



# Jednota

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## Lenten Message from the National Chaplain

*Have mercy on me, Lord, in your kindness. In the greatness of your compassion, wipe out my offense.*

These words begin Psalm 51, probably the most prayed psalm in the world. Psalm 51 is prayed every Friday throughout the year as part of Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, the prayer of the Universal Church.

It is also an excellent prayer for each of us to pray during Lent, when we set out to renew ourselves and amend our lives to be more in accord with the divine will by doing penance. Jesus tells us in Matthew 6 that prayer, along with fasting

and almsgiving, when done reverently and with the proper disposition, leads one to a renewed relationship back to God.

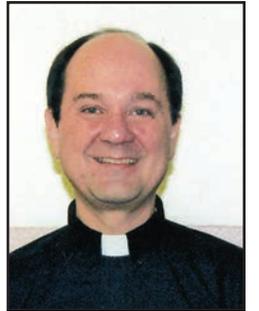
Psalm 51 has all the elements of a traditional Act of Contrition – the admission that one has sinned, the desire for forgiveness, and a resolve to avoid sin in the future. It is best prayed following a thorough examination of conscience and we realize the seriousness of what we have said, thought, or did has deeply wounded, or in some cases completely severed, our relationship with God and the depths of his love.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the

apparition of Mary to three young children at Fatima, Portugal. One of the main messages Our Lady of Fatima asked the children to convey to the world was to pray for the conversion of sinners. Perhaps this Lent, as we acknowledge our own sins and ask for God's mercy and receive His grace through the Sacrament of Penance, we will pray for each other too, for as it is mentioned in Psalm 51, the Lord will not spurn a broken, humbled heart.

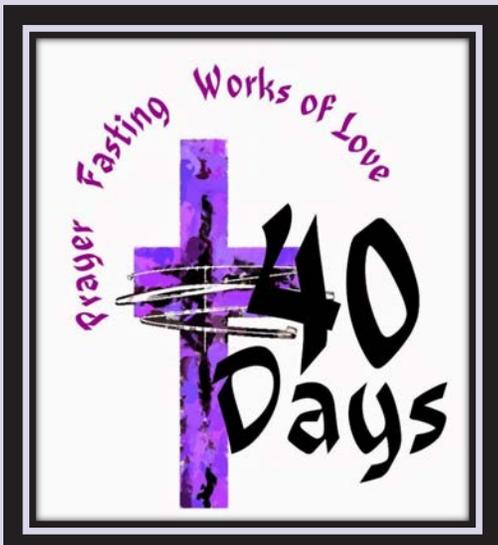
Fraternally,

Fr. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain



Rev. Thomas Nasta

### Lent 2017



Lent is the annual period of Christian observance that precedes Easter, which is a moveable feast, meaning that it falls on a different date each year. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, this year falling on March 1st. Its observance lasts for 40 days, mirroring the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before starting His ministry. It can also be seen to mirror the 40 hours that Jesus spent in the tomb prior to His resurrection.

Lent is a penitential period, involving the dual disciplines of abstinence and fasting. This is done both as a form of penitence and as a spiritual tool to tame the body and 'sharpen the spirit' for prayer, reflection and contemplation in preparation for the celebration of Easter.



### 2017 Jednota Scholarship

Deadline Is March 31st

See page 12 for details

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### 2016 National Coloring Contest Winners, Part I, p13



# Insights and Viewpoints



## St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies, Father Killian Loch, O.S.B., Father Edward Mazich, O.S.B.

**March 5, 2017 - First Sunday of Lent**

**Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7**

**Gospel: Matthew 4: 1-11**

The first reading for this weekend is the second story of creation. God forms man out of the clay of the earth and breathes into him the breath of life. This reminds us of the image in Isaiah of God as the potter, and we as the clay. God personally forms us and breathes life into us. This puts us



Fr. Killian Loch,  
O.S.B.

in a deeply personal relationship with God. One that calls of love and respect, from which obedience naturally flows. However, the enemy of God wishes to rupture these relationships and pull us away from God. This enemy will say and do anything to achieve this, he is known as the prince of lies. This is what happened to our first parents as the enemy, in the form of a serpent, tempts them to do the one thing God had told them not to do. The serpent is very persuasive and our first parents freely made the decision to act against God. With this the beauty and harmony of creation are disrupted and sin has entered the world. Our first parents traded the life that comes from God, for death that comes from sin. The rest of the Bible is God searching for us and calling us back to the life he desires us to have.

In the Gospel we see Jesus, the Messiah, Son of God, preparing for his public ministry after being baptized in the Jordan by John. He was led into the desert by the Spirit for 40 days of fasting and prayer. At the end of these forty days he was tired and hungry and the devil went to work. Is it not the same in our own lives that our most intense temptations come to us after some deep religious devotion or experience? And don't they seem to strike at us during the most vulnerable times? Jesus is given three temptations. The first is to satisfy his immediate need of physical hunger after forty days of fasting, to turn stones into bread. It was not the time for Jesus to eat, and he resists the temptation. The Second is for Jesus to prove that he is the Son of God. Again, Jesus resists. The third is to prostrate before the devil and worship him. And again Jesus resists.

The temptations of Jesus began with something that seemed so harmless, providing bread for his hunger. Temptations often begin with the simple act that doesn't seem too wrong. The temptations then move to having us questioning our relationship with God. Does God really love me, is God protecting me, why are bad things happening in my life and with my family? The devil plants these doubts that can pull us away from God. The final temptation is to turn away from God and turn toward Satan.

Fortunately for us, not only did Jesus resist these temptations, his ultimate victory over sin and death is our victory. We can cling to this and find strength during our own difficult times. On Ash Wednesday we use ashes as a sign of our desire to "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." Lent is a time for us to remember who we are, sons and daughters of God created in his image and likeness. We are called upon these days to fast and pray with the desire to draw closer to God. It moves us to repent of our sins, and to allow God's grace to guide us in living more faithfully so as to be able to truly rejoice in God's faithfulness to us and the ultimate victory of Jesus at Easter of Eternal Life.

**March 12, 2017 - 2nd Sunday of Lent**

**Gospel: Matthew 17: 1-9**

Even to the present day generations of Americans have been brought up with an image of the American west as a land of opportunity. How many of us have friends or family members who moved to Texas, California, Arizona or other points west to find work or a new beginning in life? This is no new phenomenon in our country either: a nineteenth century saying often attributed to Horace Greeley advises: "Go west, young man..."

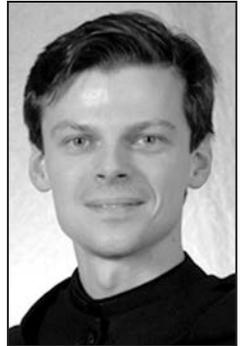
The idea of leaving everything behind and striking out afresh brings with it both risks and possibly great rewards. In today's readings we witness just such a movement taking place as Abram departs from his homeland: "Go forth from your land, your relatives, and from your father's house to a land that I will show you" (Gen 12:1). Going forth from security and certainty into the unknown is a fundamental theme of biblical revelation. Even though he appears in the early chapters of Genesis Abram is not the first example of this: already after the murder of Abel Cain is sent out and banished to "the land of Nod, east of Eden" (Gen 4:16).

Later in the biblical narrative the quintessential story of setting forth into the unknown is found when the people of Israel depart from the land of Egypt at the time of the Exodus. They were leaving a place where they were slaves, yet they were secure in their slavery; they had food and shelter and above all a predictable life: their lot was grim but it required of them no decision, no risk, or no leap of faith. Not so their exodus, which required them to leave behind everything they knew and take up an itinerary of faith and trust.

A similar kind of setting forth in faith begins to be revealed in the gospel as Jesus is transfigured before the eyes of Peter, James, and John on Mount Tabor. Just as the Lord made the initial promise of blessing to Abram as he ordered him forth in the pages of Genesis: "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you" (Gen 12:2), so too Christ now extends to his three closest disciples the invitation to follow him and he provides them with a frank forecast of what that discipleship will require of them. Their journeys will not be as lonely as that of Abram but they will take these three apostles—and similar journeys will take all who seek to follow the Lord—places they did not expect to go.

Eventually the "going forth" of Peter, James and John will bring them to their own moments of trial: as Abram encountered hardships, threats, and betrayal during his journey from his ancestral homeland of Ur into the promised land, so also Jesus' three closest disciples—and all the apostles—would deal with adversity and outright hostility as they proclaimed the Good News. But just as they followed in Abram's footsteps with respect to adversity so too they would become like him a source of definitive blessing for all the nations, helping to extend the blessing of Abram to the whole world. To do this they first came to understand that Jesus was the "beloved Son" in whom God was well pleased (Matt 17:5), and then they set forth after his resurrection, no longer afraid (Matt 17:7) but strengthened by the Spirit of Christ within them.

We all have a journey to make in life, and as Christians it is defined by our trust in God, revealed in Jesus Christ. Taking courage from Peter, James, and John, let us resolve to be so moved by the Transfiguration that we too will be able to "go forth" in faith, entrusting our journey to the Lord and knowing that in him we already have arrived at our final destination.



Fr. Edward Mazich,  
O.S.B.

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY OF THE WEEK BEFORE THE ISSUE DATE, unless otherwise stated below because of special holiday scheduling. Copy that is not received by this deadline will not necessarily appear in the following Wednesday's issue.

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, MAR 29	MONDAY, MAR 20
WEDNESDAY, APR 19	MONDAY, APR 10
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10	MONDAY, MAY 1

Correspondents who are announcing events should allow ample time for them to be received by the readership, taking into account the publication schedule and the extra time in the postal system.

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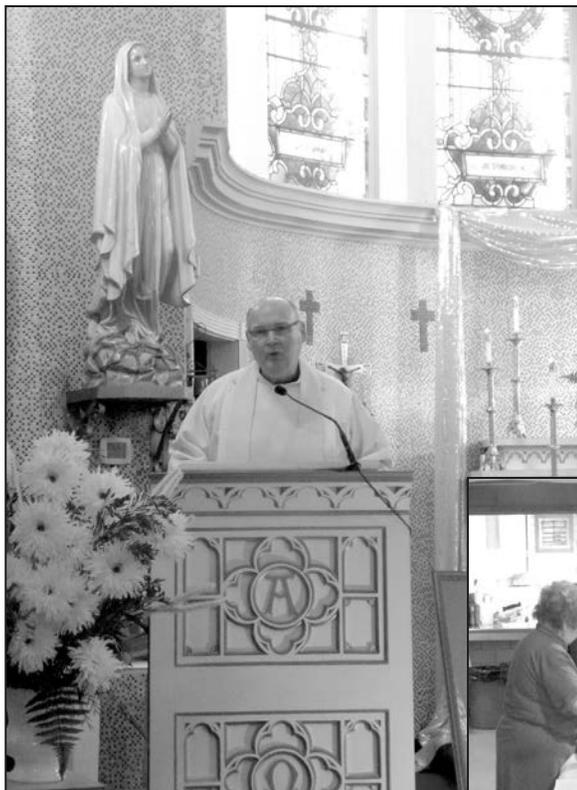
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Father John M. Jerek, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish delivers the homily during the Mass celebrating the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Saints Cyril and Methodius Church, Youngstown, Ohio, one of the three churches that comprise the Slovak Catholic parish.



Father Dan Cipar, retired pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in East Palestine, Ohio and a concelebrant of the Mass on the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius, moves through the serving line for the meal that followed the service.

## Celebrating the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius

Continuing a 25-year tradition, the Youngstown Chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation offered a Mass and free meal in celebration of the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius, the patron saints of Slovaks, on Tuesday, February 14, 2017. The Mass was held at the beautiful, historic church of Saints Cyril and Methodius, the 'mother' church of numerous Slovak and several other ethnic Catholic congregations in the Youngstown diocese, which is now part of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish. The chapter hosted those in attendance for a free meal in the church's social hall immediately following the Mass.

Msgr. Robert Siffrin, the Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia for the Diocese of Youngstown, OH, was the principle celebrant. Concelebrating were Rev. Marian Babjak, associate pastor of St. Charles Borromeo in Boardman, Rev. Martin Celuch, diocesan Adjutant Judicial Vicar, pastor of Christ Our Savior Parish/St. Nicholas Church in Struthers and a former pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows, Rev. Dan Cipar, retired pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in East Palestine, Rev. John M. Jerek, diocesan Vicar for Clergy and Religious Services and pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, and Rev. Melvin E. Rusnak, retired pastor of Saints Cyril and Methodius Church and current chaplain of the Youngstown Chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation. Rev. George M. Franko, retired pastor emeritus of Holy Name of Jesus and the founder and former chaplain of the Youngstown Chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation was in attendance. Father Jerek was the homilist.

The Mass, which began at 5:30pm, was attended by individuals from a broad cross-section of parishes throughout the diocese. With notably mild weather for the month of February, the turn-out was the largest in recent years. A dedicated group of parishioners from Our Lady of Sorrows prepared the meal that featured traditional Slovak fare. They also devoted significant time and energy to decorate the church and hall to reflect the festive nature of the feast day. Many others brought various sweets and treats to complete the menu.

In an effort to gauge interest in future events, including a modified fall gathering in lieu of the chapter's longstanding pilgrimage, those present were asked to complete a brief survey outlining several options. A number of small door prizes were awarded, with winner drawn from among those who completed the survey. The lingering crowd seemed to reflect the camaraderie and celebratory nature of the evening. The chapter will be meeting soon to finalize plans for its customary fall event. An announcement will be forthcoming shortly.

- Submitted by T. L. Wagner, Secretary/Treasurer, Youngstown Chapter Slovak Catholic Federation



## 12th ANNUAL EGG EggSTRAVAGANZA

**SUNDAY,  
APRIL 2, 2017**

**12:00 NOON – 5:00pm**

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church Social Hall  
201 E. Main Street  
Uniontown, PA

### “Experience the traditions”

- Egg artists will demonstrate, display and sell eggs
- Market place with pysanky supplies, Easter items, Easter crafts, basket covers and other ethnic items
- Children's activities including storytelling, making Easter eggs, other projects
- Videos showing of Pysanky and Pysanky making
- Display of Easter basket covers
- Explanation of traditional Easter foods
- Pysanky jigsaw table
- Lenten Lunch Menu available for purchase
- Hands-on workshop for those interested in learning to make pysanky
- Free Admission                      Handicapped accessible

Sponsored by: GCU Lodge #81, Local Egg Artists, & St. John's Ethnic Craft Club

### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

HOME OFFICE

INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017 - SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017

The ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on *Friday, March 17, 2017 - Saturday, March 18, 2017.*

All Officers are requested to consult Section 6.03(b) and Section 6.03(c) of our Bylaws for further information concerning officer participation and the conduct of this meeting.

Officers who are required to give reports at the Annual Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office on or before Friday, March 10, 2017.

All correspondence relative to the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth Arendt, and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to March 10, 2017.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9406 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Andrew M. Rajec  
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary



### From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Friday, April 14, 2017, in observance of Good Friday.

## 18th Edition of Carpathian Cookbook

### Now Available

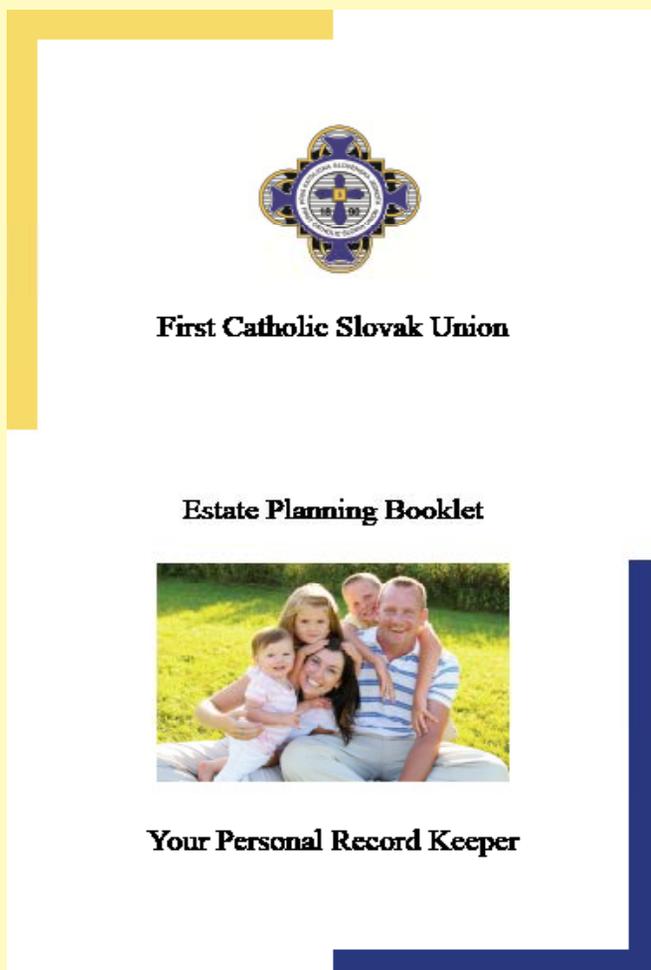


The Carpathian Cookery cookbook, has entered its 18th printing. The 330-page cookbook includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.00 plus \$4.00 postage and handling (\$18.00). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$27.00 U.S. Postal money order

payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost. To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, or call (724) 208-6671 (M – F 6-8PM) for more information. You may contact us at: carpathiancookery@gmail.com.

# FREE

## Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union



As National President Andrew M. Rajec and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt state in the beginning of the Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) - the very foundations of our Society have been built on values that honor and protect our loved ones. The FCSU portfolio of insurance and annuity products itself, they point out, is designed with the financial protection of loved ones in mind, as well.

Now, as a member of the FCSU, you can receive a valuable tool for free that allows you to help your loved ones once again. Inside the pages of this personal record keeper are easy ways to record and centralize all the pertinent information for processing your estate – from personal, medical and financial information to life insurance policies, real estate holdings and other assets to final wishes for your family.

To request your free copy of the First Catholic Slovak Union Estate Planning Booklet, please call at 1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682).

## FOR SALE

### Embroidered Easter Basket Covers

Three types of basket covers are available to bring your Easter Foods to Church for blessing on Holy Saturday  
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#2



#3

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"Christ is Risen"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> English words "Alleluia! Christ is risen"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Byzantine Slovak words "Christos voskrese"  
"Christ is risen"

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Fr. Micah E. Kozoil  
St. Aloysius Church  
459 Ranch Road, Dunbar, PA 15431

# ANNUAL SLOVAK MASS & EASTER CUSTOMS BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 8, 2017



## St. Adalbert Church

160 So.15<sup>th</sup> Street, South Side, Pittsburgh, PA

10:45 a.m. -- Recitation of Rosary (in Slovak)

11:00 a.m. -- Slovak Mass

## 12:15 p.m. -- SAMPLE SLOVAK EASTER FOODS

sunka (ham) sirek (egg cheese) hrin (beets & horseradish)  
kolbasy (sausage) paska (sweet bread) kolace (baked goods)

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## Focus on Faith

# Remembrances of the Conference of Slovak Religious

## Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

On the Sunday before Valentine's Day, as I listened to the Pittsburgh, PA-based Slovak radio program featuring Rudy and Sue Ondrejco, Sue reminded us that February 14th is also the commemoration of Saints Cyril and Methodius. She and Rudy spoke of the history of the brother saints and of the value of their contribution to the faith and spirituality of the Slavic people. In their honor, they played the beautiful hymn Duša Krestanska.

As I sang along with the words I remembered, I was struck with emotion of the warm and moving memories evoked for me as the longest-time member of the Conference of Slovak Religious. We sang that hymn every time we gathered. I attended my first meeting at the home of the Jesuit Fathers in Cambridge, ON, Canada, in 1983. Since the member communities were hosts for the annual meetings, almost every year thereafter, the other members and I traveled sometimes near and sometimes far; from the Vincentian and Franciscan motherhouses in Pittsburgh to the Benedictines and Vincentians in Cleveland, OH; the Franciscans in Peoria, IL; the Sisters of the Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA; the Franciscans in Bethlehem, PA; and to my own monastery, Mt. St. Macrina in Uniontown, PA.

The meetings were delightful. We were privileged to visit each other's lovely motherhouses, convents, and monasteries where we always received the best hospitality. We were impressed and inspired to learn of the various ministries, activities, and accomplishments of these dedicated religious. The strong gift of leadership that each community expressed contributed so much for God, His Church, and the Slovak community. We were a group who very much enjoyed praying together and becoming acquainted as we socialized. We shared our stories, learned our differences, appreciated our similarities, and were bonded in our love of everything Slovak.

I am deeply saddened to say that most of those wonderful priests, brothers and sisters have fallen asleep in the Lord. I remember each one by name, but they are too many to mention here. Even as I dearly miss them, I am grateful for the wealth of blessings that they, as well as the other members who live today, continue to be for me.

- Submitted by Sister Elaine Kisinko, OSBM

## Why is Tax Day April 18?



The regular tax return filing deadline is April 15. However, due to April 15 being on a Saturday and the Washington D.C. Emancipation Day holiday being observed on April 17 instead of April 16, 2017, Tax Day is on the following Tuesday, or April 18, 2017.

### Real or Scam? Is the Call I Received Really From the IRS?

The phone call is a scam. Many people have reported receiving phone calls from the IRS Fraud Division. The caller typically asks for personal information, or tells the victim that they have to send money to the IRS and provides an address.

Callers often provide fake IRS identification badge numbers and alter caller ID screen displays to make it appear they are from the IRS. Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting. Victims may also be told they have a refund due to try and trick them into sharing private information.

The IRS notes that there are a few easy ways to tell when someone is impersonating the IRS:

- The IRS never calls you initially; you will receive a notice via certified mail first.
- The IRS never demands immediate payment, and all tax bills are mailed.
- Taxpayers always have the right to question or appeal the amount you owe.
- The IRS never requires specific payment methods like a prepaid debit card.
- The IRS never asks for credit card or debit card numbers over the phone.
- The IRS will never threaten to call local police or law enforcement groups to arrest you for not paying.

Be very wary if you are contacted this way and report any phone calls such as these to the IRS directly.

### Don't Fall for Fake IRS emails either

The IRS also has warned of a new wave of email "phishing" scams, where honest taxpayers are lured into providing personal information by email to criminals posing as the IRS. These scams are simple to avoid, because the IRS never initiates contact by email. The IRS only communicates by regular mail, or by phone if you call them. Do not reply to any email purporting to be from the IRS.

- As posted on efile.com



Happy Birthday to Branch 181's Dr. Lyn-da Firment, who will be 75 years young on April 19, 2017. She and her husband are planning a Caribbean cruise to celebrate.

## Join us for our 12th Consular Tour of Slovakia and its Neighbors

July 29 -August 11, 2017



Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko and his Slovak-born wife, Albina, have assembled a deluxe tour of Slovakia which includes history-rich cities of Bratislava, Šaštín, Skalica, Trenčín, Bojnice, Rajecké Teplice, Rajecká Lesná, Čičmany, High Tatras, Levoča,

Kežmarok, Ždiar, Stará L'ubovňa, Košice, Bardejov, Jedlinka and Prešov. As you travel through the various regions of Slovakia, arrangements can be made for you

to visit relatives or family towns and villages for an additional cost. These are just some of the highlights of our tour.

What makes this tour unique is that it includes a tour of two castles, a mock wedding, two wine tastings, rafting between Slovakia and Poland, and a welcome reception with the Mayor of Prešov.

At no extra cost, Joe and Albina have included a tour of Vienna and Poland. While in Poland, we will visit the famous shrine of Czestochowa, Zakopane and Krakow, including tours of Auschwitz and the Wieliczka salt mine.

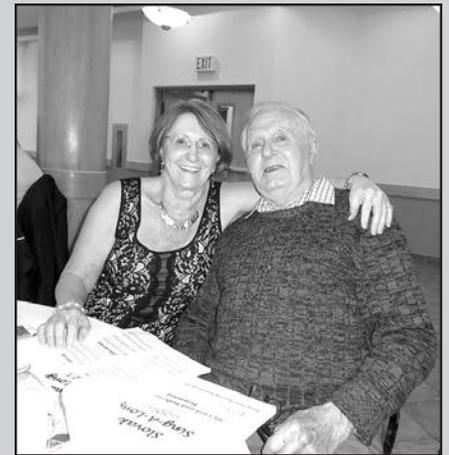
The total price for this complete tour is just \$3,798 per person (double occupancy). The tour includes airfare from Pittsburgh or Newark, two delicious meals daily, four-star hotels, air conditioned bus, a professional guide and more. For a copy of a detailed daily itinerary, contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000.

- Submitted by Joe Senko, Branch 254

# Scenes from Sts. Cyril and Methodius Sing-A-Long in Mississauga

On January 21, 2017, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Mississauga, Ontario had their annual Sing-a-Long. Every year the event grows and gets better, with everyone enjoying the music provided by Miro Letko for their singing and listening pleasure. We also had great food prepared by our own chef Jana and volunteers from the church. Many members of Branch 785 were in attendance.

Helen von Friedl, Branch 785



# A Crash Course in Slovak: Useful Slovak Words and Phrases, Part I

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.

Slovak is a very rich language; it beautifully flows like a song or poem. It is also one of the most difficult languages in the world to learn, with a very complicated set of grammar rules. This presentation will introduce Slovak pronunciation and cover the most basic words and phrases needed to get by in traveling in Slovakia, and some key Slovak words in researching genealogy. It will also offer some useful advice if one intends to travel in Slovakia, including driving or using trains in Slovakia.

Having learned Slovak from scratch, I fully understand the challenges of Slovak. Most of us just wish to learn enough to do some research and/or travel there, and to obtain some idea of what to expect. Rather than dealing with grammar, I will focus on simple conversation: greeting and meeting people, getting directions, eating at restaurants, hotel questions, and the basics of what one needs for a short trip or a bout with Slovak writing when doing research.

## The Slovak Alphabet

Unlike English, Slovak reads exactly as it appears, but according to the Slovak method of pronunciation. Since the Slovak alphabet derives from Latin, it resembles English, but contains some variations. Most of the letters resemble what we are familiar with in English, though they are not all pronounced the same as in English.

Standard literary Slovak always puts the accent on the first syllable in a word. But eastern Slovak dialects differ and often put the accent on the second syllable, and since many Americans have eastern origins, the point is worth noting.

## Slovak Diacritical Marks

Slovak also uses four varieties of diacritical marks which look like an accent mark that we use in English. A diacritical mark changes the letter's sound, but most often, you will hear only two of them, a lengthener or palatalization mark (dževň), and a softener (mäkčeň). The dževň simply lengthens the sound and is most commonly used with vowels. So the word for I have (Ja mám) is pronounced "Yah maam".

Consonants are softened by using the mäkčeň placed on top of the letter, informally called a haček (a little hook) in eastern Slovakia (pronounced mek-chen or haw-cek). It turns a "c" (which has the "ts" sound as in "its"), into a soft "č" ("ch"), which sounds like "church". There are no soft vowels in Slovak. The mäkčeň resembles a tiny "v" above a letter, but three exceptions place what looks like an apostrophe after the letter: ď, ľ and ŕ (which are tall consonants).

Prolongation mark (dževň): á, é, í, ó, ú, ý, í, í

Palatalisation mark (softener) (mäkčeň): č, dž, š, ž, ť, ď, ň, ľ

The other two diacritical marks, the umlaut (dvojbodka) as in German, and the circumflex (vokáň), are only occasionally used. The dvojbodka "ä" has an "eh" sound as in "let". The vokáň sounds similar to a "wo" and is used in words like dôvod (dwo-vod), meaning a reason.

Umlaut, two dots (dve bodky or dvojbodka): ä

Circumflex (vokáň): ô

## Vowels

Some other Slovak letters differ somewhat in pronunciation from English. For instance, here are some examples of vowels.

"a" always has an "ah" sound, as the "a" in "father" or similar to the "a" in "awful".

"e" sounds like the "e" in the word "bet".

The vowels "i" and "y" sound like the "i" in "machine". Though they sound the same, "y" is used after hard consonants, and usually at the end of many adjectives.

One rule to keep in mind is that "i" softens the consonant when it follows "d", "t", "n", or "r". So the Slovak word for "no" is "nie", and is pronounced as "nyeh" sound in "canyon", or the "ni" in "onion". So the Slovak word for "warm", which is "teplý" would sound like "tyep-lee".

"o" always sounds like "oh".

"u" resemble the sound of "bush".

Finally, the diphthong "ie" is pronounced as the "ye" in "yet".

## Consonants

Most consonants in Slovak resemble those in English, unless they contain a diacritical mark. Here are a few of the exceptions.

"c" sounds like "ts" as in "certs". It never sounds like the "c" in "clown".

"j" has a "y" sound, just like the German "j". So "Jednota" (union) is pronounced "yed-no-tah".

"r" is always trilled, as in Spanish and English, and has harder sound than in English.

Slovak also has some combination consonants, which have no equivalent in English, so they can be tongue twisters: "dz" and "ch". The "dz" sounds somewhat like the "j" in "juice". But "ch" is a harder nut to crack, for it is a more guttural "kh" sound, resembling the "ch" in "loch" or the German name "Bach". One gets this simply with practice.

Czechs also uses the same pronunciations, except that Czech has a unique consonant, the "ř", which has a unique sound that ranks among the hardest in the world to pronounce. The "ř" sounds somewhat like "rzh", and mixes the "r" and "zh", which have to be pronounced together. Examples include names like the first name "Bedřich" (bed-rzhikh), or the renowned composer "Dvořák" (dvor-zhahk). But traveling in Slovakia, one would rarely use these, although mixed Czech-Slovak families might have someone with such a name.

## Useful Websites

There are several good websites to help with the Slovak alphabet and pronunciation. One of the best is ironically on a Slovak cooking website maintained by a native Slovak, Luboš Brieda, who now lives in Virginia: <http://www.slovakcooking.com/2009/language/slovak-alphabet/>.

The slovake.eu site also maintains a list of the letters of the Slovak alphabet, and one may also find

this at the following web page, which also offers sounds and transliterations; you may also click on the speaker to hear sounds: <https://slovake.eu/en/learning/grammar/pronunciation/abc>.

## The Slovak Alphabet

Here is a list of the letters of the Slovak alphabet, and it is best to refer to the above websites for examples of pronunciation.

a, á, ä (A, Á, Ä)	m (M)
b (B)	n, ň (N, Ň)
c, č (C, Č)	o, ó, ô (O, Ó, Ô)
d, ď (D, Ď)	p (P)
dz, dž (DZ, DŽ)	q (Q)
e, é (E, É)	r, í (R, Ř)
f (F)	s, š (S, Š)
g (G)	t, ť (T, Ť)
h (H)	u, ú (U, Ú)
ch (CH)	v (V)
i, í (I, Í)	w (W)
j (J)	x (X)
k (K)	y, ý (Y, Ý)
l, ľ (L, Ľ)	z, ž (Z, Ž)

## Slovak Grammar

Slovak grammar is very difficult. But if you are just traveling or checking genealogical forms, you simply need to learn the most basic phrases so you can get along, and not worry about the grammar so much. Slovaks know that their grammar is a bear, but they are very forgiving with foreigners, and often laugh with you about it. Also remember that a young child has no idea of what grammar is, but can speak fluent Slovak on the basic level.

Unlike English, Slovak has three genders: masculine, feminine, and neuter. The language uses gender to label people as male or female, but it is much more complicated when one deals with inanimate objects, which are not always neuter. Some also have a gender! Inanimate objects ending in "o" are usually neuter. Modifying adjectives have declensions and have to agree with a noun in gender and case.

For instance, a strong man is "silný chlap", but a strong woman becomes "silná žena". And a strong girl is neuter, "silná dievča", as would be a strong child, "silné dieťa". And then there are six different cases to decline, both for the noun and the adjective! That is why the grammar can be quite tedious, especially when not used to it, and Slovaks even make lots of errors with it.

My recommendation is to learn basic phrases first, and then learn grammar gradually as you become more familiar with the language and pronunciation. One will build vocabulary over time, but learning the most commonly used words will provide a foundation for general conversation, and the tools needed for learning more about the language, for understanding and even speaking. This website has an online list of the most commonly used Slovak words: <http://www.101languages.net/slovak/most-common-slovak-words/>

## Basic Slovak Phrases

For learning some basic Slovak phrases, and hearing how they are pronounced, Slovak Radio International uploaded some lessons on YouTube which are most useful. You may start with Lesson 1 and then move on and review all ten lessons. Additional lessons may be found on the right side of this website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFj8mqH07-Y>

Another site also contains many useful phrases, but it aims to sell you something: <http://language-phrases.com/slovak/alphabet-letters-in-slovak-language/>.

To help as you read, I have included transliterations of how the words would sound in English.

## Greetings

Good = Dobre (Doh-bre).

Hello = Dobrý deň. ( Doh-bree dyeñ ) with a soft "n"

Hello (informal to friends) = Ahoj! (Ahoy)

Good morning = Dobré ráno. ( Doh-bre Raa-noh ) - early morning only, before 9:30 am.

Good afternoon = Dobrý popoludnie. ( Doh-bre po-po-lewd-nye)

Good evening = Dobrý večer. ( Doh-bree veh-cher )

Good night = Dobrú noc. ( Doh-broo nohts )

## Courtesy Phrases

Thank you = Ďakujem. ( Dyah-koo-yehm)

Thanks = Vďaka (Vdyah-kah) Informal

Thank God = Vďaka Bohu. (Vdyah-kah Bo-hoo)

Please = Prosím. (Pro-seem)

You're welcome = Prosím. (Proh-seem)

Here you are = Nech sa páči (Nyekh sah paa-chee)

Excuse me = Prepačte (Pre-paach-tye) formal

or, Pardon (Par-doan), as the French.

Yes = Áno. ( Aah-noh )

or Hej ("Hay" if informal) or No (No).

No = Nie. ( Nyeh)

Excuse me (getting attention) = Prepáčte. (Preh-paach-tyeh)

Sorry = Prepáčte. (Preh-paach-tyeh)

Goodbye = Do videnia. (doh vee-dyeh-nyah)

So long = Čau (Chow) - informal, from Italian, can also be used to say hello, informally.

## Meeting People

In addressing people, Slovaks use a formal and informal construction for the word "you". When

continued on page 18



# Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II

For Illinois, Indiana & Wisconsin • March 2017



## Hey Kids.....

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II of the First Catholic Slovak Union is sponsoring an "EASTER COLORING CONTEST" for all boys and girls ages 4 thru 12 that are members of District II for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. Color the picture and you could win. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, for age groups from 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. All entries will receive a "Certificate" for participating.

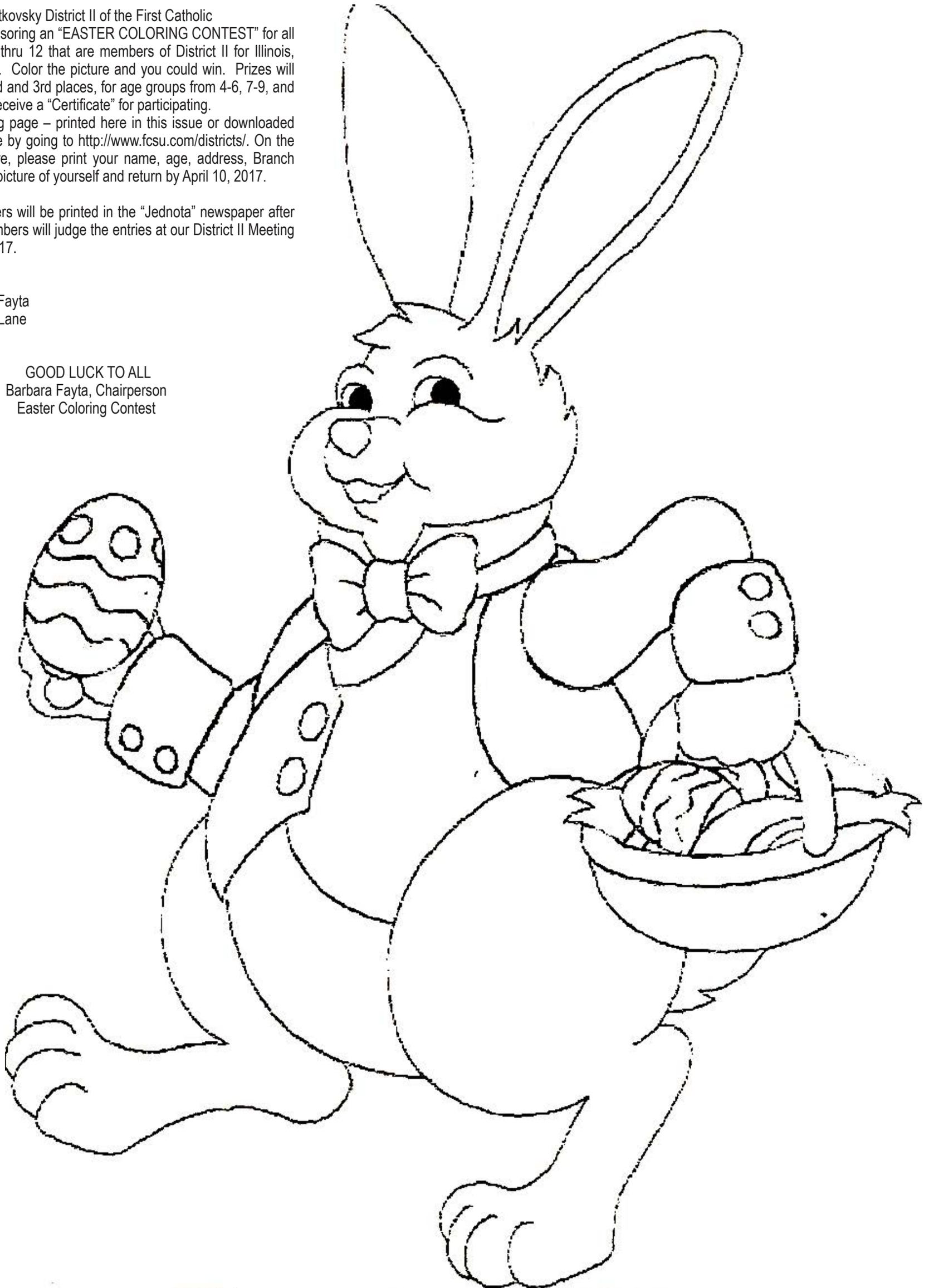
Send in your coloring page – printed here in this issue or downloaded from the FCSU website by going to <http://www.fcsu.com/districts/>. On the back side of the picture, please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself and return by April 10, 2017.

Pictures of the winners will be printed in the "Jednota" newspaper after Easter. Our lodge members will judge the entries at our District II Meeting on Sunday, April 30, 2017.

Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta  
1544 Rokosz Lane  
Dyer IN 46311

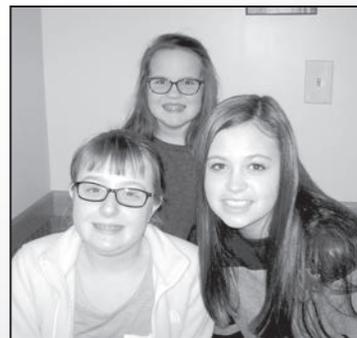
GOOD LUCK TO ALL  
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson  
Easter Coloring Contest



## Branch 40's Annual Meeting in January

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, held its annual meeting on Sunday afternoon, January 29, 2017, at Chipper's Grill in Streator, IL. During the meeting, the 2017 slate of branch officers was elected and sworn in by FCSU Region 7 Director Rudy Bernath. A buffet luncheon followed the meeting, along with an enjoyable afternoon of fraternalism and good fellowship.

- Submitted by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President and Branch 40 Member



## The All-new FCSU Website

Have you seen it? The First Catholic Slovak Union has redesigned our website.

Developed with you in mind, it's easier than ever to navigate. You now have an enhanced resource to find and share information about our Society, our products, our heritage, and our faith.

Check us out at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the First Catholic Slovak Union website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, PRODUCTS, ABOUT, MEMBERSHIP, FORMS, NEWSPAPER, RESOURCES, EVENTS, and COMMUNITY. A search bar is also present. The main content area features a large banner with the text "Faith Founded, Family Focused, Financially Strong." and a photograph of a family. Below the banner, there is a section titled "Protect your family, plan your future." with the subtext "Annuity interest rates as high as 3.6%". This section includes three columns of information: LIFE INSURANCE, ANNUITIES, and IRAS, each with a brief description and a "VIEW PRODUCTS" button. At the bottom, there is a link to "View our products >>".



## Chewy Springs Some Facts on our FCSU Kids – and all those Young at Heart

### What is Spring?

- Spring is one of the four seasons.
- The four seasons are Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer.
- Spring comes after Winter and before Summer.
- Spring is a symbol of rebirth.
- When it is Spring in the Northern Hemisphere it is Autumn or Fall in the Southern Hemisphere.
- The Northern Hemisphere is North of the Equator. The US is in the Northern Hemisphere.
- The Southern Hemisphere is South of the Equator. Australia is located in the Southern Hemisphere.
- The first day of Spring is called the Vernal Equinox.
- Vernal is Latin for Spring.
- Equinox is Latin for Equal Days.
- On the first day of Spring the sunrise and sunset are about 12 hours apart, everywhere on the Earth and the hours of daylight and night are almost equal. Daylight is a little longer.
- The Vernal Equinox occurs when the tilt of the Earth's axis is not facing towards or away from the sun.
- On the Vernal Equinox the sun is directly above the equator. This also happens on the Autumnal Equinox in Fall, usually around September 22nd.

### What Happens During Spring?

- During Spring, the Earth's axis start to tilt towards the sun.
- The days get longer and warmer.
- Many animals have babies such as cows, birds, ducks.
- Animals such as bears who hibernate start to wake up and become active.
- During April you will see more rain showers.
- During May the flowers will start to bloom.
- That is where the saying April showers bring May flowers comes from.
- Easter, Passover, April Fools Day, Earth Day, Arbor Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day and Cino De Mayo, Holi (festival of colors in India) are all holidays in Spring.



Dennis and Laura Tepper celebrated a special wedding anniversary on last July's Treasures of Slovakia trip, which they first read about in Jednota. They donned Spiš wedding headdresses at a village party near Levoča.

## Treasures Tours Takes Its 90th Trip to Slovakia

Dennis and Laurie Tepper, Jednota members, read about the Treasures of Slovakia tour in Jednota last spring and came on the trip to celebrate a special anniversary and meet Laurie's relatives in Spiš villages for the first time.

The Treasures of Slovakia tour July 7 – 16, 2017, will be a Celebration Tour as it is Treasures Tours 90th trip and the 29th Treasures of Slovakia trip in 29 years. Jednota member Helene Cincebeaux, a co-leader, noted special additions to the popular cultural immersion tour ... sightseeing in Vienna and a free beer and wine night, in addition to viewing Slovakia's treasures from north to south and east to west and being re-united with long lost family.

Highlights include Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, Detva Folk Festival, Kežmarok's Crafts Festival, Spiš Castle, Košice's old town and Singing Fountain, Bardejov, Prešov, Levoča, Stará Ľubovňa, raft ride in scenic Pieniny Gorge, Čičmany, Rajec Bethlehem, plus wedding parties and folk entertainment in eastern, central and western Slovakia and wine tasting on the Carpathian Wine Road. Trip land cost is \$2,299 per person.

Finding lost family is a specialty with a 98% success rate. An add-on to Prague is popular with tour goers.

Contact Helene Cincebeaux for more information - phone 585 342-9383, e-mail helenezx@aol.com, or 151 Colebrook Dr, Rochester NY 14617.

- Submitted by Helene Cincebeaux, Branch 278

## Saint Joseph Day

March 20, 2017



*Saint Joseph with the Infant Jesus* by Guido Reni.

Oil on canvas (circa 1635)

**Foster-father/father of Jesus Christ**

**Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Prince and Patron of the Universal Church**

<b>Born</b>	Bethlehem, <sup>[1]</sup> c. 90 BC (apocryphal date) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Died</b>	Nazareth, July 20, AD 18 <sup>[1]</sup> (aged 90, apocryphal date)
<b>Feast Day</b>	March 19 - <b>Saint Joseph, Husband of Mary</b> or, if it falls on a Sunday except for Palm Sunday, the feast day is celebrated on the first available day after, which in 2017 is Monday, March 20th.
<b>Attributes</b>	Carpenter's square or tools, the infant Jesus, staff with lily blossoms, two turtle doves, and rod of spikenard.
<b>Patronage</b>	Catholic Church, unborn children, fathers, immigrants, workers, employment, travelers, carpenters, realtors, against doubt and hesitation, and of a happy death.



... Slovakia has the second-largest amount of forestry in Central Europe? Almost 40 % of its territory is covered by forest, while the number one country, Austria, has only 6 % more.

... Bratislava and Vienna are the two closest located capitals in Europe? There is only less than 60 km between them.

... The European geographical central point is considered to be near the Roman Catholic church of St. John the Baptist above the village of Kremnické Bane? An informational table/panel situated on a boulder near the church provides all the details to support this fact.

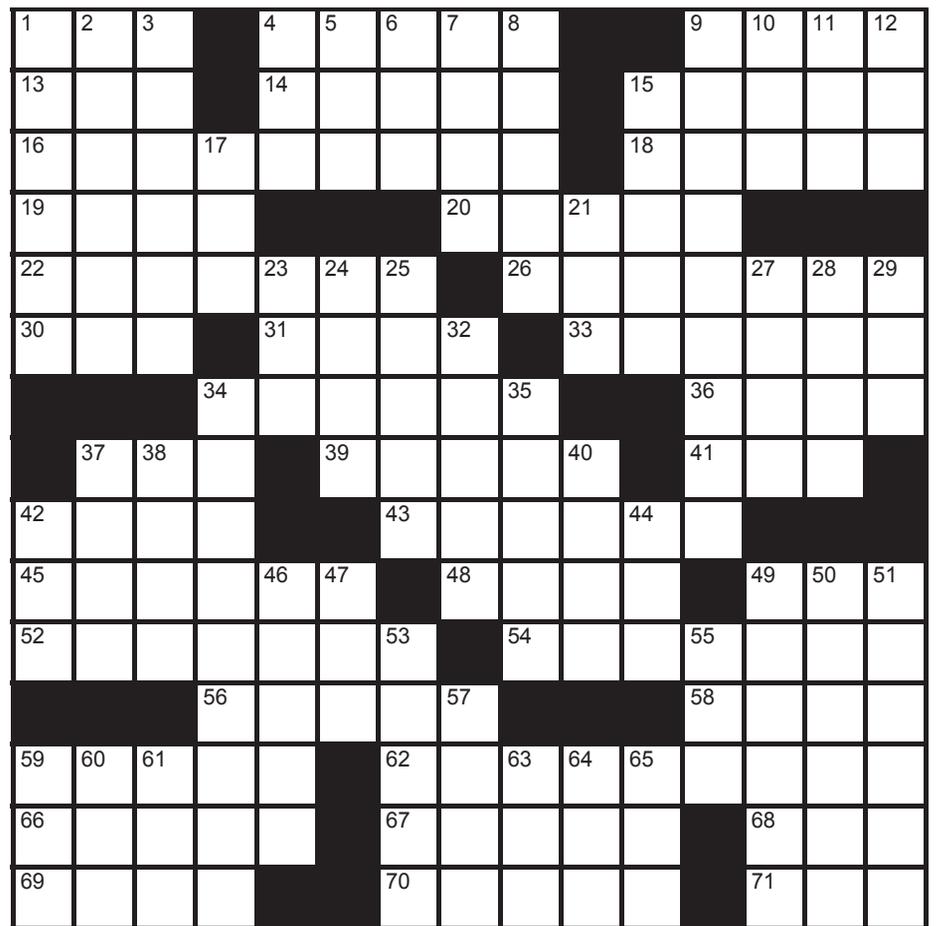
... "Bryndza" stands for a traditional Slovak specialty dish made of sheep cheese? Within the European Union it can only be produced in Slovakia and is distributed under the name "Slovenská bryndza". It is made of non-pasteurized sheep milk from the sheep flocks in the middle, northern and eastern Slovakia.

... One of the most popular sports in Slovakia is ice-hockey? The golden medal from the World Championship in Goeteborg, Sweden, in 2002, as well as many Slovaks playing on the world's best teams prove that Slovakia is a country of real professionals. You can find out more about the history and the present of this sport in Slovakia by visiting the „Hockey Hall of Fame“ in the Bratislava castle.

... The inventor of the parachute is the Slovak Štefan Banič? He lived from 1870 – 1941 and worked also in the USA. While in the States in 1914 he tested his invention in front of a patent committee by jumping from a high building. The parachute later belonged to the standard equipment of the US Army during World War I.

Source: Asseco Slovakia

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



## SAVE THE DATE IN MAY



**Come experience the charismatic blind singer Maroš Bango from Slovakia, acclaimed as "the Slovak Andrea Bocelli."**

*A masterful voice matched only by a remarkable life story*

Saturday, May 13, 2017  
 Crystal Chalet  
 3600 Biddulph Rd  
 Cleveland, OH 44109  
 For more, contact Miriam Visnovsky at 440-638-9921 or vismimi@hotmail.com

## JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2017

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive
March 29	March 20
April 19	April 10
May 10	May 1
June 14	June 5
July 19	July 10
August 16	August 7
Sept 13	Sept 5
October 4	Sept 25
October 18	October 9
November 1	October 23
November 15	November 6
December 6	November 27

### Across

- 1 Tax pro, for short
- 4 Major artery
- 9 Olympian's quest
- 13 Tiller's tool
- 14 Thick woollen fabric
- 15 Before station or lunch
- 16 Increased
- 18 Hamlin's \_\_\_ Oop
- 19 Arrow poison
- 20 Printing flourish
- 22 Image copier
- 26 Cattle raiser
- 30 Even (Poet.)
- 31 Love god
- 33 Tune
- 34 Tycoons
- 36 Forearm bone
- 37 King preceder
- 39 Union member
- 41 Actress Benaderet
- 42 Family group
- 43 Shells out
- 45 Tolerates
- 48 Hourglass fill
- 49 Period
- 52 Role model
- 54 Decorative framework
- 56 Doctrine
- 58 It can be Dutch
- 59 Mexican bread
- 62 Swimming pool game
- 66 Watchful
- 67 Coronet
- 68 Rocky prominence
- 69 Minuscule
- 70 Scarf bandage
- 71 Ave. crossers

### Down

- 1 Lounge type
- 2 Attack suddenly
- 3 Mediterranean arm
- 4 Chowd down
- 5 Hold title to
- 6 Soak flax
- 7 Caddie's bagful
- 8 Venomous snake
- 9 See 7 Down
- 10 Wise one
- 11 Linda \_\_\_, Supergirl's alias
- 12 Like some humor
- 15 *Common Sense* writer
- 17 Chess pieces
- 21 Zodiac animal
- 23 Modern (Prefix)
- 24 Work units
- 25 Defeats mightily
- 27 Duffer's target
- 28 Actress Purviance
- 29 Swedish shag rug
- 32 Smacks
- 34 Required
- 35 A great buy
- 37 Jessica of *Sin City*
- 38 Animal shelter
- 40 Sicilian resort

- 42 Bottle topper
- 44 Banned pesticide
- 46 Expel
- 47 Ham, to Noah
- 49 Duffer's leftovers
- 50 Spotted wildcat
- 51 Choir section
- 53 Salamanders
- 55 Zenith
- 57 Mermaid feature
- 59 Rocker Benatar
- 60 Yale student
- 61 Cambodian coin
- 63 \_\_\_ chi (martial art)
- 64 Sea eagle
- 65 Maid's cloth

See Solution on Page 17

# CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD, MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

Reverend J. John Spitzkovsky District II, November 2016 – January 2017

Last holiday season, Christmas Around the World was celebrated at the Museum of Science and Industry. There were 56 countries representing their holiday tree traditions. The Slovakia tree, sponsored by Reverend J. John Spitzkovsky District II, is decorated each year by a group of District II members. This is the 21st year that this group has been decorating the holiday tree.

The Slovakia tree is adorned with imported ornaments, hand-crocheted snowflakes, painted gingerbreads, handmade nuts and apples, with colorful garland and candle lights. Underneath the tree sits a traditional corn husk Crèche nativity scene and a Christmas village. This past Christmas, a special LEGO®-built Christmas scene was displayed in honor of the temporary LEGO® exhibition the museum was showcasing called "Brick by Brick." There was also a few Lego Christmas ornaments included on the tree this year to enhance the museum's theme. Christmas Tree Chairperson, Mark Fayta, used over 3,000 lego pieces to create this theme-inspired village. MSI's Exhibit staff was very impressed with our take on their theme this year.

Each year, we have over a dozen volunteers from our district that help out with the tree decorating, takedown and design. It has been a great tradition for our district to be a part of for over 21 years.



We are one of the only countries that has a handmade tree skirt, made by Teresa Bugel, Shirley Uram, and Noreen Miller.



A wide variety of traditional and modern ornaments are used.



Branch 706 Treasurer Barbara Fayta, along with her grandchildren, Alex Fayta, Julian Seida, Ayden Fayta, AJ Seida, and Chelsea Fayta



Branch 706 Christmas Tree Committee Chairperson, Mark Fayta, and his wife, Judy Fayta.



National Vice President Andrew Harcar sets the glass tree topper on top of the 8-foot tree.



Branch 706 Christmas Tree Committee Co-Chairperson, Amber Romanowski, and her husband, Mark Romanowski.



Our special LEGO® village built by Christmas Tree Committee Chairman, Mark Fayta, Judy Fayta and Family.

- Submitted by Lynda Tanis, District 2 Officer & Branch 706 President

**ATTENTION**  
**COLLEGE-BOUND FCSU MEMBERS**

Deadline Extended  
**MARCH 31, 2017**

From the desk  
of the Executive Secretary  
Kenneth A. Arendt

**THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION**  
**IS NOW ACCEPTING 2017 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

Eighty (80) ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS will be awarded to the winners.

- 75 scholarships in the amount of \$1000.00.
- A "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of \$1,250.00 each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.
- Three Scholarships of \$1000.00 each will be given from the "John A. Sabol Nursing Scholarship Fund" to applicants who have been accepted into either an approved three or four year hospital nursing program or a fully-accredited college of their choice.

In addition, upon proof of college graduation and completed insurance application, each recipient will be issued a **paid up** \$3,000 Single Premium Life Insurance Policy.

For rules, requirements and applications go to  
[www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships](http://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships)  
or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

**Applications must be postmarked by midnight,**  
**March 31, 2017**

# LIFE IS PRECIOUS

Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren (0 -18) and receive a **FREE \$10.00 Gift Card**

Features:

- Pay one premium and have paid-up insurance
- Issued in any amount of \$5,000 or more, subject to current FCSU Financial non-medical limits

Example:	
Newborn Male	Newborn Female
\$5,000 for \$410	\$5,000 for \$345
\$10,000 for \$820	\$10,000 for \$690

Reach out to us at **800.533.6682**



# 2016 JEDNOTA COLORING CONTEST RESULTS, PART I

## REGION 1

Age Group 4-6

Age Group 7-9

..... Age Group 10-12 .....



**First Place**  
Shea Griffis  
Land O'Lakes, FL



**First Place**  
Luke Griffis  
Land O'Lakes, FL



**Second Place**  
Violet McNamara  
Point Pleasant, NJ



**First Place**  
Peter Monks  
Trumbell, CT



**Second Place**  
Owen White  
Perth Amboy, NJ



**Third Place**  
Jet Griffis  
Land O' Lakes, FL



## REGION 2

..... Age Group 4-6 .....

..... Age Group 7-9 .....



**First Place**  
Mackenzie Gondek  
Ewing, NJ



**Second Place**  
Emmi Carnathan  
Raleigh, NC



**Third Place**  
Stella Herman  
Bel Air, MD



**First Place**  
Carys Smith  
Nazareth, PA



**Second Place**  
Daisy Carnathan  
Raleigh, NC



**Third Place**  
Caden Huettler  
Ellicott, MD

## REGION 3

Age Group 10-12

..... Age Group 4-6 .....



**First Place**  
Gregory Horinko  
Hazelton, PA



**Second Place**  
Laura Lamanna  
Chatham, NJ



**First Place**  
Caden Jacobsen  
White Plains, MD



**Second Place**  
Noah Joseph  
Pittsman  
Mayfield, PA



**Third Place**  
Sebastian Pluto  
Elgin, IL



..... Age Group 7-9 .....

..... Age Group 10-12 .....



**First Place**  
Kayla Pecko  
Brown Dale, PA



**Second Place**  
Margaret Mae  
Pittsman  
Mayfield, PA



**Third Place**  
Aidan Carone  
Norfolk, MA



**First Place**  
Kathryn Behil  
Temecula, CA



**Second Place**  
Elizabeth Ann  
Pittsman  
Mayfield, PA



**Third Place**  
Nicholas Behil  
Temecula, CA

Congratulations to all our Coloring Contest Winners, including those to be published in Part II in the next (March 29th) issue.

## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BRANCH 1 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society -Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Hall located at 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Marie A. Golias, Secretary**

### BRANCH 3 - MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 will celebrate Mass at 9:00AM on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church (13th Avenue, NE & 2nd Street, Minneapolis) for our deceased members. After Mass, a continental breakfast will be served in Father Dargay Hall. All members and guests are welcome to join us in this fraternal activity.

Remember, no parking in the school lot.

**James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 3 - MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 will hold their semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at 11:00AM at the home of our President Delores J. Genosky, 1001 42 1/2 Ave, NE, Columbia Heights, MN.

Items on the agenda are our family picnic in August, a merger, and the date of our annual meeting.

**James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 5P - EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 5P, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 26, 2017, at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the home of Marion Rubino, President. On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and activities.

Please call Marion Rubino if you plan to attend 570-693-0399.

**Mary Jo Rubino, Secretary**

### BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, cordially invites its members to attend our annual Mass in honor of its Patron Saint, St. Joseph, and for its living members on Sunday, March 12, 2017, at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT. The Mass will be offered by Msgr. Joseph Pekar at 8:30AM.

We will not have our March meeting because of concern for weather conditions, but will have our next meeting on Sunday, April 30, 2017, at 9:30AM in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall. At our April meeting we will discuss scheduling the Margaret Evancho Award breakfast, which will be held in June 2017.

**Henry Zack, Secretary**

### BRANCH 23 - JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Members of Branch 23, St. Joseph Society, will hold a meeting on Sunday, May 21 2017, at 1PM. The meeting will be held at VOMA HALL,

307 Chestnut St. Johnstown, Pa. If you have any policies with Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Union, then you are a member, and you are encouraged to come. Come to see what is new. Our meetings are informative and sometimes fun!! A light lunch will be served. Any questions please call Theresa Cassat at (814) 254-2532.

**Theresa Cassat, Secretary**

### BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at 1:00PM at the Hungarian Business Club, 15805 Libby Road, Maple Heights, OH, 44137. The agenda will include a financial report and a discussion of upcoming branch activities. Luncheon will be served, so please make reservations by calling Branch Activities Director Susan Lang at 216-577-9699 (after 6PM).

**Bob Kopco, President**

### BRANCH 60 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 60 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, May 7, 2017 at the home of President Ann Wargovich (58 Lilmont Drive, Swissvale) at 1:00 p.m.

On the agenda will be Officers' reports and discussion of upcoming events. All members are urged to attend.

**Julie Perla, Secretary**

### BRANCH 85 - BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Florian Society, Branch 85K, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, at 7:00PM at the Jessup American Legion Post 411 on Church Street, Jessup, PA. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Stella Skovira**

### BRANCH 112 - MAHANAOY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 112 will host the Reverend Stephen Furdak District 8 Mass, luncheon and meeting on Sunday, April 23, 2017 in Mahanoy City, PA. Mass will be celebrated at 10:30AM at St. Teresa of Calcutta Church. The luncheon and meeting will be held at A & C Catering Hall. *[Editor's note: please see the District 8 announcement on page 15 of this issue for details.]*

All members of Branch 112 are invited to attend. Please call Karen at 570-640-1796 before April 16 if you would like to attend.

**Karen Engle Sterling, Secretary**

### BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St. Stephen Branch 153 congratulates the following members who have received their 50 year pins in 2016:

Charles Bilka	Lisa Hendrickson
John Jurcenko	Sharon Lapidus
Thomas Lewandowski	John Massura
Susan Owens	Rob Tomasek
Francis Bednar	Larry Capiak

Dorothy Jurcenko  
Emil Mravec  
Valentine Derer  
Uta Dubravec  
Scott Kurinec  
Gayle Page  
Barbara Seng

John Kudlach  
Timothy Barrett  
Timothy Drumright  
David Jedlink  
Theresa Mokosaik  
Mercy Prindes

The following members are due their 50 year pins but addresses are unknown:

Joseph Bishop  
Susan Donis  
Susan Doyle  
Robert Hakala  
Linda Johnson

If anyone is able to provide their addresses, please contact Dorothy Jurcenko at 7113 West Talcott, Chicago, IL 60631.

**Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 162 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 19, 2017, at 9:00AM at the Park Inn By Radisson, at 700 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

Officers' reports will be given, and upcoming events and branch activities will be discussed. By visiting [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com), you can obtain forms for changes and information about the FCSU including products and rates, scholarships, history and genealogy, travel, events, recipes and more. All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting and breakfast. Call for reservations by March 13, 2017, to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

**Dolores Marmol, Secretary**

### BRANCH 166 - BINGHAMTON, CAPITAL AREA, PEEKSKILL, POUGHKEEPSIE, AND SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at 1:15 P.M., at Buffet Star, 4089 Old Vestal Road, Vestal, New York. On the agenda will be a discussion of District business and Branch business. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by April 21, 2016, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

**Arlo Meeker, President**

### BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 invites you to attend our monthly branch meetings which are held the 1st Thursday of every month (except June & July) in the upstairs Social Hall, 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. So for 2017: Apr. 6th, May 4th, Aug. 2nd, Sept. 7th, Oct. 5th, Nov. 2nd with Nomination of Officers, & Dec. 7th with Election of Officers.

We look forward to your presence at the monthly meetings held in the banquet hall directly following the BOD's meeting at 7pm. If you are not local to attend, please send your ideas to me @ [vschaub123@gmail.com](mailto:vschaub123@gmail.com) as we are compiling memorabilia for our 125th Anniversary in 2020.

Fraternally,

**Vicki L. Schaub, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold their next meeting on Monday, March 20, 2017 at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. Delicious food is served by Theresa Arendt at the last meeting of each calendar quarter. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 18, 2017. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. This past December, incumbent officers President Leonard Zilko, Vice-President Luis Palos, Financial Secretary Lisa Trifiletti-Palos, Activities Director/Auditor Theresa Arendt and Recording Secretary Thomas Zuffa were re-elected to their respective offices. Leonard Zilko and Kathleen Trifiletti were re-elected to a 3 year term on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors representing our local Branch 228.

The warm weather has us all anticipating Spring activities such as sprucing up the lawn, planning our gardens and shining up our golf clubs in anticipation of chasing that little white ball around. We can also anticipate the activities of our District and local lodge planning and activities as the 2018 FCSU National Convention will be here before we know it. I put out a challenge for our younger members to consider being a convention delegate and becoming even more involved in our organization. It is a great experience that is interesting, fun and gives a sense of accomplishment knowing that you are directly contributing to the future of the FCSU. Visit the websites for the FCSU at [fcsu.com](http://fcsu.com) and the Slovak Club at [americanslovakclub.com](http://americanslovakclub.com) for an update on current activities. Please come to our meetings. You will be happy you did.

**Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 260 - CAMPBELL, OHIO

Branch 260 will hold its meeting on Sunday, March 19, 2017, at 1:00PM at the Bedford Trails & Golf Course Restaurant. On the agenda: general branch business. Please call President Paul Ritz to make your reservation before the meeting at (330) 840-0059.

Fraternally,

**Paul Ritz, President**

### BRANCH 276 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 276 will be holding their first meeting of the new year on Sunday, March 19, 2017 at 1:00 P.M. at St. Patrick's church hall on 32nd Street in McKeesport, Pa. We would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year and invite more members to attend our meeting.

**Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary**  
continued on page 18

## Branch 738: join other members and guests on Sunday, April 30, 2017, for luncheon at the fabulous Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh, PA



You and a guest are invited to an afternoon of fun and fraternalism with other members of St. Michael's Branch 738 (your local Jednota branch) on Sunday, April 30, 2017, at Rivers Casino, 777 Casino Drive, Pittsburgh, PA, 15212.

The branch is hosting a luncheon in the banquet room of the casino at 12:30PM. Located on the second floor, the dining area has an incredible view of the three rivers, Heinz field, and the Science Center.

You will enjoy a cocktail and lunch – including an entrée choice of stuffed chicken breast or hanger steak – and the chance to win numerous door prizes.

After enjoying lunch with other members, you will be given a \$10 credit voucher to use towards any machine or table game at Rivers Casino. Free parking at the casino is included. A handicap option and valet services are available.

The luncheon is open to all members of Branch 738 and your guests.

The cost is \$10 per person (member or guest).

Please RSVP by April 10, 2017, with the number of attendees and entrée choice(s) to:

Pat Guidish @ 412-496-0224 (phone or text) or email [patguidish@comcast.net](mailto:patguidish@comcast.net)



Branch 670 of Donora, PA, is excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2017 Scholarship Program. The committee will award, to the candidates who best satisfy the criteria, up to five, one-time \$1000.00 scholarships. Any individual of Branch 670 that has had a policy for at least 4 years, is current in their premiums, is a high school senior and will attend an Approved Educational Institution is eligible to apply.

For applications, you may email your request or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to 1 of the following officers:

- Joe Matinko, 85 Crestline Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022 (email: [matinko305@comcast.net](mailto:matinko305@comcast.net)) OR
- Cheryl Hyatt, 410 Sunset Hills Drive, Freedom, PA 15042 (email: [hyattfamily@comcast.net](mailto:hyattfamily@comcast.net))

ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 15, 2017

# DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **DISTRICT 2 – THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT**

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 30, 2017. The meeting will take place at the Missionary Benedictine Convent, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, IL. **NOTE: THE MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED UP ONE-HALF HOUR FROM THE USUAL TIME.** Attendees will gather at 1:00 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments. We will vote on the entries for the District Easter Coloring Contest. *[Editor's note: please see page 8 of this issue for details]* The meeting will start promptly at 1:30 pm. After the meeting, attendees will enjoy a delicious dinner. All branches are encouraged to send delegates. Individual Jednota members who wish to become more active in District 2 activities are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, call District 2 President John Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810.

Sincerely,

**Robert T'apa'k Magruder, Recording Secretary**

## **DISTRICT 3 – THE GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT -WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

The George Onda District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, March 25, 2017. It will be a dinner meeting at the Norvelt Golf Club in Norvelt, PA. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. with meeting to follow. We will discuss our past Stedry Vecer and activities within our branches. As we need a count for the dinner, attendees are requested to RSVP between March 10 – 20, 2017, to Vice President Darlene Patty at 724-493-3712. We look forward to a good attendance.

**Linda L. Gonta, Secretary**

## **DISTRICT 4 – THE MONSIGNOR RURA DISTRICT – NEW JERSEY**

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District will be held on Sunday, March 26, 2017. Branch 746 will host the meeting at Bistro 1051, 1051 Raritan Road, Clark, NJ 07066. The agenda includes election of new officers. Please bring non-perishable items for donation to a local food pantry. A luncheon will be served after the meeting. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @732-762-3148 by March 18th if you plan on attending.

**Mary Kapitan, Secretary**

## **DISTRICT 5 - MICHIGAN DISTRICT**

The Michigan District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at the Deer Lake Inn located at 7504 Dixie Highway, Clarkston, MI 48346. (that's Exit 93 on I-75, and just 1 mile west of I-75)

Our meeting will begin at 12:45 pm. Lunch will be served at 1:00 pm. The business meeting will follow the lunch. On the Agenda will be Officer Reports and New Business.

Branch 633 is hosting this meeting. Please notify Dianna Rimarcik at (NEW PHONE NUMBER) 248-714-9620 with the number of delegates attending from your branch no later than April 13th so the restaurant can be notified of the number of attendees expected. If you are unable to confirm prior to the event but wish to attend, a \$20.00 fee will be collected at the restaurant. Those making advance reservations will not be charged.

\*\*\*\*Please remember, a branch delegate must attend at least one District meeting in order to be eligible for compensation from the Home Office.

**Dianna Rimarcik, District Secretary**

## **DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT**

The Spring district meeting will be held at 1 PM on Sunday, April 30, 2017, at Holy Trinity Church Hall in West Mifflin. Branch 580 will host.

Branch 2 will host the next Fall/Winter meeting. We still need a host branch for the Father's Day Brunch. Contact district president David Matta to volunteer.

The District Activities Director Annie Ondrejco has organized a Facebook group called Jednota Pittsburgh District Activities. Join the group to keep up with district events. Annie would like suggestions for additional activities. There will be more announcements at the Spring Meeting. Notices will also be posted on the district Facebook page and on the FCSU web site.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments.

While we look forward to seeing everyone at the FCSU district meetings, remember there are many other local Slovak events that also merit your attention:

\*\* WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: April 3 – Wedding Customs. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

\*\* Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Bozena Hilko at bozi@comcast.net. Fall classes are directed toward intermediate and advanced students. Spring classes are for beginners. Summer Language Camp for Kids starts May 6.

\*\* Don't forget the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730. The program is also streamed live at www.wpitam.com.

\*\* You can follow the Pittsburgh Slovaks and the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association on Facebook. The National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids also has a Facebook page. Check out your family's hometown in Slovakia. Even a small village may have a Facebook page.

\*\* The Pittsburgh Slovaks have a CD of Christmas music available for sale. Contact Sue Ondrejco.

\*\* Various Slovak programs and courses are available through the University of Pittsburgh Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. See www.slavic.pitt.edu

\*\* If you're interested in study abroad, Slovakia has a number of major universities; some have programs taught in English. Check out www.slovakia.com/study-in-slovakia/

\*\* The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is available to visitors Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations. See www.ns-life.org/Museum.php.

\*\* The CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International will hold its next meeting on October 18-21, 2017 in Pittsburgh. Your correspondent will be giving a presentation on Slovak

Alias Names. Further information can be found at www.cgsi.org.

\*\* FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at www.fcsu.com. Many interesting Slovak-related links may be found at fcsu.com/resources.

If anyone knows of additional Slovak events in Western Pennsylvania that they wish to be included in our district notice, they should email information to the secretary.

Fraternally,

**Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary**  
manasta@verizon.net

## **DISTRICT 7 – THE REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT**

The Rev. John Martvon District will hold its first of two annual meetings on Sunday April 30, 2017.

The meeting will be held at St. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Graham Ave. Windber, PA, beginning at 2:00 PM. Branch 292 will host the meeting. There will be a home-cooked luncheon afterwards. All district branches are invited to attend. Hope to see you there. Any questions call Sharon 814-322-1052.

**Sharon Allison, Secretary**

## **DISTRICT 8 – THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – PENNSYLVANIA/NORTH CAROLINA**

District 8's meeting will be held April 23, 2017. Mass will begin at 10:30AM at Saint Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church located at 600 West Mahanoy St., Mahanoy City, PA., 17948. There will be an area for all District 8 members to be seated together. Please let me know how many will be attending Mass (email mfabian922@gmail.com or phone 610-417-0468).

Following Mass, a dinner and meeting will be held at:

A & C Catering  
505 West Mahanoy St  
Mahanoy City, PA. 17948

The district meeting will convene following dinner. The agenda will be mailed out to all officers and branches prior to meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Monica Fabian, Recording Secretary**

## **DISTRICT 9 - THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT**

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 12, 2017, at 1:00 P.M. at Park Inn by Radisson at 700 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. All district members are welcomed. Election of officers for the new year will be held. Dinner will be served. If planning on attending, please call James Marmol by Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 724-437-0892. Those attending are asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal.

**Barbara A. Holly, Secretary**

## **DISTRICT 10 – THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT - OHIO**

The Rev. Furdek District 10 will be having their first meeting on April 30, 2017 at 2 pm at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311.

If you are planning on attending please contact Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151 (home) 330-773-4978 (club office) or via email at lhanko@neo.rr.com. We would appreciate advance notice so that we may plan refreshments accordingly.

Come enjoy the fellowship and see what the District can do enhance your branch experience and learn what is new with our organization.

**Linda M Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer**

## **DISTRICT 11 - THE MSGR. JOSEF TISO DISTRICT**

The 2017 Semiannual Meeting of the Msgr. Josef Tiso District (District 11) will be held on Sunday, April 23, 2017. The agenda will include:

- discussion of options to combine or consolidate branches to restore local support/ control of membership issues and finances.

- suggestions for activities to stimulate fraternal interaction among District 11 branches and within Region 5.

The meeting time and place: 2:00 PM at the C.U.Club, 910 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. All branches should identify their representatives who will attend to Grace Charney, District Secretary, at (724) 664-7185 as soon as possible. Walk-ins are welcome.

Reminders

- Per FCSU By-Laws, branch representation at one (1) district meeting per year is required to qualify for receipt of the annual branch stipend.

- Any beneficial member is welcome to represent his/her branch at district meetings; representatives need not be branch officers or formally identified /selected at a branch meeting.

**Grace M. Charney, Secretary**

## **DISTRICT 13 – THE JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO DISTRICT**

Jozef Cardinal Tomko District 13 will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday March 12, 2017 following a complimentary luncheon. The time 2:00 pm at Cozy Corners in Osceola Mills, PA, 16666. [Route 53 South from Philipsburg PA 16866.]

Members from District 13 Branches are requested to attend; 2017 District 13 dues are due.

Please call or fax Rosemary Deliman; 814 342 5592 if you are able to be present.

**Rosemary Deliman, Secretary/Treasurer**  
E-mail;rosemarydeliman@me.com

## **DISTRICT 15 - PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

We cordially invite all Slovaks and friends of Slovakia to join us on Palm Sunday April 9, 2017, for Slovak Holy Mass at St. John Paul II Church, Polish Center, 16672 Golden Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886. The celebration begins at 1:30 PM. After Mass will be a period of fraternal fellowship tuned to Slovak music and light diner, dessert and refreshments will be served. Children will enjoy traditional Easter Egg hunt.

**Paul Skuben, President**

# Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

The First Catholic Slovak Union has a Mass said for each of our deceased members at St. Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio.

Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name
001K	Josephine Godec	181K	Donna Lee Hershberger	388K	George A Firment	738K	Dolores E Casper
001P	Eileen R Karlick	181K	Joseph A Hudock	410K	Fred B Bena	743K	Anna Waegeman
002K	Lisa Beth Best	181K	John P Ludvik	512K	Rev Jeremy Joseph Bolha, OSB	746K	Mary Ann DiCicco
005P	Joseph J Gayeski	200K	James Bicanovsky	543K	Lillian Grace Milbrandt	746K	Jerome J Gall
023K	Richard L Labuda	200K	Rose M Bordick	553K	Rosemarie Juriga	746K	Vendelin M Krisak
040K	Robert L Fornero	200K	Margaret Ann Bringer	553K	Raymond M Jurkowski	764K	Paul D Bednarik
040K	John E Roach	200K	Robert Simensky	553K	Veronica Thomas	823K	Mark J Karelis
083K	Christine E Bebej	228K	Elmer S Hric	618K	Michael Haky	831K	Edward A Kuniak
085K	Linda Kliamovich	228K	Margaret Jean Kalis	628K	Irene K Andreaco	831K	Sr Mary Manga OSF
085K	Kathryn Stoffey Sembrat	238K	Ottilia L Collins	633K	Andrew G Kato	855K	Joseph Kubik
112K	John P Etcho	260K	Margaret Shaubberger	636K	Amelia R Badik	855K	Maryann Marjak
112K	Louise A Wenzel	260K	John R Zifchak Sr	667K	Albert N Kokosko	856K	Wesley E Sullivan III
153K	Edward J Bucz	266K	John P Gretchen	682K	Edward J Fajcak	900K	Helen Catherine Potts
162K	Debora J Hlavach	313K	Charlene Ann Anton	700K	Andrew A Novak	924K	Patricia A Schirra
173K	Rose Allen	313K	Gail Kathleen Walkey	733K	Mary Anne Grossi		
181K	Patricia A Fajt	319K	Robert Paul Kasper	733K	Margaret J Marzio		

\*Processed through the month of February

## OBITUARIES

### DOROTHY CRAWFORD BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS



Dorothy Crawford, 88, of Streator, IL, passed away at 3:36 P.M. Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at Ottawa Pavilion, Ottawa, IL. Born March 21, 1928 in Streator she was the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Petro) Liptak. She married William "Bill" J. Crawford on May 20, 1950 at St. Stephen's Church, Streator. He preceded her in death on July 15, 2003.

She is survived by one sister, Rosemary (George) Christoff of Streator and a sister in law, Joanne "Rudy" Weth of Streator; several nieces and nephews also survive.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and a sister, Louise Liptak; sister in laws, Marjorie Hansen and Betty Riordan; brother in laws, John, Arthur, Fr. Richard and Lawrence Crawford; and John Weth; a nephew, Edward Hansen and a niece, Lorraine Crawford.

Born and raised in Streator, she attended St. Stephen's Grade School and graduated from Streator High School Class of 1946. She worked through the years for G.C. Murphy's as a Sales Clerk and also for the Lipton Tea Company. She was a member of the former St. Stephen's Church and currently belonged to St. Michael the Archangel Church. Dorothy loved the outdoors and taking care of her flower garden and apple trees. She enjoyed going shopping, word search puzzles and the Chicago Cubs.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11:30 A.M. Monday, January 9, 2017, at St. Michael the Archangel Church, Streator. Rev. Fr. Jacob Rose officiated. Visitation was that same day, from 9-11 A.M., at the Solon-Telford Funeral Home, Streator.

Burial was in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Streator. Pallbearers were Mike Lechner, Archie Crouch, David Weth and Jay Whalen.

- Submitted by Rosemary Christoff

### ROBERT "SPUTZER" SIMENSKY BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA



Robert "Sputzer" Simensky, 87, of Ford City, PA, died peacefully after a two-year battle with cancer on Thursday, January 12, 2017, at his home.

He was born to George and Julia (Kocisek) Simensky in Rossford, OH, on April 8, 1929.

He is survived by his wife, Anna Marie Butko, and three children: Michael and wife Nancy (Koller) Simensky, Susan, and John; and his granddaughter Mariah Simensky.

He was a parishioner of the former Holy Trinity Church in Ford City and a parishioner of St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Kittanning, PA. He attended Holy Trinity Catholic School from the first to eighth grades, where he and his friends – the three "rowdies" as they were known – were thorns in the sides of the nuns. He continued his pranks in Ford City High School where he also played Al Jolson in a school play.

He was engaged to his wife Anna Marie on Valentine's Day 1957, followed by marriage on July 6, 1957.

He served in the Air Force from 1947 to 1952, after which he worked at PPG Industries in Ford City until 1969. He then worked for the Redevelopment Authority until 1972, followed by employment as the Tri County Manpower Director from 1975, until he retired in August of 1992. He also served as chairman of the board for the Kittanning Welfare Office.

His legacy for local professional employment is the LPN program at Lenape Vocational Technical School that he recreated circa 1987. He served as "tipstaff" at the Armstrong County Courthouse in Kittanning from 1998 -2008. He enjoyed vacations with his family and golfing with his son. He was virtually unbeatable at pool and was a three-rail billiards shark. He will be remembered for his one-liners and his encyclopedic knowledge of sports trivia.

Friends were received on Monday evening, January 16, 2017 at the Mantini Funeral Home, Ford City, where a prayer service was held the next morning. A Mass of

Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at 11:00AM, at St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Kittanning, with Father Efren Ambre officiating. Internment followed in Holy Trinity Cemetery, Manor, PA.

### MARGARET KALIS BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

Margaret "Jean" Kalis of Plano, TX, passed away peacefully at the age of 92 on January 29, 2017. She was born on December 1, 1924 in Greensburg, PA, to Steven and Mary Haynes. Steven was an immigrant from Czechoslovakia, while Mary (Novotny) Haynes was born in Connersville, PA. Jean was married to her beloved husband, Lad, for 64 years. Jean was a dedicated homemaker and together they had six children: David (Pat) of Rochester, MI; Mark, Chris (Karen) and Mary Jean (Duke) of Plano, TX; John (Cindy) of Granville, OH; and Suzanne (Brian) of Seattle, WA. Jean has 15 grandchildren, Jean was very active in the community of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Lorain, OH, for over 40 years while living in Elyria, OH. Together with Lad they supported the Holy Name Society and the weekly Bingo Program. They were devoted parents who lovingly supported their children through all facets of their lives, including parochial and college educations. After raising her six children, Jean worked for the Elyria School System. Jean enjoyed playing cards and taking Casino bus trips with her friends and family. After moving to Plano in 2005, Jean and Lad joined Prince of Peace Catholic Community and found peace and joy attending church and watching their Texas grandchildren grow up. Funeral Mass was held at Prince of Peace Catholic Community at 1:30 pm on Friday, February 3, 2017.

- Submitted by David Kalis

### ANNE E. LESON BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO



Anne E. Leson, 87, passed away peacefully on December 9, 2016, at Austin Woods Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center

Austintown, OH.

Anne was born July 9, 1929, in Youngstown, a daughter of the late John and Anna Ilko Chabala, and was a lifelong area resident. She was a 1947 graduate of Chaney High School and worked several office jobs after graduation before working for 38 years for Atty. Milan Tatolovich as a secretary and bookkeeper, retiring in 1999.

Anne was a lifelong member of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Youngstown. She belonged to the church's Rosary Society, the Rosary-Makers organization, and to the Golden Pillars, where she was an officer and a Sunshine Girl, arranging for casino bus trips. Anne enjoyed bowling and was a member of the Alley Cats Bowling League at Amron Lanes in Canfield, OH, for many years. She was also very involved in the lives of her grandchildren, babysitting them, attending all of their sporting events during their school years, and cheering them on.

Anne leaves her son, Eugene Joseph "Gene" Jr. (Denise) Leson of Canfield; her daughter, Theresa Marie "Terri" (Dave) Buehrle of Austintown; and four grandchildren, Eugene Joseph Leson III, Chelsea Marie Leson, Deanna Jean Buehrle, and Erik Kristopher Buehrle.

Anne's husband, Eugene Joseph Leson Sr., whom she married May 14, 1955, passed away March 1, 1986. A sister, Mary Chabala, is also deceased.

Family and friends called from 4 to 7 p.m., Monday, December 12, 2016, at Kinnick Funeral Home, Youngstown. Funeral services began Tuesday morning, December 13, 2016, at the funeral home, and continued at 11 a.m. at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Youngstown. Interment followed at the parish cemetery, where Anne was laid to rest next to her husband.



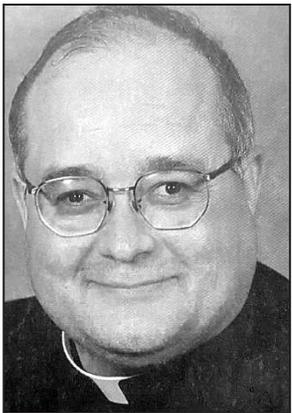
Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union website at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)

A great source for the latest information about our Society - and events in the greater Slovak community.

Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union website at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)

## In Memoriam

### Reverend Francis P. Straka Passes into Eternal Life



**The Reverend  
Francis Paul Straka**  
June 21, 1956 – January 4, 2017

On January 4, 2017, we lost a very special person in the Reverend Francis Paul Straka, who passed away in his residence in Northampton, PA. Father Francis was the Pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Northampton.

Our entire family including his father, siblings, and their families, joined together with his present and former parishioners in mourning Father Frank's sudden and unexpected passing at the age of 60.

We were all touched and comforted by the kind words spoken by his friends, Monsignor Stephen Radocha and Father Patrick Lamb, as well as His Excellency the Most Reverend Edward Cullen, Bishop Emeritus of Allentown, who was the main celebrant of the Mass of Christian Burial. They offered very eloquent and loving tributes to Father Frank's life of service to God, the Church, and his parishioners and friends.

Assumption BVM Church was filled beyond capacity, with 80 of Father Frank's fellow priests and hundreds of parishioners in attendance, a testimony to the huge number of people who worked with him or were a part of his devoted ministry, and who loved him dearly. The choir sang beautifully and included several songs in Slovak which Father Frank had begun to teach them. Those were very poignant moments for us because everyone knew how much Frank loved to sing Slovak songs as he played them on the piano.

We are most grateful to his parishioners and friends for the hundreds of expressions of sympathy we received in the form of Mass cards, memorial donations, and other tributes.

Our experience with everyone we met throughout the preparations and services was simply an incredible outpouring of sadness and sorrow for a life lost too young, and the emptiness it leaves behind in those who had the most daily contact with Francis. The kindness shown to our entire family helped us understand that Frank truly lived his life to the fullest, as he intended, and that he absolutely fulfilled God's purpose for his life here on earth – to serve Him and his people.

Father Francis attended SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish School in Reading and was a graduate of Reading Central Catholic High School. He graduated from Allentown College Center Valley (DeSales University) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology. He then attended Brisson Seminary and St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Overbrook, receiving a Master of Divinity in Theology.

He was ordained to the Priesthood on June 2, 1990, by then-Bishop of Allentown the Most Reverend Thomas Welsh. Prior to becoming Pastor of Assumption BVM Church, his priestly assignments included Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Hungary Church, Northampton; St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Hellertown; Sacred Heart Church, West Reading; and St. Ann Church, Emmaus. His first pastoral assignment was Pastor of Holy Ghost Church, Bethlehem.

Father Francis is survived by his father, Frank B., and his siblings: Michael (Laura), of Denver, CO; Maryann (William) Bennethum of Spring Twp.; and Gregory (June), Joseph (Julie), and Catherine (Timothy) Jones, all of Exeter Twp., along with 13 nieces and nephews. He is interred at Gethsemane Cemetery in Reading, beside his late mother, Mary (nee Ohrin).

Father Francis was a lifelong member of Branch 175KJ, First Catholic Slovak Union in Reading, as is his entire family. He also served as the Spiritual Advisor for the St. Vincent de Paul Society of the Diocese of Allentown, and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Holy Family Villa for Priests in Bethlehem.

Father Francis is dearly missed by his family and all those who experienced his zest for life, his devotion to God, the priesthood, and his ministry, and who were touched by his loving kindness through his work. May he rest in eternal peace.

- Submitted by Michael Straka

## Answer to Puzzle

*Solution to Puzzle from page 11*

C	P	A		A	O	R	T	A			G	O	L	D	
H	O	E		T	W	E	E	D			P	O	W	E	R
A	U	G	M	E	N	T	E	D			A	L	L	E	Y
I	N	E	E				S	E	R	I	F				
S	C	A	N	N	E	R		R	A	N	C	H	E	R	
E	E	N		E	R	O	S		M	E	L	O	D	Y	
			M	O	G	U	L	S			U	L	N	A	
	A	L	A		S	T	A	T	E		B	E	A		
C	L	A	N		S	P	E	N	D	S					
A	B	I	D	E	S		S	A	N	D		D	O	T	
P	A	R	A	G	O	N		L	A	T	T	I	C	E	
			T	E	N	E	T				O	V	E	N	
P	E	S	O	S		W	A	T	E	R	P	O	L	O	
A	L	E	R	T		T	I	A	R	A		T	O	R	
T	I	N	Y		S	L	I	N	G		S	T	S		

## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Fr. Ed Dougherty, M.M., The Christophers' Board of Directors

### Confession is Good for the Soul

Confession is good for the soul. How profoundly true this old adage is and it is so helpful because it leads people to realize the need they have to unburden themselves from truths that can be difficult to open up about.

In Italy, where I'm stationed, one hears a lot about St. Padre Pio, the famous Capuchin Friar from the mountains of San Giovanni Rotondo. During his lifetime, people came from around the world to go to him for confession. Though he was a stern judge of character who demanded sincerity and resolution of heart, he also highlighted the power of God's mercy to overcome sin. He once said, "Place a tombstone on the confessed sins, just as the Lord has done." He also said, "God runs after the most stubborn souls. They cost Him too much to abandon them."

One story about Padre Pio tells of a woman named Gina who was left by her fiancé shortly before they were to be married. She sunk into a deep depression, but then one day she made a trip to San Giovanni Rotondo with her aunt. There, a woman they had never met approached Gina and said that Padre Pio wanted to speak to her. She wound up making her confession to him and told him she had stopped receiving communion due to her despair. He spoke to her very tenderly, being understanding of her sins and telling her that her fiancé was not worthy of her. He then gave her a picture of Jesus and wrote on the back, "Let Jesus be the center of all your aspirations." And after this simple yet beautiful encounter, she was finally able to move on with her life.

I believe that people sought out Padre Pio as a confessor for the same reason they seek out any confessor, because they felt God's mercy while in his presence. A great confessor is a servant who opens himself to the wounds of sin that people bear, absorbs those wounds on behalf of Christ, and shares the forgiveness won for us all through His sacrifice. That is a humbling task to undertake. A lot of people feel it's too humbling to go to confession to a priest until they encounter the humility and sacrificial love of a great confessor.

When I'm asked about the Sacrament of Reconciliation, I'm often reminded of a humbling experience I once had as a confessor. A man came to confession one day and told me about a recent incident where he passed a person begging on the street and didn't stop to offer assistance of any kind. I was taken aback by this at first, thinking this wasn't something to confess. I had done this sort of thing myself in the past and never thought much of it.

But as I look back, I find it so touching to recall the confession of a man striving for a level of holiness that would not permit him to forsake his fellow man, no matter who that person was. It is humbling to think of being a conduit for God's mercy to such a man. And it demonstrates the beauty of the sacrament. Though we seek great confessors, it is God who offers mercy through imperfect priests. Our administration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a process that occurs in the midst of the journey we all are on to discover His love.

## September Small Group Tour Explores the Heart and Heartland of Slovakia

Slovakia's ever-changing countryside is even more beautiful in the fall highlighted with richly green grasslands aside the dried sunflower and corn fields; bountiful apple, plum and walnut trees along the road side; and the brightly-colored fall leaves against the green spruce of the mountains.



Celebrate the harvest this fall in Slovakia on the 2017 Slovakia Heritage Tour, September 8-17, 2017. You'll travel to the heartland of Slovakia and experience the age-old villages and way of life that our families left behind to start new lives in America. We'll explore the rich history and cultural changes that shaped this young nation at the heart of Europe, and meet the Slovak people as they transition from life in the Soviet era to the European Union.

You'll join with the Slovak people as they celebrate at the Wine and Harvest Festivals in Banska Bystrica and Modra, as well as the age-old Mining Festival in Banska Stiavnica. Relax and enjoy local music and crafts as we travel comfortably around this small but diverse country to explore picturesque villages, spectacular castles, outdoor folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, pastoral landscapes and comfortable small cities with well-preserved historic buildings, Soviet-era remnants and the vibrant life of Slovakia today.

You'll be able to arrange for personal visits to family and ancestral villages, as well as genealogical research to trace your family history as well as extend your stay in Central Europe with small-group tours to Prague, Krakow and Vienna following the Slovakia tour.

"Slovak Americans and others love our small group tours as a way to effortlessly experience the culture and history of this fascinating region," said tour organizer Judy Northup-Bennett. "Many people come to find their family roots but others, some of Polish and Ukrainian descent, come to immerse themselves in the Slavic culture of this small, country that is off-the-beaten tourist path."

Slovakia Heritage Tours can also arrange small group tours for families and organizations wishing to travel at another time of the year. "I love to talk to people and help them realize their dreams to find and visit their Slovak families and learn about this beautiful country and culture," said Northup-Bennett.

For more information on the September tour or to plan your own private family tour contact: Judy Northup-Bennett at Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 and slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com or visit the web site at: [www.slovakiaheritage.com](http://www.slovakiaheritage.com)

OVERVIEW:

**2017 SLOVAKIA HERITAGE TOUR**  
September 8-17, 2017  
[www.slovakiaheritage.com](http://www.slovakiaheritage.com)  
PRICE: \$2,230 complete, land-only package

# A Crash Course in Slovak: Useful Slovak Words and Phrases, Part I

continued from page 17

not sure, always use the formal "vy" in addressing people, so as not to offend them. Here are some examples.

Ako = How (Ah-ko)  
 What is your name? = Ako sa voláte? (Akoh sah vo-laa-tyeh?) formal  
 What is your name? = Ako sa voláš? (Akoh sah vo-laash?) informal  
 How = Jak (Yak) (eastern dialect) - The East often uses softer consonants.  
 How are you? = Ako sa máte? ( Ah-ko sah maa-tyeh?) - Slovaks usually give much detail, since this means more than saying hello.  
 How are you? = (eastern dialect, formal) Jak ša máte? (Yak shah maa-tyeh?)  
 How are you? = (eastern dialect, informal) Jak ša máš? (Yak shah maawsh?)  
 My name is \_\_\_\_\_ (Michael). = Volám sa Michal. ( Vo-laam sah\_Mee-khal.) - (more common, literally I am called Michael.)  
 My name is Michael. = Moje meno je Michal. (Mo-ye me-no ye Mee-khal) - easier!  
 Pleased to meet you. = Teší ma. ( Tyeh-shee mah )  
 Where are you from? = Odkiaľ ste? (Od-kyaal ste)  
 I am from the USA. = Ja som z USA. (Ya som z OO-ES-Ah)  
 Do you speak English? = Hovoríte po anglicky? ( Hoh-voh-ree-teh poh Ahn-glits-kee?)  
 Here = Tu (too)  
 There = Tam (taahm)  
 Does anyone (here) speak English? = Hovorí (tu) niekto po anglicky? (Hoh-voh-ree (too) nyiek-toh poh AHN-glits-ki? )  
 I understand = Rozumiem. (Row-zoo-myehm)  
 I don't understand. = Nerozumiem. ( nyeh row-zoo-myehm)

## Conclusion to Part I

The above phrases will serve as good learning tools for some of the first expressions you need to understand Slovak if you travel. Future lessons will touch on information such as conversations needed at hotels, restaurants, reading street signs, etc.

I also welcome any short particular questions or suggestions, and you may e-mail me at my university e-mail: michael.kopanic@faculty.umuc.edu .

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## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

### BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph's Branch 367 will be holding its next meeting on Wednesday, March 22, 2017. The meeting will be held at O'Gilles Pub, 200 E. Askren Street, Uniontown, PA 15401 at 2 PM in the afternoon. All members are invited. If planning on attending please call Audrey Balazik, President at 724-438-3887 or Kathryn Baranek, Secretary at 724-569-1006.

**Kathryn Baranek, Secretary**

### BRANCH 410 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

All members of Branch 410 are invited to attend. Call for reservations by March 14, 2017, at 724-425-2576.

**Geri Buchheit,  
Recording Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 450 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Br. 450, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, April, 29, 2017.

The meeting will be held at 11:00am, at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma, OH 44129. (between Brookpark and Snow Rd.)

All members are urged to attend. Refreshments will be served after meeting.

Fraternally,

**George P. Carny, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

Due to Ash Wednesday falling on the First Wednesday in March we are going to observe the meatless traditions of our Catholic faith. So..... we are delaying our spaghetti dinner to the second Wednesday on March 8th Hope to see everyone there and bring all your friends!

Our Fish fries will be back for Lent: mark your calendars for March 10,17,24,31 as well as April 7 and finally the 14th, Good Friday.

Remember if you want the luscious Baked Fish to call the club 330-773-4978 and reserve yours as we only purchase the amount called in prior to Friday. Bowl after!

Respectfully submitted,

**Sandie Klucar**

### BRANCH 567 – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ will hold their annual meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 1:00PM.

It will be held at the home of the Recording Secretary, Loretta Dashner, 419 East Hamilton St., Allentown, PA. 18109.

We will be discussing various matters pertaining to our branch.

Wishing all members a very Blessed and Happy Easter!!

**Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Sunday, March 19 - Branch meeting at 2pm; please try to attend.

Sunday, March 26 – Breakfast from 8:30am - 12noon is all you can eat and the best breakfast in town

Sunday, April 2 - Polka Dance 3pm-6pm, with food available for purchase.

Saturday, April 8 - Kid's Easter Party at 2pm, free to all.

Sunday, April 23 - Breakfast from 8:30am - 12noon is all you can eat and the best breakfast in town

Refreshments every Tuesday and Thursday .50 off. Hours are Mon-Fri 1pm - 8pm Sat. 12noon - 8pm.

Come down and enjoy yourself.

All events take place at Tatra Hall 2536 Sixth St. Muskegon Heights, MI 231-733-7525.

**Susan Hornik, Secretary**

### BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold a special meeting on Sunday, March 12, 2017, at 12:15PM in the Parish Hall, St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, 1st Avenue, New York City. On the agenda: branch business for 2017.

**Joan Mary Skrkon, Secretary**

### BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members of Branch 731 will celebrate the feast day of our patron saint, Saint Joseph, with Mass at 4:00 pm on Saturday, March 18, 2017. Liturgy will be at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Please join us in the celebration."

**Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 735 - PORTLAND, OREGON

Branch 735KJ will hold a meeting followed by its Annual Sausage & Sauerkraut Dinner on Sunday, April 9, 2017, in the church basement hall of St. Patrick's Catholic Church at NW 19th & NW Savier, Portland, Oregon 97202. The branch meeting will begin at 1:00 pm and dinner will be served at 1:30 pm. Turkey breast slices will also be available. Included with dinner will be mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, green salad with dressing, bread, coffee, tea and punch. Please bring a dessert to share. The cost for the dinner will remain the same as last year:

\$4.00 per person

\$12.00 for an immediate family of four or more

No reservations are necessary, but for more information, contact Cindy Ďuriš Hirst @ 503-647-4600 (h); 503-314-5065 (c); hirst@q.com or chirst811@gmail.com.

**Herbert Hirst, President**

### BRANCH 738 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael Branch 738 will be holding our next semi-annual meeting on Monday April 3, 2017, at 6:30 pm at the VFW on Whitaker Way in Munhall, PA. This meeting will include final planning for our biannual branch appreciation luncheon and ways of attracting both newer and younger members to keep our branch active. All members welcome. We hope to see you there.

**Patricia Guidish, Secretary/Treasurer**

### BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St Joseph on Sunday, March 19, 2017, with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30 am at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy.

All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph's Day and to enjoy fellowship with other members.

A Branch meeting will take place at 1:15 pm. in the Slovak Heritage Room.

Any member who has recently moved or requires Branch services should contact the Branch Secretary Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr, Commerce Twp., MI 48382 or phone 248-714-9620.

**Joseph C. Rimarcik,  
President/Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 26, 2017 at 12:00 noon at Bistro 1051, 1051 Raritan Road, Clark, NJ 07066. Agenda will include discussion of bus trip(s) and summer picnic. Okres meeting will follow at 12:30 pm. There will be a luncheon following both meetings. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @ 732-762-3148 by March 18th if you plan on attending.

**Mary Kapitan, Secretary**

### BRANCH 774 - SANFORD, MICHIGAN

Attention Branch 774 members: the branch is actively seeking members to serve as officers for 2017. Currently, due to health reasons, all branch officer positions are open. These include: President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, and Secretary.

Your guidance and direction in the operation of Branch 774 and its 64 members is greatly needed. If you are interested in accepting an officer position or would like more information about the general duties of a branch officer, please call Branch Liaison Bob Kopco at the FCSU Home Office: 1-800-533-6682, ext. 116.

Interested persons should respond no later than April 28, 2017.

**Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary**

### BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Branch 844 will hold their Annual Easter Mass on Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017, at Pope John Paul II Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA, 92866. Mass will begin at 1:30PM. A Slovak lunch will be served after Mass along with an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak Spirit of Easter.

We hope to see you there and would like to wish everyone a very special and safe Easter holiday.

Fraternally,

**Milan Konkol, Secretary**

# News From Slovakia

## AmCham's Job Fair Offers Jobs to Students and Graduates

Kosice, February 27 (TASR) - Jobs and internships from both international and Slovak firms were on offer for students and university graduates at a Job Fair organized by the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Kosice on this date.

A total of 32 organizations were represented at the event, offering more than 150 jobs in sectors such as IT technology, consultancy, finance, accounting services, manufacturing and metallurgy.

"Members of our Chamber often tell us that finding enough qualified labor for their companies poses a problem," AmCham executive director Jake Slegers told journalists. AmCham has brought together more than 330 companies with more than 100,000 employees.

There were 25 firms at the Job Fair, including Amazon, AT&T Global Network Services Slovakia, DELL, Deloitte, Embraco, GlobalLogic, IBM, KPMG, Ness Kosice Development Center, T-Systems Slovakia and U.S. Steel Kosice. Education opportunities and internships also were being offered by Central European University in Budapest, Technical University in Kosice and Pavol Jozef Safarik University in Kosice, as well as the Canadian Embassy Office and the International Organisation for Migration Slovakia. A turnout of more than 1,300 Kosice region students was expected.

A significant portion of the Slovak labor market belongs to shared services centers. An AmCham survey conducted among 26 centers employing more than 28,000 people established that the main motivation for their presence in Slovakia is the availability of a highly qualified and flexible labor force well-versed in foreign languages.

## Minister Matecna Decorated with French State Award for Agriculture

Paris/Bratislava, February 27 (TASR) - Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Gabriela Matecna (a Slovak National Party/SNS nominee) became the first Slovak citizen ever to receive the highest French state award for her contributions in agriculture.

Matecna was decorated with the Order of Agricultural Merit by French Minister of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry Stephane Le Foll for her effort to improve the standing of farmers and agriculture in the EU during Slovakia's Presidency of the EU Council in late 2016. "Her enormous drive displayed in the fight against unfair business practices and for the rights of farmers while she presided over the council of agriculture ministers was truly unparalleled," said Le Foll during the award ceremony.

Since 1883, the French Order of Agricultural Merit has been bestowed upon figures who have made significant contributions to agriculture. Prominent laureates in the past include scientist Louis Pasteur, Danish Prince Consort Henrik, former French president Jacques Chirac and actress Catherine Deneuve.

## Five Distinguished Speakers to Appear at Futurist Conference

Bratislava, February 24 (TASR) - Global development prospects for the next 20 years are due to be debated at an international conference called Business Forum-World of Tomorrow scheduled to take place at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Bratislava on April 20, conference organizer Media Project Agency director Jiri Scobak said on this date.

The event supported by several foreign chambers of commerce will feature distinguished speakers, including member of the Dutch royal family Prince Carlos de Bourbon-Parma, Duke of Parma and Piacenza, English strategy consultant and author of the book 'Trust me, PR is Dead' Robert Phillips, Swiss futurist Gerd Leonhard, former director of the Formula One engine supplier Cosworth and current consultant Mark Gallagher, and Austrian visionary Dietmar Dahmen.

The key issues to be debated should include the human condition over the next 20 years, future technologies, the future of communication, sustainability in the business world, the world over the next few years, innovations, strategies and the future of leadership.

"Ideas and inspirations that have been presented to corporate directors from such cities as Brussels, New York, Helsinki, Berlin, London, Cape Town and Singapore will now be heard for the first time in Bratislava," added Scobak.

## President Kiska: Liptov Area has Great Potential

Liptovský Mikuláš, February 23 (TASR) - The Liptov area has great potential: it has probably the best ski resort in Slovakia, the largest water reservoir, called Liptovská Mara, the biggest aquapark, and all this is very beneficial for tourism, President Andrej Kiska said following his meeting with Liptovský Mikuláš (Zilina region) Mayor Jan Blchac on this date.

During his meeting with Blchac, Kiska discussed issues like unemployment, tourism, transport infrastructure, as well as the health sector. "We touched on the important issue of constructing the bridge over the Vah River, in connection with relocating the railway track in the town. We need to build a faster railway throughout Slovakia and this is one of the sec-

tions where the process is being hampered, for example, by a petition from citizens. We also discussed 'depopulated' city centers. Life is fading away from the centers as shopping malls are being built in peripheral parts of towns. Town centers are becoming empty and there is the need to think intensively about how to get this life back to the town's heart," stressed Kiska.

## Slovakia to Join UNESCO Project Aimed at Supporting Tourism

Bratislava, February 22 (TASR) - The UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Program seeks to enhance the socio-economic development of cities, towns and regions via tourism, while increasing the value of the UNESCO brand and making use of monuments and landmarks that bear a UNESCO designation in the process, TASR has learnt from Slovakia's Permanent Representation at UNESCO in Paris.

Slovakia will participate in the initiative, which aims to increase direct benefits for local people derived from tourism at World Heritage Sites in the broader central and eastern European region. Its implementation comes under the aegis of the UNESCO World Heritage Center, which has drafted how-to guides for the effective management of national- and world-heritage sites, while also coordinating efforts to put them into practice based on requests from individual countries and regions.

The initiative will be launched by an international conference on sustainable tourism that is scheduled to take place in Bardejov (Presov region) on May 5, 2017. The event will be attended, among others, by UNESCO World Heritage Center director Mechtild Rossler and a team of experts on increasing UNESCO's values in tourism.

The World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Program has been developed with the aim of interconnecting the protection of monuments for future generations while boosting their economic potential for the sake of increasing employment in UNESCO-designated sites. Its objectives also include ensuring that both local populations and tourists familiarize themselves with and recognize national and global values. "Tourism involving visits to sites included on the UNESCO World Heritage List as well as on national cultural and natural heritage lists has the potential to contribute greatly towards the local economy and social development and towards closing gaps between living standards across regions," said Slovakia's Permanent Delegation to UNESCO.

## EU Parliamentary Chairs to Meet in Bratislava in April

Bratislava, February 21 (TASR) - The European heads of parliaments will meet again in Bratislava between April 22-23 to exchange information on cooperating with each other, stated Parliamentary Chairman Andrej Danko (Slovak National Party/SNS) at a press conference on this date.

The first informal summit of EU parliamentary chairs, which was sponsored by Danko, took place in Bratislava in early October 2016 as part of Slovakia's Presidency of the EU Council.

According to Danko, the EU is at a crossroads at the moment, waiting for the results of various parliamentary and presidential elections across Europe.

"Events such as this [taking place] today join parliaments, people, nations and representatives of EU-member states. As many as 28 heads of parliaments and heads of parliamentary lower chambers [in Bratislava] are being hosted by the Parliament Office today. It was an honor for me that I could open this international conference," said Danko about the event.

The Slovak parliamentary chairman specifically appreciated the fact that representatives of both the upper and lower houses of the British Parliament are taking part in Tuesday's meeting in Bratislava. In the context of the upcoming Brexit, Danko stressed the importance of the European project. "The EU and Europe itself are historically destined to become an example of coexistence and tolerance for other nations. However, that doesn't mean that we'll deny our basic historical principle," said Danko, who has been calling for a stronger voice of national parliaments in the EU over the long term.

## Alpine World Ski Championships: Slovakia Takes Home Silver Medal

St. Moritz, February 13 (TASR) - A Slovak quartet won a silver medal at the 2017 Alpine World Ski Championships in the national team competition held in St. Moritz, Switzerland on this date.

Second place was secured by Veronika Velez-Zuzulova, Petra Vlhova, Matej Falat and Andreas Zampa. In the team event final, the French team of Adeline Baud Mugnier, Mathieu Faivre, Alexis Pinturault and Tessa Worley won on a time tiebreaker of 0.08 seconds after each team won two legs of parallel slalom races.

The bronze medal went to Sweden, who beat Switzerland 3:1.

"This is a great success for our sport. Many people ski in Slovakia, but we're essentially a private team that doesn't enjoy the same conditions as large ski racing teams. Such a success makes our joy all the sweeter," stressed coach Timotej Zuzula.

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017

### HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

**OPEN:**

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and asked Vice President Andrew Harcar, Sr., to lead the prayer.

**ROLL CALL:**

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President  
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary  
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President  
George F. Matta II, Treasurer  
Sabina Sabados, Regional Director (by invitation of the President)

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES:**

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the December 2016 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George F. Matta II and seconded by Andrew Harcar, Sr., to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**Investment Updates

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), UBS, MAI Fund, and Clutterbuck Fund. Following the report, the Executive Secretary answered the Executive Committee's questions.

Portfolio Review

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, found everything in order, and answered the Committee's questions.

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of December for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

Monthly Disbursements

The Executive Secretary reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of December:

## Disbursements for the month of December 2016:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 131,290.09
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 47,509.86
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report. The Executive Committee reviewed the remainder of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary answered all questions.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC:**

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report by telephone and WebEx to the Executive Committee. Each member of the Executive Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, Mr. White answered the Committee's questions.

The Executive Secretary stated he will check the collateral being held by Federal Home Loan Bank for possible future advancement opportunities.

The Executive Secretary stated we are currently investing in short term treasury notes to take advantage of the higher interest rate that is being offered by our sweep accounts.

**ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:**Annuity Rates:

The President led an extensive review of the current annuity rates. It was decided the rates remain the same and be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting in February.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer gave a report on the investment update to the Executive Committee and answered the Committee's questions.

The Treasurer led a review of the investment opportunities presented by Larry White of AQS and led a discussion about the possible investments we may want to take advantage of.

**UBS FINANCIAL SERVICES:**

The President introduced David A. Doll and Sean W. Hardy, our new account representatives for UBS Financial Services. They presented an extensive review of our portfolio with UBS.

Each committee member received a copy of the presentation in advance for review. Following the presentation, Mr. Doll and Mr. Hardy answered the committee questions.

The President asked them to look for new investment opportunities for FCSU.

**SALES AND MARKETING:**

The Vice President gave a production report on our agents. He stated we are still recruiting and adding new agents, and at present have over 260 agents. The Home Office is sending the independent agents monthly updates on our products, in addition to frequent phone contacts.

The Vice President said our marketing firm, with input by our in-house marketing committee composed of Andy Rajec, Jr., Beata Fedoriouk and Terri Ivanec, is developing a marketing strategy to improve the sale of our products. Our marketing firm is still in the development stage of updating the presentation that will be used at our seminars, as well as a strategy to recruit independent agents in the states we are licensed in.

The Vice President stated we are reviewing a possible incentive program for agents and the commissions paid to agents to increase sales. We are also looking at the possibility of giving a referral fee to be paid to recommenders that do not have an insurance license. This will be further discussed at the Executive Committee meeting in February.

The Executive Secretary stated that a survey we will be sent out to our existing independent agents to get their suggestions on how to improve our customer service, our products and our commission schedule. Once we receive their responses, our marketing team will work on developing a strategy to utilize this information.

The Executive Secretary stated we are waiting on IRS approval to be a non-bank trustee for the Coverdell Fund. The Coverdell Fund is an educational savings plan we plan to have available to our members in 2017.

The Vice President is encouraging our Branch Officers and members to visit our new website and offer any suggestions or changes.

**MIDDLETOWN PROPERTY:**

The President gave an update on the property in Middletown. The President stated he has been in contact with our potential broker concerning our listing agreement. The broker indicated that there have been some inquiries on the property.

The President stated we have not signed a listing agreement.

The President stated he will discuss the offers with the broker and present them to the Board at the March 2017 meeting.

**REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:**

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar, Sr., to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The President asked Vice President Andrew Harcar, Sr., to close the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

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All English and Slovak articles should be sent directly to the editor Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. The email address for articles is fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com. Articles may also be sent by Fax at 216/642-4310. Teresa Ivanec can be reached by phone at 216/642-9406 or 1/800-533-6682.

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## Správy zo Slovenska

### K lekárom sa bude dať objednať po ordinačných hodinách, najviac za 30 eur

Pacienti sa budú môcť v ambulanciách lekárov objednať na konkrétny termín. Bude to však po riadnych ordinačných hodinách. Ministerstvo zdravotníctva (MZ) SR označilo takýto čas za doplnkové ordinačné hodiny. Lekári si ich nemusia povinne stanoviť, bude to dobrovoľné. Za takúto službu si lekári môžu od pacienta pýtať sumu do výšky asi 30 eur. Prijatí pacienti za poplatok budú môcť lekári po 14.00 h. Doplnkové hodiny si budú môcť zriadiť v prípade, ak ordinujú minimálne 30 až 35 hodín týždenne. Pacienti by sa na ne mali prihlasovať cez povinný systém objednávaní. Vyšetrenie im lekár bude môcť poskytnúť najskôr 12 hodín po objednaní a najneskôr do 15 dní.

### „Domov sa už nevrátime!“

Jedným z dôvodov migrácie ľudí zo strednej a východnej Európy, teda aj zo Slovenska nie sú len nízke platy, ale aj kvalita verejného života a kvalita inštitúcií. Potvrdili to aj oslovení mladí ľudia. Napríklad dátová analytička v ratingovej spoločnosti Daniela, ktorá pracuje v Londýne sa na Slovensko nechce vrátiť aj pre skorumpovaný systém. Bezpečnostný agent na letisku Dávid, ktorý pracuje v Írsku už považuje Slovensko len za lacnú dovolenkovú destináciu. Za posledných 15 rokov odišlo zo Slovenska 300.000 ľudí. Ďalších možno až 150.000 za prácou do zahraničia dochádza denne alebo na týždňovky. Spolu tak na Slovensku môže chýbať takmer pol milióna kvalifikovaných pracovníkov. Z končiach vysokoškolákov odchádza do zahraničia približne každý desiaty. Odlev mozgov pripravil štátnu kasu o 45 miliónov eur.

### Problémom slovenskej vedy sú nízke platy

Neurovedkyňa Ľubica Beňušková pôsobila 13 rokov na Univerzite Otago v Dunedine na Novom Zélande. Keď sa vlni vrátila na Slovensko, čakal ju prepád platu a realita slovenskej vedy. „Zarabam teraz päťinu z platu, ktorý som mala na Novom Zélande. Pomáha mi kompenzácia platu, ktorú som cez program Návrat domov dostala... To na pár rokov pomôže... Moji kolegovia majú čiastočné úväzky na iných univerzitách... Ak ľudia nebudú môcť dôstojne žiť zo svojich plátov v akademickej sfére... tak vždy budú hľadať doplnkové zárobky, alebo odchádzať do zahraničia.“

### Firmy cez duálne vzdelávanie získavajú kvalifikovanú pracovnú silu

Záujem firiem o duálne vzdelávanie sa zvyšuje. Žiaci stredných odborných škôl sa v tomto systéme vzdelávajú podľa potrieb zamestnávateľov a po ukončení štúdia sa začleňujú do pracovného procesu ako zamestnanci firmy. V školskom roku 2015/2016 nastúpilo do 1. ročníka po prvý raz v rámci systému duálneho vzdelávania 422 žiakov a v tomto školskom roku 971 žiakov. V tomto školskom roku majú žiaci v rámci duálneho vzdelávania najviac učebných zmlúv podpísaných so zamestnávateľmi v oblastiach strojárstva, elektrotechniky či obchodu a služieb.

### Vyplácanie penzií sa zmení

Vláda ide meniť pravidlá vyplácania peňazí z druhého penzijného piliera, tzv. programový výber, teda výplatu úspor naraz, bude môcť využiť až polovica spotrebiteľov. Ministerstvo práce navrhuje, aby sa hranica dôchodkového príjmu znížila z 596 na 425 eur. Keď toľko sporiteľ získa od štátu, bude si môcť nechať vyplatiť všetky úspory v druhom pilieri. Ak bude mať štátny dôchodok nižší, z druhého piliera sa mu doplatí zvyšok a ostatné našetrené peniaze si môže nechať vyplatiť naraz.

### Staré Mesto plánuje novú pešiu zónu

Staromestská samospráva chystá v Bratislave oživenie priestoru medzi Hviezdoslavovým námestím a Dunajom, kedysi známym ako Južné predmestie. Víziou je pretvoriť ho na pešiu zónu s novými parkami či vyhládkovými miestami. Ďalšie odporúčania, ako centrum pretvoriť, vypracovalo združenie PDCS. Nábrevie Dunaja by malo slúžiť najmä chodcom a cyklistom a autá by mali jazdiť len obmedzenou rýchlosťou.

### Brexit eurofondy nezastaví

Fondy Európskej únie na diaľnice či školy sa síce obmedzia, ale budú pokračovať. „Máme nádej, že európska pomoc nám v budúcnosti nevyschne. Ministri sa zaviazali o tom hovoriť a najšť riešenia,“ povedal podpredseda pre investície a informatizáciu Peter Pellegrini (Smer). Veľká Británia však so svojím 11-percentným podielom ako čistý prispievateľ do úniového rozpočtu urobí po vystúpení krajiny z EÚ v rokoch 2019 až 2020 viac ako 10-miliardovú sekuru. „Dôležitý bude prístup iných vyspelých štátov Európy, či budú ochotné zvýšiť svoj príspevok. Predbežne sa dá odhadovať, že prísun EÚ fondov sa v ďalšom programovacom období zníži o 20 percent,“ povedal ekonóm spoločnosti Finlord Boris Tomčíak.

### Zdravotníctvo sa zlepšuje príliš pomaly

Slovensku sa stále nedarí znížiť počet úmrtí na kardiovaskulárne ochorenia. Naša krajina skončila za rok 2016 v hodnotení úrovne zdravotnej starostlivosti na 23. mieste z 35 posudzovaných európskych krajín. V porovnaní s rokom 2015 sme na tom o jednu priečku lepšie. Analýzu robila organizácia Health Consumer Powerhouse. Európska štúdia nás kárá, lebo u lekára musia pacienti čakať aj tri hodiny, mnoho ľudí zomiera na choroby srdca a cievy. Z Visegrádskej štvorky sa darí najmä českému zdravotníctvu. Maďarsko a Poľsko sa umiestnili až za Slovenskom.

### Mzdové preteky

Fabriky na Slovensku sú nútené zvyšovať platy. Ľudia už nie sú ochotní stať za pásom, mať niekoľko sekúnd na úpravu výrobku, potom 20 minút na obed a plnú mzdu dostanú, len ak majú plnú dochádzku a nie sú chorí. Takéto podmienky si mohli dovoliť zamestnávateľi v čase, keď boli pred podnikmi zástupy záujemcov o prácu. Pri poklese nezamestnanosti pod deväť percent sa však situácia otočila a voľných ponúk pribudlo. V prípade robotníckych profesií sú v podnikoch veľké tlaky na rast miezd. Už vlni najrýchlejšie rástli práve platy robotníkov.

### Epidémia chrípky

Slovensko leží v posteli, pije čaj s citrónom a kuríruje sa. Chripkový vírus vo všetkých krajoch dosiahol epidemické rozmery. Počty chorých budú ešte narastať. Chripka tento rok prišla o mesiac skôr ako bežne. Môže za to hongkongský vírus, ktorý sa doteraz málo vyskytoval. Je agresívnejší a ľudia končia v nemocnici. K rýchlemu šíreniu mu pomohli mrazy, ale aj smog. Zatvorených je takmer 400 škôl a škôlok. V celej Európe podobne ako na Slovensku dominuje vírus A/Hongkong, H3N2, ktorý dosiať zapríčinil asi 95-98 percent všetkých ochorení.

### Zelenina je drahšia ako mäso!

Slováci sú šokovaní cenami v obchodoch, zelenina je rekordne drahá v celej Európe odkázanej na dovoz. Na vine sú mrazy a zrážky v krajinách, ktoré svojou produkciou zaisobujú takmer celú Európu. „Hlavní exportéri - Španielsko, Taliansko a Grécko - mali mimoriadne zlé poveternostné podmienky na pestovanie zeleniny,“ tvrdí analytik obchodu Ľubomír Drahovský. Dovozcovia nemajú čím výpadky nahradiť, aj slovenská produkcia dopláca na počasie. „Extrémne nízke teploty, sneženie a veľmi málo slnka,“ vyratáva dôvody veľkopestovateľ paradajok Zsolt Bindics. Je pravdepodobné, že niektoré druhy zeleniny nekúpime celý február.

### Výber zo slovenskej tlače

## Po stopách mužských reholí na Slovensku

Po narodení Ježiša Krista v Betleheme začalo sa popri pohanských náboženstvách ako: budhizmus, hinduizmus, šintoizmus, islam... šíriť aj kresťanstvo a prenikať postupne do blízkych a neskôr aj do vzdialenejších krajín, ba aj do Európy. Začali sa stavať kostoly, chrámy, katedrály, kaplnky... Na Slovensku sa objavil prvý kostol v Nitre, ktorý dal postaviť v r. 829 knieža Pribina.

Keď na jeho pozvanie prišli neskôr zo Solune (v r. 863) dvaja bratia, Cyril a Metod, aby šíрили kresťanstvo v slovenskom jazyku, začalo prenikať aj do okolia Nítry (Trnava, Bratislava, Šaštín, Piešťany...), a neskôr (v 12. - 15. storočí) sa postupne rozširovalo aj do iných regiónov. Objavovali sa ďalšie chrámy, kostoly, kaplnky a popri nich aj kríže pri cestách...

V 11. storočí začali vznikať v Európe, a teda aj na Slovensku, prvé rehole. Niektoré sa udržali iba niekoľko rokov, iné boli v období náboženského útlaku v období socializácie (Barbarská noc – z 13. na 14. apríla 1950) zrušené, mníši boli zatvorení a budovy sa využívali na iné ako cirkevné účely a viaceré sú už v ruinách. Poniktoré boli v II. sv. vojne natoľko poškodené, že už neboli obnovené. K revitalizácii rádov a výstavbe nových kláštorov dochádza až po rozpade Československej federatívnej republiky (1992), po vzniku Slovenskej republiky (1993) a znovunastolení demokracie.

Všimnime si, kde všade, a aké kláštory, vznikali na Slovensku, ktoré sa zaplňali rehoľníkmi, osobnosťami s hlbokou vierou v Boha, ktorí sa prisahou zaviazali slúžiť mu, zriecť sa osobného vlastníctva, hlásať pokoj, lásku, vzájomné porozumenie, pomáhať opusteným, aktívne sa podieľať v charitatívnej činnosti, žiť a odievať sa skromne... S ich vznikom sa objavovali aj obce s názvom mních alebo kláštor ako: Mníšek nad Hnilcom, Mníšek nad Popradom, Mníchova Lehota, Kláštor pod Znievom, Kláštorisko...

### Benediktíni

Patria medzi najstarších rehoľníkov na Slovensku. Rád založil Benedikt z Nursie (Taliansko). Prišli k nám v 11. storočí. Majú svoje kláštory: vo Sv. Beňadiku, Pukanci, Skalici, Hlohovci, Veľkom Krtíši, Bacúrove, Trenčíne, Nitre Diakovciach, a Hronovciach... V r. 2010 k nim pribudol nový v Sampoře.

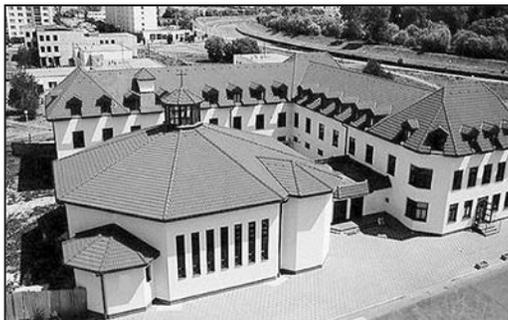
Kláštor benediktínov vo Svätom Beňadiku, terajší Hronský Beňadik z roku 1075 patrí k najstarším na Slovensku.

### Cisterciáni

Tento rád dostal pomenovanie podľa kláštora Cistercium v meste Citeaux vo Francúzsku. U nás sa objavili v 13. storočí. Boli vynikajúcimi staviteľmi. Usadili sa v v Spišskom Štiavniku, v Bardejove. Lelesé a v Bzovíku.

### Kartuziáni

Táto prísna rehoľa, vznikla podľa mesta Chartreuse (Francúzsko). Na Slovensko prišli v 13. storočí a majú kláštory v Červenom Kláštore, Letanovciach – Kláštorisko.



Nový kláštor dominikánov vo Zvolene.



Kláštor benediktínov v Svätom Beňadiku vstupná časť.

### Premonštráti

Rád je pomenovaný podľa mesta Premontre (Francúzsko). Na Slovensku sa začali usadzovať koncom 12. storočia. Ich kláštory sú v Jasove, Kláštore pod Znievom, Lelese, Rožňave, Bini, Bzovíku, Ružomberku, Rožňave a Šahách.

### Františkáni

Najviac rozšírená rehoľa, ktorej zakladateľom bol František z Assisi (Taliansko). U nás sa objavili v 12. storočí a ich kláštory sa nachádzajú v Bratislave, Malackách, Spišskom Štiavniku, Nitre, Stropkove, Bardejove, Humennom, Hlohovci, Skalici, Žiline.

### Piaristi

Objavili sa u nás oveľa neskôr, až v 17. storočí. Usadili sa v Podolinci a Trenčíne a Nitre.

### Kapucíni

Sú u nás od 17. storočia. Ich kláštory sa nachádzajú v mestách: Bratislava, Žilina, Holič, Pezinok.

### Salezijáni

Majú pomenovanie podľa zakladateľa Františka Saleského. Rehoľa sa venuje práci s mládežou. Kláštory: Bratislava – Petržalka, Bratislava – Ružinov, Banská Bystrica, Šaštín.

### Celestíni

Ich zakladateľom bol pápež Celestín V. a u nás majú kláštory v: Humennom, Žiline, Trnávke, Nitre, Košiciach, Prešove, Bardejove.

Nebohý Salezián Anton Srholec (za totalitý väznený), bol správcom ubytovne pre bezdomovcov v Bratislave. V r. 2003 ho prezident SR Rudolf Šuster prepožičal štátne Rad Eudovíta Štúra II. triedy za významné zásluhy v oblasti charity a za pomoc občanom v núdzi.

### Dominikáni

Zakladateľom bol Dominik Guzmán. Ich heslom bolo Veritas (Pravda). Ich kláštory sa nachádzajú: v Košiciach, Žiline,. Pribudol aj nový vo Zvolene.

### Baziliáni

Rád založil Bazil Veľký. Jeho členom bol aj blahoslavený biskup Pavol Gojdič v Čerenčej hore (Ukrajina). Jediný kláštor na Slovensku, v Medzilaborciach bol v II. svetovej vojne úplne zničený.

### Karmelitáni

Pomenovanie majú podľa pohoria Karmel v Palestine. Na Slovensko prišli koncom 14. storočia. Kláštory sa nachádzajú: v Prešove, Prievidzi, Skalici, Banskej Bystrici.

### Redemptoristi

Pôvod ich názvu pochádza z hebrejského Jochánán (Boh je milostivý). Kláštory sú: v Kostolnej, Bratislave, Stropkove, Michalovciach.

### Trinitári

Ich zakladateľom bol Ján z Mathy (Francúzsko). Rehoľníci vykupovali kresťanských zajatcov z tureckého zajatia. V Bratislave sa objavili koncom 17. storočia. Cisár Rakúsko – Uhorska, František II., však tento rád v roku 1782 zrušil.

Právom možno povedať, že Slovensko je religióznou krajinou, o čom svedčia aj uvedené skutočnosti.

Andrej Štelmák, Sliač, Slovakia



Pohľad na Kláštor premenenia Pána Sampoře.

## Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Výročná schôdza Spolku  
sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ v NYC

Oznamujeme členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ v New York City, že výročná schôdza sa bude konať v **nedeľu 12. marca 2017** o 12:15 vo farskej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East, 66<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, New York City. Na programe bude príprava plánu činnosti na obdobie 2017.

Joan Mary Skrkon, tajomníčka

### Oslavy 14. marca v Detroit, Michigan

34. Zbor kráľa Svätopluka Slovenskej ligy v Amerike v Detroit, Mich. pozýva všetkých členov a priateľov nášho zboru na tohtoročné už 69. oslavy slovenskej štátnosti, ktoré budú **19. marca 2017** v hale pri slovenskom kostole Sv. Cyrila a Metoda, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Mi. Slávnosti sa začnú hneď po nedeľňajšej slovenskej svätej omši o 1:00 hodine popoludní. Slováci v Detroitskej okolicy si túto udalosť pripomínajú už od roku 1948 a to bez prestávky. V novembri roku 1947 iba pár mesiacov po vražde prezidenta Dr. Tisu Detroitský farár slovenskej osady Sv. Cyrila a Metoda Jozef Zalibera, rodák z Letanoviec slúžil svätú omšu za nášho mučeníka prezidenta Dr. Tisu a od vtedy si tunajší Slováci pripomínajú túto udalosť pravidelne každý rok. Zmenili si dátum na 14. marec a už v roku 1948 to nazvali oslavy 14. marca a táto tradícia pokračuje dodnes.

Výbor 34. Zboru Kráľa Svätopluka Slovenskej Ligy v Amerike

### Veľkonočné raňajky v Pittsburghu, PA

V **sobotu 8. apríla 2017** budú tradičné Veľkonočné raňajky v Pittsburghu, PA. Sponzorom podujatia je Slovak Custom Group/Cultural Diversity Committee of Prince of Peace Parish. O 11. hodine doobeda bude v kostole sv. Adalberta 160 South 15<sup>th</sup> Street slovenská svätá omša, po ktorej budú v Prince of Peace Parish Center (81 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street) Slovenské veľkonočné raňajky. Vstupné je dobrovoľné.

Usporiadatelia pripravujú výstavu o slovenskej kultúre, živote a tradíciách na slovenskej dedine. Na predaj budú rôzne dovezené výrobky, ručné práce a domáce koláče. Prítomní sa budú môcť oboznámiť so slovenskými veľkonočnými zvykmi, dekoráciou kraslíc, prípravou veľkonočných špecialít a podobne. Zisk z podujatia bude venovaný na charitatívne účely na Slovensku. Pre Františkánske sestry v Ružomberku a Barlička Center v Prešove. Bližšie informácie: Connie Zatek telefónne číslo: 412 - 657 - 6364.

## Podujatie SelectUSA Investment Summit 2017

V dňoch 18. - 20. júna 2017 sa vo Washingtone, DC uskutoční ďalší ročník podujatia **SelectUSA Investment Summit 2017**, tentokrát s podtitulom „Grow with US“. Vrcholné americké podujatie na najvyššej celoštátnej úrovni zamerané na zahraničné investície organizuje americké ministerstvo obchodu a jeho cieľom je predstaviť firmám z celého sveta investičné príležitosti v USA.



Investičný summit je určený aj pre firmy zo Slovenska, ktoré zvažujú (alebo plánujú) investovanie v USA. Počet miest na summit je obmedzený, registrácia (poplatok 799 USD/osobu) a podrobnejšie informácie sú na stránke: <http://www.selectusasummit.us/> Účastníci budú mať možnosť diskutovať s poprednými predstaviteľmi amerického biznisu, od predstaviteľov vlády sa dozvedia o programoch podpory podnikania a investovania v USA a dňa 18. júna môžu využiť aj poldňový program Investment Academy.

Podujatie pred rokom otvoril prezident B. Obama, zúčastnilo sa ho 2500 zástupcov firiem a inštitúcií zo 70 krajín sveta, vrátane niekoľkých spoločností zo SR. Samotný program SelectUSA ([www.SelectUSA.gov](http://www.SelectUSA.gov)), ako jednu zo snáh na podporu globálnej konkurencieschopnosti USA, spustil prezident Obama v roku 2011.

MZV SR

## V Nitre zomrel emeritný biskup Jozef Zlatňanský

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

datne pomáhal prenasledovanej Cirkvi na Slovensku, najmä v oblasti tlačového apoštolátu. Prispieval do viacerých zahraničných časopisov: Most, Hlasy z Ríma, Diakonia – Slovenský kňaz a pod. Je autorom dvoch filozofických spisov: Jestvuje Boh? (Rím 1975) a Vývojová teória a pôvod človeka (Rím 1978). Ako aktívny príslušník hnutia Focolare pripravil tri zväzky rozjímaní Slovo života, zrevidoval a do tlače pripravil šesťzväzkovú Filozofiu od L. Bogliola (Rím 1974-1981), štyri zväzky dogmatiky od M. Schmausa (Rím 1977-1988) a päť zväzkov Morálnej teológie od A. Günthöra (Rím 1977-1996).

Okrem toho vydal vieroučné spisy k aktuálnym otázkam: Dokumenty o teológii oslobodenia (Rím 1987), napísal tiež obsažný úvod k Vyhláseniu Kongregácie pre náuku viery o niektorých otázkach sexuálnej etiky (Rím 1976). Ako dlhoročný a stály spolupracovník Slovenského ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme pripravil do tlače viacero monografií a pracoval na prekladoch knižných diel. Ako zodpovedný redaktor urobil v spolupráci s inými odborníkmi revíziu slovenského prekladu Katechizmu Katolíckej cirkvi. Od roku 2004 bol Mons. Zlatňanský na penzii.

TKKBS

## Slovakia Meets America vo Washingtone

Klavírný recitál amerického virtuóza **Thomasa Pandolfiho**  
a otvorenie výstavy slovenského výtvarníka **Luka Braseho**

Zastupiteľský úrad Slovenskej republiky vo Washingtone pripravil 17. februára 2017 prezentačné podujatie Slovakia Meets America - klavírný recitál amerického virtuóza Thomasa Pandolfiho a otvorenie výstavy slovenského výtvarníka Luka Braseho. Podujatie bolo čiastočne sponzorované organizáciou Washington International Piano Arts Council.

Luka Brase patrí ku generácii mladých slovenských umelcov a jeho diela sú oceňované profesionálnou, aj laickou verejnosťou. Jeho diela boli predstavené v rámci devätnástich sólových výstav v Európe a v USA a sú považované za unikátne spojenie kresby a maľby, invenčnosti a emócií. V rámci výstavy predstavil koláže, kresby a olejomalby inšpirované New Yorkom a mestami Európy.

Americký klavirista Thomas Pandolfi je absolventom prestížnej Juilliard School a patrí medzi vyhľadávaných virtuózov. Spolupracuje s poprednými dirigentmi ako Piotr Gajewski, Dimitru Goia, Emil Seigbert, Mihail Agafita, Peter Schmelzer, okrem iných.

Veľký dopyt je po jeho klavírných adaptáciách hudby A. Lloyd Webbera, Georga Gershwina a Leonarda Bernsteina. Diváci v preplnenej sále si mali možnosť vypočuť diela R. Addinsella, W.A. Mozarta, F. Chopina a L. Bernsteina. Podujatie malo veľký ohlas u amerického publika, ktoré ocenilo možnosť stretnutia s umelcami počas následnej recepcie, kde bola predstavená slovenská kuchyňa.

MZV SR



## Občianski aktivisti vyhlásili Rok Dr. Jozefa Tisu

Národní aktivisti vyhlásili rok 2014 za rok Andreja Hlinku, rok 2015 za rok Ľudovíta Štúra a ten vlnajší bol venovaný Svetozárovi Hurbanovi Vajanskému.

V roku 2017 má dve okrúhle výročia iná významná postava národných dejín – prvý prezident Slovenskej republiky Dr. Jozef Tiso. Uplynie 130 rokov od jeho narodenia a 70 rokov od popravy V súvislosti s tým sa zástupcovia ôsmich občianskych združení rozhodli vyhlásiť rok 2017 za rok Dr. Jozefa Tisu. Stalo sa tak symbolicky v posledný deň prvého mesiaca nového roka.

V slávnostnej deklarácii občianski aktivisti pripomínajú, že rok 2017 spája aj s výročím inej významnej udalosti našich dejín – vyhlásením zvrchovanosti Slovenska v roku 1992 a následnou obnovou slovenskej štátnosti. Súčasne so zármutkom konštatujú, že po štvrtstoročí existencie druhej Slovenskej republiky táto „svoju politickú i ekonomickú suverenitu 'zásluhou' ponovembrových garnitúr dávno stratila a klesla na nesvojprávnu úroveň.“ Ako ďalej pripomínajú, „ruka v ruke s ekonomickou kolonizáciou národov išla vždy kolonizácia ideologická“ a „predpokladom trvalého ovládnutia národa je zamlčovanie či kriminalizácia jeho vlastnej histórie, znevažovanie osobností, ktoré sa snažili o jeho nezávislosť či pozdvihnutie“, dodávajú.

Príkladom nekompromisnej obhajoby národnostných záujmov Slovenska a Slovákov je podľa aktivistov práve osoba Dr. Jozefa Tisu, realizátora hlinkovskej idey „cudzie nechceme, svoje si nedáme“. Predstavitelia dnešnej SR sú mu vraj mnoho dlžní. V tomto duchu vyhlásili rok 2017 za Rok Dr. Jozefa Tisu a oznámili uskutočnenie sprievodných podujatí v jeho rámci.

HSP

## Inaugurácia novovzniknutej provincie Bratislava–Praha

V Bratislave sa 13. februára začala mimoriadna kapitula redemptoristov, ktorá trvala do 17. februára 2017. Zišli sa na nej redemptoristi Pražskej provincie a Bratislavskej viceprovincie. Na kapitule bol prítomný aj generálny predstavený kongregácie P. Michael Brehl a koordinátor Konferencie Európa P. Jacek Zdrzałek.



Generálny predstavený 13. februára pri rannej svätej omši slávnostne inauguroval novovzniknutú provinciu Bratislava – Praha. Pri tejto príležitosti v homílii povedal: „Redemptoristi nasledujú Vykupiteľa, nielen akýsi pojem, ale osobu, ktorá je prítomná a koná. On bude ten, kto bude bdiť nad novou provinciou Bratislava - Praha. Teraz počas svojej I. kapituly bude nová Provincia čeliť možno najnáročnejším výzvam na spoločnej ceste, ktorá sa práve začína. Redemptoristi však môžu počítať s prítomnosťou Vykupiteľa a s pomocou Matky ustavičnej pomoci.“

Pred záverečným požehnaním generálny predstavený poprosil P. Václava Hypiusa, niekdajšieho viceprovinciála jednotky Bratislava, aby v slovenčine prečítal dekrét ustanovujúci novú provinciu.

Na kapitule sa zúčastňuje aj P. Metod Lukačík, viceprovinciál jednotky Michalovce, ktorá sa stala viceprovinciou novovzniknutej provincie. Svoje zastúpenie majú aj laické spoločenstvá, ktoré sú partnermi v misii redemptoristov. Zastupuje ich vedúci spoločenstva Rieka Života Bohumír Živčák. Na pozvanie provinciála Pražskej jednotky, P. Jozefa Michalčíka a viceprovinciála Bratislavskej jednotky P. Václava Hypiusa prišli vznik novej provincie osláviť aj provinciál Varšavskej provincie P. Janusz Sok a provinciál jednotky Mnichov - Viedeň, P. Alfons Jestl.

Úlohou tejto kapituly je schváliť pripravené dokumenty nutné pre život novej provincie Bratislava – Praha: Stanovy, Pastoračný plán, Ekonomický plán, Plán komunitného života, a zvoliť vedenie provincie na aktuálne štvorročné obdobie.

TK KBS

## Pokúsme sa v Pôstnom období vyhradiť si desať minút pre modlitbu

Možno ste spozorovali, že keď v rádiu vysielať hovorené slovo, obvyklá ranná činnosť vám trvá dlhšie, než keď počúvate hudbu. Ak ste v rannom zhone vôbec nezapli rádio, všetko zvládnete oveľa rýchlejšie. Hudba či slovo v pozadí ľahko odvádzajú našu pozornosť od toho, čo robíme, spomaľujú nás. Z podobného dôvodu je zakázané používať mobil počas šoférovania. S mobilom na uchu nevenujeme dostatočnú pozornosť premávke a ani nevieme ako a prejdeme zopár kilometrov bez povšimnutia.

**Ktoré zvuky v mojom živote ma spomaľujú, robia zmäteným a nepozorným?** Pokiaľ ide o modlitbu, mnohí sa modlia aj cestou, v aute či v električke. Je to dobré, ešte aj vtedy keď sa náhlime či nútime. Ale nič z toho sa nevyrovná úplnému stíšeniu sa, ktoré napomáha uvedomiť si a spoznať Božiu prítomnosť. Ticho pomáha sústrediť sa a chápať veci jasnejšie. Jestvuje modlitba, ku ktorej dochádza iba v tichu. Skúsme si v tomto Pôstnom období každý deň vyhradiť desať minút pre modlitbu. Iba desať minút. Sadnúť si na tiché miesto, mimo druhých, dýchať pomaly a zhlboka, uvedomovať si, že Boh je blízko, je pri mne, v mojom srdci ...

**V ktorom čase by bolo pre mňa najlepšie stráviť takto desať minút?**  
ráno – napoludnie – večer; vždy v rovnakom čase každý deň?

**Kde najlepšie nájdem určité ticho a pokoj?**  
doma – v kostole – vonku; vždy na tom istom mieste?

**Ako začnem svojich desať minút?**  
prežehnám sa, uvedomím si, že Boh je so mnou, požiadam Ho o pomoc

**Akým spôsobom prežijem desať minút?**  
jednoducho v tichu – so Svätým Písmom – slovami zo svojho srdca

**Za čo sa môžem modliť?**  
poviem Bohu, čo mám na srdci, hovorím s Ním ako s najlepším priateľom a počúvam Ho

**Ako ukončím mojich desať minút?**  
poďakujem sa Pánu Bohu, pomodlím sa Otče nás a prežehnám sa.

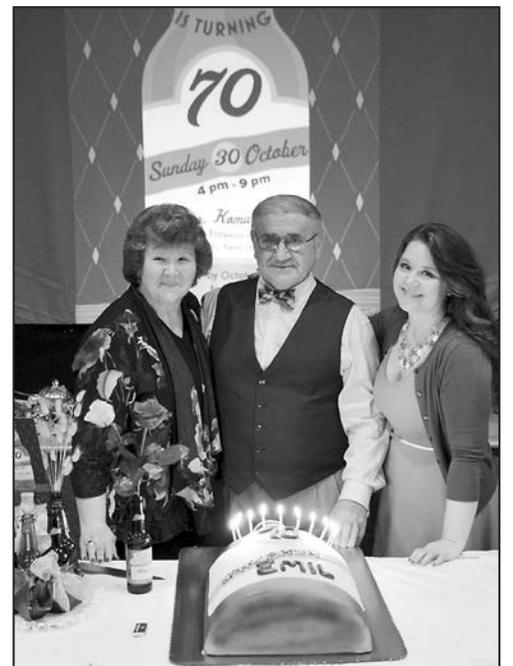
**Iba desať minút?**  
Začnime aspoň s nimi. Dajme si čestný cieľ: 10 minút zo dňa, ktorý má 1440 minút. Pokúsme sa v Pôstnom období vyhradiť si denne **aspoň desať minút pre modlitbu.**

## 70. narodeniny Emila Filaka

Dňa 30. októbra 2016 v Msgr. Komar Hall v Linden, New Jersey v kruhu najbližšej rodiny, priateľov a známych oslávil Emil Filak svoje 70. narodeniny. Veľkou čťou bola pre oslávenca prítomnosť slovenských duchovných otcov Rev. Jozefa Krajňáka, Ph.D., hlavného farára kostola Holy Family Church, Linden, NJ, ktorý začal večer modlitbou a požehnaním a za tým otec Rev. Vladimír Chripko, privítal všetkých prítomných narodeninovej párty. Nechýbali medzi nimi aj duchovní Rev. František Čonka, Rev. Roman Palečko z farnosti Oratory of St. Filip Neri v Tappan, New York. Slávnostný prípitok s „Goralskou vodkou“ predniesla manželka oslávenca, Emília a dcéra Sabina viedla všetkých spevom „Živíó“. Počas večera sa podávali tradičné slovenské jedlá, ktoré boli pripravené s Julie Rada Catering a k tomu sa podávali mnohoraké druhy pív ako aj slovenský známny „Zlatý bažant“. Narodeninová torta bola upečená v tvare pivovej fľaše. Počas večera si prítomní mohli pozrieť rad premietaných obrázkov, ktoré pripomínali Emilove krásne prežité mladšie roky s rodinou, spoločné dovolenky v zahraničí, návštevy rodného Slovenska ako aj dôležité spolkárske podujatia.

Emil sa narodil na Slovensku v roku 1946 a emigroval do USA roku 1969. Od tej doby je aktívnym farníkom kostola Holy Family Church v Linden, New Jersey ako aj dlhoročným členom Spolku č. 746 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v Linden, NJ. Cieľom tejto oslavy bolo si uctiť Emilovu dlhoročnú nezištnú lásku k rodine, priateľom a spolupracovníkom. Vďačíme všetkým, ktorí svojou účasťou, pomohli náležite osláviť Emilove vzácne narodeniny. 70-tku oslavuj a pomaly spomaľuj! Živíó!

Emília Filak, Spolok 746, IKSJ



Na snímke Emil Filak v spoločnosti manželky Emílie (zl'ava) a dcéry Sabiny (sprava).



FOTO: TASR – Roman Hanc

V obci Pavlovce nad Uhom v okrese Michalovce si 28. januára 2017 pripomenuli zvyky a tradície pri páraní peria na tradičnom podujatí Pavlovské páračky 2017.

*The traditional preparing of goose down took place on January 28, 2017 in the village of Pavlovce nad Uhom in the district of Michalovce.*

## Slovenský vedec získal ocenenie od Americkej keramickej spoločnosti

Predseda Slovenskej akadémie vied (SAV) Pavol Šajgalík získal ocenenie od Americkej keramickej spoločnosti, ktorá doteraz takúto cenu neudelila žiadnemu vedcovi zo strednej a východnej Európy. Cenu „2017 ECD Bridge Building Award“ si šéf SAV osobne prevzal v Daytona Beach na Floride.

„Každý vedecký pracovník je rád, keď si niekto všimne jeho prácu a nebýva často zvykom, že slovenskí vedci sú oceňovaní na pôde USA, takže pochopiteľne ma to potešilo. Je to jedno z takých ocenení, kde môžem pokojne povedať, že z východnej a strednej Európy ešte takéto ocenenie nikto nedostal, takže tá radosť je znásobená,“ uviedol Šajgalík. Ako dodal, ocenenie je pre neho povzbudením do ďalšej práce.

Počas pracovnej cesty sa Šajgalík zúčastnil na Medzinárodnej konferencii Americkej keramickej spoločnosti „International Conference on Advanced Ceramics & Composites (ICACC)“, kde vystúpil s prednáškou o materiáli s výnimočnými vlastnosťami „Additive-free hot-pressed silicon carbide ceramics – a material with exceptional properties“.

TASR

## Zomrel známy americký mysliteľ so slovenskými koreňmi Michael Novak

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

ideálov. Univerzitné spoločenstvo v Ružomberku vyjadruje úprimnú sústrasť i kresťanskú modlitbu pozostávajúcu vo vďačnosti za prácu v prospech Katolíckej univerzity, Cirkvi a sveta, informovalo Vedenie KU v Ružomberku.

TK KBS, RV

O. Štefan Furdek  
Náš zakladateľ

## Zomrel známy americký mysliteľ so slovenskými koreňmi Michael Novak

Vo veku 83 rokov zomrel 17. februára vo Washingtone významný americký mysliteľ so slovenskými koreňmi Michael Novak.

Ako angažovaný veriaci laik, teológ, filozof, spisovateľ, diplomat sa najmä v závere 20. storočia vyznačil v diskusií na tému sociálnej spravodlivosti a katolíckeho postoja

vo vzťahu k ekonómii. Osobitný dôraz kládol na subsidiaritu a na kreatívnu aktivitu ľudskej osoby na základe jej slobody a pracovnosti. Je známy najmä svojou knihou „Duch demokratického kapitalizmu“ z roku 1982. V roku 1994 bol vyznamenaný Templetonovou cenou za zásluhy pre pokrok v náboženskej oblasti.

Michael Novak bol veľkým priateľom Katolíckej univerzity a Slovenska, ktoré niekoľkokrát navštívil. V roku 1996 mu vtedajší prezident Michal Kováč udelil štátne vyznamenanie Rad bieleho dvojkríža II. stupňa.

Michael Novak sa narodil 9. septembra 1933 v Johnstowne v Pensylvánii americko-slovenským rodičom. Štúdiá absolvoval na Stonehill College, Gregoriánskej univerzite v Ríme a Harvardskej univerzite. Počas konania Druhého vatikánskeho koncilu bol v rokoch 1963-1964 dopisovateľom pre časopisy Time a National Catholic Reporter. Prednášal na Stanford University, Syracuse University, Notre Dame University, Ave Maria University. Bol autorom viac než 50 kníh. V rokoch 1981-1982 zastupoval USA v Komisii pre ľudské práva v OSN.

Vedecká rada Katolíckej univerzity v Ružomberku udelila Michaelovi Novakovi v roku 2009 čestný doktorát za celoživotné zásluhy o pokrok a šírenie kresťanských

Pokračovanie na str. 23



Foto: michaelnovak.net

## V Nitre zomrel emeritný biskup Jozef Zlatňanský

Rodina, priatelia, známi, viacerí arcibiskupi a biskupi, desiatky kňazov, rehoľníkov a rehoľníčok, veriaci z viacerých miest a obcí a predstavitelia náboženského, spoločenského a verejného života sa rozlúčili 16. februára 2017 v Topoľčiankach s Mons. Jozefom Zlatňanským. Biskup, ktorý väčšiu časť svojho života prežil v Ríme, zomrel 11. februára 2017 vo veku 89 rokov, v 66. roku kňazstva a 20. roku biskupskej služby. Rodák z Topoľčianok, kde sa konala zádušná svätá omša spojená s pohrebnými obradmi, svoj život naplno prežil v službe Svätej stolici. Túto „dlhoročnú a obetavú prácu“ ocenil v kondolenčnom telegrame pápež František. Nitrianskej diecéze, jeho príbuzným a známym vyjadril úprimnú sústrasť a tým, ktorí „oplakávajú jeho odchod a ktorí sa s ním prišli rozlúčiť“ udelil svoje apoštolské požehnanie.

Mons. Jozef Zlatňanský sa narodil 13. marca 1927 v Topoľčiankach. Ľudovú školu navštevoval v rodnej obci, gymnázium v Zlatých Moravciach. Teológiu začal študovať v Bratislave (1946-1947) a v štúdiu pokračoval na Lateránskej univerzite v Ríme (1947-1952), kde ho 22. 12. 1951 vysvätili za kňaza. Ďalším štúdiom dosiahol doktorát teológie na Pápežskej lateránskej univerzite v roku 1955 a licenciát zo sociálnych vied na Pápežskej gregoriánskej univerzite v roku 1959.

V rokoch 1961-1964 bol profesorom filozofie v Pápežskom regionálnom seminári v Catanzare v južnom cípe Talianska. Po návrate do Ríma pracoval až do r. 1966 v Sekretariáte vieroučnej komisie Druhého vatikánskeho koncilu. Ďalej pokračoval na Kongregácii pre vieroučné otázky, kde bol v rokoch 1975-1984 vedúcim náukového oddelenia. Popri tom bol v období 1969-1975 aj technickým tajomníkom Medzinárodnej teologickej komisie.

V roku 1981 pápež Ján Pavol II. poctil Jozefa Zlatňanského hodnosťou pápežského preláta a v roku 1984 ho vymenoval za subsekretára Kongregácie pre náuku viery. V roku 1997 ho menoval za sekretára Stálej interdikasteriálnej komisie pre východnú Európu a zároveň za titulárneho biskupa diecézy Montefiascone. Vysviacku prijal v rodných Topoľčiankach 20. júla 1997.

Popri náročnej a zodpovednej práci v Kongregácii pre náuku viery Mons. Zlatňanský vý-

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Biskup Jozef Zlatňanský

## Salezián Titus Zeman bude novým slovenským blahoslaveným

Slovensko bude mať nového blahoslaveného. Pápež František schválil 27. februára 2017 dekrét o mučeníctve slovenského saleziána Titusa Zemana, ktorý zomrel na následky mučenia a väzenia 8. januára 1969. Tento dekrét umožňuje, aby bol Titus Zeman vyhlásený za blahoslaveného. Informoval o tom hovorca saleziánov na Slovensku Rastislav Hamráček.

Slovensko tak bude mať ďalšieho svätca, prvého rímskokatolíckeho kňaza, mučenika z čias totalitného komunistického režimu. „Je to pre nás všetkých obrovský dar, že bude vyzdvihnutý na slávu oltára spolubrat, ktorý vyšiel spomedzi nás, obetoval svoj život, aby sprevádzal mladých bratov v ich povolani. Súčasne reprezentuje množstvo ďalších veriacich v našej krajine, ktorí pre svoju vieru a z lásky k duším boli ochotní podstúpiť mnohé riziká a obety v období komunizmu,“ uviedol provinciál slovenských saleziánov Jozef Izold.

Titus Zeman sa narodil v Bratislave-Vajnorochoch 4. januára 1915. Ako 25-ročný sa stal saleziánskym kňazom a pôsobil ako kaplán, školský radca a profesor chémie. Po tom, ako komunistický režim 13. apríla 1950 zrušil mužské kláštory, Zeman zorganizoval a viedol tri ilegálne prechody do Talianska. Pri nich sprevádzal najmä mladých saleziánov bohoslovcov, aby tam mohli doštudovať a stať sa kňazmi. Tretí prechod 9. apríla 1951 sa pre rozvodnenú riekou Morava nevydaril. Zeman aj ďalší účastníci výpravy boli zatknutí a následne vypočúvaní. Titusa pri výsluchoch mučili a napokon odsúdili na 25 rokov väzenia. Po 13 rokoch väzenia ho v roku 1964 podmienene prepustili. O päť rokov, 8. januára 1969, na následky mučenia a väzenia zomrel v Bratislave.

TASR



Titus Zeman

## Mlynčania usporiadali už desiaty festival šišiek

Slávnostnou omšou v miestom rímskokatolíckom kostole a fašiangovým sprievodom obcou otvorili 25. februára v severomaďarskej obci Mlynky jubilejný X. ročník Pilišskej kavalkády a medzinárodný šiškový festival, kde počas uplynulých rokov pripravili zhruba 60.000-70.000 šišiek. Tradičným usporiadateľom podujatia, ktoré sa konalo v Slovenskom dome, je Slovenská samospráva v Mlynkoch (SSM). Súčasťou programu bol aj úspešný pokus o zápis do Guinnessovej knihy rekordov v počte pripravených druhov šišiek.

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FOTO: TASR/Ladislav Vallach

Na snímke šišky pripravené na zápis do Guinnessovej knihy rekordov.

The tenth annual international donut festival was held on February 25, 2017 in Mlynky. The people prepared 60,000 to 70,000 donuts during the past ten years.