



Catholic Fraternal Bi-Weekly

Jednota

THE UNION

USPS #273500 ISSN #1087-3392



Fr. Stephen Furdek
Our Founder

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Volume 116

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2007

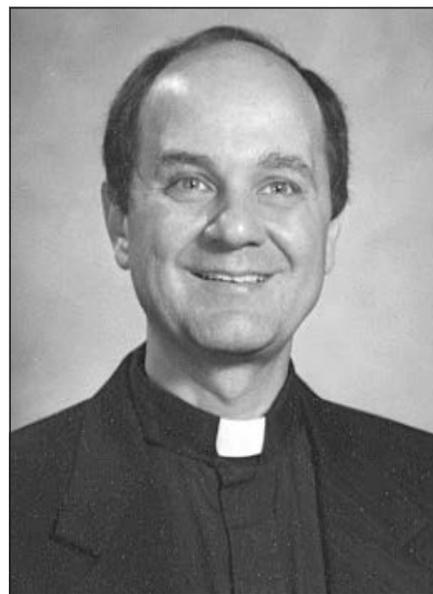
Number 5752

Chaplain's Report March 2007

Dear Board of Directors and Members of the F.C.S.U.:

It is an honor to be your National Chaplain. I was happy to be present for and to participate in several events during the past year.

After attending a Mass for Young People in Washington, DC's MCI Center on a January morning, I joined thousands of others from across the country and walked on Constitution Avenue toward the Capitol in the annual March for Life.



Fr. Thomas A. Nasta

The annual Board of Directors Meeting was held in March at the Boca Raton Resort in Florida. I opened and closed each session with prayer and offered Mass both days.

At the annual bowling tournament held in Pittsburgh, I was a substitute bowler and offered Mass.

I prepared and coordinated all the liturgical and paraliturgical celebrations for the 48th Quadrennial Convention at the Boca Raton Resort. I preached the homily at the convention's opening Mass, led the prayer service that honored the memory of our beloved members who died since the last convention, began and closed each session of the convention with prayer, and swore in the newly elected officers just prior to the convention's adjournment. At the Board of

Directors' semiannual meeting, which followed the convention, I opened and closed each session with prayer.

A few days after returning from the convention, I traveled to Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, PA for the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Association's 83rd Annual Slovak Day where I was a concelebrant at Mass. The next morning I drove to DuBois, PA for the annual Jednota Golf Tournament. I played both days and offered Mass.

I attended both meetings of the Executive Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation that were held in 2006. The meeting in March took place in Youngstown, OH and the September meeting was in Altoona, PA. I remained one extra day in Altoona for a meeting with the Conference of Slovak Clergy.

A couple of weeks later I went to St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City to concelebrate a Mass during which papal honors were bestowed on Thomas Hricik, now President Emeritus, and his wife, Gerry.

Throughout the year I have written articles that were published in our fraternal's newspaper and have answered correspondence sent to me.

The year 2006 was a special year of grace for all of us. May our Lord continue to bless us in our journey to Him.

**Fraternally,
Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain**

Report of the National Vice President

Reverend Father, President Rajec and Members of the Board of Directors:

As always, before I get into my report – I want to thank the Membership and Marketing Committee, which in the year 2006 was comprised of Brothers Thomas Hricik, Kenneth Arendt and George Matta, for all the time and effort they spend on the problems and solutions that concern membership and marketing. Each and every member is very concerned with the growth and success of our Society.

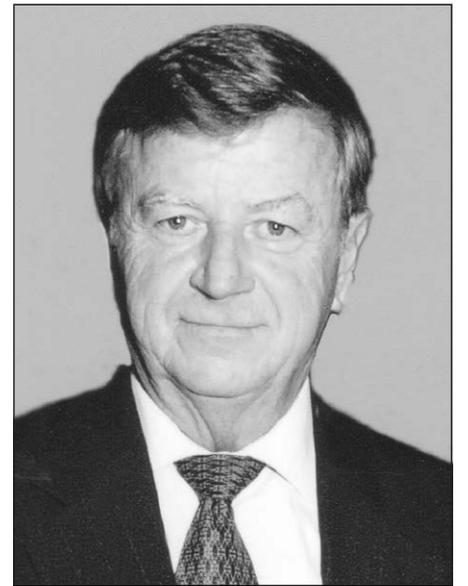
Membership

As you will see by our annual statement, the First Catholic Slovak Union is financially and fraternally sound. We had a good year. Our insurance in force grew over 4.2 million from the year before, our assets went up 1.8 million and our surplus gained 1.69 million.

This year, your new administration has changed its approach to membership and sales.

If you remember, a few years back, we did a membership study and came up with the facts that 53 ½ percent of our branch members are

continued on page 4



Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.

SEMINARS

For every three (3) new JEP Contracts... OR...one (1) new Ten Year Term Policy...or...

any new Whole Life Policy with a face value of at least \$10,000 you bring to the seminar in your area, you will receive a Modra Dish made in Slovakia. There is no limit on the number of dishes you can receive. The following seminars are finalized.

Sunday – April 22, 2007...Michigan and Rev. John J. Spitkovsky Districts

Lunch 1 P.M. – Seminar 2 P.M. at Best Western – Sterling Inn, 34911 Van Dyke Avenue, Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Saturday – April 28, 2007...Reverend Stephen Furdek District

Lunch 12 Noon – Seminar 1:15 P.M. at St. John the Baptist Slovak Church Hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Sunday – April 29, 2007...SS. Cyril and Methodius District

Lunch 2:30 P.M. – Seminar 3:30 P.M. at Holy Family Church Basement, Intersection of North Washington Avenue and Gibson Street. The rectory is listed at 510 Gibson Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Saturday – May 5, 2007...Msgr. Andrew Hlinka, George Onda, Frank T. Holly Jr. and Rev. John Martvon Districts

Seminar 12 Noon – Luncheon to follow Seminar at St. Mary's Nativity School Hall, 17 Gilmore Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

Sunday – May 20, 2007...St. Stephen Society – Branch 890

Seminar 2 P.M. – Luncheon to follow Seminar at the Slovak Hall, 51 East Silver Street, Westfield, Massachusetts.

More seminars are being scheduled!

If you plan on attending, please contact the Home Office at least 3 days before your scheduled seminar so we can get an attendance count.

As I've said repeatedly...the committee would like to see a larger turnout from members interested in learning more about our insurance and annuity products. In order to actively promote our portfolio, we must educate ourselves by attending seminars. The more we know about our products, the more confident and the more effective we'll become as proposers.

Please form a car pool and attend the seminars that will be scheduled in your area.

Until next time...

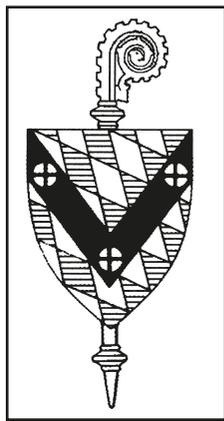
Good luck and God bless!

**Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice President
Membership & Marketing Chairman**

Inside

Editorial/Commentary.....	2, 3
Branch/District Announcements.....	6
Obituaries	10, 12
Sports.....	10
FCSU Financial.....	8
Slovak.....	15-20

Insights and Viewpoints



St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies Fr. Campion P. Gavaler, O.S.B. and Father Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B.

April 29, 2007

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Gospel Summary

In order to appreciate fully the import of this beautiful gospel passage, we need to pay close attention to the context. Earlier in chapter ten, Jesus calls himself the good shepherd and then defines a good shepherd as one who loves his sheep and is prepared to die for them. Sheep herding, contrary to some popular conceptions, is a hard and

lonely life, but the true shepherd loves his work and gladly accepts many sacrifices in order to keep his flock safe and sound.

When Jesus says, therefore, that "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me," he is assuming that the sheep already know how completely he has earned their trust. The sheep hear his distinctive call and follow him, not just because he is an authority figure in their lives, but because he has been such a good shepherd to them.

This example is, of course, only a metaphor for us Christians who belong to the spiritual flock of Jesus. It is assumed that we have experienced his love and know him so well that we implicitly trust his message as well as his promise of eternal life.

Life Implications

To belong to the spiritual flock of Jesus is to hear his voice. This means much more than simply reading or hearing about him. Such information is always helpful, but the decisive moment comes when we go beyond external testimony and begin to discover Jesus at the center of our lives in a profoundly intuitive and trusting manner.

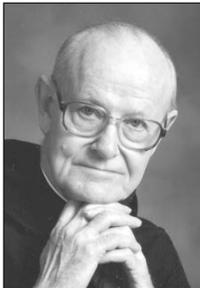
In the analogy that Jesus uses, we can be sure that the sheep who hear their shepherd's call do not go through some "rational" process before deciding to respond. On the contrary, there is, ever so gradually, an instinctive and whole-hearted recognition of the call and a total trust in the concern and devotion of the one who has already demonstrated his love and care for them.

In the case of us Christians, this is a spiritual bond that can be stronger than death. As Jesus tells us, nothing and no one can "take them out of my hand." The only precondition on our part is that we continue to trust the "way of Jesus," which means that we use our freedom and strength to be a loving, caring presence in our world. We can do this most effectively in the context of a supportive community and with the nourishment of the Eucharist.

Sometimes we are tempted to "give up" on people who seem never to be able to hear the voice of Jesus. We must keep in mind, however, that every human being comes into this world with a sensitivity for the call of God. Although this predisposition may be smothered by layers of protective insulation, we must always keep in mind that on any given day they may become once again vulnerable to God's saving call...and that we may be the instrument for that "breakthrough" to grace and new life.

When Jesus concludes by making the dramatic claim that "the Father and I are one," he is not just assuring us of his equal status in the Trinity of divine Persons. Rather, he is confirming that the life that he offers to us is the same life that he shares with the Father. This is made clear when he says, in the context of the Eucharist, that, "Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me" (6:57). It is divine and unending life that the good shepherd wants for us and we can be sure of having that life if we represent to others the same selfless love that he has shown to us.

John 10:27-30



Demetrius R. Dumm,
O.S.B.

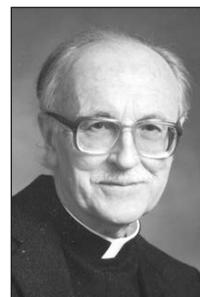
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Gospel Summary

Jesus tells his disciples in this passage from the Last Supper Discourse that now he is glorified, and God is glorified in him and will soon glorify him further. Jesus says that he will be with them only a little while longer. Then Jesus gives them a new commandment: "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." This is the sign whereby people will be able to recognize disciples of Jesus -- their love for one another.

Life Implications

The word "glory" appears about 375 times in the Old Testament and about 175 times in the New. The key to grasping its elusive meaning is to understand that, like a sacramental sign, its purpose is to create or to deepen personal relationship. "The heavens declare the glory of God...the whole earth is full of his glory" (Ps 19:2 and Is 6:3). It is possible, however, for an individual to express deep awe in the presence of the beauty of the heavens and the earth, yet not recognize the beauty as a gift of God's glory. For its inter-personal meaning to be realized, glory (like a sacrament) must at the same time be objectively given and subjectively received. To recognize the glory of divine presence in gratitude -- now doubling the meaning of the term -- is to give glory to God.



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

The Gospel according to John tells the good news that Jesus is the complete, human manifestation of God's presence among us: he is the glory or sacramental sign of the divine presence. John structures his gospel around seven major signs or expressions of divine glory: changing water to wine at the wedding feast ("Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him" [Jn 2:11]); cure of the noble's son; cure of the paralytic; feeding the multitude with bread; showing power over the sea; giving sight to the blind man; raising Lazarus from death. Through these signs some began to recognize the divine presence in him. Others, however, remained blind and did not perceive these events as the presence of God's glory.

In his farewell address, Jesus speaks of the eighth event that will be the summary and climax of the seven previous signs. This will happen when he is lifted up for all to see, giving himself in love even to death on a cross. This sign is the ultimate revelation that God is love -- the complete expression of God's glory. God is thus manifested or glorified in him. Jesus on the cross declares the supreme glory of God to be love. God then glorifies him through resurrection.

The Last Supper context of today's passage reminds us that now in every time and place, the Risen Lord extends the eighth sign of divine love through the Eucharist. The bread and wine do not hide, but express the glory of Christ -- the sacrament of his giving himself to us out of love just as he gave himself to us on the cross. Only through the seeing of faith can we recognize the glory manifested as Jesus gives himself on the cross and now gives himself to us as bread and wine.

It is no surprise to discover that Jesus asks all who believe in him to do what he has done to manifest God's glory. If we love others as he has loved us, if we become bread and wine for others, what we say and what we do become expressions of divine glory and signs of the divine presence. Through love that we give, people will know that we are disciples of Jesus. And perhaps in our age of disbelief, through the miracle of love, people may begin to believe in the divine presence, though heretofore they had not perceived the heavens and the whole earth to be filled with divine glory.

JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Bi-Weekly Issued 26 Times Annually

Publisher and Proprietor

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION of the United States of America and Canada

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road

Independence OH 44131-2398

ANTHONY X. SUTHERLAND, Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: United States—\$25.00 All other countries—\$30.00

PRINTED AT: PRESS AND JOURNAL, 20 S. Union Street, Middletown, PA 17057

Telephone: (717) 944-0461 FAX: (717) 944-3107

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Independence, OH 44131-2398

Periodical Postage paid at Cleveland, OH 44131 and additional mailing offices.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY 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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

Copy Deadline

MONDAY, APRIL 23

MONDAY, MAY 7

MONDAY, MAY 21

Correspondents who are announcing upcoming events should remember that the JEDNOTA is printed EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY, and should take into account the extra time lost in the postal system. Therefore, please plan to have your announcements to us in ample time for them to be printed and received by the readership.

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:

Anthony Sutherland, Editor

"JEDNOTA"

1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4835

FAX: (717) 944-3107

Insights and Viewpoints

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

It Is Written in Scripture Part I

What better place to go to read the Word of God? Lent focuses us onto two points: the teaching of Jesus Christ and our response to it with the view of cleansing and perfecting our lives and gaining entrance into heaven when the time comes as Peter writes: "I know, by the inclinations our Lord Jesus Christ has given me, how close is the day when I must fold my tent." (2 Peter 1:14)

We invite you to read the scripture below and also the text surrounding the quotation to understand the word of God fully.

Look around you! You do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether at dusk, at midnight, when the cock crows, or at early dawn. Do not let him come suddenly and catch you asleep. What I say to you, I say to all: Be on guard! (Mark 13:35-37)

(Regarding the Second Coming of the Son of Man) As for the exact day or hour, no one knows it, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but the Father only. (Matthew 24:36)

Keep your eyes open, for you know not the day or the hour. (Matthew 25:13)

You have no idea what kind of life will be yours tomorrow. You are a vapor that appears briefly and vanishes. Instead of saying, "If the Lord wills it, we shall live to do this or that," all you can do is make arrogant and pretentious claims. All such boasting is reprehensible. When a man knows the right thing to do and does not do it, he sins. (James 4:14-17)

There is nothing hidden that will not be exposed, nothing concealed that will not be known and brought to light. (Luke 8:17)

Keep your conscience clear, so that, whenever you are defamed, those who libel your way of life in Christ may be shamed. (1 Peter 3:16)

No one who is tempted is free to say, "I am being tempted by God." Surely God, who is beyond the grasp of evil, tempts no one. Rather the tug and lure of his own passion tempt every man. Once passion has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin reaches maturity it begets death. (James 1:13-15)

Do you not see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him impure? It does not penetrate his being, but enters his stomach only and passes into the latrine. What emerges from within a man, that and nothing else is what makes him impure. Wicked designs come from the deep recesses of the heart: acts of fornication, theft, murder, adulterous conduct, greed, maliciousness, deceit, sensuality, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, an obtuse spirit. All these evils come from within and render a man impure. (Mark 7:18-23)

Remember this: the person who brings a sinner back from his way will save his soul from death and cancel a multitude of sins. (James 5:20) (Commentary: "his" – The sinner or the person who brings him back? See Ezekiel 3:21 – "When, on the other hand, you have warned a virtuous man not to sin, and he has in fact not sinned, he shall surely live because of the warning, and you shall save your own life." Ezekiel 33:9 – "But if you warn the wicked man, trying to turn him from his way, and he refuses to turn from his way, he shall die for his guilt, but you shall save yourself." Conclusion: "his" may very well include the sinner and the person who seeks to bring him back – both.)

I tell you, there will likewise be more joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to repent. (Luke 15:7)

If we say, "We are free from the guilt of sin," we deceive ourselves; the truth is not to be found in us. But if we acknowledge our sins, he who is just can be trusted to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrong. If we say, "We have never sinned," we make him a liar and his word finds no place in us. (1 John 8:10)

You are not to spend what remains of your earthly life on human desires but on the will of God. Already you have devoted enough time to what the pagans enjoy, living lives of debauchery, evil desires, drunkenness, orgies, carousing, and wanton idolatry. (1 Peter 4:2-3)

Surely anyone is the slave of that by which he has been overcome. (2 Peter 2:19)

Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cloak for vice. In a word, live as servants of God. You must esteem the person of every man. (1 Peter 2:16-17)

Where do the conflicts and disputes among you originate? Is it not your inner cravings that make war within your members? What you desire you do not obtain, and so you resort to murder. You envy and cannot acquire, so you quarrel and fight. You do not obtain because you do not ask. You ask and you do not receive because you ask wrongly, with a view to squandering what you receive on your pleasures. O you unfaithful ones, are you not aware that love of the world is enmity to God? A man is marked as God's enemy if he chooses to be the world's friend. (James 4:1-4)

Scandals will inevitably arise, but woe to him through whom they come. (Luke 17:1)

Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger, for a man's anger does not fulfill God's justice. (James 1:19-20)

See how tiny the spark is that sets a huge forest ablaze! The tongue is such a flame. It exists among our members as a whole universe of malice. The tongue defiles the entire body. Its flames encircle our course from birth, and its fire is kindled by hell. Every form of life, four-footed or winged, crawling or swimming, can be tamed, and has been tamed, by mankind: the tongue no man can tame. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. We use it to say, "Praised be the Lord and Father;" then we use it to curse men, although they are made in the likeness of God. Blessing and curse come out of the same mouth. This ought not to be, my brothers! (James 3:5-10)

He who cares for life and wants to see prosperous days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from uttering deceit. He must turn from evil and do good, seek peace and follow after it, because the Lord has eyes for the just and ears for their cry but against evildoers the Lord sets his face. (1 Peter 3:10-12)

to be continued

~NEWS FLASH~

Special 2% Annuity Bonus Limited Time Only You Must Act Before 06/30/07

FCSU's flexible premium annuities are among the safest and most secure ways to provide funds for the future. The current interest rate of 5%(*) on the 6 year flexible premium annuity remains among the most competitive rates available.

*Current interest rate is reviewed quarterly by Executive Committee and subject to change.

Now we offer the opportunity for a 2% bonus on New funds deposited before 06/30/07

How do you earn this 2% Bonus?

- Applicable to both new and current annuity members.
- Applies only to new annuity deposits made to a new Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity policy.
- Deposits made between receipt of this notice and June 30, 2007. Minimum new deposit \$4,000.
- Bonus of 2% will be added to your annuity on June 30, 2011.

* Bonus Rules *

1. Bonus of 2% applies only to net deposits received by FCSU between receipt of this offer and June 30, 2007, excluding interest earned and less any withdrawal made between 01/01/07 and 06/30/07. Bonus payable only on the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity.

2. Bonus of 2% will be credited on 06/30/2011. The bonus will be based on the net funds deposited between 01/01/07 and 06/30/07, which must be maintained with FCSU until 06/30/2011. (Interest earned on the bonus funds will not be included in the bonus calculations.) Example: \$100,000 @ 5.0%* (4 years) + 2% of \$100,000 = \$123,551.

3. If member with funds eligible for the bonus dies prior to 06/30/2007, no bonus is payable. If a member with funds eligible for the bonus dies between July 1, 2007 and July 1, 2011, the bonus will be prorated to the date of death.

4. To be eligible for the 2% bonus, new deposits must be received by June 30, 2007. Any FCSU annuity withdrawals after January 1, 2007 and redeposit with FCSU (except Park Money Annuity and Park 2 Annuity) prior to 06/30/07 will not be eligible for the 2% bonus.

Features of the Six-Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

- Your annuity continues to accumulate interest after you have stopped contributing and have begun to receive retirement income. The interest rate you receive on your annuity after settlement will never be less than 3.0%.
- Death Benefit-If you die prior to settlement, your beneficiary receives the full cash value of the annuity. If you die while receiving retirement benefits, the value of your remaining guaranteed benefits will be paid to your beneficiary.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Since annuities are meant to be long-term investments for providing retirement funds, funds withdrawn during the first six years of your contract are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. You may withdraw 10% of your 'beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- Your interest will be added to your account. You may, however, elect to have your interest paid directly to you on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually basis. This is called an Interest Option and the interest rate is slightly lower than if you left your interest to accumulate.
- Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- Also available in a Traditional IRA or Roth IRA (subject to IRA Guidelines)

DON'T DELAY, ACT NOW!

For information, contact:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

P. O. Box 318013

Independence, OH 44131-8013

Call 1-800 JEDNOTA or 1-216-642-9406

Insurance Sales Person

We are looking to add a full-time sales person to our Home Office team in Independence, Ohio. This person should have current life insurance license and a few years insurance experience. There is a base salary, plus commissions and employee benefits.

This position will work with recommenders to help them make sales and work with inactive branches.

Mail a resume to the Home Office, Attn. President Andrew M. Rajec or Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt or e-mail to: president@fcsu.com

Report of the National Vice President

continued from page 1

covered with less than \$2,500.00 of life insurance.

I was given some statistics at last years NFCA annual meeting that I would like to pass on.

According to LIMRA (Life Insurance and Market Research Association)

- The average amount of life insurance coverage on insured individuals has grown by \$36,000.00 in constant dollars since 1998 – reaching \$146,300.00 in 2004.

- Consumers feel buying life insurance is an important and complex final decision. Eight in ten find it difficult to decide how much and what type to buy and worry about making the wrong decision. Two thirds don't know where to buy or who to turn to for help.

- Sixty-eight percent of the U.S. adults are covered by life insurance. That leaves one third of Americans with no coverage.

- Almost half of those without insurance said no one has approached them about coverage.

These are alarming facts and the Membership and Marketing Committee is implementing plans to meet them head on. We will go into detail on this when we get into marketing.

It is not only necessary to stress the importance of membership procurement, but we also have an obligation to our proposers. The Membership and Marketing Committee would like to express their sincere thanks to those recommenders who consistently recommend new or increase business during our campaigns.

Now for last years "Top Guns" ... Our Societies "Best of the Best."

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 15 Producers by **Amount of Insurance Sold** for the 2006 Membership Campaign.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Karianne R. Barnes | 9. Andrew R. Harcar |
| 2. James Robert Marmol | 10. Jacquelyn Bobby |
| 3. George A. Sprock | 11. John A. Jurcenko |
| 4. George J. Kelchak | 12. George J. Anthony |
| 5. Dorothy J. Petrus | 13. Joseph E. Rura |
| 6. Audrey J. Balazik | 14. Frances Tarquinio |
| 7. Susan J. Salko | 15. Henry J. Zack |
| 8. Kenneth Vehec | |

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 14 Proposers by **Amount of Annuity/IRA/Park Money** brought in for the 2006 Campaign.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Rosemary Deliman | 8. Thomas M. Hricik |
| 2. Florence K. Matta | 9. Robert J. Lutz |
| 3. Andrew R. Harcar | 10. Irene M. Stancik |
| 4. George A. Sprock | 11. Joseph J. Yuros |
| 5. Lois Kristoff-Kichka | 12. Margaret A. Graytok |
| 6. Joseph John Lucas | 13. Steven G. Luca |
| 7. Bernard F. Zilka | 14. Theresa R. Chupka |

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 15 Insurance/Annuity Proposers by **Total Points** for the 2006 Membership Campaign.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Rosemary Deliman | 9. Joseph Fecik |
| 2. George A. Sprock | 10. Karianne R. Barnes |
| 3. Andrew R. Harcar | 11. Anna L. Abaray |
| 4. Florence K. Matta | 12. Lois Kristoff-Kichka |
| 5. Marie A. Gryczko | 13. Joseph E. Rura |
| 6. Dorothy J. Petrus | 14. James Robert Marmol |
| 7. John Fialkovich | 15. George J. Kelchak |
| 8. Audrey J. Balazik | |

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 16 Proposers by the **Number of Most Policies Sold** for the 2006 Campaign.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Dorothy J. Petrus | 9. George J. Kelchak |
| 2. George A. Sprock | 10. Margaret Ann Bertovich |
| 3. Audrey J. Balazik | 11. Kenneth Vehec |
| 4. John A. Jurcenko | 12. James Robert Marmol |
| 5. Joseph E. Rura | 13. Dolores C. Carlson |
| 6. Frances Tarquinio | 14. Barbara Sochovka |
| 7. Andrew R. Harcar | 15. Michael E. Lako |
| 8. Karianne R. Barnes | 16. Patricia Conner |

To each and everyone who signed a member and/or sent in an Annuity/IRA/Park Money contract for the year 2006. My heartfelt thanks and congratulations for a Job Well Done!

Marketing

This past year the Membership and Marketing Committee...

- Advertised in the Diocesan newspapers in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois and New York. Advertised on Slovak Radio Programs and sent direct mailings to members.

- On the annual Premium Juvenile Enrichment Plan (JEP) we were offering a special fraternal dividend of \$14.00 toward the first year premium. The special program ran from December 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 and was only good for \$10,000.00 and \$25,000.00 face value policies.

- FCSU Life held a year-long campaign where they paid 6% interest (5.827% APR) for one full year on all annuity deposits received or rolled over from current FCSU annuities. Deposits could be credited to non-qualified Flexible Premium Deferred, traditional IRA or Roth IRA Annuities. Park Annuities and cash interest options were excluded from this offer. Withdrawal charges on all rollovers from current FCSU annuities were waived.

- The Membership and Marketing Committee always devotes a portion of the executive meetings, which are held every month, to membership retention and marketing.

- Raised minimum amount of insurance from \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00 effective June 1,

2006 – This does not include our educational plan.

- Held a year long Presidential Campaign. It ran from July 2005 to the Presidential Banquet in July 2006. Had 5 drawings totaling \$4,450.00 for new insurance policies and 5 drawings totaling \$4,450.00 for new Annuity/IRA Money that was brought in.

- Approved a 20-year term policy. We needed this 20-year term to round out our insurance portfolio.

- The Committee is working with our actuaries on new insurance policies.

Activities

Some of my activities in the year 2006 were: Attended all monthly executive meetings as well as special meetings called by the president. Articles were written pertaining to insurance and published in the JEDNOTA. From April through December, I sent the Top Guns to the printery. Letters concerning marketing were sent to the recommenders. Attended various branch and district meeting and/or social functions. Attended the Illinois Fraternal Congress Meeting in Lisle, Illinois. Attended Bruce and DePersis Seminar in Pittsburgh. I served on the Convention Committee. Attended the Indiana Fraternal Congress Meeting in Nappanee, Indiana. Attended the National Fraternal Congress Meeting in Arizona. Represented the Society at a reception for Slovak organizations hosted by Chicago's Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas. Represented the Society at Indiana Slovak Day in Merrillville, Indiana. I inform all Regional Directors of their districts insurance and annuity production on a quarterly basis. I am also the Chairman of the Membership and Marketing Committee.

At this time, I personally want to thank our Executive Committee and the Board of Directors for their help and encouragement. Many thanks to the District and Branch Officers for their untiring commitment to our Society. I want to express my sincerest thanks to our Home Office Staff for the excellent help and cooperation given to me throughout the year.

*Until next time,
Good luck and God bless!*
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice President

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY – KENNETH A. ARENDT

ATTENTION ALL DISTRICT AND BRANCH OFFICERS!

At the 48th Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union held in Boca Raton, Florida in July 2006, it was agreed that in order to qualify for your \$4.00 per member stipend for 2007 you must meet the following requirements as stated in the Bylaw section 4.05:

"By the end of February of each year, the Home Office shall pay each local branch \$4.00 per member, per year, not to exceed \$8,000.00, provided the local branch has fulfilled the following requirements:

(a) Published, announced and conducted two (2) semiannual meetings, one (1) of which shall be an annual meeting held for the election of officers. Meeting attendance sheets shall accompany the reports submitted to the Executive Secretary.

(b) Submitted an annual report to the Executive Secretary on a form provided, by February 15th of the following year.

(c) Submitted a financial report to the Executive Secretary on a form provided, by February 15th of the following year.

(d) Hosted, sponsored, promoted, or attended at least one fraternal activity in the past year.

(e) Produced at least one (1) new contract in the previous calendar year. Branches with two hundred fifty (250) or more members must produce at least two (2) new contracts.

(f) Provided the Home Office, on a continuing basis, current addresses of members and completed change of beneficiary forms, death reports, and such other documents as required by the Home Office.

(g) Sent a branch representative to attend at least one (1) district meeting per calendar year. Those in attendance at the district meeting may vote to provide a branch with an excused absence.

1. Members attending a district meeting shall sign an attendance sheet evidencing their presence at the event. The district shall notify the Executive Secretary of those branches failing to meet this attendance requirement of article "g" above by no later than February 15th of the following year.

2. The Executive Secretary shall publish no later than March 31st of the following year in the Official Organ those branches failing to meet the requirement of section 4.05.

(h) Maintained good standing within it's district by paying current fiscal year dues and any other dues that may be outstanding from previous years."

Your branch meeting announcement for publication in the Jednota Newspaper should be sent directly to Jednota Estates, Attn: Anthony Sutherland, Editor, 1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057; Fax (717) 944-3107. Announcements may also be sent directly to the Home Office to be placed on the Branch and District Web Page. All copies are due by 4:30 p.m. the Monday before the issue date.

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE BE SURE YOU PRODUCE ONE NEW CONTRACT FOR THE YEAR.

Akron Branch 553 Holds Insurance and Annuity Seminar

On Sunday, March 25, 2007, the St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 553, sponsored an Insurance and Annuity Seminar in conjunction with its quarterly meeting at the Slovak "J" Club in Akron, Ohio.

Members attended a Mass at St. John the Baptist Church in Akron. Following the liturgy, all members were invited to a Communion Brunch in the Slovak "J" Club. The meeting and seminar were held after the brunch.

Branch 553 Vice President Greg Petrasek opened the seminar and introduced the national officers, who conducted an extremely informative and educational presentation regarding FCSU products.

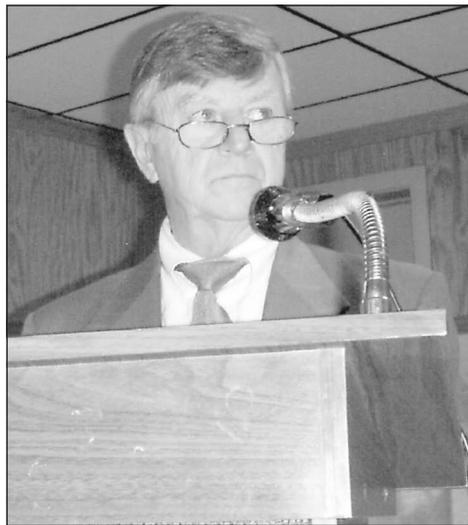
National President Andrew M. Rajec kicked off the seminar with informative and encouraging remarks. He was followed by Vice President and Chairman of Membership and Marketing Andrew Harcar Sr., who provided a comprehensive review of the policies available to our members. Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt concluded the seminar by providing details on the "great deals" in the annuity bonus program.

National President Rajec and Branch 553 Vice President Petrasek challenged all the seminar participants to increase sales and membership, and to encourage our younger members to not only utilize Jednota for their financial security but also to become active supporters of our local branch. Immediately following the presentations, five applications for annuities and two applications for insurance were requested. "Not a bad start to achieving our goal of 100 new members in 2007," replied Vice President Petrasek. He encouraged all members to conduct similar programs for their members.

Steve Petrasek, President Emeritus, Br. 553



Our National President Andrew Rajec opens the seminar with some encouraging remarks.



Our National Vice President Andrew Harcar Sr. gave a presentation on insurance products available through the FCSU.



Front row, L-R: National Vice President Andrew Harcar Sr.; Branch 553 President Emeritus Stephen Petrasek; National President Andrew Rajec; and Branch 553 Financial Secretary Ann Kacsanek. Back row, L-R: Branch 553 Auditor Lennie Gmerek; Branch 553 Treasurer George Kacsanek; Branch 553 Auditor George Smith; Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt; and Branch 553 Vice President Greg Petrasek.



National Officers, President Andrew Rajec, Vice President Andrew Harcar Sr. and Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt prepare for the seminar.

From the desk of the Executive Secretary:

DIVIDENDS INCREASED BY 25%

Board of Directors and Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union are pleased to announce a 25% dividend increase for 2007. Through management control and wise investments over the last 12 years our Society has enjoyed tremendous growth. We have experienced a surplus increase from 2006 to 2007 of 17.1%. As a result we want to reward our members for showing confidence and trust in our Society.

Slovak Foreign Minister Discusses Visas, Security and the EU in Prague

Slovak Foreign Minister Jan Kubis held talks recently in Prague on the visa question, security and the EU with Karel Schwarzenberg, Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic.

Both ministers touched upon the possible abolishment of the visa duty to the United States for new EU and NATO members. They appreciated the fact that the U.S. Senate recently passed an internal security act, which may lead to the visa duty being scrapped. Schwarzenberg, however, considers it to be only the first step. Therefore, he, along with Kubis, called for joint action concerning the visa duty within V4 (Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland) and the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Kubis said that Slovakia, as the current V4 chair country, will initiate talks on this issue.

Schwarzenberg and Kubis also discussed the U.S. anti-ballistic missile system, part of which should be military bases in the Czech Republic and Poland. Kubis appreciated the fact that the Czech Republic informed Slovakia about its negotiations on this issue, adding that Slovakia supports such talks also on the NATO level.

TASR

From the desk of the Executive Secretary – **Visit our web site! www.fcsu.com**

Exciting News – The Jednota Newspaper (English and Slovak sections) is now on our web page and for your convenience 4 back issues and the current issue are maintained on the web page at all times. If you missed an article or looking for a recipe you need only to go to the web site

Branch and District Officers announcements are now on the web page and listings of all activities for the various regions.

If you are looking for forms or applications you may find those also on the web site.

We encourage our branch and district officers to use this means of keeping in touch with their branch members and announcing events. The email address is fcsu@aol.com if you wish to send your information to the home office.

We will continue to update the web page, please check for announcements such as our special 2% bonus now being offered through our annuity program, special offers on our insurance products, trips to Slovakia, and our Alaskan Cruise Membership Meet.

WEB SITE – www.fcsu.com

Tour of Slovakia, Vienna, Prague and Poland

John's Tours is planning a tour to cover Slovakia along with a day in Vienna, two days in Poland and also visit Krakow, Wielicyka Salt Mine, Wadowice, birthplace of Karol Wojtyla the late Pope John Paul II along with Auschwitz the largest Nazi Concentration Camp of World War II. We will visit Zakopone and its Market Place, and the village of Zdiar a Goral Village with typical wooden houses and strong folk traditions. The tour will be September 7-23.

We will assist you with arrangements to visit relatives. So join us on our 17-day vacation. For a brochure with detailed information, call or write to: John's Tours, P O Box 154, Vandergrift, PA 15690. Call 1-800-260-8687 or 724/567-7341; fax 724/568-5252.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT—

Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2007, at St. Ann's Church, Lansford, Pennsylvania. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. in St. Ann's Church, East Bertsch and Tunnel Streets, Lansford. Dinner will be served after the liturgy at 12:30 p.m. at the Lansford Am Vets, at 201 West Ridge Street. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m.

The cost of the meal will be \$15.00 per person. Make your checks payable to host Branch 293 and send it along with your credentials by Monday, April 16. Please send them in on time. Make note of my new address on the credentials.

Hope to see many of you at the meeting. Have a Happy and Blessed Easter.

Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary

GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT—

Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

The George Onda District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 29, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the Old Country Buffet in the Eastgate Plaza, Route 30, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT—

New Jersey

The Msgr. John E. Rura District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church Hall, 16 East Somerset Street, Raritan, New Jersey. Branch 290 will host the meeting. Branch secretaries are asked to call Joe Minarovich at 732/469-5256 by April 12 with the number of members who will be attending. Please join us. Refreshments will be served.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

MSGR. JOSEPH TISO DISTRICT—

Allegheny-Kiski Valley, Pennsylvania

The Msgr. Joseph Tiso District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 29, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the C.U. Club, 912 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, Pennsylvania. A light luncheon will be served. Branch delegates are asked to call Grace Charney at 724/763-1104 to confirm their attendance.

Grace M. Charney, Secretary

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Branch 55—

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 55, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, May 20, 2007, immediately after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Church Hall of St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene Church, 319 Brown Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Regular business will be conducted. Refreshments will be served.

We try to follow the tradition of Slovak Catholic fraternal societies of having a Mass before a meeting. Therefore, we urge all members to attend the 10:30 a.m. Mass before the meeting. Please call the president at 610/356-7956 for directions.

Josephine E. Gerba, Secretary

Branch 290—

RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 290, will hold a meeting on Thursday, April 26, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. Please call Joe Minarovich after 6:30 p.m. at 732/469-5256 for the location of the meeting.

Joseph F. Minarovich, President

Branch 380—

CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Ignatius Society, Branch 380, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at 236 West Pike Street, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania.

Margaret Graytok

Branch 372—

BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 372, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. in Holy Spirit Church Hall, Cameron Avenue, Beaverdale, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend.

Michael P. Hudak, Vice President

Branch 456—

HAWK RUN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 456, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2007, at 12:00 noon at the Lincoln Club Meeting Room, Fourth Street, Hawk Run, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend.

Frank Danko, Secretary

Branch 746—

LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, May 20, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, Linden, New Jersey. On the agenda will be a discussion and planning for the summer picnic and other possible events. Please bring your suggestions. Refreshments will follow.

We are sponsoring a bus trip on Saturday, October 6, 2007, to see "In the Beginning" at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Join us for the show and dinner. Please call Mary Karch at 732/572-2331 for information and reservations.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

Branch 856—

WASHINGTON, D.C., MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA

Our Mother of Sorrows Society, Branch 856, will hold its next meeting on Thursday, May 10, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at the Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Boulevard, Falls Church, Virginia. On the agenda will be a discussion of the District meeting and other possible events. All members are urged to attend. For more information call Stephen Matula at 703/671-3013 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 703/860-1693.

**Katherine Nowatkoski,
Financial Secretary**

REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT—

Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 29, 2007, at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. There will be a short period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments at 1:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 2:00 p.m. All branches are encouraged to send delegates to the meeting. Delegates will be treated to dinner. If you plan to attend, please call District II President John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

MICHIGAN DISTRICT—

Michigan

The Michigan District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2007, at the Best Western Sterling Inn, 34911 Van Dyke Avenue, Sterling Heights, Michigan. The hotel is located on the southwest corner on Van Dyke at 15 Mile Road. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. with a buffet lunch followed by a brief district meeting, and immediately followed by a Sales Seminar presented by the Home Office.

We will begin the day with a Slovak Mass at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights. All members are urged to attend.

Since the Home Office is providing lunch you must call in your attendance reservation to Ken Arendt at 1/800-533-6682 by April 16, 2007.

Please note that section 4.05 (g) of the 2007 bylaws requires branch attendance at least one (1) district meeting per calendar year.

Selling our insurance and annuity products is critical to our Society's growth. Be there!

Anna Magusin, Secretary

REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT—

Blair, Cambria, Indiana, Somerset and Bedford Counties, Pennsylvania

The Rev. John Martvon District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 29, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Benedict Church Hall, Main Street, Carrolltown, Pennsylvania. District branch members are reminded of the requirements of Section 4.05 (g & h) of the bylaws to be eligible to receive the \$4.00 per member in 2007. One branch representative must attend at least one District Meeting per year and current fiscal dues and any past outstanding dues must be paid. Let's have a good turnout at this semiannual meeting.

Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary

SS. CYRIL AND METHIDIUS DISTRICT—

Luzerne & Lackawanna Counties, Pennsylvania and Broome County, New York

The SS. Cyril and Methodius District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 29, 2007, at Holy Family Church, Gibson and Washington Streets, Scranton, Pennsylvania. A luncheon will be served to all in attendance at 2:30 p.m. followed by a business and sales seminar at 3:30 p.m. conducted by National Vice President Andrew Harcar Sr., from the Home Office. There will also be a short District Meeting to discuss various subjects including the summer picnic and a trip to Ellis Island.

Reservations must be made by contacting one of the following officers: Michael Slovenkai at 570/342-7562, Dorothy Ungvasky at 570/403-2067, or Frank Haynak at 607/797-6160.

Theresa Chupka, Recording Secretary



High Tatras Most Popular Region in Slovakia

Almost 50 percent of Slovaks consider the High Tatras to be the most attractive region in the country, according to a poll released recently. The poll was conducted in November 2006 on a sample of 997 respondents.

As many as 25 percent of those polled think the Slovensky Raj (Slovak Paradise) area in central-eastern Slovakia is the most attractive region while 10 percent chose the Low Tatras. Among other popular regions are Orava (Zilina region), Bratislava and Liptov (Zilina region).

The High Tatras are popular especially among people younger than 29 and those older than 60, people living in towns with more than 100,000 inhabitants and people from Kosice, Banska Bystrica and Trencin regions.

Most of the respondents expect entertainment and culture from their holiday. Other important factors that impact the holidays people choose are tourism facilities, mountain and spa resorts and relaxation and sports facilities.

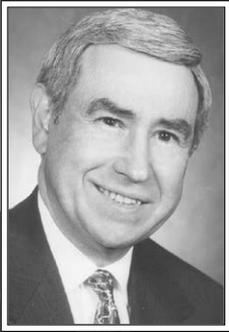
Peoples' choices of holiday resorts are also influenced by the quality of services, especially the restaurants, hotel and accommodation facilities, flexible serving of meals, a swimming pool, fitness room, and the possibility of getting a massage.

TASR

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By Joseph T. Senko

*Certified Public Accountant
Certified Financial Planner
Personal Financial Specialist
(AICPA)*



How To Select The Right Investments For The Right Goals

When it comes to investing, there's no one-size-fits-all strategy. Your strategy will vary, depending on your stage in life, financial resources, and specific goals.

Setting goals is the most important part of planning and implementing any investment plan. For example, are you trying to save for retirement, a new home, or college tuition? If you would like to save for all three goals, prioritize them and set a time frame for each. Recognize that you will have more time to save for some goals than others. Financial goals are generally classified as short-, medium-, and long-term. Knowing how long you have until you need the money for each goal will help you determine the appropriate investments.

Short-Term Goals Call For Low-Risk Investments

Short-term goals are generally defined as those that you hope to achieve within one-to-three years. Common short-term goals include paying off credit card debt, going on a vacation, and making a down payment on a car. If you have more than one or two short-term goals, you will need to prioritize them.

Low-risk, cash-equivalent accounts such as a passbook savings or money markets are generally the best investment options when working within a short time period. Other possibilities include Treasury bills with a maturity of one year or less and bank certificates of deposit (CDs). These safe options generally garner lower returns than riskier investments.

Stocks or mutual funds, which can fluctuate greatly, may not give you the return you need in the short term. It is possible that you could lose money if you had to sell your investment at a time when the market is down.

Medium-Term Goals Require Conservative Investments

Medium-term goals fall in the three- to five-year range. For these goals, such as saving for a down payment on a house, a conservative approach remains the best strategy. The higher return you might earn by investing in stocks may not be worth the risk that the market may fall at the time you need the money.

When investing for this timespan, FCSU Park annuity, longer-term CDs, short-term bonds, and Treasury notes would be appropriate investments. Keep in mind that as your financial goal gets closer, you will have to move funds into cash-equivalent investments.

Long-Term Goals Allow For More Growth

With a long-term goal, such as saving for your child's college education or your own retirement, time means more flexibility. You can invest in growth assets, such as stocks, which fluctuate more but tend to produce a greater return over time. Unlike more conservative investments, stocks can outpace inflation, an important consideration when investing for long-term goals. Since you have time to weather ups and downs in the market, the risk is reduced.

How you allocate your assets among the different types of investments takes on increased importance when investing for the long-term. Choosing the right mix of stocks, bonds, and cash equivalents is the single most important factor for successful investing. Remember, as you move closer to the time when you'll need the money, reallocate your assets toward more conservative investments.

Refine Your Investment Strategies Often

If you're like most people, your financial goals will shift throughout the course of your life. You must review your goals and investments regularly to ensure that they reflect your changing needs.

If you have additional questions on this subject, contact Joe Senko at Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220 or 412/531-2990 or fax 412/531-4793 or jsenko@mvs-cpa.com



Slovakia Presents Investment and Tourism Possibilities in Washington, D.C.

Slovakia has introduced itself as a country with rapid economic growth and a favorable business environment at the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C., Economy Minister Lubomir Jahnatek said recently during his visit to the United States. American businessmen, state officials, trade union representatives and members of Friends of Slovakia were also present at the Embassy for the meeting.

"In the future, we want to focus on intensifying mutual relations, especially concerning trade and commerce, knowledge-based society, applied research and projects with higher added value," Economy Minister Jahnatek said.

During a presentation of the investment and tourism prospects in Slovakia with Slovak Tourism Agency (SACR) Head Zuzana Rekenova in attendance, the country's new Tourism Development Strategy to 2013 was presented. "Among its aims are to boost Slovakia's competitiveness, alleviate regional disparities, make use of all the possibilities that exist and create new jobs," Jahnatek said, adding that Slovakia has to make use of its specific regional characteristics given that there is great competition in today's global tourism market.

TASR

Gus and Marge Kapsa Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

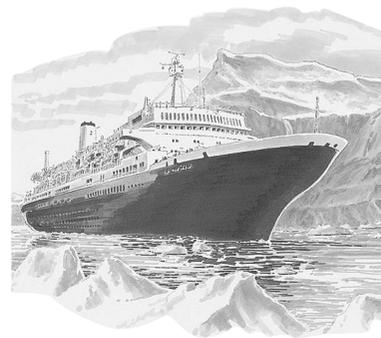
Gus and Marge Kapsa, of Etobicoke, Ontario, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, on October 13, 2006. They were married by Msgr. Michael Shuba, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, in Toronto, in October 1956. The happy couple celebrated by enjoying an evening with family, relatives and friends at the home of their son, in Mississauga. The event was hosted by their children Gary and Vanessa Kapsa, Carolyn and Don Fallis, and their grandchildren.

Congratulations to Gus and Marge Kapsa, longtime members of Jednota Branch 785, in Toronto.



Gus and Marge Kapsa

A SAILING WE WILL GO!



Come on board with the First Catholic Slovak Union for a seven (7) night Alaskan Cruise.

The Membership and Marketing committee is sponsoring their 2007 membership meet from July 27 – August 3 aboard the Vision of the Seas. Your accumulated points up to December 31, 2006 will be used towards the cost of the cruise.

Royal Caribbean's Vision of the Seas is one of the most popular cruise ships in the world. On the ship you will be staying in an

ocean view stateroom. Our itinerary from Seattle, Washington includes stops in Juneau, Skagway, Tracy Arm Fjord, Alaska and Prince Rupert, B.C.

The cost for a large ocean view stateroom which includes the cruise, port and government taxes, the new \$50.00 Alaska state tax, all pre-paid gratuities and transfer from the airport to the cruise ship and back is \$1,523.00. (Optional insurance and airfare package is available through Carolyn Pollack of Ambassatour Travel at 724-375-8687).

The First Catholic Slovak Union will provide your on board stateroom (double occupancy) plus meals and entertainment as provided by the cruise line. You must settle any additional expenses incurred prior to departure.

The First Catholic Slovak Union is not responsible for your travel arrangements to and from Seattle, Washington. Please contact Ambassatour Travel or your own travel agency.

The cut off date for reservations is May 4, 2007. A \$100.00 non-refundable deposit is required when you make your reservations. Final payment is due May 18, 2007. The trip is open to all members of the First Catholic Slovak Union and their guests.

To all recommenders – here is your chance to enjoy your vacation unlike any other. This will be an experience of a lifetime. From January 1, 2007 to June 30, 2007, the First Catholic Slovak Union is offering all cruise participants an opportunity to earn double points for insurance and annuity sales – that's right – DOUBLE POINTS! These double points will only count toward the Alaskan Cruise Membership Meet and payment will be made upon your return. If you have any further questions - please contact the home office and ask for Karen at 1-800-533-6682.

HURRY – ROOMS ARE LIMITED!

We only have 45 staterooms at that price (90 people). These rooms will be given out on a first come – first serve basis.

Until we meet at the meet!

Good luck and God bless,

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.

Membership and Marketing Chairman

Great News!

Now available for the 7 Night Alaska Cruise - Inside State Rooms at \$1255.00 (double occupancy) and includes pre-paid gratuities and Transfers. We have a limited number available. These rooms will be given out on a first come-first serve basis. Call today at 1/800-533-6682.

Jednota Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Balance Sheets December 31, 2006 and 2005

	ASSETS	
	2006	2005
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 236,434	\$ 94,444
Accounts Receivable	14,455	51,243
Prepaid Taxes	12,287	2,499
Total Current Assets	<u>263,176</u>	<u>148,186</u>
Investment		
FCSU Branch Agreement at Market Value	166,551	157,858
Property, Plant and Equipment		
Land	162,000	162,000
Land Improvements	73,554	73,554
Building	2,846,326	2,846,326
Leasehold Improvements	249,515	249,515
	3,331,395	3,331,395
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(1,227,994)	(1,145,171)
Property and Equipment – Net	2,103,401	2,186,224
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,533,128</u>	<u>\$ 2,492,268</u>

Consolidated Statements of Income Years Ended December 31, 2006 and 2005

	2006	2005
Continuing Operations		
Rental Income	\$490,218	\$478,864
Operating Expenses		
Board Expenses	6,412	4,048
Commissions	17,581	33,762
Depreciation	82,823	81,304
Insurance	6,127	6,289
Interest	164,106	168,462
Landscaping	4,860	4,905
Maintenance and Repair	23,867	2,616
Manager Expenses	8,850	7,200
Professional Fees	8,960	6,550
Taxes – Other	2,307	2,886
Taxes – Real Estate	3,408	3,319
Utilities	1,826	12,427
Total Operating Expenses	<u>331,127</u>	<u>333,768</u>
Income from Operations	159,091	145,096
Other Income		
Interest Income	8,694	6,071
Other Income	650	–
Total Other Income	<u>9,344</u>	<u>6,071</u>
Income Before Income Taxes	168,435	151,167
Provision for Income Taxes		
Federal	23,844	38,894
State	16,830	18,730
Total Provision for Income Taxes	<u>40,674</u>	<u>57,624</u>
Net Income		

LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

	2006	2005
Current Liabilities		
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt	\$ 105,588	\$ 98,372
Accounts Payable – Trade	13,959	14,979
Accrued Expenses	13,405	13,987
Accrued Income Taxes	1,709	16,816
Deferred Revenue	28,180	–
Total Current Liabilities	<u>162,841</u>	<u>144,154</u>
Long-Term Liabilities		
Mortgage Payable	2,160,103	2,265,691
Total Liabilities	<u>2,322,944</u>	<u>2,409,845</u>
Stockholders' Equity		
Common Stock – No Par Value; 750 Shares Authorized; 86 Shares Issued and Outstanding	114,380	114,380
Additional Paid-In Capital	927,424	927,424
Retained Earnings (Deficit)	(831,620)	(959,381)
Total Stockholders' Equity	<u>210,184</u>	<u>82,423</u>
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	<u>\$2,533,128</u>	<u>\$2,492,268</u>

“PARK 2 ANNUITY” – NOW PAYING 4.75%

Under the “Park 2 Annuity”, you make a one-time deposit of at least \$1,000.00 into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at a guaranteed rate for two years. Additional deposits are not allowed.

Features of the “Park 2 Annuity” include:

- The FCSU guarantees your initial interest rate for two years. After two years, your funds will continue to accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- The “Park 2 Annuity” can be converted to any of the FCSU Annuity Plans at any time.
- The “Park 2 Annuity” is not applicable to any settlement option or interest option.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Funds withdrawn during the first two years are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. The charge is 6% the first year and 5% the second year. You may, however, withdraw up to 10% of your ‘beginning of the year balance’ with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- The minimum deposit is \$1,000.00.

Please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office for applications.

Slovak Crown Hits All-Time High

The Slovak Crown (Koruna), which hit a new all-time high against the Euro in March, is too strong, according to Slovak central bank governor Ivan Sramko.

“We find the rate reached by the Crown over the past weekend to be overstated,” said Sramko at a news briefing with Finance Minister Jan Pociatek on the development. “We will use all tools available to the central bank to try and keep this development under control,” stressed Sramko.

According to Tatra Banka dealer Milan Cavojec, the new record is a response to the re-evaluation of the Crown central parity in the ERM-2 exchange rate system as of March 23 to 35.4424 SKK/EUR from the original level of 38.455 SKK/EUR.

TASR

VISIT THE FCSU'S WEBSITE

Home page at: <http://www.fcsu.com>

Send e-mail to the FCSU at the following address:

fcsu@aol.com

Senator Voinovich Sponsors Roundtable Discussion

By Bernadette Demechko

On Friday, March 16, Senator George Voinovich, Ohio, hosted a luncheon and roundtable discussion on his Visa Waiver Legislation. Representatives from various ethnic groups were invited to this event, which was held at SS. Cyril and Methodius Hall, Warren, Ohio. I was contacted in my capacity as Secretary of Youngstown Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities and I asked my brother, Steve Bacon, President Emeritus of the group, to accompany me. (His wife Gigi went in his place when he contacted the flu.) Mary Babnic of the Slovak Radio Hour on WKTL and President of the American Slovak Cultural Association was the third person representing the Slovaks.

After a delicious lunch of pirohi, salad, halushki, beets and apricot and nut kolache, the group retired to a conference room where a true roundtable was set up so we all faced one another and the atmosphere was conducive to an informal discussion.

Using document handouts and also addressing the group, the Senator explained that his interest in ethnic causes stemmed from the fact that his parents were Slovenian and Serbian. In recent years more and more Americans were contacting him and expressing the desire to host relatives and friends from their ancestral homeland only to have the requests for Visas denied. The legislation he has brought before Congress as an amendment to the Homeland Security Bill (The Secure Travel and Counter Terrorist Partnership Act of 2007 – S-653) would include more countries in the favored Visa Waiver Program (VWP). Co-sponsors of the Bill include Senator Dan Akaka, Hawaii; Senator Richard Lugar, Indiana; Senator Barbara Mikulski, Maryland; and Senator Ted Stevens, Arkansas.

Many of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission have been incorporated in the bill. The Senate had approved the bill, 60-38, the day of our meeting; but it is being held up in the House of Representatives because of other issues, not the Visa portion.

The Senator said he would volunteer to be on the Conference Committee to work to move the bill forward.

He explained that the Visa Waiver Program came into being in 1986 whereby the United States gave favored status to its allies. This was done for economic reasons (business and tourism) to insure that travel to the United States was readily available without quotas, etc.

But two events in history warranted a change in the 1986 program: The fall of Communism in 1989 and the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001. As the yoke of Communism was broken, a new group of countries would become allied with the United States. Having lived under the oppression of Communism, the citizens of many of these countries wanted a democracy and would fight to preserve it in their countries. Realizing this new host of friends was assisting us in the fight of terrorism, President Bush, on his visit to Estonia, promised a "Road Map" to the thirteen countries who had applied for the VWP: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and South Korea.

Although we had only a few days to prepare for this roundtable, my brother Steve drove to Washington to meet with Slovak Ambassador, Rastislav Kacer, and asked him to email us some data of Slovak involvement in the Iraq war, etc. The email arrived and this information was contained in it:

100 troops from Slovakia (Engineering Battalion) helped with mine removal and had just returned home from Iraq

10 Slovak military instructors are still in Iraq, training their troops



Gigi Bacon (left) and Bernie Demechko with Senator George Voinovich at the Roundtable discussion on the Visa Waiver Program.

60 Slovak troops are in Afghanistan (engineering) at Kabul Airport. When they were recently asked to move to the more dangerous site of Kandahar, they readily agreed to do so
4 Slovak soldiers have been killed in Iraq

40 Slovak troops were killed in 2006 when the airplane that was bringing them home to Slovakia from Kosovo crashed near Kosice

The email further stated that Slovakia is a non-permanent member of the United Nations and consistently votes with the United States. One military airport in Slovakia is used for training through the United Nations. There are no NATO bases in Slovakia.

At the roundtable many of the people expressed their concern about the countries, which were once under the domination of the USSR. With relatives in satellite countries

surrounding Russia, they worry about some of the actions taken lately by Vladimir Putin. They welcome NATO forces and bases for they feel secure with the NATO presence in the region.

Senator Voinovich stated that although the thirteen nations mentioned above had originally been considered for the VWP, his bill will "wipe the slate clean." All nations, including all those that were given privileged status in 1986, will have to abide by the new Visa regulations. The reasons are obvious – although England and Spain were in the original group that received special treatment, both countries have been hit by terrorists, thereby showing a need for Visa and other security measures for entering and departing from their countries.

Some of the new security rules, in abbreviated form, would include:

Electronic passports with biometric information chip identifying the owner

Instituting an electronic authorization system

Stricter passenger screening

Passenger information sharing (lists of suspected terrorists)

Prompt reporting of lost, stolen or fraudulent documents

Home country repatriation to any visitors violating United States laws

Better airport security standards

Tracking visitors and insuring they leave the country after 90 days.

Although some countries might balk at having to adhere to such rigid rules, they must be in compliance or their favored Visa Waiver status will be taken from them.

Because of the technological passport, there might be an added cost to obtain one but it will be worth it if lives are saved.

Although the measures above are mainly being implemented for security reasons, the fact that so many more nations will be added to the VWP will cause a strengthening of our friendships with many nations. And the economic factor cannot be overlooked for easier access to and from the United States will help business travel in a global economy.

Youngstown Sister Cities annually sponsors a trip to Slovakia. This year's 13th annual trip will bring the total to over 300 tourists who have visited Slovakia through our tours. As last year's tour guide, I helped to arrange reunions with three different families from the United States and their relatives in Slovakia and Poland. The tourists were overwhelmed with the hospitality of the people of those countries and expressed a desire to bring their relatives to the United States so they might be able to reciprocate their hospitality. Hopefully, when the new Visa Waiver Program goes into effect, these desires will be easily fulfilled.

Bernie Demechko bdemechko@aol.com

Coming Events

APRIL

- 22 – The Michigan District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Best Western Sterling Inn, 34911 Van Dyke Avenue, Sterling Heights, Michigan.
- 22 – The Msgr. John E. Rura District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church Hall, 16 East Somerset Street, Raritan, New Jersey.
- 22 – The Rev. Stephen Furdek District's Semiannual Meeting in Lansford, Pennsylvania. Mass at 11:00 a.m. in St. Ann's Church, East Bertsch Street, followed by dinner and the meeting at the Lansford Am Vets, 201 West Ridge Street.
- 29 – The George Onda District's Semiannual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the Old Country Buffet, in the Eastgate Plaza, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.
- 29 – The Rev. John Martvon District's Semiannual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at St. Benedict Church Hall, Main Street, Carrolltown, Pennsylvania.
- 29 – The Msgr. Joseph Tiso District's Semiannual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the C.U. Club, 912 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, Pennsylvania.
- 29 – The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois.
- 29 – The SS. Cyril and Methodius District's Semiannual Meeting at Holy Family Church, Gibson and Washington Streets, Scranton, Pennsylvania. A luncheon at 2:30 p.m. followed by the seminar and meeting at 3:30 p.m.

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY: FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY INTEREST RATE INCREASES THROUGH JUNE 30, 2007

Effective April 1, 2007, the annual yield on existing First Catholic Slovak Union Flexible Premium Deferred Retirement Annuity and Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is 5.00% (4.879% APR).

The annual yield on the Park 2 Annuity 4.75% (4.641% APR).

The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash Interest" Option will be 4.75% (4.641% APR).

Settlement Options will be based on an annual yield of 4.50% (4.402% APR).

If you have any questions about our annuities or IRAs, please contact the Home Office at 1-800-JEDNOTA.

THESE RATES WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE THROUGH JUNE 30, 2007.

**Kenneth A. Arendt
National Secretary**



JEDNOTA BOWLING RESULTS

MONTREAL JEDNOTA MIXED March 13, 2007

Team	Points
James Verrillo	104
Steve Szubiak	103
John Gaydos	103
Paul Dvorsky	93
Emil Ondrechak	93
Mary Makovsky	85
Gerry Madejchuk	83
Tony Makovsky	83
John Jasko	82
Domenic Pugliese	76

High single game team: Domenic Pugliese-625. High three games team: Mary Makovsky-1785. High single game individual: (woman) Mary Makovsky-182; (man) Domenic Pugliese-235. High three games individual: (woman) Mary Makovsky-518; (man) James Verrillo-623.

Next four high single games: (women) Mary Jurkanin-174, Anne Szubiak-172, Pauline Dvorsky-161, Marta Fuska-159; (men) James Verrillo-226, Emil Ondrechak-216, John Gaydos-202, Tony Makovsky-192.

Next four high three games: (women) Mary Jurkanin-480, Anne Szubiak-439, Marta Fuska-408, Pauline Dvorsky-399; (men) Emil Ondrechak-591, Domenic Pugliese-551, Alan Subenik-548, John Gaydos-547.

March 20, 2007

Team	Points
John Gaydos	108
Steve Szubiak	106
James Verrillo	106
Paul Dvorsky	98
Emil Ondrechak	98
Mary Makovsky	89
Gerry Madejchuk	85
Tony Makovsky	85
John Jasko	85
Domenic Pugliese	81

High single game team: John Gaydos-665. High three games team: John Gaydos-1871. High single game individual: (woman) Mary Makovsky-203; (man) Gerry Madejchuk-226. High three games individual: (woman) Mary Makovsky-575; (man) Gerry Madejchuk-608.

Next four high single games: (women) Olga Slodichak-192, Helen Corej-178, Mary Jurkanin-170, Suzanne Hurtuk-163; (men) Emil Ondrechak-213, Domenic Pugliese-212, James Verrillo-211, John Gaydos-202.

Next four high three games: (women) Olga Slodichak-518, Mary Jurkanin-494, Helen Corej-457, Suzanne Hurtuk-432; (men) James Verrillo-566, John Gaydos-527, Domenic Pugliese-524, Emil Ondrechak 516.

March 27, 2007

Team	Points
John Gaydos	110
Steve Szubiak	109
James Verrillo	108
Emil Ondrechak	105
Paul Dvorsky	103
Mary Makovsky	91
Gerry Madejchuk	89
John Jasko	89
Domenic Pugliese	86
Tony Makovsky	85

High single game team: John Gaydos-624. High three games team: Emil Ondrechak-1798. High single game individual: (woman) Mary Jurkanin-200; (man) Emil Ondrechak-

231. High three games individual: (woman) Mary Jurkanin-509; (man) James Verrillo-594.

Next four high single games: (women) Mary Makovsky-162, Pauline Dvorsky-160, Ann Ondrechak-151, Marta Fuska-146; (men) Domenic Pugliese-217, James Verrillo-214, Paul Dvorsky-189, John Kecka-182.

Next four high three games: (women) Ann Ondrechak-443, Mary Makovsky-442, Pauline Dvorsky-428, Anne Szubiak-399; (men) Domenic Pugliese-591, Emil Ondrechak-576, Paul Dvorsky-528, Steve Szubiak-499.

Mary Makovsky, Secretary

TORONTO SLOVAK MIXED (BRANCH #785)

February 21, 2007

Pos	Tm#	Team	Won	Lost
1	6	Jerry Siman	115.0	53.0
2	15	Michael Kapitan	107.0	54.0
3	2	Stan Pella	99.0	69.0
4	4	Emil Jursa	96.0	72.0
5	3	Rose Pikul	91.0	77.0
6	7	Hank Gryns	90.0	78.0
7	8	Jim Szabo	88.0	80.0
8	5	Joe Jursa	88.0	80.0
9	14	John Jursa	86.0	82.0
10	13	Anne Mitro	85.0	83.0
11	1	Sharon Tomas	83.0	85.0
12	9	Greg Gryns	82.0	86.0
13	11	Jason Ubeika	80.0	88.0
14	12	Ed Jursa	80.0	88.0
15	10	Denise Ricciuti	60.0	108.0

This Week's Individual High Scores

HI-SERIES-FLAT: Danny Zrobok-619; Anne Mitro-509.

HI-SERIES-HCP: Frank Bokor-728; Helen Von Friedl-712.

HI-GAME-FLAT: Danny Zrobok-258; Mary Bis-195.

HI-GAME-HCP: Danny Zrobok-277; Mary Bis-258.

February 28, 2007

Pos	Tm#	Team	Won	Lost
1	6	Jerry Siman	115.0	60.0
2	15	Michael Kapitan	114.0	54.0
3	2	Stan Pella	104.0	71.0
4	4	Emil Jursa	98.0	77.0
5	3	Rose Pikul	96.0	79.0
6	8	Jim Szabo	95.0	80.0
7	13	Anne Mitro	92.0	83.0
8	7	Hank Gryns	90.0	85.0
9	5	Joe Jursa	90.0	85.0
10	14	John Jursa	88.0	87.0
11	9	Greg Gryns	87.0	88.0
12	12	Ed Jursa	87.0	88.0
13	11	Jason Ubeika	87.0	88.0
14	1	Sharon Tomas	83.0	92.0
15	10	Denise Ricciuti	60.0	115.0

This Week's Individual High Scores

HI-SERIES-FLAT: Jason Ubeika-613; Lydia Scibravy-526.

HI-SERIES-HCP: Ted Golla-698; Lydia Scibravy-736.

HI-GAME-FLAT: Greg Gryns-228; Marge Kapsa-202.

HI-GAME-HCP: Ted Golla-262; Melissa Rak-281.

March 7, 2007

Pos	Tm#	Team	Won	Lost
1	6	Jerry Siman	119.0	63.0
2	15	Michael Kapitan	118.0	57.0
3	2	Stan Pella	109.0	73.0
4	4	Emil Jursa	105.0	77.0
5	3	Rose Pikul	103.0	79.0
6	8	Jim Szabo	98.0	84.0
7	13	Anne Mitro	94.0	88.0
8	11	Jason Ubeika	94.0	88.0
9	5	Joe Jursa	93.0	89.0
10	14	John Jursa	93.0	89.0
11	7	Hank Gryns	90.0	92.0
12	9	Greg Gryns	89.0	93.0
13	12	Ed Jursa	89.0	93.0
14	1	Sharon Tomas	88.0	94.0
15	10	Denise Ricciuti	60.0	122.0

This Week's Individual High Scores

HI-SERIES-FLAT: Danny Zrobok-669; Cathy Szabo-522.

HI-SERIES-HCP: Mike Kapitan-728; Mary Bis-684.

HI-GAME-FLAT: Danny Zrobok-246; Mary Bis-200, Anne Forma-200.

HI-GAME-HCP: Mike Kapitan-271; Mary Bis-262.

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

SISTER M. CELESTE, SS.C.M. Danville, Pennsylvania

Sister M. Celeste (Anna Yakupco), 89, died Saturday, March 31, 2007, at Emmanuel Center, Danville, Pennsylvania. She was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on June 7, 1917, the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Komar) Yakupco.

She received her elementary education at SS. Cyril and Methodius School, in Bridgeport and graduated from St. Cyril Academy, Danville. Sister received a B.A. from Marywood University, Scranton, Pennsylvania, and an M.A. in Education from Fairfield University in Connecticut.

She entered the congregation on October 2, 1936, and was received as a novice on May 5, 1937. Her first profession of vows was on October 17, 1939.

Sister Celeste taught grades 1-6 in parish elementary schools in Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Sister also taught religious education classes, especially the First Communion classes. She also took great pride in instructing altar boys. Sister was a superior in her hometown for two years and superior/principal in two schools, Sacred Heart in Torrington, Connecticut, and Holy Trinity in Swoyersville, Pennsylvania.

From 1989 until 1998, Sister was assistant sacristan and receptionist at St. Methodius Convent, Danville. Before going to Emmanuel Center, she was involved in general duties at Maria Hall.

Sister was preceded in death by her parents and her brother John. She is survived by cousins from Connecticut and Indiana.

The transferal rite and recitation of the Rosary took place on Wednesday, April 4, 2007, at 9 a.m. at Maria Hall, followed by the Wake Service at 9:45. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 10:30 a.m. in the Basilica of SS. Cyril and Methodius, Danville. The Reverend Rocky Grimard, O.M.I. of San Antonio, Texas, was celebrant and homilist. Concelebrants were the Reverend Cyril Rable and the Reverend Lawrence Nwabueze, O.P. Assisting at the altar was Deacon Adrien Picard. Burial was in the Sisters' cemetery in Danville.

Memorial donations may be made to the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

JANICE R. HAVRILLA Branch 199 Hostetter, Pennsylvania

Janice R. Havrilla, 62, of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, died Sunday, March 18, 2007, at her residence.

Born May 13, 1944, in Latrobe, she was a daughter of the late Paul A. and Rosalie (Diorio) Robl. She was a member of Holy Family Church, Latrobe, where she also participated in Holy Adoration. She was also a member of Jednota Branch 199, in Hostetter. She was retired from Sarp & McLaughlin Insurance Company, Latrobe.

She is survived by her husband, William F. "Stubby" Havrilla; a son, Brian J. Havrilla and his wife, Jody, of Latrobe; four grandchildren, Benjamin, Jessica, Bethany and Joshua; two brothers, Paul Robl and his wife, Paula, of Latrobe, and Wayne Robl and his wife, Karen, of Latrobe; a sister, Juanita Robl of Latrobe;

and a number of nieces and nephews.

Family and friends were received at the John J. Lopatich Funeral Home, Latrobe. A Funeral Mass was celebrated in Holy Family Church, Latrobe. Interment was in St. Vincent Cemetery.

Sophie Pipak

GEORGE P. FURICK Branch 369 Donora, Pennsylvania

George P. Furick, 90, of Donora, Pennsylvania, died Tuesday, March 13, 2007, in Monongahela Valley Hospital, from pneumonia.

Mr. Furick was born July 23, 1916, in Monongahela, the son of the late Matthew and Mary Lazus Furick. He was a retired machinist from the U.S. Steel nail mill in Donora where he worked from 1938 to 1972.

He was a lifetime member of Our Lady of the Valley Parish, in Donora. Since 1959, George has served as the secretary/treasurer of Jednota Branch 369.

Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Margaret Vataha Furick; two daughters, Georgette Aberle and her husband, Dan, of Denver, Colorado, and Marjorie Furick Dietz and her husband, William, of York, Pennsylvania; two sons, Michael Furick of Atlanta, Georgia, and Robert Furick and his wife, Paula, of Seattle, Washington; eight grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and a sister, Mary Ferraccio, of DuBois, Pennsylvania.

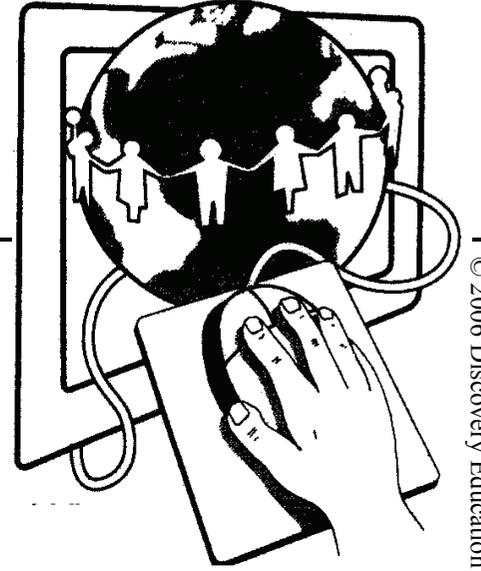
A Funeral Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Michael Yaksick. Interment was in St. Dominic Cemetery, Donora.

Michael Furick

continued on page 12

UR_space.jrs

Friends Events Sports Culture Trivia Activities



© 2006 Discovery Education

April 2007

Sports Space

Slovak Baseball

Baseball began as an organized sport in Slovakia in 1991. In 1993, the Slovak Baseball Federation was founded.

As a sport completely unknown to Slovaks, baseball had to overcome many obstacles in its development and struggle for existence alongside the popular sports of ice hockey and soccer.

Spišská Nová Ves is a smaller town in northeastern Slovakia, where the major sport is ice hockey. A baseball team *Spišski Rytieri* (Spis Knights) involves 20 young men who really love the sport and are ready to promote it in this region.

The basic equipment has to be imported from the Czech Republic, where baseball is more popular.



Mail Space

Lauren Ungvasky,
coloring 1st place
winner.
Age group 4 to 6.
Region 3 district 17.



Activity Space

Baseball Expressions

- Across
- This means to throw the ball to the batter. It also means trying to persuade someone to buy or do something.
 - This means to hit a homerun. It also means to do a really great job at something.
- Down
- In baseball this means to take one's turn at bat. It also means to take responsibility, especially in a different situation.
 - This means to step in and take another player's turn at bat. It also means to fill in for somebody.
 - When a batter is hit by a pitch, he or she gets to go to first base. This expression means to do something painful that can help the who
 - This is a type of pitch meant to fool a batter. It can also be any surprising or unexpected action.
 - In baseball, this is one of the three outfield positions. In everyday speech, it is a source of strange or sudden events.
 - In baseball this happens when a batter swings and misses three times. It also means to fall at something.
 - In baseball this describes a runner who could be tagged out. It also can describe someone who is wrong about something.
 - This is the cue to start a baseball game. It also means to be willing to work together.

Dear Susan,

I just wanted to say "Thank You" to you and the First Catholic Slovak Union. I have 3 daughters and each one was recognized in the Christmas coloring contest. My youngest received third place and the other two received honorable mention. You should have seen my 5-year old light up when I told her that she won third place and that her picture was in the newspaper. She was thrilled. My other two would also like to thank you for the gift certificates to Target. They will definitely put them to good use. They are all looking forward to next year's contest!

Take care, and thanks again.
Mary Estright

Dear Ms. Ondrejco,

Thank you for all you do. I had a lot of fun coloring in the contest. It was so fun to get a package in the mail. You do a great job directing the activities. Thanks again for making so many fun activities. I have attached my picture with me in my new shirt. It was fun to color!

Rachel Zbiegien



Dear Susan Ondrejco,

Thank you very much for the F.C.S.U. LIFE T-shirt. It was really nice of you to send it to me. I really like the pastel dye sticks, too. I like them so much that my friend is having her birthday on March 27 and I am thinking about getting her pastel dye sticks and a canvas bag for her. The picture of me in the T-shirt is in the envelope.

Once again I thank you for the T-shirt and the pastel dye sticks.

Thank you,

Emily Uhrin



Challenge Space

Can you say this word?

Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia
----- is the fear of long words. -----

Send your ideas, letters etc. to: UR_Space.jrs
234 Ilion St.
Pgh., PA 15207
sueo99@yahoo.com

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

continued from page 10

SOPHIE R. JACKO

Branch 1
Cleveland, Ohio

Sophie R. Jacko, 76, of Lakewood, Ohio, died Thursday, March 8, 2007. Sophie was the Recording Secretary of Branch 1, in Cleveland and a member of several other Slovak fraternal organizations.

A lifelong resident of Lakewood, Sophie was a member of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Lakewood. She worked at the Higbee Company Credit Department for over 36 years. She recently celebrated her 15 years of employment with the law firm of Strachan, Miller, Olender and Roessler. She was a member of Credit Women's International.

Sophie was devoted to her family and friends. She enjoyed traveling and fine dining, but loved the business aspect of her life most of all.

She is survived by her husband, Vincent V. Jacko; a daughter, Sophie A. Jacko; a sister, Sonya (James) Higgins of Texas; a brother, John (Ann) Beno of North Olmsted, Ohio; and nieces and nephews, Vincent Higgins, David Beno, Dennis Beno, Angel Baker and Diane Hostacky.

Friends were received at the Joseph Misencik Funeral Home, Lakewood. A Funeral Mass was celebrated at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. Burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery, Cleveland.

John S. Golias



Kent-Dudince Sister Cities Plan Anniversary Banquet

The Kent-Dudince Sister City organization will hold its Fourth Annual Anniversary Banquet on Sunday, April 29, 2007, at the Kent Elks Club Hall, Elks Lane, State Route 59, Kent, Ohio. A social hour will begin at 1:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 2:00 p.m. and a program at 3:00 p.m. During the social hour and dinner, music will be provided by the Johnny Pastirik Band. The cultural program will feature the Pittsburgh Slovaks Folk Dance Ensemble and the Slovenske Mamicky of Greater Cleveland. Dancing will follow the program.

Tickets are \$15.00 and must be purchased in advance. Make checks payable to Kent-Dudince Sister City Association and mail to Kent-Dudince Sister City Association, 1544 Vine St., Kent, OH 44240. For more information call Rudy Bachna at 330/673-3255.



Chicago Slovak Parish Reunion

Former parishioners of Holy Rosary Slovak Catholic Parish are invited to a reunion on Sunday, April 22, 2007, at the Orland Chateau in Orland Park, Illinois. Parish school graduates from the classes of 1956 and 1957 will receive special recognition at the reunion. Call Ed Michuda at 847/825-5101 for more information. Holy Rosary Slovak Parish, located in the Roseland neighborhood on Chicago's far south side, was closed in 1971.

Robert Tapak Magruder

NEW WAIVER BULLETIN

Now is the time to Contact Your Representative and Senators in Washington

Dear Friend of Slovakia,

Slovakia is a free, democratic society and a member of both NATO and the European Union. However, because Slovakia is not yet included in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program (VWP), Slovak citizens are still subjected to a lengthy and costly visa procedure for travel to the U.S. and are too often barred entry. Meanwhile Americans travel visa-free to Slovakia. This asymmetrical visa barrier for Slovaks:

- Reduces U.S.-Slovak business opportunities, tourism, and family contact.
- Affects U.S.-Slovak bilateral relations and creates anti-Americanism.
- Negatively impacts the common fight against international terrorism.

The VWP was established in 1986 to promote better relations with US allies, eliminate unnecessary barriers to travel, and stimulate tourism and people-to-people contacts. Currently 27 countries participate in the VWP, including many of the European Union countries – even those that haven't supported the U.S. in the war on terrorism as actively as our Central European friends. Yet Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, and others aren't included.

Over the past two years FOS has been active in pursuing ways to inform the U.S. public and members of Congress regarding the impact of the exclusion of our allies in Central Europe, including Slovakia, from the Visa Waiver Program. In February 2005 we held our first Capitol Hill Forum on the Visa Waiver Program in cooperation with American Friends of the Czech Republic (AFoCR) and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Authoritative commentators traveled from Slovakia and the Czech Republic to provide expert witness to the negative

impact our restrictive visa practices towards these NATO allies are having on public opinion in their countries. On March 5 this year we again co-sponsored with CSIS and AFoCR a well attended Congressional Forum on the current prospects for extension of the Visa Waiver Program to our Central European friends and other countries helping us in the fight against terrorism. We are now happy to report a possible breakthrough and an opportunity for change in this area.

On March 13, 2007, the U.S. Senate passed a bill denoted as "S.4," and titled: Improving America's Security Act of 2001. S.4 contains provisions (Sec. 501) to modernize the visa waiver program by extending visa-free travel privileges to nationals of foreign countries that are allies in the war on terrorism and meet other requirements. If enacted into law, S.4 will bring closer the day Slovaks can qualify for visa free travel to the U.S. based on lowering Slovakia's visa refusal rate and the frequency of overstays by Slovak visitors and expanded collaboration with our efforts to enhance the security of international travel.

In order for S.4 to become law, a bill containing similar provisions has to be passed by the House of Representatives as well. The challenge we face is that many members of the House are not fully aware of the impact of the current double standard in U.S. visa policy and the damage this is doing to our relations with our Central European friends. Nor is it clear that the supporters of this legislation can overcome the serious objections of those who simply want to tighten up on or even eliminate the visa waiver program entirely. Only with the support of your elected representatives can the necessary bill be passed. They will support it only if those who favor less restrictive travel for Slovak citizens to the U.S. tell their members of Congress that the Slovak Republic's participation in the VWP is important to them.

So, therefore, if you are concerned about the current visa waiver program and support making it easier for Slovaks and other European allies to enter the US, you now have the opportunity to contact

your Senators and Representative. The following is a suggested message:

Senators: If S.4 is negotiated with the House in the Conference Committee, you want the Senate to insist upon retaining language providing for the modernization of the Visa Waiver Program and its expansion to nationals of foreign countries that are allies in the war on terrorism.

Representative: You want the House to pass S.4 or its own bill with similar visa waiver provisions.

Please make this information available to your friends and family so that they can contact their Senators and Representatives as well. Note that you can find the mailing addresses and public e-mail addresses for members of Congress on the internet. All Representatives and Senators are listed on www.house.gov or www.senate.gov. You can find your Representative by entering your ZIP code.

As we all know, the Slovak people have made tremendous progress since the Velvet Revolution of 1989 and Slovakia's independence in 1993. Friends of Slovakia supported Slovakia's joining NATO when they finally qualified for membership and now supports expanding the Visa Waiver Program to give Slovaks the same opportunities to visit the United States enjoyed by the citizens of "old Europe." The Slovak younger generation now has the opportunity to travel freely within the European Community. They are still interested in visiting the United States, but are deeply offended by the difficulty and sometimes impossibility of doing so. We do not want to alienate friends in a country linked to us by ties of kinship and democratic values which the United States worked so hard to free from a totalitarian regime and encourage to re-join the trans-Atlantic community. Please consider what you can do to inform your elected representatives of your views on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Joseph Senko

For the Executive Committee
Friends of Slovakia

SUBSCRIPTION REQUEST

*Please enroll me as a
subscriber to the JEDNOTA*



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my check for _____ (Make check payable to First Catholic Slovak Union)

Mail To: First Catholic Slovak Union

6611 Rockside Road, Independence, OH 44131-2398

United States **\$25**

Other Countries **\$30** (U.S. Dollars)

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2007 ~ INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and opened it with prayer.

ROLL CALL

Members Attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
George F. Matta, Treasurer

Also attending was General Counsel, Gary J. Matta, by invitation of the President.

ACCEPTANCE OF JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

Executive Secretary presented the Minutes of the January 2007 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George F. Matta and seconded by Andrew R. Harcar to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

President Andrew M. Rajec led a discussion on some of the topics discussed at the January 18, 2007 Executive Committee Meeting. President Rajec asked Vice President Harcar if he had contacted our Regional Directors. Then he led a discussion concerning advertising on the local radio stations and stated he would check with some of our members in Youngstown, Akron, Lorain and Cleveland for their opinions on the program. General Counsel Gary J. Matta brought up the possibility of getting an ad professionally done and distributing it to our radio stations in branches and districts. Treasurer George F. Matta suggested that maybe we should consider to have a TV ad made and distribute to our districts and branches.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer George Matta passed out a report summarizing the investments for the month of January 2007 and answered the questions of the Executive Committee. (The report is attached to the Minutes).

The Treasurer led a discussion regarding reclassification of some of our bonds to preferred stock status as required by NAIC. The Treasurer contacted Ed DePersis and asked what impact will it have on our financial status, if any. The Treasurer presented to the Executive Committee his recommendation of bonds to be purchased for a review.

Motion was made by Andrew R. Harcar and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept the recommendation for purchase of bonds. Motion carried.

President Andrew Rajec led a discussion regarding interest rates offered by other financial institutions and stated his concerns on the interest rates we offer on Branch agreements.

A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

JANUARY 2007 TREASURERS' REPORT

PREPARED BY GEORGE F. MATTA - NATIONAL TREASURER

SMITH BARNEY

Aaa/AAA	FANNIE MAE	6.25	01-10-22	100.00	6.25	500K
			CALLABLE 4-10-07			

MERRILL LYNCH

AAA/AAA	FREDDIE MAC	6.00	01-14-17	100.00	6.00	300K
			CALLABLE 1-14-08			

WACHOVIA SECURITIES

A2/A-	ALTEL CORP	7.00	03-15-16	102.75	6.594	240K
			CALL WHEN MAKE WHOLE			

A1/A+	GOLMAN SACHS	5.95	01-15-27	99.42	6.00	300K
			CALL WHEN MAKE WHOLE			

AAA/AAA	FED HOME LOAN BANK	6-04	01-10-22	100.00	6.04	300K
			CALLABLE 01-10-08			

AAA/AAA	FED HME MTG	6.00	01-16-19	100.00	6.00	200K
			CALLABLE 01-16-08			

WACHOVIA-LAKESIDE CLEVELAND

Aa/A+	MORGAN STANLEY	6.00	02-16-27	98.75	6.10	200K
			CALL 02-16-10			

VICE PRESIDENT'S MARKETING REPORT

Sales

Vice President Andrew Harcar presented a report on the various policy types sold in 2006. The Vice President listed at this time the most popular policies sold in the following order:

- single premium policies
- 10 year fixed policy
- annual term policy.

Vice President led a discussion about possibility of hiring an in-house "captive" agent. This agent would be responsible for contacting members in our inactive branches in Youngstown, Akron, Lorain and Cleveland area. The President, Vice President and Executive Secretary will develop a job description for this employee. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to authorize the President to advertise for this position. Motion carried.

Vice President Andrew Harcar will update the Executive Committee on the progress of this agent. Depending on the results we will see if this type of marketing is effective.

The Vice President will also contact our professional members to make them aware of our annuity and insurance programs available thru our Society.

Cruise

Vice President led a discussion about our upcoming Alaskan Cruise Membership Meet. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Andrew Harcar to pay the deposit to the travel agent to secure the cabins. Motion carried.

President Andrew Rajec led a discussion about a need of a contract with the travel agent to avoid any potential future problems.

The Vice President led a discussion about having a social function in connection with our Membership Meet to recognize the top proposers.

Regional Director Contacts

The Vice President will be in contact with Regional Directors regarding their responsibilities and offer his assistance. He will contact them at least once a month.

Seminars

The Vice President said he was in contact with Michigan, Milwaukee, Massachusetts and Uniontown Districts about conducting a seminar in their region. The Vice President stated he is exploring the different methods of conducting seminars. He contacted Ed DePersis about ways to improve our presentation at future seminars. The Vice President led a lengthy discussion on how we must make our seminars more effective and informative.

Other

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on thank you cards and questionnaire cards. The questionnaire cards will give us an overview on how our members learned about our insurance and annuity programs.

A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept the Vice President's report as presented. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Executive Committee reviewed and discussed the monthly membership report for the month of January and the Executive Secretary answered their questions.

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

Executive Secretary Arendt reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of January:

DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF January 2007

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 180,246.56
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 34,388.30
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 2,208.00
Trust Fund	\$ 10,033.25

The Executive Committee reviewed the rest of the disbursements report and the Executive Secretary answered their questions.

Annuity Report

The Executive Secretary presented the annuity report and answered the Executive Committee questions.

Insurance Coverage

Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee about Directors and Officers Insurance. He stated that the insurance was updated, it is the same policy as last year and at the same premiums. The President and the Executive Secretary reviewed this renewal and found everything in order. Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt updated the Executive Committee on employee's hospitalization and stated that we are in process of accepting bids and this review should be completed before March 1st. Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt will update the Committee at March meeting.

Micro-filming/data storage

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt led a discussion regarding different method of storing data. We are currently putting the information on microfilm. He stated that he is in the process of contacting several companies about different ways of storing our data, for example by using digital imaging instead of micro-filming, and the ability to tie in with our existing computer system. He will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

Miscellaneous

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt informed the Executive Committee that a copy of our newly adopted bylaws was sent to the Ohio Department of Insurance for approval in December 2006 and we have received a letter of approval from Ohio.

ADJOURN

Adjourn for lunch.

President Andrew Rajec opened the afternoon session.

The Executive Secretary continued with his report.

A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Matta to accept the Executive Secretary's Report and recommendation of employees' salary increase as presented. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Report on Printery Building

President Andrew Rajec updated the Executive Committee on the leasing of the Printery Building in Middletown, PA. He contacted a local real estate agency regarding a listing agreement. This agreement will be a 6 months contract. He presented the contract to our General Counsel, Gary Matta for review. He also contacted local printing companies to

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

continued from page 13

see if they would be interested in leasing our building. He further contacted a church and a school that showed an interest in leasing our building. He will update the Executive Committee as more information will be available.

Marketing Strategy

President Andrew Rajec stated that we need to research better marketing strategy.

2007 Meeting dates

The President discussed our schedule of Board of Directors meetings for 2007. The Board of Directors meetings will be held as follows:

March 16 - 17, 2007 - Home Office in Independence, OH

June 16, 2007 - Teleconference meeting

September 14-15, 2007 (Friday & Sat.)- Home Office, Independence, OH

December 15, 2007 - Teleconference.

President Rajec has been discussing with Regional Directors that we are trying this method of meetings and we will be taking their suggestions into consideration.

Slovak League of America - meeting

President Rajec informed the Executive Committee that he and Executive Secretary will be representing our Society at the Catholic Federation Meeting on February 26 & 27, 2007 and at Slovak League Annual Meeting on March 3, 2007 in New York. They will give a report on March Executive Committee Meeting.

Coloring Contest

President Andrew Rajec led a discussion regarding the Christmas Coloring Contest. He stated that he will be in contact with Fraternal Activities Director Susan Ondrejco concerning a better communication with publishing the contest and results of the contest. It was decided that even though it was advertised late, to proceed with coloring contest.

Newspaper and radio ads

Since it was discussed in the previous session, no further discussion.

Visa meeting

The President received an e-mail from Senator Voinovich office an inviting him to a meeting concerning an easier method of visa for citizens of Slovakia and other Eastern European Countries. He discussed the difficulty of obtaining a visa to travel to the USA. If the bill passes the above citizens will be able to apply for a 90 day visa more easily. President Andrew Rajec urged the Board of Directors to contact their members and encourage them to contact their Congressmen. The President will put an article in our newspaper concerning this matter.

Branch Merger

The President had a discussion regarding branch mergers. Regional Director Damian Nasta will present his report and it will be discussed at our Annual Board of Directors Meeting in March. The President's concern is about merging a non-active with another non-active branch.

Miscellaneous

President Andrew Rajec presented a brief summary of our meeting with GCU for Executive Committee to review. He discussed the bowling and golfing tournaments. There was a brief discussion regarding the bowling and golfing tournament banquet. The President led a discussion regarding importance for our Society to be more visible at Slovak functions. He spoke about possibility of having a booth at the functions to become more visible and recognizable.

A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Matta to accept the President's Report as presented.

REQUEST FOR ADS & DONATIONS

Requests were viewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Kenneth Arendt to end the meeting. Motion carried.

President Andrew Rajec closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Slovakia Not Asked to Place Anti-Missiles on its Territory

Slovakia as yet has not been asked to place any anti-missile systems on its territory, Slovak Armed Forces speaker Milan Varga told SLOVAKIA recently.

U.S. Admiral Edmund Giambastiani, Vice Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff, said during his visit to Slovakia that positioning of any anti-missile systems in Poland and the Czech Republic is sufficient and should be adequate to respond to any possible threat from the Near East. "Anti-missile systems are located in ideal positions for NATO."

Giambastiani added that Slovakia lies close to the Czech Republic and Poland, which were chosen for their good location. "As an army official, I don't participate in such negotiations, but anything is possible in the future," he said with respect to possible enlargement of the anti-missile system in Europe.

TASR



HEALTH AWARENESS

Going The Distance: Keep Your Blood Flowing Safely During Travel

(NAPSA)-Cabin fever will have travelers hitting the road, airports and train stations this year. But most people would agree that spending hours cramped in a seat to get to your destination is not the highlight of vacation. Beyond this irritation, there's a more serious condition that can affect travelers.

Long periods of time spent sitting idly can increase your risk of developing blood clots in the legs, a condition known as deep-vein thrombosis (DVT).

This condition can become fatal if the clot travels from the leg to the lung. When this happens, it is called pulmonary embolism (PE).

Simple and short exercises while in route may decrease your chances of developing a serious medical complication.

Experts advise taking breaks every few hours to walk. Walking increases the circulation in your legs. If you can't get up to walk, flex your feet and ankles often and periodically change your body position.

Following are do's and don'ts to keep you and your fellow travelers' blood flowing:

Do:

- Get up and walk every few hours to increase the circulation in your legs. Research shows that sitting still for as little as two to three hours can put you at risk.

- While sitting, flex your feet and ankles, stretch calf muscles often and change your body position periodically.

- Drink plenty of fluids, but steer clear of



Simple and short exercises done while traveling can help prevent a potentially fatal condition known as deep-vein thrombosis.

alcohol and caffeinated beverages, which can increase your risk.

- Eat lightly before traveling-this increases the oxygen level in your blood and promotes circulation.

- If you know you are at risk for blood clots, talk to your doctor.

Don't:

- Wear socks with very tight elastic bands at the top or other tight clothing.

- Sit with your legs crossed for long periods of time.

- Drink large amounts of alcohol and caffeinated beverages.

Following these tips may help minimize travel stress so that you can enjoy your getaway with loved ones.

Safe travels!

2008 JEDNOTA INTERNATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Anyone interested in suggesting a course for the 2008 Golf Tournament may submit their proposal. The customary dates for the Tournament are July 12-13 or July 19-20, 2008. Please furnish the following information in your written proposal.

Local Contact Person:

Name
Address
Phone Number

Golf Course/Resort:

Name
Contact Person at Course
Address
Phone Number

Number of holes **Please note: A 36-hole course is preferred. Two nearby 18-hole courses would also be acceptable.

Approximate cost per round of golf

Housing:

Please enclose a list of nearby hotels/motels, including addresses and phone numbers.

Deadline for proposals is July 1, 2008.

Please send proposals to FCSU Fraternal Activities Director:

Susan Ondrejco
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
sueo99@yahoo.com

YOUTH ROUND-UP

If you know of a young Jednota member who has recently graduated, received a special award, been confirmed or made a First Holy Communion, achieved a sports or scholastic "first" or in some other way has something to be

proud of, send in the details and a photo, if available, to our "Youth Round-Up" column. Parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors are all eligible to "brag" about those special youngsters in their lives. The only stipulation is that the young person must be a member of the FCSU. Be sure to include the Branch to which he or she belongs when you send in your write-up to 1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057. We look forward to hearing from you!



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



O. Štefan Furedek
Náš zakladateľ

ÚRADNÝ ORGÁN PRVEJ KATOLÍCKEJ SLOVENSKEJ JEDNOTY V SPOJENÝCH ŠTÁTOCH A V KANADE

Volume 116

STREDA, 18. APRÍL 2007

Číslo 5752

Prvý Európsky kongres Matíc slovanských národov

Martin (TASR) – Témam aktuálnym pre 21. storočie ako sú poslanie a význam Slovákov a Slovanov v integrovannej Európe, pojem identity v Európe a fenomén matíc ako kultúrnych, duchovných a národných subjektov v Európe sa venoval prvý Európsky kongres Matíc slovanských národov, ktorý sa konal 27. marca v Martine. Podľa hovorca Matice slovenskej (MS) Stanislava Bajaníka sa kongres konal aj pri príležitosti minuloročného 180. výročia založenia matičnej rodiny.

“Matica slovenská má po svete najčlenitejšie zastúpenie. Tak sme získali dôveru akéhosi lídra a hovorca matičného hnutia v Európe, kde funguje 16 matíc. Na prvý európsky matičný kongres sa akreditovalo 12, sú to zástupcovia ôsmich národov a ôsmich krajín,” skonštatoval Bajaník. “Máme záujem vytvoriť nezávislé voľné združenie matíc slovanských národov, šíriť pôvodnú slovanskú tvorbu, kultúru a literatúru. Máme záujem, aby sa čo najviac slovanskej literatúry preložilo do národných slovanských jazykov a záujem spolupracovať s ostatnými slovanskými subjektmi alebo subjektmi pre

slovanskú kultúru a literatúru. Týmto spôsobom na poli Európy a krajín Európskej únie (EÚ) chceme výstavným, prezentačným a publikačným spôsobom šíriť informácie o Slovanoch a Slovákoch, ako môžu prispieť kultúrne, duchovne a vedecky do 21. storočia,” povedal Bajaník. Uradujúci predseda MS v Srbsku Braňo Slivka zdôraznil, že európsky kongres by mal mať úmysel dobre sa zorientovať v 21. storočí. “Aby sa slovanskej kultúre, ktorá je významnou časťou európskej kultúry, nestalo, že v budúcnosti budeme len kupovať v hypermarketoch a v našich múzeách zostanú prázdne medzery a 21. storočie nebude mať slovanská kultúra čím prezentovať,” uviedol Slivka. “Pre každý národ je dôležité ustrážiť si jazyk a kultúru. Bez školstva a písaného slova to je nemožné. Od kongresu očakávame, že dá cesty, aby sa čím viac písalo a čím viac slova zostalo do budúcnosti. Myslím, že práve spojenie matíc slovanských národov má túto úlohu strážiť spolu slovanskú identitu,” dodala zástupkyňa českej a slovenskej menšiny v parlamente Chorvátska Zdenka Čuchnilová.

SND zodvihlo oponu v novej budove galakonzertom

Bratislava (TASR) – Slovenské národné divadlo (SND) po prvý raz zodvihlo oponu vo svojej novej budove 14. apríla pri slávnostnom otváraní operom galakonzerte. Štrnásteho a pätnásteho apríla sa uskutočnili slávnostné premiéry v nových priestoroch opery, baletu i činohry, informovala riaditeľka SND Sylvia Hroncová.

Účinkovanie v novej budove SND na troch pódiach otvoril galakonzert, v rámci ktorého sa predstavili pod taktovkou dirigenta Rastislava Štúra svetoznámi, bývalí aj súčasní operní sólisti SND - Gabriela Beňačková, Jolana Fogašová, Eva Jenisová, Adriana Kohútiková, Adriana Kučerová, Eva Urbanová, Martin Babiak, Peter Dvorský,

Dalibor Jenis, Sergej Kopčák, Sergej Larin, Michal Lehotský, Ľudovít Ludha a Peter Mikuláš.

Slávnostný večer vysiela v priamom prenose Slovenská televízia a zároveň ponúkla aj priame vstupy z príprav slávnostného galavečera. SND pripravilo do konca tejto sezóny deväť premiér, z toho päť pripravila činohra, po dve balet a opera. Pôvodne plánovaná opera Eugena Suchoňa Krútnava na 14. apríla, bude mať premiéru 20. mája z dôvodu neuvolnenia jedného z protagonistov účinkujúcich na zahraničnej scéne. Naopak 15. apríla uvedie Činohra SND predstavenie Tančiareň v naštudovaní Martina Hubu a Martina Porubiaka.

Zahraniční Slováci dostanú na projekty vyše 20. mil Sk

Bratislava (TASR) – Na pomoc krajským spolkom a organizáciám v zahraničí je tento rok odsúhlasená čiastka 20.75 miliónov korún. Medzirezortná komisia pre schvaľovanie projektov pri Úrade pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí (ÚSZŽ) navrhla v 1. grantovom kole rozdeliť 17.892 tisíc Sk.

Komisia na svojom nedávnom zasadnutí posúdila 438 žiadostí v celkovej požadovanej výške 65,317, 503 korún od 153 žiadateľov. Informoval o tom Vladimír Dobřík z tlačového a informačného odboru ÚSZŽ.

Minister Jahnátek na pracovnej návšteve v USA

Bratislava (TASR) – V rámci pracovnej cesty v USA minister hospodárstva SR Ľubomír Jahnátek vo Washingtone 3. apríla rokovo so štátnym tajomníkom pre ekonomiku, energetiku a obchod ministerstva zahraničných vecí (MZV) USA Danielom Sullivanom. Obaja potvrdili, že medzi Slovenskom a USA existujú priateľské vzťahy, ktoré sú základom na dosiahnutie spoločných cieľov v oblasti spoločenskej, ekonomickej a politickej. Jahnátek štátneho tajomníka informoval o zámeroch Slovenska diverzifikovať strategické dodávky ropy a plynu, ako aj pripravovanej Stratégii

energetickej bezpečnosti Slovenska s výhľadom do roku 2030. Tá by mala dať odpoveď na otázku, akým smerom sa bude slovenská energetika vyvíjať. Jahnátek a Sullivan rozoberali aj situáciu v Európe pokiaľ ide o diverzifikáciu dodávok ropy, plynu a elektrickej energie. Okrem záujmu Slovenska o americké investície a najnovšie špičkové technológie v rozhovore spomenuli aj možnosť spolupráce pri rozvoji nepreskúmaných energetických zdrojov, najmä v Kaspickej oblasti. Informoval o tom hovorca ministra hospodárstva SR Branislav Zvara.



FOTO TASR - Pavol Remiaš 3. apríla 2007

Novým symbolom termálnych liečivých Kúpeľov Bojnice bude monumentálne bronzové súsošie dvoch mladých dievčat prichádzajúcich naberať si do džbánov vodu z tamojšieho prameňa liečivej termálnej vody. Bude stáť pred vynoveným vstupom do kúpeľov a začali ho inštalovať v tomto týždni. Autorom súsošia v nadväznosti veľkosti je akademický sochár Ambróz Balážik z Bratislavy.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Taliensky prezident Giorgio Napolitano slávnostne otvoril v druhej polovici marca výstavu reprezentačných kultúrnych diel krajín Európskej únie pod názvom Vrcholné diela Európy, na ktorej je Slovensko zastúpené dielom Martina Benku. Na otvorení sa zúčastnil predseda Národnej rady Pavol Paška a veľvyslanec Stanislav Vallo.

Dom slovenských regiónov v Bruseli otvoril svoje dvere koncom marca bruselskej verejnosti. Spoločné zastúpenie ôsmich slovenských regiónov návštevníkom a záujemcom prezentovali svoje aktivity, ktoré už takmer dva roky vyvíja v centre európskeho diania. Návštevníci si mali možnosť pozrieť dokumenty o slovenských regiónoch a ich prírodných, historických a kultúrnych krásach. Nechýbali ani typické slovenské nápoje a regionálne špeciality.

Európska komisia (EK) schválila štátnu pomoc na modernizáciu podniku Slovenské lodenice Komárno. Pomoc vo výške asi 500,000 EUR je podľa EK v súlade s pravidlami o vnútornom trhu. Investičný projekt umožní modernizáciu lodeníc a vytvorí pracovné miesta v znevýhodnenom regióne bez narušenia hospodárskej súťaže. Podnik vyrába malé námorné kontajnerové lode a lode na prepravu hromadných nákladov.

Výstavu a DVD o diele scénografa Ladislava Vychodila pripravil na požiadanie Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas Divadelný ústav Bratislava pre celoamerickú výročnú konferenciu amerických scénografů, ktorá sa konala v prvej polovici marca v meste Phoenix v Arizone. Súčasťou pocty bola aj prezentácia monografie Ladislava Vychodila za účasti jej autora Ladislava Lajchu. Výstava mala veľmi priaznivý ohlas. Vyše 190 profesorov z amerických univerzít, ako aj profesori z Mexika, Bulharska a Číny, požiadali o poslanie DVD o tvorbe slovenského scénografa. Na záver konferencie americkí divadelníci hovorili o diele a výnimočnej osobnosti Ladislava Vychodila s uznaním a obdivom, ocenili jeho celosvetový prínos k rozvoju scénografie.

Do súťaže o európsku mediálnu cenu Civis prišlo 670 rozhlasových a televíznych príspevkov z 24 krajín EÚ a zo Švajčiarska. Jednu z hlavných cien dostane v tomto roku slovenská dokumentaristka Daniela Rusnáková za svoj dokumentárny film Soňa a jej rodina o živote slovenských Rómov, informovala nemecká tlačová agentúra DPA. Mediálna cena sa bude odovzdávať 10. mája na nemeckom ministerstve zahraničných vecí v Berlíne. Ocenené budú rozhlasové a televízne príspevky, ktoré sa osobitným spôsobom venujú témam prisťahovalectva, integrácie a kultúrnej mnohorakosti.



FOTO TASR - Lýdia Vojtaššáková
Veľkonočná šibačka a oblievačka v dolnooravskej obci Žaškov na Veľkonočný pondelok 9. apríla 2007.

Deklaráciou obsahujúcou prijaté závery a odkazy o budúcnosti Európy vyvrcholil historicky prvý summit mládeže EÚ. Konal sa 24. a 25. marca v Ríme a pri jeho tvorbe boli medzi 200 účastníkmi aj zástupcovia Slovenska. "Po období úspechov sa zdá, že projekt Európy stráca smer a inšpiráciu. Odmietnutie Ústavnej zmluvy vo Francúzsku a Holandsku bolo jasným prejavom vzrastajúcej neistoty a nespokojnosti Európanov," píše sa v preambule deklarácie.

Najstaršia a najväčšia vedecká knižnica na Slovensku, bratislavská Univerzitná knižnica otvorila 28. marca svoje brány. Knižnica pripravila Deň otvorených dverí v rámci Týždňa slovenských knižníc. Návštevníci mali možnosť nahliadnuť do zákulisia a spoznať aj jej zrekonštruované priestory, ktoré nie sú čitateľom bežne prístupné. Univerzitná knižnica vznikla v roku 1919 ako Knižnica Univerzity Komenského. Súbežne so svojím akademickým poslaním plnila do roku 1954 funkciu národnej knižnice. Už v roku svojho vzniku získala právo na povinný výtlačok kníh a periodík z celého Slovenska. Od roku 1954 je samostatnou vedeckou knižnicou slúžiacou širokej verejnosti. Ponechala si však názov Univerzitná knižnica, pretože vyjadruje jej históriu a široký záber jej fondu i záujmy používateľov. Z klasickej knižnice sa za posledné roky prebudovala na modernú knižnično-informačnú inštitúciu.

V Bratislave by sa mala postaviť viacúčelová športová hala za 3,5 miliardy korún, pričom na jej výstavbe by spolupracoval štát so súkromným investorom. Novopostavená hala by mala mať 40 exkluzívnych boxov. V jej vnútri by mali byť minimálne štyri veľké a štyri malé šatne. Nemali by chýbať ani dve reštaurácie. Počíta sa s 3,500 parkovacími miestami pre autá a 20 pre kamióny. Postavená musí byť do roku 2011, pretože sa na Slovensku budú konať Majstrovstvá sveta v ľadovom hokeji.

Slováci žijú dlhšie, dočenská úmrtnosť dlhodobo klesá, vďaka očkovaniam je na Slovensku pomerne málo prenosných ochorení. Zároveň sú Slováci obézni, rakoviny je čoraz viac a lepí sa aj na mladších ľudí. Slovenskí zdravotníci na pôde Úradu verejného zdravotníctva informovali, že zdravotný stav populácie najviac ohrozuje nesprávny spôsob života. To, že sa málo hýbu, a to čo majú doma na tanieri. Zdravotná starostlivosť sa však dlhodobo zlepšuje.

Pri cestách za prácou alebo obchodom do New Yorku a Toronta už Slováci nebudú musieť lietať z rakúskeho Schwechatu, ani z Prahy. Do USA a Kanady začnú z Bratislavy lietať od polovice júla stroje spoločnosti Air Slovakia, ktorú v októbri kúpil britský podnikateľ Harjinder Singh Sidhu. Cestujúci na bratislavskom letisku tak budú môcť vidieť dokonca aj veľké lietadlo Airbus 310.

Holandská vláda plánuje otvoriť v máji svoje hranice pre pracovníkov z krajín, ktoré sa stali členmi Európskej únie v roku 2004, teda aj pre Slovákov. Nezamestnanosť v Holandsku je v súčasnosti iba 3,5-%, čo je najnižšie z členských krajín EÚ, ktoré majú spoločnú menu euro, a počet voľných pracovných miest dosiahol vlni na konci roka rekordných 225,000.

Šesťdňová oficiálna pracovná cesta premiéra Roberta Fica do troch krajín južnej Ameriky sa z dôvodu jeho náhleho virózneho chrípkového ochorenia odkladá. Po konzultácii a odporučení lekára sa Fico rozhodol cestu neabsolvovať a odložiť. Nový termín oficiálnej návštevy, Chile, Argentíny a Brazílie bude dohodnutý s partnermi a oznámený médiám.

Za nového generálneho riaditeľa Tlačovej agentúry Slovenskej republiky - Slovakia (TASR) vláda 4. apríla vymenovala Jaroslava Rezníka, ktorý v minulosti šéfoval Slovenskému rozhlasu. Funkcie sa ujal vo štvrtok 5. apríla.

Predsedníčka Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí Vilma Prívarová bude od 15. apríla poberať vyšší plat. Ten po novom dosiahne 56,700 korún. Rozhodla o tom vláda. Prívarová zároveň plní aj funkciu vedúcej služobného úradu. Úrad je koordinácnym a výkonným orgánom ktorý zabezpečuje proces tvorby štátnej politiky starostlivosti o Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, taktiež vypracováva návrhy koncepcií na ich podporu a zabezpečuje v rámci štátneho informačného systému dokumentačnú činnosť o krajanoch v cudzine. Takisto spolupracuje s organizáciami združujúcimi Slovákov v zahraničí, ako aj rozhoduje o poskytovaní dotácie na pomoc krajanickým spolkom a organizáciám.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Ekonomická univerzita dostane 28. miliónov korún

Bratislava (TASR) – Bratislavskej Ekonomickej univerzite vláda schválila 28 miliónov korún. Peniaze, ktoré sú určené na dostavbu auly na Dolnozemskej ceste v Bratislave, vyčlení zo svojej rozpočtovej kapitoly ministerstvo školstva.

Dôvodom navýšenia ceny z pôvodných 98 miliónov na 126 miliónov korún sú práce navyše a rozšírenie stavbných objektov. Aula sa začala

stavať v roku 2005 a podľa rektora univerzity Rudolfa Siváka bude slúžiť najmä na prednášky a konferencie.

Navýšenie finančných prostriedkov o 41 miliónov korún je potrebné aj na dokončenie výučbových priestorov pre Vysokú školu muzických umení. Peniaze na dokončenie auly EU prípadne aj priestorov pre VŠMU budú vyčlenené z rozpočtovej kapitoly ministerstva školstva.

**PRAKTIZUJTE
FRATERNALIZMUS**

Cirkev je na každom kroku osočovaná

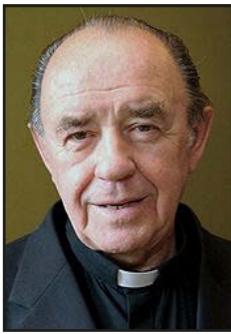
Bratislava (TASR) – Pamiatku zmŕtvychvstania Ježiša Krista, ktoré ja základom kresťanskej viery, slávia kresťania na Slovensku i vo svete. Pripomínajú si víťazné zavŕšenie Kristovho vykupiteľského diela.

Sviatok Kristovho zmŕtvychvstania pripadá už do roku 325 na nedeľu medzi 22. marcom a 25. aprílom. Tento rok výnimočne pripadli na rovnaký deň aj oslavy Veľkej noci pravoslávnych veriacich, ktorí sa neradiaria gregoriánskym, ale starým juliánskym kalendárom.

Počas slávnostných bohoslužieb v katolíckych, evanjelických, reformovaných a ďalších kresťanských chrámoch sa veriaci spolu s biskupmi a kňazmi radujú z Kristovho víťazstva nad smrťou a nádeje na večný život, ktorú priniesol ľudstvu. Odvtedy je každá nedeľa sprítomnením veľkonočnej udalosti, stretnutím vzkrieseného Krista s veriacimi.

Evanjelici v tento deň svätia Prvú slávnosť veľkonočnú - Vzkriesenie Pánovo (resurcio Domini). Bola to prvá veľká slávnosť, ktorú slávil prví kresťania. Pravoslávni kresťania na Veľkonočnú nedeľu včasráno vychádzajú na cintoríny a spievajú Christos voskres - vo istine voskres čiže Kristus vstal - skutočne vstal.

Vieru kresťanov vo vzkriesenie tela z mŕtvych a s tým spojenú radosť vyjadruje aj Druhá slávnosť veľkonočná - Veľkonočný pondelok.



Biskup František Tondra

Biskup Todra: Cirkev je na každom kroku osočovaná

V pastierskom liste k Veľkej noci sa biskup Tondra pozastavuje nad tým, že citlivé svedomie je odkazované do stredoveku a cnosť sa považuje za slabosť, dokonca za zbabelosť. "Byť poslušným a úctivým žiakom v škole, byť starostlivým učiteľom bez ohľadu na odmenu, byť poctivým v práci, keď ma nesledujú, byť politikom bez obohacovania sa a bez túžby po moci, byť rodičmi, ktorí veľkodušne dajú život deťom a ich vychovávajú, to v súčasnej dobe nemá morálneho ocenenia. Cirkev je mnohým nepríjemná, lebo vstupuje do svedomia," dodal s tým, že Cirkev je na každom kroku osočovaná. "Vyťahujú na ňu len negatívne veci. Slušnejší redaktor, ktorý by chcel Cirkev predstaviť aj v pozitívnom svetle, v médiách neobstojí," dodáva biskup.

Prítomnosť Ježiša Krista v živote ľudí označil Nitriansky sídelný biskup Viliam Judák na slávnostnej svätej omši k sviatku Veľkonočná nedeľa na Nitrianskom hrade za najväčší Boží dar, pilier kresťanskej viery, nádejou i budúcnosťou sveta.

Podľa košického arcibiskupa Alojza Tkáča je viera v Kristovo zmŕtvychvstanie dôležitou súčasťou našej národnej identity i európskej kultúry a civilizácie.

Slovenskí evanjelickí biskupi vyzývajú veriacich, aby hovorili o vzkriesenom Ježišovi v rodinách, na pracoviskách priateľom a príbuzným.

Košický kňaz vymaľoval kaplnku v Rakúsku

Košice (TASR) – Košický gréckokatolícky kňaz Tomáš Labanič sa spolu s rumunským kolegom Joanom Gotiom podieľal na vymaľovaní byzantskej kaplnky v Medzinárodnom teologickom inštitúte v rakúskom Gamingu, ktorú posvätili biskupi východného obradu 25. marca. Nedeľňajšieho stretnutia biskupov, archijerejskej svätej liturgie a posviacky kaplnky sa zúčastnil aj košický gréckokatolícky exarcha Milan Chautur. Zásluhu na tom, aby sa kaplnka východného obradu stala súčasťou inštitútu, má viedenský arcibiskup kardinál Christoph Schönborn po tom, čo prišli gréckokatolícki študenti do Gamingu. Inšpiráciou pre rakúskeho kardinála bola kaplnka vладыky Milana Chautura na starom exarcháte na Dominikánskom námestí v Košiciach, ktorá je celá pomalovaná ikonami na stene.

Kaplnku v Gamingu začali chystať v roku 2003 a v máji 2004 ju začali maľovať dvaja vtedy ešte študenti - doktorandi Tomáš Labanič z Košíc a Joan Gotia z Rumunska. Maľba celej kaplnky trvala do konca leta 2006, maľovalo sa počas troch letných prázdnin. Ikonostas, čo je stena s ikonami v cirkvi východného obradu, vytvoril umelecký rezbár Martin Barnas z Kežmarku.

Zájazd do Washingtonu, DC

Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty usporiada poznávací zájazd do Washingtonu, DC v dňoch 19. - 20. mája 2007 (sobota a nedeľu) s návštevou historických miest (Biely dom, Kapitol, Arlington cintorín a ďalšie).

Odchod je v sobotu 19. mája v ranných hodinách od Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City, kam sa aj vrátíme. V nedeľu v dopoludňajších hodinách navštívime "Basilica of the National Shrine", kde sa bude slúžiť slovenská svätá omša.

Prosíme záujemcov, aby sa urýchlene prihlásili na telefónne čísla: Jozef Bilik (718) 463-2084; Henrieta Daitová (201) 641-8922. Presné informácie o zájazde podáme neskôr. Tešíme sa na vašu účasť.

Výbor Spolku sv. Štefana IKSJ v N.Y.C.

Osudy slovenských hradov a zámkov zmapované

Bratislava (TASR) – Slovenské knižné pulty obohatila nová publikácia Milana Vároša Stratené slovenské poklady 1 - Osudy umeleckých pamiatok šľachty a panovníkov. Autor v nej zachytil osudy vzácnych obrazov slovenských hradov a zámkov. Pod veľkoformátovu publikáciu nadštandardného polygrafického prevedenia sa vydavateľsky podpísala Matica slovenská. Kniha s bohatou obrazovou prílohou s doteraz u nás nepublikovanými dokumentárnymi ilustráciami objavuje a približuje strhujúce príbehy o nevšednom bohatstve našich predkov, ku ktorému bol his-

torický osud obzvlášť krutý.

"Kniha tohto rozsahu, náročná na informačné a faktografické pramene, sa nedá napísať za rok, ani za dva," povedal Milan Vároš. "Svetlo svetla mohla uzrieť len vďaka ochote mnohých inštitúcií a jednotlivcov-nadšencov. Po ich boku sa mi podarilo načrieť do zdrojov informácií a osvetliť prázne miesta slovenskej umeleckej histórie. No a v neposlednom rade s úctou a vďakou venujem túto knihu priateľovi Ľudovítovi Pavlovi, keďže bez jeho finančného daru by nebola cenovo prístupná širokej verejnosti," pokračoval autor.

Trnavčania si pripomenuli posolstvo Veľkého piatku

Niekoľko stoviek Trnavčanov zastupujúcich rôzne vekové generácie si posolstvo Veľkého piatku pripomenulo tichým nesením kríža - Via Crucis a symbolickým pochodom ulicami mesta na kalváriu. V piatok sa o 14. hodine zo štyroch strán mesta vydali na niekoľkokilometrovú púť ulicami mesta s krížom mladí aj dospelí z farských spoločenstiev, aby sa o 15. hodine všetci stretli v centre na Trojičnom námestí a potom spoločne preniesli 4 kríže do kalvárie na Starom cintoríne. Hlavný sprievod centrom mesta viedol kaplán trnavskej farnosti, Ľuboš Hašan a medzi účastníkmi pochodu bol tiež primátor mesta Štefan Bošnjak aj ďalšie osobnosti Trnavy. Ako vo svojom prího-

vore účastníkom podujatia na kalvárii pod krížom pripomenul kaplán Ľ. Hašan, v dnešnej dobe stále viac nechceme počuť pravdu a zabúdame na Boha. "Práve tým, že na Boha zabúdame, stáva sa nám akýsi ľahostajný. Ak by človek sa otvoril pravde, tak by dokázal Boha prijať ako pravdu," tlmočil svoje slová účastníkom tichého pochodu Ľ. Hašan.

Tiché nesenie kríža ulicami mesta Trnava je už tradičným príspevkom veriacich Malého Ríma do veľkonočnej atmosféry a aj tohtoročný pochod z jednotlivých častí mesta bol názorným vyjadrením viery a pravdy.

TK KBS

DOMOVINA

Andrej Žarnov

*Si ako večne krásna jar,
ako si bola na počiatku,
keď nadšením nám vzbĺkla tvár
a hlahol zvonov znel ti k sviatku,
keď krok nám zdunel odvahou
a hrdosť hnala ruky k dielu
do hôr a polí s rozvahou
sformovať z bludísk cestu k cieľu,
i zovrúc dlane dohodne,
objali sme Ťa, drahú matku,
a prisahali rozhodne
vytrvať s tebou do ostatku.*

*A tak sme išli jar čo jar,
tak jak sa kvetmi vánok vznáša,
ako sa dvíha úsvit z pár,
a v tebe vrela mladosť naša,
živúca miazga jarných túh,
nepokoj krvi po rozkvetve,
závratných výškach, čare dúh,
navretých klasoch v plodnom lete,
a tak sme hnali kolesá
cez mrak a blesk i cestu vratkú
a stvárnňovali čudesá,
do vyhne lejúc mladosť sladkú.*

*A tak sme išli rok čo rok
s hlbokým vdychom do priedušok,
ohnivou piesňou zunel krok
po križovatkách ťažkých skúšok,
kde prudká sila vzopätia
oblúkom hnala do úžasu
prešvihnúť mŕtve stolačia
pre tvoju večne jarnú krásu,
i pevnela si ako tvrdz
a pružila sa do zveľatku,
živená krvou smelých srdc
a večnou vierou v rodnú matku.*

*I hnal sa víchor útočný
i švihol mráz a tvoje čary
zahalil prápor smútočný,
prelestnú krásu našej jari,
bolesť sa vryla do vrások,
v temniciach striebriac bujné vlasy,
ale tvoj svätý obrázok
o jari spieval večnej krásy,
prehlučiac pušiek otvory
a deruč sa aj cez oprátku,
že nad Slovenskom zazorí,
tak ako vtedy, na počiatku.*

*Preto si hvízdam radostne,
keď puká ľad a jar sa blíži,
bo každou jarou slávnostne,
tak ako Jeho na tom kríži,
vidím ju lámať okovy,
vítazne vstávať z útrob zmaru
a pukať pancier kôrový
a pod ním klíčiť z hlbín varu
tú neskonalosť odvekú,
ohnivo ducha do poriadku,
čo káže dúfať človeku
od počiatku až do ostatku.*

*Hľa, tak sme zrástli naveky
s najkrajšou jarou našich jari,
v piesne sa menia náreky
a vytekajú spod fujary
do nových čias a nových krás,
aby, keď vek nás k hrobu zrazí,
ich nový hlas a nový jas
vyznával mocne, bez reťazí,
ten odkaz hrdý, horúci:
za češť a slávu, rodnú matku,
s prísaznou rukou na srdci,
tak ako my raz, do ostatku.*

Myšlienkový návrat do jubilujúceho rodiska - ČEMERNÉ

Môj starokrajový confrére, MVDr. Pavol Bindas, upovedomil ma, že moje rodné Čemerné, do sedemdesiatich rokov minulého storočia samostatná obec, odvtedy súčasť okresného mesta Vranov nad Topľou, v druhej polovici júna tohto roku pripomenie si a pompéznym spôsobom oslávi 725. výročie prvej dokumentárnej zmienky o obci v písomných análoch vtedajších feudálnych vládarov tohto východoslovenského kraja. História obce od jej pradávnych začiatkov po súčasnosť v slove i obraze sprítomnil miestny aktivista, historik a kronikár, Pavol Bindas, v knihe Čemerné - to nebol valal (2005).

Pri tomto vzácnom jubileu obce, v mojom myšlienkovom návrate do rodiska spred 70 rokov, dovoľm si požičať niekoľko podstatných spomienok mojej matky, uverejnených v amerických novinách Slovenská Obrana (15. 2. 1944) pod názvom Čemerné nie je viac valalom, ale malým mestečkom.

V mojom, skoro 90. roku pozemského života, rád si spomínam na rodnú obec, aká bola a čo tam bolo, keď som v nej prežíval svoju mladosť, do 18. roku svojho života, presnejšie do decembra 1936, kedy celá rodina, matka a moji dvaja mladší bratia Arpád (Albert) a Gejza (Jimmy), odišla do Kanady k otcovi, ktorý nás tam predišiel v apríli 1927. V Kanade do rodiny pribudlo dievčatko, Stella (Mrs. Dr. Weisnagel).

Čemerné rozprestiera sa na peknej rovine, po pravom toku rieky Topľa, tvoriaca prirodzenú hranicu medzi ním a okresným mestom. Na druhej strane Tople, pozdĺž hlavnej cesty, bolo ohradené futbalové ihrisko. Hovorilo sa, keď hráč silno kopnul futbal povrch ohrady, odletel do Tople. Zdá sa mi, že majiteľom Športového klubu bol Čemernančan, Hrubovský, majiteľ dobre prosperujúceho krajačského závodu vo Vranove. Futbalový klub mal aj dobrých hráčov z Čemerného. Hádám najlepším z celej jedenástky bol Dadej, Prešovčan, ktorý pracoval na notárskom úrade v Čemernom. Ďalšími boli moji spolužiaci Zoltán Tóth a Jozef Novák. Dadej bol aj výborný huslista. Nacvičoval cirkevné spevokoly v obci.

Pred postavením futbalového ihriska, futbalové zápasy sa hrali na rozľahlej lúke na opačnej strane pozdĺž hlavnej cesty. Na tej istej lúke sa konali aj občasnú vojenskú kónskú dostihu a okresné hasičské preteky.

Pre nás mladých chalanov ísť do Vranova dva-tri razy denne a potom večer do kina, na divadlo, na koncerty, na príležitostné oslavy, alebo na premietanie svetelných obrázkov, nebolo nijakou námahou.

Moja matka si myslela, že Čemerné bolo najsumnejším a najinakším valalom v celej krajine. Jej susednými obcami sú: na juhu Lomnica a Sačúrov, na západe Vehec a Kamenná Poruba a na severe Čakľov. Obec v tom čase počítala necelých 2,000 obyvateľov.

Spomedzi tmavých šindľových striech, červeňali sa škridlové strechy. Pod nimi bieleli priestranné murované domy, postavené za americké a kanadské doláre. Uprostred domov vypínala sa gréckokatolícka cerkev postavená pred prvou svetovou vojnou. Podľa mienky domácich, ďaleko jej bolo treba hľadať páru. Údajne samotná stavba múrov stála vyše 35,000 zlatých. Na vtedajšie časy a pomery to bol veľký peniaz. Uvádza sa, že Pán Boh im dal vnuknutie začať so stavbou cerkvi pred vojnou. Potom by nebolo ani cerkvi ani peňazí. Peniaze by boli vzali na vojnovú pôžičku. Za vnútorné zariadenie cerkvi treba ďakovať krajanom z Ameriky a Kanady.

Vedľa gréckokatolíckej fary bola gréckokatolícka škola. Dlhé roky jej učiteľom-kantorom bol Manajlov. Za jej chrbtom bola Štátna ľudová škola. Učitelia sa často menili. Hádám najdlhšie na nej pôsobil učiteľ Jarčuška. Ak mi pamäť slúži dobre, v čase nášho odchodu do Kanady, na gr. kat. škole výpomocnou učiteľkou bola Kašinská a na štátnej vypomáhal Vranovčan, Kypko. Deti luteránskych a židovských rodín dovtedy chodili do školy vo Vranove.

Vedľa štátnej školy bol gréckokatolícky cintorín a na konci ulice bol druhý pre ostatných. Tretí, vojenský cintorín, bol blízko tehelne. Na dušičky gr. kat. kňaz, Dobriansky, alebo ako ho domáci úctivo volali pop, pred krížom na cintoríne odslúžil príležitostné cirkevné modlitby za zomrelých. Odtiaľ so sprievodom ľudí odišiel na vojenský cintorín, kde pred úhľadnou kaplnkou odriekol modlitby za duševné spasenie vojakov tam pochovaných. Tradícia, každoročne opakovaná.

My deti, každej konfésie, pána popa mali sme vo veľkej obľube. Keď sme ho videli ísť po ceste, pribehli sme k nemu a sa mu pekne skoro unisimo pozdravili: Sláva Isusu Christu! On nás pochválil, otcovsky pohladkal po hlave a každému dal dvadsať haliernik, ľudovo šesták.

So stavbou nového katolíckeho kostola začali v roku 1934. Stojí na tom istom mieste kde bola stará kaplnka so zvonicom. Vedľa kaplnky bola ostrá zákruta cesty, ktorú počas stavby kostola vyrovnali a popri jarku postavili zvýšený betónový múr, čím sa nadobudlo viac miesta okolo kostola v tom čase filiálkou vechcovskej farnosti.

Mimo spomenutých chrámov bola tam aj malá "bužnica" ako domáci volali synagógu. Stála na hlavnej ceste vprostred dediny. Na starosti ju mal miestny obuvnícky majster. Volali sme ho Herškovič. Býval s rodinou v domčeku skoro "prilepenom" na synagóge. Pred sábešom a po ňom chodili sme do synagógy zapalať a hasiť sviečky za malú odmenu.

Prostriedkom dediny, od ľudskej nepamäti, čučorí jarek. Pre domácich dar od



Štefan Hreha

Boha. V jarku ženy prali šaty, močili konope, napájali statok, v lete sa v ňom splachtali húsky a kačky, deti lapali ryby, v zime sa na ľade "šliskali" a odvážne dievky a mladé ženy vo vyrúbanej prierube prali šaty, zohrievajúc si napoly zmrznuté ruky v hrnci s horúcou vodou položenom na chumeli slamy.

Mimo tečúcej vody, na niekdajšej grófskej table, bola stojaca voda. Volali sme ju baňa. Vznikla počas stavby železničnej trasy, odkiaľ brali štrkovitú zem na násyp trate. Podľa odhadu domácich, baňa v prostriedku bola 10 metrov hlboká, 1 kilometer dlhá a asi pol kilometra široká. Dostal ju gr. kat. učiteľ z parceláčky. V zime sa tam chodila korčuľovať vranovská mládež i my, ktorí sme mali korčule. Keď sa nám zunovalo korčuľovať, z porastu na okraji bane, vyrúbali sme mierne zoakrúhlené vetvy a na ľade lesklom ako sklo, takým primitívnym spôsobom sme naháňali ploský kameň nového zimného športu. Tí, ktorí nemali korčule, stáli v bránke vymieranej dvoma kameňami. Tento nový šport, nadobúdajúci momentum, sme volali - kanadský hokej.

Čemerné bolo aj dôležitým dopravným strediskom pre celý región. Bola tam posledná železničná stanica s menom Vranov nad Topľou. Ďalej sa nešlo. Údajne počas stavby železnice narazili na nedostatok financií postaviť železničný most cez Topľu. Trať do Vranova predĺžili až počas trvania prvého Slovenského štátu a meno stanice zmenili na Predmestie Vranov nad Topľou. Opodiaľ železničnej stanice bol Monopol, do ktorého roľníci z okolitých dedín zväžali obilie.

Bola tam aj úzkokoľajná železnica, ktorou zväžali drevo do starej pily z ďalekých zamutovských hôr. Vedľa nej, na ceste do Košíc, boli vojenské kasárne - 272 Horský delostrelecký pluk.

Pri moste cez Topľu, na ruinách starého mlyna, postavili novú pílu. Neďaleko nej pozdĺž Tople, bola ovocinárska záhrada. V nedeľu ráno sme tam chodili kupovať jablká na domácu štrúdlu, alebo jablkové koláče.

Na západnom konci dediny, pod obecným pastviskom, bola tehelňa. Možno teda povedať, keď niekto staval dom, mal všetko po ruke: tehlu, drevo, z jarku štrk a z Tople piesok.

V blízkosti katolíckeho kostola, na opačnej strane cesty, bol park s grófskym kaštieľom. Volali sme ho "kerta". V kaštieli jeden čas bol umiestnený notársky úrad a opodiaľ bol tenisový kurt pre dôstojníkov a ich manželky. Chodili sme tam "lapať" tenisové lopty, pokiaľ ho neohradili vysokým drôteným plotom, čím sa skončil náš "zárobok". V parku v lete boli školské majálesy a oblastné sokolské zlety.

V tom čase v Čemernom bolo päť obchodov so zmiešaným tovarom, ďalej boli tam tri mäsiarne, tri šmikne, dve kolárne, tri mláčačky, dvaja obuvníci majstri, pekáreň, garbiareň, holič, tesár a dvaja obecní pastieri-hrobári, ktorí súčasne boli aj striedavými nočnými vartášmi obce. Mimo toho v obci účinkoval dobrovoľný hasičský zbor a náboženská telovýchovná organizácia Orol. Ulice boli elektricky osvetlené.

Hodno spomenúť, že mäsiari mali svoje špeciálne postavené veľké ľadovne, zaplnené blokmi ľadu vyrezané z jarku, najčastejšie z Tople. A - pravda - boli tam aj krčmy. V ktorej dedine doma by nebola krčma? U nás ich dokonca bolo päť ak nie šesť. Najznámejšie boli dve - Friedmanova a Guttmanova. Friedmanova krčma bola za mostom cez jarek na ceste do Prešova a Guttmanova na skok-dva od železničnej stanice. U Friedmanovej krčme sa obyčajne končili svadobné veselie a sa v nej robili tance pre domácu čelad'. Hrala na nich domáca cigánska hudba, ktorá tiež v mesiaci máji vyhrávala vprostred dediny dlho do noci. U Guttmanovej krčme sa konali tanečné a silvestrovské zábavy pre domáce a vranovské panstvo. Vyhrávala na nich kapela objednaná z Michaloviec alebo z Košíc. Raz za čas sa tam uskutočnilo estrádne predstavenie. Obidve krčmy mali svoje kolkárne a letný záhradný servis.

V pamäti ostali: Sviatok Božieho tela (Oltárik); sviatenie veľkonočnej pasky a oblievačka; výročité odpusty pri cerkvi a kostole; predvianočná domáca zakálačka, očakávanie Vianoc a koledy; sviatok dušičiek a zdobenie hrobov; poľné práce a kopanie cukrovky na blízkych tabľách trebišovského cukrovaru za repnú vňat'; školské oslavy Dňa slobody, 28. október a 7. marec, narodeniny prvého prezidenta ČSR, T. G. Masaryka; skauting a s ním spojené vychádzky do hôr; kúpačka a člňkovanie na Topli v Kurimského loďke a sokolské zlety v susedných mestách.

Ani po dlhých rokoch prežitých v novom kanadskom svete, nezabudol som na môj starý slovenský svet, na ten svet, kde sú moje rodné korene a korene mojich predkov. Po vojne som nadviazal písomný kontakt s domovom, ktorý dodnes existuje. Zo začiatku bol početný. S odchodom domácich korešpondentov do nenávratna, dnes už je ojedinelý, ale dosť pravidelný so vzácnym kompatriótom MVDr. Pavlom Bindasom z rodného Čemerného.

V lete roku 1977 s manželkou, Turzovčankou, so synom a jeho manželkou, navštívili sme Slovensko, oživiť rodné korene a mladým predstaviť rodný kraj ich rodičov. Z návštevy ostal v pamäti trvalý obraz krásnej slovenskej zeme, vďačné spomienky na pohostinnosť tamojších ľudí, ktorí v tom čase žili v národnej porobe bezbožného komunistického režimu.

S rodným krajom spája ma aj fakt, že je tam uložený k večnému odpočinku náš dobrý otec. Zomrel tam (21.1.1957) počas návštevy svojho rodného kraja.

Dnešné Čemerné by som nepoznal. Obytné domy pozdĺž hlavnej cesty prerobili na komerčné biznisy. Na niekedy prázdnych miestach dnes stoja komplexy priemyselných a inštitucionálnych budov a priľahlé role a blízke polia sú zastavané modernými obytnými domami. Počet obyvateľov obce presahuje číslo 3,000.

Pri tomto oslavnom medzníku mojej rodnej obce, žičím jej do ďalších rokov všestranný úspech, prosperitu, pokrok a jej obyvateľom dar Božích milostí, pokoj, solidaritu a ľudské spolunažívanie.

Obec Papín

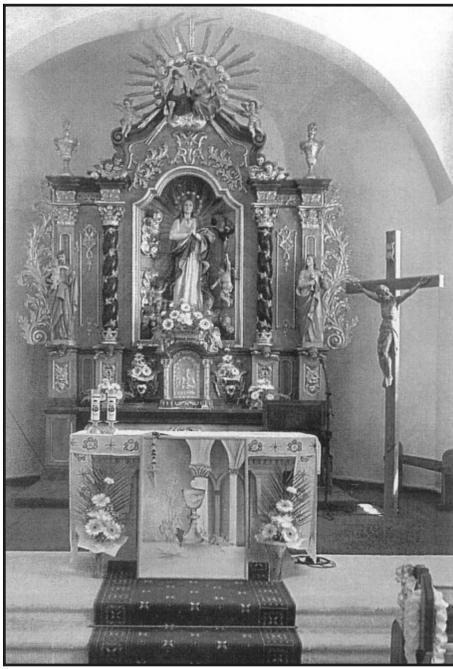
Obec Papín leží v strednej časti Laboreckej vrchoviny, v strednej časti doliny rieky Udavy, okres Humenné. Prvá písomná zmienka o obci pochádza z roku 1451, kedy Leleský konvent riešil vlastnícke spory Drugetovcov.

Najmä podľa názvu obce sa predpokladá, že Papín jestvoval už pred 13. storočím a patril k najstarším slovenským dedinám v okolí.

Na prelome 16. a 17. storočia bol Papín stredne veľkou dedinou, ale najväčšou roľníckou dedinou v doline Udavy so slovenským obyvateľstvom. Poštový úrad v Papíne bol otvorený už 1. septembra 1858 a jeho prevádzka funguje nepretržite od monarchie až dodnes. V tomto období v rokoch 1850 až 1869 bola obec i sídlom okresu. Dominantou obce je rímskokatolícky kostol zasvätený "Nanebovzatiu Panny Márie" postavený v roku 1756, ktorému dominuje vzácny starobyľý oltár a Madona s dieťaťom je i v erbe obce.

V nedávno minulom období bol Papín strediskovou obcou a tento ráz si udržal i dodnes. V obci žije 1,097 obyvateľov a služby, ktoré poskytuje svojim obyvateľom využívajú i obyvatelia okolitých obcí matričného obvodu. V obci je priestraný športový areál, sieť obchodov, zdravotnícke služby. V centre sa nachádza Základná škola a v areáli kultúrneho domu matričný úrad, knižnica, sobášna sieň, kinosála s javiskom a hneď pri ňom aj amfiteáter na ktorom sa konajú každoročne "Papínske folklórne slávnosti". Tieto priestory využívajú hlavne členovia folklórneho súboru "Papínčan".

Obec leží v prekrásnej scenérii prírody po obidvoch brehoch rieky Udavy a všetci občania sa starajú o to aby takáto scenéria ostala i budúcim generáciám.



(Do redakcie nám zaslal peknú brožúrku o histórii obce Papín, rodiska Michaela A. Novaka, bývalého tajomníka a pokladníka Číslo 89 IKSJ v Milwaukee, Wisc.)

Nadácia Slovákov Vilčekovcov odovzdala ceny v New Yorku

New York (TASR) – Na slávnostnej ceremónii v New Yorku odovzdali 14. marca prestížne ocenenia nadácie Vilcek Foundation najúspešnejším cudzincom, ktorí prispeli k obohateniu americkej vedy a kultúry.

Nadáciu založili pred siedmimi rokmi slovenskí imigranti Marica a Ján Vilčekovci. Tohtoročnú cenu najtalentovanejších vedcov a umelcov spomedzi imigrantov, ktorým sa vďaka talentu a húževnatosti podarilo preraziť svojimi pozoruhodnými vedeckými objavmi a novátorstvom získali architektka z Juhoafrickej republiky Denisa Scottova Brownova a biológ Rudolf Jaenisch pochádzajúci z Nemecka. Obaja získali na pamiatku sklenenú sošku dizajnera Štefana Sagmeistera a každý sumu 50,000 dolárov.

Inšpiráciou pre založenie nadácie bola podľa slov Vilčekovcov vlastná skúsenosť slovenských imigrantov, ktorí prišli v 60. rokoch minulého storočia za oceán hľadať šťastie, prácu a svoj druhý domov. Práve v New Yorku v centre svetového obchodu, kultúry a vedy dosiahli naplnenie svojich životných a pracovných ambícií. Svoje úsilie neúnavného bádateľa a vedca završil Ján Vilček úspešnou kariérou uznávaného výskumníka na Newyorskej univerzite, zatiaľ čo jeho manželka Marica sa venovala histórii umenia. Aj z tohto dôvodu sú ceny Vilcek Foundation venované ľuďom, ktorí zohrali dôležitú úlohu v rozvoji americkej vedy a umenia. Ján Vilček vzbudil pozornosť americkej verejnosti svojou štedrosťou už pred časom, keď venoval Newyorskej univerzite sponzorský dar v hodnote 105 miliónov dolárov. Stal sa tak najštedrejším súkromným darcom v histórii univerzity.

Svet rýchlo starne

New York (TASR) – Svet starne, varuje Organizácia Spojených národov. Počet starších ľudí sa do roku 2050 strojnásobí. Ľudí vo veku nad 60 rokov bude do dvoch miliárd. To predstavuje takmer štvrtinu z celkovej očakávanej populácie, ktorá by mala dosiahnuť 9.2 miliardy.

Uvádza sa to v uverejnenej správe OSN o svetovej populácii. Počas nasledujúcich 43 rokov narastie podľa prognóz počet ľudí na zemi o 2.5 miliardy (z terajších 6.7 miliárd). Do roku 2050 tak populácia prekoná hranicu deviatich miliárd. Rozvinutejšie časti sveta však budú starnúť veľmi výrazne.

Najväčšia časť nárastu populácie a mladých ľudí sa očakáva v najchudobnejších krajinách, najmä v 50 najmenej rozvinutých krajinách. Mnohé z nich majú stále relatívne mladú populáciu, ktorá bude starnúť len mierne.

V rozvinutých krajinách bude podľa prognóz populácia prudko starnúť. Ľudí v týchto štátoch žijú dlhšie a majú menej detí, táto kombinácia by mohla do roku 2050 počet ľudí nad 60 rokov zdvojnásobiť, zo súčasných 245 miliónov na 406 miliónov.

Rozvinuté krajiny charakterizuje nedostatočný počet narodených detí, v porovnaní s počtom umierajúcich, a tento trend bude pokračovať. Pôrodnosť v najmenej rozvinutých krajinách bude klesať, ale stále zostane vyššia ako vo zvyšku sveta.

V roku 2050 bude, v porovnaní s terajším stavom, žiť menej ľudí v 46 krajinách, vrátane Nemecka, Talianska, Japonska, Južnej Kórey a väčšiny štátov bývalého Sovietskeho zväzu, ako aj v niekoľkých menších štátoch.

Až polovica ľudí z očakávaného nárastu populácie (2.5 miliardy do roku 2050) príde na svet v Indii, Nigérii, Pakistane, Kongu, Etiópii, USA, Bangladéši a Číne, informuje správa OSN.

Slovensko je na dobrej ceste k prijatiu eura

Londýn (TASR) – Ratingová agentúra Standard & Poor's Ratings Services (S&P) uviedla, že revalvácia slovenskej koruny 16. marca 2007 nemá vplyv na rating záväzkov Slovenskej republiky. Slovensko podľa S&P zostáva po revalvácii na dobrej ceste k prijatiu eura začiatkom roka 2009. Revalváciu centrálny parity slovenskej koruny v systéme výmenných kurzov ERM II o 8.5% požadovala Národná banka Slovenska (NBS) a súhlasili s ňou Európska centrálna banka (ECB), krajiny eurozóny a ostatné krajiny, ktorých meny sú zapojené do ERM II. Podľa S&P táto revalvácia rozšíri priestor pre menovú politiku NBS a pomôže zachovať cenovú stabilitu.

Agentúra S&P vo svojej správe uvá-

dza, že Slovensko je na ceste k splneniu maastrichtských kritérií v termíne, ktorý dovoľí vstúpiť do eurozóny v roku 2009. V tomto roku by deficit verejných financií SR, vrátane výdavkov na dôchodkovú reformu, mal podľa S&P dosiahnuť 3% hrubého domáceho produktu (HDP) a celková zadĺženosť verejnej správy v pomere k HDP by mala zostať na 34%.

Ratingy Slovenska podľa S&P odrážajú rýchly progres vo verejnom sektore, reformu sociálneho zabezpečenia, vysoký rast ekonomiky a perspektívu prijatia eura v roku 2009. Prekážkami ďalšieho zlepšenia ratingov je iba pomalé zvyšovanie životnej úrovne a nejasné perspektívy budúcej hospodárskej a fiškálnej politiky.

Slováci v EÚ v konzumovaní alkoholu na 23. mieste

Bratislava (TASR) – V objeme skonsumovaného alkoholu sa Slováci umiestnili na 23. mieste v Európskej únii. Ako informoval Inštitút Centra pre liečbu drogových závislostí prezentovaný prehľadom čerstvých medzinárodných prieskumov v krajinách Európy, na Slovensku stúplo užívanie kanabisu a v menšej miere i syntetických drog, ale naopak, trvalý je pokles užívania heroínu.

Riaditeľ Centra pre liečbu drogových závislostí Ľubomír Okruhlica konštatoval, že na Slovensku bolo v roku 2006 25 percent abstinentov. V rámci štatistík sa SR umiestnila na 8. mieste, počítajúc od najväčšieho počtu abstinentov po najmenší. Je to zhodné percento s priemerom v EÚ. Najviac abstinentov malo Taliansko - 40%, najmenej Dánsko 7%. Česko sa umiestnilo s 18 percentami

na 19. mieste.

Na Slovensku za posledný mesiac pilo alkohol 87% obyvateľov nad 15 rokov, opäť tesne s priemerom EÚ, čo do podielu pijúcich. Slovensko sa tak zaradilo na 15. miesto v rámci EÚ. Najväčší podiel alkohol pijúcej populácie má Luxembursko - 93%, najmenší Poľsko 75%, Česko bolo s podielom 90% na 7.-9. mieste.

S umiestnením varovných nápisov na etikety fliaš s alkoholickými nápojmi súhlasilo 87 percent Slovákov, čo je 4. miesto v EÚ. Zákaz reklamy alkoholu so zameraním na mládež by podporilo viac ako 90 percent Slovákov, čo Slovensko radí na 1. miesto v EÚ. S pravidelným pitím alkoholu začalo medzi 15.-19. rokom života až 43 percent Slovákov.

**FRATERNALIZMUS POSILŇUJE
RODINU**

Historický odkaz Dr. Jozefa Tisu

Milan S. Ďurica
I.

Úvodom

Nielen mladšie generácie oprávnené sa dnes dovolávajú svojho práva poznať celé dejiny slovenského národa a predovšetkým zaplniť poznáním historických skutočností tie "biele miesta", vzťahujúce sa na udalosti a osoby, ktoré marxistická stranníka historiografica doteraz systematicky falšovala alebo aj úplne tabuizovala. Aj v západných krajinách, v ktorých povojnový trend ľavičiarkej kultúry často viedol aj vážnych autorov k málo kritickému preberaniu téz a hodnotení marxistických pseudohistorikov, už stále silnejšie počuť hlasy, ktoré sa dožadujú kritickej revízie vírusov ideologických predsudkov nakažených a mocenským diktátom deformovaných najmä novších dejín. K takýmto statiam slovenských dejín patrí bezpochyby samostatný Slovenský štát rokov 1939-1945 a jeho hlavný predstaviteľia na čele s prezidentom Republiky



Milan S. Ďurica

dr. Jozefom Tisom (1887-1947). Aj v zložitom procese tvorenia dejín mens agitator molem - myslenie má vedúcu úlohu. Preto je veľmi dôležité poznať hlavné myšlienky, ktoré viedli Dr. Jozefa Tisu v jeho politickej činnosti a ktoré riadili proces vzniku i trvania Slovenskej republiky. Tomuto chce slúžiť naša stručná rozprava.

Jedným z najvýraznejších znakov, ktoré v rozpätí časov bezpečne odlišujú človeka od všetkých ostatných druhov stvorenstva, je jeho dejinnosť. Pod týmto termínom rozumieme typicky a exkluzívne ľudskú schopnosť zachovať si v pamäti vykonané činy a zažitú udalosť, tradovať ich iným ľuďom, kriticky hodnotiť takto tradované spomienky a záznamy, rekonštruovať aj so značným časovým odstupom udiavšie sa skutočnosti, - slovom, tvoriť dejiny aj v zmysle poznania toho, čo sa v zašlých časoch dialo. Platí pre ľudstvo ako také, a teda tak pre jednotlivé osoby, ako aj pre všetky spoločenské zoskupenia, na ktoré sa ľudstvo člení v rozličných fázach svojho vývinu. Nemožno povedať, že dejinnosť spoločenských útvarov je jedným z najbezpečnejších meradiel ich vyspelosti, ich duchovného a materiálneho pokroku, ich osobitného prínosu do všeobecnej pokladnice vospolných hodnôt ľudskej spoločnosti. Veď čože jasnejšie rozlišuje napríklad dve rodiny, z ktorých jedna nesie meno Habsburg a druhá Klein, ak práve iná hmotnosť a iný profil ich relatívnej dejinnosti?

Dejinnosť je tým faktorom, ktorý pretvára rodinu na rod a dynastiu. Podobne je aj u vyšších spoločenských celkov: dejinnosť pretvára kmene na družiny a zväzky, dejinnosť povyšuje tieto na etnické celky, dejinnosť tvorí národy, štáty, ba i nadštátne mocenské štruktúry.

Preto môžeme tvrdiť bez strachu, že sa zmýlime: Kto nepozná svoje dejiny, či už ako jednotlivec, ako člen rodiny alebo ako príslušník národa, ten zanedbáva jeden z podstatných rozpoznávacích znakov svojej ľudskosti. Kto vedome zanedbáva, povrhne, alebo dokonca falšuje dejiny svojho národa, ten znevažuje svoj národ, prekáža jeho historickému vývinu a degraduje seba samého vo svojej dôstojnosti človeka ako dejinnosťou obdareného tvora.

Hlavnými tvorcami dejín vždy boli a ostávajú predovšetkým vynikajúci jednotlivci, historické osobnosti. Preto aj poznanie dejín musí mať za predmet v prvom rade životné osudy, činy a odkazy tých nevšedných jednotlivcov, ktorí vedeli v určitých epochách akoby stelesniť ducha celých spoločenských útvarov, reprezentovať ich pred inými podobnými útvarmi a tak vtlačiť punc svojej osobnosti historickému vývinu. Jednou z takýchto osobností v dejinách slovenského národa bol bezpochyby Dr. Jozef Tiso.

Ako to už pri politicky exponovaných osobnostiach býva, aj o živote a diele dr. Jozefa Tisu bolo vyslovených veľa úplne si protirečiacich úsudkov. To, že výsledok druhej svetovej vojny spôsobil nielen vojenskú porážku Slovenskej republiky, ale aj zánik slovenskej štátnosti, malo takmer nevyhnutne za následok, že víťazi vyliali všetok svoj blen na hlavu predstaviteľa tejto štátnosti prezidenta Slovenskej republiky. Antické vae victis našlo nové potvrdenie svojej platnosti tak na Slovensku, ako aj v mnohých iných porazených štátoch. Až potiaľ dá sa povojnová situácia historicky pochopiť, ak nie vo všetkom ospravedlniť. Ale od konca druhej svetovej vojny prešlo už vyše šesťdesiat rokov. Vystriedali sa takmer dve generácie, ktoré s rastúcim časovým odstupom usilovali sa revidovať sudy a výroky víťazstvom omámených nenávisťou voči porazeným nepriateľom zaslepených myslí.

Historickí pracovníci, vedení snahou o objektívnu rekonštrukciu historických faktov tak, ako sa ony skutočne udiali, kritickým vedeckým rozborom našťastie bohatých pôvodných prameňov, dopracovali sa už pozoruhodných úspechov a došli k triezvemu, vyváženejšiemu úsudku aj o jednotlivých na nich zúčastnených činiteľoch. Výsledkom tohoto už takmer pol storočia trvajúceho procesu je obsiahla knižničná polica historických diel tak o celom období druhej svetovej vojny, ako aj o mnohých čiastkových otázkach onej epochy o jednotlivých osobnostiach, ktoré v nej zohrali zodpovednú úlohu. V každom kníhkupectve krajín, ktoré rešpektujú základné ľudské práva slobodného vedeckého bádania a slobody prejavu mienky, možno nájsť životopisy Hitlera i Stalina, Mussoliniho i Pétaina, celkom tak ako napríklad životopisy Churchilla, Roosevelta alebo De Gaullea. Ba aj v Maďarsku vyšlo už niekoľko štúdií o Horthym a v Rumunsku majú tiež k dispozícii obsiahly životopis Antonesca. Iba na Slovensku dr. Jozef Tiso ostáva v tomto ohľade ešte stále absolútnym "tabu".

A Slováci v exile - odhladiť od skutočne iba pár čestných výnimiek - tiež sa neusilovali doposiaľ náležitým spôsobom spracovať a predstaviť našim mladším generáciám i širšej svetovej verejnosti ľudský, kňazský a politický profil tejto prvoradej osobnosti slovenského národa. V nádeji, že tento jubilejný rok priniesie

určitú nápravu tejto neblahej situácie, pokúsím sa tu aspoň v niekoľkých črtách naznačiť, čo pokladám za historický odkaz dr. Jozefa Tisu.

Nemusíme sa príliš namáhať hľadaním najstručnejšej možnej formulácie Tisovho odkazu. On sám v plnom zenite svojej existenčnej dráhy zhrnul nám ho do týchto stručných štyroch slov. Verní sebe - svorne napred! Ak pozorne analyzujeme celý život, dielo a náuku dr. Jozefa Tisu, zistíme, že do tohoto lapidárneho hesla majstrovsky vtiesnil celú podstatu svojho životného programu: ideály, ktoré ho inšpirovali; vznešené ciele, pre dosiahnutie ktorých žil a pracoval; prostriedky, ktoré považoval za účelné alebo nevyhnutné na dosiahnutie vytýčených cieľov; ba i metódy, akými načas postupovať pri výbere a správnom použití tých prostriedkov v rozličných životných situáciách.

Nie náhodou teda na prvé miesto svojho hesla položil dr. Jozef Tiso adjektívum "verní". Vernosť - v slovanských, ale aj iných indoeurópskych jazykoch odvodzujú sa od toho istého kmeňa ako viera - je sémantický ťarchavý pojem, zahrňujúci subjektívne presvedčenie o poznanej pravde ako hodnote, ktorá človeka dvíha, obohacuje a zošľachtuje. Vo vzťahu k tejto hodnote vyplývajú mu záväznosti, ktorých presné, dôsledné a nemeniteľné plnenie aj za cenu primeraných obetí označuje sa ako vernosť. V bežnom zmysle vernosť sa vzťahuje na iný, od subjektu odlišný termín, na inú osobu. Preto Tisovo "verní sebe" na prvý pohľad môže pôsobiť trochu prekvapujúco. Je to však šťastná expresívna väzba, za ktorou sa skrýva hlboké filozoficko-teologické poznanie a z neho vyplývajúca životná múdrosť.

Vernosť sebe v Tisovom poňatí znamená prijatie pravdy o Božom diele stvorenia a o človeku ako o korune tohoto diela, v ktorej sa odzrkadľuje v obmedzenej podobe neobmedzené dokonalosti Božej podstaty. Človek stvorený "na obraz Boží", je obdarený poznávacou schopnosťou intelektu a slobodou vôle, ktorými je pozvaný k účinnej spolupráci na diele stvorenia. Z tohoto poznania vyplývajú pre každú osobu záväznosti, rozvíjajú intelektuálne vlohy, ktorými ju Boh obdaril, aby mohla čo najjasnejšie poznať zmysel svojej existencie, slobodne si vybrať konkrétne životné ciele, a potom verne sa snažiť o ich dosiahnutie.

Jozef Tiso dokázal to už od svojej mladosti. Usiloval sa využiť všetky možnosti, aby svoje prirodzené vlohy uplatnil a rozvinul čo najintenzívnejším štúdiom. Neuspokojil sa s nijakou pohodlnou prostrednosťou, dosahoval vo všetkých predmetoch vynikajúci prospech. Nie všetci vedia, že "malý drotárík z Bytče" (tak ho nazývali spolužiaci aj profesori na gymnáziu v Žiline) počas svojej intelektuálnej prípravy na kňazstvo nadobudol si takú solídnu kultúrnu základňu, akú v onom čase - ale i teraz - má iba nemnoho kňazov. Popri striktnom teologickom vzdelaní študent Tiso venoval značnú časť svojho času poznávaniu katolíckej sociálnej náuky pod vedením takých učiteľov, akými boli profesor Franz Schindler a neskorší rakúsky kancelár, vtedy mladý docent Ignáz Seipel.

Znalosť cudzích jazykov je popri kultúrnom obohatení - "Koľko jazykov vieš, toľkokrát si človekom", hovoril už Ján Amos Komenský - aj kľúčom priameho prístupu do vedeckých pokladníc iných národov. Jozef Tiso, ktorý okrem svojej rodnej slovenčiny dokonale ovládal aj maďarský a nemecký jazyk, osvojil si ešte aj klasickú gréčtinu a latinčinu, potom študoval hebrejský jazyk a rôzne aramejské dialekty, ba nakoniec venoval sa aj štúdiu arabského jazyka. Nečudo potom, že keď neskôr ako bánovský farár a poslanec založil tam učiteľskú akadémiu, ktorej bol dlhé roky riaditeľom a na ktorej aj vyučoval náboženstvo, nikdy svojim študentom nerozprával o politike. Ak mu predsa niektorý položil túto otázku, dr. Tiso ho poučil: "Vašou povinnosťou teraz je študovať. To je tá najlepšia služba, akú môžete prukázať aj svojmu národu. Čím lepšie sa pripravíte intelektuálne a morálne na svoje povolanie, tým schopnejší budete zajtra vychovávať mládež slovenského národa, a keď bude treba, robiť aj dobrú politiku".

Politika nikdy nebola pre dr. Tisu iným, ako službou národu. Konajúc aj tu najdôležitejšiu službu, človek ju nesmie robiť na úkor vyšších hodnôt, ak sa nechce spreneveriť sebe samému. Tisovým životným povolaním bolo kňazstvo, ktorému vedel vždy podriaďovať všetky ostatné záväznosti svojich verných funkcií. Krátko po jeho zvolení za prezidenta Slovenskej republiky, istý nemecký novinár, poznajúc aj na Slovensku prípady kňazov, čo pre oveľa skromnejšie verejné funkcie opustili svoje kňazské povolanie, položil dr. Tisovi otázku: "A čo bude s Vaším kňazstvom teraz, keď ste sa stali hlavou štátu? Nebude Vám na prekážku pri tejto Vašej vysokej funkcii? Tiso mu pohotovo odpovedal: "práve teraz viac než inokedy budem potrebovať ten prameň duchovnej sily, ktorým mi vždy bolo moje kňazstvo". - Vieme, s akou vernosťou sebe po celý čas svojho prezidentstva zastával dr. Tiso svoj úrad bánovského farára. Aj vyslanci Veľkonemeckej ríše, ak mali dačo veľmi súrne a chceli, aby ich prezident Slovenska prijal v sobotu alebo v nedeľu, museli sa uráčiť až do Bánoviec na faru. V deň Pánov kňazovi Tisovi boli jeho kňazské záväznosti viac, než čo i najvyššia štátna politika.

Škoda, že nám tu neostáva priestor pre obsiahlejší pohľad na kňazský profil osobnosti dr. Jozefa Tisu, lebo on predstavuje jediný kľúč na správne pochopenie celého jeho života a diela, a teda i pre správne interpretovanie jeho historického odkazu.

Tisovo "verní sebe" už tým, že ho formuloval v množnom čísle, jasne poukazuje na to, že zásady, ktoré sme vyššie načrtli, neplatia iba v úzko individuálnom zmysle, ale majú aj širokú spoločenskú platnosť. Človeka Boh stvoril ako bytosť spoločenskú, ako tvora, ktorý je celou svojou prírodou sprvoti priam fyzicky odkázaný, neskôr psychologicky podmienený vospolnosťou sebe podobných tvorov. Z tohoto božieho stvoriteľského plánu vyplýva prirodzená potreba a objektívna hodnota spoločenských útvarov ľudstva, akými sú elementárne biologicko-afektívne spoločenstvo rodiny a historickým vývinom podmienené etnicko-kultúrne spoločenstvo národa. Poznať a prijať toto spoločenské zakorenenie osoby ako hodnotu v poriadku stvorenia, znamená pre dr. Jozefa Tisu rozšíriť aj horizont vernosti sebe na obidve tieto prirodzené spoločenstvá, ktoré sú v zmysle tomistickej filozofie druhotnými prameňmi nášho bytia. Preto láska k národu bola Tisovi morálnym imperatívom, spadajúcim do sféry štvrtého prikázania božieho celkom tak, ako láska k vlastným rodičom.

(Pokračovanie)