



# First Catholic Slovak Union/Ladies Union

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

## Introduction

The First Catholic Slovak Union (Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Jednota) was formed in Cleveland on September 4, 1890 by Father Stephen Furdek. It was one of many groups that aimed to provide economic and social support for Slovak immigrants and their families. Throughout its existence, it has helped establish numerous Catholic churches; created a bilingual newspaper, *Jednota* ("Union"); provided financial support for widows and orphans; and founded schools for children of Slovak immigrants. In 1892, a sister organization, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Union (Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Ženská Jednota), was founded by Anna Hurban. It also provides financial security for its members, in addition to scholarships and cultural offerings like the *Slovak American Cookbook*. Today, both organizations are headquartered in the Cleveland area and continue to provide financial products, as well as host and support events preserving and celebrating Slovak heritage.

## Important Dates

- September 4, 1890: The First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) is founded in Cleveland.
- May 12, 1891: The first issue of *Jednota*, the Union's bilingual newspaper, is published.
- January 1, 1892: The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Union (FCSLU) is founded in Cleveland.
- 1914: *Jednota* Home and Immaculate Conception School is opened in Middletown, Pennsylvania.
- 1927: Benedictine High School is founded in Cleveland.
- 1927: FCSLU hosts its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, which included a 6,000 person parade.
- 1960s: FCSLU becomes First Catholic Ladies Slovak Association and merges with several smaller benefit organizations.
- December 6, 1990: FCSU merges with Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union.

## Suggested Search Strategies

- Try the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), proximity or as phrases: First Catholic Slovak Union, Katolícka Slovenska Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Union, Katolícka Slovenska Zenska Jednota.
- Search newspapers in all states, not just Ohio. This organization had chapters across the country.
- Use an online translation service to translate search terms and articles between Slovak and English.

## Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- "[Chapter 171—S.F. No. 411](#)" *Appeal* (Saint Paul, MN), May 2, 1903, Law Supplement, Image 13, col. 2.
- "[Amalgamation of Big Slovak Bodies Planned](#)" *Bridgeport Evening Farmer*, September 7, 1916, Image 1, col. 4.
- "[Whiting Will Have Huge Parade Sunday](#)" *Lake County Times* (Hammond, IN), September 13, 1919, Image 4, col. 3-4.
- "[Address Delivered by John A. Willo](#)" *Youngstown'ske' Slovenske' Noviny* (Youngstown, OH), September 8, 1933, Image 2, col. 2-4.
- "[The Story of the Slovaks](#)" *Youngstown'ske' Slovenske' Noviny* (Youngstown, OH), January 10, 1936, Image 3, col. 3-5.
- "[Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Ženská Jednota](#)" (ad) *Youngstown'ske' Slovenske' Noviny* (Youngstown, OH), December 18, 1936, Image 3, col. 5-8.