$100,000 - \$124,999	75% of airline ticket or \$200.00
Anyone selling \$75,000 - \$99,999	50% of airline ticket or \$150.00
Anyone selling \$50,000 - \$74,999	25% of airline ticket or \$100.00

Anyone selling \$10,000 or more will be entered into a drawing held at the Convention for a \$100.00 award.

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Dolores M. Evanko, Chairperson, National Trustee
Mary Ann Ewasko, National Chairperson of Trustees
Mary Jo Savidge, National Secretary-Treasurer
Theresa Kluchinski, National President

Dear Junior Members,

February is a month filled with many important celebrations and birthdays of famous people. It is the second month of the year and also the shortest. Most years, February has only 28 days, but every fourth year an extra day is added. When that happens, we call it a Leap Year. Now, if you were born on the 29th of February, you would have a real birthday only once every four years!

February comes from the Latin word *februare*, which means to “purify.” It was in February that the Romans prepared themselves for the start of the New Year, which in the Roman calendar at that time began on March 1st.

The Church blesses candles on February 2nd. This day is called Candlemas Day. Years ago, the Romans paraded with their lighted candles on this day. We also celebrate Groundhog Day on February 2nd. On this day people watch to see what the groundhog will do when he comes out of his warm underground burrow.



It is said that if the groundhog sees his shadow, he will be frightened and scurry back into his den and there will be six more weeks of winter. But if the groundhog does not see his shadow, spring will come soon.

This is a superstition dating back hundreds of years. Farmers in Germany watched to see what badgers would do on this date because they were hopeful for an early spring so they could begin their spring planting.

Waitangi Day, celebrated on February 6th, is the most important national holiday in New Zealand. It is the day that marks the birth of New Zealand as a nation.

Abraham Lincoln’s birthday is on February 12th. He was

the sixteenth President of the United States. President Lincoln had many nicknames; he was called Honest Abe and the Rail-splitter among them. And because Lincoln took action to free all the black people who were enslaved at that time, he gained the nickname “The Great Emancipator.”

Valentine’s Day is celebrated on February 14th. On this day people all over the world send messages of love to one another. No one knows for certain how Valentine’s Day began but this is a beautiful custom and it is a chance for you to tell someone how much he or she means to you. On this day we celebrate two important feast days. The most popular one is in honor of St. Valentine. The other is in honor of the patron saints of Slovakia, Cyril and Methodius. They were brothers from Thessalonica in Greece who were members of a senatorial family. They both became priests and later were sent to Moravia and Bohemia (which is now the Czech Republic) as missionaries. They are known as the Apostles to the Slavs. The priestly brothers worked to spread Christ’s word and to translate it into Slavonic, laying the foundation for Christianity in this region.

Susan B. Anthony’s birthday is celebrated on the 15th of February. She worked to achieve equal rights for women—especially the right to vote. However, she did not live to see her dream come true. She died fourteen years before women won the right to vote.

We celebrate the Father of our Country’s birthday on February 22nd. George Washington led the American Army to victory over the British in the Revolutionary War. He was elected the first president of the United States.

The term “Mardi Gras” is French for Fat Tuesday. This is the day just before the start of Lent when revelers parade in costumes and masks, dancing in the streets. The most famous Mardi Gras carnival in the United States is in New Orleans. This custom was brought to America by the French people who settled there. After this day of merriment, the partying stops and on Ash Wednesday the fasting begins for Lent. The day is also called Shrove Tuesday. This name comes from the custom of confessing one’s sins on the day before Lent begins. Shrove means “the forgiveness of one’s sins.”

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. In Roman Catholic churches, ashes from burned palm leaves are blessed and the priest uses these ashes to mark a sign of the cross on each parishioner’s forehead.

So you can see that although February is the shortest month, it is chock full of many important dates and celebrations.

Cecilia B. Gaughan, Fraternal Activities Director

Slovak Lesson

Telo – The Body

Čo je to?
What is this?

Mám dve ruky.
I have two hands.

Ten chlap má dve oči.
This man has two eyes.

Každý človek má hlavu.
Every person has a head.

Kde je tvoj nos?
Where is your nose?

Tvoj jazyk je dlhý.
Your tongue is long.

To je človek.
This is a man.

Ona má dve nohy.
She has two feet.

Ty máš dve uši.
You have two ears.

Na hlave máme vlasy.
On the head we have hair.

Kde sú jej ústa?
Where is her mouth?

Tvoje zuby sú čisté.
Your teeth are clean.

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Kids in the Kitchen

HEART-SHAPED CUPCAKES

For Valentine’s Day you can make heart shaped-cupcakes by dropping a marble between the muffin tin and each paper liner. Follow the directions on your favorite boxed cake mix to make the cupcakes. Decorate with pink icing and sprinkles and cinnamon candies.



CLIP AND SAVE

Family Time

Mom and Dad, why not make Valentine's Day special and magical for your little ones? Some suggestions:

Teach them how to say, "I love you" in sign language. Any number of internet web sites can show you how. It can become a special gesture between you all.

Attack them with Valentine hearts. After they have gone to bed, cut out lots of hearts from construction paper or sticky notes and place them all over their bed, bedroom door, or bathroom mirror. Write something different on each heart, telling them something you love about them.

Leave a trail of Hershey's Kisses throughout the house, leading to a special toy or treat.

Serve red foods all day like red apples, red Jell-O treats, tomato soup, strawberries on their cereal. Anything red will work.

Play a family friendly game of "Spin the Bottle" where the spinner has to say one thing they love about the one the bottle stops at.

Have a treasure hunt, writing clues on heart-shaped pieces of paper. Have small surprises hidden throughout the house for them to find. One of the surprises can be a book of coupons you've made up for them. The coupons can be good for extra time on the computer, an extra hour of TV time, a day free of chores, or making their favorite dessert.

These and other heart-felt gestures will make this Valentine's Day one that your children will remember for a long time to come.

Snow Heart for the Birds

Don't forget your feathered (and furred) friends on Valentine's Day!

Leave some "sweet nothings" in the snow for the birds and squirrels.

Draw an outline of a heart in the snow. Lightly tamp the design down and fill it in with birdseed, nuts, or berries.



For mini-hearts, use heart-shaped cookie cutters as stencils. Be sure to pat down your masterpieces so the artwork doesn't blow away in the wind. Within a few days you

should notice that the winter wildlife is stopping by to pick up their valentines.

Happy Valentine's Day!

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen, or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.

— Helen Keller

Washington Scramble

See if you can unscramble these words associated with George Washington.

1. TANYROILEVRO WRA
2. LYLEVA GOFER
3. STRIF SEDEPTRIN
4. RATHAM
5. NUTOM RENVNO
6. WEDERLAA VIRRE
7. TETHACH
8. REHCYR ERET
9. LENGREA
10. HEWIT WOPDREED GWI
11. RUTLTUHF
12. NIRTEW



Answers: 1. Revolutionary War, 2. Valley Forge, 3. First President, 4. Martha, 5. Mount Vernon, 6. Delaware River, 7. Hatchet, 8. Cherry Tree, 9. General, 10. White Powdered Wig, 11. Truthful, 12. Winter

Arts and Crafts

MAKE A VALENTINE

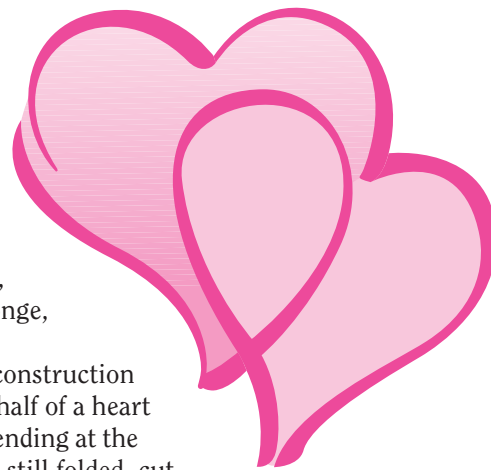
Make this Valentine for someone you love or someone who needs a bit of love on Valentine's Day like a shut-in or an elderly neighbor who would love to have this heart and a visit from you.

You will need construction paper (shades of pink and red are good for this project), crayons, newspaper, a saucer, scissors, a small sponge, and tempera paint.

Fold a sheet of construction paper in half. Draw half of a heart shape, starting and ending at the fold. With the paper still folded, cut out the heart along the line. Open it and you'll have a solid heart and the border that makes a heart stencil.

Cover your worktable with newspaper. Stir the paint and pour a little into a saucer. Place the stencil heart over another sheet of construction paper. Dip the sponge into the paint and hold the stencil in place with one hand while you lightly dab the sponge over the stencil heart. When you remove the stencil, you'll have a pretty painted heart on a solid background.

When the paint is dry, place the solid heart over the heart you have just printed. Use a colored marker or crayon to trace around it. Write a note inside the heart you traced. Now you have a homemade Valentine for a special friend, loved one, or neighbor. Make as many as you want and give them out on Valentine's Day.



Attention Junior Members ~

Enter Our New Earth Day Contest



To help us celebrate **EARTH DAY** on April 22, 2007, we'd like you to share your ideas. Create a poster showing what people can do to celebrate Earth Day and protect and preserve Planet Earth. There are many good web sites on the internet where you can read about Earth Day and get some inspiration for your poster.

Contest Rules:

1. Submit an original poster that you have created.
2. Your poster should not be larger than 8½" x 11". Use unlined paper, poster board, or canvas.
3. You may use charcoal, ink, crayons, pastels, colored pencils, tempera paint, or watercolors. **DO NOT USE MAGIC MARKERS.**
4. Identify your poster on the back with your name, address, grade, branch number, and telephone number.
5. Protect your poster between sheets of cardboard. **DO NOT BEND OR FOLD YOUR POSTER.**
6. Entries must be postmarked by **March 1, 2007.** Mail your entry to Cecilia B. Gaughan, LPSCU Fraternal Activities Director, 325 Florida Avenue, Whitehall, PA 18052.

Award Categories:

Winners will be chosen in each category listed below.

- Kindergarten — 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade — 5th Grade
- 6th Grade — 8th Grade
- 9th Grade — 12th Grade

The First Prize Award in each category will be a \$50.00 Savings Bond. Consolation prizes will also be given. Awards will be announced and posters will be pictured in the *Zornicka*.

*Don't delay ~ Start working on
your poster today!!*

Let Go of Those Twinkies!

continued from page 3

Services, or other special charities which offer assistance to needy people — or even the donation of our time and talents to institutions, like our parish! — can be wonderful ways of putting our faith into real action for the good of others. True giving can help us find our way out of our winters of cynicism, our deserts of self-absorption, and our wildernesses of despair and hopelessness. This season of Lent, a time of spiritual Springtime, is an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to help us realize how much we have been blessed and then to re-center our lives with new hope and renewed vision as we share God's love with others.

As we begin Lent 2007, as we stand on that spiritual "scale," may God grant us the insight to recognize in our lives those "Twinkies" that need to be let go of and, through our prayer, fasting, and works of charity, may we be shed those worthless, negative "pounds." If we use Lent in such a way, we will truly be free to celebrate with great joy the new life of Easter! Happy Lent!

Rev. Philip A. Altavilla

Youngstown Sister Cities Plans Slovak Tour

Youngstown Sister Cities has scheduled its 13th annual tour of Slovakia for July 3-17, 2007. In addition to the standard sites of castles, rafting on the Dunajec River, and a cable car ride in the Tatra Mountains, the tour will include wine tasting in the Tokaj vineyard and a day at the Kezmarok street fair. The annual champagne breakfast with Youngstown's Sister City's mayor at the Radnica will be followed by a visit to the Dana Crystal Factory and shopping in our sister city, Nova Ves.

The Spis Party, where tourists can bring their relatives as guests, will include a dinner and performances by local folk artists. A full day to relax and receive a spa treatment awaits the tourists at Bojnica. The group will be accommodated in the restored Chateau Salgovce built in 1767. A special tour feature will include a performance by the Duraci School of Dance (100 youngsters). The final days will be spent in the Bratislava area.

Cost of the tour is \$2,899 (plus tax) from Pittsburgh. For brochures or information, contact tour hosts Kay and Jim Bench at 724/694-5101; Bernie Demechko, 330/782-8638; or Adventure International Travel at 800/542-2487.