

Jednota

THE UNION

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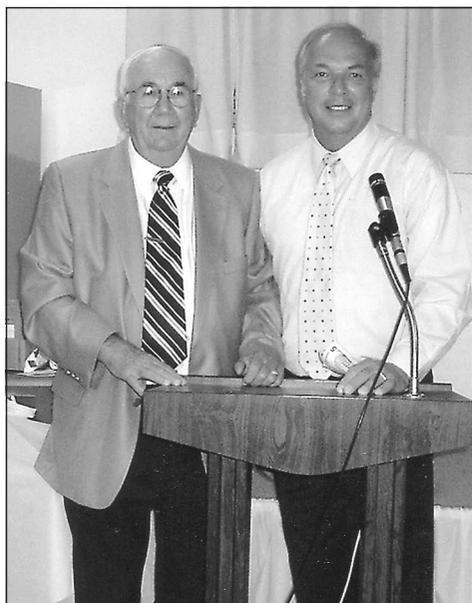
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Volume 116

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2007

Number 5760

Pittsburgh District Holds Annual Father's Day Brunch



L-R Regional Director Regis Brekosky and George Matta II, President of the Pittsburgh District, welcome everyone to the Pittsburgh District Father's Day Brunch.

Members of the Pittsburgh District and their families enjoyed the annual Father's Day Brunch on Sunday, June 17, 2007, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at Holy Trinity Parish in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. The event was hosted by the Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38, in Duquesne, Pennsylvania.

George Matta II, President of the Pittsburgh District, served as Master of Ceremonies. Logan Dillinger, President of Branch 38, welcomed everyone who attended. Langley, Devin, and Austin Matta led the Pledge of Allegiance. Father Joseph Grosko, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, gave the invocation. Following a delicious brunch of eggs, French toast, bacon, and muffins, Regional Director Regis Brekosky and National Treasurer George Matta, spoke on the importance of fathers and families in our lives. Father Grosko gave the group a final blessing. The event closed with the singing of "Hej Slovaci."

Margaret Nasta

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 5



L-R: Fr. Andrew Krafcik, Dr. Edward Tuleya, Dr. John Karch, John Kulhan, Ambassador Rastislav Kacer, State Secretary Jaroslav Baska, Charles Bugajsky, COL Stephen Matula, William Prusak, Edward Pavelko, COL Miroslav Giertli, LCOL Peter Knanik. LCOL Andrew Prokop was not available when photo was taken.

Slovak Defense Deputy Honors Slovak American Veterans

By John Karch

As mentioned in the previous issue of JEDNOTA, Ing. Jaroslav Baska, State Secretary (Deputy) of the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic, honored American Slovaks during his visit to Washington, D.C. at the May 30 Reception, hosted by Slovak Ambassador Rastislav Kacer and Defense, Military and Air Attache COL Miroslav Giertli, at the Slovak Embassy. The Deputy Minister presented medals to nine Veterans, eight of whom served with the U.S. armed forces and one with Slovak and Czechoslovak armies.

Deputy Defense Attache LCOL Peter Knanik had contacted by telephone potential recipients of the medal, not only veterans of World War II but other veterans "connected some way with Slovakia." Some veterans within reach were unable to travel even short distances. The

continued on page 7

Pittsburgh Agreement Coming Home

The signing of the Pittsburgh agreement on May 31, 1918, was an important occurrence in the course of events leading to the establishment of an independent Czechoslovak state after the First World War. Prior to the First World War, the Slovaks and Czechs were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Pittsburgh Agreement signed at the former Loyal Order of Moose Building in downtown Pittsburgh means as much as the U.S. Declaration of Independence. The "birth certificate" of Czechoslovakia is coming home to the city where the agreement forming the former central European country was signed.

On September 9, 2007, the Slovak League of America headquartered in New Jersey, which has held the original document since 1918, will donate it to the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center, where it will be on permanent display. In order to celebrate this momentous occasion, the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association will hold a formal presentation with special guests from the Slovak government, Czech government and the City of Pittsburgh.

This ceremony will take place at 12:00 p.m. in the Great Hall on the first floor of the Heinz History Center, which is located at 1212 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh. The public is invited.

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Westfield Seminar

The Membership and Marketing Committee held a seminar on Sunday, May 20, 2007, at the Slovak Hall in Westfield, Massachusetts.

Members of the St. Stephen Society, Branch 890, attended the seminar. The St. Stephen Society is an insurance fraternal society acquired by the First Catholic Slovak Union in 2003.

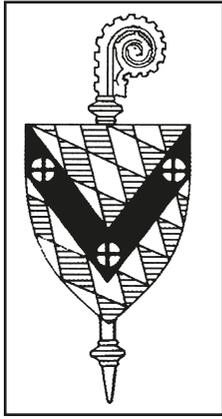
The seminar was conducted by National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr., Chairman

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Attending the Westfield Seminar are Branch 890 officers L-R: Trustee Tom Liptak, Trustee Bill Kriesak, Financial Secretary Catherine Avedesian, President Dan Krapik, and FCSU National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

Insights and Viewpoints



St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies

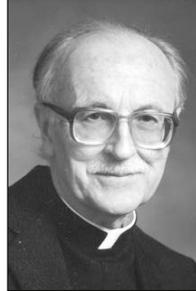
Fr. Campion P. Gavaler, O.S.B. and Father Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B.

August 19, 2007 (Year C)

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 12: 49-53

Gospel Summary

In this passage Jesus speaks of the meaning of his life. To fulfill his God-given destiny, he has resolutely set his face toward Jerusalem. There, refusing to be diverted from his mission of love, he will be rejected, suffer greatly and meet a violent death. He says that he is filled with great anguish until the mission he has been given is completed. Sensing a growing



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

hostility, he tells his disciples that his intention is not to establish peace, but rather division--dividing even households and families.

Life Implications

At first glance one would not recognize the sayings of Jesus in this gospel passage as good news—there is the allusion to his own suffering and death, as well as his statement about bringing division, not peace. People in bondage to any kind of slavery or oppression, however, would have no trouble understanding exactly what Jesus is talking about. They would know that what they were hearing was good news. When someone like Martin Luther King appears in a situation where people are hopelessly caught in oppression, the immediate consequence is not peace, but division—even in households and families.

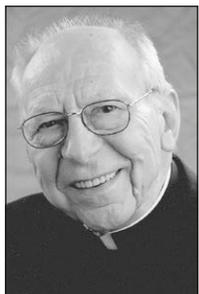
An oppressive system does not fix itself of its own accord. It takes a strong person of compassion not merely to lament injustice, but to risk life itself to proclaim liberation from oppression and hope of a new way of living. The very presence of such a person provokes a crisis whereby everyone involved in the system must choose either actively to hope for the new reality or to resist its coming.

Jesus understood that he had been sent to a fallen world in bondage—a humanity hopelessly mired in false value-systems of covetousness, violence, and idolatry. This was not merely some local situation of economic oppression imposed by a selfish landowner. Jesus was engaged in a cosmic struggle against the realm of Satan in order to restore God's kingdom to people long held in slavery to demonic powers. Paul, particularly in his Letter to the Romans, speaks of the universality of the bondage. All humanity lives under the power of sin. And even with the most well-intentioned effort, those in slavery—Jews and Gentiles alike—are not able to live according to God's will.

Jesus symbolically shows that he has entered the realm of Satan with God's power to liberate humanity from bondage by casting out demons. He shows that people will be able to use their freedom to live in a new way by curing people paralyzed to inaction by illness. Jesus in his own life shows what it means to be completely free from the false value-systems of Satan's reign, and to live in submission to God's reign—not as to a powerful king, but to a loving father.

Reflections on Our Christianity

Msgr. Edward V. Rosack



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Positions for Prayer

Prayer is communication with the Persons of the Holy Trinity and with the saints, who are residents of heaven. Prayer is union with God only when the one praying is already one with God, adores God and uncompromisingly and steadfastly accepts God's teaching. Underlying all of this is the acknowledgement that God is supreme above all creation.

The Bible speaks of various positions for prayer but does not specify anywhere the superiority of any one position.

Our Lord Jesus Christ gives us this instruction for prayer: **When you are praying, do not behave like the hypocrites who love to stand and pray in synagogues or on street corners in order to be noticed.**

I give you my word, they are already repaid. Whenever you pray, go to your room, close the door, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees what no man sees, will repay you. In your prayer do not rattle on like pagans. They think they will win a hearing by the sheer multiplication of words. Do not imitate them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. (Matthew 6:5-8)

In summary: do not pray to be noticed; "do not rattle on" - avoid "multiplication of words;" "your Father knows what you need before you ask him." What is important to Jesus Christ is not position or length of time spent in prayer but attitude. Are you not irritated by hearing the same words over and over again?

Whatever the position, God knows your heart and whether they are in concert with our words. He knows when we are trying to manipulate him and when we appear in adoration, humility and as witnesses of his teaching.

Standing

In the Jewish religion, the central prayer of their liturgy is the Amidah ("Standing") prayer. This prayer (also called "Tefilah" - "Prayer") is Judaism's prayer "par excellence." Observant Jews recite this prayer every morning, afternoon and evening at each prayer service of the day. Conservative and Reform congregations recite it only once daily. Originally having 18

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As we hear the words of Jesus about the meaning of his life at our Eucharistic liturgy, we realize that they are living words spoken to us. Jesus means to provoke a crisis of decision in us even though it might disturb the peace and cause division. If we hear his words in faith, we will take a close look at the system of values whereby in practice we live our own lives. Though professing membership in the Church, am I still in bondage to the false value-systems of a fallen world? How do I define the meaning of my life? How do I define the meaning of success?

Jesus, now Risen Lord, is present among us not only to provoke a crisis of decision, but to enable us to actualize the reality of God's reign in ourselves. In that reality, although it may cost us something, we too can enter situations of oppression with the compassion and healing power of Jesus. With God's grace, we too can sometimes be instruments of liberation and hope for people who are held in bondage.



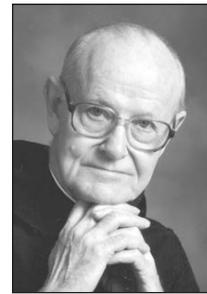
August 26, 2007 (Year C)

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 13:22-30

Gospel Summary

Luke reminds us once again that we are on the "way to Jerusalem" with Jesus. In 9:51 Luke tells us that Jesus "resolutely determined to go to Jerusalem," and in the following ten chapters, Jesus shows us how to make this journey with him. In essence, this means that the guiding principle in our lives ought to be the loving concern that took Jesus himself to



Demetrius R. Dumm,
O.S.B.

the climax of his career as he gave his life for us in Jerusalem. Though it would be nice if we could all visit the modern city of Jerusalem, this is not what Luke has in mind. He is thinking instead about the true purpose of this human life that God has given us.

As we make this spiritual journey, we must inevitably ask the question posed in today's gospel: "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" Or, more directly, "Lord, am I among those who will make this journey successfully?" And Jesus answers our question with words that dispel any smugness that we may have been entertaining: "Strive to enter through the narrow gate." To love as he did will not be easy.

Finally, Jesus warns us about the terrible disappointment in store for those who have not taken his teaching seriously. They will discover, only when it is too late, that they have not made room in their lives for the One who alone can bring them to that ultimate joyful banquet that our Creator has prepared for us in his Kingdom.

Life Implications

Most of us live in a world that is full of wonderful opportunities. A telling metaphor is the superabundance of our grocery stores. When we enter the supermarket, we scarcely know where to turn in view of all the delightful attractions that surround us. It has been noted that those who come here from impoverished countries are almost overwhelmed by amazement at the seemingly endless riches of these grocery stores.

We should all be grateful for such conveniences in our lives, but we also know that such displays of worldly goods do not represent the real meaning of happiness. Some years ago, it was common to find contests offered on the radio with the winner awarded "20 minutes of free shopping in the supermarket." One can easily imagine the winner's frenetic search for the most desirable items. But I like to imagine a different scenario where the winning contestant would spend those precious minutes helping others with their shopping needs. And when questioned about this strange behavior, he would reply simply, "Oh, didn't you know that my Father owns the supermarket and that, if I am kind and thoughtful during my "20 minutes" of life, the "whole store" will be mine forever?"

What a pity it will be if we finally see what life is all about only when it is too late! But there is still time to resist the powerful distractions that dazzle us and tell us how much more we need when only one thing is really necessary, that is, to love our gracious and generous God and to be kind and forgiving toward his precious people.

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Apostleship of Prayer Intentions for August 2007

General Intention

Those Suffering Inner Turmoil.

That those who are suffering inner difficulties and trials may find in Christ the light and support that leads to authentic happiness.

Mental illness now afflicts one fifth of humanity. Mental illness has grown into a health care emergency, Pope Benedict XVI explains, because of war, oppression, poverty, and whatever robs us of our dignity.

In his message for the 14th World Day of the Sick in 2006, the Holy Father also spoke of mental illness in developed countries. He blamed the loss of moral values, the unraveling of families, spreading loneliness, and neglect of the suffering as causes contributing to mental illness in the U.S. and other wealthy countries.

Then, turning his thoughts to suffering people, the Pope said, "I would now like to address you, dear brothers and sisters, tried by illness, to invite you to offer your condition of suffering, together with Christ, to the Father, certain that every trial accepted with resignation is meritorious and draws divine goodness upon the whole of humanity." We Apostles of Prayer take great encouragement from the Holy Father's affirmation of our simple, profound way of praying.

So we offer ourselves- with all our "prayers, works, joys, and sufferings," in the words of our traditional Morning Offering. Praying in union with Christ and in solidarity with all the Apostles of Prayer worldwide, we are confident that God will hear us and console those who are suffering from any kind of mental illness.

We ask God to restore the mentally ill to sound mind and good health. We ask Him too to free people from the things in our world that contribute to mental illness.

For Reflection

Mental illness in its many forms touches all of us. Can you see some small way you can comfort or befriend one who suffers mental illness? Is there a way you can reduce the circumstances that contribute to mental illness?

Mission Intention

Church in China. That the Church in China may grow in unity and in visible communion with the Pope.

We don't tend to think of China as a Christian country, but recent estimates put Chinese Catholics at 13 million. Because of state persecution, the Catholic Church in China is split, about 5 million belonging to the Patriotic Association and 8 million belonging to the "Underground Church." The latter, larger flock, seeks to remain in unity with Rome.

Things are changing fast in China as it opens up to the world. But the "Underground Church" is still suffering persecution. The faithful are regularly subjected to harassment and arrest; bishops are imprisoned.

Shortly after his election, Pope Benedict expressed hope that Chinese Catholics could be reunited. In March 2006 he made Bishop Joseph Zen Ze-kuin a cardinal. Zen, Bishop of China's largest diocese, Hong Kong, has spoken out many times for religious freedom throughout China.

Presently almost all Catholics in China are considered in communion with the Holy Father. It seems a short step to bring both Churches into unity under Rome. Pope Benedict is eager to work with the Chinese government to overcome the "misunderstandings of the past."

Meanwhile the number of Catholics in China continues to grow rapidly. What could be the impact of Chinese Catholics on the world in this century and beyond? A Catholic Church

in China unified under the Holy See opens up staggering possibilities.

We join together with all Apostles of Prayer and the Holy Father in praying earnestly for the reunion of the Catholic Church in China.

For Reflection

Jesus said that a divided house cannot stand. To be one, all the far-flung Churches must find unity in their allegiance to the Holy See. What does it mean to you to be in unity with the Pope?



Reflections on Our Christianity

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blessings, now 19, it is forbidden to interrupt the prayer and forbidden to sit next to someone reciting the prayer or walk within four cubits of someone saying the prayer.

Nehemiah 8:5-6: Ezra opened the scroll so that all the people might see it (for he was standing higher up than any of the people); and, as he opened it, all the people rose. Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people, their hands raised high, answered, "Amen, amen!" Then they bowed down and prostrated themselves before the Lord, their faces to the ground.

Mark 11:25: When you stand to pray, forgive anyone against whom you have a grievance so that your heavenly Father may in turn forgive your faults.

Kneeling

The most common position for prayer in the Bible is kneeling. **2 Chronicles 29:29: As the holocaust was completed, the king and all who were with him knelt and prostrated themselves.**

Isaiah 45:23: To me every knee shall bend; by me every tongue shall swear.

Luke 22:41-42: He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, then went down on his knees and prayed in these words: "Father, if it is your will, take this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done."

Acts 20:36: After this discourse Paul knelt down with them all (the Miletus presbyters) and prayed.

Philippians 2:10-11: So that at Jesus' name every knee must bend in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God the Father: Jesus Christ is Lord!

Prostration-Lying down face down

Numbers 14:5: But Moses and Aaron fell prostrate before the whole assembled community of the Israelites.

Joshua 5:14: The Joshua fell prostrate to the ground in worship...

Matthew 18:26-27: At that the official prostrated himself in homage and said, "My lord, be patient with me and I will pay back in full." Moved with pity, the master let the official go and wrote off the debt.

Matthew 26:39: He (Jesus) advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer.

1 Corinthians 14:25: Falling prostrate, he will worship God, crying out, "God is truly among you."

See Nehemiah 8:6 above. ...they ...prostrated themselves before the Lord, their faces to the ground.

Sitting

2 Samuel 7:18: Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, "Who am I, Lord God, and who are the members of my house, that you have brought me to this point?"

Symbolism of Prayerful Positions

From the earliest times in history, prayer was interaction between a person and his deities. There are two reasons for the form of prayer: honor the supremacy of the deity and demonstrate voluntary dependence upon the deity even though the individual recognized the deity/deities primarily through nature (wind, storm, drought, plagues) and through personal affliction. Early man knew there was someone out there who could control his world and his person. Involved with prayer, there are animal and human sacrifices, then a variety of mythological gods, and finally, the Son of Man, Jesus Christ.

In prayer, it was natural to accompany words with bodily positions to emphasize the sincerity, the dependency, the urgency of the verbal prayers and the supremacy of God over nature and all of mankind. Prayer and positions of prayer have one common denominator: humility. True humility opens the heart of God and bends his ear to the mouth of the one who speaks his name.

In the Bible, there is no particular, no specific, no required posture for prayer. Any attempt to select one posture as superior to any other lacks biblical support.

Not even lying in bed is excluded. **I will remember you upon my couch, and through the night watches I will meditate on you. (Psalm 63:7)**

Common sense says that a variety of postures for prayer can only prove confusing and divisive in community prayer. For example, there can be no harmony within the congregation when some stand, some kneel, some prostrate, some sit and some dance, if you will. Those standing obviously obstruct the vision of those kneeling or sitting behind them. Common sense: those standing should occupy the rear of the congregational assembly area.

Interfere not with a man in prayer lest you, by voice or step, break the bond that is his and his God's alone and you sorrow him and offend his God.

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, SEPTEMBER 5
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

Copy Deadline

MONDAY, AUGUST 27
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

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

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★★★ SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ★★★

We are in the process of making our newspaper available to more members. In order to maintain costs at the current level we will be eliminating the August 22 issue. The next issue will be on September 5, 2007.



John Lapinski Releases New CD

John Lapinski, well-known musician from Youngstown, Ohio, has released a new CD entitled "Like Father, Like Son". The CD contains Cleveland style favorites, including one selection on button box, also a few traditional Slovak songs, a Polish style polka and a special rendition of "When Your Old Wedding Ring Was New" with vocals by Jim Lapinski. The CD also features Jim Lapinski and Chrissy (Wojtila) Lapinski vocals on "Soon We'll Be Married" with special guests Don Wojtila and Dan Wojtila.

To order the CD send \$15.00 plus \$1.50 for shipping and handling (\$16.50 total) to: John Lapinski, 132 Homestead Drive, Youngstown, OH 44512. For more information email jjaccman@yahoo.com.

Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity – Currently Earning 5.00% (4.879 APR)

Under the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity, you may make periodic payments into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at, or greater than, the guaranteed rate. You can open the account with as little as \$500.00 and make additional deposits (\$25.00 minimum) as your financial situation allows. Additional deposits are not mandatory.

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Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

- The FCSU guarantees your deposits will accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- 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)

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY PENNSYLVANIA FRATERNAL CONGRESS 2007 SCHOLARSHIP

Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress Scholarship Program is again offering at least one (1) \$500 scholarship to a deserving young student from a member society. Additional scholarships may be awarded depending upon available funds.

The following are the rules and requirements:

Applicants must:

- Be a resident of Pennsylvania and a member of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a member of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress.
- Be a 2007 high school graduate attending an accredited college, university, trade school, etc. in the summer/fall of 2007 as a full time student (twelve semester credits). Proof of attendance must be submitted with application.
- Obtain a recommendation letter from your Fraternal Benefit Society.
- Submit a 500-word essay on: "How has your life been influenced by your Fraternal Benefit Society and what has the experience taught you?"
- Sign the Statement of Application on the bottom of the application page.
- Return the completed application, proof of acceptance from your university and postmarked no later than September 10, 2007.
- Contact the Home Office for an application by calling, (800) 533-6682.

Olga Slodichak Celebrates 80th Birthday

Olga Marejka-Slodichak of Town of Mount Royal, a suburb of Montreal, Quebec, Canada recently celebrated her 80th birthday in excellent mental and physical health, surrounded by her children, extended family and numerous friends. Her children, Tommy and Anne-Marie, and their spouses held a celebratory dinner in her honor on Saturday, July 14, 2007, at L'Orchidee de Chine, an elegant restaurant in downtown Montreal.

Olga was born July 17, 1927 in the then Slovak section of Old Montreal. She grew up in Ville St-Laurent as the fourth of eight siblings born to Veronika (Gruspier) and Stefan Marejka, a well-known and highly respected Slovak fraternal pioneer in Montreal. On August 29, 1949 Olga married Frank Slodichak shortly after his discharge from the Canadian Army at the end of World War II. They had two children. Tommy is married to Roslyn Citron and both are highly successful entrepreneurs in the field of computer electronics. Their daughter Anne-Marie married Alan McLaren, a computer expert and successful businessman. Olga has four grandchildren: Matthew and Andrea Slodichak and Michael and Samantha McLaren. Her children and grandchildren all live in Toronto.

Olga is an active member of the Slovak Catholic Parish and is affiliated Cy-Met Social Society, lifelong members of Jednota Branch 784 as well as a member of the Jednota Bowling Club, Montreal Chapter. Olga's husband, Frank, was called to his eternal rest on June 16, 1992 at age 70.

As is often and so appropriately said: "May this special milestone be a day bright with happiness and may you always stay as wonderful and as young at heart as you are today!"

Many happy returns of the day, Olga!

Olga Slodichak



Stefan Hreha

Westfield Seminar

continued from page 1

of the FCSU's Life Membership and Marketing Committee.

The St. Stephen Society hosted the event. Many thanks to Bill Kriesak and his fellow officers for preparing the buffet, which was served after the meeting.

The objective of this seminar was to acquaint members of the St. Stephen Society with our insurance and annuity portfolio. We have high quality, competitive and affordable life insurance as well as exceptional rates on our annuities.

Any member of the St. Stephen Society can contact the branch financial secretary Catherine W. Avedesian for all their insurance needs or call the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

Please attend the seminar that is scheduled in your District. Hope to see you there. Until Then-Good Luck and God Bless.

Andrew R. Harcar Sr.
National Vice President
Chairman, Membership and Marketing Committee

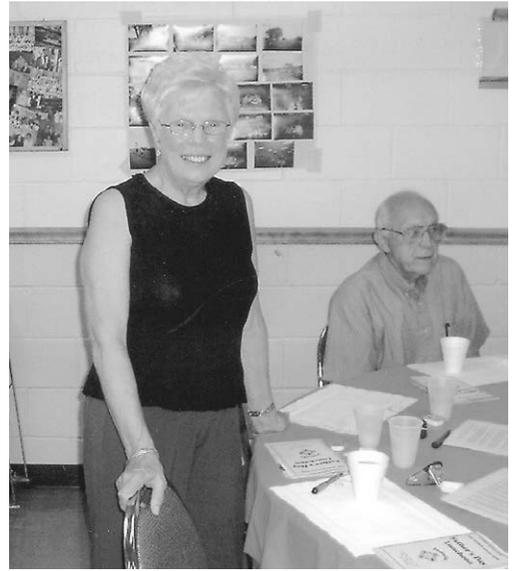
Some attendees at the Westfield Seminar



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary

We are now offering the Jednota newspaper (English and Slovak sections) to anyone interested in receiving the paper through E-mail. Please send your request and E-mail address to the Home Office. Remember you may still visit the website and find the last 4 issues plus the current issue of the newspaper for your convenience.

Scenes from the Pittsburgh District Father's Day Brunch



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

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Branches 5, 240, 263, and 419 — NANTICOKE, OLYPHANT, DUPONT, AND WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branches 5, 240, 263 and 419 will hold a combined Semiannual meeting on Sunday, August 26, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Joe Obester, 500 Brown Street, Duryea, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be a discussion of regular business and the new term policies now being issued. All members are urged to attend. There will be a buffet after the meeting.

Joe Obester, Financial Secretary

Branch 7 — HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, August 12, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin Street, Houtzdale, Pennsylvania. Members are urged to attend.

Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary

Branch 233 — BROCKPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. George Society, Branch 233, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, August 19, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the residence of Irene Halko, Route 219 by the Brockport Post Office, Brockport, Pennsylvania.

A meeting will also be held on Sunday, September 16, 2007.

Irene Halko

Branch 311 — MONESSEN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 311, Monessen, Pennsylvania, has merged with the SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 320 in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. This merger took place on July 13, 2007. Members of Branch 311 will now hold membership in Branch 320. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact Mrs. Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 or phone 724/929-9788.

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

Branch 367— FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 367, will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday, August 28, 2007, at 4:30 p.m. at the Titlow Hotel, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. All members are welcome to attend.

Jane Kish, Secretary

Branch 410— UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Tuesday, August 21, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the Highland House, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. All members are invited to attend. Please call 724/246-9853 in advance so reservations may be made.

**Geri Buchheit, Recording Secretary/
Financial Secretary**

Branch 493 — CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Members of the Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493, are encouraged to attend this year's Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar on Sunday, September 30, 2007,

at Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church, 1410 South Will-Cook Road, in Homer Glen, Illinois. The topic for this year's seminar will be "Painted Byzantine Catholic Icons in Annunciation Church." Father Thomas Loya will celebrate a Byzantine Catholic Divine Liturgy at 1:00 p.m. The liturgy will satisfy the Sunday Mass Obligation for Roman Catholic attendees. Admission is \$15.00 for pre-registrants (by September 5) and \$20.00 at the door. For information, call John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810 or Gerry Hletko at 708/387-7812.

**Robert Tapak Magruder,
Financial Secretary**

Branch 456 — HAWK RUN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 456, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, August 19, 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 553— AKRON, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 553, will hold its second lodge meeting of the year on Thursday, August 16, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the Slovak "J" Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, Ohio.

Greg Petrasek, Vice President

Branch 738— MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael Society, Branch 738, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Tuesday, August 28, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. at the Munhall-Whitaker VFW Post Home, Munhall, Pennsylvania. We will discuss Branch activities to be held during the remainder of the year 2007. Also on the agenda, will be a discussion of Insurance and Annuity sales. All members are invited. Please plan to attend.

**Jeanette Guidish,
Secretary-Treasurer
Robert Kosko, President**

Branch 746— LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, October 21, 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 a Christmas get-together, as well as finalizing plans for the Dinner Dance on November 17, 2007. Please bring your suggestions. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

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

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

Branch 769— ENDICOTT, NEW YORK

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 769, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Wednesday, August 15, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the residence of Henry Pochily, 2809 Smith Drive, Endwell, New York. All members are encouraged and welcome to attend.

Henry J. Pochily, President

FCSU Life Single Premium Insurance Spring Special

**Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage
for your children or grandchildren now through
December 31, 2007 and receive a
*FREE GIFT to present with the certificate.**

Pay one premium and have fully paid-up insurance.
Issued in any amount (\$5,000 or more) subject to current
FCSU Life non-medical limits.

Excellent gift for children or grandchildren.



Example – Newborn Male		Example – Newborn Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$290	\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$250
\$10,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$580	\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$500

Example – Age 5 Male		Example – Age 5 Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$340	\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$290
\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$680	\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$580

Example – Age 10 Male		Example – Age 10 Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$400	\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$340
\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$800	\$10,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$680

Example – Age 15 Male		Example – Age 15 Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$480	\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$405
\$10,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$960	\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$810

**Contact your branch office or to learn more call the
FCSU today at 1-800-533-6682**

*Children 8 and under receive a stuffed Jednota Bear. Children 9-18 receive a gift card!

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT — New Jersey

The Msgr. John E. Rura District will hold its next Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, October 14, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church Hall, Carteret, New Jersey. Branch 324 will be the host. Branch secretaries are asked to call Joe Poll at 732/541-4701 by October 3 with the number of members who will be attending. Please join us. Refreshments will be served.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT — Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 9, 2007 in Washington, D.C. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. in the Crypt Church (lower level) in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The lunch and meeting will take place after the liturgy in the Basilica Executive Conference Center. The donation for the lunch is \$20.00 per person. Please send your check with your credentials by September 2, 2007. Make checks payable to host Branch 856.

Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary

MICHIGAN DISTRICT — Michigan

The Michigan District invites all District branch members to celebrate with us on Sunday, September 9, 2007, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Sterling Heights, Michigan. We will be holding our District Picnic as part of the church festival. The 11:30 a.m. Slovak Mass will be offered for all the living and deceased members of the Michigan District. Mark your calendars for this Mass and picnic.

Victor Jiomkowski, President

REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT — Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin

Members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District are encouraged to attend this year's Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar on Sunday, September 30, 2007, at Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church, 14610 South Will-Cook Road in Homer Glen, Illinois. The topic will be "Painted Byzantine Catholic Icons in Annunciation Church." Father Thomas Loya will celebrate a Byzantine Catholic Divine Liturgy at 1:00 p.m. This liturgy will satisfy the Sunday Mass Obligation for Roman Catholics. Attendees will also enjoy a delicious catered meal. Admission is \$15. for pre-registrants (by September 5), and \$20.00 at the door. For information call John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810, or Gerry Hletko at 708/387-7812.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT — Youngstown, Ohio

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold a meeting on Tuesday, August 14, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church Rectory, Youngstown, Ohio.

Carlie Peschek, President

Slovak Defense Deputy Honors Slovak American Veterans

continued from page 1

Defense Attaches will "keep them in mind and will be glad to award more of them in the near future as appreciation of their military service and with the aim of developing their connections to their Slovak roots."

The following came to the reception and were presented the medal by State Secretary Baska. They are listed as they were called by COL Giertli—one by one in alphabetical order.

Charles BUGAJSKY:

E/5 Bugajsky served in the Regular U.S. Army infantry 3 years, 7 months, earning the CIB (Combat Infantryman Badge). He fought in Vietnam during 1966 and 1968, was wounded, and was awarded two Purple Hearts. He has a B.A. from the Univ. of Illinois, Chicago Campus, and three Master Degrees from three Universities in Chicago: (Roosevelt, Chicago State, and De Paul). He was a Detective in the Chicago Police Department. Retired, he resides in Ashburn, Virginia.

Dr. John J. KARCH:

ARM 3/C Karch was in the U.S. Navy (Air) two years, 7 months during World War II. He was an Air Crewman/Gunner--on PB4Y1P (Navy version of B-24 Liberator)--in a Photographic Squadron flying numerous times over Iwo Jima and Okinawa (Campaigns) as well as other islands, including Truk Atoll, and China. The flights were vulnerable to enemy AAA and aircraft fire (our plane was hit over Truk and on Okinawa). He was awarded the DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross) and the Air Medal with four gold stars. During 1956-76, he was in the Army Active Reserve (Intel.), retiring as LCOL. He received a B.S. from Temple Univ., M.A. and Ph.D. from American Univ. He was a Professor at the USAREUR Intelligence School in Oberammergau, Germany and at the National War College in Washington, D.C. After 29 years, he retired from Senior Foreign Service (U.S. Information Agency). He is a member of FCSU Branch 652 and resides in Falls Church, Virginia.

Fr. Andrew W. KRAFCIK:

T/5 Krafcik, U.S. Army, served 2 years in the Asiatic Theater—Army of Occupation in Japan--and received the Asiatic and Victory Medals. Following six years working on the Railroad, he enrolled at the St. Bonaventure Seminary, New York, in 1953 and was ordained a Priest in 1959. He served in the Diocese of Arlington and is retired. He is a member of FCSU Branch 856 and resides in Arlington, Virginia.

John KULHAN:

During his four-year World War II military experience, Lt. Kulhan was first with the Slovak Army fighting into the Soviet Union, then joined the newly-formed Czechoslovak Army, fighting through Ukraine, Poland, Dukla Pass, and Prague into Germany. There he assisted the American military. After the war, he returned to Bratislava but after the seizure of power by the Communists he, being accused as an American spy, fled the country with his family. Seeking political asylum, he came to the U.S. in 1950, becoming a citizen in 1957. He studied Engineering at the Brno Technical University and that was his profession in the U.S. Retired, He resides in Scarsdale, New York.

COL Stephen C. MATULA

COL Matula served 32 years (nearly 10 years Active, 22 Reserve) in the U.S. Air Force, including during World War II and the Korean War, with several months

abroad after WW II. He was a Flight Instructor, Command Pilot, and played a significant role in the Conversion to a new technique of Instrument Flying that spread throughout the Air Force. With CAA/FAA, COL Matula was a Flight Operations Specialist. Altogether, flying a B-4, B-25, C-47, C-54 and DC-9, he logged 6,500 hours as Pilot. He received a B.A. from George Washington University. He is President of FCSU Branch 856, Washington, D.C. area. Retired, he resides in Falls Church, Virginia.

Edward P. PAVELKO

Six months during 1961-62, PV2 Pavelko was on active duty in the Maryland National Guard, followed by 5 ½ years of Reserve service. He had one year of College before embarking on a professional career as Banker. He is a Member of FCSU Branch 856. Retired, he resides in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

LCOL Andrew J. PROKOP,

As a Pilot, LCOL Prokop Served in the U.S. Army Air Corps 4 years active and 9 years re-



COL Stephen Matula receiving medal from Defense Ministry Deputy Baska.

serve duty, including 16 months during World War II in the China, Burma, India Theater and in Africa. He qualified to pilot B-25, C-47, and C-54 planes. He was Commanding Officer at the Yunnanyi, Rangoon, and Karachi Air Bases and flew over the HUMP for the Chinese Air Force. The LCOL was awarded the U.S. Air Medal and 3 Chinese Campaign Medals. He received a B.S. from Parks College of St. Louis Univ. He was Operations Pilot with the CAA/FAA, thus acquiring 36 years of

military and civil flying. Retired, he resides in Vienna, Virginia.

William J. PRUSAK:

SPC/4 Prusak served in the U.S. Army during 1959-61, including 18 months in Germany with the 3rd Armored Division in Mannheim. He received his B.A. from St. Francis College, Loretto, Pennsylvania, and worked with U.S. Government's Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. He is a Member of FCSU Branch 856. Retired, he resides in Springfield, Virginia.

Dr. Edward A. TULEYA

First Lt Infantry Tuleya served With the U.S. Army four years during World War II. He landed on Normandy Beach D plus 1 and was wounded by shrapnel 2-3 days later. He was hospitalized in Reading, England, then transferred to an American hospital for six months, and assigned for limited duty at a Replacement Depot in France from which he attended Oxford Univ. for three months. He was awarded a Purple Heart and earned the Combat Infantryman Badge. Lt. Tuleya received a B.S. from Penn State Univ., M.A. from Columbia Univ., and Ph.D. from American Univ. During 1947-48 he was on a Fellowship at Comenius Univ. in Bratislava. He was a Professor of History at Millersville Univ. Retired, he is Prof. Emeritus, Member of FCSU Branch 278, and resides in Millersville, PA.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Writer John Karch is Dr. John J. Karch, the recipient of the medal. He conducted telephone interviews with

Oratory of Saint Philip Neri Established in New York

On the Feast of SS. Peter and Paul, June 29, 2007, the Holy Father Benedict XVI canonically erected the New York Congregation Oratory of Saint Philip Neri.

The new Congregation is a "Community of Apostolic Life" of diocesan priests.

It is the first Oratory established in the New York Archdiocese. It is the seventh Oratory in the United States after the first one was founded sixty years ago in Rock Hill, South Carolina, followed by the Oratories of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania, Monterey, California; Pharr, Texas; Brooklyn, New York; and Metuchen, New Jersey.

With great joy we announce this foundation. We hope that this new Oratorian foundation in New York will contribute to the illustrious celebration of the Bicentennial of the Archdiocese of New York and become a stable apostolic presence in the service of the people of God in New York.

His Eminence, the Archbishop of New York, Edward Cardinal Egan, graciously accepted the Oratory of Saint Philip as part of his local church, and will preside at the solemn Eucharistic Liturgy on the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, Tappan, New York, during which the Very Reverend Edoardo Aldo Cerrato, C.O., Procurator General, will officially confer the Apostolic Rescript upon the newly established Congregation in New York.

Present and concelebrating will be also the Most Rev. Alojz Tkac, Archbishop and Metropolitan of Kosice, Slovakia. The priests of this Congregation Oratory are Slovak, and most of them were sent to the United States by Archbishop Tkac. His missionary zeal and generosity made this foundation a reality.

We pay homage to the Holy Father Benedict XVI who is sending his Apostolic blessing to all who will be present at this foundation.

We cordially invite our brother priests, friends and especially the beloved parishioners of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart to share with us the joy of this event. In fact, it is the people of God in this wonderful parish with whom we most closely share the joys and sorrows of our journey of faith. We enter in the great Oratorian family, which continues to flourish in the Church since the sixteenth century and was transplanted on the American continent already in the sev-

enteenth century when it arrived at Puebla de los Angeles.

Let us now thank to the Lord for the gift of The New York Congregation Oratory. May it be one of the many gifts, which the Lord will bestow upon the church of New York, as it celebrates its Bicentennial of heroic service to the Gospel of Christ.

Archbishop Tkac will also celebrate a Mass on Tuesday, August 14 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 63 Monroe Street, Passaic, New Jersey. A reception will be held in the church hall after the liturgy. The public is invited to attend.

Rev. George J. Torok

Coming Events

AUGUST

14 – A meeting of the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church Rectory, Youngstown, Ohio.

SEPTEMBER

9 – The Rev. Stephen Furdek District's Annual Meeting at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. Mass at 11:00 a.m. in the Crypt Church followed by lunch and the meeting in the Basilica Executive Conference Center.

9 – The Michigan District's annual Mass at 11:30 a.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Sterling Heights, Michigan.

OCTOBER

14 – The Rev. John E. Rura District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church Hall, Carteret, New Jersey.

**IT'S TIME YOU GET INVOLVED —
ATTEND LODGE MEETINGS!**



Accent on Activities



2007 International Golf Tournament

This year's golf tournament was held Saturday and Sunday, July 21 - 22, at Thunderbird Hills Golf Course near Sandusky, OH. Friday night, a hospitality room allowed the golfers to mingle with their out-of-town friends before the competition began.

The beautiful weather on Saturday and Sunday allowed the golfers to play their best on the Thunderbird Hills Golf courses. The results of the tournament are posted at www.fcsu.com and are listed on another page of this issue.

On Friday, July 20, a group of youngsters spent the day at Cedar Point. On Saturday, they traveled to Swings 'n Things, where they played mini golf, raced the go-karts, and rode the bumper boats. A fun time was had by all.

Saturday night, National Chaplain, Fr. Tom Nasta, celebrated Mass at the Atrium hotel. Afterwards, a good old-fashioned country hoe-down with a BBQ dinner and country entertainment took place. Through the generosity of our social sponsors, six door prizes were raffled off. The lucky winners received a radio, a travel toiletry organizer with a \$25 gift card to Bath & Body Works, a cargo organizer with a \$20 gift card to Dick's Sporting Goods, a cooler filled with snacks and a \$30 gift card to Eat 'n Park, 12 golf balls and a \$50 Best Buy gift card, or a portable gas grill with dishes, silverware, and glasses.

After the golfers finished their round on Sunday, a picnic was held in the Pavilion at the North course of Thunderbird Hills. Golfers had the opportunity to socialize with each other before heading back home.



The entertainment has the attention of the Banquet diners.

50/50 Winner – Steve Vargo

Skins Winners

Saturday

- Linda Frank – Par #1
- Judy Sullivan – Par #5
- Jara Ragan – Par #6, #7, #16
- Henry Hassay – Birdie #3
- Mark Ohler – Birdie #6
- Tim Porter – Eagle #10
- Dick Hodos – Birdie #11
- Tony Menich – Birdie #16

Skill Prize Winners

Saturday

- Closest in 2 shots – Mark Ohler
- Longest Drive – Don Olenick
- Longest Putt – Flo Jablonski

Sunday

- Edith Babik – Par #5
- Don Ferlin – Birdie #1
- Tony Menich – Birdie #7
- Al Ulishney – Birdie #9
- Jim Yokopenic – Par #10, Birdie #16
- Scott Harr – Birdie #13

Sunday

- Closest to the Pin – Dan Vargo
- Longest Putt – Stephen Vargo (Jefferson, OH)
- Longest Drive – Linda Frank



August 2007

Jim Auld, Henry Hassay, and John Kavulic



George Kacsanek, Len and Ray Gmerek, and Terry Eller



Tom Zuffa



Jara Ragan and Marge Putka



Audience Participation at the Banquet



The golfers' guests are getting ready to enter Cedar Point on Friday. They spent Saturday at Swings 'n Things. All golfers' guests were from Branch 2.

2007 International Golf Tournament Results

Last	First	Division	HDCP	SAT GROSS	SAT TOTAL	SUN GROSS	SUN TOTAL	FINAL SCORE	PLACE	AMT
Babik	William	65+	13	81	68	DNF				
Auld	Jim	65+	37	85	48	92	55	103	First	\$158.00
Plavcan	Bob	65+	28	85	57	85	57	114	Second	\$130.00
Hassay	Henry	65+	38	94	56	98	60	116	Third	\$105.00
Olenick	Don	65+	21	82	61	80	59	120	Fourth	\$80.00
Garver	David	65+	23	84	61	85	62	123	Fifth	\$55.00
Radic	John	65+	21	84	63	86	65	128		
Ritz	Paul	65+	29	93	64	93	64	128		
Ulishney	Al	65+	20	84	64	85	65	129		
Putka	Richard	65+	15	87	72	73	58	130		
Kavulic	John	65+	27	89	62	95	68	130		
Jablonski	Jerome	65+	15	81	66	82	67	133		
Hodos	Dick	65+	25	93	68	93	68	136		
Fristik	John	65+	25	91	66	95	70	136		
Simkanin	Joseph	65+	11	81	70	77	66	136		
Gmerek	Ray	65+	18	90	72	84	66	138		
Kacsanek	George	65+	44	117	73	109	65	138		
Gmerek	Leonard	65+	25	100	75	89	64	139		
Olenick	Joe	65+	20	93	73	92	72	145		
Ragan	Joe	65+	32	109	77	103	71	148		
Matula	Steve	65+	31	108	77	105	74	151		
Vargo	Steve P.	65+	18	83	65	110	92	157		
Lako	Ray	A	13	71	58	82	69	127	First	\$154.00
Yokopenic	Jim	A	19	89	70	80	61	131	Second	\$125.00
Falbo	Lou	A	13	79	66	80	67	133	Third	\$100.00
Groner	Rusty	A	18	80	62	90	72	134	Fourth	\$75.00
Menich	Tony	A	6	75	69	75	69	138	Fifth	\$50.00
Piper	Rick	A	17	83	66	90	73	139		
Collins	James	A	19	86	67	94	75	142		
Yokopenic	Steve	A	9	79	70	82	73	143		
Bolby	Don	A	8	76	68	83	75	143		
Yokopenic	Bernie	A	12	81	69	87	75	144		
Quinn	Patrick	A	9	80	71	83	74	145		
Yokopenic	Richard	A	10	80	70	86	76	146		
Halula	Barry	A	16	88	72	90	74	146		
Harr	Scott	A	12	85	73	85	73	146		
Barron	Joe	A	18	88	70	95	77	147		
Hudec	Bob	A	11	78	67	91	80	147		
Quinn	Bill	A	12	90	78	83	71	149		
Metarko	John	A	11	81	70	91	80	150		
Szabo	Jim	A	10	85	75	86	76	151		
Torok	Gene	A	17	89	72	98	81	153		
Vargo	Stephen	A	15	91	76	96	81	157		
Johnston	Derek	B	34	91	57	98	64	121	First	\$158.00
Plavcan	Larry	B	27	84	57	92	65	122	Second	\$130.00
Nemcheck	Mike	B	21	85	64	85	64	128	Third	\$105.00
Ferrance	George	B	29	93	64	95	66	130	Fourth & Fifth	\$67.50
Bischak	Frank	B	41	97	56	115	74	130	Fourth & Fifth	\$67.50
Ohler	Mark	B	20	82	62	98	78	140		
Collins	Dave	B	23	92	69	95	72	141		
Nasta	Damian	B	49	114	65	126	77	142		
Lako	Mike Sr.	B	31	103	72	102	71	143		
Shank	Clarence	B	26	90	64	107	81	145		
Mitro	Milos	B	23	97	74	94	71	145		
Johnston	Lynn	B	24	93	69	101	77	146		
Yokopenic	Robert	B	22	95	73	96	74	147		
Ferrance	Jerome	B	34	109	75	106	72	147		
Smith	George	B	36	106	70	115	79	149		
Nasta	Fr. Tom	B	41	115	74	117	76	150		
Burkhart	Joe	B	46	119	73	123	77	150		
Tokarsky	John	B	20	96	76	100	80	156		
Collins	Greg	B	30	104	74	113	83	157		
Hunsicker	Rick	B	27	104	77	109	82	159		
Falatok	John	B	22	102	80	103	81	161		
Vargo	Dan	B	24	102	78	110	86	164		
Ferlin	Don	CAL	CAL	86	76	80	72	148	First	\$113.00
Metzinger	Edward	CAL	CAL	80	74	81	78	152	Second	\$88.00
Fristik	James	CAL	CAL	105	77	104	77	154	Third	\$63.00
Jurkowski	Raymond	CAL	CAL	92	82	83	76	158		
Guarino	John	CAL	CAL	97	80	99	79	159		
Wozniak	Joe	CAL	CAL	102	85	85	75	160		
Porter	Tim	CAL	CAL	88	80	92	81	161		
Zuffa	Tom	CAL	CAL	119	82	123	80	162		
Kacsanek	Andy	CAL	CAL	118	81	132	83	164		
Eller	Terry	CAL	CAL	105	84	93	81	165		
Fristik	John C.	CAL	CAL	96	84	95	83	167		
Lako	Mike Jr.	CAL	CAL	107	85	120	88	173		
Zido	Andrew	CAL	CAL	114	88	115	88	176		
Orr	Judy	W	65	119	54	130	65	119	First	\$113.00
Kavulic	Grace	W	66	128	62	141	75	137	Second	\$88.00
Babik	Edith	W	58	125	67	134	76	143	Third	\$31.50
Szabo	Cathy	W	32	100	68	107	75	143	Third	\$31.50
Ragan	Jara	W	32	102	70	106	74	144		
Hassay	Betty	W	43	120	77	123	80	157		
Mitro	Anne	W	CAL	125	77	124	80	157		
Jablonski	Flo	W	32	105	73	121	89	162		
Frank	Linda	W	CAL	102	79	106	84	163		
Sullivan	Judy	W	CAL	108	82	118	85	166		
Putka	Marge	W	54	140	86	149	95	181		



MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2007

HOME OFFICE • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and led the 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 the General Counsel, Gary J. Matta, by invitation of the President.

ACCEPTANCE OF MAY MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Secretary presented the Minutes of the May 2007 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by George F. Matta to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

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

The Treasurer led a discussion concerning the present economic conditions. He said we are sticking to the same investment policy and informed how we are still investing in high quality bonds. The Treasurer also led a discussion regarding equity funds. This will be discussed at a later date. The Treasurer also led a discussion regarding reports, on current housing conditions. He stated that it might take till 2010 for the market conditions to recover.

The President led a discussion regarding reports that we can receive from Merrill Lynch, which we can use with our investment strategy.

A motion was made Kenneth Arendt, seconded by George Matta to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

The Treasurer further led a discussion regarding the annuity rates.

A motion was made by George Matta, seconded by Kenneth Arendt to keep the annual rates the same as in the second quarter and not to continue the bonus program beyond June 30. Motion carried.

May 2007 Treasurer's Report**WACHOVIA SECURITIES**

A2/A	CIT GROUP	6.00	05-15-22	100.00	6.00	500K
			Callable 05-15-10 at 100.00			
Aa1/A+	LEHMAN BROTHERS	6.20	06-15-27	99.375	6.255	400K
			Callable 06-15-12 at 100.00			

SMITH BARNEY UNC

Aaa/AAA	FED HOME LOAN	6.00	05-23-22	100.00	6.00	500K
			Callable 5-23-08 at 100.00			
A2/A	CIT GROUP	6.00	05-15-22	100.00	6.00	300K
			Callable 5-15-10			

MERRILL LYNCH

AAA/AAA	FED HOME LOAN	6.00	04-18-22	100.00	6.00	300K
			Callable 4-18-08			
A2/A	CIT GROUP	6.00	05-15-22	100.00	6.00	200K
			Callable 5-15-10			

WACHOVIA SECURITIES (HRVATIN)

Aa1/A	LEHMAN BROTHERS	6.00	05-15-22	99.375	6.255	200K
			Call 06-15-12 YILLD to call 6.31			

UBS

AAA/AAA	FED HOME LOAN	6.00	05-15-26	100.00	6.00	400K
			Callable 5-15-08			

FERRIS BAKER WATTS

AAA/AAA	TOYOTA	6.00	06-08-22	100.00	6.00	500K
			Callable 6-08-09			

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of May 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 May:

DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2007

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$170,905.27
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 31,928.06
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	-0-
Trust Fund	-0-

The Executive Secretary presented the Membership and Annuity Report. He also gave a report on the Senior Promotion Program that the Society had in 1999. The Executive Committee reviewed the rest of the disbursements and answered questions.

A motion was made by Andrew Harcar seconded by George Matta to accept the Secretary's Reports as presented. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Treasurer led a discussion concerning providing more information about our Education Plan to potential new members.

The Secretary also stated that he would be in contact with reinsurance companies to get a list of companies who do on-site medical exams and will give a report at the July meeting.

Bank Relationships, Assets

The Executive Secretary said that he met with Key Bank representatives and went over new features and will be implementing. He will present a report at our July meeting.

The Executive Secretary stated that he has been in contact with the representatives of Key Bank, the bank presently handling our account, to review the new options available to us and analyze and reduce the fees. He will update us as more information becomes available.

The President led a discussion regarding reports from our custodian of our Stock Portfolio, Merrill Lynch, and how these reports can be used in our assets management.

ANNUITIES/GENERAL AGENTS

The President led a discussion concerning information that he received from Ed DePersis concerning our General Agents Contracts. This information will be used to revise some of our General Agent Contracts.

The President also led a discussion concerning the introduction of a 10-year Annuity Plan. This will be discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting in July 2007.

FOLLOW UPS ON MAY 22, 2007 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The President led a discussion on follow-ups from the May 2007 meeting and the following agenda was reviewed:

a) Building maintenance - The painting of the Home Office building has been completed and the landscaping work around the Home Office building was done to everybody's satisfaction.

b) In-House Agent - We received 10 (ten) resumes for this position. The Executive Secretary, Vice President and the President reviewed these applications. The President stated that he and the Executive Secretary will interview 2 of the applicants and a decision will be made after these interviews.

c) Jednota newspaper - The Jednota Editor, Tony Sutherland, and the President are planning to reduce the number of issues of the Jednota newspaper from 26 to 21 next year and cutting out 1 issue this year. This will be discussed further in near future. In conjunction, we will be sending out a newspaper to each household or about 30,000 copies. Currently we are mailing out only 13,000 each issue. Thus, we will be sending out newspapers to about 17,000 more households at about the same cost. The JEDNOTA is our primary means of communication to our members and 50 to 70 percent of our members do not get a copy. The General Counsel Gary Matta made a suggestion that we offer our newspaper to our members via E-mail instead of mail. This form of distribution can possibly reduce the printing and mailing cost. The Secretary stated that he will place an add in the Jednota newspaper asking those members who are wishing to receive the newspaper via E-mail to advise the Home Office with their E-mail address.

RECESS OF SESSION

At this time the Executive Committee broke for lunch.

SECOND SESSION

Friday Afternoon, June 15, 2007 - Meeting back to order.

1st QUARTER SALES

The Vice President reported on monthly sales. The Vice President also stated that he would be in contact with Regional Directors concerning sales productivity in their respective regions.

The Vice President also led a discussion about possibility of bringing back the Senior Promotion Program we had in 1999. It was very successful back then and we will have a discussion at our July meeting.

The Vice President also said that he would be in contact with District Directors about Sales Seminars within their District.

He also led a discussion concerning the possibility of selling insurance from the Home Office to our Canadian Members. These legalities will be looked at and further discussion will follow at our July meeting.

The Vice President stated that he was in contact with our Sales Agents and gave a report to the Executive Committee.

CRUISE & GOLFING TOURNAMENT

The Vice President also led a discussion regarding our upcoming Alaskan Cruise for the Membership Meet. He stated that all the travel arrangements have been finalized. The Vice President also brought up the possibility of having a mini (5 days, 4 nights) Southern Caribbean Cruise for the recommenders who could not make the Alaskan Cruise. He will have more information regarding this for the July meeting.

The Golfing Tournament of the FCSU will be held on July 21 and 22, 2007 in Huron at the Thunderbird Golf Course. Our Fraternal Activities Director, Susan Ondrejco, will update the Board of Directors on Saturday, June 16, 2007

during our Board of Directors Teleconference Meeting.

The President updated us on possibility of having joint events with another Fraternal Organization.

MIDDLETOWN

a) Printery - The President updated us on the leasing of our Printery Building in Middletown. He stated that he met with Gas Company and discussed the possibility of running a gas line to the Printery building. The President has been in contact with several local contractors to present a proposal program for this project.

The Best of the Best!

The Society's Top Guns Thru June 2007

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITY/IRA SOLD



Roger T. Soltis
First Place



Thomas M. Hricik
Second Place



Mary Lou Krna
Third Place

Top Ten Proposers by Amount of Annuity/IRA Sold

	Branch	Annuities
Roger T. Soltis, Massillon, Ohio	410	\$93,800.00
Thomas M. Hricik, Greensburg, Pennsylvania	181	\$80,903.59
Mary Lou Krna, Binghamton, New York	166	\$65,000.00
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	\$43,451.43
Shirley A. Kallok, Levittown, Pennsylvania	857	\$40,000.00
Steven G. Luca, Lorain, Ohio	228	\$25,853.92
John S. Golias, Brecksville, Ohio	1	\$20,000.00
Rosemary Deliman, Philipsburg, Pennsylvania	417	\$17,500.00
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$16,713.33
Julius Paul Remenar, Bannister, Michigan	721	\$15,417.11

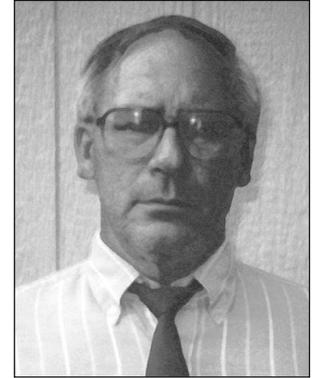
TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS



Dorothy J. Petrus
First Place



Frances Tarquinio
Second Place



Michael E. Lako
Third Place

Top Ten Proposers by Total Points

	Branch	Total Points
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	525
Frances Tarquinio, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania	320	313
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	161
Lisa Ann Trifiletti-Palos, Lorain, Ohio	228	152
Mary J. Kapitan, Edison, New Jersey	746	146
Mary Ann Eckard, Cumberland, Maryland	333	121
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	112
Grace Jewell Bacot, Youngstown, Ohio	682	110
Elizabeth M. Pisarcik, Simpson, Pennsylvania	430	106
Roger T. Soltis, Massillon, Ohio	410	102

TOP PROPOSERS BY INSURANCE SOLD



Dorothy J. Petrus
First Place



Frances Tarquinio
Second Place



Michael E. Lako
Third Place

Top Ten Proposers by Insurance Sold

	Branch	Insurance Amount
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	\$693,000
Frances Tarquinio, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania	320	\$398,000
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	\$336,000
Mary Ann Eckard, Cumberland, Maryland	333	\$180,000
Grace Jewell Bacot, Youngstown, Ohio	682	\$175,000
Margaret M. Perla, McKeesport, Pennsylvania	60	\$155,000
Andrew R. Harcar, Streator, Illinois	40	\$137,000
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$135,000
Andrew C. Herman, Levittown, Pennsylvania	857	\$125,000
Florence K. Matta, Duquesne, Pennsylvania	38	\$105,000
Karianne R. Barnes, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	628	\$105,000

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

continued from page 10

The President was contacted by Kevin Fry from C.B. Richard Ellis, who is still interested in presenting a development plan for our property.

The President will update the Executive Committee at the July meeting.

The President will be reviewing our listing contract of our Printery Building, which expires at the end of August 2007.

b) Development Plan – The President led a discussion regarding a possibility of developing the use of the artesian wells on our property, locating them and having them tested.

The President also stated that these wells supplied the city of Middletown in 1960-s when they had a water problem. He will be in contact with the city to see if they can supply us with information where these wells might be.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE

The Board of Directors Meeting via Teleconference for June 16, 2007 has been set up, everybody was informed and everything is in order for the meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

The President informed the Executive Committee about the 100th Anniversary of the Slovak League. He stated that he represented the FCSU. Also present were Regional Director Joseph Minarovich and our Jednota Editor Anthony Sutherland. He stated that the event was well attended and was very successful.

The President received the E-mail from a member in the Michigan area asking about the possibility of district promoting an insurance sales drive where for every policy sold thru this district, the Home Office will donate \$25.00 to the SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Building Fund. The President will be in touch with this member to discuss this possibility.

The Executive Secretary informed the Committee about the letter he received from Linda Kolesar, an employee for 17 years, about her decision to retire as of July 31, 2007. The Executive Committee acknowledged her decision and wished her the best.

REQUEST FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

Requests were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

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

The President closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Plans Festival

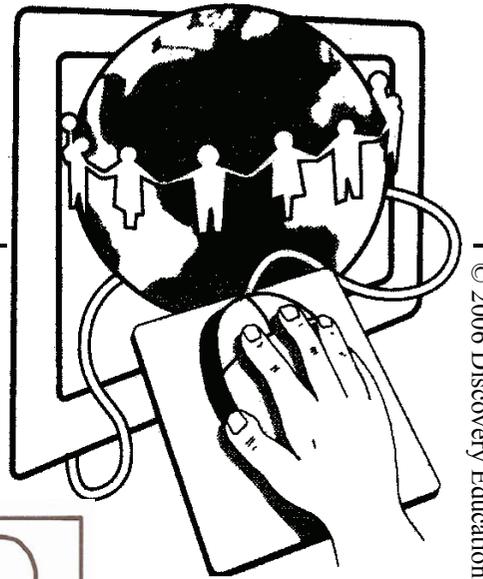
The Cleveland Slovak Radio Club will hold its annual Slovak Festival on Sunday, September 2, 2007, from 12:00 noon until 8:00 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua Church Hall, 6750 State Road, Parma, Ohio. There will be homemade Slovak food and pastries and music provided by Frank Moravcik and the John Pastirik Band. A cultural program will begin at 3:00 p.m. featuring the Lucina and Lucinka Slovak Folk Ensembles. Tickets are \$6.00 at the door. Children age 12 and under are free. For more information call 440/886-4828, 440/845-0282 or 440/897-3320.

**IT'S TIME YOU GET INVOLVED —
ATTEND LODGE MEETINGS!**



UR_spacejrs

Friends Events Sports Culture Trivia Activities



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Culture Space

Slovakia has been responsible for a number of important inventions over the years. Jozef Maximilian Petzval, born in Spisska Bela in 1807, is considered to be the founder of modern photography.



Having spent his early years studying in Levoca and Kosice, Petzval joined the University of Pest, at the age of 19, where he studied Mathematics and Philosophy. During this time, he enjoyed notable success, becoming an assistant at the University in 1835. This then led to a chair of Mathematics at the University of Vienna, two years later.

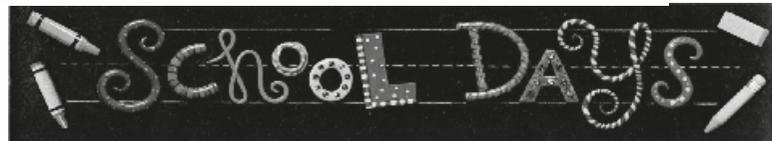
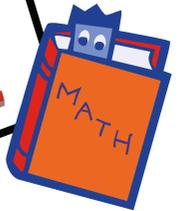
Petzval is most renowned for his work on optical lenses in the 1840's, which was instrumental in the construction of modern cameras. He is also remembered for greatly improving the telescope and designing the opera glass.



August 2007



Activities Space



Challenge Space

Back-to-School Puhzle



At first glance, this may look like a typical hidden-picture puzzle, but it's far more. It's actually a Puhzle. Underlined in the story below are words that cleverly describe certain items in the back-to-school scene. Instead of being literal clues, they are phonetic. For example, for the underlined word "chalkboard", think "chalk bored". See how many matches you can make.

"Good morning. Come in and choose a seat!" the teacher said as she greeted her new students on the first day of school. "We're going to study lots of interesting things this year, such as what kinds of creatures live below sea level and whether to use a verb in the present or past tense. Each week, we'll read a new book, such as Moby Dick or some other classic, and sometimes we'll talk about authors who've won the Nobel prize. In chemistry class, we'll learn the symbols for all of the basic elements and explore the science behind an incredible feat or two. During gym class, we'll practice batting until everyone

has hit a home run, or at least a foul ball. Anyway, there's no way you'll ever be bored. Last year's class can attest to that – and if they say otherwise, they're probably in denial. Keep in mind that attendance is very important, so please don't be absent if it is at all avoidable. Remember to check the chalkboard for important announcements and write them in your notebook. Above all, always feel free to ask questions if you don't think something makes sense, and have fun!"

Answers to last month's Challenge Space:
Honor and Loyalty, Picnic and Ants, Burgers and Fries, Stars and Stripes, Parade and Floats, Fireworks and Sky, Bonfire and Beach, Friends and Family, Liberty and Justice, Land of the Free and Home of the Brave

Send your ideas, letters etc. to: UR_Spacejrs
234 Iliion St.
Pgh., PA 15207
sueo99@yahoo.com



Mail Space



Ryan Cartwright
Mississauga, Ontario



Andrew Windsheimer
Pittsburgh, PA

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Andrew E. Lesso Branch 380

Canonsburg, Pennsylvania

Andrew E. Lesso, 92, of Strabane, Pennsylvania, died Friday, July 13, 2007, in the home where he was born November 26, 1914.

Mr. Lesso was a lifelong member of St. Patrick Church, Canonsburg.

A musician, he taught piano, had his own combo, the Les Andrews Band, and played with various bands in the area including Russ Romero, Lee Barrett, Phil Lewis and Stan and Bobbie Vinton.

Prior to his retirement in 1981, he was employed as a foreman and head inspector at the former Cooper Power Systems. Since that time, Mr. Lesso owned LTC Consulting.

He was a member of Musicians Local 509, Knights of Columbus Council 3291 and Jednota Branch 382.

On September 15, 1936, he married Helen Patrick, who survives.

Also surviving are a son, Drew Lesso of Los Angeles, California; a daughter, Patty Baughman of Latrobe, Pennsylvania; three grandchildren, Brian and Kevin Kobasa and Karsten Lesso; a sister, Mary Agnes Raspet; and several nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at Salandra Funeral Service, Canonsburg. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Patrick Church. Interment was in St. Patrick Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Margaret Graytok

Martha M. Copelli Branch 484

Coral, Pennsylvania

Martha M. (Rura) Copelli, 78, of Coral, Pennsylvania, died Monday, June 25, 2007, at Bethany Place, Indiana, Pennsylvania. She was born in Coral, the daughter of the late Edward and Catherine (Smrek) Rura. She was employed at Indiana Hospital as an Administrative Assistant for 47 years until her retirement.

Martha was a member of St. Francis Roman Catholic Church, Coral, Jednota Branch 484, Chestnut Ridge Golf Women's Golf Association, St. Francis Church Christian Mothers, and the Indiana Hospital Women's Auxiliary.

She is survived by a son, Jack and his wife, Mary, of Willow Grove, Pennsylvania; two granddaughters, Danielle and Michelle; two sisters, Helen Busi and her husband, Feno, of Brunswick, Ohio, and Rose Vilcek of Coral; a brother, Joe and his wife, Lois, of Coral; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John; sisters, Julia, Mary Ponchak, Sophia Gutt, Ann Liptak, Julia Haluska, Pauline Rura, Catherine Rura, and Sister Barbara (Mathilda); and a brother, Edward.

Friends were received at the C. Frederick Bowser Funeral Home, Homer City, where a vigil service was held Wednesday, July 27. A Blessing Service was held Thursday, June 28 at 12:30 p.m. followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Francis Church with the Msgr. Larry Kiniry as celebrant. Burial was in the church cemetery with committal prayers by Branch 484 members.

Joseph E. Rura

Joseph DeNicholas Branch 682

Youngstown, Ohio

Joseph DeNicholas of Youngstown, Ohio, died Wednesday, July 11, 2007, at St. Elizabeth Health Center.

Mr. DeNicholas was born August 23, 1917 in Bari, Italy, a son of Dominic and Martha Abbatista DeNicholas, and came to Youngstown in 1920.

He was employed at Bucheit Construction, retiring in 1976.

He was a member of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Youngstown, a past President of the church's Cy-Me Club, the church Altar and Rosary Society, the Infant Jesus of Prague Guild, St. Cyril's Senior Group, and Knights of Columbus no. 3144- Father Gallagher Council. He was a member of the former ARCO Club and past President of the Cardinal Mooney High School Boosters.

Mr. DeNicholas was a longtime member and officers of the former St. Nicholas Society, Branch 25 of the First Catholic Slovak Union. He served as a delegate at many Jednota conventions and as a teller on the elections committee. He was a strong Jednota Member.

Joseph's wife, the former Ethel Kukura, whom he married October 18, 1941, died January 19, 1990.

He is survived by a son, Gerald (Joanne) DeNicholas of Tampa, Florida; two brothers, Anthony and Leonard DeNicholas, both of Youngstown; a sister, Victoria Hack of Mineral Ridge; two grandchildren, Joseph (Jennifer) DeNicholas and Sandra DeNicholas; and a great-granddaughter, Anna Marie DeNicholas.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Joseph V., Daniel, and Guy DeNicholas, and a sister, Mary Leo.

Friends were received at the Kubina-Yuhasz Funeral Home, Boardman Chapel where a Prayer Service was conducted. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church.

The family requests material contributions be made to SS. Cyril and Methodius Repair Fund, SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 252 E. Wood St., Youngstown, OH 44503.

The officers and members of the St. George Society, Branch 682, offer their deepest condolences to his family. May he rest in peace.

Joseph T. Scavina

John A. Kurinec Branch 717 Chicago, Illinois

John (Janco) A. Kurinec, 83, of Antioch, Illinois, died Sunday, June 10, 2007.

He was born October 12, 1923, on the near east side of Chicago in SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Parish. He was the son of the late Alexander and Mary Kurinec and brother of Molly Kurinec Liptak and the late Rudy Kurinec.

He is survived by his wife Loraine; four children, Greg, Chris, Penny and Scott; and seven grandchildren, Jamie, Greg, Jeff, Steven, Michelle, Melanie, and Casey.

John served his country proudly during World War II serving in the Navy/Coast Guard patrolling both New York Harbor and the equator.

Before retirement John worked for over 40 years for the CTA as transportation engi-

neer. He was an active member of his Antioch VFW Post serving as Head Commander for many years.

John served as the president, treasurer and recording secretary of the St. Joseph Society, Jednota Branch 717. He inherited these positions from his father Alex and his older brother Rudy.

John lived in Norridge for 25 years and then after retirement moved to his summer

home on Loon Lake where he was an avid gardener and collector. In the winter months he went down to his second love, his condo in Clearwater Beach, Florida.

John was a very active person in his community and church. Everyone who had the opportunity to meet him knows that they have lost a very loyal friend. He will be greatly missed by all.

Greg Kurinec



Grave of Dr. Jozef Tiso Found After 60 Years

Dr. Ludovit Pavlo

Dr. Jozef Tiso, a priest and president of the Slovak Republic was among the most important personalities in modern Slovak history. He was not only an exceptional statesman but also an exemplary and blameless priest. His superior, diocesan Archbishop Dr. Karol Kmetko gave the most important deposition about him at his trial in 1947. In addition, many priests and church representatives spoke very favorable about him. Dr. Jozef Tiso sacrificed his life for the faith and the nation. He was executed April 18, 1947 because of his anti-Bolshevik position and his defense of the nation. We should always remember the final message of this martyr of the Slovak nation. He was one and united in following the great principal, "For God, For Nation", and as such he intercedes for us before almighty God. We, in turn, remember him in our thoughts and prayers. A great part of the nation believes that in the future his life will be studied by the highest officials in the Church and so it is impossible to exclude the possibility of opening the process towards his canonization.

On March 29-30, 2007, members of the Society of Andrej Hlinka and the parish office in Bratislava-Nove Mesto unveiled a new memorial for Dr. Jozef Tiso in the Martin Cemetery. In this grave are buried the human remains of

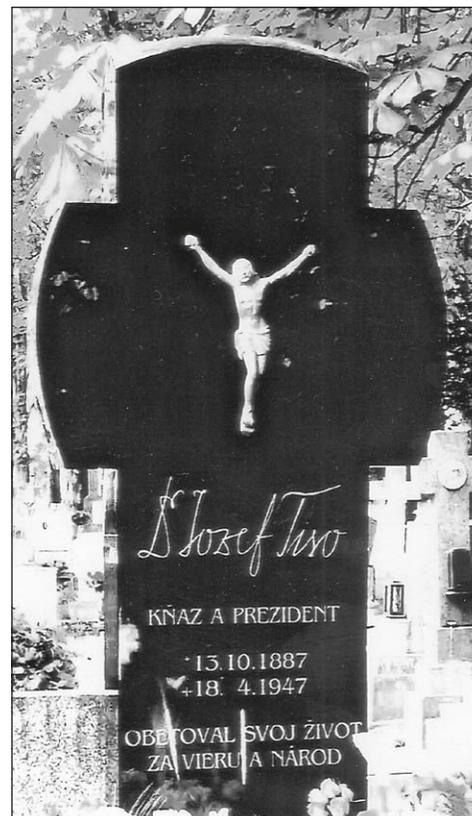
Dr. Tiso. The finding of these remains definitely ends the communist dissemination of disinformation concerning the cremation and confirms the correctness of this grave because in the grave are found not only the human remains of the deceased, but also the articles which belong to a priest, as the priestly insignia, which was placed in the coffin.

Dr. Jozef Tiso was highly respected among American Slovaks. Members of the Society of Andrej Hlinka and the parish office have not forgotten either the warm relationship of the American Slovaks to the president during his years in office and also after his execution until the present day. Therefore, it was decided for the preservation of his memory to bring at least a small portion of the remains of Dr. Jozef Tiso (material from his clothing and soil) to the United States. It was recommended that these remains be placed in a proper place in the United States where people from the Slovak Catholic community would be able to visit and pay their respects. The remains were turned over the Dr. Ludovit Pavlo during his visit to Slovakia in May 2007.

Stanislav Majek, Marian Suran, Society of Andrej Hlinka

Stefan Herenyi, Parish Office of Bratislava-Nove Mesto

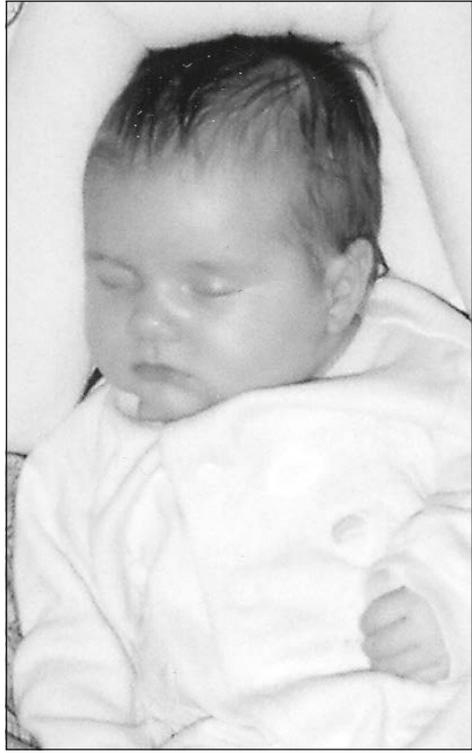
Remains taken by Ludovit Pavlo, M.D.



The grave of Dr. Jozef Tiso in Slovakia.

YOUTH ROUND-UP

Fabulous Piano Recital by Slovak Virtuoso Monika Mockovcakova



Kaitlyn Joan Colby born June 6, 2007.

Kaitlyn Joan Colby is the newest member of the Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, Illinois. Kaitlyn was born June 6, 2007, in Merrillville, Indiana. She lives in Schererville, Indiana with her parents Jim and Anne Marie Colby, and her sisters Sarah, Stephanie, and Elizabeth, who are all members of Branch 493.



Track star Amy Kester

Amy Kester, a member of Branch 240P in Taylor, Pennsylvania, participated in the Hershey Track and Field Pennsylvania State Championship at the Penn State track in University Park on July 7, 2007. Runners advanced to the state meet by competitions at the local and regional level. Amy competed in the 13-14 age group and advanced through meets at Easton and Pottsville, Pennsylvania. At Penn State, she placed third in the 100-meter event and also participated in the 4 x 100 meter relay event, where her team finished in second place. Amy resides in the Lehigh Valley with her parents, 3 brothers, sister and two cats, Kiwi and Scooter.

By Dr. Jan Simko

Are the glorious old days of the Eszterhazys (with Haydn in attendance) and of the Andrassys (with Beethoven present) of over 200 years ago back? This time in Virginia?

This extraordinary event took place in a Virginia location to the north of Washington, D.C., on Saturday, July 14, 2007. I was driven there by a counselor of the Slovak Embassy, Mr. Mockovcak, husband of the phenomenal pianist, Monika Mockovcakova, the glowing star of this unforgettable musical offering titled "Music Salon."

We drove through the lush Virginia countryside dotted with stately residences and impressive mansions enveloped with carefully manicured green lawns, some encircled with white wooden fences keeping horses in the enclosure. Finally, we stopped one of those red-brick residences where visitors were gathering to attend what at that time figured only as an as yet imaginary private, exclusive matinee or soiree, such as is occasionally thrown by some cultured, well-to-do families of lovers and supporters of classical music.

The inside of this residence was very impressive as a treasure trove of precious objets d'arts, paintings, Flemish tapestries, Persian rugs, antique furniture adorning spacious, stately rooms. And, last but not least, there stood, self-confidently, a large grand piano that would soon fill both the music room and our discriminating ears with tones of a choice, refined quality.

The elegant interior of this residence could not fail somewhat to remind me of the albeit much larger but equally sumptuous interiors of two leading architectural gems in Slovakia: the castle of Bojnice (near the central-Slovak city of Prievidza), and the castle Cerveny Kamen (Red Stone) near Bratislava.

Following invigorating aperitifs, the numerous gathering of classical music devotees took their seats eagerly anticipating to be rewarded with a high quality performance rich in artistic beauty and emotional inspiration. I had the chance to hear Monika perform as a seasoned accompanist to cellist Teodor Brcko as part of the Embassy Series organized by Jerome Barry. (See my article: "Slovak Musicians Abroad" in GOOD SHEPHERD, Pittsburgh, 2006). Since, prior to this recital, I had no chance to hear her in a solo recital, my mind treated her as "A Sleeping Beauty." After her high quality playing, she was rewarded by the appreciative audience with a very warm reception. These favorable circumstances acted as that proverbial "Prince Charming," who pulled down the veil covering up her high quality musicianship.

Her program, while not long, was filled with musical gems that required the possibly most careful rendition.

The sequence of the played items observed a chronological order, each piece representing one successive century. The opening honor was accorded to three sonatas in, respectively, D Major, F Sharp Major, and D Minor, the compositions of Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757). They may have been played, if I may venture to suggest, in honor of the two, identically first-named closely involved organizers of this rare event, their names only differing in spelling: Dominick

and Dominique. A fine gesture most probably implying a "thank-you" from the pianist.

The opening sonata began, as if with a wake-up call, in $\frac{3}{4}$ jocular fortissimo, then quietening down, with the left hand active in fortissimo. The second sonata began in a 4/4 slow polyphony produced by both hands alternating in the minor and major keys. The third sonata returns with fast, fortissimo runs of both hands prevailing in the minor key.

The following "Sonata No. 31 in A Flat Major, op 110, was composed by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) shortly before his death. The opening movement: "Moderato cantabile molto espressivo," begins in a 4/4 major-key lento, with a melody emerging on the right. The suddenly resounding fast runs slow down, with another melody emerging. The fortissimo returns with a full sound but then again slows down. The second movement in "allegro molto" is followed by an "adagio ma non troppo" changing into "allegro ma non troppo." Major and minor keys alternate, with the left hand escalating to a fortissimo. The minor key imparts a plaintive tone. A melody emerges over the left hand basses, all then ending in a full tone.

We were then treated to two pieces by the ever pleasing Frederic Chopin (1810-1849). The "Etude in C-Sharp Minor, op 25, No. 7," opens in the left hand with a minor key plaintive melody changing into the major key. After a left hand fortissimo has quietened down, a right hand plaintive melody emerges, transcending everything, ending in a minor key.

The "Polonaise in C-Sharp Minor, op. 26, No. 1," opens in a fortissimo, then slowing and quietening down. A fortissimo outburst is followed by a quiet ending.

The exciting recital ends with selections from among the "Ten Pieces from the Romeo and Juliet Ballet, op.75," by Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953). This piano transcription from the original orchestral score is a very demanding one. The individual excerpts represent the various stages of the unfolding tragedy. The performer is to be commended for including this well-known, popular, and captivating music in line with the ongoing

month-long Shakespeare festival observed in Washington, D.C.

The assembled cosmopolitan classical music loving audience rewarded the very high quality performance by the young Slovak pianist with a long lasting standing ovation. Monika Mockovcakova proved herself to be an outstanding, worthy representative of the well-known Slovak school of piano playing, including pianists of the caliber of Daniel Buranovsky, Elena Letnanova, etc., very well known to, and appreciated by, Washington audiences.

This unique, unforgettable artistic experience could not have ended in a more stylish and appropriate way than with a most tasty, rich, and high quality supper served and relished "to the last morsel of food and the last drop of any beverage offered" and immensely enjoyed under the star-filled summer Virginia sky.

While it was a great honor for me, personally, to be able, in this glorious and unplanned way, to complete the full forty years of my new life in the United States, (see my article: "Forty Years of My Life in the USA", to appear in the forthcoming issue of the GOOD SHEPHERD), with most of it spent in the Washington, D.C. area, I have at long last been able to come to experience that, next to a rich cultural and artistic life in the Nation's Capital, there is also in existence a vibrant cultural-musical activity, thanks to private initiatives, pulsating, alive and well, in beautiful suburb and Virginia, indeed ready "for lovers" of high-quality artistic offerings.

Our heart-felt thanks are due to the tireless organizers of precious artistic offerings such as the one eulogized here (probably for the very first time?) via this open, public medium.

Monika Mockovcakova began her piano studies at age six and at the age of thirteen she won the National Music Competition of Slovakia. She graduated with honors from The University of Musical Arts in Bratislava where she was teaching for some time, and at the Conservatory of Music. Currently, she resides in Washington, D.C., with her husband- a diplomat and their little daughter.

"PARK 2 ANNUITY" – NOW PAYING 4.75%

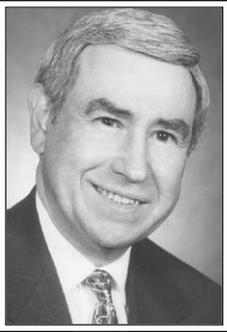
Under the "Park 2 Annuity", you make a one-time deposit of at least \$1,000.00 into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at a guaranteed rate for two years. Additional deposits are not allowed.

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.

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By Joseph T. Senko

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



Life Insurance Facts

All life insurance policies provide a tax-free death benefit to your beneficiary when you die. But that's where the similarities stop. Here is an overview of the most common types of life insurance to assist you in determining which best meets your needs.

Term Insurance

Term life insurance policies offer death benefits only. Term insurance is simple to understand and it allows you to purchase the most coverage for the least amount of money. You buy a policy for a specific amount and term, 15 years for example. If you die during that term, the policy pays the death benefit to your beneficiaries. If you outlive the term of the policy, you get nothing. However, you can renew the policy at much higher rates or convert the policy to a permanent form of life insurance.

The two key types of term insurance are level term life insurance (premiums remain the same over a specified period of time) and yearly renewable (starts with a lower initial premium, but the premium rises each year).

Whole Life Insurance

Rather than insuring you for just a part or a "term" of your life, a whole life policy is designed to cover you for your entire life. Whole life policies cost more than term policies because, in addition to providing a death benefit, a whole life policy builds up what is referred to as "cash value." This is essentially an investment component that, after a certain number of years, you can withdraw or borrow against. (Unpaid loans against the policy are subtracted from the death benefits).

The investment return on a whole life policy is likely to be lower than what you might earn investing on your own, because insurance companies typically invest conservatively.

Universal Life Insurance

Flexibility is the point of universal life insurance. With this type of whole life insurance, you can increase or decrease the death benefit as your insurance needs change. You can, within limits, determine how much of your premium is used for insurance and how much goes toward the policy's investment component. You can also increase or decrease the amount of premium payments and how often you pay them.

Variable Life Insurance

Variable life insurance differs from whole life insurance in that it allows you to invest the cash value of the policy in stocks, bonds, or money market funds within the insurance company's portfolios. With a variable policy, both the death benefit and the cash value depend on the performance of the investment you choose, but most policies guarantee that the death benefit will not fall below a specific minimum. A variable life policy is considered a security, and is sold only by prospectus.

Making the Decision

The type of life insurance you buy will depend on your needs and what you hope to get out of your policy. Consider how much protection your family needs, how long you need coverage, and how much you can afford to pay in premiums.

If what you need is income protection for a set amount of time, term insurance is the more appropriate and cost-effective option. Term insurance works out particularly well if you follow the principle of "buy term and invest the difference." This means you set aside, and invest on your own, the money you would have spent on a more costly whole life policy.

For people with more complicated or long-term needs, whole life insurance, or one of its variations, may make sense. For example, if you have contributed the maximum to your retirement savings and other tax-sheltered plans, you might consider whole life insurance because the cash value in the policy builds up tax-free.

As is the case with most important financial decisions, your life insurance choice should be made within the context of your overall financial plan and circumstances.

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY INTEREST RATE INCREASES THROUGH SEPTEMBER 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 SEPTEMBER 30, 2007.

**Kenneth A. Arendt
National Secretary**

Youngstown Branch 731 Plans Baseball Outing

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, is planning a baseball outing to cheer on the Mahoning Valley Scrappers.

On Sunday, August 26, 2007, the Scrappers will host the Jamestown Jammers at 6:00 p.m. at the Eastwood Field in Niles, Ohio. Gates open at 5:00 p.m. It is cartoon night with a salute to the Simpsons and fireworks will follow the game.

Branch 731 members attending will receive a complimentary box seat ticket, hot dog, chips, and soft drink. Nonmembers are also welcome to join us for a cost of \$12.00.

The deadline for ticket orders is Sunday, August 5, 2007. Please call Grace Kavulic at 330/539-4886 for a reservation.

Jim Bobby, Secretary, Br. 731

Celebrate Slovak Day with the Pirates



Join the Pittsburgh Pirates for Slovak cuisine, music and entertainment during the Slovak Day at PNC Park on Sunday, August 19, 2007, when the Pirates take on the Philadelphia Phillies. For \$25.00, you will receive a discounted outfield reserved ticket and early entry to Riverside events. (Gates open at 11:00 a.m.). While there, enjoy Slovak music and receive a Pirates Slovak Day cap along with a voucher for Slovak cuisine.

To order tickets by phone, please call Joe Senko at 412/531-2990. You may also write to WPSCA, Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220. If you wish to order tickets by mail, make sure to include your name, address and daytime telephone number and how many Slovak Day Packages you wish to purchase (\$25 per person). In order to be guaranteed a seat in one of America's most beautiful ballparks, be sure to make your reservations as soon as possible.



Come Join The Toronto Slovak Bowling League

**Meet Your Fellow Jednotars and Slovaks
Every Wednesday night at 8:30 pm
Starting September 12, 2007
At Brunswick Mississauga on Stanfield Rd.**

**Call Emil Jursa at 905-279-6817
Sharon Tomas at 905-820-9375 or
Anne Mitro at 905-279-8154 for further details**

Spitkovsky District Present at Indiana Slovak Day 2007

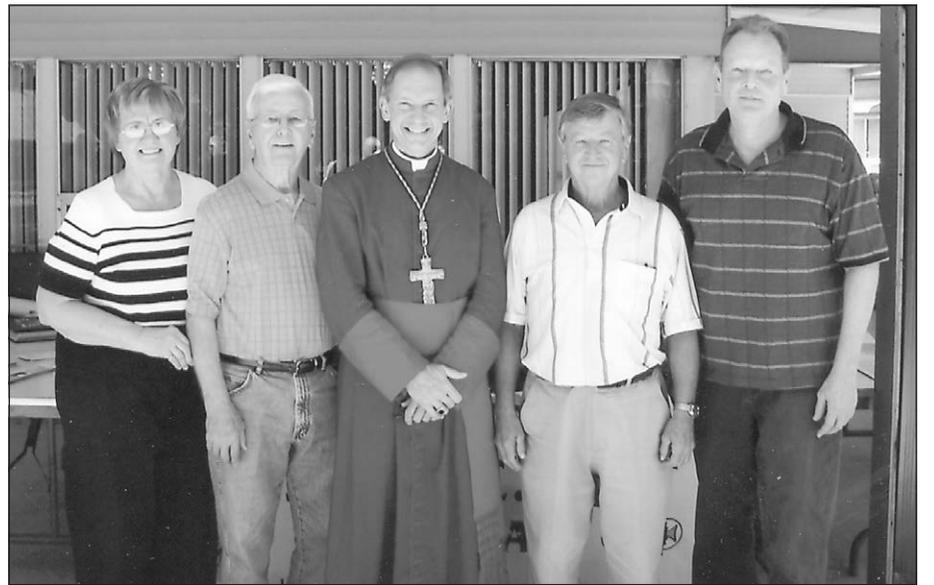
Members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District once again staffed a table at the Diocese of Gary's 34th Annual Slovak Day celebration held Sunday, July 1, 2007, at the Salvatorian Fathers' Shrine in Merrillville, Indiana.

Spitkovsky District volunteers sold homemade rozek or Slovak nut, poppy seed and fruit-filled rolls. Volunteers distributed literature on FCSU Fraternal Life products as well as complimentary copies of the JEDNOTA newspaper.

The day began with a 10:30 a.m. Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Thomas J. Paprocki, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago. The Whiting, Indiana Knights of Columbus "Sounds of Music" served as the choir.

After the liturgy, festivities moved to the air-conditioned Salvatorian Hall, where attendees enjoyed a variety of Slovak foods, including halusky, halupky, klobasa with kapusta, and chicken soup. The main entertainment for the day was the Veselica Slovak Folklore Ensemble from Chicago. Afterwards, Mike the Music Man played for the crowd.

The day concluded with three hours of dance music provided by the Gene Mikrut Orchestra.



L-R are Barbara Fayta, Art Fayta, Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, National Vice President Andrew Harcar, and Ed. Bach.

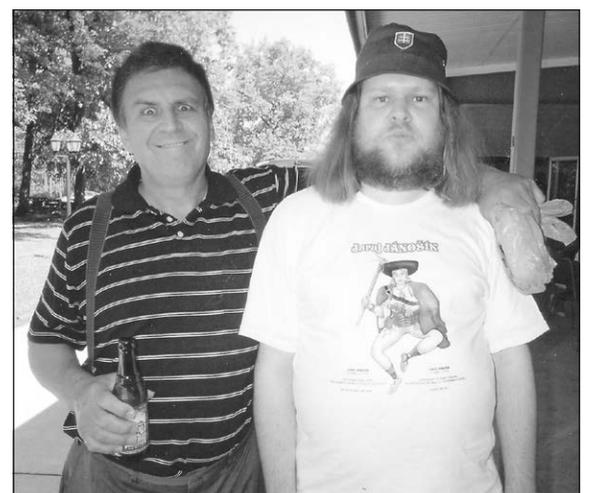
Robert Tapak Magruder



L-R: Bobb Babb, Val Vesely, and Pete Turner.



Ticket Chairperson Agnes Chervenak.



Paul Jalkovik with Robert Tapak Magruder.



Shirley and Ed Uram of Branch 706.



L-R: Ed Bach, Florence Hovanec, Slovak Day Chairman Rev. John Kalicky, C.P.P.S., George J.E. Michuda, and Slovak Day General Chairperson Betty Yurechko.



Rosemary Minarovich, Vice President of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, stops at the FCSU table.

New England Fraternal Congress Scholarships

The New England Fraternal Congress (NEFC) is offering two \$500.00 scholarships to students in their sophomore, junior or senior year of college or in graduate school.

Applicants must be enrolled as full time students in an accredited college, university or professional school. Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union who are residents of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island or Vermont may apply for these grants. The applicant must have a cumulative grade average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 system. Transcripts from the spring 2007 semester must be submitted with the application.

The completed application must be submitted by September 15, 2007. To receive an application and guidelines send a stamped self-addressed envelope to: Eileen Wilson, 395 Pilgrim Lane, Stratford, CT 06614.

Feast of the Assumption to be Observed in Chicago

The feast of the Assumption will be observed with a special Mass and procession on Wednesday, August 15, 2007, at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, 24th Street and South California Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Mass with a procession will begin at 12:00 noon

The Assumption B.V.M. Society, Branch 493 of the First Catholic Slovak Union, was founded at Assumption Parish in 1906.

Robert Tapak Magruder

Slovak Day at Kennywood Park in Pittsburgh

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

The Western Pennsylvanian Slovak Day Cultural Association hosted the 84th Slovak American Day at Kennywood Park on July 19, 2007. The event was a great success, despite threatening weather, rain in the morning, and then again a hard rain in the evening.

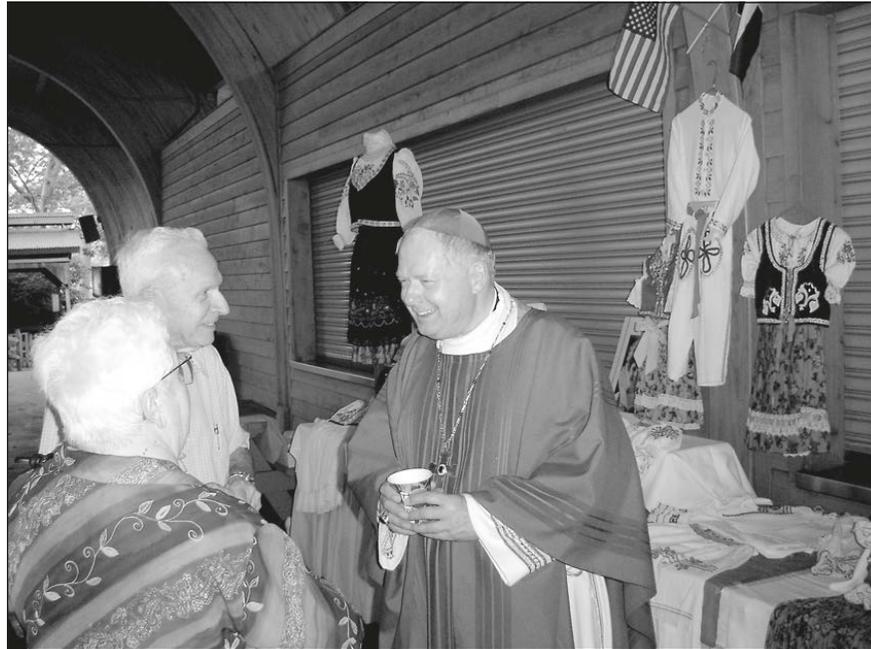
Interestingly, that very week it was announced that the Pittsburgh diocese would have a new bishop, David A. Zubik, who is Polish on his father's side, but had an ethnic Slovak mother.

The Pittsburgh event at Kennywood has continued every year since 1927, when many Slovak-Americans decided they wished to celebrate their heritage during the summer months.

Slovak Day featured Slovak displays and everybody's favorite – a Slovak kitchen which served meals of chalupek (stuffed cabbage), pirohy, halusky (cabbage and noodles), klobasa, and ceregy (pastry). A complete meal was mere five dollars and sold out quickly, with the halusky going first.

In the pavilion, the focus of Slovak Day is Holy Mass. Before the Mass, the Rev. Joseph Grosko of Holy Trinity Church prayed the invocation. Opening ceremonies were led by toastmaster, the Honorable Cynthia Maleski Groch, the regional vice president of the Slovak League of America.

After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Slovak and American national anthems,



Bishop Lawrence Brandt of Greensburg greets visitors at Kennywood Park.

Ms. Groch then introduced a host of guests, which included local political leaders, several who delivered some short and interesting speeches about the contributions of our Slovak people to the Pittsburgh area and the USA.

The pivotal event, Holy Mass, was celebrated by the Most Rev. Lawrence E. Brandt, the Bishop of Greensburg. Concelebrating were priest from many dioceses – Pittsburgh, Greensburg, and even three from Altoona-Johnstown.



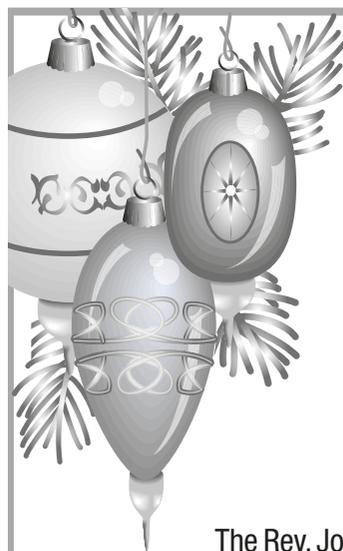
Slovak Kitchen at Kennywood.

The Mass was said in English, but the singing was in Slovak, and Robert Ponchak did a marvelous job as organist and choir director.

In addition to good food, exhibits, and Holy Mass, attendees could enjoy the lively dancing and splendid singing of the Junior Pittsburgh Slovaks, the PAS Junior Dance Group, the Pittsburgh Slovaks, and the PAS Dance Ensemble

All attending were most grateful to the Slovak Day General Chairman, Cecilia Sa-

rocky, and to Father Grosko, and all those who cooked and prepared many months for this wonderful occasion. A debt also goes to the many sponsors of the event, including the First Catholic Slovak Union, the National Slovak Society, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, the Greek Catholic Union, the Slovak Savings Bank and the Western PA Slovak Day Committee. Without their hard work and time, such an event could never happen.



Attention District II Young Adults: Create an Ornament for the Slovak Christmas Tree

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II of the First Catholic Slovak Union is sponsoring a "Create a Christmas Ornament" for the Slovak Christmas Tree at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, Illinois. As a member of the Christmas Tree Committee, we would like our young adults, ages 12 through 18, who are members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District, to have the opportunity in decorating an ornament for our tree.

Please print your name and Branch number on the back of your ornament or include a tag with this information and send it along with the ornament by October 15, 2007. We hope you will visit the Museum and see your ornament on the tree. I have included ideas or you may be creative and design your own ornament. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The names of the winning entries will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

Here are some suggestions: Ornaments should be between 4 inches to 6 inches. Shapes could be bells, snowflakes, wreaths, angels, snowmen, Christmas stockings, gingerbread kids, etc. Materials should be non-breakable and made of wood, plastic, felt, seashells, crochet, knitted, etc. Trimmings can be made of ribbons, beads, lace, felt, rhinestones, sequins, etc.

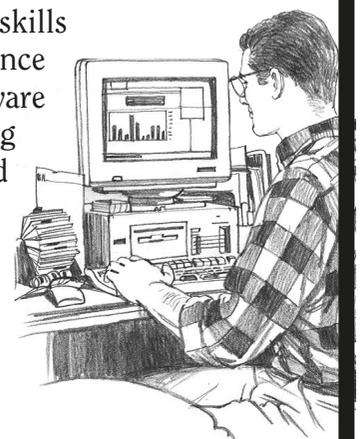
Mail your ornament to District II Vice President, Mrs. Barbara Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, IN 46311.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing your ornaments.

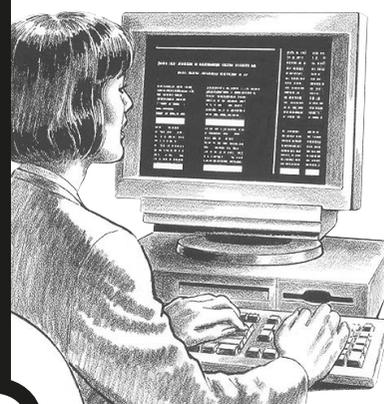
Excellent Opportunities

COMPUTER TECHNICIAN/CLERICAL for Fraternal Benefit Society

Full-time position- Excellent computer skills required. Must have knowledge and experience in software and computer maintenance. Software Configuration knowledge a plus. Typing and clerical skills needed. Detail oriented with good communication and organizational skills and office experience- Must be highly motivated and dependable. Benefits provided-Salary based on experience and education-Send resume to P.O. Box 31813, Independence, Ohio 44131.



CLERICAL for a Fraternal Benefit Society



Full-time position- Strong Computer skills required. Typing and clerical skills needed. Detail oriented with good communication and organizational skills and office experience- Must be highly motivated and dependable. Benefits provided- Salary based on experience and education. Send resume to P.O. Box 31813, Independence, Ohio 44131.

Fabulous Foods

What A Melon! Watermelon's The Pick Of The Season

(NAPSA)-For many people, watermelon is a taste worth waiting for-and this giant melon is big on nutrition, too. It's a satisfying, nutritious treat that's a terrific source of vitamins A and C, and chock-full of the antioxidant lycopene.

To promote the nutritional benefits of fresh produce, Weight Watchers is continuing Pick of the Season, a public health initiative spotlighting seasonal fruit and vegetables. Currently, it's watermelon, a produce selection that is as delicious as it is mouthwatering.

Want to be sure that fresh-picked melon stays delicious from first bite until the last? Here are some tips to help:

1. Wash melon under running water and pat dry, then place on a clean cutting surface. (Handle gently to keep it from bruising.)

2. Using a clean knife, slice melon into wedges, or cut the flesh from the rind into 1" cubes.

3. Place cut melon in a covered container or wrap securely with plastic wrap and refrigerate.

Delectable flavor will keep for up to three to four days-if it's around that long!

There are so many ways to enjoy watermelon in your favorite recipes, such as in Chicken with Watermelon Salsa-a recipe that reflects the food values inherent in the Weight Watchers philosophy: Eating should be satisfying as well as healthy.



Chicken with Watermelon Salsa Makes 4 servings

Chicken

2 tsp. canola oil

1 tsp. fresh lime juice

4 (4-oz) boneless skinless chicken breasts

Watermelon Salsa

2 cups diced watermelon

1/2 cup diced yellow bell pepper

3 Tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro

2 Tbsp. fresh lime juice

1 Tbsp. diced red onion

1. To prepare chicken, in cup or small bowl combine oil and lime juice; brush chicken breasts with oil mixture. Grill or broil until cooked through and juices run clear.

2. Meanwhile, in medium bowl combine salsa ingredients, mixing well.

3. Place 1 cooked chicken breast on each of 4 plates; top each with 1/4 of the salsa.

POINTS value per serving: 4, 190 calories, 5.5g fat, 0.7g fiber; Core Plan(r) recipe.

To learn more, visit www.weightwatchers.com or call (800) 651-6000.



Members of Jednota Properties and Jednota Inc. held a meeting on the Jednota Estates in Middletown, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, July 18, 2007. The meeting was described as very productive and informative. Standing by the Jednota Veterans Memorial, Jednota Properties President Regis Brekosky (fourth from the left) presented a dividend to Jednota Inc. President George Matta and FCSU National President Andrew Rajec. Attending the check presentation are L-R: James Marmol, James Bacon, Andrew Rajec, Regis Brekosky, George Matta, Carl Ungvarsky, Joseph Senko, Joseph Bielecki, and Edward DePersis.

Annual Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar Set for September 30

The Slovak Catholic Federation will host its annual Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar on Sunday, September 30, 2007, at the Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church, 14610 Will Cook Road, Homer Glen, Illinois.

Father Thomas Loya will be the presenter at this year's seminar. He will give a detailed explanation of the icons that he has painted in Annunciation Church. A Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 1:00 p.m. followed by a delicious lunch.

The offering for this event (pre-registration) is \$15.00 per person and \$20.00 at the door. For pre-paid registration contact John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810 no later than September 5, 2007. For more information call Geraldine Hletko at 708/387-7812.



Lt. Commander Matthew J. Behil Sails With Pacific partnership 2007



Lt. Commander Matthew J. Behil aboard the USS Peleliu 2007.

Solomon Islands, and the Marshall Islands." Lt. Commander Behil has already been to Guam, Philippines and Viet Nam, where hundreds of patients have been seen as part of this humanitarian mission.

Lt. Commander Behil is the son of Joseph and Barbara Behil of Endicott. He graduated from Seton Catholic High School, Binghamton, New York in 1989 and in 1996 graduated from New York State College of Optometry in New York City. He joined the United States Navy in 2001. He is married to the former Christine Tumas and the father of two daughters, Kathryn and Nicholas, who are also members of Branch 769. He is a 1989 Jednota Scholarship recipient.

Lt. Commander Matthew J. Behil, a member of Branch 769 in Endicott, New York, is an optometrist serving in the United States Navy. On June 1, 2007, Lt. Commander Behil left from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to be part of the "Pacific Partnership 2007."

On June 1, Pacific Partnership 2007 was officially launched as the USS Peleliu, a multi-mission amphibious ship. "The four-month humanitarian mission will bring together host nation medical personnel, partner nation military medical personnel and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide medical, dental, construction and other humanitarian-assistance programs ashore and afloat in the Philippines, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, the



Pilgrimage of Faith 2007 at Villa Sacred Heart in Danville, PA

The Slovak Catholic Federation will sponsor a Pilgrimage of Faith on Saturday, September 22, 2007, at the Villa Sacred Heart in Danville, Pennsylvania. Everyone is invited to participate in this annual event.

The day will begin with a lunch (pre-ordered only \$6.00) at 11:00 a.m. in the Motherhouse Dining Room. At 12:00 noon all will assemble in SS. Cyril and Methodius Basilica for the opening remarks by the Rev. Philip Altavilla, National President of the Federation, and the recitation of the rosary. From 12:45 to 3:00 p.m. pilgrims may take a tour either of the Basilica or the Jankola Library. At 3:00 p.m. a conference will be held in Maria Hall Auditorium led by Sister John Vianney. The subject of the conference will be the story of women religious during the communist period in Slovakia. A Slovak Hymn Sing will take place at 3:30 p.m. in the Basilica led by the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeast Pennsylvania. The day will conclude with a Pontifical Mass in the Basilica at 4:00 p.m. The Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown, will be the celebrant and homilist.

All who wish to attend this pilgrimage must contact Dolores Evanko at 570/454-5547 or email jje@intergrafix.net no later than August 20, 2007. Bus leaders will make reservations for those traveling by bus.



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

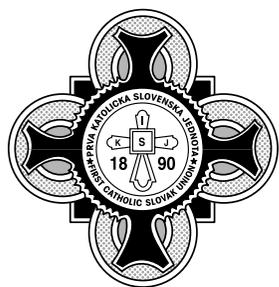
Branch and District Officers announcements are now on the web page and listings of all activities for the various regions.

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



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Volume 116

STREDA, 8. AUGUST 2007

Číslo 5760

Arcibiskup Alojz Tkáč navštíví Spojené štáty

Srdečne Vás pozývame na slovenskú svätú omšu do kostola St. Mary's Assumption, 63 Monroe Street, Passaic, NJ 07055, ktorú bude sláviť Mons. Alojz Tkáč, arcibiskup a metropolita Košickej arcidiecézy, v utorok dňa 14. augusta 2007 o 7.30 PM v predvečer sviatku Nanebovzatia Panny Márie. Po svätej omši sa tešíme na stretnutie v hale pri kostole.

Kongregácia Oratória sv. Filipa Nériho v New Yorku

Oratórium sv. Filipa Nériho v New Yorku

Na sviatok sv. Apoštolov Petra a Pavla dňa 27. júna 2007, Svätý Otec Benedikt XVI. kanonicky potvrdil kongregáciu Oratória sv. Filipa Nériho v New Yorku.

Nová kongregácia je spoločenstvo apoštolského života diecéznych kňazov. Je to prvé oratórium, založené v arcidiecéze New York. Je to v poradí už siedme oratórium existujúce v Spojených štátoch Amerických. Prvé bolo založené pred šiestimi rokmi v Rock Hill v South Carolina, potom nasledovali oratória v Pittsburghu v Pensylvánii, Monterey v Kalifornii, Pharr v Texase, Brooklyn v New Yorku a Metuchen v New Jersey.

Toto založenie vám oznamujeme s veľkou radosťou v srdci. Dúfame, že toto nové oratórium založené v New Yorku prispeje k významnej slávnosti dvestého výročia založenia arcidiecézy New York a v službe pre Boží ľud v New Yorku sa stane stálou apoštolskou prítomnosťou.

Jeho eminencia, arcibiskup New Yorku Edward Kardinal Eagen, veľkoryso prijal Oratórium sv. Filipa Nériho ako časť miestnej Cirkvi a bude predsedať slávnostnej liturgii na sviatok Nanebovzatia Panny Márie dňa 15. augusta 2007 o 9.00 hod. ráno v kostole Panny Márie Božského srdca (Our Lady of the Sacred Heart) v Tappane - New Yorku, počas ktorej veľadôstojný Edoardo Aldo Cerrato, C.O, generálny prokurátor oratóriánov, oficiálne odovzdá apoštolské potvrdenie Svätou stolicou o založení tejto kongregácie v New Yorku.

Na slávnosti sa taktiež zúčastní a sv.

omšu bude koncebrovať aj jeho excelencia Mons. Aloj Tkáč, arcibiskup a metropolita Košickej arcidiecézy zo Slovenska. Kňazi novozaloženej kongregácie Oratória sv. Filipa Nériho - predstavený Rev. George Torok, Fr. Vladimír Chripko, Fr. Martin Kertys, Fr. František Čonka sú Slováci a väčšina z nich bola poslaná do Spojených štátov Amerických práve o. arcibiskupom Alojzom Tkáčom. Jeho misionársky zápal a štedrosť sa podieľali na založení tohto oratória.

Vzdávame úctu Svätému Otcovi, ktorý zároveň posielal svoje apoštolské požehnanie všetkým, ktorí sa zúčastnia tejto slávnosti.

Srdečne pozývame na túto slávnosť bratov v kňazskej službe, našich priateľov a zvlášť našich drahých farníkov z farnosti Panny Márie Božského srdca s túžbou podeliť sa s radosťou z tejto významnej udalosti. Veď vlastne je to Boží ľud tejto farnosti, s ktorým sme boli a sme tak úzko prepojení, nielen v bolestiach ale aj v radoostiach na našej ceste viery.

Vstupujeme do veľkej rodiny oratóriánov, ktorá rozkvitá v Cirkvi od 16. storočia a bola prenesená na Americký kontinent už v 17. storočí v Puebla de los Angeles.

Vzdajme teda vďaka Pánu Bohu za dar kongregácie Oratória sv. Filipa Nériho v New Yorku. Nech je jedným z mnohých darov, ktoré Pán bude posielat Cirkvi v New Yorku, pri oslave jej dvestoročnej hrdinskej služby šírenia Evanjelia.

Kongregácia Oratória sv. Filipa Nériho v New Yorku

Bezvízový režim Slovákov do USA možno do budúceho leta

Bratislava (TASR) – Kongres USA by už do začiatku augusta mohol prijať zákon otvárajúci cestu zrušeniu víz pre občanov Slovenska a ďalších nových členských krajín Európskej únie. Podľa veľvyslanca SR v USA Rastislava Káčera v prípade schválenia priaznivého návrhu by sa Slovensko mohlo zaradiť do bezvízového režimu do leta budúceho roku. "Aktuálne sa nachádzame v závere polročného veľmi náročného legislatívneho procesu, ktorý dáva šancu, že do kongresovej prestávky začínajúcej 4. augusta bude prijatá legislatíva, ktorá v prípade podpísania prezidentom Georgeom Bushom otvorí cestu pre zrušenie vízového režimu," uviedol veľvyslanec Káčer.

Veľvyslanec zároveň konštatoval, že škála návrhov týkajúca sa zmeny podmienok pre zánik vízovej povinnosti je veľmi široká. Vízova problematika je pritom len súčasťou veľkého amerického zákona o bezpečnosti, ktorý - ak prejde s kontroverznými časťami - prezident Bush môže vetovať. Pre Slovensko by bolo z hľadiska zrušenia víz výhodná úprava presadzovaná senátorom Georgeom Voinovichom, ktorá

uprednostňuje bezpečnostné kritéria pred imigračnými. "Ak bude v tom zákone prijatá takáto verzia, tá implementácia by mohla byť u tých najúspešnejších krajín, ktoré majú najnižšie percento zamietnutých žiadostí a sú najďalej pri zavádzaní biometrických pasov a ďalších opatrení na zvýšenie bezpečnosti cestovania, relatívne rýchla. V priebehu, povedzme, trištvrte roka až roka by sa tieto krajiny mohli zaradiť do bezvízového režimu," povedal Káčer.

Medzi ďalšími návrhmi patrí verzia senátorky Dianne Feinsteinovej, ktorá v rámci podmienok pre zrušenie vízového režimu zvyšuje percento možných zamietnutých žiadostí o víza z troch na desať. V prvom polroku 2007 sa pritom počet zamietnutých žiadostí o vycestovanie zo strany slovenských občanov do USA dostal pod 10 percent, hoci v letných mesiacoch opäť mierne stúpol. "Myslíme si, že to percento zamietnutých žiadostí by nemalo byť kritériom. Tá filozofia subjektívneho posudzovania je zlá a treba ju nahradiť podstatne objektívnejšími kritériami," konštatoval Káčer.

Budúca tvár jedného z najluxusnejších hotelov vo Vysokých Tatrách



FOTO TASR - Milan Kapusta.

Budova kúpeľov Štrbské pleso Hviezdoslav na brehu Štrbského plesa sa po rekonštrukcii premení na pravdepodobne najluxusnejší hotel vo Vysokých Tatrách. Jeho budúca tvár už naberá konečnú podobu. Na snímke ešte bez vežičky, ktorá bude vpravo hore.

Americký veľvyslanec cestuje po Slovensku vlakom

Spišská Nová Ves (TASR) – Veľvyslanec USA na Slovensku Rodolphe M. Vallee sa zastavil počas cesty vlakom po Slovensku na niekoľko hodín v Spišskej Novej Vsi. Do metropoly Spiša pricestoval rýchlikom z Trenčína a pokračoval osobným vlakom do Košíc. Ako povedal, nemá sa prečo ponáhľať a rád by si vyskúšal život bežného Slováka. Veľvyslanec sa zaujímal na Spiši, ktorý navštívil už niekoľkokrát, okrem iného o aktuálnu situáciu na požiarovisku v Slovenskom raji, o športové i kultúrne dianie v meste či život rómskej komunity v regióne.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

O možnostiach rozvoja bratislavského letiska hovoril jeho výkonný riaditeľ František Stolárik. Pripravené sú dva varianty rozvoja terminálu. V oboch návrhoch ide vlastne o nový letiskový terminál, ktorý začne prestavbou súčasného. Rozdiel medzi oboma je 10-15 percent ceny, náklady na lacnejší dosahujú päť miliárd korún. Predošlý projekt bol čiastočne financovaný z európskych peňazí z projektu TEN-T. Po dohode s Bruselom sa vypracuje nový projekt na základe nových údajov pre strategický plán letiska.

Z exkluzívneho prieskumu verejnej mienky, ktorý vypracovala pre denník Hospodárske noviny agentúra Focus vyplýva, že až polovica Slovákov neplánuje ísť na dovolenku mimo miesta svojho trvalého bydliska. Z tohto dôvodu stúpa záujem hlavne o domáce dovolenky. Cesty Slovákov za hranice povedú najmä do Chorvátska a Grécka.

Poslanci Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky (NR SR) budú nasledujúce dva mesiace dovolenkovať a súčasne dobre zarábať. Počas parlamentných prázdnin im budú na účet chodiť rovnaké peniaze, ako keď zasadá parlament. Celý poslanecký zbor vrátane asistentov bude počas voľných mesiacov stáť daňových poplatníkov viac ako 44.2 milióna korún. Za celý rok, ktorý uplynul od volieb, poslanci rokovali presne 60 dní. Bežní zamestnanci za ten istý čas odpracovali 247 dní. Poslanci NR SR budú mať platené dvojmesačné voľno, počas ktorého im príde každý mesiac na účet 100-tisíc korún. "Obyčajní zamestnanci si môžu za celý rok vybrať 20 až 25 dní.

Gymnazisti zo Slovenska získali na 20. medzinárodnom turnaji mladých fyzikov v juhokórejskom hlavnom meste Soul bronzovú medailu. V absolútnom poradí obsadili siedme miesto. V medzinárodnom kole tejto súťaže reprezentovalo Slovensko päťčlenné družstvo študentov. Okrem zážitkov z turnaja si účastníci odniesli množstvo zážitkov aj z návštevy tradičnej kórejskej dediny, cisárskeho paláca a kórejských výrobných podnikov. Počas prázdnin budú ďalší talentovaní študenti reprezentovať Slovensko ešte na rôznych predmetových olympiádach vo Vietname, Rusku, Iráne, Chorvátsku a v Kanade.

Banskobystrický samosprávny kraj (BBSK) chce v budúcnosti prilákať nových turistov na staré banské diela. Prehliadky dedičných štôlní na dobývanie zlata, historické vstupné budovy do šachiet aj technické pamiatky by mali v ponuke turistických zaujímavostí odlišiť stred Slovenska od ostatných častí krajín. Povedal to novinárom vedúci odboru cestovného ruchu BBSK Ladislav Monček. Peniaze na obnovu a sprístupnenie by chceli získať najmä z fondov EÚ, menšie čiastky môže kraj poskytnúť aj zo svojho rozpočtu. Jedinečné stavby sú najmä v okolí Banskej Bystrice, Banskej Štiavnice a v Novohrade.

Na zázrivské korbáčiky a ďalšie syry z tejto oblasti sa mohli tešiť všetci tí, ktorí zavítali posledný júlový víkend do tejto obce, kde sa konali Zázrivské dni. Ich súčasťou bola aj súťaž v ťahaní syrových korbáčikov, súťaž v ich pletení a súťaž o najlepší syrový výrobok, ktorý hodnotili aj návštevníci. Lákadlom pre návštevníkov boli aj gazdovské dvory, kde na nich mohli ochutnať aj tradičnú miestnu polievku zámrvánku a slaný koláč kabáč. Minulý rok na 1. ročníku Zázrivských dní bolo okolo 3,000 návštevníkov.

V troch rusínskych obciach sa konal počas posledného júlového víkendu festival Dni rusínskych tradícií. V rodisku predkov Andyho Warhola v Mikovej v okrese Stropkov sa v nedeľu slávnosť začala v grécko-katolíckom chráme svätou liturgiou a pokračovala kultúrnym programom kde sa počas 16. ročníku

Mikovského festivalu rusínskej kultúry predstavila škála interpretov rusínskeho folklóru. Ďalšie dva festivaly boli jednodňové. V obci Klenová v okrese Snina okrem výstupov regionálnych folklórnych skupín a sólistov festival mal aj gastronomickú časť, kde sa ponúkali domáce špeciality, tradičné kapustové holúbky, pečené pirohy so zemiakmi a syrom, zabíjačkové špeciality a makové a orechové záviný. V obci Beloveža v okrese Bardejov ma Rusínsky festival vyše 20-ročnú tradíciu. Tu sa vystriedali folklórne skupiny Makovický holos zo Svidníka, domáca Bilovežanka a ďalšie.

Prezident Gašparovič koncom júla podpísal zákon, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon o vysokých školách z roku 2002. Novela má podľa rezortu školstva prispieť k zrovnoprávneniu prostredia na vysokoškolskom trhu, verejné vysoké školy budú môcť spoplatňovať externú formu štúdia, ale až po tom, ako vyčerpajú dotácie. Prvý raz bude spoplatnená externá forma štúdia v akademickom roku 2008/2009. Vysoké školy môžu brať úvery, vytvárať spoločné pracoviská, spoločné študijné programy nielen s domácimi, ale i zahraničnými školami. Školy budú musieť každý rok do 31. októbra zverejniť, ktoré študijné programy budú pre externistov zadarmo. Nová úprava výrazne posilňuje právomoci správnych rád. Zmeny budú platiť od 1. septembra.

Podiel úverov obyvateľstvu na hrubom domácom produkte (HDP) v krajinách V4 v súčasnosti nedosahuje ani tretinu hodnoty krajín eurozóny (EU12). A to napriek rýchlym tempám rastu, za ktorými sa skrýva rast kúpyschopnosti obyvateľstva a celkový výkon ekonomiky. Najmenej zadlžení v regióne sú pritom obyvatelia Slovenskej republiky. Ako vyplýva z aktuálnej analýzy spoločnosti Symsite Research, v rámci krajín V4 dosiahlo v minulom roku najvyšší 21.1 % podiel úverov poskytnutých obyvateľstvu na HDP Maďarsko. Slovensko je v tomto ukazovateli v strednej Európe posledné s úrovňou 15.5% HDP. V eurozóne pritom v roku 2006 dosiahla zadlženosť obyvateľstva 55.1% HDP.

Nové automobily sa na Slovensku predávajú za najvyššie ceny v celej Európskej únii (EÚ). Osobné vozidlá kupujú občania SR v priemere o 8.4% drahšie, ako je priemer 27 štátov EÚ. Podľa správy, ktorá hodnotí vývoj cien áut v štátoch EÚ a krajinách eurozóny, má najlacnejšie automobily v celej únii Dánsko. Slovensko je na opačnom konci rebríčka, Česká republika sa nachádza jedno miesto pred SR. Pokiaľ ide o členov eurozóny, za nové auto najviac zaplatia Nemci a najmenej Fíni.

Miera nezamestnanosti na Slovensku dosiahla v júni 10.7%, čo je najviac v rámci celej Európskej únie (EÚ). Informoval o tom štatistický úrad EÚ Eurostat. V porovnaní sa májom miera nezamestnanosti v SR klesla o 0.1% v porovnaní s júnom 2006 o 2.7%. Celková miera nezamestnanosti v EÚ v júni klesla na 6.9% z májových 7% a v eurozóne zostala na 6.9%. V júni dokázalo 22 členských štátov EÚ medziročne znížiť svoju nezamestnanosť v štyroch krajinách sa zvýšila a v Rumunsku zostala na nezmenenej úrovni. Najvyšší medziročný pokles zaznamenalo Poľsko (z 13.9% na 10.2%), nasledované Švédskom (zo 7.2% na 5.3%).

TASR a slovenské časopisy



FOTO TASR - Henrich Mišovic

Nové termálne kúpalisko Galandia majú od 31. júla 2007 k dispozícii obyvatelia i návštevníci Galanty. Jeho výstavba trvala vyše roka a vyžiadala si celkové náklady 250 miliónov Sk. Sumu 130 miliónov Sk získalo mesto zo štruktúrnych fondov Európskej únie, ďalších 120 miliónov Sk tvorili vlastné zdroje. V Termálnom centre Galandia majú návštevníci k dispozícii 7 bazénov, z toho tri vonkajšie. Vonkajšiu časť, ktorá bude prístupná len počas letnej sezóny, tvorí 25-metrový plavecký bazén, detský bazén, výplavový relaxačný bazén a dva tobogany. Služby dopĺňajú športoviská, detské ihriská a stravovacie zariadenia. Vnútorňú časť s celoročnou prevádzkou tvorí veľký relaxačný bazén, hypertermálny pokojový bazén, detský bazén, dojazdový bazén a uzatvorený tobogan.

Medzinárodné stretnutie mládeže Rysy 2007

Vysoké Tatry (TASR) – Odchodom posledných účastníkov z Eurocampu pod Tatranskou Lomnicou sa 29. júla skončilo 51. Medzinárodné stretnutie mládeže Rysy 2007. 2,499-metrový vrchol zdolalo viac ako 600 účastníkov. "Výstupové odznaky sme rozdali 350, ktorí zdolali vrchol tradičnou trasou. Ostatní si zvolili iné, turisticky menej náročné trasy. Boli aj takí, ktorí dokázali vyjsť od Popradského plesa na vrchol za hodinu. Priemerný turista túto trasu zvláda za necelé štyri hodiny," povedal člen organizačného výboru Ján Pavločin. Na tohtoročnom medzinárodnom stretnutí chýbala tradičná vatra, a to pre veľké sucho a zvýšené riziko požiaru. Novinkou bolo kladenie vencov na symbolickom cintoríne pri Popradskom plese, čím si organizátori a účastníci uctili obeť Tatier.

Spolupráca slovenských a amerických univerzít

Nitra (TASR) – Prehlbovanie spolupráce amerických univerzít s vysokými školami na Slovensku je podľa veľvyslanca USA v SR Rodolpha Valleeho jednou z najefektívnejších ciest k zblíženiu národov oboch štátov, poznávaniu ich histórie, kultúry, súčasnosti i predstáv o budúcom vývoji v európskom i celosvetovom priestore. Spolupráci vedcov, pedagógov, študentov a pracovníkov amerických slovenských univerzít vyjadril veľvyslanec podporu na stretnutí, ktoré sa konalo 20. júla na pôde Univerzity Konštantína Filozofa (UKF) v Nitre.

"Predmetom rozhovoru s veľvyslancom USA v SR bola diskusia o naplnení programu spolupráce medzi slovenskými a americkými univerzitami. Diskutovali sme o možnostiach financovania študentov Slovákov, ktorí by študovali na amerických univerzitách a amerických študentov na nitrianskej univerzite," informoval rektor UKF v Nitre

Libor Vozár. Popri recipročnej výmene študentov otvárajú sa v tejto oblasti ďalšie možnosti, akými je financovanie pobytov v rámci vzdelávacích programov Európskej únie, spoločných výskumných a vedeckých projektov, grantov rôznych nadácií i programov dvojstrannej spolupráce slovenských a amerických univerzít.

V sprievode predsedu KDH Pavla Hrušovského navštívil veľvyslanec USA v SR Rodolphe Vallee národnú pamiatku Nitriansky hrad. Prezrel si biskupský katedrálny chrám svätého Emeráma Baziliky Manor i nedávno otvorené Diecézne múzeum. "Slovensko je krajina s nesmiernym kultúrnym, duchovným a historickým bohatstvom, ktoré jej obyvateľom zanechali predkovia. Poznávať toto bohatstvo, rozvíjať jeho hodnoty a odovzdať ich ďalším generáciám môžu iba vzdelaní a múdri ľudia, akých pripravuje aj nitrianska univerzita," povedal Vallee.

Otec Elemír Jozef Mikuš oslávil 50. výročie kňazstva

Večne usmievavý kňaz, ako ho všetci poznajú nielen v dedinke Oreské na Slovensku, ale hlavne v michiganskom Detroite v Spojených štátoch, otec Elemír Jozef Mikuš oslávil 50. výročie kňazstva. Táto oslava sa spojila aj s jeho krásnym životným jubileom 80 rokov požehnaného života na tejto zemi. Prečo píšem, že sa spojila? Lebo tento kňaz pri svojej príslovečnej skromnosti ani oslavu nechcel, ale jeho rodina mu pripravila hotovú svadbu, ktorú si iste zaslúžil.



Počas banketu sa otec Elemír Mikuš prihovára k prítomným.

Dňa 1. júla 2007 vyšla celá do čistučka upravená dedinka Oreské do ulíc k domu, kde sa narodil kňaz, jeden z 9-tich detí Imricha Mikuša a Rozálie, rodenej Kudlačovej. Odtiaľ sa sprievod farníkov a kňazov zo širokého okolia v spoločnosti biskupa Mons. Štefana Vrableca, pobral do prírodného chrámu Božieho. Nechýbal ani rad jeho bývalých farníkov z amerického Detroitu na čele s jeho nástupcom vzácnym kňazom z Bratislavy otcom Benjamínom Kosnáčom. Sprievod na čele zdobila krojovaná skupina mládeže a detí v nádherne odetých farbách príznačných Záhoriu. Verte, že slzy sa mi tlačili do očí, keď som videla tento zbožný ľud ako si zachováva tradíciu svojich predkov, úctu ku kňazom, ale hlavne vieru v Boha.

V krásnej homílii, kňaz Ján Záhradník priblížil neľahký život otca Mikuša, ktorý sa rozhodol riskovať svoj vlastný život, aby nasledoval svoje rozhodnutie pre kňazské povolanie. Od detstva bolo to už jeho snom, ale aj tajným želaním jeho drahých rodičov, na ktorých si stále s láskou spomína. Po svätej omši sa pozvaní hostia zišli v kultúrnom dome, kde po dobrom obede program pokračoval kultúrnou vložkou detí z Oreského a hudbou pre dobrú náladu prítomných.

V roku 1949 otec Mikuš za dramatických okolností rovno na Silvestra odchádza do Rakúska, neskôr do Ríma a Turína na Pápežskú univerzitu, kde bol v roku 1957 vysvätený za kňaza. Za tým odchádza do Nemecka, kde ho neskôr opäť cirkev povoláva do Ríma. Podieľa sa na výstavbe Slovenského ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda, kde aj neskôr učí. Odtiaľ odchádza medzi emigrantov do Rakúska a pomáha budovať cirkevnú charitatívnu organizáciu Caritas International. V roku 1970 odchádza do USA do východnej časti Michiganu, kde vďaka jeho úsiliu v Sterling Heights, Michigan dnes stojí moderný kostol zasvätený vierozvestcom sv. Cyrilovi a Metodovi. Pri vstupe do kostola nás víta súsošie sv. Cyrila a Metoda a v slovenskom štátnom znaku trojvrší, na ktorom sa týči kresťanský kríž vyjadruje jednoznačný vzťah otca Elemíra k slovenskému národu. V tejto farnosti pôsobil ako pastor celých 30 rokov až do jeho odchodu v roku 1999 na Slovensko.

Celý život otca Mikuša sa spája s obetou, slúžiť predovšetkým Bohu, cirkvi a ľuďom, ktorí hľadajú u neho pomoc. Na zaslúženom odpočinku vo svojej rodnej obci Oreské, s ktorou nikdy nepretrhol pupočnú šnúru, sa o otca Elemíra starostlivo spolu s manželom stará jeho neter Margita Štepanovská. Život otca Mikuša a jeho rodiny bol zhrnutý aj v knihe Milana Blahu, na ktorej mal aj nemalý podiel jeho synovec, známy politik a odborník v oblasti jadrovej energetiky na Slovensku, Tibor Mikuš.

Otec Mikuš, želáme vám pokojnú starobu na zaslúženom odpočinku v Oreskom a hojne zdravia v kruhu vašej milej rodinky .

Anna a Jozef Biroš

Komunita sestier karmelitánok pôsobí už aj v Detve

Detva (TASR) – So životom a obyvateľmi v novom karmelitánskom kláštore Božieho milosrdenstva v Detve mala verejnosť príležitosť zoznámiť sa v druhej polovici júla počas otvorených dverí. "Spomínaný kláštor v mestskej časti Dolinky bol po jeho požehnaní 28. júla klauzúrou navždy uzavretý pre verejnosť. Spolu s kaplnkou a okolitou záhradou ho požehnal banskobystrický diecézny biskup Rudolf Baláž, prítomný bol apoštolský nuncius na Slovensku Henryk Józef Nowacký a predstavitelia karmelitánskej mužskej a ženskej vetvy z Poľska a Slovenska.

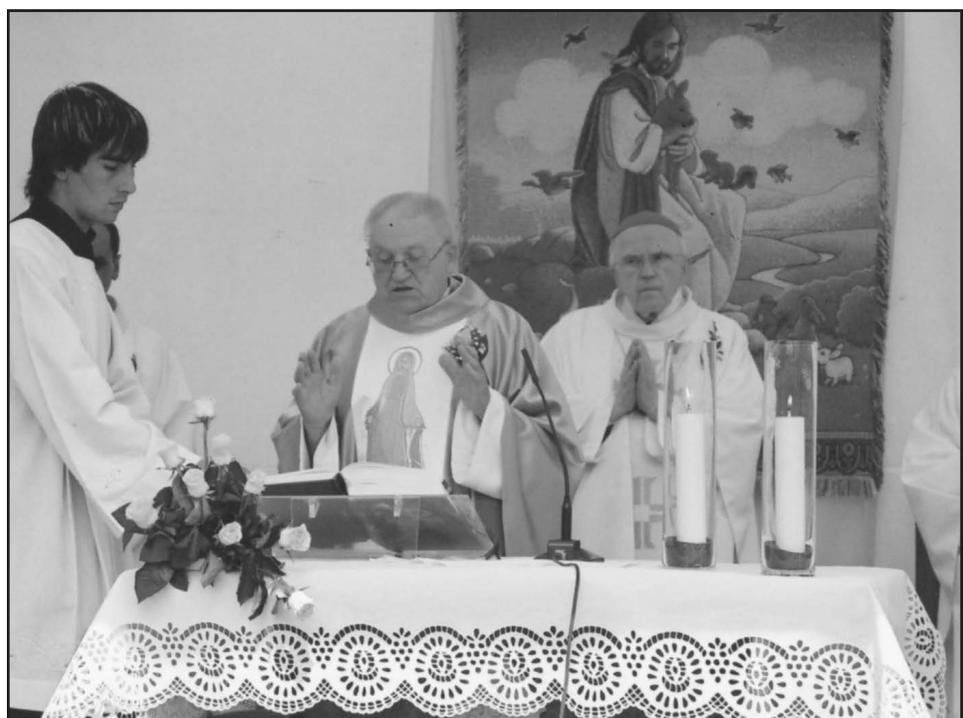
Na slávnostnej svätej omši sa okrem veriacich z Rímskokatolíckej farnosti Detva zúčastnili aj veriaci a priatelia sestier karmelitánok z košickej farnosti," informovala Zuzana Juhaniaková z Diecézneho centra pre masmediálnu politiku v Banskej Bystrici. Po požehnaní novostavby kláštora pre

kontemplatívne sestry z Radu bosých karmelitánok Preblahoslavenej Panny Márie z Hory Karmel už bude môcť verejnosť vstupovať len do vyhradených priestorov kláštorného komplexu. V týchto častiach sa nachádzajú aj hosťovské izby pre návštevníkov. Verejnosť sa bude môcť zúčastňovať na spoločných modlitbách a svätých omšiach vo vyhradenej časti kaplnky, ktorá je na to prispôsobená stavbou v tvare písmena L.

Novopostavený kláštor je už druhým domom tejto ženskej kontemplatívnej rehole na Slovensku. Prvá komunita sestier karmelitánok začala pôsobiť v roku 1995 v Košiciach. Po náraste počtu sestier v košickej komunite a po dohovore s banskobystrickým diecéznym biskupom príde 11 rehoľníčok duchovnou podporou pôsobiť aj na stredné Slovensko.



Pohľad na vyzdobený oltár a zoskupené duchovenstvo pred začiatkom svätej omše.



Otec Elemír Mikuš počas slávnostnej omše z príležitosti jeho 50. výročia kňazstva. Vedľa neho sprava stojí biskup Štefan Vrablec.



V príjemnej atmosfére dvojitých osláv americkí Slováci z Detroitu, Michigan, obklopili oslávenca (v prostriedku sediaci) otca Elemíra Mikuša.

Získajte ešte dnes nového člena do Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty

Deň, kedy svet tleskal Kanadským Slovákom

Pred 40 rokmi, pri príležitosti stého výročia kanadskej konfederácie, Montréal hostil svetovú výstavu - nezabudnuteľné Expo 67 na tému Človek a jeho svet v termíne od 27. apríla do 28. októbra 1967, situovanú na dvoch rozľahlých ostrovoch. Na romantickom ostrove St. Helen a na rozmernom človekom utvorenom ostrove Notre Dame, spojeným z materským ostrovom ortotropickým mostom Concordia vyše 50 metrov dlhým a 20 metrov širokým, vprostred veľrieky St. Lawrence so scénickou panorámou host'ovského mesta pozdĺž toku veľrieky, siahajúcej do nedohľadnej diaľky.

Ile St. Heléne, po našsky ostrov Sv. Heleny, utkvil v pamäti našich avantgardných prisťahovalcov do tohto mesta. V svojich vývojových rokoch na tom ostrove mávali svoje prvé letné stretnutia-pikniky, nedeľné vychádzky do idylického zatišia malebnej prírody, vzdalenej z trmy-vrmy veľkého mesta. Tam sa začali spoznávať, utvárať trvalé priateľstvá, klásť základy pre nový spoločenský, národno-slovenský, organizačný a cirkevný život v novej domovine.

V uplynulých týždňoch miestne a kanadské masmédiá venovali tejto výstave, prvej v Kanade, mimoriadnu pozornosť a veľkorysne ju v slove i obraze sprítomnili, označiac ju za jednu z najúspešnejších Svetových výstav dovtedy usporiadaných.

I my Slováci brali sme na nej účasť našim Slovenským národným dňom, ktorý vyvrcholil v nedeľu 27. augusta 1967 v amfiteátri La Palestre za účasti všetkých slovenských spolkov, organizácií, cirkevných osád a tanečných súborov z Ontaria.

Vysoko nad priestranným javiskom v augustovom vetríku viali zástavy všetkých národov, medzi nimi na čestnom mieste i naša slovenská biela-modrá-červená trikolóra.

Trojdielny folklórny program, dovtedy jeden z najväčších podujatí kanadských Slovákov, pod názvom Včera, dnes a zajtra, očaril všetkých účastníkov. Každý v ňom mohol nájsť, čo mu bolo po vôli. Text napísal Štefan Hreha, hudbu skonponoval a dirigoval prof. Michal Sinčák, liaison slovenskej sekcie Expo 67 bola Margita Dvorská a narátorka Pavlina Hrehová.

Súčasne v pridelenom pavilóne prebiehala jednotýždňová výstava slovenského ľudového umenia a kultúry, ktorú zorganizovali montrealské fraternalistické spolky a organizácie za pomoci M. Dvorskej.



Účinkujúci v trojdielnom folklórnom programe "Včera, dnes a zajtra" prezentovanom na Slovenskom národnom dni na Expo 67 v Montreale. Sediaci v prostriedku v civilii zľava Štefan Hreha, text; Margita Dvorská, liaison a prof. Michal Sinčák, hudba.

V časovom odstupe dlhých 40 rokov nebude od veci oživiť tie slávne chvíle našej tvorivosti ako ich v slove i písme zaznačila pre postioritu naša tlač.

Kanadský Slovák (2. sept. 1967): "Nedeľu 27. augusta 1967 zapíše slovenský kronikár a historik nielen do dejín kanadskej Slovače, ale aj do histórie slovenského národa. V čase, keď národ slovenský musel žiť proti svojej vôli pod nezajbožskou čechokomunistickou diktatúrou, práve vtedy kanadskí Slováci nádherne, jedinečne a jednoznačne - írečito po slovensky, verní slovenskému duchu a tradíciám, vytvorili za štyri hodiny na Expo 67 v Montreale taký kultúrny program, že celý slovenský národ môže a isto aj bude naň hrdý. Bratia a sestry zo Slovenska, hlboko pohnutí, hovorili: Národ vám to nikdy nezabudne.

Slovenský Hlas (15. sept. 1967): "Slovenský deň na Expo 67 ukázal celému svetu nánádherný program festivalu veselej povahy Slovákov. Slovenské tance vyjadrili živosť a umnosť pohybu. A slovenské kroje v hýriacich pestrých farbách dokumentovali vkus a vyspelosť ľudového umenia. Všetko na Slovenskom dni nieslo sa ako mohutný prejav vernosti a oddanosti jubilujúcej Kanade. Bol to dosvedčivý dôkaz slovenského prínosu kanadskej kultúre. Kanadský národ a kanadskí Slováci môžu byť hrdí na tohoročnú dôstojnú reprezentáciu. Predstavili na Expo 67 očami viac ako 5,000 divákov a pred zrakom celého sveta vyspelosť slovenského národa. - Martin Štipka.

Jednota (13. sept. 1967): "Montrealskí Slováci slávnostným spôsobom reprezentovali slovenskú spoločnosť v Kanade Slovenským dňom na Expo 67 v nedeľu 27. augusta 1967. Sláva tvorcom tohto nezabudnuteľného folklórneho predstavenia br. Štefanovi Hrehovi, prof. Michalovi Sinčakovi, ses. Margite Dvorskej a všetkým účinkujúcim. - Vladimír Tomko.

Slovenská Obrana (14. sept. 1967): "Usporiadateľstvo festivalu vykonalo vskutku dielo pamätihodné. Najmä nás udivilo, ako vedeli zohnať pre jednotlivé výstupy toľko slovenskej mládeže pomaly utonujúcej v kanadianizme. Zásluha patrí v prvom rade Dvorskovcom, Michalovi Sinčakovi a Hrehovcom. Nemožno zabudnúť na malebný obraz slovenských krojov zo všetkých častí Slovenska. Bolo to niečo



Prvá zľava narátorka programu Pavlina Hrehová so sestrami Alice (Lukča), soloistka Annette (Lefevre) a speváka zo slovenskej reštaurácie Koliba.

prekrásneho, i keď tie pôvodné pohodlné a dlhé sukne akosi vymizli a nahradené boli krátkymi sukničkami. Darmo je, taký je už znak doby. Sukničky nesmú zakrývať kolienka dievčat. - Ján Glejman.

"Slovenský folklór a slovenská kultúra zažiarili na Expo 67. Tento skvost slovenského programu pripravili viacerí. Štefan Hreha napísal text, hudbu mal na starosti prof. Michal Sinčák. Margita Dvorská bola spojku medzi Expo a Slovákmí. Potlesku nebolo konca-kraja, či už išlo o Slovákov, alebo inonárodných účastníkov. Sláva kanadským Slovákom, lebo oni konajú neoceniteľné služby pre celý slovenský národ. - I. S. Kysucký.

Slovenská Otčina (Zv. I. str. 81-91, 1969): "Ses. Margita Dvorská s mužom Jánom, prof. Michal Sinčák a Štefan Hreha vykonali veľkú robotu. Rev. Andrej Rolík, evanjelický farár z Akron, Ohio, ktorý si prišiel program filmovať, sa vyslovil, že spomenutým osobám patrí vďaka všetkých Slovákov Kanady, Ameriky a národa doma, lebo pripravili za spolupráce muzikantov, spevákov a rodičov asi 250 dielok a mládeže takú krásu tancov a krojov slovenských, akú slovenské oko na tejto pevnine ešte nevidelo."

Pri spomienkovom návrate do našej dávno prežitej národnoslovenskej tvorivosti, nemožno nespomenúť, že spolutorcom Svetovej výstavy vo funkcii exekutívneho architekta a koordinátora Expo 67, bol náš motrealský Slovák z dobrej spolkárskej rodiny, architekt Rudolf Papánej, B. Aarch, M. Aarch., M.R.A.I.C.

Slovenský národný deň na Expo 67 bol a ostane zlatým klincom našej tunajšej slovenskej tvorivosti. Vpísal sa do pamäti svojeti a našej životnej tvorivosti ako Deň, kedy svet tleskal kanadským Slovákom.

Štefan Hreha,
Montréal, QC

P.S. Horejšie spomienky na náš Slovenský národný deň na Expo 67 nech останú v našej pamäti ako preukaz trvalej vďaky a tribút hudobnému tvorovi tohto podujatia, muzikológovi prof. Michalovi Sinčakovi, B.A., B. Amus., ktorý nás navždy opustil 15. februára 2007. Česť jeho pamiatke. - Š.H.

Slováci si budú môcť doplniť vzdelanie v Kanade

Bratislava (TSAR) – Slováci vo veku od 18 do 35 rokov si budú môcť v Kanade doplniť vyššie odborné vzdelanie, absolvovať odbornú prípravu so stážou, pracovný pobyt, získať pracovné skúsenosti či prehĺbiť si vedomosti o kultúre tohto severoamerického štátu. Rovnaké možnosti majú aj mladí Kanadania na Slovensku. Pobyt v partnerskej krajine však nesmie presiahnuť 12 mesiacov. Záujemcovia ho môžu absolvovať najviac dvakrát, nie však bezprostredne za sebou, pričom nemôže ísť o dva rovnaké pobyty. Predpokladá to Zmluva medzi SR a Kanadou o mobilite mladých, o ktorej 1. augusta rokovala vláda.

Zmluva sa vzťahuje na absolventov a študentov univerzít, študentov vzdelávacích inštitúcií a občanov, ktorí chcú získať odbornú prípravu alebo na určitý čas príležitostné zamestnanie. Prvý

rok môže zmluvu recipročne využiť 400 občanov. Podmienkou na absolvovanie pobytu je buď zakúpená spiatočná letenka, alebo dostatočné finančné prostriedky na jej zaobstaranie. Záujemcovia môžu tiež preukázať dostatok financií na pokrytie nákladov na začiatok pobytu. Uchádzač však musí mať vopred dohodnutú pracovnú zmluvu, stáž alebo pracovný pobyt. Študenti zároveň predložia doklad, ktorý potvrdzuje, že sú zapísaní na univerzite. Za vybavenie žiadosti sa nebude platiť žiadny poplatok. Slovenskí občania, ktorí získajú odporúčací list a dlhodobé vízum dostanú po vycestovaní do Kanady pracovné povolenie platné na celom území štátu počas celej dĺžky pobytu. Kanadania môžu na Slovensku pracovať bez pracovného povolenia počas platnosti udeleného víza.

Príhovor podpredsedu vlády Dušana Čaploviča na oslave storočnice SLVA

Slávnostný banket storočnice Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, na ktorej sa prihovril k prítomným podpredseda vlády SR, sa konal v nedeľu 10. júna 2007 v hoteli Crowne Plaza v Secaucus, New Jersey

Vaše Excelencie, vážení páni veľvyslanci, vážení predstaviteľia Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, dámy a páni,

Iba pred pár týždňami som mal milú možnosť privítať v mene slovenskej vlády početnú delegáciu Slovenskej ligy v Amerike na pôde Bratislavy, ktorá bola prijatá aj prezidentom Ivanom Gašparovičom.

Bolo to na stretnutí v hoteli Bôrik. Dýchalo dôstojnou, ale zároveň aj veľmi priateľskou atmosférou. Vyjadril som tam úprimné potešenie a radosť nad tým, že Vaša delegácia prišla do hlavného mesta Slovenskej republiky. Boli to vzácné a krásne chvíle v súvislosti s terajším stým výročím.

Slávnostné a povznášajúce pocity sú stále vo mne. Avšak dnešné nádherné okamihy ich ešte viac znásobujú, naplňujú a inšpirujú.

Ctené dámy a vážení páni, pred týmto vzácnym a cteným zhromaždením chcem sa k Vám úprimne vyznať:

Som veľmi šťastný, že som dnes mohol, ako podpredseda terajšej vlády - prísť medzi Vás, do kruhu Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, najvýznamnejšej organizácie Slovákov na americkom kontinente. Vedno s Vami spoločne mať radosť a potešenie z týchto osláv.

Dovoľte mi k tomuto historickému výročiu tlmočiť Vám srdečné pozdravy a blahoželania predsedu vlády Slovenskej republiky Roberta Fica, ostatných podpredsedov a ministrov súčasnej vlády.

Už v Bratislave som hovoril, že história Slovenskej ligy v Amerike je zrkadlovým obrazom našich národných dejín. Od posledných desaťročí Rakúsko-Uhorska, cez obdobie existencie prvej ČSR, ktoré bolo spojené so zápasom za rovnoprávnosť Slovákov. Bolo to aj v období prvého Slovenského štátu počas druhej svetovej vojny, cez štyri desaťročia neslobody a vládnutia komunistickej štátostrany až po vytúžený prvý január 1993 - dátum zrodu demokratickej a nezávislej Slovenskej republiky.

Práve za štátnosť, samostatnosť, suverénnosť, zvrchovanosť Slovenskej republiky s jej novým demokratickým systémom bojovala Slovenská liga v Amerike počas celej svojej doterajšej existencie. Zaslúžila sa o svojbytnosť slovenského národa, bola strážkyňou, obhajkyňou a vďaka nej má Slovensko mnohoraké väzby so Spojenými štátmi americkými. Väzby, ktoré chceme naďalej vzájomne pestovať a rozvíjať v prospech Slovenskej republiky a USA.

Moja veľká vďaka patrí vzácnym osobnostiam Slovákov v Amerike ako Štefanovi Furdekovi, Petrovi Rovnianskovi, Albertovi Mamateyovi a mnohým ďalším. Za to patrí vďaka aj súčasným vzácnym osobnostiam Slovákov v USA, obetavým a zapáleným pracovníkom Slovenskej ligy v Amerike.

Ctené dámy, vážení páni, tlmočím Vám moju osobnú i našu - za vládu Slovenskej republiky - hlbokú úctu, uznanie, veľké a úprimné poďakovanie.

Podobne, som veľmi šťastný, že aj Národná rada Slovenskej republiky - ako najvyšší ústavný a zákonodarný zbor - prijala z podnetu Slovenskej národnej strany Deklaráciu k storočnici založenia Slovenskej ligy v Amerike;

spokojný, že toto rozhodnutie slovenského parlamentu bude vytesané na pamätnú tabuľu z tatranskej žuly a umiestnené na čestnom mieste v budove parlamentu spolu s heslom "Za tú našu slovenčinu" a s historickým znakom Slovenskej ligy v Amerike;

radostný, že sme pri príležitosti spomínaného milého stretnutia v bratislavskom hoteli Bôrik mohli zaznamenať veľmi krásny počin Slovenskej pošty: uvedenie novej slovenskej známky so znakom a heslom Slovenskej ligy v Amerike;

napokon i tým, že aj hlavné mesto Slovenska sa v podobe busty napokon dočkalo zvečneného Štefana Furdeka.

Milí priatelia, vzácní hostia, aj z najnovších ohlasov, ktoré som doma zachytil, aj z reakcií verejnosti, aj z rozhovorov s politikmi, poslancami, verejnými činiteľmi sa mi vyformoval spoločný menovateľ v tom, že ľudia v krajina medzi Dunajom a Tatrami - na Slovensku - vzdávajú hlboký hold a vyslovujú vysoké uznanie a vďaka Slovenskej lige v Amerike. Najmä za to, čo vykonala počas svojho jestvovania pre dobro slovenského národa a Slovenska. Hovorím to nielen pri príležitosti jej terajšieho mimoriadne vzácného jubilea. Potvrďuje vernosť jej základnému poslaniu: "Pracovať, aby slovenský národ bol slobodný a rovný s ostatnými národmi".

A tento odkaz budeme spoločne niesť naďalej. Úplne sa stotožňujem so slovami čestného predsedu Slovenskej ligy v Amerike Ľudovíta Pavla v jednom z mnohých slovenských interview: "Slovenská budúcnosť je v našich slovenských silách."

Chcem ešte raz zdôrazniť, že je pre mňa nesmiernou cťou byť prítomný na tomto slávnostnom podujatí spolu s Vami, vzácní a drahí Slováci zo Spojených štátov amerických.

Dovoľte mi úprimne z celého srdca Vám všetkým - ešte raz a mnoho ráz - v mene premiéra Roberta Fica, členov vlády i v mene svojom - zaželať ďalšie úspechy a



Podpredseda vlády Dušan Čaplovič počas slávnostného prejavu.

osobne všetkým pevné zdravie, šťastie a spokojnosť, veľa energie a tvorivosti v živote.

Pevne verím, že vzájomnou súčinnosťou a obojstranne prospešnou spoluprácou medzi Slovenskou republikou a Vami, Slovákmi, v Spojených štátoch amerických, dokážeme naďalej naplňovať ušľachtilé ciele upevňovania a rozvíjania ducha slovenskosti, národnej a kultúrnej identity, slovensko-slovenskej vzájomnosti.

Daj Boh šťastie Slovenskej lige v Amerike!

Daj Boh šťastie Slovenskej republike!

Americký senát urobil krok k zrušeniu víz

Praha/Washington (TASR) - Americký Senát schválil konečný text zákona, ktorý približuje niekoľko nových členov Európskej únie k zrušeniu víz pre turistické cesty do USA. O zákone bude do týždňa hlasovať aj druhá komora, Snemovňa reprezentantov, a potrebný bude aj súhlas prezidenta USA.

Nová zákonná úprava už nevyžaduje, aby krajiny, ktoré sa usilujú o zrušenie amerických víz, mali ročne menej než tri percentá zamietnutých žiadostí o vízum. Táto hranica sa zvyšuje na 10 percent. Pre Česko to znamená splnenie tohto kritéria. V roku 2005 veľvyslanectvo USA v Prahe zamietlo Čechom 9.4 percenta žiadostí o vízum a vlni sa toto číslo ešte znížilo na 9.2 percenta.

Novinkou, ktorá by sa mala vzťahovať aj na občanov starých krajín únie a ďalšie krajiny, občania ktorých cestujú do USA bez víz, bude povinnosť cestujúceho pred cestou elektronicky zasláť svoje údaje americkým úradom tie cudzinca prelustrujú v databázach prieslupkov a teroristov. Táto previerka bude Čechov stáť asi 400 Kč. V prípade nepovolenia cesty sa bude môcť žiadateľ obrátiť na zastupiteľský úrad USA. Schválená verzia zákona zarmútila Poliakov, Maďarov aj ďalšie nové členské krajiny únie. Desaťpercentnú podmienku zamietnutých víz totiž údajne nikto okrem Čechov nespĺňa. Blížia sa k nej iba Estónci. Napríklad v Poľsku je podiel zamietnutých žiadostí o víza viac ako 20-percentný.

Msgr. Tomášovi Kujovskému k 50. výročiu kňazstva

Je 50 rokov málo, alebo veľa?

Do chudobnej, ale zbožnej, slovenskej rodiny v Lebanone, PA., na prosbu otca Tomáša a matky Anny, zavítal Duch Svätý. Pod ochranou Panny Márie, sľúbili svojho syna Tomáša, jeho Stvoriteľovi, Pánu Bohu, by zasvätil Mu, život svoj a tak splnil, života úlohu. Pod dozorom anjela strážcu, vyrastá Tomáš Kujovský, jeho mladým rokom žehná sám Otec Nebeský. Žatva je veľká a robotníkov málo. Pod' do vinice mojej, ho povoláva.

Pas ovečky moje, pas baránkov mojich. To je moja vôľa. Tomáš toto pozvanie s láskou prijíma, srdce mu šťastím blaží, pred kňazskou vysviackou, dolu tvárou, pri oltári leží. On, Tomáš Kujovský, z chudobnej rodiny, dnes je sluha boží. Bohu, za tak veľkú milosť, vďaka denne vzdáva.

On, Tomáš Kujovský, dobrým, pokorným, kňazom sa stáva. Jeho dobrá, zlatá mama Anna, sa naň z neba, šťastná díva. Slovo, skutkom sa stalo...! Tomáš je kňazom, už viac nesníva. 50 - rokov v pokore a v láske, Pánu Bohu, verne slúži.

Nie, po svetských slastiach, a sláve, srdce mu netúži. Vyše 50 rokov, cirkevné obrady, pre svoje ovečky, vykonáva, v škole náboženstvo učí, mladých sobáší, ich deti krstí, aj na cintorín, ich v smútku, odprevádza, tam im svoje, posledné slovo "s Bohom" dáva...

Áno, dobrý je on kňaz. Už nie je iba pastier, ale "Bača", za ovečkami, aj keď pomalšie, ale predsa kráča. Nie, nie je sám, sprevádza ho holub jara, to spevavé vtáča. Nepotrebuje, ani žiadny korbáč, ani ovčiarskeho psa, ovečky ho poslúchajú, zvončeky im na ceste zvonja, potôčik a zelené líky, vďaka, temianom vonia. Nie, tiché ovečky, nikoho a ničoho neboja sa.

Vieme, že raz, príde tá hodina, ten posledný, smutný čas, kedy náš, slovenský kňaz, náš pastier, náš Bača, opustí nás. Nech Pán s chórom anjelov, privedie ho k trónu slávy, požehná a odmení kňazskú prácu, za prítomnosti jeho mamy.

Je 50 rokov málo, alebo veľa?

Odpoveď, dostaneme iba, od jeho Spasiteľa.

Jozef Smák

Čemerné oslavovalo

Východoslovenská obec Čemerné, dnes mestská súčasť Vranova nad Topľou, v týždni od 17. do 24. júna 2007, zažilo spoločenskú, kultúrnu a folkloristickú eufóriu osláv 725. výročia prvej písomnej zmienky obce. Oslava začala sprievodnými výstavnými akciami od filatelistov, starých remesiel, ručných prác starých materí, obrazov domácich maliarov až po exponáty pivných podložiek a zápalkových škatuliek z celého sveta, včítane panelov, na ktorých vystavovali literárne a novinárske práce svojho rodáka Štefana Hrehu, povedomého národno-slovenského a osvetového dejateľa v Kanade, pod heslom Svoji svojim - rodná obec nezabúda.

Pri tejto oslavnej príležitosti okresný týždenník, Vranovské novinky, venoval celú stranu výberu Hrehových spomienok Myšlienkový návrat do jubilujúceho rodiska - Čemerné, pôvodne uverejnených v americkom katolíckom dvojtýždenníku Jednota.

Celý priebeh gala osláv vyznel v duchu lokalpatritizmu, na ktorý sú Čemerčania zvlášť hrdí. Jubilejná oslava obce vyvrcholila v nedeľu 24. júna koncelebrovanou sv. omšou pred katolíckym kostolom za účasti veľkého počtu domácich občanov i širokého okolia, reprezentantov mestského zastupiteľstva na čele s primátorom mesta, štátnej vlády, Matice slovenskej a pozvaných hostí z celej Republiky. Po slávnostnej sv. omši, ktorú celebroval Čemerňan Rev. Štefan M. Bankovič, teraz pôsobiaci v Hlohovci, boli posvätené heraldické symboly obce - erb a zástava. V priebehu osláv poslanec Mudrak prečítal laudáciu Štefana Hrehu k narodeninám jeho rodnej obce, zdôrazniac, že i napriek 90 rokov svojho pozemského života a 70 rokov prežitých v Kanade, na svoje rodné Čemerné, kde prežil svoje mladé roky, si často spomína. Poprial jej do budúcich rokov mnoho dobrých úspechov, všestranný rozvoj a jej občanom veľa Božích milostí, nadovšetko spokojnosť a ľudské spolunažívanie.

V úľadnom parku pred Kultúrnym domom odhalili pomník a na ňom dve pamätné tabule vynikajúcim Čemerňančanom. Prvú prof. Antonovi Hajdukovi, rektorovi trnavskej univerzity a prvému predsedovi Ústredia slovenských kresťanských intelektuálov a druhú Bartolomejovi Albertovi Leškovi, geológovi, horlivému gr. kat. kňazovi, publicistovi, vedeckému spisovateľovi a neochvejnému národovcovi. Pri momente odhalenia Pomníka a pamätných tabúl, domáci i okolití chovatelia poštových holubov, vypustili 725 holubov, symbolizujúcich 725. narodeniny obce Čemerné.

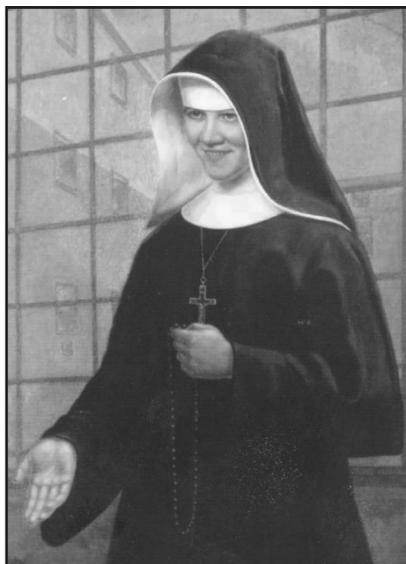
Iniciátorom gala osláv a koordinátorom celého jubilejného projektu bol miestny aktivista MVDr. Pavol Bindas.

pab

Spomienková slávnosť na bl. Zdenku v Majcichove

Požehnaním procesiovej zástavy blahoslavennej Zdenky sa v sobotu, 21. júla ukončila spomienková slávnosť v Majcichove na Slovensku, ktorej sa zúčastnili Milosrdné sestry sv. Kríža z Trnavy spolu so svojou provinciálnou predstavenou sr. Benjaminskou Novotnou. Modlitbové spoločenstvo bl. Zdenky v Majcichove, hlásiac sa k jej veľkému odkazu, hrdo opatruje jej sochu a relikvie v miestnom Farskom kostole Všetkých svätých, spolu s Divadelno - speváckym súborom J. Palárika v Majcichove, ktorý zase rozširuje úctu prvej slovenskej svätice, pozvali na slávnostnú svätú omšu vdp. Petra Keraka - kaplána z Opavy na Morave, rodáka z Diviny pri Žiline s tým, že by si všetci zachovali rovnakú vernosť Kristovi a Cirkvi ako mučeníčka bl. Zdenka.

Dr. Pavol Zemko



Zlaté zrnká

"V najúchvatnejšej chvíli, keď kňaz hovorí 'Hore srdcia', mali by sme mať srdcia hore u Boha, a nie dolu na zemi, v myšlienkach na pozemské veci. Kňaz sa vtedy zo všetkých síl usiluje zavrhnúť všetky starosti o tento život a mať srdce v nebi u milosrdného Boha."

Sv. Cyril Jeruzalemský

"Fantázia sa zvyčajne začína tam, kde sa končí komunikácia."

John Powell

Pripomenuli si 127. výročie narodenia M. R. Štefánika

Košariská (TASR) - Život a pôsobenie prvého ministra vojny ČSR, generála Milana Rastislava Štefánika, zhodnotil 20. júla v jeho rodisku Košariskách minister obrany František Kašícký. Počas osláv 127. výročia jeho narodenia položil veniec k pamätnej tabuli na Štefánikovom rodnom dome. "Postava generála Štefánika je súčasťou našich dejín, rozvoja našej hodnotovej kultúry a rozvoja vojenských dejín," povedal v tejto súvislosti minister. Štefánik bol uznávaný pre svoje nadčasové myslenie, vedel komunikovať a v mladom veku sa presadiť v zahraničí. Kašícký vyzdvihol rýchlosť, s akou sa dostal do hodnosti generála, ale zároveň poznamenal, že to bolo vo vojnových rokoch. V mierovom období je to celoživotná vojenská kariéra. Na oslavách sa zúčastnili aj slovenskí vojnoví veteráni.

Štefánik sa narodil 21. júla 1880 v Košariskách. Po maturite na lýceu v Sarvaši v roku 1898 odišiel do Prahy študovať stavebné inžinierstvo na České vysoké učení technické. Po dvoch rokoch prechádza na Filozofickú fakultu UK a venuje sa štúdiu matematiky a hviezdárstva. Štúdiá v Prahe skončil v roku 1904, keď bol promovovaný za doktora filozofie. Po štúdiách odišiel do Paríža, kde pracoval ako asistent u astrofyzika J. Janssena, riaditeľa observatória v Meudone. Bol priekopníkom v metódach na výskum Slnka. Počas prvej svetovej vojny sa dobrovoľne prihlásil k letectvu a za tri roky sa stal z desiatnika brigádnym generálom. V roku 1916 bol s Tomášom G. Masarykom a Edvardom Benešom spoluzakladateľom Národnej rady československej. Veľké a významné poslanie vykonal v Rusku v súvislosti s realizáciou vojenských a politických zámerov čs. zahraničného odboja. Štefánik bol zakladateľom čs. diplomacie a bol vynikajúcim diplomatom. V novoutvorenej vláde ČSR bol Štefánik ministrom vojny. V nedeľu 4. mája 1919 sa z talianskeho Galarate vypravil letecky na návrat do vlasti. Pri páde lietadla tragicky zahynul neďaleho Bratislavy.



Generál M. R. Štefánik

Na podporu aktivít Slovákov v zahraničí išlo vyše 17 miliónov Sk

Bratislava (TASR) - Slovenské spolky a organizácie v zahraničí získali minulý rok zo Slovenska na podporu svojich aktivít 17.750 milióna korún. Žiadosti o finančnú podporu z rozpočtu Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí (ÚSZZ) vyhodnocovala medzirezortná komisia pre schvaľovanie projektov. V dvoch kolách bolo predložených 447 požiadaviek od 110 subjektov z 22 krajín a zo Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí. Najviac žiadostí prišlo zo Srbska, Maďarska, Česka, Chorvátska a Kanady, požadovaná suma presiahla 64 miliónov korún. Komisia nakoniec vyhovelá 238 žiadostiam.

Ako sa uvádza v správe o štátnej politike starostlivosti o Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, ktorá je predložená do pripomienkového konania, väčšina požiadaviek na finančnú pomoc sa týkala projektov z oblasti kultúry. Vysoké percento žiadostí, predovšetkým z krajín juhovýchodnej Európy, sa týkalo vydavateľskej činnosti. Z hľadiska materiálových nákladov dominovali projekty na dobudovanie kultúrnych stánkov alebo rekonštrukcie už existujúcich priestorov. Ďalšie boli zamerané na odborné kurzy či letné tábory. Len málo z predložených projektov sa zaoberalo záchranou kultúrneho dedičstva, dokumentov, archivácií, vedy, výskumu, prípadne spracovaním dokumentácie či už samotných spolkov alebo písomností pozostalých osobností.

Krajania žijúci v zahraničí získali minulý rok na svoju činnosť dotáciu 110-tisíc korún aj z kancelárie prezidenta SR a predsedu vlády. Podľa informácií z ÚSZZ počet Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí sa odhaduje na 2,223,455.

Púť v Danville, PA

Združenie slovenských katolíkov usporiada púť do Baziliky sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Danville, PA v sobotu 22. septembra. Celodenný program na pozemkoch Villa Sacred Heart bude bohatý.

Púť začne o 11.00 hodine príchodom pútnikov a obedom v jedálni Materského domu. O 12.00 hod. bude v bazilike sv. omša, ktorú bude slúžiť Rev. Philip Altavilla. Od 12.45 do 3.00 hod. bude pre prítomných otvorená Jankolova knižnica a Slovenské múzeum. O 3.00 hod. sestra M. John Vianney Vranak, SS.C.M. bude mať prednášku o ženách prenasledovaných na Slovensku počas komunizmu, ktoré svoj život venovali cirkvi. O 3.30. hod. budú v bazilike spievané slovenské hymnické piesne a o 4.00 hod. bude sv. omša, ktorú bude celebrovať biskup Jozef Adamec.

Zájemcovia, ktorí sa na púti plánujú zúčastniť, majú svoje mená nahlásiť do 20. augusta Dolores Evanko na tel. č. 570-454-5547; e-mail: jje@intergrafix.net