Constitution
of the
SLOVAK CATHOLIC FEDERATION

Article I
Name and Purpose of the Organization

Sec. 1. The name of this organization shall be the Slovak Catholic Federation or Združenie Slovenských Katolíkov, (originally in Slovak: Sdruženie Slovenskych Katolíkov). The name shall be represented by the initials of: S.C.F. or Z.S.K.

Sec. 2. The purposes of the Slovak Catholic Federation shall be:

(A) to promote the Slovak Catholic heritage and its awareness among Slovak Catholics in the United States;

(B) to continue the apostolic tradition of Saints Cyril and Methodius by promoting the proclamation of the Gospel through works of faith and charity, education and pilgrimage;

(C) to establish and maintain the bonds of fraternal cooperation among Slovak Catholic societies and Slovak Catholics in the United States and to foster such bonds by the promotion and sponsorship of religious and social activities;

(D) to support vocations to the ordained ministry and religious life, both in the United States and Slovakia;

(E) to assist the Catholic Church in the Slovak Republic, primarily by helping maintain the Pontifical College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome and by rendering financial support for the formation of both clergy and religious;

(F) to create and maintain structures which foster gatherings of Slovak Catholics in various areas of the United States;

Sec. 3. The Slovak Catholic Federation shall be empowered to raise such funds as are necessary to accomplish its purposes. It shall be empowered to employ all legitimate means conducive to its purposes.

Sec. 4. The Federation shall not exist for political purposes. Political issues, as such, shall be excluded from all Federation business. This is not to be construed in any way as limiting the expression and promotion of Catholic doctrine and moral teaching.

Sec. 5. The Federation shall invoke as its patrons: Saints Cyril and Methodius.
Sec. 6. The Fiscal Year of the Slovak Catholic Federation shall extend inclusively from the first day of January to the last day of December of the same calendar year.

Article II
Membership

Sec. 1. Membership of the Slovak Catholic Federation shall be open to the following:

(A) Catholic individuals who accept the Purposes of the Federation

(B) Slovak Catholic organizations, both lay and religious.

(C) Organizations with a majority of Slovak Catholic membership that accept, for the good of their members, the purposes of the Federation. The particular structure of such membership shall be determined by the Executive Board.

(D) Local Chapters.

Sec. 2. Individuals, organizations, Religious groups and Local Chapters shall all pay dues for support of the Federation. Refer to Appendix for complete listing.

ARTICLE III
National Officers

Sec. 1. The National Officers of the Slovak Catholic Federation are:

Episcopal Moderator
National Spiritual Advisor
National President
Immediate Past President
National Secretary-Treasurer
2 National Vice Presidents
National Editor/Public Relations Officer

Sec. 2. With the exception of the Immediate Past President, the National Officers shall be elected by the National Convention.

Sec. 3. Whenever a vacancy occurs in any office of the Federation, where no right of succession is provided for in the Constitution, the National President shall appoint someone to the vacant office. The appointment shall require ratification by the Executive Board at its next ordinary meeting.
Sec. 4. The Episcopal Moderator shall provide guidance in all matters that pertain to the Catholic Church and shall serve as a liaison to other bishops of the Catholic Church.

Sec. 5. The National Spiritual Advisor shall be duly elected at the National Convention. He shall open and close each Executive Board Meeting and Convention session with prayer and shall act as the Spiritual Advisor of the Federation.

Sec. 6. The National President shall:
   a. convene and preside over the meetings of the Executive Board and of the National Convention;
   b. carry out the enactments of the Executive Board and of the National Convention;
   c. present a written report of the administration of the office of National President to the National Convention;
   d. maintain and encourage a vision and course of direction for the good of the Federation and its membership;
   e. represent the Federation at functions and events, when possible.
   f. appoint two qualified members to audit the financial records annually. This appointment shall be approved by the Executive Board.

Sec. 7. The National Secretary-Treasurer shall:
   a. keep a current register of members;
   b. bill members annually for dues by sending membership renewal notification in January of a new calendar year;
   c. keep a current listing of Slovak parishes and other organizations for the Annual Appeal;
   d. keep an accurate account of receipts and disbursements of the Federation;
   e. have charge of the checkbooks, Money Market account, CD's, Slovak Church Fund, grants and Annual Appeal monies and sign all checks;
   f. receive and deposit, in a timely manner, all monies paid to the organization after making a record thereof;
   g. pay all Federation bills in a timely manner;
   h. give an annual report to be published in the official publication;
   i. prepare the Minutes of the Executive Board meetings;
   j. arrange Executive Board meeting locations, accommodations, meals, etc.;
   k. prepare a report of the general financial condition of the Federation to the National Convention and present a written report of the administration of the office of National Secretary-Treasurer.

Sec. 8. There shall be two National Vice Presidents.
   a. The First Vice President shall be responsible for the annual Slovak Catholic Federation Appeal and shall facilitate Executive Board meetings and Convention sessions in the absence of the National President.
b. The First Vice President shall succeed to the office of the President, should it become vacant for whatever reason.

c. The Second Vice President shall be responsible for the promotion of membership and shall be the contact between the Executive Board and local Chapter leadership.

Sec. 9. The National Editor/Public Relations Officer shall:

a. oversee the publication of the periodical of the Federation by soliciting and editing appropriate materials and by directing all matters pertaining to its printing and distribution;

b. provide a written report on all Executive Board meetings to Slovak Catholic fraternal publications;

c. provide publicity, regarding the Slovak Catholic Federation activities and accomplishments, unless this is handled by a specific Standing Committee.

Sec. 10. National Officers shall be formally installed by the Episcopal Moderator at the Convention at which they are elected.

**ARTICLE IV**

*Executive Board*

Sec. 1. The Executive Board

(A) The Executive Board is the administrative body of the Slovak Catholic Federation and shall conduct the ordinary business of the Federation. Such ordinary business shall include the regulation of dues and assessments and all provisions necessary for the Convention

(B) The Executive Board shall be comprised of:

Episcopal Moderator
Abbot Protector
National President
Immediate Past President
National Spiritual Advisor
2 National Vice Presidents
National Secretary-Treasurer
National Editor/Public Relations Officer
Representatives from the Conference of Slovak Religious – 3, one of whom is the President
Representatives of the Conference of Slovak Clergy – 2
National President / National Secretary (-Treasurer) / National Chaplain
of member Slovak Catholic Fraternal Societies
Members-at-large (elected by the National Convention, not to exceed 8)
Representative of each Local Chapter, ordinarily the Chapter President
(C) The National President shall convene the Executive Board and preside at its sessions.

(D) The Executive Board shall meet twice during the calendar year.

(E) A simple majority of the Executive Board constitutes a quorum for conducting the ordinary business of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

(F) Consultors may be appointed, as needed, by the National President. Such Consultors shall be non-voting.

(G) The Executive Committee of the Slovak Catholic Federation shall consist of:
- Episcopal Moderator
- National President
- Immediate Past President
- First National Vice President
- National Secretary-Treasurer

(H) The Executive Committee shall:
- meet prior to each Executive Board meeting
- review Minutes of previous Board meeting and all pertinent financial information of the Federation
- discuss Agenda for next Executive Board meeting

ARTICLE V
Local Chapters

Sec. 1. The local Chapter shall serve as a center of mutual encouragement and as an impulse for more energetic and persevering activity in pursuit of the purposes of the Slovak Catholic Federation. Therefore, the Executive Board, through the office of the Second Vice-President shall make every effort to encourage the establishment of such local Chapters.

Sec. 2. Every Chapter shall select a patron by whose name it shall be known. Such a patron shall be either a Saint of the Church or a prominent Slovak Catholic individual of good repute.

Sec. 3. Chapter officers shall be:
- Spiritual Advisor
- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Youth Director
Sec. 4. The necessary number of members for the existence of a Chapter is: 12 + 1.

Sec. 5. The formation of a local Chapter is subject to the approval of the Executive Board upon receipt of Chapter Application form. In order for a Chapter to be recognized by the Executive Board of the Federation, both the Chapter and its members individually must be dues paying members of the Federation. The election of Chapter officers must also meet with the approval of the Executive Board and terms of office shall coincide with National Conventions.

Sec. 6. Once approved, the Chapter President/Representative becomes a voting member of the Executive Board. For each Executive Board meeting, the Chapter President shall provide a written report of Chapter activities and financial status.

Sec. 7. Chapter dues, other than national membership, are suggested and may be established by local discretion.

Sec. 8. The dissolution of a Chapter is the responsibility of the Executive Board. Any monies / assets of the dissolved Chapter shall be submitted to the Executive Board for inclusion in the general working account of the Federation.

ARTICLE VI
Convention

Sec. 1. Convention

(A) The National Convention is the supreme authority of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

(B) The National Convention shall be convened, ordinarily, every four years. The National President shall call for the Convention formally and publicly the year prior to the Convention.

(C) The National President shall convene the Convention and preside at its sessions. The business of the Convention, unless specifically determined herein, shall be conducted according to the current edition of Roberts' Rules of Order.

(D) Order of business shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Report of Credentials Committee
4. Report of the Program (Agenda) Committee
ARTICLE VII

Amendments

Sec. 1. The Constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of the actually registered delegates at the National Convention.

Sec. 2. Any member of the Federation may propose an amendment to the Constitution. Such proposals must be submitted in writing to the National Secretary-Treasurer, at least two months prior to the Convention. The Constitution Committee shall organize the proposals and make a recommendation in regard to each.

Sec. 3. Amendments passed by the Convention shall take effect immediately, unless otherwise provided for.

Verification: We hereby certify that the foregoing Constitution of the Slovak Catholic Federation was approved and adopted at the 56th National Convention held from April 17-20, 2005 at Hazleton, Pennsylvania and that the same has been declared as the legal Constitution of the Slovak Catholic Federation and thus take effect immediately.

Rev. Philip A. Altavilla, National President
Slovak Catholic Federation

Dolores M. Evanko, National Secretary-Treasurer
Slovak Catholic Federation