The New England Fraternal Alliance Honors Eileen S. Wilson as its 2016 Fraternalist of the Year

Group 2 President Eileen S. Wilson, second from the left, was honored as the 2016 New England Fraternal Alliance Fraternalist of the Year at the 92nd annual meeting of the group. Shown with her on the photo are officers of the NEFA, including l-r, Georges Haddad, past president; Irene Grabowy, the newly elected president; Paul Plante, chairperson of the Fraternalist of the Year committee and Editor Daniel F. Tanzone, chaplain.

Group 2 President, Eileen S. Wilson was honored as the 2016 Fraternalist of the Year of the New England Fraternal Alliance during the group's 92nd annual meeting in Berlin, Conn., on November 12. The New England Fraternal Alliance represents more than 300,000 fraternalists residing in the six New England States. Eileen S. Wilson is a past president of the NEFA and currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors and chairperson of the Education Committee.

Eileen was honored during the festive banquet of the New England Fraternal Alliance held at the Baltic Restaurant and Banquet Facility in Berlin, Conn. Following the festive reception and drawing for the group's Booster Club which funds scholarship grants to deserving college students, the dinner was called to order by the very capable toastmaster, Norman Ouellette of Catholic Financial Life. Paul called upon Joseph Goda, a NEFA director of the National Slovak Society announced the recipient of the New England Fraternal Alliance Family of the Year Award. Brother Goda is also our Sokol member of Assembly 9 in Bridgeport, Conn.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Harvey C. Baceque Fraternalist of the Year Award to Eileen S. Wilson of the Slovak Catholic Sokol by the chairperson of the Fraternalist of the Year Committee, Paul Plante of Catholic Financial Life. Paul called upon Daniel F. Tanzone, a past president of the NEFA and current chaplain to offer the introduction of the honoree. Brother Tanzone, recalled the (Continued on page 9)

In Minneapolis, Minn., SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish celebrates its 125th anniversary

Much history and faith traditions were recalled during the 125th anniversary celebration of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Minneapolis, Minn., on Sunday, October 9. Founded in 1891, it is the oldest parish founded by Slovaks dedicated to the Apostles of the Slavs. The celebration was billed as a “Celebration of the Uniting of Two cultures - Slovak and Latino in one faith as a vibrant part of Northeast Minneapolis.” The Most Rev. Bernard A. Hebda, Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis was principal celebrant of the festive jubilee liturgy, which celebrated the unifying of the Slovak and Latino cultures in one faith.

“If the church walls could talk, they would speak in Slovak, English and Spanish” said Gail Olson in a feature article on the parish jubilee in the October 18 issue of My Northeaster.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Harvey C. Baceque Fraternalist of the Year Award to Eileen S. Wilson of the Slovak Catholic Sokol by the chairperson of the Fraternalist of the Year Committee, Paul Plante of Catholic Financial Life. Paul called upon Daniel F. Tanzone, a past president of the NEFA and current chaplain to offer the introduction of the honoree. Brother Tanzone, recalled the (Continued on page 9)
Scenes of the Dinner Honoring Our 2016 Fraternalist of the Year Mary Ann Naple
Palazzo 1837 Restaurant + Washington, Pa. + Friday, November 28
Photos by Chris Chervenak

Our honoree, Mary Ann Naple is shown above right with, from the left Anne Pogorelec and Honorary Supreme Officer Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C.

Our 2016 Fraternalist of the Year, Mary Ann Naple is shown above with her grandson, our Supreme Auditor Brian M. Suchy.

Mary Ann Naple, our 2016 Fraternalist of the Year is shown with Brother Albert J. Suess, Jr., F.I.C. our organization’s Sales and Marketing Director.

Our honoree, Mary Ann Naple, far right, is shown above with some of her cousins who were present at the dinner given in her honor, including, from the left, Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. and his lovely wife, Maggie; and Annie and Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C.

Our honoree Mary Ann Naple is shown with Supreme Officers present at her dinner. Shown with her from the left are, her grandson, Supreme Auditor Brian M. Suchy, Honorary Supreme Officer Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., and Chairperson of Supreme Auditors James G. Jerek.

Enjoying the festivities are, from the left, Chairperson of Supreme Auditors James G. Jerek, and Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. and his wife, Maggie.

Our honoree, Mary Ann Naple is shown above with family and fellow Sokols of Assembly 16 in Pittsburgh.

Find us on Facebook

Slovak Catholic Sokol
Message from our Supreme President
by Michael J. Horvath
The four weeks of the Advent season started this past Sunday and we know what this means. In a mere three weeks we will gather with family and friends to celebrate the happiest day of the year, Christmas Day, Stedry Deň, and its joyous season. We realize the next 25 days will go by quickly and there is a lot to do. As anxiety levels go up some of us will question why do this, then we remember the joys of Christmas Day.

Almost everyone, except for Grinches, enjoy this magical time of the year where no matter how young we are, we feel like little children again. If there are Grinches out there, I hope the Christmas angels visit them to renew their Christmasy spirit.

The Christmas season has one special meaning and that is the birth of the Christ Child, Jesus our Lord and Savior. It also means our families will come together to celebrate our Slovak traditions, Christmas wishes, Viní, Christmas Eve Dinner, Vilija, to listen and sing Slovak and English Christmas Carols, Vianočné Koledy, and attending Midnight Mass, Poľnočná Omš. Then on Christmas Day the joys of Christmas is really experienced as we witness the beaming excitement on the faces of all the children as they are enjoying this happy day.

My family would like to wish you and your families a very Blessed, Joyous and Merry Christmas, Polehnáraní, Radostné a Veselé Vianoce.

Zdar Boh! With God’s Blessing to All!

Slovakia Calendar

SAT. DEC. 3
Children’s Christmas party hosted by Assembly 54 at the Slovak Catholic Club, Lindon, Pa., beginning at 1 p.m., refreshments, games, and a visit from Santa will be featured.

DEC. 4-34
The Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on December 2-3, 2016 in Savannah, GA.

SUN. DEC. 4
Wreath 81 annual meeting and Christmas party at Johnel’s Restaurant, 4145 Cabaret Ave., Brandon, Ind. beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Children’s Christmas Party hosted by Group 17 at Camelot Bowling Lanes, 629 Bonham-Canfield Rd., Boardman, Oh. from 1-3 p.m. reservations necessary, call Ede Babik at 330 782-9555 by November 30.

Slovak Heritage Association of the Laurel Highlands meeting and Christmas party at the Am-Slo Club, Johnstown, Pa. beginning at 2 p.m., a light meal will be served, $5.00 per person; discussion the celebration of St. Nicholas among Slovaks and Rusyns.

Children’s St. Nicholas Day celebration for members of Assembly 182 in the social hall of St. John Nepomucene Parish, 406 East 67th St., New York, N.Y. beginning at 12:30 p.m.

United Slovak Societies traditional Vilija dinner at the American Slovak Club, 915 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Oh., cocktails at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., program to follow; tickets $20.00, advance sales only; for reservations call Len Zilko at 440 986-1236.

Annual Slovak Christmas Eve meal, Vilija hosted by the monks of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey and the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club beginning with Mass celebrated at 12 noon in the Abbey Church followed by the meatless meal and program in the cafeteria of Benedictine High School, 2900 Martin Lugher King Drive, Cleveland, Oh.

Assembly 163 semi-annual meeting and children’s Christmas party at Dorothy’s Place, Donora, Pa. beginning at 1 p.m., for details call Theresa Gardner at 724 263-7269.

Assembly 25 & Wreath 15 children’s Christmas party for ages 10 and younger, 1-3 p.m. at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, Perrysoplis, Pa., tel.724 736-8860.

MON. DEC. 5
Wreath 22 annual meeting at the Slovak Catholic Club, 2912 East Carson St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning at 7 p.m.

SAT. DEC. 10
Annual Children’s Christmas party hosted by Group 14, Assembly 16 and Wreath 22 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa., doors open at 12 noon children’s activities begin at 1 p.m., call Carmella Suess Marzec 412 414-9249, email:saescms@gmail.com, Facebook: Group 14 Pgh.Pa Slovak Catholic Sokols.

Slovak Christmas Vilija Dinner at The Slovak Garden, A Home for American Slovaks, 3110 Howell Branch Rd., Winter Park, Fla., featuring traditional Slovak culinary specialties; $15.00 per person; for reservations call 407 677-6884 or email slovakgarden@centurylink.net.

Wreath 93 children’s Christmas party at Holy Apostles Catholic Parish, 16000 West National Ave., New Berlin, Wis. beginning at 8:45 a.m.

Group 12 annual meeting at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 411 Crestmont St., Reading, Pa. beginning at 11 a.m.

23rd Vilija and Jaslickari program hosted by the Slovak Customs Group of Prince of Peace Parish in the Parish Center, 81 South 13th St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. doors open at 4 p.m., dinner at 5 p.m., $30 adults, $12 for children under 12; advance reservations only, call the parish office at 412 481-8380, deadline for reservations is Dec. 7.

SUN. DEC. 11
Traditional Vilija Dinner hosted by the American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley in the Father Snock Center of the former St. Matthias School, 2600 Shady Run Rd., Youngstown, Oh. beginning at 4 p.m., tickets $20.00, advance sales only; for tickets contact Ron Garchar at 330 533-7077 or Loretta Ekomak at 416 549-3769 or email at loretta.ekomak@gmail.com.

Traditional Christmas concert of brass and instrumentalists under the direction of Stephen J. Knotlock featuring the choir of the former Most Holy Trinity Parish at the Church of St. Casimir, 239 Nepperhan Ave., Yonkers, N.Y. beginning at 3 p.m. in church followed by a buffet supper served in the church hall, $35.00 per person for concert and dinner or $10.00 for concert alone. For reservations call 914 963-1254.

Traditional Vilija - Christmas Eve dinner hosted by the United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini and St. John the Martyr, beginning with Slovak Mass celebrated at 10:30 a.m. in church, 411 East 66th St., New York, N.Y. dinner and program begins at 1 p.m. in the parish social hall, adults $20.00, children age 12 and younger are free of charge; for reservations call the rectory at 212 734-4613.

Assembly 167 children’s Christmas party at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 886 West Hoppocan Ave., Pittsburgh, Oh. beginning at 2:30 p.m. for reservations call Chris Macko at tel. 330 635-8374.

Assembly 25 & Wreath 15 adult Christmas party, 4-6 p.m. at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, Perrysopolis, Pa.

MON. DEC. 12
Wreath 117 children’s Christmas party at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Oh. beginning at 6 p.m., for reservations call Martin Zemanek at tel 440 225-8676.

SAT. DEC. 17
Assembly 79 Christmas party and annual meeting at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club on page 11

An outstanding fraternal benefit
$63,000 in S.C.S. Scholarship Grants Available to Eligible Members in 2017
by Edward D. Moeller
Supreme Vice President

We are pleased to announce that the Slovak Catholic Sokol will make available a total of $63,000 in scholarship grants to eligible members in 2017. Previous recipients of Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grants may reapply for a 2017 grant; however, per Convention mandate - a student may receive a maximum of two (2) Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grants in each category.

A total of 30 Slovak Catholic Sokol college grants of $1,000 each, two Theodore and Mary Jane Rich Memorial Scholarships one for a male and female in the amount of $2,500 each, two Emil Slavik Memorial Scholarships one for a male and female in the amount of $2,000 each, one The Doctors’ Lesko Medical Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $1,000, one Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $1,000 and three Slovak Catholic Sokol (SCS) Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

With one application you may apply for all college scholarship grants for which you are eligible. Note that only one grant per applicant will be awarded.

College scholarship eligibility requirements:

Slovak Catholic Sokol (a total of 30, $1,000 grants will be awarded)
• Must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol for at least five years
• Must have completed one semester of undergraduate studies as a FULL TIME student at an accredited college, university or professional school, or be enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program.
• Must have an accumulated grade point average of at least 2.5 GPA
• One parent must be a Slovak Catholic Sokol member
• Essay – “How has being a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol influenced my life?”

Theodore and Mary Jane Rich (one male and one female grant in the amount of $2,500 will be awarded)
• Same requirements as for SCS scholarship
• Both parents must be members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol
• Must be majoring in medical field

Emil Slavik (one male and one female grant in the amount of $2,000 will be awarded)
• Same requirements as for SCS scholarship
• Both parents must be members of Slovak Catholic Sokol
• Must be majoring in liberal arts, the sciences, pre-law, pre-medical or business curriculum

The Doctors’ Lesko Medical Memorial Scholarship (1 grant in the amount of $1,000 will be awarded)
• Same requirements as for SCS scholarship
• Majoring in Nursing or Medical curriculum
• One parent must be of Slovak Ancestry

Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship (1 grant in the amount of $1,000 will be awarded)
• Same requirements as for SCS scholarship
• Majoring in curriculum with a focus in computer graphics, design or layout

Slovak Catholic Sokol Memorial Scholarship (3 grants in the amount of $1,000 will be awarded to the applicant that best exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism)
• Same requirements as for SCS scholarship
• Essay – “Describe the one volunteer experience that made the biggest personal impact on you- how/why”

The process of applying for any of the above college lev-
Christmas concert and dinner on December 11 in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Slovak Customs Group of Prince of Peace Parish located on Pittsburgh's historic South Side, will host its 23rd annual Slovák Vilija and Jáslickari Program on Saturday, December 10 in the parish center located at 181 South Street, Pittsburgh, 4 p.m. with a reception and social hour. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m.

Continuing this time-honored Slovak faith tradition, the Vilija recreates the Christmas Eve meal in a Slovak home. The evening begins as the first star rises with a reading from scripture describing Christ's birth. This is followed by the sharing of the Oplatky Christmas wafers, eaten with honey. Continuing with the meatless tradition of the meal, scrumptious baked fish will be enjoyed as well as mushroom soup, pirná, bobalky made with poppyseed or sauerkraut, followed by traditional Slovak pastries to crown the menu. A highlight of the evening will be the spirited and colorful presentation by The Pittsburgh Slovak State's oldest Slovak folk ensemble. The group, under the direction of our well-known Sokols, Sue and Rudy Ondrejko will present a variety of traditional Slovak dances, songs and hymns, culminating with the story of the Jáslickari - the re-telling of the story of the Shepherds' visit to the newborn Christchild. A bake sale and marketplace featuring imported Slovak crafts will also be featured. An enjoyable and memorable evening is assured.

Tickets for the dinner are $30.00 for adults and $12.00 for children age 12 and younger with those age 3 and younger welcomed free of charge. Advance reservations only. No tickets will be available at the door. For reservations, call the Parish Office at tel. 412 481-8380. Deadline for reservations is December 7th. The Parish Center is handicap accessible. The Vilija is an opportunity for families and grandparents to introduce the wonderful Slovak Christmas traditions with the younger generations. We commend Paul J. Zatek, the event coordinator as well as the members of the Slovak Customs Group for sharing this wonderful Slovak faith with the parish family. The former St. Matthew's Slovak Parish was among the parishes merged to form the Prince of Peace Parish in 1992.

St. Simon the Apostle Parish to host traditional Vilija Dinner in Chicago

Continuing a wonderful Slovak faith tradition spanning more than three decades, St. Simon the Apostle Parish in the Gage Park section of south west Chicago, will host its annual Vilija at Stedky Vecer dinner and cultural program on Sunday, December 18. The afternoon program the traditional meal featuring all the foods enjoyed at the Christmas Eve dinner in a Slovak home. In addition, a cultural program will feature a holiday sing-along of all our favorite Slovak Christmas hymns as well as the spirited dancing of the Veselica Slovak Folk Ensemble of Chicago. Tickets for the dinner are $20 for adults and $8 for children ages 5-12. Advance ticket sales only. For reservations call the parish office at tel. 773 436-1045, ext. 1. Deadline for reservations is December 11th. An enjoyable afternoon celebrating our Slovak Christmas traditions is assured.

Our Assembly 11 has been affiliated with this parish since its formation in 1926. St. Simon's celebrates its 90th anniversary this year. The parish is the last of 10 parishes established to minister to the spiritual needs of the Slovak community in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Mass is celebrated every Sunday in Slovak at 10:30 a.m. The Rev. Alfredo Salera, the new pastor of the parish looks forward to welcoming many Chicagoan Sokols and Sokolky at this year's Vilija.

Christmas concert and dinner in Yonkers, N.Y. on December 11

Our Sokol of Assembly 219, Stephen J. Knoblock will direct the traditional Christmas concert of choruses and instrumentalists “Journey to Bethlehem” on Sunday, December 11 at the Church of St. Casimir, 239 Neperahan Avenue in Yonkers, N.Y. beginning at 3 p.m. The concert will feature the artistry of the choir of the former Most Holy Trinity Parish. The Slovak parish was shut down in August 2015. For past 31 years, the concert was an integral part of the celebration of Christmas at the parish. This year’s concert, the second in the majestic gothic Church of St. Casimir, under the baton of Maestro Knoblock, will feature an array of traditional Advent and Christmas favorites and arrangements.

Following the concert, a buffet supper will be served in the church hall. Traditional Slovak and Polish culinary specialties will be enjoyed. Tickets for the concert and dinner are $35.00 or $10 for the concert alone. Reservations for the dinner are necessary and may be made by calling St. Casimir’s Rectory Tel. 914-963-1254 or email: office@casimirchurchbch.com.

Christmas Oplatky - 2016

The celebration of Christmas in a Slovak home would not be complete without the sharing of the traditional Oplatky, the Slovak Christmas wafers eaten with honey. They are a time-honored faith tradition passed on from generation to generation. Jankola Library and Museum located at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pa. has provided these Oplatky for those of Slovak ancestry scattered across the United States who cherish this holiday tradition. Where in previous times, the Oplatky were available at one’s local Slovak parish. Sad, to say, many of these parishes have closed or been merged. Today our members reside in all our 50 states. Preserving this faith tradition is important. Jankola Library accepts orders for Oplatky from October 24 until December 16, 2016.

The Oplatky, five in one package are thermal-sealed and can be purchased for $5.00 per package. In addition, the minimum cost of shipping and handling is $6.00 and upward depending upon the number of packages ordered and the cost of priority mailing. Customized requests can be filled to meet your needs. Payment to Jankola Library is expected before receiving an order.

For more information or to place an order contact: Sister Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SS.C.M. at tel. 570 275-5606 or write Jankola Library and Slovak Museum, 500 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

Sharing the Oplatky either at the Christmas Eve supper or on Christmas day will add a special Slovak dimension to your celebration of Christ’s birth at Christmas. Jankola Library, founded in 1968, also has a supply of books, tapes and other materials related to the study of the Slovak language as well as Slovak music and song books are available. Call for a booklist. Such items made wonderful gifts at Christmas for those who cherish their Slovak heritage.

Pittsburgh Slovaks offer Slovak Christmas recording

The Pittsburgh Slovaks, one of the country’s oldest and best known Slovak folk ensembles, has produced a new recording “Vianoce Keoly/Christmas Carols”, a CD collection of beloved Slovak favorites such as Do Hory do lesa vala vyspa/vode/nie nam matrikuvia/Plesny vsetci ludia/ Narodil sa Kristus v Betleme/ Dnesny den sa raduji/Ticha Noce/Silent Night and more.

This recording is a result of several decades in which the Pittsburgh Slovaks have spread the Slovak Christmas spirit through their Christmas performances. The carols offered here are priceless treasures that will re-awaken cherished traditions and memories. The cost of the recording is just $15.00 which includes postage and handling. Make check payable to Pittsburgh Slovaks and send same to 234 Ilion Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15207.

St. Simon the Apostle Parish hosts traditional Vilija Dinner in Chicago
DONORA, PA. Assembly 163
The semi-annual meeting of our Assembly is scheduled for Sunday, December 4. Our meet-
ing will be held at Dorothy’s Place in Donora beginning at 1 p.m. Reports of the officers will be presented and plans for our future fraternal activities will be finalized.
In conjunction with our semi-
annual meeting, we will host our traditional children’s Christmas party. A Christmas movie will be shown with a pizza party for the children while the adult meet-
ing is being held. An enjoyable fraternal afternoon is assured. In order to make the necessary prep-
arrations, those planning to attend should call Theresa Gardner at tel. 724-263-7289.
Zdar Boh!
Theresa Gardner
Financial Secretary
LORAIN, OH.
Wreath 111
The annual celebration of the birth of our little Jesus will be host-
ed by our Wreath is scheduled for Monday, December 12 at the American Slovak Club located at 2915 Broadway Avenue. The fest-
ive evening will begin at 6 p.m., with a traditional toast celebrat-
ing the season. A wonderful din-
ner featuring many of the foods enjoyed at the Christmas table in a Slovak home will be enjoyed. In order to make the necessary arrange-
ments, those planning to attend should call our secretary Martina Zemanek indicating the number of individuals who will be with us. The Christmas party has been a time-honored tradition of many years and this year’s cel-
bration looks to be enjoyable.
At the conclusion of the even-
ting, our annual drawing which supports our Wreath’s various charities will take place. We thank all our members for their coop-
eration and support of this effort. Again, we look forward to seeing a great turnout of our members as we celebration of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Wishing all a wonderful Christmas season and a New Year filled with God’s con-
tinued blessings, may I remain
Zdar Boh!
Helen M. Zemanek
President
PITTSBURGH, PA
Wreath 22
The annual meeting of our Wreath, under the spiritual pa-
tronage of St. Cecilia, will take place on Monday, December 5 at the Slovak Sokol Club beginning at 7 p.m. All members are invited to attend.
Reports of the officers will be presented and plans for our fu-
ture fraternal events in the new year will be finalized. Election of officers to serve our Wreath in 2017 will take place. As is our tradition, following the business meeting, we will enjoy our tra-
ditional Christmas party. We will no longer be exchanging gifts to each other for Christmas. Instead, we will ask all our sister Sokolky who will attend our meeting to instead bring a donation for a family in need this Christmas season. In Acts 20:35, we read, “In every-
ting I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work, we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’!”
Zdar Boh!
Judy Strisko
Recording Secretary
HOLIDAY HOME OFFICE CLOSING
In observance of Christmas, the Home Office will be closed for business on Monday, De-
cember 26. The Home Office will reopen for business on Tuesday, December 27. Likewise to commemorate the New Year’s observance, the Home Office will be closed for business on Monday, January 2, 2017. The Home Office will reopen for business on Tues-
day, January 3, 2017. Regular office hours are Monday - Fri-
day, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. A joyous Christmas observance as well as a happy, healthy New Year 2017 to all our members and friends.
Slovak Catholic Sokol College Scholarship - Tips for Success
I just wanted to take a moment to highlight the recent changes made to the Slovak Catholic College Scholarship Program. We will continue to use a completely on-line process as we have had few is-
Slovak Catholic Church, beginning at 11 a.m. We hope to see representatives from all our Group 12 lodges present at the meeting. Reports of the officers will be presented and plans for our various sporting and fraternal in the new year will be finalized. Input from our members will ensure the success of our future fraternal activities.
To be best prepared for this process a successful applicant should:
• Review the application on-line for required content and gather prior to beginning to complete the form
• Be prepared to attach both your essay (in PDF or Word format) and a color head and shoulders picture of yourself (in jpeg format).
Please note, you may want to print a copy of your records prior to submitting. All applicants will receive automatic confirmation that their e-mail has been received.
It really isn’t that difficult to qualify for one of our many col-
lege scholarships. With now four years of the new College Scholarship Process behind us, it is clear that there are a few ways to assure that your application will be reviewed.
1. Answer all questions on the application.
For example- if something does not apply to you- say N/A.
If you are fully independent from your parents- as in, you are not claimed by them on their tax return, you should indicate that in the space asking for total parent income.
Leaving this blank does not tell the whole story.
2. Include all requirements for the application- i.e. photo; transcript; essay
Start the process for requesting your transcript NOW. I have found that sometimes this is the hold up for some applicants.
• Transcripts- please note that “official transcript” means that you have requested it from your University or College and that it has been sent directly to me in a sealed envelope. We have not been as strict in the past on this issue, but began holding each applicant to this requirement last season and will continue to do so moving forward.
3. Submit all required elements prior to the deadline.
The application is clear and I just want to prevent a waste of your time and energy.
Failure to include/complete any of the above items will result in the application being disqualified. To be honest, it is not easy for our committee when we need to disqualify applicants for simple yet im-
portant missing requirements.
Lastly, apply for all college scholarships for which you qualify in order to give yourself the best chance at receiving something. There were several applicants who limited themselves to a particular scholar-
ship. Competition was fierce for the larger S scholarships, but there seems to be more opportunity with the other scholarship offerings.
Not every applicant receives a scholarship every time they apply. If you have not received one in the past, I encourage you to apply again this year. Before submitting your application- take some time to review the bullet points above in order to assure that your application will be included for consideration.
Good luck and Zdar Boh!
Edward D. Moeller
Supreme Vice President
Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee
Group 12 annual meeting on Dec. 10 in Reading, Pa.
Group 12, “Rev. Anton Bernolak” will host its annual meeting on Saturday, December 10 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 411 Crestmont Street in Reading, Pa. beginning at 11 a.m. We hope to see representatives from all our Group 12 lodges present at the meeting. Reports of the officers will be presented and plans for our various sporting and fraternal in the new year will be finalized. Input from our members will ensure the success of our future fraternal activities.
Zdar Boh!
Joseph Harak
President
Joanne Antosy
Secretary
Slovak Catholic Sokol College
 Built for God and Nation
 Slovak Catholic Church
SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON, NOVEMBER 30, 2016 PAGE 5
Available to Eligible Members in 2017

Only

el scholarships is completely on-line. Applications and instructions are available on our website @ www.slovakcatholicsokol.org

Grade School Grants in the amount of $250 each. Please find these scholarship applications and directives in each of the issues of the Falcon.

In light of the “great graces of mercy” we have received during the Jubilee, our first response is to give thanks to the Lord for His gifts. But in going forward, we must also continue to celebrate mercy, especially in the liturgical celebrations of the Church, including in the Sacrifice of the Mass, and in the other Sacraments, especially in Reconciliation and in Anointing of the Sick, the two “sacraments of healing.”

Pope Francis proposed a number of ideas to continue the celebration of mercy, including an annual day dedicated to making the Scriptures better known and more widely diffused. He also called on the faithful to restore the Sacrament of Reconciliation to a “central place in Christian life.”

The Holy Father also extended a number of initiatives already begun in the Holy Year, extended the faculties of all priests to absolve the sin of procured abortion. “I want to insist as firmly as I can that abortion is a grave sin,” the Pope said, “because it puts an end to an innocent life.” But, he continued, “I can and I must state that there is no sin that God’s mercy cannot reach and wipe away when it finds a repentant heart seeking to be reconciled with the Father.”

Though the Jubilee is closed, Pope Francis said, “the door of mercy of our heart continues to remain wide open.” He called on the faithful to practice new works of mercy, and to find new ways to give expression to the traditional works. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy, he said, “continue in our own day to be proof of mercy’s immense positive influence as a social value.” In this vein, the Pope said the Church must continue to be vigilant and offer solidarity in the face of attacks on human dignity.

“This is the time of mercy,” the Pope concluded. “It is the time of mercy because no sinner can ever tire of asking forgiveness, and all can feel the welcoming embrace of the Father.”

As a final initiative for the future, Pope Francis asked the whole Church to celebrate, on the second to last Sunday of the liturgical year, the World Day of the Poor. This Day, he said, “will also represent a genuine form of new evangelization (cf. Mt 11:5) which can renew the face of the Church as she perseveres in her perennial activity of pastoral conversion and witness to mercy.”

For students entering a Catholic Grade School (Grades 2-8)

Slovak Catholic Sokol Catholic Grade School Grants

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

Eligibility

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

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

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

Application

This application must be received on or before, March 31, 2017 with a clear, small (2”x3” wallet size) head and shoulders photograph. Application is also available on the Internet @ www.slovakcatholicsokol.org

Return of Grant

If for any reason the Grant is not used by the recipient, the entire (or portion of) grant not utilized must be returned.

Questions regarding the Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Program may be directed to:

Edward D. Moeller
Supreme Vice-President
Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee
(412)381-3506

Deadline for submission of all scholarship applications is March 31, 2017.

In addition to our college grant program, we make available 18 Catholic High School Grants in the amount of $500 each as well as 36 Catholic Grade School Grants in the amount of $250 each. Please find these scholarship applications and directives in each of the issues of the Falcon.
On October 30, 2016, the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pa. awarded the Servant Leadership Award to 54 outstanding high school juniors and seniors from the Dioceses of Harrisburg, Pa., Scranton, Pa. and Gary, Ind. The ceremony took place at the Basilica of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Danville.

Over the past 14 years, the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius have honored over 930 teens in the Dioceses of Bridgeport, Conn., Charleston, S.C., Harrisburg, Pa., Pittsburgh, Pa., Scranton, Pa., Syracuse, N.Y. and the Archdioceses of Chicago, Ill., St. Louis, Mo. and Milwaukee, Wis. with the Servant Leadership Award.

The Servant Leadership Award recognizes distinguished high school juniors and seniors who are joyful witnesses, compassionate proclaimers, and enthusiastic builders of the Kingdom of God. The focus of the award is on teens who remain active in their faith and parish beyond Confirmation, and who actively serve in their parish, school and community.

Receiving the award this year were: Lia Rose Acri, Alexandra Arg, Peter Bitterm, Alexandrea Lee Bock, Julia Mary Bory, Kyla Davida Brzitksi, Anna Buck, Patricia Frances Burke, Helen Cao, Breonna Lynn Catherman, Kaitlin Cervino, Sarah Cooper, Armanda Curcio, Gabriela Davidheiser, Cara Ford, Francesca Angelina Forti, Katherine Olivia Garisto, Catherine Gregoire, Madalyn Ann Heckman, Bethany Ann Hileman, Yulina Veronica Houseal, Johanna Husena, Grace Louise Hewitt, Samuel B. Kelly, Brooke Ann Korkich, Travis Krivitski, Randy Kuhar, Randy Lee Lark, Cole D. Lazarus, Kate Lindholm, Baily Little, William Malay, Aloha Maneval, Tanner Mann, Joshua Mazrak, Angelica Masser, Paige Mecysynse, Reilly Oliverio, Grace Anne Orris, Connor Outy, Alexandra Georgia Pavone, Kyle Todd Peledhwa, Alan Patrick Petok, Joel Robert Reiner, Kaitlyn Elizabeth Repp, Hannah Schuchart, Mary Scopeliti, Asadin Sharma, Shelby Elizabeth Smith, Kathy Tran, Dani Garrett, White, Alyssa Woughthughy, and Zachary Zarkowski.

Each teen was given the opportunity to select one person as a mentor who has encouraged them to generously use their time and talents as a follower of Jesus. The mentors selected were parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches, youth ministers, scout leaders, Sisters and Priests, who have been role models for the teens. Mentors recognized by the teens have made a difference in their lives by modeling servant leadership as a way of life in their family, parish, and community.

At the ceremony, the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius also honored four adults who received the Father Matthew Jankula Lifetime Servant Leadership Award in the ministries of evangelization, education, care and exorcism. Father Jankula was a priest of the Diocese of Scranton who was a pioneer in the work of evangelization among the early Slovak immigrants in America. He was instrumental in recognizing the need for religious sisters to educate children and founded the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius in 1909. In 1958, he was elected the second Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

The 2016 Father Jankula Lifetime Servant Leadership Awards went to: Education - Sister Pamela Smith, S.S.C.M. She has been an educator for more than forty years on many levels. She has taught eighth graders, high school and college students, seminarians, and deacons. She served as principal at John Paul II Catholic High School in Bluffton, S.C. for two years and for the past six years served and continues to serve as Secretary of Education and Faith Formation for the Diocese of Charleston, S.C. Sister Pamela is also a presenter at conferences and seminars for numerous dioceses and organizations, and is the author of twelve books on spiritual themes. She writes a regular column in The Catholic Miscellany, the publication of the Diocese of Charleston.

Elder Care - Sister Ann Carville, O.S.F. She is a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities in Pittsburgh, Pa. Sister Ann has a Doctorate in the development of human and organizational systems. Most of her ministry has been in consulting, in the design, facilitation and implementation of organizational change within communities of religious men and women nationally and internationally. Sister Ann has worked with many leadership groups and presently is a consultant for NRRO(National Religious Retirement Office) working with the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius. Her work with her own congregation in caring for the elderly Sisters has been outstanding and her outreach to other religious congregations as a consultant for the National Religious Retirement Office has made a difference in the quality of their lives. Her overall impact on the parish is still blended, although the Spanish-Slovak culture remains a norm. Slovak and Spanish Masses are also the norm. Slovak and English language Masses. Often bi-lingual Masses are also the norm. Slovak and Spanish faith traditions continue to be celebrated in the parish.

The present interior of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Minneaplois, Minn.

(Continued from page 1) of this lodge took place just four years following the founding of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in 1905 in Pussac, N.J. In 1913, the women founded Wreath 47 of the Sokol in 1913 under the patronage of St. Veronica. These and other Slovak fraternal lodges have played and important role in the life of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish.

The early years of the parish saw a number of priests serving the community. Two priests notable in the early years of the parish included the Rev. Michael Judd who served from 1921 to 1926. A gifted writer, poet and scholar, his works appeared frequently in the American Slovak press. He left Minneapolis to join the recently established parish of SS. Cyril and Methodius in St. Paul. He was pastor of this parish from 1926 to 1939. During his pastorate, the parish saw its greatest growth and expansion. He remained as pastor until 1966 and passed away in 1969. To honor his legacy, the social hall of the parish was named The Father George S. Durgay Memorial Hall. Succeeding Father Dargay was the Rev. Joseph J. Balent, another son of the parish. He served as the associate from 1944 until 1956. He became pastor in 1956 serving until his death in 1986.

Following the death of Father Balent, the following have served as pastor, Rev. George Rebikoski, the Rev. Francis L. Fried, and most recently, the Rev. Edison Galazar, O.C.C.S.S.

The parish’s parochial school had its beginnings in 1926, however due to the stock market crash, the actual opening was delayed until 1936 under the leadership of Father Dargay. Staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, the school served the parish until its closing in 1986.

With the increase of Latino immigrants in the 1970s, a Spanish language Mass was introduced by Father Fried who had been a missionary in Venezuela. Today’s parish is still blended, although the Spanish-speaking faith community is an important part of the fabric of parish life over the decades. They mirror the very best fraternal traditions of service and outreach and mirror our Slovak and Croatian heritage of faith.

The 2015 annual Mass, a festive dinner was enjoyed in the Father George Dargay Memorial Hall of the parish. The pastor, Father Edison offered opening remarks followed by the presentation of Flags including the colors flown by yesenia ortiz, the flag of Slovakia carried by David J. Genosky, president of our Sokol, Group 11; and the flag of Ecuador carried by Juan Lavazar.

Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda offered the invocation and offered comments. Father Edison then introduced the Parish Trustees and the members of the Parish Council. Leaders of the various parish groups then were acknowledged. Members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol were acknowledged for their many years of support.

A delicious dinner was then enjoyed under the direction of Chef Luis Medina with his assistants along with the St. Cyril Youth Group. Closing remarks were then offered by Father Edison.

Finally, we congratulate the faith community of SS. Cyril and Methodius on the 125th anniversary of its founding. We pray that the parish may continue to be a beacon of Christ’s presence in northeast Minneapolis reflecting the best of our Slovak and Latino faith traditions. We especially commend the members of our own Assembly 34 and Wreath 47 which have been an important part of the fabric of parish life over the decades. They mirror the very best fraternal traditions of service and outreach and mirror our Slovak and Croatian heritage of faith.
Scenes of the First Annual Slovak Oktoberfest hosted by the United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini & St. the John Martyr
St. John Nepomucene Social Hall + Sunday, October 23 + New York City

Father Richard D. Baker, pastor is shown with some well-known Slovak activists including, l-r, Dr. Ladislav Korcek and Anna Korcak, president and financial secretary respectively of Assembly 182; Magdalen Vanco, Honorary Supreme Officer, Dr. Mary Z. Gasparik and Claudia Marsik, president of Wreath 168.

Enjoying the festivities are, l-r, Deacon G. Thomas Harenchar, Rev. Pratap Reddy Gatla, Dawn Holodak and her husband, James Holodak, seated, Rev. Richard D. Baker, Ruth Harenchar and Carolyn Holodak.

Father Richard D. Baker is shown welcoming Sokols from the former Most Holy Trinity Parish in Yonkers, N.Y., including from the left, Charles Holodak, Carolyn Holodak, James Holodak and Dawn Holodak.

Honorary Supreme Officer, Dr. Mary Z. Gasparik is shown above with her daughter, Claudia Marsik enjoying the festivities.
The New England Fraternal Alliance Honors Eileen S. Wilson as its Fraternalist of the Year

(Continued from page 1)

many outreach activities, Sister Eileen S. Wilson has engaged in over the years. “A mover and a shaker, and a life-long calling to service and outreach in the best traditions of the fraternal benefit system, as well as a committed woman of faith and conviction,” said Brother Tanzone in describing the honoree. She described her efforts over the years in various civic, cultural and religious activities. She has been president of Group 2 since 1985 and has spearheaded a variety of outreach efforts over the years. Under her leadership, the local lodges of our Slovak fraternals in the greater Bridgeport area have participated in the annual Make a Difference Day and Hands Days efforts. Their efforts have aided various facilities which aid the needy, as well as their efforts. Their efforts have aided various facilities which aid the needy.

The principal address at the banquet was given by Frank J. Spula, national president of the Polish National Alliance (PNA). The PNA is the largest ethnic fraternal in the United States. In his address, Brother Spula had high praise for the spirit and dedication of fraternalists, especially on the local level. Our efforts locally provide outstanding example of the true spirit of fraternalism which contribute to the good and welfare of the entire country. Such activities ensure the continued tax exempt status of our fraternal organizations.

Brother Spula then served as the installation officer for the officers and directors who will serve the New England Fraternal Alliance in the coming year. He was especially pleased to install Irene S. Grabowy, Vice Censor of the Polish National Alliance as the new president. In her response, Sister Grabowy pledged to continue to promote the cause of fraternalism and encourage others to serve as ambassadors of service and outreach in the best traditions of fraternalism.

The banquet concluded with the benediction offered by Father Raymond Smialowski and the singing of God Bless America.

Frank J. Spula, president of the Polish National Alliance and installing officer at the 92nd annual meeting of the New England Fraternal Alliance, seated second from the left, is shown with the officers elected to serve the NEFA in 2017. Seated, from the left, Janet King, Catholic Association of Foresters; Lynette Ouellette, Catholic Financial Life; Marion Varga, CSA Financial Life Insurance Society; and Eileen S. Wilson, Slovak Catholic Sokol. Standing, from the left, Francis Mendonca and Albert Costa, Luso-American Life Insurance Society; Georges Haddad, Knights of Columbus; John M. Kamenitsky, GBU Financial Life, Sokol USA District; Norman Ouellette, Catholic Financial Life; and Daniel F. Tanzone, Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Group 2 President Eileen S. Wilson, center, was honored as the Fraternalist of the Year by the New England Fraternal Alliance at the banquet of the 92nd annual meeting of the NEFA in Berlin, Conn. on Nov. 12. Shown with her on the above photo are, Editor Daniel F. Tanzone; Judith Salamon, Eileen’s sister; her husband, Roland J. Wilson, Jr. and Irene S. Grabowy, president of the New England Fraternal Alliance.

During the deliberations of the NEFA annual meeting, presentations on various fraternal topics and projects of the group. The delegates, which represented ten member societies, collected non-perishable food items which were presented for “Meals for the Needy” a mission of Zion Lutheran Church, the oldest street kitchen in Berlin, Conn. A presentation on behalf of the soup kitchen was given by Cheryl Yetke, executive director. Scholarship grants of $1,000 each were presented to two college students, Olivia Degreiner of the Catholic Association of Foresters and Monique Desrochers of Catholic Financial Life. An interesting presentation titled “The Plight of Christians in the Middle East” was given by Georges Haddad of the Knights of Columbus. A memorial service was conducted by NEFA chaplain, Daniel F. Tanzone. Reports of the various NEFA committees were presented and plans for upcoming projects were finalized. The NEFA was founded in 1920 and currently includes fifteen fraternal societies among its membership, representing more than 300,000 fraternalists in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain

Feast of Saint Nicholas

by Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic

The feast of St. Nicholas, bishop, falls on December 6, at the beginning of Advent. This day brings much celebration, especially in Eastern Europe and Germanic countries such as Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the Netherlands. It also celebrates this saint’s day.

In a time where Christmas commercialism is rampant, a family needs to try to keep the focus on what Advent and Christmas is all about. Advent is preparing for Christ’s birth, both internally and externally. To shift the focus of the materialistic or “give me” common at Christmas, try giving stocking gifts on December 6 instead of Christmas Day. Shoes can be left outside the bedroom door, or stockings are hung by the fire on December 5th evening. St. Nicholas (instead of Santa Claus) comes by to bring cookies or gifts in the shoes or stockings.

In Germanic countries, St. Nicholas is accompanied by Krampus, an evil spirit or little devil, usually dressed in fur or black with a long tail, and carries a rattling chain, birch branches and a big black bag. In Holland, Sinterklaas or Sint-erklas leaves from Spain on a boat, accompanied by Black Peter (Piet), his Moor servant. Peter wears animal skins or the traditional medi eval Moorish colorful clothing.

December 5, St. Nicholas Eve, is known in some rural areas of Austria as “Kraampus Day.” Children and adults go to the village square to throw snowballs and try to chase off Krampus. Other Krampusse lie in wait, rattling their chains and threatening to carry off naughty children in their black (Continued on page 13)
Flying off for a vacation on November 2,” Cibulkova detailed her imminent plans. “We celebrated my success of a lifetime at the hotel a little bit, shared toasts with the organization team. On October 31, I had a photo session with the Billie Jean King trophy and had a wonderful time. Originally, we were supposed to fly from Singapore straight to Maldives for the vacation, but I wanted to stop by at home and celebrate this. They lent us the trophy, since we would have to wait two weeks for a replica and it needs to be returned to London in a day or two,” Cibulkova said at her meet-and-greet session with the media.

After her triumph at the WTA Finals, the number one tennis player has already set her sight on another goal - winning one of the Grand Slam tournaments. “I’ve always dreamed of winning one of the Grand Slam tournaments. If a tennis player wants to succeed at such an event, all the planets must be well-aligned, and being in good shape and having peace of mind are a must. The next season will be a great challenge for me,” she told the media.

Cibulkova’s success in Singapore resonated among Slovak fans, who flocked to the autograph signing to take selfies with the Slovak player, take pictures with the trophy or get autographs on T-shirts and photographs.

**Donald Trump’s victory in the US presidential election**

Donald Trump’s victory in the US presidential election has sent financial markets into red numbers, with analysts and financial world No. 5 analysts in gold or bonds. “If anyone makes a profit from Singapore straight to Maldives for the vacation, but I wanted to stop by at home and celebrate this. They lent us the trophy, since we would have to wait two weeks for a replica and it needs to be returned to London in a day or two,” Cibulkova said at her meet-and-greet session with the media.

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News and Views from Slovakia...
(Continued from page 10)
titude of EU-member states on pursuing more autonomous defense policy in the EU, Gajdos responded that both the EU and NATO are known for their collective bargaining and collective results.

“Consensus must be reached despite the fact some have more vigorous and some less harsh opinions. Democracy and peace deserve some sacrifice, things don’t work without it,” he said.

Kiska: freedom and democracy acquired in ’89 were an opportunity

The freedom and democracy that Slovakia achieved as a result of the fall of communism back in November 1989 was an opportunity, said President Andrej Kiska at the Presidential Palace in Bratislava on November 17 at the beginning of a meeting with dozens of students/participants of the ‘Furtive Heroes of the Fight with Communism’ project.

Kiska described the November 17 holiday - the Day of the Fight for freedom and democracy in Slovakia - as an opportunity in Slovakia’s modern history: “Freedom and democracy...were an opportunity - and we’ve been giving them meaning every since by how we treat our freedom and democracy,” announced Kiska.

November 17 is an opportunity to make the rules of democracy equal to everyone, irrespective of their possessions, status or political affiliation, noted Kiska. “So that the state becomes a greater guarantor of security when we need to call for justice,” he emphasized.

Many people celebrating this day have been growing more and more dissatisfied every year, even though we’ve accomplished a lot. “As long as we have freedom and democracy, we can express our discontent, we can criticize it; but what’s more important is that we can transform our discontent into ideas of how to change things,” said Kiska.

The younger generation has always been critical and at the center of demands for change. “Even on this day we can feel disappointment among many young people. Unlike the generation of our parents and grandparents, you, young people have the free choice to use opportunities stemming from the EU membership to go and live in another country,” Kiska reminded the students.

However, Slovakia needs this young generation, he added. “Maybe we aren’t able to explain the value of what we didn’t have to your generation; and what is self-evident for your generation - that is, freedom and democracy,” concluded Kiska.

Eurobarometer: Slovaks’ view of EU improves

As many as 54 percent of Slovaks, up by 6 percentage points year-on-year, believe that the country’s EU membership is beneficial for them, revealed a Eurobarometer survey on November 18.

The yearly boost of positive views of the EU in Slovakia represents the highest increase among all EU member countries.

Meanwhile, Slovaks praise the EU mainly for new job opportunities. The European Parliament is viewed positively by 28 percent of Slovaks. The European legislative body’s image in Slovakia is also enjoying the highest boost compared to last year.

Less than half of Slovaks (45 percent) view the European Parliament in neutral terms. At the same time, 47 percent of Slovaks think that the EP should play a more important role in the EU than now. The EU average is 46 percent.

The common European currency the euro appears to be the key element of the European identity in Slovaks’ view, with 57 percent stating so. At the same time 51 percent of people in Slovakia believe that the things in the EU are going in a wrong direction, while the EU average in this regard is 54 percent.

(Continued from page 3)

Catholic Sokol, Abbot Jerome M. Koval, O.S.B. Memorial High School Grant

As a fraternal benefit, the Slovak Catholic Sokol is pleased to offer $500.00 grants to one young Sokol or Sokolka in each of our organization’s nineteen Groups. These 19 Grants are available to any qualified Sokol member currently attending a Catholic High School.

Eligibility
A. Applicant must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in good standing, holding a permanent Life Insurance Certificate in the amount of not less than $3,000, and has been a member for at least five years.
B. One parent must be a S.C.S. member.
C. The principal of the Catholic High School must verify the enrollment of the applicant.

Application
ALONG WITH THE APPLICATION you must submit a typed or written essay DOUBLE SPACED in 100 to 200 words on the following topic:

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL ABBOT JEROME M. KOVAL, O.S.B. MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION

Group #_________  Assembly/Wreath #_________

Name__________________________  Address__________________________  City________________________  State________________  Zip Code________________

Date of Birth________________________  Current Age________

Home Phone (_____)_________ High School Phone (_____)_________

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate #____________  Face Amount____________

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate #____________  Face Amount____________

Father’s name________________________  Are you a member?__

Mother’s name________________________  Are you a member?__

Parent’s S.C.S. Insurance Certificate #____________  Face Amount________

Parent’s S.C.S. Insurance Certificate #____________  Face Amount________

Are you a previous Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship recipient?_____  If yes, please indicate Grade School or High School. What year?_____  (yes/no)

High School verification (to be completed by High School Principal)
I________________________ (Principal’s signature)  (Name of School)

Catholic High School, verify that________________________ is a student at the above school and will be attending________ Grade in the 2017-2018 school year.

Are you currently participating in Slovak Catholic Sokol Activities?  Yes____ No____

Deadline for receipt of this application is March 31, 2017.

Return completed application to:
Slovak Catholic Sokol High School Grant
205 Madison St., P.O. Box 899, Passaic, NJ 07055

“WHAT DOES THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MEAN TO ME?” This essay must be submitted along with the application.

This application must be received on or before, March 31, 2017 with a clear, small (2” X 2½” wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.

Application is also available on the Internet @ www.slovakcatholicsokol.org

Disqualification
An applicant who neglects to submit or complete any part of these requirements before the established deadline will automatically be disqualified.

Acknowledgment
An acknowledgment of the Grant should be made in writing by the recipient as soon as possible, if you are awarded a Grant.

Return of Grant
If for any reason the Grant is not used by the recipient, the entire (or portion of) grant not utilized must be returned.

Sokol Calendar

(Continued from page 3)
Mark your calendar

Children's Christmas Parties Set

Barberton, Oh. - Assembly 167 will host its traditional Christmas party for junior Sokols and Sokolky on Sunday, December 11 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club located at 888 W. Main Street. The event will be in Barberton. Festivities begin at 2:30 p.m. An enjoyable afternoon of traditional Sokol fellowship and camaraderie has been planned. Refreshments and lunch will be served with appropriate entertainment provided.

The highlight of the afternoon will be the visit from Santa himself. In order to ensure that Santa will bring along enough gifts for the children, we ask parents to indicate he names of the children who will attend. They can do so by including the names of the youngsters on the sign-up sheet located at the Sokol Club or by calling Mark Macko at tel. 330 636-6774. We look forward to seeing a good turnout of our children and their parents at this year’s festivities as we celebrate the joy and excitement of the Christmas season. Wishing all our Sokol families and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year, may I remain

Zdar Boh!
John C. Macko

Catasauqua, Pa. - The annual children’s Christmas party hosted by Assembly 72 for members ages 12 and younger is scheduled for Sunday, December 18 at the Slovak Center, located at 5th and Grove Streets in North Catasauqua beginning at 1:30 p.m. On our agenda will be entertainment, refreshments and of course a visit by jolly old Santa himself to complete the afternoon of traditional Sokol fellowship.

Parents are welcome to join in the festivities. In order to make the necessary preparations, parents are asked to call Edie Babik on 610 262-8301 to register their children for this fraternal event. Wishing all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Thank you.

Zdar Boh!
Stephen A. Roman
Financial Secretary

Clifton, N.J. - Assembly 162 will host its traditional children’s Christmas party on Sunday, December 18 in SS. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Parish located at 16000 West National Avenue in New Berlin, Wis., starting at 8:45 a.m. We will then join in “The Miracle of Jesus” presentation which gives families an immersive and multi-sensory experience in the City of Bethlehem and an opportunity to learn surprising details about the birth of Jesus. We will interact with shopkeepers in the marketplace, and create crafts at a variety of stations, that enhance our learning experience.

Following the experience, we will gather for fellowship, gifts and snacks at the parish. In order to make the necessary preparations, please RSVP to Lisa Hocek at lhoeck16@gmail.com with the total number of guests coming along with the names and ages of the children age 16 and under by the deadline date of December 1. An enjoyable and enlightening event has been planned in the best traditions of Milwaukee Sokol fellowship and fraternalism. Hoping to see many of our members as we start the Advent season off right!

Zdar Boh!
Lisa Hocek
Recording Secretary

New York, N.Y. - Assembly 182 will host its traditional St. Nicholas Day party for junior Sokols, Sokolky and guests on Sunday, December 4 in St. John Nepomucene Parish social hall located at 406 East 67th Street in Manhattan. Mass is celebrated in Slovak at 10:30 a.m. and English at 12:30 p.m. Festivities begin in the social hall at 1 p.m. A luncheon will be prepared by our Vice President Josef Bodo, free of charge for our children. There will be a charge for adults. The highlight of the afternoon will be a visit from St. Nicholas who will have gifts for all the children. In order to make the necessary arrangements, parents should call the financial secretary at tel. 201 670-8162 indicating the number of children up to age 12 who will attend. An enjoyable Sokol festivity is assured. Wishing all a joyous Christmas season, may I remain

Zdar Boh!
Dr. Ladislav Koreck
President

Pittsburgh, Pa. - Group 14 along with Assembly 16 and Wreath 22 will host their annual Children’s Christmas Party for junior Sokolky members on Saturday, December 10. The holiday festivities will be held at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club located at 2912 East Carson Street, South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. Doors open at noon and festivities begin at 1 p.m. As always, a wonderful program has been planned.

Children ages 0-12 years of age who have a Sokol insurance policy and who register are welcome to attend. Registration will be held every Wednesday and Thursday beginning on September 28th through November 18th at the Slovak Club. In addition, parents can contact Carmella(Suess) Marzec through the email. Call her on her cell phone: 412 494-9249, or email: suesscm@gmail.com, facebook Group 14 Pgh, Pa. Slovak Catholic Sokols.

Due to space limitations, only 150 children are permitted to participate in the party. Thus, early registration is recommended. The deadline will be taken after the deadline of November 18th. Refreshments will be served along with entertainment and a visit from Santa will complete the afternoon of Sokol fellowship. In keeping with our fraternal tradition of caring and sharing, those planning to attend are asked to bring along non-perishable food items which will be given to our local food pantry. Please join the Group 14 Pgh,Pa Slovak Catholic Sokols Facebook page for Christmas party updates and other activities during this holiday season in the best traditions of Pittsburgh Sokol fellowship and fraternalism.

Zdar Boh!
Carmella(Suess)Marzec
Chairperson

Youngstown, Oh. - Members of Sokol lodges in the Mahoning Valley, Wreath 54 and Assembly 108 and 107 are cordially invited to join us for the annual Children’s Christmas Party hosted by Group 17. This year’s event is set for Sunday, December 4 from 1-3 p.m. at Camelot Bowling Lanes, 628 Boardman-Carfield Road in Boardman, Oh. This holiday event will include bowling, refreshments and of course a visit from Santa. An afternoon of fun and fraternalism is planned. Members can enjoy two hours of bowling, pizza, soda pop and games. Reservations are necessary. Call Edie Babik at tel. 330 777-1777. Deadline to register is Wednesday, November 30. A fun-filled afternoon for children and adults is assured.

Zdar Boh!
Edie Babik
Wreath 54

Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Present Servant Leadership Award

(Continued from page 7)

volvement in the care of the elderly on all levels is a reminder of the Gospel message of Jesus who came to heal all.

Evangelization - Sister Addie Lorraine Walker, SSND. A young Sister, she was actively involved in catechesis in particular catechesis for the Black community and training lay people to become master catechists. She served as Provincial Leader of the Dallas Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, before its merger with four other provinces in the Central Pacific Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 2011. In 2012, Sister Addie was missioned to the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio where she was asked to develop and direct the Sankofa Institute for African American Pastoral Leadership. The Institute, under Sister Addie’s direction, cultivates understanding and appreciation of African Americans’ contributions to the entirety of pastoral leaders, men and women of all races and backgrounds, for the African American Christian community within the context of the universal Christian mission of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. Eumenism - Dr. R. Scott Woodward. Dr. Woodward is currently on the faculty of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. He serves as Assistant Professor in Pastoral Theology, Director of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry Program, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean. For more than 35 years, Dr. Woodward’s work has been focused on the study and instruction in Eumenism and Interreligious dialogue. He has taught ecumenical courses for Oblate School of Theology(OST), the Ministry to Ministers Program, the Lay Ministry Institute (which he created), as well as numerous continuing education events at OST. In addition to being instrumental in founding the Lay Ministry Institute at OST, he was one of the driving forces in creating the Sankofa Institute for African American Pastoral Leadership. - Sister Barbara Suhle, SS.C.M.

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Announcing the Memorial Scholarship Fund!!!

In Memory of...

Have you found yourself looking for a way to memorialize a lost loved one or fellow Group/Wreath/Assembly member? Why not make a donation in their honor to the newly developed Memorial Scholarship fund? Your donation will assure that an annual Memorial Scholarship Fund!!!

Depending on the amount of funds collected, we will deduce how it works:

- Fund clearly indicating the name to be memorialized. You can find a donation form on line at http://slovakcatholic sokol.org/memorial fund.htm or simply send your donation to:

Dennis J. Zifcak
SCHS Museum Treasurer
33 Pinecrest Rd.
Uxbridge, MA 01569

- Your bequest will be recognized in the Falcon as well as permanently added to the Memorial Scholarship Donation Log which will be kept at the SCHS Museum.

- Depending on the amount of funds collected, we will be able to award at least two $1,000 scholarships annually. The hope is that the donated funds will begin a perpetual-perpetuating interest bearing scholarship account.

Have you recently lost a loved one? You might consider earmarking donations to this fund in their memory. Keep the spirit of your fellow Sokol alive by investing in a way that their fraternal dedication will not be forgotten.
The yearly meeting of Group 10 was held on Saturday, October 16, 2016 at 1:00 PM in the basement social hall of Incarnation of Our Lord Church in Bethlehem, Pa.

The opening prayer was offered by Vice President Roman. Roll call taken showed the following officers present: President George Dempsey, Acting President/Acting Sports Director Stephen A. Roman, Financial Secretary Francis Blanar, Recording Secretary Susan Knoblauh, and Auditors Paulette Blanar, Barbara Dempsey, and Margaret Hogan. 

Delegate present from Assembly 72 were Thomas Hogan and Emery Roman. Delegate present from Assembly 78 was Alice Knoblauh. 

Recording Secretary Knoblauh relayed to those present the message she received from Assembly 32 that they were not able to attend the meeting. No one from Assembly 255 attended the meeting. 

Financial Secretary Blanar relayed a summary of a meeting of the auditors in October 2015 when they reviewed the Group’s financial records for the preceding year.

Auditor Dempsey moved a motion to accept the summary of the meeting. Delegate Knoblauh seconded it. All present were in favor of the motion.

President Kostelnik gave his report. He circulated a letter from Slovak Catholic Sokol General Council John D. Bogorelec, Jr. regarding the mandate from the Sokol Board of Directors regarding the sponsorship of activities and events held within the organization. Also, President Roman requested that all members and their addresses. President Kostelnik then reported on Group 10’s effort to get members involved by attending an IronPigs baseball game this past summer. Next President Kostelnik asked the assemblage to work on having monthly meetings, elect additional officers, and communicate with their members and get them involved in the assemblies. Delegate Hogan made a motion to accept the President’s report. Delegate Knoblauh seconded it. All present were in favor of the motion.

Vice President/Acting Sports Director Roman gave his report. He stated that due to serious health concerns his involvement over the past three years has been very limited. Although Vice President Roman’s health is improving, his progress is slow, but he hopes to get back to his duties as soon as possible. Vice President Roman then reported he was able to provide a variety of Sokol T-shirts to the members who attended the Iron Pigs game this summer.

Auditor Dempsey moved a motion to accept the Vice President’s report. Auditor Blanar seconded it. All present were in favor of the motion. 

Financial Secretary Blanar presented his report and circulated a copy of the financial report. After going through each line item, Financial Secretary Blanar explained that there was a problem with the debit card this past year which he resolved. The card has been renewed for a term of five years.

Auditor Dempsey reported that the auditors reviewed the financial records and dished everything in order. She recommended that the records be accepted and one correction be made to the financial report. Auditor Hogan seconded the motion. All present were in favor of the motion.

Those present discussed the letter from General Counsel Bogorelec circulated by President Kostelnik during his report and how the mandate affected Group 10 activities. It was decided that if any activities are planned where adults will work with children, the appropriate background checks will be conducted. Group 10 will pay the fees associated with the background checks.

Vice President Roman suggested that Group 10 withdraw funds from the money market account and put it into the Sokol Secure Fund. Financial Secretary Blanar explained that the bank requires a minimum balance so the account must stay as is. There was discussion of switching accounts to a bank that does not charge fees and it was determined that switching banks would be very difficult at this point due to the amount of paperwork required and the length of time it would take.

Those present discussed the Group’s attendance at the Iron Pigs baseball game. It was decided that a different event should be planned to build fraternalism. The officers and delegates are going to reconvene in March of 2017 to discuss ideas for future activities.

Financial Secretary Blanar asked those present if they had interest in fielding a softball team for the Sokol tournament next summer. Some people said they would participate so Financial Secretary Blanar will see if he can put a team together.

With no other business to discuss at this time, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Vice President Roman and seconded by Auditor Blanar.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 26, 2017 at 1:00 pm. Assembly 78 is invited to host the meeting. It will be held in the church basement social hall of Incarnation of Our Lord Church in Bethlehem, PA. Recording Secretary Knoblauh will contact the assemblies in February 2017 to remind them of the meeting date. At that meeting date a date will be set for the annual meeting in October 2017.

The meeting was closed with a prayer led by Financial Secretary Blanar.

Zidar Boh! 
Respectfully submitted, 
Susan Knoblauh 
Group 10 Secretary

Scholarships available for Ohio members. 

The Ohio Fraternal Alliance will award three college scholarship grants in the amount of $500 each to a deserving 2017 high school graduate. Any member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol residing in Ohio who will be a 2017 high school graduate may apply for these grants. The deadline for the existing applications is March 15, 2017. You can obtain an application, including requirement details, by contacting Ohio Fraternal Alliance President/Acting Sports Director Supreme Auditors James G. Jerek at 330-718-2253 or jjerek@zoom-internet.net

Feast of Saint Nicholas

(Continued from page 9)

...bags, or to punish them with their birch branches. All this is done in fun; Krampus’ main purpose is to remind the children to be good.

In most Germanic countries, St. Nicholas comes on December 5. Children sit on the windowsill or outside their bedroom door, and St. Nicholas rewards the children who have been good all year by filling up their shoes with goodies, such as nuts, fruits and sweets. Sometimes he comes on December 6, his actual feast day.

In Austria, the good saint will appear in his flowing robes and bishop’s mitre and carrying a bishop’s staff. He carries a thick book which records the good and bad deeds of the Guardian Angels have been keeping all year — all the good and bad deeds of the world’s children. At the appointed time, the whole family is gathered before St. Nicholas’ arrival. Krampus accompanies the bishop to scold naughty children. The bishop calls each child of the family forward to give an account of the year, and perhaps to receive their prayers. When Krampus tries to punish the naughty, St. Nicholas drives him away. After each child promises good behavior for the next year, he distributes the treats. Sometimes, in addition to the goodies, he rewards the children with birch branches decorated with candy, just as a reminder that Krampus is around if they should falter.

Whether celebrated on the eve or December 6, this holiday is a great occasion for children and adults.

38th Annual SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal of the Slovak Catholic Federation

For the past 38 years, the Slovak Catholic Federation has hosted its SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal in support of the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Rome and religious communities of men and women in Slovakia. The appeal is an opportunity to repay in a special way the gift of faith which we have received through our Slovak ancestors. The Slovak college in Rome, built by the American and Canadian Slovak community, was dedicated in 1963 and serves as a graduate house for Slovak priests pursuing graduate degrees at the various Pontifical Roman universities. We are pleased that our own Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic serves as the national president of the Slovak Catholic Federation (SCF). The SCF serves as the representative body of American and Canadian Catholics of Slovak ancestry. Since assuming the office of national president three years ago, individual members and local lodges of our organization have given generous support to the work of the SCF in general and have been generous to the annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal. As fraternalists, let us continue our charitable endeavors and include the SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal in our donations. In 2015, our Sokol lodge alone contributed a total of $2,414 to this appeal. Let us strive to increase the number of lodges contributing this year in honor of Father Hvozdovic and the outstanding priestly ministry he shares with us. Individuals may also make their individual contributions and perhaps honor the memory of a deceased family member. However large or small, know that a donation to the SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal will be greatly appreciated and put to good use. Thank you and Pan Brat Zaplat - My God repay your generosity.

As of this writing, about $15,000 has been raised for this year’s appeal. Donations may be made at any time during the calendar year of 2016. This year’s appeal coordinator is Rev. Thomas Nasta, SCF National First Vice President and the national chaplain of the First Slovak Catholic Union and pastor of the Parish of Our Lady of Ransom in Philadelphia, Pa. Again, we thank you for your goodness and generosity to this appeal. Make checks payable to Slovak Catholic Federation.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by the Rev. Joseph Murgas at St. Mary’s University, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. to coordinate the past efforts of Slovak Catholic fraternal societies, parishes, religious communities of men and women and individuals and to give witness to our heritage of faith as handed down to our ancestors who first were evangelized by the great Apostles of the Slavs, SS. Cyril and Methodius.

38th Annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name___________________________
Address_________________________
City______________________________
State_____________________________
Zip_______________________________
Amount $_________________________
In memory of ______________________

Make check payable to Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to: Dolores Ewanko, National Secretary-Treasurer Slovak Catholic Federation 173 Berner Avenue Hazleton, PA 18201

Remember the Memorial Scholarship Fund!!!

Have you found yourself looking for a way to memorialize a loved one or fellow Group/Wreath/Assembly member? Why not make a donation in their honor to the Memorial Scholarship Fund? Donations made payable to: SCS Memorial Scholarship Fund may be sent to:

Dennis J. Zifcak
SCS Museum Treasurer
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Uxbridge, MA 01569
Slovak Catholic Sokol

Annuity Rates

Effective Date: July 1, 2016

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NUMBER OF BOOKS

(Effective January 1, 2015)
Sedem dôvodov prečo píti denný zelený čaj


Legenda o čižmičkách


Na Moste slobody symbolicky uzavreli hránice s Rakúskom

Sedem dôvodov prečo píti denný zelený čaj


Legenda o čižmičkách

V Bratislave začali vianočné trhy

Rozsvietenim vianočného stromčeka na Hlavnom a neskôr aj na Hviezdoslavovom námestí sa ľudia môžu tešiť na kultúrny program v uliciach mest, ktorý ľuďom spríjemní predvianočnú atmosféru. Vianočná Bratislava potrvá do 22. decembra.

Na Moste slobody symbolicky uzavretí hranic s Rakúskom