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NUMBER 5949

President's New Year Message ŠŤASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK – Happy New Year 2017

Blessings and best wishes to you and your family for 2017. I would like to express on behalf of myself and the First Catholic Slovak Union sincere condolences to all of you who have experienced loss of a loved one in 2016.

In 2017 the Society has again reached records in assets and even more importantly in surplus. We will report on that in the future. We are investing carefully and with as much flexibility as possible to protect your

money and the Society.

We thank all Members for showing confidence in the stability, management and future of our Society. Why not spread the word to other family members and friends that the FCSU, Jednota, is successfully working for its Members for their financial benefit and for the Catholic Faith?

It is time for New Year Resolutions. Lose weight, don't forget your wife's or husband's birthday and other special events, don't pro-

crastinate etc., are resolutions we all have made, probably more than once. Some people have been very successful in fulfilling one or more. Others not.

How about making another 2017 Resolution: getting your financial life in order? Have you started a plan for the future, whatever your age? Do you take advantage of a 401 (K) plan at your place of employment? Do you have an IRA and make annual contributions?

The FCSU offers a variety of both ROTH and regular IRA plans. Get into the habit of saving. See our notices in the Jednota. Have you ordered a copy of the FCSU Estate Planning Booklet - Your Personal Record Keeper? Just give a call, write or email us a request. There is no charge. It is an invaluable tool.



Andrew M. Rajec

In addition, plan for you and your family's future and financial security by investigating our insurance and annuity products. Why wait? Encourage your kids, family and friends.

New Year Resolution time can also apply to our spiritual life. We all can improve. Maybe we can help a son or daughter or other family member in finding Christ either directly or through good example. It can

work with gentle, loving persistence.

2017 will be a time for reflection and planning for our Society and for the future.

Happy New Year to you and may 2017 bring you peace and love.

Fraternally,

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Check this out!

Fraternalism at work at the FCSU

**FCSU 2016
National Photo Contest Winners – Part I**
See pages 12 – 13



**2017 Jednota
Scholarships Available**
See page 3



**FCSU 2017 National
Bowling Tournament,**
April 21-22, 2017
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Scholarship Recipients**
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WHAT?!... HELLOOOO....

You forgot your IRA?!

What are you waitin' for?

Start your New Year off right

Open or add to your
IRA account by 4/17/2017

8 Year Flexible Premium IRA 3.60%

6 Year Flexible Premium IRA 3.20%

6 Year Fixed Rate IRA 3.10%

Contact your branch officer or the Home Office
at 1.800.533.6682 for more info.
annuity@fcsu.com, www.fcsu.com

Insights and Viewpoints



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

**January 22, 2017 - Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

This Gospel passage takes place right after Jesus had spent forty days in the desert praying and fasting in preparation for his ministry. This forty day retreat began with his baptism by John in the Jordan, and it ends with him receiving word that John had been arrested. The time

had come for Jesus to begin his public ministry. Matthew tells us that his message was, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." This is the message Jesus preached in various ways, from parables, to instructions, and through miracles. All of these were words and acts that were meant to touch the hearts and souls of Scribes and Pharisees, fishermen and carpenters, tradesmen and even sinners. As we know, the Pharisees and scribes, were less likely to take his words to heart and focused more on discrediting him.

Maybe this is the reason that when it came time for Jesus to select his apostles he began by calling four fishermen. Later he would add to the group men of various backgrounds, who didn't seem to be on a leadership tract in life. Jesus saw otherwise and called them to follow and learn from him. For Simon and Andrew, James and John, there was a power to the call of Jesus. They immediately left their nets, their work, and in the case of James and John, their father, and followed Jesus. It was a call that took the apostles to new places both geographically and spiritually. They changed their assumption that part of their call was to protect Jesus from people trying to vie for his attention, even children, to realizing that Jesus was welcoming to all. He showed them that to be a follower there are times when one must put aside their agenda and plans so as to minister. They changed their view that sinners, lepers and other outcasts should be avoided, instead they learned from Jesus to treat them as brothers and sisters. They learned from Jesus that to be a leader was to be a servant willing to wash the feet of his followers, and suffer death out of love for us.

The first question that comes from this Gospel is, "How is Jesus calling us to follow him?" We can respond by saying, "I have no special gifts, what can I do?" We each have been blessed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit that brings to us various charisms of service. Recognize and appreciate the wonderful gifts with which we have been blessed. Be willing to use these charisms (particular gifts) in the way God is calling me to use them. There is that temptation to make our own plans, and to figure out what we think is God's plan on our own terms. The true follower is willing to set aside their plans and respond to God's plan. We might not leave fishing boats, torn nets and even parents, but we are called to leave part of ourselves behind and follow Jesus.

The call to discipleship is one that each of us has received and the Gospel reminds us of this call. May we be more attentive to this call. May we be more mindful in quickly answering the call. May we experience the beauty of accepting the call with faith and acting on it. In this way we will become like the first apostles who quickly responded, continued to learn during their three years walking with Jesus and the years afterwards during which, with the



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

power of the Holy Spirit, they did what they probably never imagined they would do when first called; traveled to the ends of the earth.

January 29, 2017 – 4th Sunday of the Year

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

The virtues of humility and gentleness are clearly the keynotes of this Sunday's scripture readings. The prophet Zephaniah begins by exhorting us, "Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth...seek justice, seek humility" (Zeph 2:3); the Psalmist then praises the Lord for upholding many who are trodden under by the secular world—the orphans, widows, the poor, the blind, the wounded, and the oppressed. For his part even St. Paul, who long struggled with pride, reminds the Corinthians: "Consider your own calling, brothers and sisters. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong" (1 Cor 1:26-27). Of course these readings lead up to and support the sublime words of Jesus in the beatitudes, found in the "Sermon on the Mount". There, among other moving words of wisdom, he teaches: "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land" (Matt 5:5).

The term rendered here in English as "meek" can also rightly be understood as "gentle" and it is translated as such elsewhere in the Bible. It occurs as an adjective, "gentle," four times in the New Testament and twelve more times it is used in its noun form, "gentleness". Taking all sixteen occurrences of this word family together we find that in most cases the words "gentle" or "gentleness" are used to describe the way every Christian ought to live—the term is used in this way in the beatitudes. The few cases in which a specific person is described by means of these terms should catch our attention and give us cause to reflect on our own attempt to be "gentle". The reason I say this is that the only particular "persons" so described as meeting the standard of being truly "meek" or "gentle" are the Lord Jesus (Matt 11:29; 21:5) and the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:23)—impressive company indeed!

What this should tell us is that gentleness is a characteristic not of cringing or weak people, but of those who are fundamentally strong. Further, they are strong in such a way that they are at peace in their own identity and person: they have self-confidence and self-acceptance such that they desire no praise from others, nor do they fear the negative opinion of others. For this very reason people who are gentle are able to see and sympathize with the plight of those who are poor in spirit, who mourn, who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and who are persecuted or insulted for the sake of righteousness.

Going beyond this, those who are gentle, having been graced by God with a balanced measure of inner peace, are aware that they need to reach deeper and give of themselves in order to alleviate those things that cause people to be poor in spirit, to mourn, to hunger and thirst for righteousness, and to be persecuted or insulted for the sake of righteousness, and thus to live as those who are peacemakers, merciful, and clean of heart. They are moved to do this because as Christians they (we all) have a duty to live as citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, and it precisely this Kingdom that Jesus describes in the beatitudes. It turns all earthly kingdoms on their head because it shows the true order of reality, redeemed from the effects of sin and the perennial struggle for power and prestige.

Our Lord promises the Kingdom of Heaven to the humble of the earth; as the possibilities of a new year stand before us, let it be our resolve to live humbly and gently, at peace in the knowledge that in doing so we imitate Christ himself, and that our "reward will be great in heaven" (Matt 5:12).



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, FEB 15	MONDAY, FEB 6
WEDNESDAY, MAR 8	MONDAY, FEB 27
WEDNESDAY, MAR 29	MONDAY, MAR 20

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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First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
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From the Desk of the Executive Secretary

2016 Jednota Benevolent Winners Announced

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Trustees of the Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc., congratulations to the 2016 Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc. Scholarship Award recipients. Each student will receive a one-time check for \$500.00. The following is the list of the students selected:

Kevin Ball	Coraopolis, Pennsylvania
Peter Belechak	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Christina Estright	Huntingdon, Pennsylvania
Rachel Kozma	Elyria, Ohio
James Jude Kunst, Jr.	Kittanning, Pennsylvania
Kristie Rossi	Red Bank, New Jersey
Rachel Sudo	Sewickley, Pennsylvania
Jared Todorowski	Gibsonia, Pennsylvania
Olivia Todorowski	Gibsonia, Pennsylvania
Rachel Zelenak	Sterling Heights, Michigan

We want to thank all the applicants who participated in the program and most especially the scholarship committee for their efforts and support in making the difficult decision of selecting the winners. We wish each and every participating applicant the best of luck in their future endeavors.



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Monday, February 20, 2017, in observance of Presidents' Day.

2017 Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Thank you to all who made a donation to the 2016 Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. For many years, the Appeal relied upon contributions received from collections in Slovak parishes and individual donations. For the 2015 Appeal, this was supplemented by a direct mailing to clergy of Slovak heritage. This approach was so successful that the direct mailing was expanded for the 2016 Appeal to include fraternal branch presidents, and individuals and member bodies of the Federation. As a result, the 2016 Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal increased 44.2% over the previous year to \$51,385. Thank you again for your generosity.

As many of you know, most of the funds raised in this annual Appeal are sent to the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius to assist with its day-to-day operations. The College is the residence of priests from Slovakia who are sent to Rome by their bishops for graduate studies. After receiving their degrees, these priests return to their dioceses to work as seminary teachers, Tribunal officials, and in other ministries. Communities of men and women Religious which have a counterpart in the United States represented on the Conference of Slovak Religious are also beneficiaries of the Appeal.

Those who received a direct mailing for the 2016 Appeal should receive their letters for the 2017 Appeal by the end of January. The opportunity either to renew membership in the Slovak Catholic Federation or to become a member is being provided in this year's letter.

Donations in any amount to the 2017 Appeal are deeply appreciated and can also be made by filling out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check to the address provided. Once again, thank you for your goodness and generosity to the Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. Donations received before November 30, 2017 will be credited toward the 2017 Appeal.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdic, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Pastor of Our Lady of Ransom Parish, Philadelphia, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

- Submitted by Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, Appeal Coordinator

For news about Slovakia, Financial Tips, and more,
find us on:  Facebook.

Visit www.facebook.com/FirstCatholicSlovakUnion



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
or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

**Applications must be postmarked by midnight,
February 28, 2017**



The 2017 Cleveland Slovak School Schedule:

Enrollment is open for children and adults

*Are you interested in learning Slovak?
Then the Cleveland Slovak School is for you.*

STARTS: March 4, 2017

ENDS: May 20, 2017

TUITION: \$110 (11 classes)

TIME: 9:00 – 10:40 (beginners)
10:45 – 12:30 (advanced)

LOCATION: St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church
8111 Brecksville Rd, Brecksville OH

INSTRUCTOR: Miriam Visnovsky

For more information call Miriam
at 440-638-9921 or reach me
at vismimi@hotmail.com

Visit us on FB or at www.slovakschool.com

**If each member would sign up just one new member,
we could double our Society immediately**
THINK ABOUT IT!



ATTENTION JEDNOTAR BOWL



United Slovak Fraternal 6th Annual Bowling Tournament April 21- 22, 2017

Friday:

Teams Event – Opening Ceremonies to begin at 7:15 pm with the team event starting at 7:30 pm at Brunswick Zone-Belle Vernon Lanes.

Hospitality Night - Hospitality Night beginning at 6:30 PM at Brunswick Zone-Belle Vernon Lanes in Belle Vernon, PA. Enjoy food, refreshments, and socializing.

Hotel – The Clarion Inn will be housing our guests for the weekend. The phone number to the hotel is provided below. You must identify yourself as a member of United Slovak Fraternal to receive the group rate: \$75/ night (plus tax)

Deadline for hotel reservations is April 6.

Clarion Inn
827 Finley Rd.
Belle Vernon, PA 15012
724-243-5111

Saturday:

Doubles/Singles Event - To begin at 8:30 am and 12:30 pm

Mass - will be held at 5:00 pm at the hotel.

Social - will be held in the Clarion Inn. Cocktails at 6 PM and Dinner at 7 PM.

Brunswick Zone-Belle Vernon Lanes: 4742 State Route 51 South,
Belle Vernon, PA (724) 379-4433

If you require additional information, please contact Rudy Ondrejco at your convenience at 412-421-7967 or rudy.ondrejco@gmail.com

The 6th Annual United Slovak Fraternal Bowling Tournament April 21-22, 2017 Belle Vernon, PA

Would you like to sponsor a lane?

It is only \$50.00 to have a sign placed on a lane and your generosity will go far in making this event an enjoyable weekend for all!

If you are interested in being a lane sponsor, please mail this form in with the wording for your sign printed below and check payable to "FCSU Activities".

Please feel free to contact Rudy Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director with any questions at 412-421-7967 or rudy.ondrejco@gmail.com

The deadline for sponsoring a lane is March 3, 2017.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Branch # / District: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Yes!! We would like to sponsor a lane. Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Wording for Sign: _____

Mail to: FCSU Activities 234 Ilion St. Pittsburgh, PA 15207
Thank you in advance for your participation in this fraternal event.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Angels on Earth

Laura Schroff could have easily ignored the 11-year-old boy begging for spare change on the streets of New York City, but there was something compelling about his words, "I am hungry." That day in 1986, she took young Maurice Mazyck for a bite to eat at McDonald's, and that act of kindness changed both their lives and launched a friendship that continues to this day.

Schroff shared that story in her memoir "An Invisible Thread" and the 2015 children's book "An Invisible Thread Christmas Story," both of which went on to win Christopher Awards. More than that, those books resulted in people sending Schroff their own stories. Now, she is sharing many of them with the world in her latest book, "Angels on Earth: Inspiring Stories of Fate, Friendship, and the Power of Connection," co-authored with Alex Tresniowski.

During an interview on "Christopher Closeup," Schroff and I discussed several of those stories, beginning with that of Dru Sanchez, a mother from Tucson, Arizona, who was out shopping one day when she noticed a young woman with three children. She could tell this family was on a tight budget because the boy kept typing numbers into a calculator, and they would then put food back on the shelf if it was too expensive.

"In that moment," said Schroff, "Dru remembered what it was like many years ago when she was a struggling mom, and she thought, 'I can make a difference.' So Dru went and

bought a gift card, and brought it over to this young woman. And what she received in return was this extraordinary gift that she never could have anticipated: hugs from the woman and her children."

Schroff also discovered new aspects of her friends' lives in the course of writing this book. Case in point: Linda DeCarlo. Schroff recalled, "Linda and I worked together at People magazine, but it wasn't until 'An Invisible Thread' came out that she sent me her story. At 17 years old, her stepfather threw her out. It was a cold, wintry day, and she rode her bicycle to the only place she knew where to go: her friend Cynthia's home. Cynthia's father, Irving, who was also living on a very tight budget, put his hand on her shoulder and invited her into their home. She lived there for over a year. He could have just as easily taken her to the police station or to a shelter, but instead he opened up his home, his heart, and his family to Linda."

Schroff hopes that in reading "Angels on Earth," people will recognize the power of simple acts of kindness: "When you reach out and touch another person, sometimes you see that immediate impact. But in the case of Dru Sanchez, she really doesn't know the impact that she had. But the likelihood is that this woman and her three children will never forget this kindness."

Schroff also believes that the people she's written about offer a much-needed antidote to cynicism. She concluded,

"There is so much goodness in our world, and we need to stop and celebrate that! Research shows that kindness is contagious. The more you do it, the more you want to do it. And when you incorporate kindness into your daily life – something as simple as saying 'good morning' to someone in your elevator or saying 'thank you' to the person who's helped package your groceries – you'll see that you're going to live a happier, more purposeful life."



Who: Cleveland Slovak Radio Club
What: Wing ding fundraiser
When: March 4, 2017, from 6:00PM – 9:00PM
Where: Pounders Bar & Grill, Parma Hts, OH
Look for details in the next issue of Jednota

ERS: SAVE THE DATE IN APRIL



Requests - Please circle choice times			
Event	Date	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice
TEAM			
DOUBLES & SINGLES			

2017

April 21 - 22, 2017

Entries Close

March 3, 2017

BOWLING ENTRY BLANK

Please Read Carefully

The 6th Annual United Slovak Fraternals Men's and Women's Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

Hosted by First Catholic Slovak Union and
National Slovak Society
A/k/a the United Slovak Fraternals

Brunswick Zone – Belle Vernon Lanes
Belle Vernon, PA

Entry Fees – Members	
Prize Fee	\$7.00
Bowling Fee (3games).....	\$7.00
Tournament Fee	\$4.00
Total Each Event	\$18.00

Entry Fees – Non-Members	
Prize Fee	\$14.00
Bowling Fee (3games).....	\$7.00
Tournament Fee	\$4.00
Total Each Event.....	\$25.00

Optional Events	
All Events	\$3.00
Senior Singles Event (60+)	\$5.00

Social Fees	
Member	\$25.00
Non-Member	\$40.00

Total Included.....\$

Mail Entry Fee Payable to:
FCSU Activities

Mail to:
Rudy Ondrejco
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Team Name: _____

League: _____

City: _____

Captain Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

All Events (X)	Attend Social (X)	CORRECT TEAM LINEUP (Print or Type)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	USBC NO.	ADDRESS	CERT./POLICY NO. <i>MUST BE FILLED IN</i>	BRANCH/ ASSM NO.
		1.					
		2.					
		3.					
		4.					
Singles (X)	Attend Social (X)	TWO-MAN EVENT (Print or Type Full Names)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	Seniors (X)			
		1.					
		2.					
		1.					
		2.					

Friday, April 21
Registration 6:30 PM
Bowlers: 7:30 PM Team Events

Saturday, April 22
Bowlers:
Events 8:30 AM 1st Doubles/Singles
12:30 PM 2nd Doubles/Singles

ALL BOWLING AND, ENTRY FEES
MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM

FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH
COMPLETE INFORMATION

INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE
RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN AND
MUST BE RESUBMITTED

Substitutes **must** bowl in the position vacated by the original entrant as per USBC.

The Men's and Women's 6th Annual United Slovak Fraternals Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

This event is being sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union and the National Slovak Society for the purpose of promoting fraternalism and good sportsmanship, and to generate nationwide interest in the Slovak fraternal organizations. The National Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union and the National Slovak Society wish to extend to all members a cordial invitation to the Host City, Belle Vernon, PA, in this tournament.

The 6th Annual United Slovak Fraternals Handicap Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held at Brunswick Zone-Belle Vernon Lanes, 4742 State Route 51 S, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. The tournament will be held April 21-22, 2017. Opening Ceremonies will be held on Friday, April 21, at 7:15 PM.

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT MARCH 3, 2017. PLEASE NOTE: ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED IN COMPLETELY. ENTRY FEES, AS STATED ON THE FRONT OF THIS ENTRY BLANK, MUST ACCOMPANY THIS ENTRY. ALL INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN FOR RESUBMISSION.

In submitting this entry, the captain and the team members agree to forfeit all rights to prize money as well as the total entry fees in the event that any information listed herein should be found to be false. We are not responsible for errors in averages made in filling out this entry form. No refunds of tournament entry fee.

USBC Bowling Rules shall govern in all matters concerning the actual play on the lanes in this Tournament.

ELIGIBILITY: This Tournament is open to all First Catholic Slovak Union and National Slovak Society male and female bonafide MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. All winners will be checked before any prize money is awarded.

Only members with USBC Membership Cards will be eligible for the USBC special awards in this USBC Certified Tournament. Bowlers without USBC Membership Cards may purchase some from the Tournament Committee at current local fees prior to actual participation in this Tournament.

CONSENT RULES: Any unmarried grade or high school student who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) must have written consent of his/her parents or guardian in order to participate in USBC Certified Tournament where cash or merchandise prizes

are offered. Said written consent must be on a form approved by United States Bowling Congress and must be on file with Tournament Committee at least one week before the bowler is eligible for tournament competition unless the student is accompanied by his/her parents, in which case the parental consent form may be filed up to the time the student starts to bowl. USBC Rule No. 13

AVERAGES: All entrants will use their highest average of any USBC league of at least 21 games from the 2015-2016 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2015-2016 season and with at least 21 games in the 2016-2017 season will use their current league average. This must be designated as such on entry form by his name and a league year-to-date statistics sheet must be presented to the Tournament Committee at the Tournament. Non-certified bowlers, with no certified league average, that have bowled in previous FCSU or NSS tournaments will have their averages calculated from their three most recent tournaments. All male bowlers with no established USBC average will bowl a 175 scratch. All female bowlers with no established USBC will bowl a 150 scratch. Summer league averages will be accepted.

Any contestant whose current average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2017, is TEN (10) PINS or more above his or her average from previous season, must use his or her current average and will indicate this on the entry form at time of entry.

AVERAGE CHANGES: The original averages submitted on the Entry Blank cannot be changed prior to participation by anyone except the Team Captain, who must submit written proof thereof to the Tournament Committee.

It shall be each bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of his average in handicap or classified tournaments, whether originally submitted by the bowler, his team captain, or others.

Failure to use the proper average shall disqualify score of submitted average if lower than actual average, thereby resulting in a lower classification or more handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the actual average.

Corrections in averages can be made up to the completion of the first game of a series, or within 48 hours after completion of a series if the tournament manager prior to the completion of the first game of the series has given written consent to the bowler authorizing such extension of time to correct his average.

TEAMS: Mixed teams comprised of at least 1 person of the opposite gender are allowed. Mixed teams will be grouped with

men's teams for prize distribution (see PRIZES), unless at least 21 mixed teams participate. If 21 or more mixed teams enter, a separate mixed prize fund will be established and one prize will be paid for every five (5) entries.

DOUBLES: Mixed doubles are allowed. Mixed doubles will be grouped with men's teams for prize distribution (see PRIZES), unless at least 21 mixed doubles participate. If 21 or more mixed doubles enter, a separate mixed prize fund will be established and one prize will be paid for every five (5) entries.

HANDICAPS: The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 210 and the submitted average. The maximum handicap awarded to any bowler will be 65 pins.

Under no circumstances will handicap be increased after participant has bowled.

PRIZES: MEN and WOMEN - One prize will be paid for every five (5) entries in each event, with the exception of All Events, which will pay one prize for every fifteen (15) entries. No duplicate prizes will be awarded and prize fees will be returned 100 percent.

All prizes will be subject to the approval of the Tournament Committee.

Any entrant who has qualified for a prize of \$300 or more in any event of a tournament in the 12-month period prior to entry, must report actual score, position, and amount won to tournament management at time of entry for possible rerating.

LINE-UP CHANGES: All participants must bowl according to where they are listed on the submitted entry form. Any replacement of participants originally scheduled to bowl on team or doubles will take same position on team and doubles event.

ABSENTEES: To alleviate absentee problems, the Tournament Committee will provide a replacement bowler when notified of the absentee.

TARDY BOWLERS: Tardy Bowler will receive zero for each frame missed. USBC Rule 322

DELAY OF GAME: No unreasonable delay in the progress of any game is permitted. If a player or team in a tournament refuses to proceed with the game after being directed to do so by a tournament official, the game or series shall be declared forfeited.

SCORING: Errors in scoring or calculations must be presented to the Tournament Committee within 48 hours after completion of play. Captains of Teams or Doubles Partners have the option to pick up duplicate score sheets upon completion of play.

St. Nicholas Comes to Canada in 2016

Nativity of the Mother of God, Toronto

On December 4, 2016, the Byzantine Catholic Slovak Cathedral of the Nativity of the Mother of God at Shaw Street, Toronto, Ontario was visited by St. Nicholas who was very generous with for children attending the event. There were activities for kids, like decorating cookies, crafts, etc.

- Submitted by Helen von Friedl, Branch 785



Pictures from the happy occasion were taken by Milan Rosko and Helen von Friedl.



SS Cyril & Methodius, Mississauga

On December 11, 2016, Sts Cyril & Methodius Parish in Mississauga, Ontario, was also visited by St. Nicholas who had welcomed all kids attending the church with beautiful and sweet presents. The Slovak language school also had songs and poems for him.

- Submitted by Helen von Friedl, Branch 785



All photos courtesy of Helen von Friedl.

2016 Vilija Celebration at St. Andrew Abbey of Cleveland

The Benedictine monks of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland, OH, in conjunction with the Cleveland Radio Club, hosted their annual Christmas Vilija on Sunday, December 4, 2016. Held in the cafeteria of Benedictine High School on the Abbey grounds, the Vilija featured a traditional meatless Christmas Eve "feast" of mushroom soup, fish, green peas, bobalky, pierogi, and poppy seed and nutrolls. Food was prepared by members of the Radio Club, of which Henry Horvath is president. Prior to enjoying the repast, the monks led attendees in Christmas hymns sung in English and Slovak, and encouraged everyone to join in.

The first course (mushroom soup) was served by the monks. After the meal, entertainment was provided by the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Greater Cleveland. The troupe performed dances from Slovakia and included numbers by its children's group, Lúčinka. Lúčina's director is Branch 24's Tom Ivanec. All members of the Abbey are also members of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 24. Appropriately, many members of the First Catholic Slovak Union attended the Vilija, included several reserved tables (35 places) for Branch 24 members, under the direction of Branch 24 President Bob Kopco. Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) attended and worked the event, including Barbara Sutilla (Branch 855), Ann Sutilla (Branch 855), Johanna Oros (Branch 24), Henry Horvath (Branch 855), Milan Kobulsky (Branch 450), and Vlad Cvicela (Branch 24).



Branch 24's Tom Ivanec and Director of the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble served as MC for the cultural program.



The First Catholic Slovak Union was a proud sponsor of the event and was well attended by its membership, including National President Andrew M. Rajec and his wife Idka.



(L - R) Johanna Oros and Vlad Cvicela of Branch 24 are also among the Cleveland Slovak Radio who helped prepare and serve the meal.

Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Officers (L - R): Maria Cvicela, 2nd Vice President; Milan Kobulsky, 1st Vice President and Program Director/Announcer; Donna Oros, Treasurer; Henry Horvath, President; Barbara Sutilla, Trustee; and Vladimir Cvicela, Trustee



The monks served up mushroom soup as the first course of the traditional Slovak meatless Christmas Eve feast. (L - R) Father Michael Brunovksy, Father Gerard Gonda and Brother Gabriel, all members of Branch 24



The monks of St. Andrew Abbey lead the crowd in singing Christmas hymns in both English and Slovak to begin the Vilija celebration on December 4, 2016. (L - R): Brother Gabriel, The Right Reverend Gary Hoover, Abbot of St. Andrew Abbey; Father Michael Brunovksy, and Father Gerard Gonda.



The Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Greater Cleveland along with its children's group Lúčinka, entertained the audience with a cultural program of traditional Slovak folk dances.



The sellout crowd at the December 2016 Vilija, held on the grounds of St. Andrew Abbey Svorad in Cleveland, OH.



FCSU Members, who are also part of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club, help sell raffle tickets to benefit St. Andrew Abbey. (L-R) Barbara Sutilla, Branch 855 Fraternal Activities Director; Ann Sutilla, Branch 855 Member; and Marie Golias, Branch 1 Secretary.



Members of Branch 24, Cleveland, OH, along with family and friends prepare to enjoy the meal.



Winter Customs in Slovakia

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

Formally the Slovaks traditionally called Fašiangy (Carnival) the period following the Feast of the Three Kings (Epiphany) until Ash Wednesday (Popolcová streda) and the beginning of Lent (Pôst). As early as the Fourth century, Christians observed 40 days of fasting during Lent. In Great Moravia during the 9th century, referred to this period just before Lent as mjasopust, meaning the end of eating meat. While the Czechs would use the name masopust, people in Slovakia adopted the term Fašiangy, which derives from the German word Fastenschank. Thus the carnival culture also came from German lands.

Since there was less work during the winter, people had more time to eat, drink, dance, and attend various social occasions. When it was still too cold to guard from spoilage, slaughters (zabijačky) might take place late in Lent so there was plenty of meat to go around. The closing days of Fašiangy marked the end of imbibing alcoholic beverages in the last few days before the strict Lenten fast, so that is when the carnival atmosphere became most lively. Social barriers loosened. People dressed up as someone of another social class, some wore masks, and young men dressed in drag. Others made an animal costume, especially as an ox, a goat, or a bear (turoň, koza, or medveď). This was also supposed to ensure that domestic animals were fertile and healthy so that they would enjoy a bountiful year.

The costumes helped them break the norms of customary behavior. Some ceremonies would mark the acceptance of a growing boy into a young men's group, even the advancement of apprentices to a higher level of a guild. Masks might depict the movement of someone into a particular occupation.

Alcoholic beverages poured freely and helped keep one warm during the long winter. Men played games such as jumping over a hemp rope (skákanie na konope). Popular foods included fánky or čeregi (fried delicate pastries) smažené šišky (fried doughnuts), slaninka s klobáskou (bacon with sausage), and huspenina (jelled calves feet). It was said that whoever did not eat well during Fašiangy would be hungry throughout the whole year.

The Girls and Women

During the winter months before Lent, girls also became more active in seeking a mate for marriage. A girl of marrying age who did not find a potential spouse would be subject to mockery during Fašiangy. For this and practical reasons, since so much work needed done in the spring and summer, many weddings also occurred in January and February, for the Church did not permit weddings during Lent.

Rather than gathering in saloons like their men folk, most women amused themselves in a more practical manner and got some work done in organizing social occasions known as priadky (spinning get-togethers). Women also did a great deal of detailed embroidering (vyšívanie) during this time, preparing beautiful folk dress (kroj) for baptisms, weddings, and other important occasions. Making gingerbread (medovníčky) treats was a preoccupation for women who had a daughter with an upcoming wedding. Any wedding guests who gave a gift of money and put it in the scarf (do šatky), the traditional way of collecting wedding money gifts, would have their whole family rewarded with some tasty gingerbread.

Priadky also provided occasion for much exchange of gossip (klebety). The so-called "Gossips of Aunt Húšťavová" (Klebety tety



Priadky - the traditional spinning gathering of women

Húšťavovej) provide a good example.

"A kedy sa budeš dievka moja vydávať?" - And when will my girl get married?

Traditional gossip went around that poor girls married in the summer and in the fall. The good looking and more sought after girls married through the winter and in the spring. This way the earth would follow them and not be harmed in any way, stated the gossip.

Another custom some Slovaks practiced was observing Parents' Day (dni rodičov). This ritual involved wearing masks which resembled their ancestors. According to the Italian ethnologist Paola Toschiho, the word mask derived from the word "masca", which meant the spirit of the dead. The living relatives would lay food on the graves of their deceased loved ones. Fašiangy itself would end with the ceremonial burying of the contrabass, conducted by villagers disguised as a priest, organist and church caretaker. Laughter and tears would abound as the hour approached the dawn of the Lenten fast.

Getting Through the Second Half of Winter

Most of Fašiangy was not just about merry-making, but also getting by through the harsh, cold winters of Slovakia, especially if one lived in the mountainous regions. Staying warm became a preoccupation, and stoves needed fired up every morning to heat the small cottages most Slovaks lived in. There were still cows to milk, chickens and other animals to feed. Snow needed shoveled, and firewood hauled indoors. Women always had to prepare food and take care of children and the household.

Slovaks considered the period after Epiphany to be the second part of winter. They held many superstitions and took precautions to ensure that the year would turn out well. For instance, people believed that particular rituals would ensure an abundant harvest of flax and hemp (ľan a konope), the plants used in making traditional textiles. The women would cook long pasta noodles and dumplings (rezance a šúľance) on the feast of the conversion of St. Paul (January 25), on Hromnice (Candlemas - February 2), and during the last days of Fašiangy. Likewise, another safety measure was a ritual of sliding and sledding that took place on Hromnice in the Hont and Gemer regions. It also was a lot of fun! As Fašiangy was concluding, they practiced jumping high (vyskakovanie do výšky) and danced for flax and hemp (na ľan, na konope).

Weather Forecasting - Pranostiky

Many beliefs and practices revolved around weather forecasting and Slovak peasants em-

ployed every possible ritual to ensure a good year ahead. In many places, during January they would sow poppy (mak), in order to ensure a good harvest.

The first important day after Epiphany was the Feast of St. Vincent on January 22. Weather Lore or Pranostiky abounded on this day, particularly regarding the grape harvest. Many Slovaks in the Lowlands and in Slovak settlements in Hungary, such as in Békésska Čaba, cultivated vineyards, so this day took on an increased importance for their livelihood. Here are a few sayings with a plethora of variants which slightly alter from village to village.

Keď Vincent presiakne, bude plná pivnica. - When there is soaking on St. Vincent Day, the cellar will be full.

Keď sa ligoce Vincent, bude plná pivnica. - When it sparkles on St. Vincent Day, there will be a full cellar.

Sometimes we see contradictory messages in pranostiky, and this depended on the village and its location, which could also account for climate and predictive variations.

Keď na Vince svieti slnce, bude veľa víno (from Slovenský Komlóš). - When the sun shines on St. Vincent Day, there will be a lot of wine.

Ak prší alebo odkvapne strecha, bude veľa víno (from Guta). - If it rains or the roof drips, there will be lots of wine.

Some of these folk thought that a thaw (odmák) predicted a bountiful grape harvest. If birds were drinking from a puddle, that was a good omen. Other variations warned of the negative results of foreboding weather.

Bude prázni sud, ak nebude pršať (from Dunaedház). - There will be an empty barrel, if it does not rain.

The Conversion of St. Paul - Sviatok Obrátenie Pavla (January 25)

Slovak folk believed that the Conversion of St. Paul Day marked the half-way point of winter, when the season "turned" on its path toward spring. On this day, bears were supposed to leave their den of hibernation to check on the weather. If the weather was very cold, they would turn over and go back to sleep on their other side. But if a thaw arrived and they saw the sun or his shadow from the sun, they would lie down on the same side, and that would predict a long winter.

Medveď vŕaj na Pavla vyjde z brlohu a ak je pekne a mrzne, ľahne si na druhý bok, no ak je odmák, znovu sa položí na ten istý bok. - The bear comes out his den on St. Paul's Day, and when it is nice and freezing, he lays down on the other side, but when there is a thaw, he again lays down on the same side.

In Kesztlöc near Esztergom (in northern

Hungary today), Slovaks and Magyars there thought that if a bear fixes up its hovel, one could surely count on a long winter. But if he breaks it up, it will soon be warm.

Likewise, a bird and the severity of weather could predict the winter and the harvest. In the mountainous and less fertile regions, the St. Paul's Day weather predicted the prospects for sufficient feed for the all-important domestic animals.

Ak sa vtáča napije z kofaje vody, bude ešte dlhá zima. - If a bird will drink from a rut of water, the winter will be long.

Ak vŕaj je na Pavla tuhá zima, bude dobrá úroda, ak však prší, bude málo krmiva. - If there is a bitter cold on St. Paul's Day, there will be a good harvest, but if it rains, there will be little feed.

But farther south in Békésska Čaba, pranostiky forewarned that if the sun was shining, there would not be many melons that year. Fog or drizzle was also considered a bad omen for both people and animals.

Pavol prichádza s hmlou, smrť prichádza so zdochlinou. - When a fog comes on St. Paul's Day, it will bring death with a carcass.

In Slovenský Komlóš (Tótkomlós in south-east Hungary today), people thought the winds on St. Paul's Day predicted the fortunes for the year. A wind from the east predicted a good year, but a wind from the south or north would warn of an infertile year.

Conclusion

All of these predictions and customs associated with January provide us some idea of the Slovak folk mentality during the heart of winter. While the long, cold winters allowed some time for merriment during Fašiangy and ritual celebrations, much household took place, since there was no time to attend such events in the more hectic spring and summer planting and harvest seasons. There also existed a hope for a prosperous and bountiful year as well as the fear of impending famine. The weather played an integral part in folk traditions and people noted the patterns of weather and animal behavior to predict the future. While not exactly scientific, the sayings and gatherings provided something to talk about, and there surely resides some true wisdom in the observations derived from the behavior of bears and birds.

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The George Onda District's 2016 Celebration of Stedry Vecer

The George Onda District of the First Catholic Slovak Union held its 23rd annual Stedry Vecer on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at the Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg, PA. In attendance were 124 members and guests. The evening began at 4PM with Mass concelebrated in the Chapel by the diocese of Greensburg's Bishop Edward C. Malesic, Monsignor Larry Kulick, pastor of St. James Parish in New Alexandria, Pa. and Reverend Alan Polczynski, pastor of St. Thomas More University Parish in Indiana, Pa. The Reverend Dennis Bogusz, chaplain of St. Anne's Home in Greensburg was in attendance. Beautiful organ music and singing during the Mass was provided by the Pittsburgh Slovaks under the direction of Sue and Rudy Ondrejko.

Following Mass, the attendees proceeded to the newly renovated dining hall to tables laden with fruit, nuts, candy, wine and Oplatky with honey. The first star in the evening sky was spotted by John Stofko and Stephen LaPay, sixth graders at Aquinas Academy in Greensburg. The traditional meal of: mushroom/sauerkraut soup; baked fish; pagach; bobalki; pierogies; prunes and peas was served. Dessert consisted of nut and apricot kolache.

Our District Chaplain Monsignor Kulick presided as Master of Ceremonies and introduced Bishop Malesic, our honored guest, who is of Slovenian descent and said he enjoyed his evening.

National Officers in attendance were: Treasurer George Matta II with wife Cathy and mother Florence; Chairman of Auditors Karen Sprock Hunka with mother, Florence Sprock; Supreme Court member James Bench with wife, Kay and Region 4 Director James Marmol with wife, Patty. George Onda District officers attending were; President William Patty; Vice President Darlene Patty; Secretary Linda Gonta and Treasurer Stephen Gonta.

Numerous beautiful door prizes were awarded. The group then returned to the Chapel for more singing and a presentation by the renowned Pittsburgh Slovaks.

We truly love that this beautiful tradition is kept alive in our district and encourage all to return, especially our youth.

Submitted by: Linda L. Gonta, District Secretary



Helen Homulka, Dick Mizikar, Ed Mizikar, Barbara Mizikar, Jerry Burtyk, John Ulishney, Betty Bohatch



Karen Hunka and Florence Sprock



George Matta II, Jim Marmol, Karen Hunka



Bishop Malesic, John Ulishney, Betty Bohatch



Monsignor Kulick, John Stofko, Bishop Malesic, Stephen LaPay



The Pittsburgh Slovaks



Geraldine Hricik and Florence Matta



Father Bogusz and attendee



Frank and Marilyn Novak, and attendees



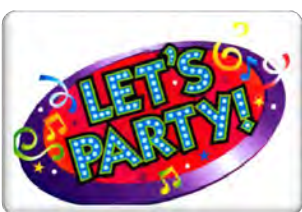
Jim Bench, George Matta II, Jim Marmol, Karen Hunka, Darlene Patty, Bill Patty, Linda Gonta, Stephen Gonta, Bishop Malesic, Monsignor Kulick



Michael and Geraldine Hricik

Photos by: Victoria Hricik, Secretary Branch 181

Celebrate Traditional Fašiangy (Slovak Pre-Lenten Dance), Feb 18 in Wisconsin



The Slovak League Assembly 20 of Milwaukee, WI is hosting its traditional Fašiangy (Pre-Lenten Dance) on Saturday, February 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1800 S. 92nd Street in West Allis, WI. Admission donation is \$5.00 per person. Slovak food and bakery will be available. A live band will provide music for dancing and listening pleasure. The Tatra Slovak Dancers will have a performance

at 7:30 p.m. followed by "burying the bass" (bass fiddle). We are inviting all members of Saints Mary & Joseph Branch 89 of Milwaukee to attend. For more information, contact Betty at 414-425-6137 or Ellen at 262-893-7483.

- Submitted by Kathy Valent Slovak League Assembly 20 Vice President

If each member would sign up just one new member, we could double our Society immediately

THINK ABOUT IT!

FCSU Fun in the Vegas Sun: Scenes from the 2016 Membership Meet

From November 6 - 10, 2016, the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) held its annual Membership Meet in Las Vegas, NV. This world-class resort town known for its fabulous nightlife, endless entertainment options, and awesome desert wonders provided a wonderful venue for FCSU members and friends to meet and greet each other ... plus enjoy all the extra touches members have come to expect when traveling with FCSU. Photos of the 2016 Membership Meet, as well as other fun-filled FCSU events, are also on fcsu.com. Go to Community section and click on FCSU Fun.



(L - R) Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt, National Vice President Andrew M. Rajec, Region 4 Director James Marmol, Branch 162 Treasurer Patricia Marmol, National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr; and National Treasurer George Matta, II.



(L - R) National Chairman of Auditors Karen Hunka: Idka Rajec, Branch 89; Patricia and James Marmol, and Andrew P. Rajec, FIC, Director of Independent Agents



(L - R) Maria Harcar, Branch 40 Secretary and Albina Senko, Branch 254 Secretary

(L - R) National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr; National President Andrew M. Rajec; Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt; and National Treasurer George Matta, II - flank raffle winners (above) Maria Jurasi, Branch 45 Financial Secretary/Treasurer and John Curcio, Sr. , Branch 580 Member (right) and Maria Zakovic, Branch 45 Secretary (above, right)



(L - R) Carl Mauch, Jr., Branch 417 Member and Michael Jurnak, Branch 240P Member



(L - R) Catherine Matta, II, Branch 38 Member; Florence Matta, Branch 38 Secretary; and Rosemary Deliman, Branch 417 Treasurer



(L - R) Patricia LaPorte, Branch 153; John Jurcenko, Branch 153 President, and Gloria Solava



(L - R) Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt, Theresa Arendt, Branch 228 Member; and National Treasurer George Matta, II.



(L - R) Joseph Tarquinio, Branch 320 Vice President; Mark Smolleck, Branch 312 President; and Michelene Smolleck, Branch 312 Secretary/Treasurer

(L - R) Elizabeth Bernath ; Rudolph Bernath, Region 7 Director; George Kelchak, Branch 581 Financial Secretary, and National Treasurer George Matta, II



(L - R) Chris Ricci; Mike Ricci, FCSU 2016 Top Annuity Agent; Pat Sajovie; and Norm Sajovie, FCSU 2016 Top Insurance Agent



(L - R) Karol Vida, Branch 716 Member, Linda Wisniewski, Branch 919 Member, Michael Wisniewski, Branch 919 Member; Joseph Klucho, Branch 24 Auditor, and Henrietta Daitova, Branch 716 Secretary

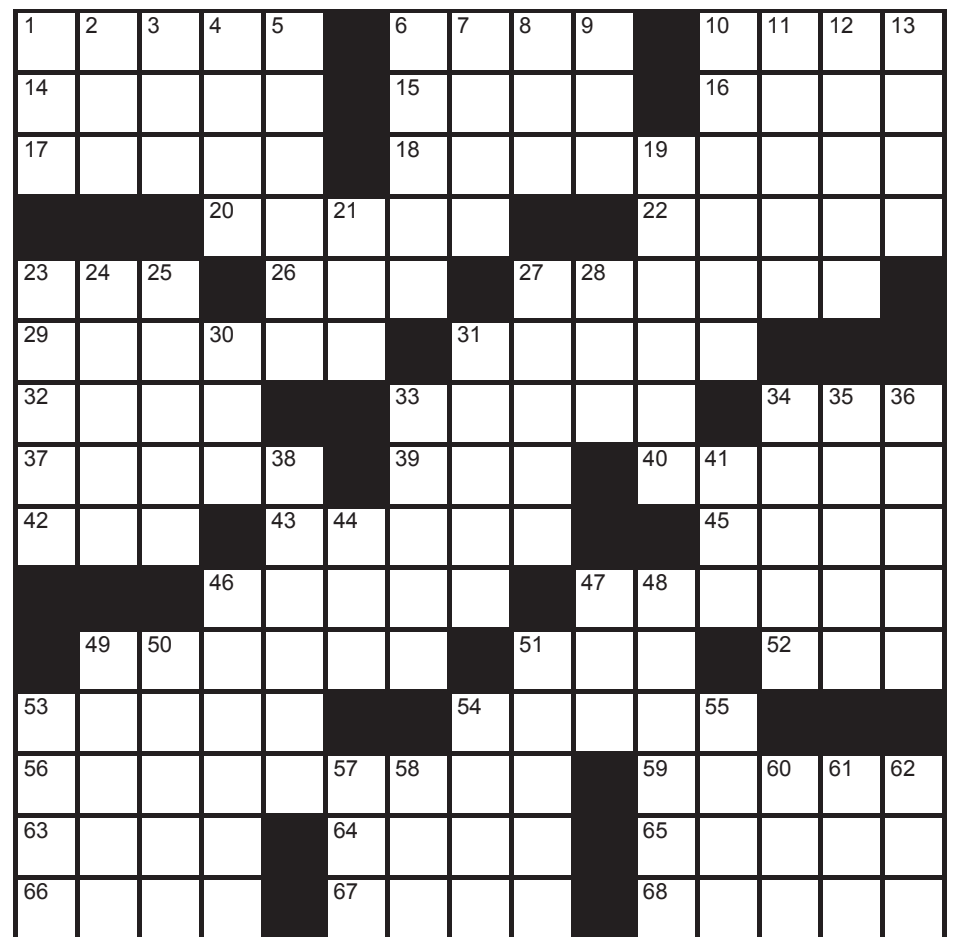
(L - R) Patricia Davies, Branch 320 Member; Frances Tarquinio, Branch 320 Secretary; John Curcio, Branch 580 Member; and Joseph Tarquinio, Branch 320 Vice President



SLOVAK-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER
celebrates its 50th anniversary
ON THE RED CARPET
The Slovak Ball
at
join us on
Sat, Feb 25th
7pm until 1am
Dinner & Dancing
Open premium bar all night
Honoring our dedicated founders
with special guest performance by 5-time Zlatý Slávik
Peter Emorik
The Royal Manor
454 MIDLAND AVENUE, GARFIELD, NJ
Live Music by Express Band *Purchase tickets by Feb 10th at:* slovakamericancc.org *Black tie*

Tickets are on sale via: Eventbrite "Slovak Ball 2017" or by contacting Zuzana Krcmar at 973-357-1209. For details visit: slovakamericancc.org

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Cover story?
- 6 Biting
- 10 Beanies
- 14 Ponders
- 15 Pelvic bones
- 16 Curved molding
- 17 Ice house
- 18 Enact laws
- 20 Forest clearing
- 22 Race type
- 23 Getaway
- 26 Buck's mate
- 27 Routine
- 29 Saddlebow
- 31 City on the Po
- 32 Brainstorm
- 33 Femme fatale
- 34 Butter serving
- 37 50's dance
- 39 Nova network
- 40 *All My Children* vixen
- 42 Schoolboy
- 43 Come to terms
- 45 Astringent
- 46 Affirm
- 47 Be generous
- 49 Meager
- 51 Nov. honoree
- 52 Nourished
- 53 Deserted
- 54 Ballroom dance
- 56 Evel Knievel, for one
- 59 Sea duck
- 63 Pad, maybe
- 64 Ignoramus
- 65 Itinerary
- 66 Huff state
- 67 Farm females
- 68 Meddle

Down

- 1 Pal for Pierre
- 2 Kind of nut
- 3 In poor health
- 4 Web journal
- 5 Tristan's love
- 6 Diacritical mark
- 7 Sheltered, nautically
- 8 18-wheeler
- 9 ___ chi ch'uan
- 10 Newspaper article
- 11 Old World lizard
- 12 Flower feature
- 13 Observed
- 19 Dagoba, e.g.
- 21 "You've got mail" co.
- 23 Liquid accident
- 24 Lecterns
- 25 Make better
- 27 Hospital figure
- 28 Bonanza find
- 30 *Spy vs. Spy* magazine
- 31 Rome's river
- 33 Waterfall effect
- 34 Rice dish
- 35 Sharp as a tack
- 36 Broken
- 38 Opened wide
- 41 Sprinted
- 44 Acquire

- 46 Least wild
- 47 Dover's state (Abbr.)
- 48 Fun loving water mammals
- 49 Assassinated
- 50 Welsh dog
- 51 River valleys
- 53 Tacks on
- 54 Dry off
- 55 Utah national park
- 57 Dutch city
- 58 Solemn promise
- 60 Twosome
- 61 WW II zone
- 62 Gym unit

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2017

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive
February 15	February 6
March 8	February 27
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

See Solution on Page 19

Part 1 of the 2016

People



First Place – Mary Fayta
Shorewood, IL, Branch 706

“Shorewood, Illinois”



Second Place – Liam Joiner
Aurora, ON, Branch 785

“Islands, North side of Fiji”



Third Place – Martin Meyer
Torrance, PA, Branch 393

“In Latrobe, PA”

Nature or Environment



First Place – John Pravlik
Norvelt, PA, Branch 181

“Bees”



Second Place – Mayva Hergel
Toronto, ON, Branch 785

“Polar Bear at the
Toronto Zoo”



Third Place – Mary Fayta
Shorewood, IL, Branch 706

“Chicago Botanical
Gardens”

Photo Contest Results

Travel or Destinations



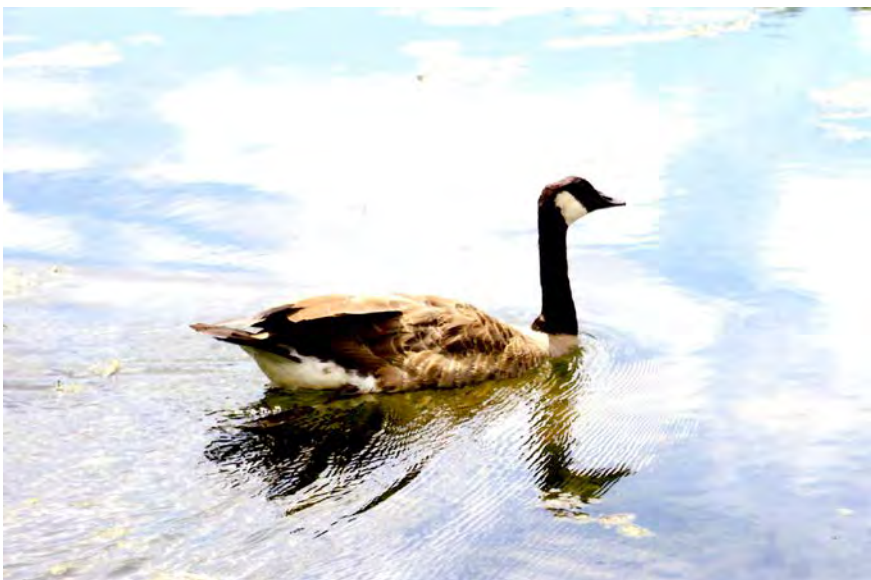
First Place – Anna Catherman
Clearfield, PA, Branch 7

“Assateague Island, MD”



Second Place – Ashley Kotlar
Monongahela, PA, Branch 670

“New York City”



Third Place – Martin Meyer
Torrance, PA, Branch 393

“Goose in Erie, PA”

Overall Winner – Ages 12 - 18



Anna Catherman
Clearfield, PA, Branch 7

“Millheim, PA”

Overall Winner – Ages 18+



Lois Kistoff-Kichka
Independence, OH, Branch 1

“Venice, Italy”

Part II to be published in the February 15 issue of Jednota

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 2 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 2 will be holding their annual Ice Skating party at North Park Skating Rink, in the upstairs party room on February 24th. Registration is at 6 pm, dinner is at 6:30 and skating starts at 7. Please plan to attend as we will be also holding a brief meeting to discuss upcoming 2017 events. RSVP to Joanne Lako at 412-715-5577 or Sue Ondrejco at 412-421-1204

Thank you for your attention,

Joanne Lako, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 10 – OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, K.J., First Catholic Slovak Union of Olyphant, PA, held its Annual Meeting, Audit and Election of Officers on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at the Regal Room, 216 Lackawanna Avenue, Olyphant, PA.

Offices were reorganized and officers for 2017 were elected as follows: President, Daniel J. Spegar; Treasurer, William Spegar; Secretary, William F. Nalevanko; and Auditors: Donna Mrocicka, Florence M. Nalevanko, Carol Spegar and Mary Ann Spegar. The office of Vice-President was eliminated, and the offices of "Financial Secretary-Treasurer" and "Recording Secretary" were renamed "Treasurer" and "Secretary" respectively, in order to more closely align and reflect the duties and responsibilities of said offices.

Donations in the amount of \$7,000 were approved for distribution in 2017 to the following: Holy Ghost Cemetery, Holy Cross Parish Religious Education and Youth Group Activities Fund, Olyphant, PA; Abington Senior Center, Clarks Summit, PA; Dickson City Senior Center, Dickson City, PA; Mid Valley Senior Center, Jessup, PA; Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Retirement Fund, Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Holiday Fund and the Jankola Library and Archives, Danville, PA; Valley Community Library, Peckville, PA; Eynon Archbald Lions Club "Leader Dogs for the Blind" fund plus an additional one-time donation to help construct a handicap-accessible ramp to bleachers at Archbald A.C. Field, Archbald, PA; and Gino J. Merli Veterans Center "Canteen Fund," St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, Meals-on-Wheels of NEPA, Inc., South Side Senior Center, and the Valley Blood Council, Lackawanna County Chapter of the American Red Cross, all of Scranton, PA.

Arrangements are being made for 2017's first semi-annual business meeting following the 11:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Cross Parish at St. Patrick's Church, Olyphant, Pa., on Sunday, June 25, 2017. This celebratory Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members of the Branch.

Finally, the officers and members of Branch 10 extend best wishes to everyone for a joyful New Year!

William Navelanko, Secretary

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St Andrew Svorad Society, is providing special Branch 24 members-only pricing for the Saturday evening (7PM), March 18, 2017, Monsters hockey game at Quicken Loans Arena in downtown Cleveland, OH.

A non-branch member ticket is \$19. A Branch 24 member ticket is \$5.

Reservations are required and available by calling Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797. Please make checks payable to St. Andrew Society. The deadline is February 13, 2017. These are center ice tickets and the Calder Cup-winning Monsters are selling out games, so seating is limited. Don't delay. Order now, and join other FCSU members and guests – from Branch 24 and other branches in our Ohio District 10 – for a family-friendly evening of fun and fraternalism [Editor's note: please see page 15 of this issue for details].

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 40 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch #40, of the First Catholic Slovak Union, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday January 29, 2017 at 2:00

P.M. at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington St. Streator, Illinois. All members are urged to attend the meeting. A buffet luncheon will follow. Election of officers will take place. Please make reservations by calling Maria Harcar at (815) 672-6682 before January 25, 2017.

Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 45 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 5, 2017, at 12:00 PM after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1st Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Branch 89 will hold a meeting and election of officers, with luncheon to follow, on Saturday, January 28, 2017, at Allioto's Restaurant. The times are as follows: social time from 12:30 – 1:00PM; meeting time from 1:00 to 2:00PM, with election of officers, donations, and 2017 activities on the agenda; and lunch to be served directly after the meeting, at approximately 2:00PM. The location of the restaurant is Allioto's Restaurant, 3041 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI. Lunch for members is complimentary; guest cost is \$20 per person. Reservations are required by the restaurant and must be made by January 24, 2017 by calling Mike Novak at 414-445-5382. Make checks payable to: Knights of St. Mary & Joseph BR 89. Mail check to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd St., Milwaukee, WI, 53222.

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 132 – WHIPPANY, NEW JERSEY

Branch 132K will hold a membership meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2017, at 1:30PM. Location will be at the home of Susan Salko, 56 Lefke Lane, Whippany, NJ. All members are urged to attend. Election of officers or 2017 will be on the agenda. Dessert and coffee will be served. Watch your money grow at the current 3.60% rate of our 8-year flex premium annuity or IRA.

Susan Salko, 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, 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 200 – FORD CITY, MICHIGAN

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: Jan. 5TH, Feb. 2nd, Mar. 2nd, 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 as we are compiling memorabilia for our 125th Anniversary in 2020.

The Officers and Board of Directors wish all a very good New Year.

Fraternally,

Vicki L. Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 254- PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wenceslaus Society will hold its an-

nual meeting on Sunday, February 5, 2017, at 11:30am at Panera's Restaurant in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria located at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. The meeting will include election of officers. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Albina Senko at 412-343-5031.

Albina Senko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold a meeting on February 19, 2017 at 1:00PM at 175 Harvey Street, Struthers, OH. We also will conduct our annual audit and then discuss activities for 2017.

We want to wish all members a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Vivian Sedlacko, 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 595 – MUSKEGON HTS, MICHIGAN

Sunday, February 5 - Polka Dance 3pm-6pm, food available for purchase.

Saturday, February 11 - Chili cook-off, please bring your favorite chili to share!

Sunday, February 26 - Breakfast 8:30-12noon is all-you-can-eat and the best breakfast in town.

Sunday, March 5 - Polka Dance 3pm-6pm, food available for purchase.

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 853 - CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853 will hold its Christmas spaghetti annual luncheon on Sunday Dec 11, 2016, at 12 noon at Rego's Restaurant in Charleroi, PA. The branch meeting will follow the lunch. All members are urged to attend. If you cannot attend but would like to have a topic discussed please let Mrs Rodacy Boone know. For a luncheon chair count, please leave a message at 412-341-1577. Branch 853 wishes all to have a blessed Christmas season and prosperous New Year.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

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 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 853 members. A meeting will be held on Sunday February 26, 2017 at the Charleroi Subway shop at 407 McKean Avenue, at noon to discuss the bowling tournament. Any branch member interested in being on a team, please leave Monica a message or text at 412-886-6938, with your name and phone number - this is also needed in case of bad weather. Branch events for later in the year will also be discussed. In the event of weather, we will conduct the meeting either by Skype or by telephone conference meeting. Branch 853 wishes all a Healthy and Happy 2017.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Branch 855, Holy Name of Jesus Society, is providing special Branch 855 members-only pricing for the Saturday evening (7PM), March 18, 2017, Monsters hockey game at Quicken Loans Arena in downtown Cleveland, OH. For full details, please see page 15 of this issue.

These fantastic center-ice tickets are limited. Reservations are required and available by contacting Branch Activities Director Barb Sutila at bsutila@gmail.com or 440-864-4744. The deadline is February 13, 2017.

Come join us as we cheer on the 2016 Calder Cup-winning Cleveland Monsters as they take on the Texas Stars!

**Barb Sutila,
Fraternal Activities Director**

Branch 670 Members:

2017 Scholarship Program for High School Seniors Now Accepting Applications



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) OR
- Cheryl Hyatt, 410 Sunset Hills Drive, Freedom, PA 15042 (email: hyattfamily@comcast.net)

ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 15, 2017

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 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: February 6 – Krivan, March 6 – Egg Decorating, 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-slife.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.

Faternally,

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 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

A Look Back at FCSU Summertime Fun & Fraternalism

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District, District 14, held a picnic on the grounds of St. Mathias Church in Youngstown, OH, on August 14, 2016. It's easy to see that a good time was had by all!

- Submission and photos courtesy of Joe Scavina,
District 14 Recording Secretary



ATTENTION CLEVELAND-AREA JEDNOTA MEMBERS & FRIENDS

An Evening of Fun &
Fraternalism

Saturday, March 18, 2017

7:00pm

Monsters vs. Texas
Quicken Loans Arena-Cleveland, OH



Special Offer Includes:

- ☐ Discounted Center Ice Tickets!!
(\$28 game day value)

- ☐ Members: \$19 per seat, with possible deeper discount through your branch
- ☐ Non-Members: \$19 per seat
- ☐ GIVEAWAY – first 10,000 fans receive an Anton Forsberg Bobblehead presented by 811: Know Before You Dig & Dominion

To get your branch discount and order tickets, please contact the representative in your branch:

- ☐ Branch 24: Tom Ivanec, 440-668-7797
- ☐ Branch 228: Len Zilko, 440-988-3236
- ☐ Branch 450: George Carny, 440-885-5702
- ☐ Branch 553: Greg Petrasek, 330-398-1888
- ☐ Branch 855: Barbara Sutula, 440-864-4744



Special FCSU member rates, courtesy of your FCSU branch.
Contact your branch officer for details!!

Deadline to order: Monday, February 13, 2017

Seating is Limited: First Come, First Serve, So Don't Delay

METHOD OF DELIVERY:

From your branch officer or by pick up at the Q's will call (located near box office), if arrangements are made in advance through your branch.

All orders are subject to availability. No ticket required for children under the age of two. Video cameras are not allowed in Quicken Loans Arena. Offer and discounts not available at arena box office. No refunds or exchanges.

Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union
website at www.fcsu.com



Branch 855's Annual Meeting in December Included Jednota Memories of Times Past

The Holy Name of Jesus Society Branch 855 held its annual meeting on December 4, 2016. Member Anne Lucas Ryba related how important the Jednota Lodge was to her family and to the people of Grassflat, PA. Branch 333 consisted of the men's lodge, women's lodge and children's lodge. The Jednota had a band, a baseball team and a Jednota Club Hall.

Among the artifacts Anne brought to the meeting were the badges her grandmother and grandfather wore on special Jednota doings. The red white and blue side was worn on happy occasions like the parades through town and the black side of the badge was worn in funeral processions. Also on display was the Jednota hat the men of the lodge wore. Her storyboards consisted of her grandparents obituaries sent to her from the Jednota archives. These obituaries of her grandparents were very helpful when Anne was doing her family research for her book "Humble Beginnings." The obituaries told what village in Slovakia they came from, how long they were married, etc. She also displayed lodge group photos from the early 1900's. It was interesting to view her grandfather's original Jednota policy signed in 1908.

Anne explained that most people in Grassflat in the 1900s held wakes for their dead in their homes, and a member of the men's Jednota would stand guard 24 hours a day until the deceased was buried. They wore their black arm bands and their Jednota uniform and badge.

Anne's mother was a delegate in 1967 and the photo showed that the convention was at Villa Santa Anna in Beachwood.

Anne told how excited all the children were at Christmas as the Jednota gave each child member a little box of candy. She also remembers the people of Grassflat chartered buses and they went to Middletown for their annual picnics.

As Anne said their lives consisted of school, church and the Jednota.

- Submitted by Linda Kolesar, Branch 855 Secretary-Treasurer

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

OVERVIEW:

2017 SLOVAKIA HERITAGE TOUR

September 8-17, 2017

www.slovakiaheritage.com

PRICE: \$2,230 complete, land-only package



Branch 853's Charles Boone Attained Rare Eagle Scout Ranking in 2016

Charles Boone, 17, of Dormont Pennsylvania became one of the rare "4% of Boy Scouts" by achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. On August 28, 2016, Troop 236 honored Charles for his accomplishment at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

During Charles' years in scouting, he received many recognitions and awards. As Charles crossed over from Cub Scouts, Charles received the Arrow of Light and was recognized for his outstanding accomplishment of earning all 20 Activities awards. This proved to be a sign of how active his Boy Scout years would be.

As a Boy Scout, Charles held the positions of Troop Guide, Instructor, Patrol Leader, Librarian and was elected an Arrowman of the Boy Scout Honor Society, Order of the Arrow (OA).

Charles traveled to all four of the National High Adventure Boy Scout camps and earned the BSA Triple Crown of High Adventure. Charles enjoyed Sea Base in the Florida Keys, hiked 100 miles on the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, became a musher of a dog sled team at Northern Tier in Ely, Minnesota and attended the BSA National Jamboree in West Virginia. One year during spring break, Charles endured the Simon Kenton Council's (SKC) Boot Camp earning 10 badges, the BSA SCUBA Award, Snorkeling BSA, Emergency Awareness Award, Donor Awareness, Youth Patriotism Citizenship Award and participated in a Flag Etiquette program.

Charles attend numerous leadership training sessions in Boys Scout. He attended a week long training at the National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) at Twin Echo BSA camp near Ligonier, PA. He enjoyed another trip to participate in Northern Tier's pilot program of the National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE). His leadership training continued in November, 2016 when he attended the OA National Leadership Seminar in New Jersey.

To acknowledge Charles achievements in scouting, Charles also earned the BSA Stand-up Paddleboarding Award, Kayaking BSA, NOVA BSA - Whoosh!, BSA Messenger of Peace, Scout Strong Presidential Active Lifestyle Award (PALA), the National Outdoor Award (NOA) for Camping and the World Conservation Award both as a Cub and a Boy Scout. Other recognitions which Charles received are the PA Fish & Boat Commission Wildlife Conservation Award and the PA Bureau of Forestry Forest Conservation Award.

Charles kept true to his Catholic Faith by earning all of the emblems from National Catholic Committee on Scout (NCCS), and as recognition of that accomplishment, Charles was awarded the Pillars of Faith. It is less than 1% of all Boy Scouts who earn all four of the NCCS emblems, and who also achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

Charles thrived on sharing his scout enthusiasm with his troop. One year during Christmas vacation, Charles organized and led a program for scouts to work on the NCCS Pray the Rosary Activity series. Charles also participated in programs at SKC for International Religious Awareness, Founders of Faith, Santa Maria and the St Dominic awards.

As a major requirement for Boy Scouts each Eagle Scout candidate must complete a community service project. For Charles' project, he organized and collected items for Animal Friends (a Pittsburgh animal shelter) from residents of his home town. The project was listed as one of the 4 major events at Animal Friends in 2015, which helped them win a \$10,000 grant from MakeADifferenceDay.com (sponsored by USA Today and Newman's Own).

While working to the rank of Eagle, a scout must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges. Charles far surpassed the required number by so far earning 127 merit badges. His goal is to earn all 136 badges.

Charles gained valuable experiences while working on badges. At the Erie International Airport Charles earned the Aviation merit badge. It is this program that Charles attributes finding his career goal of becoming a professional pilot. Charles now is flying the hours he needs for his pilot's license as he strives to become a professional pilot.

In his community, Charles volunteers for the Western Pennsylvania Humane Society. He is also involved in his church, St Pius X. He served as altar server for the past 7 years as well as being active in the Youth Group. Charles embraces his Slovak heritage by learning to sing Slovak songs and dancing with the Pittsburgh Slovaks. He is a Youth Ambassador of the National Slovak Society. Charles is employed part time by Gaynor's School of Cooking in Pittsburgh.

Charles is the son of the former Pension Board Trustee and former National Auditor Monica Rodacy Boone and Ron Boone. All are active members of Branch 853 and the Rev. Andre Hlinka District.

- Submitted by Monica Rodacy Boone, Branch 853 President



Charles' display of the many items he completed while climbing the ranks of Boys Scouts.

Slovak Catholic Federation 59th National Convention September 17-19, 2017, Youngstown, Ohio

As the National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation, I, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdevic, V.F., here by call for the 59th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation. All members and current National Officers are to note the following dates and location for the Convention. The Convention dates will be; Sunday, September 17 to Tuesday, September 19, 2017 in Youngstown, Ohio. The National Secretary, Dolores Evanko will be your contact person for delegate registration and detail information for the Convention. The Convention will officially open with Mass to be celebrated on Sunday, Sept. 17, 2017 at Saint Columba Cathedral, Youngstown, OH. The Celebrant will be the Right Rev. Gary, Hoover, OSB, Abbot of Saint Andrew's Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. Abbot Gary also serves as the Moderator of the Slovak Catholic Federation. The homily for the Mass will be given by Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdevic, V.F., National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation. Following the Mass a Banquet will be held at the Basilica of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Youngstown, OH. Working Sessions for the Convention will be on Monday, September 18 and Tuesday, September 19 till all business is completed.

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
002K	Mildred Marie Strelkow	348K	Sharon S Rokisky	581K	Margaret M Simko	746K	Michael W Slavic
007K	James Edwin Davis	367K	Diana Furman	581K	Edward J Strbjak Sr	754K	Elizabeth M Tomak
019K	Esther R Madar	367K	Joseph J Klebick	587K	Genevieve E Harchick	764K	Andrew R Sinchak
040K	Marylou Yusko	367K	Veronica M Sikina	595K	Dolores V Hershey	831K	Mark W Brown
041K	Donald K Kreutzberg	419K	Michele D Cutri	628K	Martha M Lamothe	831K	Mildred A Gernat
122K	Louis W Pass	429K	William J Bellis	652K	Mary Elizabeth Bistran	831K	Joseph Podolinsky
166K	Anna Theresa Koval	484K	Albert Markovich	701K	Joseph S Long	856K	Mildred S Balog
169P	Eileen T Bach	497K	Betty R Jones	731K	Edward Sivec	916K	John W Streeter
181K	George S Novitsky	512K	Veronica M Ludrofsky	738K	Jeffrey B Tomchik	924K	Harry M Murphy
200K	Elizabeth M Bure	553K	Joseph J Petrask	743K	Dorothy Czepeska		
200K	Paul R Fennell	567K	George P Bittenbender	743K	Stephen W Krempasky		
315K	Michael R Horgos Sr	571K	Jean E Simonof	743K	Gilbert E Roman		
320K	Michael E Martin	580K	Jonathan J Steiner	746K	Dorothy J Buniak		

*Processed through the month of December

OBITUARIES

REV. FRANCIS STRAKA BRANCH 175 – READING, PENNSYLVANIA



Pastor, Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Northampton, PA, died at his residence on Wednesday, January 4, 2017, at the age of 60. Born in Reading, PA, Father Straka was the son of Frank Straka of Reading and the late Mary A. (Ohrin) Straka. Father Straka attended the Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish School, and is a graduate of Reading Central Catholic High School. He attended Allentown College, Center Valley (DeSales University), PA, where he earned a BA of Arts degree in Theology; Brisson Seminary, and St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Overbrook, where he received a Masters of Divinity in Theology. He was ordained to the Priesthood on June 2, 1990 by the Most Rev. Thomas J. Welsh, then-Bishop of Allentown, at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, PA. Father Straka's first priestly assignment was Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Hungary Church, Northampton, followed by Parochial Vicar, St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Church, Hellertown, PA; Parochial Vicar, Sacred Heart Church, West Reading, PA and Parochial Vicar, St. Ann Church, Emmaus, PA. His first pastoral assignment was Pastor, Holy Ghost Church, Bethlehem, PA, followed by Pastor, Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Northampton. During the course of his Priestly Ministry, he served as the Spiritual Advisor for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society of the Diocese of Allentown, and as a member of the Board of Directors for Holy Family Villa for Priests, Bethlehem. He was a life member of Branch 175, First Catholic Slovak Union, Reading. Survivors: In addition to his father; siblings: Michael S., Denver, CO, Maryann (William) Bennethum of Spring Twp., PA, Gregory (June), Joseph (Julie), Catherine (Timothy) Jones all of Exeter Twp., PA; and 13 nieces and nephews. A Mass of Christian Burial for Father Straka was celebrated at Assumption of the BVM Catholic Church, Northampton, on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 11 AM. The Main Celebrant was His Excellency, The Most Rev. Edward P. Cullen, Bishop Emeritus of Allen-

town. The Rev. Msgr. Daniel J. Yenushosky, Dean, Lehigh Deanery, and Pastor, Holy Trinity Church, Whitehall, presided. The Homilist was the Rev. Msgr. Stephen J. Radochka, Pastor, St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church, Easton, PA, and Dean, Northampton Deanery. Calling hours were held on Sunday, January 8, 2017 in Assumption of the BVM Catholic Church, where a Vigil Service also was held in the evening. Calling hours also were held on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 before the Mass. Interment followed in Gethsemane Cemetery, Reading.

- Submitted by Damian Nasta,
Branch 857 Secretary

MARGARET M. "MARGE" (KELCHAK) SIMKO BRANCH 581 – GARY/WHITING, INDIANA



Margaret "Marge" M. Simko (nee Kelchak), age 87, passed away November 2, 2016. She graduated from Froebel High School, class of 1947. Marge was a past president of the PTA at Holy Trinity School, former member of the following organizations: Rosary Sodality at Holy Trinity Church and Blessed Sacrament Churches, Retail Clerk's Union, First Catholic Slovak Union, and Seton Senior's. She loved crafts, antiques, shopping, baking cookies and Slovak pastries for the holidays, playing Yahtzee, solitaire, and pinochle. Margaret was preceded in death by her parents: Michael and Mary Kelchak; and son-in-law, Raymond Saksa. She is survived by her loving husband of 67 years, John Simko; five children: Marlene (Bob) Moreth, John (Sue) Simko, Ron (Deb) Simko, Diane (Dale) Stefani, and Marge (Duane) Wagner; 19 grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; siblings: Rev. Joseph Kelchak, George (Betty) Kelchak, Dr. Michael (late Sandi) Kelchak, and Ann (late Ernie) Buczek; numerous nieces and nephews. Friends visited with Marge's family on Sunday, November 6, 2016, at Burns Funeral Home, Crown Point, IN. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Monday, November 7, 2016 at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Valparaiso, IN, with the Rev. Douglas Mayer officiating. A private burial followed. Special thanks to Deacon

Brian Nosbusch for his many visits, and to all of her loving and dedicated caregiver's Terri Lopez, Sam Cranor, the late Carol Vandenburg, and especially her beloved husband John.

- Submitted by Ron Simko

JOHN LARRY BANYAS BRANCH 505 – EMMAUS, PENNSYLVANIA



John Larry Banyas, 75, of Boca Raton passed away on Sunday, December 4, 2016. John was born on September 3, 1941 in Emmaus, PA, a son of the late John and Elsie Banyas. John served his country with the US Navy as an air control man. He obtained the Rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America and was a 4th Degree Knight with the Knights of Columbus. John graduated from Emmaus High School, Charles Morris School of Advertising. John also taught Dale Carnegie courses. John was a talented drummer and singer. He formed his own band called "Buddy & the Blue Coats" and played drums in the Call Chronicle Orchestra. John worked in the newspaper industry for the Call Chronicle in Allentown, PA and later for Times Publishing in St. Petersburg, FL. Buddy, as he was affectionately known, owned and operated four clothing and shoe stores called Sands of Florida. In 1990 he sold the stores, moved to Boca Raton and opened Sands in Delray Beach and also Buddy's Shoes. John was a member of St John the Evangelist Catholic Church and served as an altar server. John is survived by his loving wife of 30 years Ali, two daughters Sherry Banyas and Amy Allen, 9 grandchildren, Andrew, Adam, Christopher, Michael, Shannon, Jake, Johnny, Isabelle and Alison. A sister Jan Nagy and two nephews Chuck and John Nagy also survive John. The family received friends on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at Babione Funeral Home, Boca Raton, FL. Funeral Services with Military Honors began at 11:00 A.M. John will be laid to rest at South Florida National Cemetery at a later date Arrangements under the direction of Babione Funeral Home, Boca Raton, FL.

- Submitted by Algerette Banyas

ALBERT PAUL KALINA BRANCH 543 – PALOS HILLS, ILLINOIS



Albert Paul Kalina, 94, Phillips, WI, died in the Aspirus Pleasant View Nursing Home in Phillips, on Friday, September 30, 2016. He was born on September 11, 1922 in Clinton, IN, the son of John and Anna (Mihook) Kalina. He served his country in the United States Army in the Pacific Theater of Action during WWII. He was married to Irene Majak in Chicago, IL, on June 23, 1945. He was employed by Centrell Grocers in Chicago. He was a member of Saint Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church of Phillips and of the Blinded Veteran's Association. He was a great fan of the Chicago Cubs and of Johnny Cash. A great joy of his life was to be able to participate in the Honor Flight to Washington, DC. He was very family orientated, and in his free time he enjoyed fishing, playing the harmonica and concertina, playing cards, especially cribbage, and enjoyed playing lottery tickets and trips to the casino.

He is survived by three daughters, Carol (John) DeLeonardis, Glenview, IL. Judy (Lester) Bulgajewski, Chicago, IL, and Marianne Kalina, Phillips; by five granddaughters, Carrie, Christine (David), Catherine (Chris), Jamie (Kory), and Alexis; by one brother, Lawrence (Barbara), Menomonie, WI; by one sister-in-law, Josie Little, Chicago, IL; and by many nieces, nephews, and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife, Irene, on May 18, 2011, and is also preceded in death by four sisters, Helen Augustine, Clemantine Strok, Ann Mack, and Mary Bryja, and by five brothers, Louis, John, George, Martin, and Joseph.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, October 5, 2016, at Saint Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church, Phillips, with Father Gerald Hagen celebrating. Military honors were conducted by the Frank and Michael Baran VFW Post No. 5778 and the Lane Kreiling American Legion Post No. 122. Friends called at the church on Wednesday morning up until the time of services. Interment followed in Saint Adalbert Cemetery, Niles, IL.

- Submitted by Judy Bulgajewski

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA
SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2016, MIDDLETOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

FIRST SESSION:

Friday, September 16, 2016

OPEN MEETING:

Reverend Thomas Nasta opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. by celebrating a Memorial Mass for our deceased officers and members who passed away in 2016.

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Reverend Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer. The President asked Regional Director Sabina Sabados to lead the Board in singing the Anthems of the United States, Canada, and Slovakia, and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present:

Rev. Thomas Nasta	National Chaplain
Andrew Rajec	President
Andrew Harcar, Sr.	Vice President
Kenneth Arendt	Executive Secretary
George Matta II	Treasurer
Karen Hunka	Chairman of Auditors
Sabina Sabados	Regional Director, Region 1
Damian Nasta	Regional Director, Region 2
Martha Zavada-Wojcik	Regional Director, Region 3
James Marmol	Regional Director, Region 4
Michael Lako	Regional Director, Region 5
Henry Hassay	Regional Director, Region 6
Rudolph Bernath	Regional Director, Region 7
Milos Mitro	Regional Director, Region 8
Rudolf Ondrejco	Fraternal Activities Director
Gary Matta	General Counsel

READING OF THE CALL:

The Executive Secretary then read the Call to the Quarterly September 2016 Meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING JULY 2016:

A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Milos Mitro to accept the minutes of the Annual Board of Directors Meeting of July, 2016, as presented. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Annual Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by Rudolf Ondrejco and seconded by Sabina Sabados to accept the agenda and to allow the President to change the order of the agenda, if necessary. Motion carried.

IRA COVERDELL EDUCATION PLAN:

Executive Secretary stated we are in the process of compiling and drafting the filing with the IRS for the FCSU to be a certified non-bank trustee for the Coverdell Fund. Part of the filing with the IRS requires a resolution to be signed by the Board of Directors. The resolution must be approved by the Board of Directors and signed by the Board Members before an application can be submitted. A motion was made by George Matta II and seconded by James Marmol to sign the resolution and complete the application for the filing with the IRS. Motion carried.

The Executive Secretary stated that once approval of the filing is received all information concerning the Coverdell Fund will be given to the Board of Directors and Branch Officers before it is published in the Jednota newspaper and put on the FCSU website. The publication will outline all details concerning this plan.

AQS REPORT:

Larry White, representing AQS Asset Management, Inc., presented his extensive investment portfolio report by telephone and Web Ex to the Board of Directors. Each member of the Board of Directors received a copy of the presentation in advance for his or her review. During and after the presentation, Larry White answered questions from the Board.

Larry White then led an extensive discussion on our Investment Policy. Following a further review of our existing investment policy, he presented several alternative investment possibilities and asked the Board to review them to make any possible changes.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2016:

Executive Secretary's Report

Kenneth Arendt presented the financial summary report for the second quarter and answered the Board's questions. He also stated that the second quarter financial statement was published in the Jednota newspaper.

The Executive Secretary also presented a comparison report between what was budgeted for 2016 and the actual expenditures.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Board of Directors which gave a complete update of the investments and all current transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

Portfolio Custodian

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

Investment Updates

The President and Executive Secretary reviewed the UBS Fund, and MAI Fund, the Executive Secretary gave a complete transaction report for the month.

Following the reports, the Executive Secretary answered the Board's questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer George Matta II presented a written report to the Board of Directors. After the presentation, he answered any Board's questions.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Bylaws

The President asked the Board of Directors to review Bylaw 4.05 FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS and Bylaw 14.01 GENERAL RULES regarding qualifications for Branch stipend. Any suggestions to address outstanding issues will be discussed at the next Board of Directors meeting.

History

The President presented a brief history of Jednota and the Estates, including the Orphanage and Building #2 on the property in Middletown and the Printery building. After the presentation, he answered the Board's questions.

RECESS OF SESSION:

The Board recessed for lunch.

SECOND SESSION:

Friday afternoon, September 16, 2016

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec opened the afternoon session with a prayer and called the meeting to order. The Executive Secretary stated that all members were present.

The President announced the Board would leave the hotel and reconvene at Jednota Estates.

The Board of Directors met with realtors William Gladstone and Daniel Alderman of NAICIR and their associates at the Printery building. After their presentation the Board took a tour of the Middletown Property, and then returned to the hotel to complete the afternoon session.

SECOND SESSION CONTINUED AT HOTEL

SUBSIDIARIES REPORT:

The President turned the meeting over to Andrew Harcar, Sr., President of Jednota, Inc.

Jednota Properties, Inc.

The President then turned the meeting over to James Marmol, President of Jednota Properties, Inc., for his report and to answer the Board's questions.

The reports of Jednota, Inc., and Jednota Properties, Inc., are informational in nature.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

OPEN:

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 10:00 AM and asked Vice President Andrew Harcar, Sr., to lead the prayer. The President stated the meeting is being held in Las Vegas in conjunction with our Membership Meet being held November 6-10, 2016.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
George F. Matta II, Treasurer
Karen Hunka, Chairman of Auditors
(by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES:

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

The President led a discussion to review the two unsolicited offers on the purchase of the property in Middletown. After the discussion, it was decided not to act on the proposal at this time.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report by telephone 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.

After the presentation, Larry White led a discussion about possible investment opportunities for FCSU.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:Annuity Rates:

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

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 October 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 October:

Disbursements for the month of October 2016:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	190,315.79
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	43,499.83
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.

TREASURER REPORT:

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

The Treasurer recommended that we review the suggestions of Larry White of

AQS on our investment policy for possible changes and updates. The President stated the Executive Committee will make a recommendation to the Board at the December meeting.

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 250 agents. The Home Office is sending the independent agents monthly updates on our products.

The Vice President said our marketing firm is developing a marketing strategy to better sell our products and also working on updating our presentation that will be used at our seminars.

The Vice President stated we are reviewing a possible incentive program for agents and the commissions paid to agents to increase sales.

The Vice President stated we have 2 months left on the JEP program offering the first year free. The results have been encouraging.

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

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

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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MISCELLANEOUS:

Future of FCSU
The President invited the Board to consider long term issues on the future of our society. Father Nasta gave his opinion to the Board and answered the Board’s questions.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Sabina Sabados to adjourn for the day. Motion carried.

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

THIRD SESSION:

Saturday, September 17, 2016

OPEN:

Reverend Thomas Nasta opened the meeting with prayer and reflection at 8:30 a.m. President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00a.m.

ROLL CALL:

The Executive Secretary took a visual roll call. He stated that everyone is present.

President Rajec asked James Marmol to continue with his report on the Jednota Properties, Inc. The report is informational in nature.

The President led a discussion to review the presentation that was made by our brokers. Once any listing agreement is submitted it will be reviewed by the President and General Counsel. It will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval before it is signed.

MISCELLANEOUS:

FCSU Website

The Executive Secretary presented the new FCSU website to the Board of Directors for their review. The website was developed by our outside marketing consultants along with help from our in-house marketing team. The Executive Secretary encouraged the Board of Directors to review our website which contains many new features. He also encouraged branch officers to submit their branch meetings and activities to be posted on our website.

CONVENTION:

The President and the Executive Secretary led a discussion about possible convention sites. The Home Office sent out inquires to hotels in cities suggested by the Board of Directors of possibly hosting our convention. After extensive research, the Executive Board recommended the Hilton Cleveland Downtown Hotel as the 2018 convention site. The motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Rudolph Bernath to host the 2018 Convention at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown Hotel on August 4 – 8, 2016. The results of the vote were: 13 for, 1 against. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2016:

Executive Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Executive Committee Meetings. He stated that in accordance with the Bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Executive Committee meets monthly and whenever else it is necessary to take care of the business of the Society.

Investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the investment policy adopted by the Board of Directors. All investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee members work very closely with the Society’s Investment Advisor, AQS Asset Management.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Soccer Tournament

Karen Hunka presented a report on the Plum Area Soccer Tournament held in Pennsylvania. The tournament was cosponsored by FCSU. The FCSU had a booth that was manned by the President, Executive Secretary and Karen Hunka. The President felt we got excellent exposure for our society at the tournament.

25 Years of Slovakia’s Independence

Father Nasta stated that the Slovak Catholic Federation is hoping to sponsor a tour to Slovakia in 2018 to celebrate 25 years of Slovak independence.

Matching Funds Program

The President stated he is looking into the possibility of having a matching fund program for our branches and districts. Rudolf Ondrejco stated that other fraternal already have a matching fund program in place.

Missing Persons Report

The Executive Secretary explained to the Board that in some states we are licensed in, we are required to run a missing persons report for our members in that state. We receive the report from the social security office and then match it against our database. If a match is found we are required to contact the beneficiary for payment of the death benefit. If we are unable to contact a beneficiary within 3 years we are required to submit the funds to the

state.

Geneologist

Rudolph Bernath suggests that we have a geneologist on staff to help members research family history. He also suggests that we invite Regional Directors with an Emeritus title to our Board meetings.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING:

A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Rudolf Ondrejco to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Michael Lako to adjourn. Motion carried.

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Happy Anniversary

The American-Slovak Zemplin Club in Cleveland, OH, Celebrates 75 Years

On Sunday, October 16, 2016, the American Slovak Zemplin Club celebrated an important milestone, its 75th anniversary. The special day began at 1:00 PM, with a Slovak Byzantine Catholic liturgy at the Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church, Parma, OH.

Father Marek Visnovsky was the main celebrant, with Father Michael Brunovsky OSB, Branch 24 Member, co-celebrating. Father Jan Cizmar and His wife Jana, were the cantors. It was the first time a Slovak Byzantine Catholic Liturgy was celebrated in the Cleveland area.

After the liturgy, all present walked to the Holy Spirit Party Center where the celebration continued. Over 200 people were present, including members of the Zemplin Club, their families and friends.

The ceremony was opened by George Carny, President of the Zemplin Club and Branch 450 President, with warm words of welcome and introductions. Then the floor was taken by Tom Ivanec, Branch 24 Member, as the Master of Ceremonies.

Ken Javor and Beata Begeniova-Fedorouk, Branch 24 Member, led the singing of the American Star Spangled Banner and the Slovak national anthem, Nad Tatrou sa blyska.

Father Michael Brunovsky OSB, Branch 24 Member, gave the invocation before dinner. The delicious meal was served by Wal-Tam’s Catering. Dinner music was provided by the Johnny Pastirik Band.

Following dinner, MC Tom Ivanec introduced the main speaker at the event, the Rev. Father Michael Brunovsky OSB. In his speech Fr. Michael recalled the great contributions the Zemplin Club has made to the quality of Slovak life in the greater Cleveland area. He also shared some of his personal insights and thoughts about the Zemplin Club that he had witnessed during his years growing up. Beata Begeniova-Fedorouk, Assistant to FCSU’s National President Andrew M. Rajec, then read a congratulatory message from the National President who was unable to attend.

After, the Cleveland Slovak folk ensemble “Lúčina” and its children’s ensemble “Lučinka” performed under the direction of Tom Ivanec and Nadia Oros. The “Slovenske Mamičky” sang a few songs from their repertoire, Professor Rudy Bachna recited the Slovak poem “Ja som pysny ze som Slovak”, and Michael Anderko, Branch 450 Member, also entertained by playing on “Fujara”. Music for dancing was provided by the Johnny Pastirik Band.

Following an appropriate prayer by Father Marek, we concluded the “75th Anniversary Celebration” by all together singing “God Bless America” and “Hej Slovaci”.

The 75-years of existence of Zemplin Club is the concrete proof of our two important traits – faithfulness and perseverance.

While those at the event and throughout the greater Slovak-American community wish the American Slovak Zemplin Club a very happy anniversary, its members, in turn, would like to thank all those who helped in the preparation of this event, sponsored it, and were present to help celebrate the 75th anniversary of the organization.

- Submitted by George Carny, American Slovak Zemplin Club President

**If each member would sign up just one new member,
we could double our Society immediately**

THINK ABOUT IT!

Správy zo Slovenska

Z Bratislavy možno lietať do Bangkoku v Thajsku

Z Letiska Milana R. Štefánika v Bratislave môžu cestujúci od 29. novembra 2016 lietať aj do Bangkoku v Thajsku. Letecká spoločnosť flydubai totiž pridáva aj nové prestupné spojene cez Dubaj. Podľa hovorkyne bratislavského letiska Veroniky Ševčíkovej zabezpečuje letecká spoločnosť z Bratislavy do Dubaja a späť lety štyrikrát týždenne. Teda pribúdajú aj lety do Thajska s prestupom v Dubaji. Flydubai lieta z Bratislavy dva roky a pôvodnú frekvenciu letov, ktorá bola dvakrát týždenne zvýšil na štyrikrát týždenne.

Slovensko sa budúci rok zúčastní na cvičení krízového manažmentu NATO

Precvičenie procesu krízového riadenia NATO a členských krajín bude súčasťou cvičenia NATO CMX 2017, do ktorého sa zapoja aj Slovensko. Cvičenie sa uskutoční koncom roku 2017. Precvičia sa napríklad aliančné konzultácie a kolektívny rozhodovací proces podľa článkov 4 a 5 Washingtonskej zmluvy, ktoré hovoria o kolektívnej ochrane členských krajín aliancie. Taktiež použitie Síl reakcie NATO (NRF) či schopnosti SR aktívne pôsobiť pri riešení krízovej situácie vo svete a plniť opatrenia systému reakcie NATO na krízové situácie. Podobné cvičenia krízového manažmentu sa konajú každý rok. Cvičenie bude riadiť Severoatlantická rada pod záštitou generálneho tajomníka NATO Jensa Stoltenberga. Na Slovensku bude cvičenie CMX 2017 vrátane prípravy, realizácie a vyhodnotenia koordinovať minister obrany Peter Gajdoš.

Košice sa ocitli v hľadáčku megainvestície z Japonska

Doteraz neznámy investor z Ázie, ktorý chce investovať v Košiciach, je japonská firma Minebea. Firma chce v Košiciach investovať 100 miliónov eur. Na východe Slovenska plánuje vyrábať komponenty do chladiacich zariadení a rýchloamerov áut. Nemalo by však ísť iba o klasickú výrobu, ale aj o výskum a vývoj.

Sestier ubúda len na Slovensku

Podľa revízie výdavkov na zdravotníctvo, ktorú vypracoval Inštitút finančnej politiky je v slovenských nemocniciach nadbytočných 1066 zdravotných sestier. Inak to však vyzerá podľa štatistiky OECD. Tá ukázala, že v roku 2014 bolo na Slovensku 5,57 sestry na tisíc obyvateľov, pričom priemer v Európskej únii je 8,4. Okrem toho je Slovensko jedinou z monitorovaných krajín, kde počet zdravotných sestier klesol, a to dokonca takmer o dve sestry na tisíc obyvateľov.

Nová autobusová stanica bude stáť 345 miliónov eur

Dlho diskutovaná autobusová stanica Mlynské Nivy v Bratislave s rozlohou viac ako 133.000 štvorcových metrov sa do troch rokov stane skutočnosťou. „Projekt Stanice Nivy získal právoplatné územné rozhodnutie, pričom aktuálne čakáme na príslušné stavebné povolenia,“ uviedol riaditeľ HB Reavis Slovakia Adrián Rác.

Juhokórečania dajú Považiu 140 nových pracovných miest

Juhokórejská spoločnosť Uni-Tech chce vybudovať v priemyselnom parku bývalých Považských strojárni v Považskej Bystrici závod za štyri milióny eur. Spoločnosť sa venuje výrobe tesniacich tmelov používaných pri konštrukcii vozidiel. Zamestnať by sa tu malo 140 ľudí, ktorí budú pracovať v dvoch zmenách. Spoločnosť už začala s ich náborom. Podrobnosti však odmietla zverejniť.

Slovensko a Poľsko má spojiť tunel popod tatranské štíty

Cestovanie z Popradu do poľského Zakopaného sa výrazne skráti. Namiesto súčasnej 75-minútovej cesty autom sa do mesta na poľskej strane Vysokých Tatier bude dať dostať vlakom za štvrthodinku. Aspoň tak to plánujú autori vízie nového železničného tunela, ktorý má doslova prevrtnať Vysoké Tatry. Oživený projekt sa dostal na stôl počas konferencie Podzemné mosty, ktoré spájajú - Príležitosť pre Vysoké Tatry. Termín začiatku výstavby zatiaľ nie je známy. Podľa expertov sa náklady na vybudovanie tunela budú pohybovať rádovo v stovkách miliónov až niekoľko miliárd eur.

Za premenou sú ruskí investori

Bratislavský hotel Danube získala skupina Sitno Holding Ľudovíta Černáka. Tá sa spojila s ruskými investormi a spoločne založili firmu Omega Investments. Pôvodný plán bol, že sa hotel zbúra a nahradí ho multifunkčné centrum Bratislava River Center s nákupnou pasážou, kancelárskymi a bytmi. Proti tomu však protestovali Bratislavčania, aktivisti, ale aj bratislavská radnica. Nakoniec hotel Danube zostane stáť, ale dostane novú podobu. Zmení sa na štvorhviezdičkový so 100 lôžkami, kde budú aj kancelárie a obchody.

Technologický líder vytvorí v Prešove 500 miest

Investícia do nového závodu na východe Slovenska vo výške niekoľkých desiatok miliónov eur a prijatie 500 nových zamestnancov. Také sú čerstvo ohlásené plány prešovskej spoločnosti Spinea, ktorá je technologickým lídrom vo vývoji a výrobe prevodoviek. Firma zo Šariša iba pred tromi rokmi rozširovala výrobu unikátnych vysoko presných reduktorov za 20,5 milióna eur. Dopyt po jej výrobkoch však prudko rastie a firma naráža na kapacitný strop. Preto pripravuje výrazné rozšírenie. Nových 500 miest vznikne počas najbližších šesť rokov. Samotná Spinea, ktorá vlni zamestnávala 400 ľudí, plány oficiálne nekomentovala. Spinea Prešov každoročne zvyšuje mohutnými investíciami svoj tržový podiel. Cieľom firmy je stať sa do roku 2020 svetovou trojkou za japonskými korporáciami Nabtesco a Sumitomo Cyclo.

Slovenská čokoláda a cider reprezentujú Slovensko v sídle OSN

Nitriansky výrobca čokolády Lyra Chocolate, s.r.o., reprezentovala Slovensko v sídle Organizácie Spojených národov (OSN) v New Yorku počas decembrového podujatia Salon du chocolat. Podujatie bolo určené pre zástupcov všetkých členských krajín OSN. Slovenskú republiku zastupuje značka Lyra so svojím portfóliom čokolád a zároveň vytvorí celosvetový unikát, slovenský dvojboj. Zložený je zo slovenskej čokolády a slovenského cideru Jablčňô. Obaja výrobcovia používajú na výrobu čisto prírodné suroviny bez pridania farbív či konzervantov.

Štát pridá kňazom a biskupom 19 €!

Duchovní si od Nového roka prilepšia. Vyše 3600 ľudí, ktorí pôsobia v registrovaných cirkvách na rôznych postoch, dostane priemerne o 19 eur viac. Štátny rozpočet dá 12 cirkvám spolu na budúci rok o vyše jeden milión eur viac ako v súčasnosti. Tie využijú najmä na platy duchovných a prevádzkových zamestnancov.

Vrátil sa zo sveta a vybudoval farmu

Príbeh mladého slovenského farmára Milana Jurkyho, ktorý si farmu vybudoval z peňazí, ktoré zarobil, keď pracoval v Nemecku, Rakúsku či v Írsku zaujal viacerých na Slovensku. Jurky dnes chová 15 kráv a z ich mlieka vyrába korbáčiky, uzličky, údené syry. Nedávno začal vyrábať aj maslo. Jurky povedal, že nevie, čo je to mliečna kríza. Nedávno ho zvolili za nového predsedu Združenia mladých farmárov.

Jedlo si už nosia so sebou

Časy, keď Rusi a Ukrajinci zaplavovali začiatkom roka Tatry, sú asi minulosťou. V týchto dňoch ich v slovenských veľhorách stretnete skôr ojedinele. Hotelieri si napriek všetkému nesťažujú, hostí majú dostatok, prím hrajú predovšetkým Slováci. Podľa Zuzany Fabiánovej z TMR (Tatry mountain resorts) rusky hovoriacich ľudí v Tatrách je ešte stále počuť. Prichádzajú našťastie aj lyžiar z iných častí Európy či dokonca Ázie.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

V Bratislavskej i Spišskej diecéze sa začal Rok sv. Martina

Jubilejný Rok sv. Martina sa začal v novembri 2016 v Bratislavskej i Spišskej diecéze, kde sa nachádzajú katedrály zasvätené tomuto obľúbenému svätci.

“V Bratislavskej arcidiecéze budeme sláviť jubilejný Rok svätého Martina od 11. novembra 2016 do 12. novembra 2017, aby sme mali možnosť ešte hlbšie spoznať vznešený príklad života sv. Martina z Tours, biskupa a patróna našej katedrály i celej arcidiecézy,” uviedol v tejto súvislosti bratislavský arcibiskup Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský. Rok sv. Martina sa koná v období, kedy si pripomíname 1700 rokov od narodenia tohto známeho svätca. V životopise svätého Martina z Tours, biskupa, sa uvádza ako čas jeho narodenia rok 316 alebo 317.

Príklad patróna arcidiecézy, ktorý sa podelil o svoj plášť s chudobným, ako to znázorňuje aj známe súsošie v bratislavskej Katedrále sv. Martina, je podľa arcibiskupa Stanislava Zvolenského aktuálny aj dnes. “Aj preto chceme tohtoročnou Svätomartinskou zbierkou v arcidiecéze podporiť bývalých chovancov detských domovov a rodiny v kríze,” pripomenul arcibiskup.

V Spišskej diecéze bude jubilejný rok trvať do 11. novembra 2017, ako to ohlásil spišský biskup Štefan Sečka 9. novembra tohto roku počas kňazských rekolekcií v Katedrále sv. Martina v Spišskej Kapitule. Diecéza plánuje každú tretiu sobotu v mesiaci organizovať dekanátne púte do Katedrály sv. Martina.

Informáciu o dekréte, ktorým arcibiskup Mons. Zvolenský vyhlásil Rok sv. Martina v Bratislavskej arcidiecéze, zverejnil Arcibiskupský úrad v Bratislave.

TASR/HSP

Počas silvestrovského týždňa navštívilo Tatranský ľadový dóm 36.000 turistov

Počas silvestrovského týždňa (26.12.–1.1.) navštívilo Tatranský ľadový dóm na Hrebienku vo Vysokých Tatrách 36.000 ľudí. Najviac turistov - takmer 7500 vstúpilo doň v piatok 30. decembra. Návštevníci si od tohto dňa môžu na jednom z turisticky najnavštevovanejších miest vo Vysokých Tatrách pozrieť aj druhú atrakciu, a to ľadovú medvedicu s dvomi mláďatami v druhej kupole.

Podľa výkonnej riaditeľky Oblastnej organizácie cestovného ruchu Región Vysoké Tatry Andrey Žigovej zimná sezóna a najmä silvestrovské pobyty patria už dlhodobo z hľadiska návštevnosti k top termínom vo Vysokých Tatrách. Záujem návštevníkov, ktorí trávia najkrajšie sviatky i vstup do nového roka v slovenských veľhorách, ich veľmi teší. Pekné počasie, dostatok snehu a dobré podmienky na lyžovanie boli jedným z hlavných dôvodov, prečo Vysoké Tatry zažili takú vysokú návštevnosť.

Turisti vo Vysokých Tatrách sa koncentrovali nielen v lyžiarskych strediskách, ale prišli aj na Hrebienok. Najväčšou atrakciou zimnej sezóny na území hôr je Tatranský ľadový dóm, ktorý je postavený v štýle spišskej gotiky so skleneným oltárom. Na jeho stavbu použili 90 ton ľadu.

Počas silvestrovského týždňa prevládali v horách najmä domáci návštevníci. „Viac ako 30 percent turistov bolo zo zahraničia, prišli najmä Česi, Poliaci, Nemci, Briti, ale aj turisti z menej štandardných destinácií,“ konkretizovala Žigová. OOCR očakáva v týchto dňoch prílev turistov z Ukrajiny, nakoľko od 29. decembra bola spustená zimná charterová linka z Kyjeva do Popradu s kapacitou 114 miest.

TASR

Vek pre odchod do dôchodku sa zvyšuje o 76 dní

Vek pre vznik nároku na starobný dôchodok sa v budúcom roku stanovuje na 62 rokov a 76 dní, zhodne pre mužov a ženy. Stanovilo to opatrenie Ministerstva práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny Slovenskej republiky v súlade so zákonom o sociálnom poistení.

Ako uviedla 25. októbra v Bratislave na stretnutí s novinármi Ľudmila Grauzelová zo Sociálnej poisťovne, vek odchodu do dôchodku sa stanovuje podľa vývoja priemernej strednej dĺžky života v Slovenskej republike. Znamená to, že rezort práce každoročne najneskôr do 31. októbra predchádzajúceho roka určí počet dní, o ktorý sa upraví dôchodkový vek, dôchodkový vek na príslušný kalendárny rok a referenčný vek na príslušný kalendárny rok.

Týka sa to poistencov narodených po 31. decembri 1954 a netýka sa to žien narodených od 1. januára 1955 do 31. decembra 1961, kde sa zohľadňuje znížený dôchodkový vek v závislosti od počtu vychovaných detí, poistencov, ktorí majú znížený dôchodkový vek z dôvodu odpracovania potrebného počtu rokov v zamestnaní zaradenom do preferovaných pracovných kategórií. Na uľahčenie výpočtu veku odchodu do dôchodku pri zohľadnení všetkých situácií je k dispozícii na webe Sociálnej poisťovne kalkulačka.

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FOTO: cs.wikipedia.org

Svätý Martin podáva plášť chudobnému

Svätý Martin podáva plášť chudobnému



FOTO TASR - Oliver Ondráš

Na snímke ľadové sochy medvedí počas otvorenia Tatranskej galérie ľadových majstrov na Hrebienku vo Vysokých Tatrách 30. decembra 2016.

Bear ice sculptures were unveiled at the opening of the Tatra Gallery of Ice Masters in Hrebienok in the High Tatras on December 30, 2016.

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

20. zbor Slovenskej Ligy v Milwaukee usporiada Fašiangovú zábavu na novom mieste, Knights of Columbus Hall, 1800 S. 92nd Street v West Allis, Wisconsin

20. zbor Slovenskej Ligy v Milwaukee usporiada Fašiangovú zábavu v **sobotu, 18. februára 2017 na novom mieste, Knights of Columbus Hall, 1800 S. 92nd Street v West Allis, Wisconsin**. Začiatok bude o 6:00 do 11:00 hodiny večer. V kultúrnom programe sa predstaví slovenský folklórny súbor Tatra Slovak Dancers o 7:30 večer. Vstupné je \$5.00 za osobu. Na predaj budú slovenské jedlá, zákusky a koláče. Bližšie informácie: Betty, tel. č.: 414-425-6137 alebo Ellen, tel. č.: 262-893-7483.

Kathy Valent, podpredsedníčka

Pozvánka na Slovenský ples do "The Royal Manor, Garfield, NJ"

Slovensko - Americké Kultúrne Stredisko vás srdečne pozýva už na 24. ročník "Slovenského plesu" v sobotu **25. februára 2017**, ktorý sa bude niesť v duchu elegancie, známych hostí, skvelej hudby a tanca! Aj tentokrát si pre Vás organizátori pripravili zaujímavý program a bohatú tombolu. Od 7-mej hodiny večer do 1-nej hodiny rána na Vás čaká "Open bar". Do tanca bude hrať skvelá hudobná skupina Express. Ak máte chuť prejsť sa po červenom koberci, neváhajte a zakúpte si lístok už teraz prostredníctvom webstránky Eventbrite "Slovak Ball 2017", alebo kontaktujte p. Zuzanu Krcmarovu na tel. číslo 973-357-1209, alebo napíšte na emailovú adresu: SlovakAmericanCC@gmail.com. Pre viac informácií nás navštívte na: www.slovakamericance.org



Sabina Sabados, predsedníčka

Slovenský deň vo Floride bude v Slovenskej Záhrade 4. marca

Zbor direktorov Slovenskej Záhrady vo Winter Park, Florida pozýva slovenskú verejnosť na tradičný, v poradí už 65. Slovenský deň, ktorý sa bude konať v sobotu **4. marca** na pozemkoch Slovenskej Záhrady. O 1.00 hod. sa bude podávať obed s tradičnými slovenskými jedlami. Nasledovať bude kultúrny a zábavný program a tanečná hudba. Cena vstupeniek: \$25.00 za dospelých v predpredaji a \$30.00 pri dverách. Za deti do 10 rokov je vstupné \$10.00. Rezervácie a informácie: tel. č. 407-677-6894. Nasledujúci deň 5. marca bude výročná schôdza členov SZ. Začne sa sv. omšou o 10. hod, ktorú odslúži o. Jozef Krajňák farár slovenskej farnosti Sv. Rodiny v Linden, N.J.

Členská schôdza spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New York City

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční polročná schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v nedeľu **5. marca 2017** o 12:00 hodine v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskaovo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Mária Juráši

Na Slovensku štartuje dobrovoľnícky projekt digitalizácie kultúrneho dedičstva

Na Slovensku vzniká dobrovoľnícky projekt, ktorého cieľom je sprístupniť na webe širokej verejnosti kultúrne dedičstvo Slovenska. Informoval o tom zakladateľ projektu s názvom Ľudo Slovenský aforista a publicista Tomáš Ulej.

V jeho prvej fáze sa majú na internete zverejniť všetky ľudové piesne Slovenska. „Vďaka neúnavnej práci zberateľov máme záznamy o desiatkach tisíc pôvodných ľudových piesní, ktoré sa stovky rokov spievali na našom území. Väčšina z nich sa však poneviera v zaprášených knižniciach alebo archívoch, kde ich už nikto nemôže objaviť. Chceme toto bohatstvo dostať na internet, aby opäť slúžilo všetkým,“ hovorí Ulej.

Ku každej piesni by mali byť k dispozícii noty, text, nahrávka a množstvo údajov, ktoré k nim zberatelia pridali - informácie o tom, kde vznikla, kedy, alebo pri akej príležitosti ju ľudia spievali a taktiež odkazy na podobné a príbuzné piesne. „Vznikne tak najrozsiahlejšia online databáza našej ľudovej hudby, voľne dostupná každému,“ dodáva Ulej.

Projekt je pokračovaním zakladateľovho digitalizátorského projektu Zlatý fond denníka SME, ktorý vznikol v roku 2006. Jeho odbornou garantom je Jana Ambrózová z Katedry etnológie a folkloristiky Filozofickej fakulty Univerzity Konštantína Filozofa v Nitre.

Autori projektu sa pri zhromažďovaní údajov spoliehajú na pomoc dobrovoľníkov. „Nechceme od ľudí peniaze, chceme niečo viac - vytvorili sme systém, v ktorom môže každý priložiť ruku k dielu. Stačí ísť na našu špeciálnu stránku www.ludoslovensky.sk/vyzva, kde sú všetky potrebné informácie, ako nám ľudia môžu pomôcť,“ povedal, pričom zdôraznil, že v prvej fáze projektu hľadajú ľudí, ktorí ovládajú noty.

V súčasnosti je možné v doteraz pridaných piesňach vyhľadávať, prezerat' podľa regiónov a miest, kde boli zaznamenané, alebo podľa tém a kľúčových slov. Ku každej piesni si možno okrem nôt vypočuť nahrávku jej melódie.

Prvou zo zbierok ľudovej hudby, ktoré sa projekt rozhodol digitalizovať, je zbierka Slovenské spevy, ktorá vznikla koncom 19. storočia, v čase intenzívnej maďarizácie a ako spoločné dielo desiatok dobrovoľníkov z celého Slovenska, ktorí navštevovali obce, zbierali a do nôt prepisovali piesne, ktoré si ľudia spievali.

Ranná fáza stránky ludoslovensky.sk vznikla už v roku 2012, keď Ulej na internete zverejnil najskôr 12.000 slovenských prísloví a porekadiel a tiež najrozsiahlejšiu zbierku slovenských nádvok. Teraz chce projekt rozšíriť o všetky prejavy hudobného folklóru a urobiť z neho celonárodnú celoslovenskú iniciatívu.

TASR

Slovenská Liga oznamuje

Do nového roku...

Naším oddaným pracovníkom v zboroch Slovenskej ligy želáme šťastný a produktívny rok 2017 a rovnako aj činiteľom a pracovníkom v našich fraternalistických organizáciách, farnostiach a nezávislých združeniach. Pracujme spoločne v novom roku na zachovaní a zveľaďovaní slovenského národného povedomia a našej kultúry.

110 výročie Slovenskej ligy

Koncom mája t.r. sa Slovenská liga v Amerike dožije 110. výročia svojej existencie. Výkonný výbor Slovenskej ligy na svojom zasadnutí v novembri t.r. rozhodol, že toto výročie oslávime slávnostným banketom a kultúrnym programom v máji alebo v júni t.r. v New Yorku. V najbližšom čase oznámime miesto na čas oslavy.

Gratulujeme Slovenskej republike

31. decembra 2016 Slovenská republika skončila úspešné polročné predsedníctvo Európskej únie. V diplomatických kruhoch EÚ Slovensko získalo priaznivé ocenenie a pochvalu. Britský europoslanec Charles Tannock to vyjadril slovami: „Musím pred prvým slovenským predsedníctvom sňať klobúk. Ste malá krajina, ale vaši diplomati sú veľmi skúsení a kompetentní.... Slovenské predsedníctvo bolo veľmi úspešné. Najmä ak berieme do úvahy, že Slovensko malo predsedníctvo v čase obrovských výziev. Od júna do decembra roku 2016 sme boli svedkami príšerných výsledkov rôznych volieb. V júni to bol brexit čo si vyžadovalo mnoho politického manažmentu a chladné hlavy. Slovinci ukázali aj prostredníctvom summitu, že to vedia...“

Europoslanec Charles Tannock je členom Zahraničného výboru britského parlamentu.

Daniel F Tanzone
predseda

W. Nina Holy
tajomníčka-pokladníčka

Slováci v Spojených štátoch udržiavajú slovenské vianočné tradície

O Vianociach porozprával veľvyslanec Slovenskej republiky v USA Peter Kmec. "Vianoce sú aj tu, medzi Slovákmi, či už komunitou, alebo už aj druhou, treťou generáciou, jeden z najvýznamnejších sviatkov roka, takže my sa tiež snažíme z pohľadu slovenského veľvyslanectva udržiavať tieto zvyky a tradície. Snažíme sa takisto tie sviatky priblížiť čo najširšiemu spektru aj americkej verejnosti, takže robíme predvianočné podujatia," povedal Kmec. Teší ho tiež, že Slováci v Spojených štátoch udržiavajú slovenské vianočné tradície a veľmi rád počúva pozitívne reakcie Američanov, ktorí navštívili Slovensko. Veľvyslanectvo zorganizovalo pre verejnosť mikulášske posedenie, vianočné trhy a predvianočné stretnutie slovenských profesionálov žijúcich v USA. Len dva dni pred Vianocami hostilo v spolupráci s veľvyslanectvom Malty aj podujatie k odovzdaniu a prevzatíu predsedníctva v Rade EÚ. Na všetkých týchto podujatiach sa podávali tradičné slovenské jedlá ako kapustnica, rezne so zemiakovým šalátom či strapačky s kapustou. Nechýbalo ani slovenské vianočné pečivo a varené víno. Pri porovnávaní Vianoc v USA a na Slovensku pripomína, že na rozdiel od Slovenska v Spojených štátoch nie sú Vianoce hlavným sviatkom roka, keďže ide o kresťanský sviatok a v Spojených štátoch žije aj mnoho prislušníkov iných náboženstiev. "Tu je taký hlavný sviatok Deň vďakyvzdania, takže tam sa snažíme nasať ten americký tradičný spôsob osláv rodinných sviatkov," uviedol veľvyslanec.

TASR



Na obrázku zoskupené deti po svätej omši, ktorá sa konala v rámci Mikulášskeho odpolednia v slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého 4. decembra 2016. Podujatie pripravili spojené farnosti kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, kostola Sv. Jána Mučeníka, Sv. Františka Xavier Cabrini v spolupráci s členmi Spolku sv. Štefana a sv. Matúša IKSJ ako aj Zboru 182 Slovenského katolíckeho Sokola v New York City.

Slovenskí biskupi požehnali koledníkov Dobrej noviny

Na tretiu adventnú nedeľu 11. decembra a v sobotu 10. decembra 2016 biskupi symbolicky vyslali koledníkov Dobrej noviny už po 22-krát ohlasovať radostnú zvesť o narodení Krista. Na desiatich miestach v Detve, Kamenici nad Cirochou, Nitre, Prešove (rímskokatolícka svätá omša a gréckokatolícka svätá liturgia), Revúcej, Starej Ľubovni, Trnave, Tvrdošíne a Žiline – Solinkách sa zišlo približne 3000 malých aj väčších koledníkov z vyše 150 farností z celého Slovenska.



Koledníci Dobrej noviny

Ako býva zvykom, koledníci priniesli na sväté omše obetné dary v podobe školských potrieb (Prešov), trvanlivých potravín (Trnava), detských ponožiek (Stará Ľubovňa) či semiačok zeleniny (Tvrdošín), ktoré následne darovali núdzným rodinám a zariadeniam vo svojich diecézach či pre vojnu sužované rodiny na Ukrajine (Prešov). Biskupi pri slávnostných homíliách povzbudili koledníkov k tomu, aby pripravovali cestu Pánovi a pod ochranou plášt'a Panny Márie urobili ten potrebný KROK (Každý Radostne Ohlasujeme Krista) k našim blízkym.

“Očakávame, že do 22. ročníka koledníckej akcie Dobrá novina, ktorá bude prebiehať od 24. decembra 2016 do 6. januára 2017 sa zapojí okolo 25-tisíc koledníkov. Z výťažku tohtoročnej koledníckej zbierky budú podporené rozvojové projekty zamerané na vzdelávanie, zdravotnú starostlivosť, zabezpečenie čistej pitnej vody a na podporu detí s postihnutím v Etiópii, Keni, Južnom Sudáne a Ugande,” informovala Dobrá novina.

Na verejnú zbierku Dobrá novina možno prispieť celoročne na číslo účtu IBAN: SK77 1100 0000 0029 4045 7894, Swift: TATRSKBX. Do konca januára 2017 aj formou darcovskej SMS v hodnote 2 EUR s textom DMS DOBRANOVINA na číslo 877. Bližšie informácie je možné nájsť na stránke www.dobranovina.sk.

TK KBS

Príhovor na Kongrese slovenských spisovateľov v Trenčianskych Tepliciach

Príhovor predsedu Únie slovenských spisovateľov, umelcov a kultúrnych tvorcov žijúcich mimo územia Slovenska Jozefa Rydla na Kongrese slovenských spisovateľov v Trenčianskych Tepliciach 22. – 23. septembra 2016.)

III.

Slovenskému spisovateľovi žičím, aby v obnovenom samostatnom štáte slovenskom nemusel živiť na pokraji spoločenského záujmu tak, ako je to dnes, čo je do neba volajúcou hanbou všetkých politických elít, ktoré sa striedajú pri kormidle vecí verejných. Im pripomínam verše Gorazda Zvonického:

*Štít bezbranných je Boh a češť...
Zrúť sa všetci, čo sa o lož oprú.
Blahoslavení, čo chcú v svetle konať,
lebo ich snahu úprimnú a dobrú
Boh berie pod patronát.*

Usporiadatelia mi vyhradili 10 minút vo večerných hodinách, keď sú už účastníci znavení, takže ani sa nedá veľa povedať, ani sa nemôže očakávať veľká ozvena.

Na jednu skutočnosť by som však rád poukázal. Kongres, ktorý sa konal v júni 1936 v Trenčianskych Tepliciach, si vytýčil program „*zaujať stanovisko k dnešnému spoločenskému poriadku a k vývoju kultúrnych, politických a hospodárskych pomerov na Slovensku po prevrate*.“ Terajší kongres by mohol s rovnakou oprávnenosťou tými istými slovami konfrontovať situáciu „*po páde červenej totality*“. Rovnaké problémy, rovnaké starosti, rovnaká bezradnosť v hľadaní uspokojivého riešenia. A problémy nové: Quo vadis, Európa? Kam kráčaš, Slovensko? Dechristianizácia spoločnosti, politická korektnosť na úkor vlastného národa, islamizácia nášho kontinentu.

Problém je aj v tom, že v roku 1936 spisovateľ požíval vo verejnosti autoritu a jeho slovo malo určitú váhu. Dnes to tak nie je, lebo spisovateľ si zvykol v službách socializmu byť „inžinierom ľudských duší“, čo mu síce prinášalo materiálne výhody, ale zničilo jeho prestíž vo verejnosti. Bohužiaľ, mnohí ľudia pera si tak zvykli na pohodlný život v službách zamestnávateľa, že prešli od jedného zamestnávateľa k druhému s takou ľahkosťou, s akou si vymieňajú ponožky.

Pero je ešte vždy mocnejšie ako meč (*The pen is mightier than the sword*), ale veľa záleží na tom, kto to pero drží v rukách. Či ho inšpiruje kresťanský idealizmus alebo kozmopolitný materializmus.

A konečná, kľúčová otázka: Je slovenská spisovateľská obec schopná nájsť tú jednotu, akou bol preniknutý zjazd v roku 1936, keď spisovatelia ľudoveckej, agrárnickej i socialistickej orientácie vedeli nájsť spoločný hlas?

Od chvíle, čo som sa po desaťročiach dobrovoľného vyhnanstva mohol vrátiť domov, pozorne sledujem rozhlas, televíziu, čítam noviny, časopisy, knihy a s nesmiernou bolesťou v srdci zisťujem, že z nášho hovoreného i tlačeného slova jeho pôvodcovia vypreli Boha. Božia prítomnosť, ktorá je podstatou našej národnej existencie, odkedy sme vstúpili do dejín, sa ocitla na periférii. Nie, nemám na mysli teologické rozpravy, apologetické traktáty, konfesijné diferencie, mám na mysli iba Božiu prítomnosť v živote našom každodennom, hľadanie pravdy, krásy a zmyslu ľudského života. Ako znak Matice slovenskej, Spolku slovenských spisovateľov, Únie slovenských spisovateľov, umelcov a kultúrnych tvorcov žijúcich mimo územia Slovenska, tak aj znak nášho obnoveného štátu, Slovenskej republiky, nám pripomína, že život nie je bez Boha, že naša kultúra má svoje korene v kresťanstve, nuž dajme väčší priestor Božej prítomnosti aj na stránkach našich novín, časopisov i našich kníh. Aby sa za nás naše deti nemuseli raz hanbiť, že sme nášmu národu stratili tvár a zatratili jeho dušu, pretože integrálnou súčasťou našej národnej identity je kresťanský svetonáhl'ad a, naopak, že kresťanský svetonázor Slovincov a Slovákov bez slovenského národného povedomia nie je úplný.

A na záver čerešničku z torty. Keď v roku 1986 vtedajšia periodická tlač pripamätávala slovenskej verejnosti 50. výročie trenčianskoteplického kongresu spisovateľov, Česi z memoárov Jaroslava Seiferta vycenzurovali jeho pitoresknú a veľmi sugestívnu spomienku na Rudolfa Dilonga a Slovinci ho vyretušovali z fotografií, kde bol v spoločnosti Vladimíra Clementisa a Il'ju Erenburga. Kto bude nepohodlným dnes?

Vďačím sa Vám za pozornosť, ktorú ste venovali týmto mojim slovám – čo sa Vám páčilo, povedzte, prosím, iným, čo sa Vám nepáčilo, povedzte, prosím, mne...

Jozef Rydlo

Želám si, aby sa s Betlehemským svetlom do domácností dostala láska

Skauti spod Tatier 11. decembra odovzdali Betlehemské svetlo prezidentovi SR Andrejovi Kiskovi. Po roku ho Kiska opäť prijal na Námestí sv. Egídia v Poprade. Dopoludnia odovzdali slovenskí skauti svetlo pokoja a lásky poľským kolegom, ktorí ho roznesú po celej krajine a poputuje pobaltskými krajinami, cez Rusko až na Sibír.

„Betlehemské svetlo šíri pokoj. Betlehemské svetlo sa šíri po celej našej krajine, prišlo zo Svätej zeme a ja by som si veľmi želal, aby sa s každým jedným zapáleným svetielkom do každej domácnosti dostala láska, porozumenie, ochota odpúšťať, ale aj ochota poprosiť o prepáčenie. To si želim a ďakujem veľmi našim skautom, že robia takú úžasnú prácu a šíria tento pokoj po celej našej krajine,“ konštatoval prezident. Kiska povedal, že Betlehemské svetlo, ktoré mu dnes darovali skauti spod Tatier, si odnesie domov. „Deti sa už veľmi tešia, pretože som im povedal, že im ho donesiem. Verím, že nám čím dlhšie vydrží, bude me sa o neho starať, aby nám počas celých Vianoc dávalo lásku,“ poznamenal prezident.

Betlehemské svetlo, ktoré dnes skauti odovzdali prezidentovi v Poprade, doniesli na Slovensko z Viedne, kam ho prinieslo dieťa svetla. Z Viedne ho prepravili práve pod Tatry, kde ho dopoludnia Slovinci odovzdali na svätej omši v podtatranskom meste Svit poľským skautom. V sobotu 17. decembra budú skauti od skorého rána rozvážať svetlo po celom Slovensku a doručia ho do viac ako 330 miest a obcí. Betlehemské svetlo sa dostane aj do obcí, kde nie je vlakové spojenie, aby k nemu mal prístup čo najväčší počet ľudí. Skauti budú rozvážať svetlo až do Štedrého dňa. V nedeľu 18. decembra ho vynesú aj na Lomnický štít, najvyššie položené obývatelné miesto na Slovensku.

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Fico sa po summite poďakoval Slovákom

Premiéra SR Roberta Fica teší pozitívne ocenenie slovenského predsedníctva v Rade EÚ zo strany najvyšších európskych predstaviteľov. Reagoval tak na slová vďaky, ktoré mu vyslovili predseda Európskej rady Donald Tusk a šéf Európskej komisie Jean Claude-Juncker.

Podľa Fica je dôležité, keď takéto hodnotenie prichádza zvonku a nie zvnútra.

Premiér po skončení štvrtkového summitu EÚ v Bruseli skonštatoval, že slovenské predsedníctvo bolo rámcované Bratislavskou cestovnou mapou, ktorá sa zrodila po neformálnom summite 27 lídrov EÚ v Bratislave.

Pripomenul, že Slovinci na čele Rady EÚ prišli s viacerými iniciatívami a podarilo sa im presadiť alebo posunúť ďalej pomerne veľa vecí. Medzi nimi rezonuje najmä ratifikácia Parížskej dohody o klíme, rýchle rokovania pri schvaľovaní rozpočtu EÚ na rok 2017, vyčlenenie 500 miliónov eur na iniciatívu záruky pre mladých ľudí alebo dôležité návrhy v oblasti energetickej bezpečnosti a digitálneho trhu.

„Chceli sme podávať profesionálne politické výkony a teší ma, že takto bol výkon celého tímu, ktorý robil na predsedníctve, hodnotený,“ skonštatoval premiér. Zároveň poďakoval všetkým ľuďom v Bruseli, ktorí sa najviac narobili počas šesťmesačného predsedníctva, aj dlho predtým na jeho dlhodobej príprave.

Slová vďaky Fico adresoval veľvyslancovi SR pri EÚ Petrovi Javorčíkovi, tímu okolo štátneho tajomníka na ministerstve zahraničných vecí Ivana Korčoka a celému rezortu slovenskej diplomacie, ako aj ministrom z ostatných rezortov a ich ľuďom. Celý proces slovenského predsedníctva bol podľa Fica kolektívnym dielom.

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FOTO TASR - Milan Kapusta

Na snímke pomocný prešovský gréckokatolícky biskup Milan Lach svätí vody Jordánu na Troch kráľov v obci Jakubany v okrese Stará Ľubovňa. V Jakubanoch 6. januára 2017.

The Presov Greek Catholic Bishop Milan Lach performs the traditional blessing of water in Jakubany, Slovakia on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 2017.



FOTO: TASR

Deň Zjavenia Pána – Troch kráľov patrí k najstarším kresťanským sviatkom

Kresťania na Slovensku i vo svete si 6. januára pripomínajú sviatok Zjavenia Pána - Troch kráľov, ktorý sa slávi už od 3. storočia. Je to deň, keď Boh svetlom hviezdy zjavil svojho syna všetkým národom.

V rímskokatolíckej cirkvi je 6. január prikázaným sviatkom, ktorého ústrednou témou je udalosť, keď traja mudrci z Východu prišli do Betlehema pokloniť sa novonarodenému Ježišovi a priniesli mu svoje dary - zlato, kadidlo a myrhu. Troch kráľov - Gašpara, Melichara a Baltazára priviedlo k malému Ježiškovi svetlo betlehemskej hviezdy. Traja kráľi sú tradičnými postavami betlehemov a sú tiež témou vianočných a trojkráľových hier. Vo sviatok Zjavenia Pána kňazi počas slávnostných omší posväcujú trojkráľovú vodu soľou, kriedou a tymianom. Vo viacerých kostoloch bývajú popoludní alebo večer trojkráľové koncerty alebo betlehemske hry.

Na sviatok Troch kráľov sa v minulosti zvykla konať aj tzv. kňazská koleda, pri ktorej kňazi obchádzali domy a požehnávali príbytky. Kropili ich svätenou vodou, okadili kadidlom a dvere označovali iniciálami troch kráľov - G. M. B. Na mnohých miestach, najmä na vidieku, sa táto tradícia zachovala dodnes. Kult „Troch kráľov“ bol v stredoveku veľmi rozšírený. Ich údajné relikvie sa prechovávali v Miláne, odkiaľ ich cisár Fridrich Barbarossa (1155-1190) odniesol do Kolína nad Rýnom a tam ich uložili v katedrále.

V minulosti si veriaci 6. januára pripomínali aj krst Ježiša v rieke Jordán. Od roku 1969 sa však táto udalosť v západnom latinskom obrade slávi osobitne, a to v nedeľu po Zjavení Pána. V byzantsko-slovanskom obrade (ale aj v iných východných obradoch) sa krst Ježiša Krista slávi spoločne s Bohozjavením a zjavením Najsvätejšej Trojice v pôvodnom dátume - 6. januára. Kresťanské cirkvi východného obradu slávia poklonu troch mudrcov malému Ježiškovi už v deň narodenia Spasiteľa - 25. decembra. Pravoslávni veriaci na Slovensku, ktorí sa pridružujú juliánskeho kalendára, začínajú 6. januára sláviť Vianoce.

TASR

Svätý Mikuláš zavítal aj do Washingtonu, DC

Svätý Mikuláš nezabudol ani na americko-slovenské deti žijúce v hlavnom meste Spojených štátov a jeho okolí. Vo Washingtone, DC zotrval celý víkend a potešil desiatky ratolesť. V sobotu 3. decembra ho medzi seba zavolali Slováci a Česi združení v organizácii Sokol Washington. Mikuláš, čert a anjel rozdávali tradičné slovenské mikulášske balíčky, samozrejme za básničku alebo pesničku. Mnohé deti im zaspievali alebo zarecitovali v slovenčine alebo v češtine. Mikuláš však akceptoval aj angličtinu.

O program sa na podujatí postarali deti z českej a slovenskej školy Sokol Washington. Nielen Mikulášovi, ale aj všetkým prítomným zaspievali niekoľko tradičných slovenských a českých vianočných piesní. Nechýbala ani básnička Mikulášku, dobrý strýčku. A kým deti maškrtili sladkosťami od Mikuláša a luskali orechy, ich rodičia si pochutnali na domácich zabijačkových dobrotách s kyslou kapustou a zemiakmi. V ponuke boli aj tradičné vianočné koláčiky.

V nedeľu zavítal Svätý Mikuláš na slovenské veľvyslanectvo, kde program zorganizovalo združenie Priatelja slovensko-amerikej spoločnosti Washington. Mikuláš s anjelom sa tu síce deťom prihovoriť v angličtine, ale mnohé deti sa nenechali zahabiť a zaspievali alebo zarecitovali im v slovenčine.

Na mikulášske podujatie na veľvyslanectve prišli nielen deti a ich rodičia, ale aj mnohí seniori s napojením na Slovensko, ktorí si radi pripomínajú slovenské tradície.

Šéfkuchár veľvyslanectva pripravil prítomným kapustnicu a rezne so šalátom. Nechýbalo ani vianočné pečivo. O dobrú náladu sa starala miestna kapela Orchester Praževica pod vedením Slováka Tomáša Drgoňa. A aké boli počas tohto roka americko-slovenské deti? Mikuláš bol celkom spokojný: „Boli väčšinou dobré. Nie perfektné, ale väčšinou dobré.“

TASR

Žiť s nádejou

Každý začiatok poskytuje možnosť a požaduje odvahu k novému vykročeniu. Nechať za sebou všetko minulé a staré, a pustiť sa žiť lepšie. Život je o dozrievaní a pribúdajúce roky o skúsenostiach. Práve doterajšie skúsenosti môžu byť podnetom pre určité zmeny alebo aspoň pre obnovu. Ak sme zažili sklamanie, pád, neúspech, treba znova povstať a ísť s nádejou, lebo ona nás udržia pri živote a pomáha nám v dosahovaní túžob a cieľov – menších i väčších.

Náš život má však aj jeden všetko prevyšujúci cieľ, ktorým je Boh. Vytrvalé smerovanie k Bohu, spoločné kráčanie s Kristom a živá túžba byť s Ním v Božom kráľovstve tvoria podstatu kresťanskej nádeje. Osobné predstavy, modlitby a prosby sa môžu a nemusia splniť. Ale je isté, že Ježiš nás miluje až do krajnosti (Jn 13, 1). Zostáva verný svojim príslubom a nemešká so svojim plánom. To len naše predstavy sú iné, naše myšlienky nie sú Božie myšlienky. Tie Božie sú oveľa vyššie, vznešenejšie a lepšie (Iz 55, 8-9).

Jeden z veľmi silných príbehov, ktoré máme vo Svätom Písme, je o Abrahámovi. Napriek úsiliu o čestný život, úctu, lásku a dôveru k Pánu Bohu, jeho základná modlitba, aby mal potomstvo, zostávala nevyslyšaná. Roky pribúdali, prišla staroba a Abrahám? Jeho veľký obdivovateľ, apoštol Pavol o ňom konštatoval: *On proti nádeji v nádeji uveril, že sa stane otcom mnohých národov ... neochabol vo viere ... Nezapochyboval nedôverčivo o Božom prisľúbení* (Rim 4, 18-20).

Beznádejná situácia – to je to miesto, kde sme sa už mohli ocitnúť v minulosti alebo sa tam práve môžeme nachádzať. Abrahám aj v takýchto okolnostiach dúfal a veril. Lebo náš Boh je *Bohom nádeje* (Rim 15, 13). *On napriek všetkým neúspechom chráni náš osobný život nezničiteľnou mocou svojej lásky* (Benedikt XVI, *Spes salvi*, 35).

Tak tomu bolo aj v prípade arcibiskupa Nguyen Van Thuana (1928-2002), ktorého vietnamský režim zavrel na trinásť rokov, z toho deväť rokov na samotke. V tejto situácii zdánlivo úplného zúfalstva sa neprestal modliť k Bohu a počúvať Boží hlas. Stal sa svedkom toho, že nádej je živá, ak máme úzky vzťah s Bohom a svoj život chápeme ako príbeh lásky.

Mať opravdivú nádej znamená mať osobný vzťah s Ježišom Kristom, dôverovať Mu v každej situácii, aj vtedy, keď sa cítime bezmocní, zabudnutí, stratení. Mať nádej znamená žiť vo vedomí, že Pán Boh je s nami, neopúšťa nás, ale miluje nás a stará sa o nás. Mať nádej znamená žiť vo vedomí, že na konci života stretneme Toho, ktorého sme hľadali a v ktorého sme dúfali, nášho Pána. Nevieme, čo prinesú nasledujúce dni. Môžeme však každý jeden z nich prežiť s Kristom a s dôverou v Pána Boha, že nám pomôže dosiahnuť Božie kráľovstvo, plné spoločenstvo s Ním. A zároveň môžeme každý jeden deň prinášať nádej iným, lebo taký bol Ježiš. Dodával nádej, ktorá menila všetko.

Farnosť sv. Gorazda.sk/ 2017/01



V nedeľu 4. decembra 2016 sa konalo už tradične zaužívané u slovenskej verejnosti v New York City Mikulášske posedenie vo farskej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC. Podujatie pripravili spojené farnosti kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, kostola Sv. Jána Mučenika, Sv. Františka Xavier Cabrini v spolupráci s členmi Spolku sv. Štefana a sv. Matúša IKSJ ako aj Slovenského katolíckeho Sokola v NYC. Na obrázku zhromaždení prítomní s deťmi všetkých kategórií s hlavným duchovným kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého Rev. Richard D. Baker (v hornom rade vľavo) a Sv. Mikulášom - Brian Korcek, (v hornom rade v prostriedku). (Ďalší obrázok z podujatia na str. 22)

**Všetkým našim členom IKSJ
želáme
Šťastný a úspešný Nový rok 2017**