



# Catholic Fraternal Bi-Weekly

# Jednota

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## Saints Cyril and Methodius and Slovakia

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

Slovaks have always associated their Christian heritage with Saints Cyril and Methodius, the apostles of the Slavs. Numerous churches bear the name of the two saints, including the church where my father was christened in Youngstown, Ohio, and the church where my father-in-law was baptized at in Windber, Pennsylvania. I once read that there are more Slovak churches with the names of these two saints than that of any other saints.



Photo courtesy of Ondrej Synak

SS. Cyril & Methodius statue in Nitra.

Why do Slovaks and the ancestors of Slovak immigrants share such a devotion to these two saints? The answer lies in the fact that they accomplished the conversion of the Slavic peoples to Christianity at a time when paganism was still widespread in Central and Eastern Europe. They did this through their prodigious missionary efforts and through their translation of the Holy Bible and other important ecclesiastical texts into the Slavonic language, which they literally devised and made into a literary language. For these reasons and to highlight their lives of holiness and devotion to the Lord, Pope John Paul II honored them with the title of patron saints of Europe in 1980. They are also considered the patron saints of learning and education.

While we associate the names of Cyril and Methodius with the Slavs, the two brothers were actually of Greek origin and members of the Eastern rite Church. They were born during the ninth century in Thessaloniki, a northern Greek city which often hosted Slavic peoples traveling from the Balkan region. Until the closing years of his life, Cyril was actually called Constantine (Konstantinos) and acquired the name Cyril (a Greek name meaning 'of the Lord') during a visit to the Papal Court in Rome.

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## ~NEWS FLASH~

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

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

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

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

### How do you earn this 2% Bonus?

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

### \* Bonus Rules \*

1. Bonus of 2% applies only to net deposits received by FCSU between receipt of this offer and June 30, 2007, excluding interest earned and less any withdrawal made between 01/01/07 and 06/30/07. Bonus payable only on the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity.
2. Bonus of 2% will be credited on 06/30/2011. The bonus will be based on the net funds deposited between 01/01/07 and 06/30/07, which must be maintained with FCSU until 06/30/2011. (Interest earned on the bonus funds will not be included in the bonus calculations.) Example: \$100,000 @ 5.0%\* (4 years) + 2% of \$100,000 = \$123,551.
3. If member with funds eligible for the bonus dies prior to 06/30/2007, no bonus is payable. If a member with funds eligible for the bonus dies between July 1, 2007 and July 1, 2011, the bonus will be prorated to the date of death.
4. To be eligible for the 2% bonus, new deposits must be received by June 30, 2007. Any FCSU annuity withdrawals after January 1, 2007 and redeposit with FCSU (except Park Money Annuity and Park 2 Annuity) prior to 06/30/07 will not be eligible for the 2% bonus.

Mail-in form located on page 8

## 29th Annual Slovak Catholic Federation SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal

When our ancestors came to these shores more than a century ago, they brought with them few monetary assets. However their most precious possession was their faith. The seeds were nurtured by the Slovak priests who came with the immigrant people and helped build our Slovak Catholic Fraternals, Religious Communities of men and women and nearly 300 Slovak Parishes. Today, in response to this legacy, the Slovak Catholic Federation will sponsor the 29th Annual SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal. The Church in Slovakia has enjoyed a great renaissance since the fall of Communism in 1989. We in



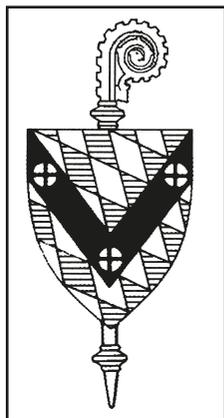
America and Canada take pride in the fact that the Slovak Catholic Fraternals, our Parishes and individuals of Slovak ancestry have responded generously to assist the Church in our ancestral homeland. The 2007 Annual Appeal begins during the month of February, in Churches of Slovak Decent, across the United States and Canada and will continue to the end of the year.

The 2006 Appeal collected \$63,000.00. Since its inception, this Appeal has raised \$2,007,028.90.

Funds raised from the Appeal will aid the

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# Insights and Viewpoints



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

February 18, 2007

### Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time **Luke 6:27-38**

#### Gospel Summary

This passage from the Sermon on the Plain (6:20-49) is the counterpart of the Sermon on the Mount in the gospel according to Matthew (5:1-7:27). The sayings of Jesus which make up the Sermon, in their poetic simplicity and in their challenging complexity, have become part of the world's common language: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you...Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Stop judging and you will not be judged. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you.

#### Life Implications

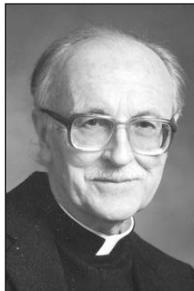
The essence of Jesus' mandates is simple enough: Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful...be like God. Everything else follows. If we are like God, there will be love, forgiveness, and generosity--all beyond measure. If one hears these mandates of Jesus in isolation from the entire New Testament, however, one might conclude that they represent an impossible ideal, and thereby may be ignored as impractical. The second reading of today's Mass from Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians provides the necessary context and helps us make sense of Jesus' command to be like God.

In his Letter to the Corinthians, Paul contrasts first man, Adam, with the last Adam, Jesus. First Adam, created in the divine image and likeness, was meant to be like God. Through prideful disobedience, however, Adam rejected his authentic human existence as God's image and likeness. All humankind as a consequence has inherited, and has added to Adam's condition of alienation from God and from all creation. Humanity, stuck in a false value-system, is like an animal trapped in quicksand that has lost its freedom to live as it was meant to live. Part of the tragedy is that humanity has become blind, and believes that its ungodly values reflect what it means to be human.

In contrast to first Adam, Jesus begins a new creation as the New Adam. Created in the divine image and likeness, through his obedience, love, forgiveness and generosity, he is like God--merciful, just as his Father is merciful. The good news is that through the power of God's mercy, which Jesus has come to proclaim, human beings can be liberated from the sorry mess we have gotten ourselves into.

At the beginning of his ministry in the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus said that the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled in him: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the lord" (Lk 4:19-19). Those who recognize that they are poor in the deepest sense (in captivity, blind, helplessly oppressed by evil forces of a fallen world) are blessed because they are able to accept the gift of liberation from their enslavement.

Freedom from enslavement, however, is not enough. Liberation from slavery achieves its purpose only if we live according to the freedom of the New Adam, Jesus Christ. "You have been called to freedom; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants of one another." "Stop lying to one another, since you have taken off the old man (Adam) with his practices and have put on the new man, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator" (Gal 5:13 and Col 3:9-10). Because we have been reborn into his image and likeness as New Adam, Jesus can say to us: Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful...be like God.



Campion P. Gavaler,  
O.S.B.

February 25, 2007

### First Sunday of Lent **Luke 4:1-13**

#### Gospel Summary

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Recall that this event comes immediately after Jesus' baptism in the Jordan. After his baptism Jesus was praying when the Holy Spirit descended upon him, and a voice came from heaven saying, "You are my beloved Son." The devil now says to Jesus, "If you are Son of God, command this stone to become bread." Then the devil promises all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him. Finally the devil challenges Jesus to throw himself from the parapet of the temple to prove that since he is God's Son, he would not be injured. Jesus triumphs over each temptation.

#### Life Implications

The writers of the gospels clearly affirm the humanity of Jesus. However, it is unlikely that they would have dared to say that Jesus was tempted by the devil--with the implication of the possibility of failure--unless Jesus himself had spoken of the trials he was undergoing. The Letter to the Hebrews expresses the tradition that Jesus initiated: "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet never sinned" (4:15). In the dramatic confrontation between the devil and Jesus, Luke indicates that until the day Jesus died, the devil attempted to entice him from fidelity to his Father's will and to his mission.

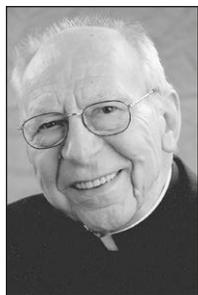
Luke explains the meaning of the temptations Jesus underwent by using the Book of Deuteronomy description of the temptations that Israel underwent in the desert wilderness. The key to interpretation lies in the text known in Hebrew as the Shema: "Hear, O Israel: the Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might" (Dt 6:4-5). The Dominican bible scholar Jerome Murphy-O'Connor explains how the Shema was understood in Jesus' time (Bible Review, August 1999).

"With all your heart" means with a heart undivided by a contrary desire. In the desert wilderness the people's craving for food divided their hearts from trust in God's care for them. Jesus, however, would not allow his craving for food to divide his heart from complete trust in his Father's care. "With all your soul" means trust in God even if you should lose your life. In the wilderness the people were afraid they were going to die of thirst, and demanded evidence of God's presence: "The Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying 'Is the Lord among us or not?'" (Ex 17:7). Jesus, however, would not ask God to prove his presence by saving him if he jumped off the temple parapet. (Luke places this temptation last in his sequence because his whole gospel is a narrative of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. There he will choose fidelity to his Father's will and mission over the desire to save his own life.) "With all your might" means with all your wealth. After the Israelites reached the Promised Land, they are warned that their wealth would cause them to forget the Lord, and to worship false gods and demons. The devil, understanding the allure of wealth, promises to give Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if he would forget God, and worship him. Jesus said to the devil in reply, "It is written: 'You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve'" (Dt 6:13).

The temptations of Jesus point back to the temptations of Israel in the past, and point forward to the trials that the Church in all its members will undergo in the future. It is now we who are in the wilderness, with no lasting city, on a journey to the Promised Land. Each trial that life brings even to our dying day is a crisis, but is also an opportunity to trust more completely that the Lord is with us, and that we do love God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our might. We are confident that we will triumph in our trials of faith, not because of our own strength, but because Jesus has given us his holy Spirit. Thus sharing the fidelity of his undivided heart, we can pray with confidence: Our Father, do not let us be defeated by temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

## Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

### Ladies and Gentlemen



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

There's more to every day than the broadcasts of the weather and the news, than our routine of work, than our household chores and shopping. There's our association with all of the people with whom we share our days and our interaction with them, from the garbage collectors and newspaper delivery people to the distinguished one with whom our contact is more formal.

The key to this association is our behavior toward them. How do they perceive us who claim to be Christians and ladies and gentlemen?

Do we classify people as those below us culturally, economically and on the job and those above us in these categories, treating them as either inferior or superior to us, showing disdain for the one and fawning upon the other?

Ladies and Gentlemen we need be, not only in keeping with our Christian mandates but also in our behavior toward one another.

There follows here five examples of ladies in the New Testament who not only believed in Jesus Christ but who also actively practiced their faith.

"Now in Joppa there was a certain woman convert named Tabitha (in Greek Dorcas, meaning a gazelle). Her life was marked by constant good deeds and acts of charity." (Acts 9:36)

Peter "went to the house of Mary the mother of John (also known as Mark), where many

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# Apostleship of Prayer

## Intentions for February 2007

### GENERAL INTENTIONS

#### Just Distribution of Resources

That goods of the earth, given by God for all people, may be used wisely and in accordance with justice and solidarity.

Interpreting the Bible's Book of Genesis, the Catechism of the Catholic Church affirms God's purpose in creation.

"In the beginning God entrusted the earth and its resources to the common stewardship of mankind to take care of them, master them by labor, and enjoy their fruits. The goods of creation are destined for the whole human race."

Throughout history, humans have indeed sought to enjoy and to master earth's resources. But we have not always done so in ways that are sustainable and just. We have tended to seize, possess, exploit, and hoard the goods of creation. Our sin is both individual and corporate. The Church calls us to recognize that we have the power as well as the obligation to change our ways.

"Man is himself the author, center, and goal of all economic and social life. The decisive point of the social question is that goods created by God for everyone should in fact reach everyone in accordance with justice and with the help of charity."

The Church challenges every economic system on earth. We speak of just distribution of resources, but too often it ends as that- self-satisfied words without action. We must always start with ourselves, but the Catechism states that our obligations to others are national as well as personal:

"Rich nations have a grave moral responsibility toward those which are unable to ensure the means of their development by themselves or have been prevented from doing so by tragic historical events. It is a duty in solidarity and charity; it is also an obligation in justice if the prosperity of the rich nations has come from the resources that have not been paid for fairly."

Together we pray that we may have the wisdom and resolve as individuals, communities, and nations to care for and to share earth's resources with all who inhabit the earth.

For Reflection. How are the world's resources unjustly distributed? Why?

### MISSION INTENTION

#### Fight Against Disease

That governments of all nations may cooperate to fight diseases and epidemics in the Third World.

Jesus healed the sick, especially those who were poor, and He asked His followers to do the same. Does His commandment mean anything to us today?

Do poor people still suffer and die prematurely throughout the world?

Yes, they do. Infectious illnesses account for the deaths of 17 million people each year, 90 percent of whom live in developing countries. Lacking access to common medicines, the poor in these countries become victims of many treatable, but untreated, diseases, including tuberculosis, malaria, smallpox, AIDS, dengue hemorrhagic fever, meningitis, and sleeping sickness.

Can the rich nations help the suffering poor of the Third World? Yes, they could- but they are not doing much. Every year researchers develop new drugs and treatment technologies to heal the sick, but the distribution of these resources is tragically disproportionate.

For example, the total cost of medicines throughout the world is between \$50 and \$60 billion annually. But only 0.02 percent of this sum goes to the treatment of respiratory ailments, tuberculosis, and diarrhea infections -those "diseases of the poor" that cause about 18 percent of the deaths around the world.

Acknowledging our Christian duty to help the neediest sick in the world, Pope Benedict XVI has continued Pope John Paul II's Good Samaritan Foundation. To date the foundation has assisted the sick in 11 countries in Africa, 1 in Asia, and 1 in Latin America. The Catholic Church serves 26.7 percent of the care centers for those with HIV/AIDS.

We understand our duty. We have begun to do it. We need to pray for the leaders of our world. May they enact policies to eradicate treatable diseases.

For Reflection. In what ways may we as individuals minister to the world's neediest sick? How may we influence governments to do the same?



## Fasiangy in Milwaukee on February 17

Assembly 20 of the Slovak League of America in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, invites you to their annual Fasiangy or Pre-Lenten dance on Saturday, February 17, 2007, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3200 South 103rd Street in Greenfield. Delicious Slovak food and homemade baked goods will be available. The Gadzove Band of Chicago will provide Slovak and modern music. Our ever popular Tatra Slovak dancers will entertain us with a performance at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$4.50 in advance and \$5.00 at the door. For tickets and information, please call Betty at 262/255-0977, or Emily at 414/464-1063, or Anne at 414/462-3773.

Everyone is welcome! Come meet your old friends and make some new ones, too. We hope members of Jednota Branch 89 in Milwaukee will also join us.

Betty Valent

## Reflection on Our Christianity

*continued from page 2*

others were gathered in prayer." (Acts 12:12)

There "was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple goods from the town of Thyatira." After she listened to Paul, she and her household were baptized and she said to Paul, "If you are convinced that I believe in the Lord, come and stay at my house." (Acts 16:14-15)

Two close friends of Paul were Aquila (Eagle) and his wife Priscilla whom Paul called "Prisca." Paul met them at Corinth where they had a business as tentmakers, Paul's trade. After visiting with them, he took up lodgings with them and they worked together as tentmakers. (Acts 18:1-4) They accompanied him to Ephesus where he left them. (Acts 18:18-19) At Ephesus, they heard Apollos, "an authority on Scripture and instructed in the new way of the Lord". (Acts 18:24-25) Aquila and Priscilla "took him home and explained to him God's new way in greater detail." (Acts 18:26)

"I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a deaconess of the church of Cenchreae. Please welcome her in the Lord, as saints should. If she needs help in anything, give it to her, for she herself has been of help to many, including myself." (Romans 16:1-2)

These women did not lead selfish lives interested only in their own beauty and appearance. The first impression that a lady gives is that of concern for the welfare of the one whom she greets. She leads with her heart, seeking to learn the person's personality, station in life and goals. When these are established, a lady seeks to care, to support, to bond in friendship and there follows the sharing of her ideals. She wishes to do well, is actively helpful and charitable.

A lady is courteous, well-mannered, dressed in such a way that she is worthy of honor and respect.

A gentleman – and a lady as well – act in accordance with a religious, moral and social code and are characterized by courage, courtesy, honesty, justice and readiness to help those in distress. He leads with his mind, the seat of consciousness – thought (attention and concentration) and then volition and feeling. He has less willingness to respond quickly and has control of his emotions.

Thusly, a lady and a gentleman complement each other perfectly.

A gentleman clothes himself with a dignity evidencing self-discipline and control of himself, from shined shoes to the hair of his head groomed. By his presence, and behavior, he commands honor and respect.

The lady and the gentleman know that their bodies house an immortal soul which is destined to go on through this temporal life to eternal life, open to it through the life, suffering and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This soul is their very identity. They respect the price, which was paid for it and seek to keep it and the temporal house in which it dwells free from any stain or willful malfunction. This is the reason each seeks to be worthy of honor and respect and to command honor and respect.

They know their dignity from Psalm 8:5-6: "What is man that you should be mindful of him, or the son of man that you should care for him. You have made him little less than the angels, and crowned him with glory and honor."

## HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO OWN THIS BEAUTIFUL "OUR LADY OF SORROWS" STATUE. IT CAN BE YOURS IF YOU...



Sign up new members for insurance during the months of January, February and March!

The Membership and Marketing Committee want to give its proposers something special to start the New Year.

You will receive one beautiful Pieta – for every two (2) new members you sign up for Whole Life Insurance or four (4) new members for JEP Insurance or sign up two (2) new members for Term Insurance.

There is no limit!

Remember...this special campaign is only good for new members signed up between January 1 and March 31, 2007.

Let us all get involved with membership.

*Good luck and God bless!*

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

## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Branch 3 and 226— MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 3, and the St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 226, will celebrate Palm Sunday with a Mass and breakfast on Sunday, April 1, 2007, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 1315 Second Street N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. for the living and deceased members. A breakfast and fellowship will be held in Father Dargay Hall following the liturgy.

**Joseph Matlon,  
Publicity Chairman**

### Branch 311— MONESSEN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 311, will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, February 28, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. at Courtyard Pittsburgh West Homestead/Waterfront, 401 West Waterfront Drive, West Homestead, Pennsylvania. The election of officers and other Branch business will be on the agenda.

**Ken Vehec, Secretary**

### Branch 450— CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jozef Valencik, 13501 Park Drive, Brook Park, Ohio. The election of officers will be held at this time.

**Margaret Valencik, Financial Secretary**

### Branch 682— YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. George Society, Branch 682, will hold a meeting on Tuesday, February 27, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at the Materials Research Center, Struthers, Ohio. On the agenda will be a branch audit and a discussion of activities for 2007. All members are invited to attend.

**Joseph Scavina, Financial Secretary**

### Branch 706— SOUTH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 706, will conduct a meeting on Friday, March 2, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. at the home of President Shirley Uram, 13861 South 86th Avenue, Orland Park, Illinois. On the agenda will be officers' reports and a discussion on insurance and selling new products. The 2006 audit will take place at this time. If you plan to attend please call Shirley before the meeting at 708/349-9049. Members are also asked to check the beneficiaries on their policies.

**Shirley Uram, President**

### Branch 731— YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will celebrate its patron feast day with a Mass on Sunday, March 18, 2007, at 11:30 a.m. in Saint Matthias Church, Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. A brunch will be served following the liturgy. All members are invited to attend. Reservations should be made by March 11, 2007 by calling 330/782-3219 or 330/629-2505.

Branch 731 held its annual meeting and election of officers on December 17, 2006. The following officers will serve in 2007: Millie Leskovyansky, President; Msgr. Peter M. Polando, Vice President; James Bobby, Recording Secretary; Jacquelyn Bobby, Financial Secretary; and John Kavulic and Edward Walko, Auditors.

**James Bobby, Recording Secretary**

### Branch 743— DETROIT AND STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday, March 18, 2007, with a Slovak Mass at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan. Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy. All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph Day and to enjoy fellowship with other members.

Any member who has recently moved or requires branch services should contact the branch secretary Joseph C. Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087 or phone 586/254-0225.

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

### Branch 780— SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 780, will hold its next meeting on Monday, March 19, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of the president, 2090 Bock Road, Saginaw, Michigan. All members are welcome to attend. For more information call Ben at 989/791-1775, Mary at 989/791-3505, or Cathy at 989/792-0186.

The officers of Branch 780 for the year 2007 are: Benjamin Gombar Jr., President and Treasurer; Mary Albers, Vice President and Financial Secretary; and Catherine Karlsen, Recording Secretary.

**Catherine Karlsen, Recording Secretary**

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT — Uniontown, Pennsylvania

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 11, 2007, at Melonie's Restaurant, 105 West Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. A luncheon will be served at 1:00 p.m. Each member attending is asked to contribute \$5.00 towards their meal. Reservations should be made by Wednesday, March 7, 2007, by contacting President James Marmol at 724/437-0892 or Secretary Barbara Holly at 724/438-0697. On the agenda will be the election of officers and the updating of accounts.

**Barbara A. Holly, Secretary**

### REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT — Youngstown, Ohio

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold a meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Rectory, Youngstown, Ohio. There will be a discussion of plans of activities for 2007. Also on the agenda will be the installation of officers and a discussion of the results of the casino trip.

**Carlie Peshek, Secretary**

## Slovak League to Host Centennial Tour of Slovakia, May 5-16

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry. It will host a special Centennial Tour of Slovakia, May 5-16, 2007.

The tour departs from New York's JFK International Airport on Saturday, May 5 and returns Wednesday, May 16. The tour includes a 3-night stay in Kosice at the Hotel Slovan, 3-nights in the High Tatras at the Grand Hotel and 3-nights at the Hotel Danube in Bratislava. The tour includes a one-day visit to Vienna in Austria.

The tour will include festivities in Bratislava where a special commemorative stamp will be issued by the Slovak postal authorities to commemorate the centennial of the Slovak League in recognition of its century-long promotion of Slovakia's right to self-determination and independence. The blessing

of the statue of the Rev. Stephen Furdek, co-founder of the Slovak League and pioneer Slovak spiritual leader in the United States will also be unveiled in the Slovak capital. Slovakia's President, Ivan Gasparovic will receive the tour participants at a special reception in Bratislava.

The tour will visit Kosice, Presov, Bardejov, Kezmarok, Kapitula, Stara Lubovna, Cernova, area sightseeing centers in the region of the High Tatras as well as Bratislava.

Cost of the tour via Czech Airlines is \$2,450.00 per person based on double occupancy and includes airfare, first class hotels, two meals daily and sightseeing with an English speaking guide. For additional information on the tour along with a complete itinerary, contact Anna Korcak at Danube International Travel, Inc. of Central Nyack, NY at tel. 845/353-7792 or toll free at 866/232-0755; fax: 845/353-4798.



## John's 2007 Tours to Slovakia

John Mago of Leechburg, Pennsylvania, is planning two tours to Slovakia in 2007. One will be from June 30 to July 16, and the other from September 7 to 23. These tours will include Slovakia along with visits to Prague and Vienna and two days in Poland. The itinerary includes stops in Cracow,

Zakopane, Auschwitz and Pope John Paul's birthplace in Poland. In Slovakia, tourists will visit Levoca, Presov, Bardejov, Kezmarok, Kosice and Trnava. Special features include stops in Rajeca Lesna to see the carved Slovak Bethlehem, the Spis Castle, the Slovak National Museum in Martin, the Tatra Mountains, a ride on a raft down the Dunajec, the folklore centers of Zdiar and Cicmany, and much more. In Krakovany tourists will be able to take part in a folk wedding, and in Tichy Potok there will be a cultural performance and dinner. In Bratislava there will be a dinner and performance with the Bezanka Groups. In Prague one will see St. Vitus Cathedral, St. Charles Bridge and the Old Town Square. Tourists will ride on air-conditioned bus and be accompanied by an English speaking guide.

To obtain a brochure with detailed information contact John's Tours, P.O. Box 154, Vandergrift, Pennsylvania. Phone: 1/800-260-8687 or 724/567-7341.



## Eleventh Annual 10-Day Tour of Slovakia April 24-May 3, 2007

The Slavic Heritage Institute invites you to join their Eleventh Annual 10-Day Tour of Slovakia, April 24 to May 3, 2007. On the itinerary are visits to the Orava Castle, the Tatra Mountains, Bratislava, and the Vah River Valley. The price is \$1,999.00 and includes round trip airfare, three meals a day, ground transportation, a cable car ride in the High Tatras, and a visit to a thermal spa. One may also extend their stay or visit relatives or other sites in Europe. For more information, please contact Rev. Thomas Drobenka, P.O. Box 1003, Torrington, CT 06790. Phone: 860/482-6100.



## News from the National Director of Fraternal Activities

The Annual Jednota International Bowling Tournament will be held on the weekend of April 20, 21, and 22, 2007, at the Airport Lanes in Buffalo, New York.

The Annual Jednota International Golf Tournament will be held the weekend of July 21 and 22, 2007, at the Thunderbird Hills Golf Club in Huron, Ohio.

Please mark your calendars and make plans to participate in these fraternal activities. Details on these events will be published at a later date.

**Susan Ondrejco,  
National Director of  
Fraternal Activities**

# *100th Anniversary of the Slovak League of America*

## **Celebrating a Century of the Slovak Cause**

**By Daniel F. Tanzone**

2007 marks an historic year in the life of the American Slovak community. The Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry, celebrates its 100th anniversary. A century ago, the two greatest pioneer leaders of the Slovak community in the United States, the Rev. Stephen Furdek, founder of the First Catholic Slovak Union who also assisted in the founding of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, and Peter V. Rovnianek, founder of the National Slovak Society, the first Slovak fraternal to be organized, issued a call for a great mass gathering in Cleveland, Ohio, set for May 26, 1907. Nearly 10,000 representatives of Slovak fraternal organizations, churches, cultural and civic institutions, answered the call and gathered at Grey's Armory. It was the greatest manifestation of the Slovak American community to date. Nearly every city and hamlet in the Midwest and the Northeast where Slovak immigrants had settled were represented at the gathering. The purpose of the gathering was to organize a great umbrella organization, which would speak collectively on behalf of all American Slovaks, both those born in Slovakia and those born in the United States.

### **Advocating freedom and justice**

A strong voice was needed to present the plight of the Slovak nation at home, which was then one of the Slavic minorities of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In old Hungary, the Slovaks were considered Slovak-speaking Hungarians by Budapest. The Slovaks had endured more than a thousand years of Hungarian political domination. Beginning in the mid 19th century, Budapest inaugurated a new program known as Magyarization. Its plan was to make Hungarians out of its Slav minorities and in particular the Slovaks who occupied upper Hungary. The names of cities, towns, rivers, streams, castles and other historical landmarks which had been a part of Slovak culture of a thousand years, were changed by law and given Magyar substitutes. Family names too suffered the same fate. By persuasion, humiliation, or at times outright intimidation, more and more Slovak names disappeared and Magyar forms appeared in their place. In 1898, the government decreed by law that all state and local officials Magyarize their names. Only those who claimed being Hungarian were able to pursue higher education, Slovak newspapers were censored and the Slovak language was no longer to be taught in the schools. It was an intolerable situation and the Slovaks in America, who quickly learned to admire the freedom and justice enjoyed in their newly adopted land wanted the same for their brethren in their ancestral homeland. The American Slovaks wanted to alert the world to the racial problems and oppressive regime of Budapest.

The American Slovak newspapers rallied to the cause and promoted the work of the Slovak League of America. In 1907, the circulation of Slovak language newspapers in the United States far exceeded those in Slovakia. Budapest closed the Matica Slovenska, the leading Slovak cultural and political organization, which had been founded in 1863, and suppressed newspapers, which

advocated a change in the political situation in Hungary.

Through its early efforts, the Slovak League of America became the rallying force of the Slovak nation. Those organizations affiliated with the League advocated freedom and justice for Slovaks at home. In their adopted home, Slovaks here found not only a new life but were inspired by the patriotic zeal, which gave birth to the United States in 1776. Inspired by American ideals, Slovaks here wanted their brethren at home to have the opportunity to determine their own national life. Every nation, however large or small should have the God-given right to self-determination and freedom.

### **Opportunity to advance the cause**

With the outbreak of World War I in 1914, the Slovak League saw the opportunity to advance the Slovak cause. It began working with Czech representatives to advance the cause of freedom for both the Slovaks and the Czechs at home. The Czechs, like the Slovaks, were one of the Slav minorities of Austria-Hungary. The Czechs in America had organized their Czech National Alliance in the spring of 1915 with goals similar to that of the Slovak League. On October 25, 1915, a step was taken to advance the Czech-Slovak cooperation with a meeting between the representatives of the Slovak League and the Czech National Alliance in Cleveland, Ohio. The Cleveland Agreement was signed there to form the basis for future Czech-Slovak cooperation, both at home and abroad.

In June 1917, General Milan R. Stefanik, the son of a Slovak Lutheran Minister, who was vice president of the National Czecho-Slovak Committee in Europe, visited the United States and encouraged the Slovaks in America to advocate the freeing of Slovakia from the Magyar yoke. He encouraged the Slovak League to organize a Million Dollar Drive to aid the cause of Slovak-Czech freedom. The drive was organized with the Rev. Joseph Murgas of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, as its chairperson. Soon, more than \$800,000 was sent to the National Czecho-Slovak Committee to support the cause both here and in Europe.

With the support of the U.S. and in particular of President Woodrow Wilson, the end of World War I saw the opportunity to advance the cause of independence for the Slovaks and Czechs. The Slovak League called a meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on May 30, 1918 to dispel Slovak doubts as to Slovakia's status in the proposed new state. Representatives of the Slovak League and the Czech National Alliance in the presence of Thomas G. Masaryk, who would become the first president of the new state, signed the Pittsburgh Agreement on Memorial Day in the great city of Pittsburgh. Masaryk, born of a Slovak father and Czech mother was thought to be the perfect head of the newly proposed state. The Pittsburgh Agreement, signed by Masaryk, guaranteed Slovakia's autonomy within the proposed Czecho-Slovak Republic.

### **The emergence of Czecho-Slovakia**

Slovaks in America rejoiced at the emergence of the new republic in 1919. Soon, however, all would not be well in the new state as President Masaryk repudiated the

Pittsburgh Agreement and the autonomy promised Slovakia. The name of the new republic was even changed from Czecho-Slovakia to Czechoslovakia. Instead, a highly centralized government emerged in Prague.

During the 1920s and 1930s, the Slovak League of America in its historic role, monitored the activities of the new state, which it helped to establish and sent delegations to oversee its progress. The long-promised autonomy finally came in 1938, too late to assist the Slovak cause however, as war clouds emerged in Europe. After the appeasement fiasco in Munich, in 1939, Czecho-Slovakia was finally dismembered by Hitler and the Slovaks found themselves in a new political situation. Bohemia and Moravia were occupied by Germany and Hitler told Slovakia that if it sought independence he would guarantee it. If not, Slovakia would be absorbed by Germany, Hungary and Poland. Under the leadership of Msgr. Jozef Tiso, the democratically elected members of the autonomous Slovak parliament in Bratislava voted for independence on March 14, 1939. Msgr. Tiso became Slovakia's first president.

A new and challenging chapter in the history of the Slovak League of America emerged. Following Slovakia's independence, the Slovak League sought U.S. diplomatic recognition for Slovakia. A del-

egation of the Slovak League traveled to Washington, D.C. and met with President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the White House on October 18, 1940 to seek this recognition, however to no avail.

During World War II, the Slovak League of America gave all-out support to the United States War effort. It undertook a wide sponsorship of U.S. War Bonds and netted over \$53 million in this effort alone. In recognition of the achievement, the U.S. Treasury Department credited the League with five bombers and allowed the League to name four Liberty Ships in honor of Slovak patriots, including the Rev. Stephen Furdek, the Rev. Joseph Murgas, Sergeant Matej Kocak and General Milan R. Stefanik. Slovak League officers were present as these ships were christened.

After World War II, the Slovak League sponsored a drive for the benefit of war-ravaged Slovakia. In the fall of 1945, the League sent a delegation to the founding meeting of the United Nations in San Francisco to press for the right of Slovakia to remain an independent state and to join the new international body. Unfortunately, Slovakia was again incorporated into the former Czecho-Slovakia.

*to be continued in next issue*

*(Daniel F. Tanzone of Yonkers, New York, serves as national president of the Slovak League of America.)*

### **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNOUNCING AVOID STOCK MARKET VOLATILITY The FIXED RATE 6-YEAR\* ANNUITY**

# 4.5%

(APR 4.402%)

\*Interest rate Guaranteed for 6 years

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**Our FIXED RATE 6-YEAR annuity offers you the following benefits:**

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**The FIXED RATE 6-YEAR annuity has the following features and terms:**

- Interest rate fixed for 6 years
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- 6-year withdrawal penalty period: 1st year-6%, thereafter reduces 1% each year for next 5 years. Bank withdrawal penalties are much higher
- Not applicable to any settlement option annuity funds, or interest only annuities
- Annuity withdrawal prior to age 59 ½, subject to Federal Excise Tax Penalty
- Minimum deposit \$5,000

**COMPARE OUR FIXED RATE 6-YEAR ANNUITY RATE  
TO YOUR LOCAL BANK RATES  
DON'T DELAY, ACT NOW!**

**For information, contact:**

**FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION**

**6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300**

**P. O. Box 318013**

**Independence, OH 44131-8013**

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

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Requests (based on order received)				
Event	Date	Time	Date	Time
Team				
Doubles & Singles				

# ENTRY BLANK

## 53rd Annual Men's and 44th Annual Women's International Jednota Handicap Tenpin BOWLING TOURNAMENT

*Sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union*

MORAL SUPPORT SANCTIONED BY THE UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS  
AND THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL BOWLING CONGRESS

**Airport Lanes - Genesee St., Cheektowaga, New York**

### ENTRY FEES

PRIZE FEE .....	\$ 6.85
BOWLING FEE (3 games).....	\$ 4.65
TOURNAMENT FEE.....	\$ 6.50
<b>TOTAL EACH EVENT .....</b>	<b>\$18.00</b>
<i>Optional Events</i>	
ALL EVENTS .....	\$ 2.00
SENIOR SINGLES EVENT .....	\$ 5.00

2007

April 20 • 21 • 22  
ENTRIES CLOSE  
MARCH 1, 2007

Mail Entry Fee Payable To:  
**FCSU Activities**  
Mail to: Susan Ondrejco  
234 Ilion St.  
Pgh., PA 15207

Team Name: _____	Captain Name: _____	City Assoc. USBC/WIBC _____
League: _____	Address: _____	Secretary: _____
City: _____	Phone: _____	Address: _____

ALL EVENTS (X)	CORRECT TEAM LINE-UP (Print or Type)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	USBC/WIBC NO.	ADDRESS	CERT. NO. (MUST BE FILLED IN)	BRANCH NO.
	1.					
	2.					
	3.					
	4.					

SINGLES (X)	TWO-MAN EVENT (Print or Type Full Names)	HIGHEST AVERAGE
	1.	
	2.	
	1.	
	2.	

**★★ SCHEDULE ★★**  
**TEAM EVENT**  
**Friday, April 20 6 p.m. & 9 p.m.**  
**Saturday, April 21 9 a.m. (or as needed)**

**DOUBLES & SINGLES**  
**Saturday and Sunday**  
**April 21 & 22 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.**

- **BOWLER CAN BOWL ONLY ONCE IN EACH EVENT**
- **BOWLING FEES AS WELL AS ENTRY MONEY MUST ACCOMPANY THIS BLANK**
- **FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH COMPLETE INFORMATION**
- **INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN AND MUST BE RESUBMITTED**
- **SEE RULES 8-10 BELOW REGARDING PRIZE DISTRIBUTION**
- **SEE RULE 6 BELOW REGARDING CALCUALTION OF HANDICAP**

Substitutes on two-man teams *must* bowl in the position vacated by the original entrant as per USBC/WIBC.

**PLEASE NOTE ABOVE TIMES & DATES**

## BOWLING TOURNAMENT - PLEASE READ ALL RULES CAREFULLY

The Men's and Women's Annual International Jednota Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament is solely sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union, for the purpose of promoting fraternalism and good sportsmanship, and to generate nationwide interest in the Jednota. The Supreme Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union wish to extend to all Jednota members a cordial invitation to the Host City, Cheektowaga, New York, in this rapidly growing tournament.

1. The 53rd Annual Men's and the 44th Annual Women's Jednota International Handicap Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held at Airport Lanes, 3754 Genesee St., Cheektowaga, New York. The tournament will be held the weekend of April 20, 22 and 22, 2007.

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT MARCH 1, 2007.

OPENING CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, APRIL 20, AT 5:30 PM.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED IN COMPLETELY. ALL INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN FOR RESUBMISSION.

**2. This Tournament is open to all Jednota male and female bonafide MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. All winners will be checked before any prize money is AWARDED.**

3. All matters pertaining to this Tournament must have the sanction of the Director of Fraternal Activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union. The Tournament Officers will handle all matters pertaining to this Tournament.

4. U.S.B.C. and the W.I.B.C. Bowling Rules shall govern in all matters concerning the actual play on the lanes in this Tournament.

5. Only members with U.S.B.C. and W.I.B.C. Membership Cards will be eligible for the U.S.B.C. and W.I.B.C. special awards in this Moral Sanctioned Tournament. Bowlers without U.S.B.C. and W.I.B.C. Membership Cards may purchase some from the Tournament Secretary at current local fees prior to actual participation in this Tournament.

**5-A. CAPTAINS OF EACH TEAM ENTRY MUST ENTER HIS TEAMMATES' U.S.B.C. AND W.I.B.C. SANCTION CARD NUMBERS AND VERIFY SAME AS LISTED IN PROPER AREA ON ENTRY FORM.**

#### MEN AND WOMEN

6. MEN - The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 210 and the highest average of any U.S.B.C. League of at least 21 games from the 2005-2006 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2005-2006 season will use highest league average as of JANUARY 1, 2007 and this must be designated as such on ENTRY FORM BY HIS NAME. Bowlers with no established U.S.B.C. average will BOWL A 210 SCRATCH. SUMMER LEAGUE AVERAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

WOMEN - The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 180 and the highest season average of any W.I.B.C. or C.T.F. League of at least 21 games from the 2005-2006 season. Bowlers with no average for the 2005-2006 season will use highest league average as of January 1, 2007, and must be designated as such on ENTRY FORM BY HER NAME. Bowlers with no established U.S.B.C. average will BOWL A 180 SCRATCH. SUMMER LEAGUE AVERAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

6-A. MEN AND WOMEN: Any contestants whose current average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2007, is TEN (10) PINS or more above his or her average from previous season, must use his or her current average and will indicate this on the ENTRY FORM AT TIME OF ENTRY.

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

6-C. MEN- Any unmarried grade or high school student who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) must have written consent of his parents or guardian in order to participate in U.S.B.C. sanctioned Tournament where cash or merchandise prizes are offered. Said written consent must be on a form approved by American Bowling Congress and must be on file with Tournament Secretary at least one week before the bowler is eligible for tournament competition unless the student is accompanied by his parents, in which case the parental consent form may be filed up to the time the student starts to bowl, U.S.B.C. Rule NO. 13 FEMALE - Any unmarried grade or high school student, who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) must have written consent of her parents or guardian in order to participate in a W.I.B.C. sanctioned Tournament where cash or merchandise prizes are offered. Said written consent must be on a form approved by the Women's Bowling Congress and must be on file with Tournament Secretary at least one week before the bowler is eligible for tournament competition unless the student is accompanied by her parents, in which case the parental consent form may be filed up to the time the student starts to bowl.

**7. In submitting this entry, THE CAPTAIN AND THE TEAM MEMBERS AGREE TO FORFEIT ALL RIGHTS TO PRIZE MONEY AS WELL AS THE TOTAL ENTRY FEES IN THE EVENT THAT ANY INFORMATION LISTED HEREIN SHOULD BE FOUND TO BE FALSE. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS IN AVERAGES MADE IN FILLING OUT THIS ENTRY FORM. NO REFUNDS OF TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE.**

8. PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR TEAM, DOUBLES, SINGLES, AND ALL EVENTS.

9. MEN - One prize will be paid for every seven (7) entries in each event, with the exception of All Events, which will pay one prize for every fifteen (15) entries. No duplicate prizes will be awarded and prize fees will be returned 100 percent.

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

**11. All prize winners will be checked with the Jednota Home Office for verification of membership in good standing.**

12. All prizes will be subject to the approval of the Director of Fraternal Activities and the Tournament Committee.

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

14. Any replacement of participants originally scheduled to bowl on team or doubles will take same position on team and doubles event.

15. All participants must report one half-hour before starting time and sanction cards must be presented to the Tournament Secretary by same.

16. No bowler will be permitted to compete more than once in each event.

17. Prize fees, as stated on the front of this entry blank, must accompany this entry.

18. In the event that there should be a tie for first place, a Co-Champion will be declared and duplicate trophies will be awarded.

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

20. "Average of a bowler may be rerated and must be accompanied before the entrant bowls, but if the rerated average is not accepted by the bowler, the entry fee shall be refunded." RULE 319-C.

MEN - RULE NO. 319-D - A Bowler whose high league average is under 190 shall submit himself for rerating and shall be rerated before entering a classified or handicap tournament.

(a) When his accumulated average is not less than 21 tournament games during the immediate preceding 12-month period exceeds his high league average by 10 or more pins, or

(b) when he has exceeded his high league average by 15 or more pins in each of five tournaments, i.e., 45 pins in a three game series, 60 pins in a four game series, etc. - based only on his high series in each of the five tournaments - during the immediately preceding 12-month period.

21. YOU ARE ONLY ALLOWED TWO (2) RE-RACKS PER GAME.

22. 319-a-3 It shall be each bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of his average in handicap or classified tournaments, whether originally submitted by the bowler, his team captain, or others.

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

In case of teams of two or more bowlers, the average shall be combined to determine whether the correct total is higher or lower than the submitted total.

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

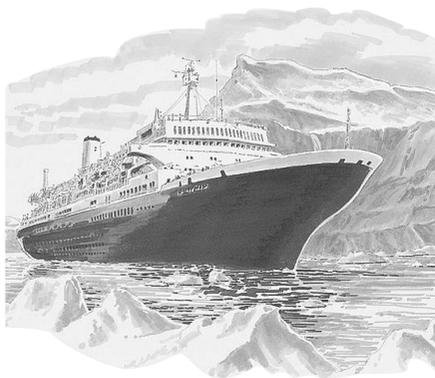
319-D - Any entrant who has qualified for a prize of \$300 or more in any event of a tournament in the 12-month period prior to entry, must report actual score, position, and amount won to tournament management at time of entry for possible rerating.

**23. Refer to A.B.C. Rule 322 - Tardy Bowler or Bowlers will receive zero for each frame missed.**

#### OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT OFFICERS

EX-OFFICIO TREASURER & FRATERNAL DIRECTOR .....	SUSAN ONDREJCO
TOURNAMENT SECRETARY .....	JOE BURKHART

# A SAILING WE WILL GO!



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

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

Royal Caribbean's Vision of the Seas is one of the most popular cruise ships in the world. On the ship you will be staying in an ocean view stateroom. Our itinerary from Seattle, Washington includes stops in Juneau, Skagway, Tracy

Arm Fjord, Alaska and Prince Rupert, B.C.

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

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

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

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

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

**HURRY – ROOMS ARE LIMITED!**

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

Until we meet at the meet!  
Good luck and God bless,  
**Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.**  
Membership and Marketing Chairman

# YOUTH ROUND-UP



**Kelly Bobo accepts her Bishop Stefan Moyzes Scholarship Fund Award from District II President John Jurcenko (left) and District II Treasurer Art Fayta.**

## Award Presentation

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, Illinois, is very proud of its member Kelly Bobo. Kelly is a 2006 FCSU Scholarship Winner. She was also awarded a \$100 college grant from the Bishop Stefan Moyzes Scholarship Fund of District II. The award presentation took place at the District's Annual Meeting on November 4, 2006. Kelly is a freshman at the College of Du Page near Chicago.

**Robert Tapak Magruder**



### 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Men's and 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's International Bowling Tournament

At Airport Lanes, Cheektowaga, NY

**CONTRACT FOR ADVERTISING IN THE SOUVENIR PROGRAM BOOKLET**

___ FULL PAGE	3.25" X 10"	\$75.00
___ HALF PAGE	3.25" X 5"	\$40.00
___ QUARTER PAGE	3.25" X 2.5"	\$20.00
___ PATRON		\$ 5.00

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Please supply Camera-Ready copy with Artwork and Information you wish to appear in Ad.

**Make Check Payable to: FCSU Activities**

Mail all checks and ad forms to:

Susan Ondrejco  
234 Ilion St.  
Pgh. PA 15207

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ADS: MARCH 15, 2007**



### 53<sup>rd</sup> Men's & 44<sup>th</sup> Women's International Bowling Tournament

Tentative Schedule

Friday, April 20, 2007

- 4:30 PM ..... Registration  
Airport Lanes  
3754 Genesee St.  
Cheektowaga, NY
- 4:30 – 6 PM ..... Hospitality Reception  
Airport Lanes
- 5:45 PM ..... Opening Ceremonies
- 6 PM – 11:30 PM ..... Team Events
- 7:30 – 9 PM ..... Hospitality Reception  
Airport Lanes

Saturday, April 21, 2007

- 9 AM – 3 PM ..... Doubles and Singles Events  
Airport Lanes
- 5:30 PM ..... Mass  
Holiday Inn Buffalo Airport
- 6:30 PM ..... Tournament Banquet

Sunday, April 22, 2007

- 9 AM – 3 PM ..... Doubles and Singles Events  
Airport Lanes

# SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal

*continued from page 1*

priest-graduate students at the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril & Methodius. These fine priests are being called upon to be the future leaders of the Diocesan Churches in Slovakia both as Vicars and Bishops, in addition to providing qualified instructors/professors for the seminaries that educate future priests. As well, funds benefit those Religious Communities both men and women which share a counterpart which belongs to the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Slovak Conference of Religious. These Communities being: Vincentian Sisters of Charity (Ruzomberok); Dominican Sisters (Dunajska Luzna); School Sisters of St. Francis (Zilina); Daughters of St. Francis (Bratislava-Prievoz); Byzantine Catholic Sisters of St. Basil the Great (Secove and Presov), Franciscan Friars Minor (Bratislava), House of St. Benedict (Bacurov).

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911, under the spiritual leadership of Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the Slovak Catholic Federation is to federate individuals of Slovak origin under one banner; for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as National President is Rev. Philip Altavilla, pastor of St. Thomas More Parish, Lake Ariel, Penn-

sylvania. The Episcopal Moderator is the Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, D.D., Bishop of Altoona/Johnstown. The National First Vice President, Rev. Andrew S. HvozdoVIC, Pastor of the Church of the Epiphany, Sayre, Pennsylvania, is the Coordinator for this Annual Appeal.

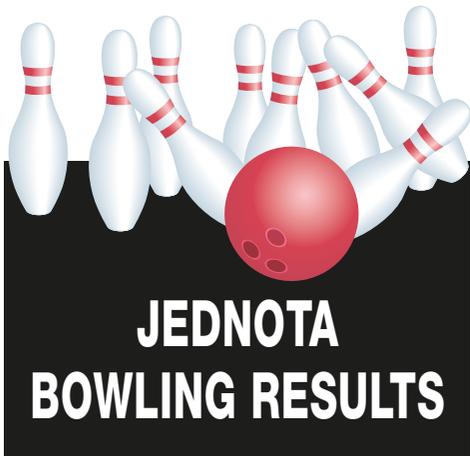
In our Church today, we are finding more and more individuals of Slovak descent/background do not attend traditionally founded Slovak Parishes, for a number of reasons. Because of this reality today, the monies raised for this Appeal come both from the collections taken in our Slovak Parishes as well as from individual donors.

Your tax deductible donation made out to the Slovak Catholic Federation, noting for the Annual Appeal, can be sent directly to the National Secretary/Treasurer of the Slovak Catholic Federation: Dolores Evanko, 173 Berner Avenue, Hazleton, PA 18201.

**Rev. Andrew S. HvozdoVIC**



NEWS FLASH - continued from page 1



**YOUNGSTOWN JEDNOTA MIXED  
REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT  
December 17, 2006**

Team	Won	Lost
Br. 682/Florand	53.5	16.5
Br. 731/Catullo's/Kubina-Yuhasz	39.5	30.5
Rev. Kostik Dist/Ferenchak's	30	40
Br. 260/Komara's	17	53

High single game individual: (men) Jeff Peshek-226, Bob Franko-203, Walter Soich-200; (women) Irene Makovec-202, Michelle High-187, Judy Nuth-172. High three games individual: (men) Jeff Peshek-610, Joe Scavina-522, Bob Franko-521; (women) Michelle High-497, Judy Nuth-485, Irene Makovec-483.

**January 7, 2007**

Team	Won	Lost
Br. 682/Florand	53.5	21.5
Br. 731/Catullo's/Kubina-Yuhasz	44.5	30.5
Rev. Kostik Dist/Ferenchak's	34.5	40.5
Br. 260/Komara's	17.5	57.5

High single game individual: (men) Tom Morella-267, Jeff Peshek-264, Bob Franko-181; (women) Michelle High-204, Irene Makovec-176, Judy Nuth-163. High three games individual: (men) Jeff Peshek-653, Tom Morella-651, Bob Franko-515; (women) Michelle High-521, Irene Makovec-487, Judy Nuth-434.

CONGRATULATIONS! Br. 682/Florand, 1st Half Champs: Rich Kollar, Joe Scavina, Dot Murphy, Michelle High.

**Paul Ritz, Secretary**

## "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.**

## Coming Events

**FEBRUARY**

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

**MARCH**

11 – The Frank T. Holly Jr. District's Annual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Melanie's Restaurant, 105 West Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

## ☆☆☆ NEWS FLASH ☆☆☆

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

**Sign Me Up for the Bonus Program!**

- Proposed Annuitant:  M  F
  - Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Date and Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Address: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Social Security No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_
- Amount paid with this application: \_\_\_\_\_
- Beneficiary: (Show full name and relationship to the Proposed Annuitant.)
 

Primary: \_\_\_\_\_

Contingent: \_\_\_\_\_
- Will the plan applied for be a tax qualified plan:  Yes  No
 

If Yes, show basis (such as IRA): \_\_\_\_\_
- Will the plan now applied for replace or change any existing insurance or annuity:  Yes  No
 

If Yes, show name of the Insurer and policy number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

The Proposed Annuitant shall be the Owner of any contract issued; except, when the Applicant is an entity other than a person, the Applicant shall be the Owner. The contract shall be effective on its date of issue.

I do hereby represent that the statements and answers included herein are full, complete and true, to the best of my knowledge and belief. I agree that this application shall be the basis for and a part of any contract issued. I understand that only an officer of the FCSU, in writing, may: (1) make or modify contracts; or (2) waive any of its rights or requirements.

Signed At: \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Annuitant: \_\_\_\_\_

# Saints Cyril and Methodius and Slovakia

*continued from page 1*

Both brothers were the sons of Maria and Leon, a military officer in Thessaloniki. Due to the premature death of their father, their Uncle Theokostos served as a father figure and protector of the young boys. Theokistos held a position of influence in the Byzantine Empire because he headed the mail services and directed the diplomacy of the Empire. In addition, he helped further higher education and proved pivotal in founding the University of Magnaura. Theokistos brought Constantine to Constantinople, the splendid cosmopolitan capital of the Byzantine Empire, where he would pursue his studies. He later obtained a teaching position at the university. Theokistos also aided Methodius to become the top official of the Slavic administrative region within the Empire, which would include part of what is today Bulgaria.

Cyril became a noted theologian and linguist who mastered both the Hebrew and Arabic languages. The Empire called upon him to make an official visit to the Abbasid Caliph Al-Mutawakkil and here he commenced his career as a missionary and diplomat. He explained the theology principle of the Holy Trinity to Arab theologians and worked to improve relations between the Muslims and the Byzantine Empire.

Drawing upon their diplomatic, administrative and missionary skills, in 860 the Byzantine Emperor Michael III dispatched both of the brothers on a mission to the Khazar Khagan in what is today Ukraine. At the time, the Eastern Church wished to offer an alternative to the spread of Judaism in that land. Although they failed to convince the Khagan to convert his people to Christianity, the two brothers learned from the experience. They would have more success than they would have envisioned in starting the eventual conversion of almost Slavic peoples to Christianity.

Upon returning to Constantinople, Cyril became a university professor of Philosophy and the Church appointed Methodius the bishop of the Moni Polychroniou.

But their fate took them elsewhere. When in 862, Prince Rastislav of the Central European state of Great Moravia appealed to the Byzantine Empire for missionaries to teach Christianity in the Slavic language, the two brothers found their calling. Although the German bishop in Salzburg had originally

tried to convert the Slavs, he did not meet with much success. An appeal to Byzantium for Slavic speaking missionaries aided the conversion of Slovakia and other Central European regions, and it served Rastislav as a counterweight to the expansion of German influence in the area.

The two brothers owed their success to a new alphabet they composed, which was known as Glagolitic. Based on the Greek alphabet, they created a Slavonic language which they used for translating manuscripts, the first Slavic Civic Code for Great Moravia, and the eventual translation of the Bible into a language which Slavic peoples could understand. Despite German opposition, the Pope approved of the missionaries work and endorsed the use of the Slavonic language for use in the Holy Liturgy. Along with Latin and Greek, Slavonic became the third language approved by the Holy See for use at Mass.

The modern day Cyrillic alphabet, which is used in Russia, Bulgaria, Ukraine, and among the Carpatho-Rusyns, owes its origins to the language which they codified. The tongue they devised, known Church Slavonic, is still in use in many Eastern Orthodox and Byzantine churches throughout the world.

The Eastern Orthodox Church celebrates the feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius on May 24. But the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the fraternal saints on February 14. In fact, they accomplished far more to advance the cause of Christianity than Saint Valentine who is more commonly associated with this date in the United States.

In Slovakia, Saints Cyril and Methodius Day was originally celebrated at another time, on March 9. However, Pope Pius IX altered the date to July 5, because it was thought to be the date of arrival of the two saints to their mission in Great Moravia.

July 5 remains a national holiday in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. The feast is also associated with the annual pilgrimage to Levoca, which annually attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors on the first Sunday in July. Twice Pope John Paul graced the shrine on Levoca Hill with his presence, and the tradition grew and thrived even during the days of communist oppression.

The Slovaks have embraced Saints Cyril and Methodius as their patrons, and we Slovak-Americans should pay special tribute to these special saints on February 14.

## Pappas Shows Slovak Tree for Holidays



**Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas stands with visitors before a Christmas tree decorated to reflect the culture of Slovakia. More than 90 trees and other holiday displays were shown in Pappas' downtown Chicago office in "Holiday Trees From Around the World," an exhibit to recognize the diverse cultures of Cook County. From left: Alojz Jurcik, of the Slovak League of America; Anna Jurcik; Treasurer Pappas; and Pat Michalski, assistant to Pappas on ethnic affairs.**

## Annual Pre-Lenten Bake Sale at Pittsburgh Prince of Peace Parish

The day before Ash Wednesday (called Shrove Tuesday) is traditionally marked by many cultures the world over with indulging in a variety of delicious sweet treats and merrymaking. The volunteers at Prince of Peace Parish on the city's South Side will be serving up the traditional sweet treats of Poland and Slovakia, for ONE DAY ONLY, on SATURDAY, February 17, 2007, from 8:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M., sure to satisfy every pre-Lenten sweet tooth!

Do you remember Grandma's donuts, sweet and warm, right from the fryer – or the little fried cookies, knotted and dusted with powdered sugar? .... You can enjoy those same delicious treats once again at the Prince of Peace Annual Pre-Lenten Paczki & Ceregi Sale. These tasty goodies are back by popular demand and will be available for purchase at the Prince of Peace Parish Center (81 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street, South Side, Pittsburgh). It will be the perfect time to relive those treasured moments in Grandma's kitchen all over again. Why not pick up a dozen or two of these fresh homemade treats and enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee or tea, too.

Paczki (fried donuts) are a steal at \$5.50 a dozen without filling and \$6.00 a dozen with apricot filling. Ceregi (fried cookies dusted with powdered sugar) are only \$5.00 for a baker's dozen! All of these sweet delights, made fresh by volunteers of the Parish from traditional family recipes, will be available for one day only on SATURDAY, February 17, 2007, from 8:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. Don't risk being disappointed on Sunday morning when everyone is talking about the delicious paczki, and ceregi they savored at Prince of Peace Parish!

### FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY: FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY INTEREST RATE INCREASES THROUGH MARCH 31, 2007

Effective January 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 MARCH 31, 2007**

**Kenneth A. Arendt  
National Secretary**

## 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	Copy Deadline
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21	MONDAY, MARCH 12

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:

Anthony Sutherland, Editor

"JEDNOTA"

1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4835

FAX: (717) 944-3107

# Toronto Slovak Bowling League Concludes Successful Season

The 2005-2006 season marked the 54th successful year of bowling for the Toronto Slovak Bowling League. A banquet and dance to celebrate the end of the bowling season was held on Friday, May 28, 2006, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish auditorium in Mississauga, Ontario. A delicious buffet, followed by the polka music of Ed Gutza's polka band contributed to everyone's enjoyment of the evening.

Greg Grys won the High Average for men with 204, followed by Jason Ubeika with 195. Women's High Average was a sister act with Cathy Szabo placing first with 162.8 while her sister Anne Mitro was a close second with 160.7.

Men's High Series Scratch went to Danny Zrobok with 683, while Helen Grys showed the way in the women's division with 584. Gus Kapsa captured the men's High Series with Handicap with 752 and women's honors went to Nellie Zeman with 730. High Game Flat winner for the men was Paul Simon with 246 and Sharon Tomas led the women with 222. In the High Game With Handicap, Dave Maskell was the winner with 278, while Lynn Quintieri took the women's honors with 283. Most Improved Bowlers were Walt Ubeika with a +12 and Josie Siman with +18.

The Pennant Winner for the season was Emil Jursa's team, consisting of Emil, Sue Babinchak, Ed Forma, Christine McKee and Helen Tonkovich.

The play-offs proved to be close and exciting contests. "A" Series winners were Paul Siman's team whose team members included Paul, Josie Siman, Regina Kapsa, Anne Fedurko and John Hergel. "B" Series honors went to Rose Marie Pikul's team made up of Rose Marie, Anne Forma, Lydia Lencz, Ron Pines and Mary Polack. Congratulations to all!

After having served as Vice President of the League for a number of years, Jerry Siman resigned the position at the conclusion of the season. His dedication, enthusiasm and hard work were greatly appreciated in the past and will certainly be missed in the future. Thank you Jerry!

The banquet festivities were a wonderful end to a most enjoyable season and we look forward to an even finer season in 2006-2007.



**"B" Series Winners.** L-R: Lydia Lencz, Anne Forma, Rose Marie Pikul (Captain), Ron Pines, and Mary Polack.



**Sports Director John Kapsa (left) and Joe Jursa (right) present "A" Series trophy to winning team members Anne Fedurco, Regina Kapsa, John Hergel and Josie Siman.**



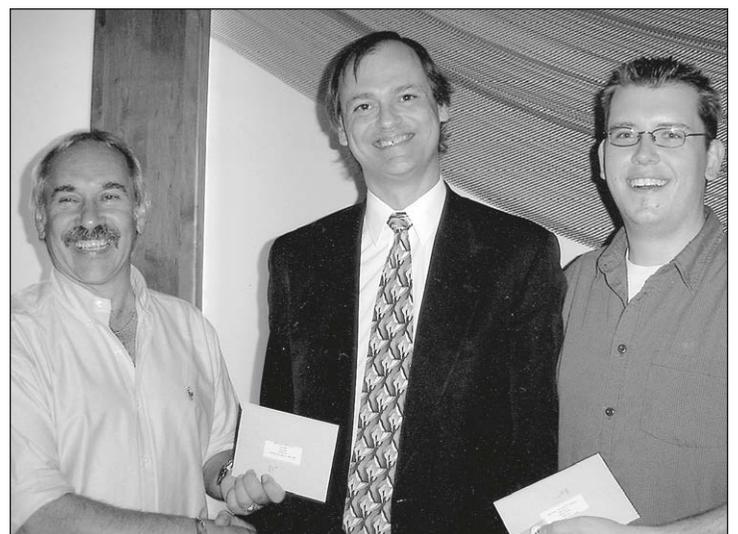
**Winners of the Greater Toronto Tenpin Bowling Association 15 Pin Average Improvement Award.** L-R: Josie Siman, Jeff Macko, Lydia Lencz, and Anne Mitro. Presentation was made by TSBL Secretary Sharon Tomas (2nd from right).



**At the head table at the banquet are standing L-R: Emil Jursa, President of the Toronto Bowling League (TSBL); Jerry Siman, Vice President of the TSBL; Anne Mitro, Treasurer of the TSBL; and Mike Kapitan, President of Branch 785. Seated L-R are Sharon Tomas, Secretary of the TBSL; Rev. Gregory Nowicki, Rev. Miro Vercimak, pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church; and Ed Jursa, President of the Toronto District.**



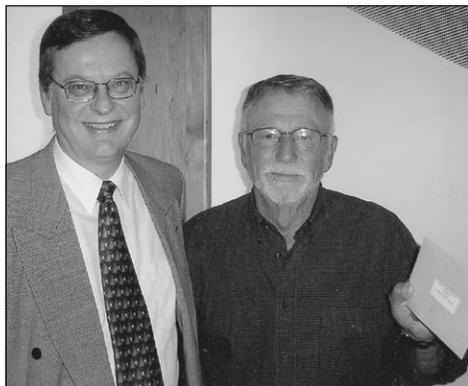
**Pennant Winners.** Sports Director John Kapsa (2nd from left) and Joe Jursa (2nd from right) are pictured with the Pennant Winning Team L-R: Sue Babinchak, Helen Tonkovich, Emil Jursa (Captain), Ed Forma and Christine McKee.



**John Tokarsky (center) presents High Series Scratch awards to runner-up Jim Szabo (left), and winner Danny Zrobok.**



**Anne Mitro (right) presents Most Improved Female Bowler Award to Josie Siman.**



**Ted Golla (left) presents Most Improved Male Bowler Award to Walt Ubeika.**



**High Average Men.** L-R: Jason Ubeika, runner-up; Danny Zrobok, presenter; and Greg Grys, winner of Men's High Average.



**L-R: Cathy Szabo, winner of Women's High Average award, and Anne Mitro, runner-up.**

## FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA

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

Under the Six-Year 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.

At the retirement age you choose, the funds accumulated in the Six-Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity may be withdrawn using any of the FCSU's lump sum or periodic income settlement options.

Features of the Six-Year 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:

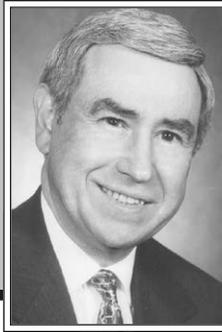
## ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS THE NEW YORK FRATERNAL CONGRESS ANNOUNCES 2007 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

*In the year 2007 two (2) scholarships of \$250 each will be awarded to eligible applicants. One scholarship will be awarded for academic merit the other for financial need. The rules and requirements are as follows:*

1. Applicants must be high school seniors who have been accepted for the fall term at a fully accredited college.
2. Applicants must be residents of New York State.
3. Applicants must be insured members of First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada which is a dues paying society of the NYFC.
4. Applicants must be able to prove involvement and volunteerism in community and/or fraternal activities as verified by the signature of a local officer of First Catholic Slovak Union on the application form.
5. Applicants will be scored and rated according to their individual merit in categories of high school cumulative grade point averages and fraternal involvement. Proof of financial need will also be required in order to qualify for the scholarship to be awarded based on financial need.

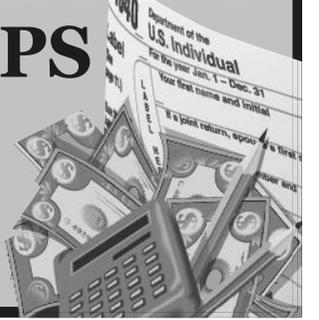
To obtain an application for this scholarship, please contact Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary, FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockwell Road, Suite 300, Independence, Ohio 44131 or telephone (419) 326-1234. We will send an application form and specific information regarding fraternal involvement and financial need. Completed applications must be submitted by **March 1, 2007**, to the Scholarship Committee.

## MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



**By Joseph T. Senko**

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



### Gain Control of your Finances in Five Easy Steps

If you want to start off 2007 on the right foot, here are steps to take now to get control of your finances while the New Year is still young.

#### ASSESS WORTH

Access your current financial situation by calculating your net worth. List all your assets (what you own) and all your liabilities (what you owe). If your assets exceed your liabilities, you have a positive net worth. If you have more liabilities than assets, your net worth is negative. At the end of each year, recalculate your assets and liabilities to determine your progress toward building your net worth.

#### IDENTIFY GOALS

Once you have a clear idea of your financial picture, set your financial goals. Whether you plan to buy a home, take a vacation, retire early, or pay off debt, financial goals help determine what is important to you. Financial goals also serve as motivation.

CPAs recommend that you divide your goals into short-medium-and long-term goals. Be sure each goal is focused, realistic, measurable, and has a specific target date. You should review your goals regularly and make adjustments when necessary.

#### CREATE A BUDGET

Create a budget that will help you attain your financial goals. The key is to spend less than you earn. The first step in preparing a budget is to figure out your current cash flow. Add up your income from your salary, bonuses, investment income, and any money you get from other sources.

Next track your expenses for a month or two. That includes regular expenses-- such as your mortgage or rent, food, transportation, insurance, and credit card payment--as well as discretionary expenses, including entertainment, dining out, and gifts. Be sure to factor in expenses that do not occur every month.

Record every dollar you spend, whether it's with cash, check, or credit card. Seeing how you are spending your money will help you determine where you can make cuts and redirect that money toward meeting your financial goals.

#### PAY YOURSELF

When creating your budget, be sure to pay yourself first. That means deciding how much you can save each month and then treating it like any other bill. Better yet, have the money automatically deducted from your paycheck and deposited into a savings account. You won't miss what you don't see.

#### MANAGE DEBT

Managing debt is a critical step in gaining control of your finances. If you are carrying a high level of debt, make paying down your credit cards a priority. There are several strategies you can use, such as consolidating your debt on a credit card with a lower interest rate and paying off high-interest debt first. The best way to reduce debt is to double or triple your usual monthly payments. Depending on your balance, higher payments could save you thousands in interest payments and shave months, or even years, off your debt.

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

## REMINDER

# 2006 IRA DEPOSIT DEADLINE APRIL 15

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2006 ~ INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

### OPEN

President Thomas M. Hricik called the meeting to order at 9:22 a.m. and opened it with prayer.

### ROLL CALL

Members Attending: Thomas M. Hricik, President  
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President  
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary  
George F. Matta, Treasurer  
Joseph F. Minarovich, Regional Director

Also attending was General Counsel, Andrew M. Rajec, by invitation of the President.

### READING & ACCEPTANCE OF NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt read the Minutes of the November 2006 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George F. Matta and seconded by Joseph F. Minarovich to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

### TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

Treasurer George Matta presented a verbal report for the month of November and answered the questions of the Executive Committee. Treasurer George Matta stated that during the month of November there was little investment activity.

Treasurer George Matta also stated, that we must be patient for now, because better bond offers will start to come in and by the year end we will have additional funds to invest.

Treasurer George Matta led a discussion concerning the interest rate on annuities for first quarter of 2007. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to keep the interest rate the same as in the fourth quarter of 2006, 5% on Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity and Individual Retirement Account. Park 2 Annuity will be at 4.75%. Motion carried.

Treasurer George Matta also led a discussion on continuation of the 6% rate on FPDA new money over \$4,000.00. A motion was made by Joseph Minarovich and seconded by Andrew Harcar not to continue with this promotion after December 31, 2006. Motion carried.

Treasurer George Matta led a discussion concerning our 2% bonus program starting January 01, 2007. A motion was made by George Matta, seconded by Kenneth Arendt to extend the 2% promotional period to 6 months (from January 01, 2007 to June 30, 2007). Motion carried.

A motion was made by Joseph F. Minarovich and seconded by Andrew R. Harcar to accept the report as presented. Motion carried.

### MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

#### DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2006

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$194,612.48
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 20,756.10
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	-0-
Trust Fund	-0-

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

### ANNUITY REPORT

The Executive Secretary gave a report for the month of November and answered the Executive Boards' questions.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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

A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Joseph Minarovich to accept the mortgage, disbursements, and membership reports as presented. Motion carried.

### MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

Vice President Andrew Harcar informed the Executive Committee about introducing a new incentive program for our proposers. Vice President Andrew Harcar made a motion, seconded by Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt, that every proposer will receive a Pieta for every two (2) new members they sign up for Whole Life Insurance or four (4) new members for JEP Insurance or two (2) new members for Term Insurance. There will be no limit. This program is valid from January 01, 2007 thru March 31, 2007 only. Motion carried.

### Seminars

Vice President Andrew Harcar led a discussion about upcoming seminars. He stated that on April 28, 2007 there will be a seminar in Regional Director Damian Nasta region, on April 29, 2007 there will be a seminar in Regional Director Carl Ungvarsky region, in May 2007 we will hold a seminar in Michigan region and possibly in June 2007 in Milwaukee region. Vice President Andrew Harcar led a discussion regarding a possibility of revisiting our branch 890 in Westfield, Massachusetts to conduct another seminar and have meeting with branch members.

Vice President Andrew Harcar also led a discussion about possibility to attend district meetings in very near future.

### General Agents & Agents

Vice President Andrew Harcar updated the Executive Committee about progress of our General Agents. Vice President Andrew Harcar also updated the Executive Committee about hiring of Marketing Director and answered questions of the members.

### ADJOURN

Adjourn for lunch.

President Thomas Hricik opened the afternoon session.

Vice President Andrew Harcar continued with his Marketing & Membership Report.

### Membership Meet

Vice President Andrew Harcar updated the Executive Committee about 2007 Membership Meet. Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt updated the Executive Committee on the outcome of the survey that was mailed to our recommenders. Majority of responses were in favor of an Alaskan cruise, second was a trip to Las Vegas, third came the Caribbean cruise. It was decided that Vice President Andrew Harcar will proceed with arrangements for Alaskan cruise in 2007.

### REPORT ON PRINTERY BUILDING

President Thomas Hricik gave an update on progress of leasing the Printery Building. President Thomas Hricik stated that he received one inquiry from a church and he will keep the Executive Committee updated.

### FURTHER BUSINESS

#### Outside Law Firm Offices

President Thomas Hricik led a discussion concerning invoices from an outside law firm. President Thomas Hricik and incoming President Andrew Rajec have contacted the firm and they agreed to a reduction in their fees.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt gave an update on the new sign and answered questions.

President Thomas Hricik informed the Executive Committee about March For Life in Washington, D.C., on Monday, January 22, 2007. The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association along with the First Catholic Slovak Union will sponsor a bus to Washington. For more information on the bus from Cleveland we can call Mary Ann Johaneck, President of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

### DISCUSSION ON JANUARY EXECUTIVE MEETING

The January meeting time and place will be announced at a later date.

### REQUEST FOR ADS & DONATIONS

Requests were viewed and acted upon.

### ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Joseph Minarovich to adjourn. Motion carried.

President Thomas M. Hricik closed the meeting with prayer.

Thomas M. Hricik  
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

### *From the Desk of the Executive Secretary*

## ATTENTION

### All Jednota Michigan Members Residing in Michigan

The Michigan Fraternal Congress is accepting applications for its scholarship program.

If you meet the requirements listed below and wish to apply for a scholarship, please call the Home Office for an application. Our toll-free number is 1/800-533-6682 (1-800-JEDNOTA).

#### Michigan Fraternal Congress College Scholarship Program

Three (3) \$500.00 non-renewable College Scholarships shall be awarded each year. The Michigan Fraternal Congress Scholarship Committee will use their discretion in selecting the honorees that are chosen. The Scholarship recipients are subject to approval of the Executive Board.

#### Rules and Regulations

1. Applications are open to young men and women who are residents of Michigan, insured members and active participants of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a current paid member of the Michigan Fraternal Congress.
2. Candidates shall be graduating high school seniors who are planning to enroll in the fall as a full time student (minimum 12 credits hours) in an accredited two or four-year college, university or trade school.
3. A check in the amount of \$500.00 shall be issued in the name of the recipient following the receipt of the proof of enrollment. The money is to be used for tuition and books only.
4. There is no limit to the number of applicants from any one fraternal group or society.
5. A certificate, provided by the Michigan Fraternal Congress, is to be presented at the High School Awards or commencement exercises, if possible.

#### Selection Criteria

1. Applicants must have a minimum grade point Average (G.P.A.) of 2.5 out of a 4.0. A transcript request form must be filled out and sent along with an official high school transcript (with affixed seal by the deadline).
2. An essay (maximum 100 words) will be submitted detailing volunteer activities that the individual has participated in, including dates, with their Fraternal Benefit Society and/or the Michigan Fraternal Congress.

Enclosed forms are to be sent to Brian Medved, Scholarship Chairperson, Michigan Fraternal Congress, 27620 Elba Drive, Grosse Ile, MI 48128 and postmarked by April 1. The winner will be notified by May 1.



## REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### CAROL A. MATUSZKY

#### Branch 199

#### Hostetter, Pennsylvania

Carol A. Matuszky, 61, of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, died Thursday, January 11, 2007, in Mountainview Specialty Care Center.

She was born December 3, 1945, in Latrobe, a daughter of the late Robert N. and Julia E. (Mattoli) Colaianne. She was predeceased by her husband, Stephen Matuszky Sr.; sisters, Mary D. DePree, Ermita J. Carrarini, and Gloria Angus, and a brother, Joseph Scarfi.

Mrs. Matuszky was a member of Holy Family Church, Latrobe and Jednota Branch 199.

She is survived by sons Stephen Jr. and Jason Matuszky of Latrobe; daughters, Pamela and Kimberly Matuszky of Latrobe; a brother, Robert J. Colaianne and his wife Juanita of Latrobe; grandchildren, Scott Jr. and Stephen Matuszky, and James Jr. and Brittany Thomas; and a great grandson, Scott Matuszky Jr.

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

Sophie Pipak

### JOHN MISOVICH

#### Branch 706

#### South Chicago, Illinois

John Misovich, a member of Branch 706 in South Chicago, Illinois, died January 11, 2007. He was born November 15, 1922, in Chicago. He is survived by two sons, Michael (Aimee) Misovich of Holland, Michigan, and Mark (Nancy) Misovich of Dearborn, Michigan; one daughter, Anne Marie Misovich of Chicago; one sister, Mary of Chicago; and eight grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife Rose.

John was an active member of St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church in South Chicago almost his entire life until the church closed in 1993. He served in many capacities at the church, including altar server, lector, choir member, president of the Holy Name Society, and as an organizer of the St. John Holy Name Bowling League in 1951, which is still active today.

John served his country in the Navy in World War II and achieved the rank of Fireman First Class. He had many interests but his favorite was sports. He was an avid fan of all Chicago professional sports teams. His conversations on sports will be missed by all who knew him.

Art Fayta

### EUGENE BARRON

#### Branch 156

#### Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Eugene "Gene" Barron, 71, of Fountain Hill, Pennsylvania, died Thursday, November 30, 2006, in St. Luke's Hospital, Fountain Hill. He was the husband of 23 years to Bonnie S. (Dimmig) Barron.

Born in Bethlehem, he was a son of the late Joseph and Helen (Tertusek) Barron. He owned and operated Broadway Tavern in Fountain Hill for 39 years. Previously, he was a manager of the Sokol Motel, Tampa, Florida and owned and operated an Esso service station and worked for Bethlehem Steel Corporation.

Gene was a die-hard Phillies and Eagles fan. He enjoyed golfing and bowling and

once bowled a 300 game. He was a member of Jednota Branch 156, National Sokols, and the Wanderers. He was a past member of Mahoning Valley Country Club and Island Green Country Club, Myrtle Beach.

He is survived by his wife Bonnie of Fountain Hill; three sons, Gene Jr. of Emmaus, Pennsylvania, Michael and his wife, Tillie, of New Tripoli, and Patrick of Bethlehem; two daughters, Donna Chandler and her husband, Mark, of Stafford, Virginia, and Kathy Barron of Bethlehem; two sisters, Mary Roseman of Bethlehem and Gerry Husovsky of Bethlehem; 12 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his brother, Joe Barron, and sisters, Helen Gaydos and Irene Schaefer.

Friends were received at the Downing Funeral Home, Bethlehem. Funeral services were held in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fountain Hill. Entombment was in the mausoleum in Bethlehem Memorial Park.

Memorial contributions may be made in Gene's name to Blind and Visually Impaired of Lehigh County, 614 North 13th St., Allentown, PA 18102.

### SISTER M. ALOYSIA, SS.C.M.

#### Danville, Pennsylvania

Sister M. Aloysia (Magdalen Zajac), 83, died on Saturday, January 6, 2007, at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, Pennsylvania. The daughter of Edward and Anna (Sabol) Zajac, she was born in Shamokin, Pennsylvania, on October 5, 1923.

She attended St. Mary's School in Shamokin and graduated from Shamokin High School. Sister Aloysia received a B.S. in Education from Marywood University, Scranton, Pennsylvania, and a Master's in Education from De Paul University, Chicago, Illinois, majoring in Reading and Learning Disabilities. Sister also received a diploma from the Barton School as a Medical/Dental Office Assistant.

Sister Aloysia entered the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius on September 29, 1941, and was received as a novice on August 17, 1942. On August 16, 1944, she made her first profession of vows.

Sister taught Grades K, 1, 2, and 3 in schools in Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania and South Carolina. She served as superior/principal at Immaculate Conception School in Berwick, Pennsylvania and also taught at the Psycho-Educational Clinic in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

After leaving the teaching ministry, Sister Aloysia served in various capacities at St. Methodius Convent: Business Coordinator, Medical Office Assistant, Dietary Supervisor and Assistant Sacristan in the Basilica of SS. Cyril and Methodius. She spent her last years at Maria Joseph Manor, Danville, Pennsylvania.

Sister Aloysia is survived by a brother Edward Zajac, Green Valley, Arizona, two sisters, Sister M. Daniel, SS.C.M., Maria Hall, Danville, Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Catherine Tighe, Rutherford, New Jersey, as well as several nieces.

The transferal rite and recitation of the Rosary took place at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 10, 2007, at Maria Hall and the Wake Service at 6:30 p.m. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Thursday, January 11, at 10:30 a.m. The main celebrant and homilist was the Reverend Albert Oldfield

with concelebrants the Reverend Philip La-tronico, the Reverend Lawrence Nwabueze, O.P., and the Reverend Cyril Rable. Assisting was Deacon Adrien Picard. Burial was in the Sisters' cemetery in Danville.

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

### JOSEPH J. PETRAS

#### Branch 60

#### McKeesport, Pennsylvania

Joseph J. Petras, 77, of Glassport, Pennsylvania, died Tuesday, January 9, 2007, at his home. He was born April 7, 1929, in Glassport, a son of the late Andrew and Elizabeth Jambor Petras.

Mr. Petras was a retired steelworker for U.S. Steel/National Tube of McKeesport and was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean Conflict. He was a member of St. Martin de

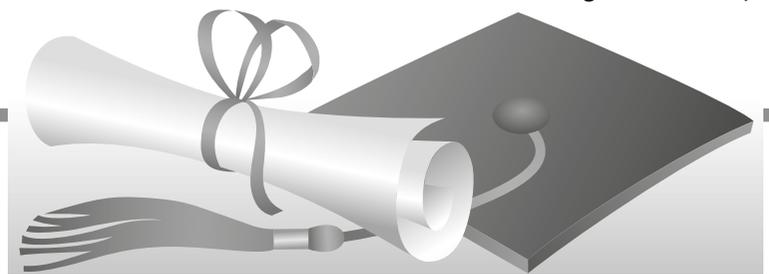
Porres parish of McKeesport, a member of Jednota Branch 60 and American Legion Post 443 of Glassport. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Andy and Paul Petras.

Survivors include his wife, Mary A. Stiffler Petras; daughters, Joanne Gribshaw of North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania and Elizabeth Miller of Mars, Pennsylvania; a son, Stephen Petras of North Huntingdon; and seven grandchildren.

Friends were received in the E.C. Finney Funeral Home Inc., Glassport. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, McKeesport. Interment followed in Calvary Cemetery, Port Vue.

The officers and members of Branch 60 express their deepest sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

Margaret M. Perla, Secretary



*From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Kenneth A. Arendt*

## ATTENTION ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS

The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2006 Scholarship Program.

Seventy (70) **ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS** in the amount of \$500.00 each will be awarded to the winners. In addition, a **ONE-TIME** "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of \$750.00 each will be awarded to the highest-ranking male and female applicants respectively.

Three additional **ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS** of \$500.00 each will be given from the "John A. Sabol Nursing Scholarship Fund" to applicants who have been accepted into either an approved three or four year hospital nursing program or a fully-accredited college of their choice.

In addition, upon proof of college graduation, each recipient will be issued a \$3,000 Single Premium Life Insurance Policy.

The rules and requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants must have a minimum of \$1,000 of reserve insurance with F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school; or an applicant must have \$5,000 or more of term insurance with the F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school. All scholarship winners must maintain this insurance in force during their college years. Applicants must be insured prior to April 1, 2002 to be eligible under the rules of this period.

2. Applicants must apply for grants in the Spring of their senior year of high school.

3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term at a qualifying institution. Proof of college admission must be sent to the Home Office with application.

4. Applicants must apply on an official form which can be obtained from their branch or the Executive Secretary of the F.C.S.U., or download an application from [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com).

5. Applicants will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee according to their individual merit in categories of high school cumulative grade point averages, extra-curricular activities, talents, achievements, initiative, communication skills, transcripts and S.A.T. and/or A.C.T. test scores.

6. Applicants will send completed applications to: Scholarship Program, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Independence, OH 44131.

7. Final award checks will be made payable to the student.

8. Applications will be accepted only on the proper forms obtained and signed by the branch financial secretary. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS (THOSE WHICH ARE RECEIVED NOT FULLY COMPLETED OR DO NOT HAVE ALL ATTACHMENTS) WILL BE INVALID AND WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.**

The scholarship application is being mailed to all members between the ages of 17 and 19. If you are interested and do not receive the application, please contact your branch officer or the Home Office at 1-800-JEDNOTA. **Applications must be postmarked by Midnight, February 28, 2007. All applications without the above stipulated postmark will be considered invalid.**

# THE BEST OF THE BEST!

## THE SOCIETY'S TOP GUNS THRU DECEMBER 31, 2006

### TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS



**Rosemary Deliman**  
First Place



**George A. Sprock**  
Second Place



**Andrew R. Harcar**  
Third Place



**Rosemary Deliman**  
First Place



**Florence K. Matta**  
Second Place



**Andrew R. Harcar**  
Third Place

### TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITY/IRA SOLD

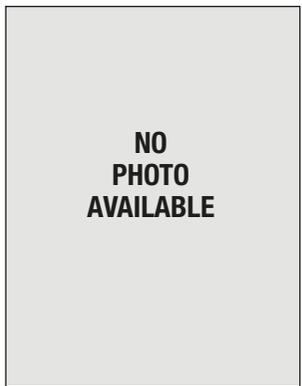
#### TOP 10 PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS

	Branch	Total Points
Rosemary Deliman, Philipsburg, Pennsylvania	417	355
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	344
Andrew R. Harcar, Streator, Illinois	40	271
Florence K. Matta, Duquesne, Pennsylvania	38	201
Marie A. Gryczko, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania	419	177
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	160
John Fialkovich, Yonkers, New York	41	150
Audrey J. Balazik, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	367	137
Joseph Fecik, North Port, Florida	743	127
Karianne R. Barnes, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	628	123

#### TOP 10 PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITY/IRA SOLD

	Branch	Amount
Rosemary Deliman, Philipsburg, Pennsylvania	417	\$362,640.88
Florence K. Matta, Duquesne, Pennsylvania	38	\$179,100.41
Andrew R. Harcar, Streator, Illinois	40	\$114,482.17
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$113,786.58
Lois Kristoff-Kichka, Independence, Ohio	855	\$108,735.24
Joseph John Lucas, Parma, Ohio	855	\$ 66,564.17
Bernard F. Zilka, Orlando, Florida	311	\$ 50,000.00
Thomas M. Hricik, Greensburg, Pennsylvania	181	\$ 47,337.79
Robert J. Lutz, Bronxville, New York	41	\$ 40,000.00
Irene Stancik, Vandergrift, Pennsylvania	701	\$ 35,000.00

### TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF INSURANCE SOLD



**Karianne R. Barnes**  
First Place



**James Robert Marmol**  
Second Place



**George A. Sprock**  
Third Place

#### TOP 10 PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF INSURANCE SOLD

	Branch	Insurance Amount
Karianne R. Barnes, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	628	\$525,000
James Robert Marmol, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	162	\$413,000
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$240,000
George J. Kelchak, Porter, Indiana	581	\$218,331
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	\$199,000
Audrey J. Balazik, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	367	\$160,000
Susan J. Salko, Whippany, New Jersey	132	\$150,000
Kenneth Vehec, Orlando, Florida	311	\$135,000
Andrew R. Harcar, Streator, Illinois	40	\$121,000
Jacquelyn Bobby, Poland, Ohio	731	\$113,000

◆◆◆◆  
*From the Desk of the Executive Secretary:*

## ATTENTION: ALL JEDNOTA ILLINOIS MEMBERS RESIDING IN ILLINOIS

The Illinois Fraternal Congress is accepting applications for its scholarship program. If you meet the requirements listed below and wish to apply for a scholarship, please call the Home Office for an application. Our toll-free number is 1-800-533-6682 (1 (800) JEDNOTA).

### 2006 Illinois Fraternal Congress Adult and Youth Fraternalist of the Year Guidelines

Purpose:

The Adult and Youth Fraternalist of the Year awards are given each year by the Illinois Fraternal Congress to recognize an adult and youth within the fraternal benefit system who, through example and accomplishment, provided outstanding volunteer service to his or her lodge, society and community during the past year.

Eligibility:

- Anyone between the ages of 12-22 may be nominated for the youth award. Those ages 23 and older may apply for the adult award. Both groups of nominees must be members of an Illinois fraternal benefit society for at least two years.
- Nominees will be judged on activities completed within the last 12 months.
- Individuals who are compensated by their society for their volunteer efforts are not eligible to receive an award.
- The adult and youth awards can be won only once by an individual. However, a society is eligible to nominate an individual not selected in a previous year.
- The program will be administered by the IFC Adult and Youth Fraternalist of the Year Committee.
- A qualified panel of independent judges will choose the winners. The decisions of the judges will be final.
- Each member society is eligible to submit three adult and youth nominations each year.

Award Description:

- An engraved plaque will be presented to the adult and youth honorees at the annual meeting of the Illinois Fraternal Congress in March 2007. Travel, lodging and meal expenses for the honorees will be paid by the sponsoring societies.
- A \$100 check will be awarded on behalf of each honoree to the nonprofit, charitable organization of their choice.
- Media information regarding the honorees will be distributed by the IFC Adult and Youth Fraternalist of the Year Committee.

**Nomination packets are to be postmarked no later than February 9, 2007. Please send completed packets to:**

**Andrew Harcar**  
First Catholic Slovak Union  
508 James St.  
Streator, IL 61364

**Phone: (815) 672-6682**  
**Fax: (815) 672-4281**  
**slovakins@ivnet.com**

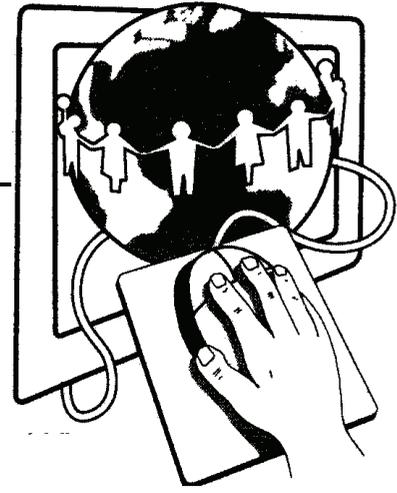


## YOUTH ROUND-UP

If you know of a young Jednota member who has recently graduated, received a special award, been confirmed or made a First Holy Communion, achieved a sports or scholastic "first" or in some other way has something to be proud of, send in the details and a photo, if available, to our "Youth Round-Up" column. Parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors are all eligible to "brag" about those special youngsters in their lives. The only stipulation is that the young person must be a member of the FCSU. Be sure to include the Branch to which he or she belongs when you send in your write-up to 1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057. We look forward to hearing from you!

# UR\_space.jrs

Friends Events Sports Culture Trivia Activities



© 2006 Discovery Education

## Friends Space



Hi, my name is Suzy.

I'm the new Director of Fraternal Activities. My job is to plan events and activities for all the members of our organization.

I live in Pittsburgh and have 3 sisters. I like to read and dance. I'm sure all of you have things that you like to do. So I hope you will write and tell me what they are.

Every month this space (ur\_space) will be filled with information about all sorts of things, some puzzles, jokes and even maybe some poems or stories that you send to me.

I'll look forward to hearing from you. Hope you enjoy UR\_Space!

*Suzy*



## Events Space

### Celebrations this month

- Feb. 2 ..... Groundhog Day
- Feb. 14 ..... Sts. Cyril & Methodius Feast day
- Feb. 14 ..... Valentine's Day
- Feb. 19 ..... President's Day
- Feb. 21 ..... Ash Wednesday

## Trivia Space

### Flaky Facts

If your area gets snow this Month, head outside with a dark mitten or piece of paper and catch a falling flake or two. While you are admiring Mother Nature's handiwork, see if you can answer these questions about the white stuff.

1. True or False: a halo around the moon means snow is on its way.
2. During a 10 hour storm:
  - a. a billion
  - b. a trillion
  - c. a thousand trillion snowflakes

will fall over a one-acre area.  
(answers on bottom of page)



## Culture Space

We celebrate the feast of Saints Cyril & Methodius on February 14. Celebrating their feast on this day is a great way to appreciate our heritage and deep faith, which these two brothers brought to Slovakia more than 1100 years ago. They are known as the "Slavic Apostles." Acknowledging the gifts and the long-lasting results of their missionary work in central and eastern Europe, Pope John Paul II named Saints Cyril and Methodius Co-patron Saints of Europe on December 31, 1980.



The Slovak Republic (1939-45) honored SS. Cyril and Methodius with a special silver coin.

## Activities Space

### February Fun

#### ACROSS

- 2 On Valentine's day, \_\_\_\_\_ shoots his arrows of Love
- 4 A Valentine's Day symbol
- 8 Color most associated with valentines
- 10 Name of the 2nd month of the year
- 12 February 14 is \_\_\_\_\_'s day
- 14 An animal that sometimes appears on Feb.2nd
- 15 Lincoln's Boyhood home was a \_\_\_\_\_cabin
- 16 Coldest season of the year

#### DOWN

- 1 Washington was our \_\_\_\_\_ President
- 3 A fruit
- 5 A pointed object used with a bow
- 6 Fancy trim on Valentines
- 7 12 months = 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 This President's birthday was in February
- 11 Every 4th year is a \_\_\_\_\_ year
- 13 This President's Birthday was in February

### Find the 3 Differences

These 2 pictures look exactly alike, but look again. Can you find 3 places where they are different?



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



# Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

# Jednota



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

Volume 116

STREDA, 7. FEBRUÁR 2007

Číslo 5747

## Budúcnosť Slovenska závisí od viery

Homília kardinála Jozefa Tomka na sviatok svätých

Cyrila a Metoda, Nitra 5. júla 2006

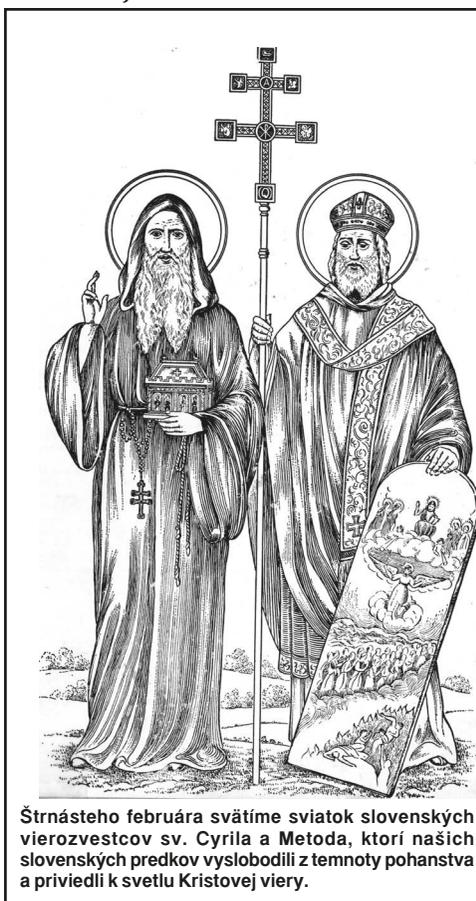
Dnes sme tu, v staroslávnej Nitre, kólske nášho kresťanstva, aby sme oslávili dvoch veľkých Grékov, ktorí sa stali slávnymi po celom svete, ba dokonca spolupatrónmi Európy, ale pre nás majú ešte väčší význam, lebo dali zameranie našej cirkevnej i národnej histórii. Oslavujeme ich nielen cirkevným, ale aj štátnym sviatkom. Čo pre nás znamená, aký význam má pre nás ich sviatok? Hovorí nám ešte niečo ten ich byzantský dvojkriž na troch vrškoch na našej štátnej zástave? Značí pre nás ešte niečo konkrétne "dedičstvo otcov", zakotvené v Ústave Slovenskej republiky?

### Dvojkriž zakotvený v Ríme

S pohnutím srdca som sa neraz díval na viacstotisícový zástup na Námestí sv. Petra v Ríme, kde sa medzi inými vynímala aj naša výrazná vlajka s typickým dvojkrižom. A s pohnutím sme koncom júna slávili v Ríme náš štátny sviatok sv. Cyrila a sv. Metoda za prítomnosti viacerých desiatok veľvyslancov z mnohých národov v nádhernej rímskej bazilike Santa Maria Maggiore, kde vo vianočnom období roku 867 pápež Hadrián II. položil na oltár, pod ktorým sú relikvie jasličiek, a schválil liturgické knihy v staroslovienčine, a kde svätí Cyril a Metod so svojím sprievodom spievali liturgiu v reči našich predkov. Krásne symbolické znázornenie zrodu pre kresťanstvo vo vlastnom kultúrnom obleku! Túto udalosť dejiny zaznamenali. Vie nás ona - spolu s ostatnými krokmi, ktoré naši veľkí apoštoli vykonali, aby nás priviedli na kultúrne pole Európy - ešte pohnúť a dojať, alebo aspoň zaujať, ako zaujala niektorých spomínaných veľvyslancov? Vieme si ešte vážiť svoju identitu, svoj pôvod, svoje dejiny, svoje hodnoty?

Históriu sv. Cyrila a sv. Metoda, dvoch gréckych bratov s Tessaloník, čiže Solúna, aspoň zhruba poznáme. Dnes sa chceme sústrediť na ich odkaz a na jeho aktuálnosť v dnešnej dobe.

*Pokračovanie na str. 17*



Štrnásteho februára svätíme sviatok slovenských vierozvestcov sv. Cyrila a Metoda, ktorí našich slovenských predkov vyslobodili z temnoty pohanstva a priviedli k svetlu Kristovej viery.

## Slovenská národná knižnica a jej projekt digitalizácie kultúrneho dedičstva

Martin (TASR) – Slovenská národná knižnica (SNK) v Martine je dnes lídrom v oblasti informatizácie a digitalizácie nášho kultúrneho dedičstva a jeho sprístupňovanie verejnosti. Počas pracovnej návštevy 18. januára to skonštatoval minister kultúry SR Marek Maďarič. "Z pozície ministerstva kultúry (MK) SR sa pokúsim vytvárať priestor na čerpanie prostriedkov zo štrukturálnych fondov, aby slovenské knihovníctvo malo v krátkom čase nielen stratégiu rozvoja na roky 2007 - 2013, ale aby sa aj reálne modernizovalo," skonštatoval Maďarič. Dodal, že ľudia by mali mať prístup ku knihám nielen priamo v knižniciach, ale aj prostredníctvom internetu a mali by sa zlepšiť aj schopnosti a možnosti knižníc nakupovať literatúru do fondov, a tak zvyšovať záujem ľudí o výpožičky. Generálny riaditeľ SNK Dušan Katuščák zdôraznil, že ministromi kultúry predstavili najaktuálnejšie a najnovšie projekty, prostredníctvom ktorých sa na realizáciu zámerov SNK podarilo získať dohromady okolo 300 miliónov korún. Ide o projekty, ktoré sa netýkajú len rezortu kultúry, ale sú zamerané aj na školstvo, vedu, vzdelávanie, pomoc regiónom pri prístupe k informáciám. "Najvýznamnejším projektom na roky 2007 - 2013 je projekt digitalizácie kultúrneho, vedeckého, intelektuálneho a iného dedičstva na Slovensku tak, aby bolo dostupné cez internet nielen všetkým občanom na Slovensku, ale aj celej Európe a svetu," skonštatoval Katuščák. Na projekt Informácie pre inovácie plánuje SNK vynaložiť okolo 240 miliónov korún. Jeho cieľom je vybudovať v 11 vedeckých a akademických knižniciach špeciálne informačné pracoviská, ktoré budú poskytovať služby pre podnikateľský sektor, vedu, inovácie, priemysel v určitých špecializovaných oblastiach. Ďalším projektom je verejne prístupný internet. "V 110 knižniciach by malo byť okolo 760 prístupových miest, z ktorých by mali mať občania bezplatný prístup na internet. Tento projekt by sa mal zrealizovať do konca roku 2007," uviedol Katuščák.

## Februárová zbierka Združenia slovenských katolíkov

V slovenských farnostiach v USA a Kanade sa každý rok vo februári pri príležitosti sviatku sv. Cyrila a Metoda koná zbierka, ktorú organizuje Združenie slovenských katolíkov. Zisk z tejto zbierky je venovaný cirkevným komunitám na Slovensku a Slovenskému inštitútu sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme. Tento rok to bude už 29. zbierka.

Záujemcovia, ktorí nie sú farníkmi slovenských osád a chcú by na túto zbierku prispieť, môžu finančné dary zaslať na adresu: Dolores Evanko, 173 Berner Ave., Hazleton, PA 18201. Šeky vystavte na Slovak Catholic Federation.



FOTO TASR - Martin Baumann

Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič sa 30. januára 2007 zúčastnil na Ministerstve obrany SR v Bratislave na vyhodnotení výcvikového roka 2006. Na snímke si prezident (uprostred) prezera výstroj vojakov. Vpravo minister obrany František Kašícký, vľavo náčelník Generálneho štábu Ozbrojených síl SR Lubomír Bulík.

## Slovenská republika bude predsedať BR OSN a Rade Európy

Bratislava (TASR) – Slovenskú zahraničnú politiku čaká tento rok niekoľko významných udalostí. Už vo februári SR zasadne do predsedníckeho kresla Bezpečnostnej rady OSN (BR OSN), od polovice novembra bude predsedať Rade Európy a v lete, naopak, odovzdá predsednícku funkciu vo Vysegradskej štvorke. Zároveň sa začína uplatňovať naša úloha v rámci kontaktnej ambasády NATO na Ukrajine. "Je to záležitosť svojim spôsobom korunujúca pôsobenie každej krajiny v BR. Ja som rád, že prichádza po tom, ako si slovenská diplomacia za rok aj niečo pôsobenia získala určité ostrohy, ale hlavne

si získala veľmi vysoký kredit," uviedol minister zahraničných vecí Ján Kubiš k predsedníctvu SE v BR OSN. Ako sa ďalej vyjadril, Slovensko si počas predsedníctva v BR OSN za nosnú tematickú oblasť stanovilo otázku reformy bezpečnostného sektoru. Na rokovaní BR k tejto téme už prisľúbil spolu osobnú účasť generálny tajomník OSN Pan Ki-mun a Kubiš predpokladá, že sa na ňom zúčastní aj niekoľko ministrov zahraničných vecí. Od 1. januára sa slovenské veľvyslanectvo v Kyjeve stalo kontaktným miestom NATO pre Ukrajinu.

# Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Takmer 687 tisíc ľudí zavítalo vlni do dvanástich sprístupnených jaskýň, ktoré prevádzkuje Správa slovenských jaskýň (SSJ) v Liptovskom Mikuláši. V porovnaní s rokom 2005 je to o necelých dvetisíce viac. Súvisí to aj s vyššou návštevnosťou v jaskyniach v decembri, keď lyžiari nemali dostatok snehu a navštevovali prírodné skvosty a pamiatky. Najviac, až 163 tisíc ľudí navštívilo vlni Demänovskú jaskyňu slobody pri Liptovskom Mikuláši. Do Belianskej jaskyne ich prišlo vyše 128 tisíc a do Demänovskej ľadovej jaskyne 106 tisíc turistov. Vysokému záujmu turistov sa tešila aj Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa s 98 tisíc návštevníkmi.

Ministerstvo obrany SR vydalo príkaz na odsun časti slovenských jednotiek z Iraku. Prvá časť 110-člennej jednotky aj s vojenskou technikou sa presunula do susedného Kuvajtu a na Slovensko by sa mala vrátiť do konca februára. Prvú skupinu vojakov aj techniky bude už čoskoro nasledovať druhá. Termín ani spôsob odsunu z Iraku minister obrany z bezpečnostných dôvodov nespresnil. Stiahnutie vojakov bude stáť 32 miliónov korún.

Do vojny postihnutého Libanonu by na pomoc civilnému obyvateľstvu mal už v krátkom čase odcestovať chirurgický lekársky tím príslušníkov Ozbrojených síl SR. Vláda Slovenskej republiky schválila na svojom zasadnutí v polovici januára tento návrh ministerstva obrany. Potvrdiť ho ešte musí Národná rada SR.

V Bratislave sa 19. januára pri prechode teplého frontu prehnal vietor na stanici Bratislava, Koliba s nárazom 113 kilometrov za hodinu. Na ďalších staniach Slovenského hydrometeorologického ústavu zaznamenali na Letisku v Bratislave 101km/h, Jaslovské Bohunice 100km/h, Nitra, Veľké Janíkovce 119 km/h, Hurbanovo 72 km/h, Chopok 181km/h, Lomnický štít 141km/h. Extrémnu rýchlosťou vetra sa do histórie Slovenska zapísal 19. november 2004. Vietor vtedy dosiahol maximálnu rýchlosť v nárazoch na Lomnickom štíte 165 km/h, na Skalnatom Plese 194 km/h, na Chopku 172 km/h.

Najväčší turistický veľtrh na Slovensku - ITF SlovakiaTour a jeho sprievodný veľtrh gastronómie Danubius sa konal koncom januára na výstavisku Incheba v Bratislave. Počas 4. dní návštevníkov vítala prehliadka hlavne cestovných kancelárií, kúpeľov, všetkých regionálnov SR, aj z okolitých krajín ako aj výrobcov a obchodníkov potravín a nápojov. Medzi 521 vystavovateľmi bolo prvý raz exotické Japonsko. Incheba bola miestom dobrého jedla, súťaží a plánov o cestovaní.

Cirkev chce organ v Dome svätého Martina vymeniť. Btatlavskí umelci sú však proti. "Je to originálne dielo, jeho umiestnenie spolu s chórom navrhol Franz Liszt. Taký charakter nemá žiaden iný organ v Európe", pripomenul iniciátor petície dirigent Národného divadla Pavol Selecký.

K trom slovenským mobilným operátorom by ešte tento rok mohol pribudnúť štvrtý. V lete by totiž mobilné služby poskytované cez cudzie siete chcela poskytovať investičná skupina Penta. Penta plánuje postupne obsadiť trhy všetkých krajín V4.

Predsedu L'S-HZDS Vladimíra Mečiara prepustili 28. januára zo Stredoslovenského ústavu srdcovo-cievnych chorôb v Banskej Bystrici do domáceho liečenia. Z kardiochirurgického oddelenia, na ktoré ho previezli po operácii srdca, jeho domov nedoviezla sanitka, ale prišla preň osobným autom jeho rodina, informoval generálny riaditeľ ústavu Peter Mečiar. "Pooperačný stav pacienta je veľmi dobrý. Predpokladám, že aj naďalej bude chodiť na kontroly do Banskej Bystrice," skonštatoval šéf ústavu. Dodal, že podľa neho sa Vladimír Mečiar bude môcť aktívne zapojiť do politických aktivít približne o mesiac. Bývalému premiérovi Vladimírovi Mečiarovi voperovali 21. januára štvornásobný by-pass srdca (čo je premostenie zúženého miesta na tepne spojku), lebo mu pre zúžené cievy hrozil srdcový infarkt.

Profesor Štefan Nosál, ktorý nedávno oslávil 80 rokov, si na svojom narodeninovom programe v Opere SND zaspieval aj zatancoval. V historickej budove SND znela 28. januára namiesto tradičnej opery folklórna hudba. Lúčnica si veľkým galavečerom uctila osemdesiate narodeniny svojho umeleckého šéfa a choreografa Štefana Nosála, ktorý ju vedie už takmer 60 rokov. Na galavečere sa predstavili aj hudobníci z profesorovho rodného Podpolania, niekoľko detských súborov i samotná Lúčnica. Do tanca im hrali Zlaté husle pod vedením Martina Sleziaaka. Organizátori pripravili dve predstavenia. Večerné bolo určené iba pre pozvaných hostí samotného profesora Nosála, vypredané popoludňajšie bolo pre verejnosť.

Prioritami strany Smer-SD sú významné zmeny v zdravotníctve a zdravotné poisťovne by nemali vytvárať zisk. Úviedol to po rokovaní predsedníctva 25. januára predseda Smeru-SD Robert Fico. Pripravené sú návrhy na zverejnoprávnenie Všeobecnej zdravotnej poisťovne a Spoločnej zdravotnej poisťovne. Medzi ďalšie priority Smeru-SD patrí zrušenie krajských úradov, čo by malo byť čo najrýchlejšie, do konca tohto roka. Ďalšou prioritou je novelizácia zákonníka práve ukazovať, čo je podstatou strany Smer-SD.

V dňoch 12.-14.februára 2007 sa v Sarajeve, hlavnom meste Bosny a Hercegoviny, uskutočnia III. Majstrovstvá Európy kňazov vo futbale. Organizátormi stretnutia sú arcidiecéza Sarajevo a Františkánska provincia Bosna Srebrena. Slovensko bude na týchto majstrovstvách zastupovať futbalové mužstvo Gréckokatolíckeho apoštolského exarchátu Košice.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

## Internet pre všetkých na Slovensku

(počet pripojených účastníkov mestách SR, priebežné údaje)

Bratislava	3 625	425 208
Košice	2 094	234 969
Prešov	1 419	91 759
Ban. Bystrica	1 074	81 411
Martin	886	59 344
Trenčín	775	56 771
Nitra	736	85 425
Žilina	693	85 436
Trnava	636	69 011
Nové Zámky	456	41 363
Poprad	425	55 420
Pov. Bystrica	415	42 261
Michalovce	394	39 886
Prievidza	391	51 567
Zvolen	363	43 202

Zdroj: MDPT SR Graf: TASR

TASR 23. januára 2007

## Prvýkrát koncert z príležitosti Svetového dňa rakoviny

Bratislava (TASR) – Slovensko si prvý-krát pripomenulo Svetový deň rakoviny (World Cancer day), ktorý pripadá na 4. februára. Pri tejto príležitosti pripravila Nadácia výskum rakoviny na 2. február slávnostný koncert. Jeho súčasťou bola aj zbierka na podporu výskumu rako-viny. Vstup bol voľný. Vo veľkom koncertnom štúdiu Slovenského rozhlasu vystúpil 89-členný The Princeton University Orchestra s dielami Beethovena, Dvořáka, Prokofjeva a Coplanda. Hudobné teleso má povest' jedného z najlepších študentských orchestrov v Spojených štátoch. Nadácia výskum rakoviny sa týmto koncertom pripojila ku kampani

Medzinárodnej únie proti rakovine (UICC) organizovanej pri príležitosti Svetového dňa rakoviny. Tá sa nesie v mobilizácii rodičov, zdravotníkov a ved-cov, ale aj predstaviteľov vládnych inštitúcií. Záštitu nad podujatím prevzali veľvyslanec Spojených štátov amerických Rodolphe M. Vallee a onkologička, členka iniciatívy Poslanci proti rakovine a poslankyňa Európskeho parlamentu MUDr. Irena Belohorská. Akciu organizovalo okrem nadácie a Slovenského rozhlasu aj Agentura AP Projekt, Ars Ante Portas, o.z. v spolupráci s Perform America, Inc., New York City.

## Bezvízový styk Slovákov do USA možno v roku 2009

Praha (TASR) – Náместník amerického ministra pre vnútornú bezpečnosť Paul Rosenzweig rokoval 24. januára v Prahe s predstaviteľmi 13 krajín uchádzajúcich sa o bezvízový styk s USA o pripravovanej modifikácii amerického bezvízového programu. Slovensko na schôdzke zastupovali experti na úrovni ministerstva vnútra a ministerstva zahraničných vecí. V prípade schválenia by zmena umožnila občanom Slovenska, Česka, Poľska, Maďarska, Estónska, Lotyšska, Litvy, Cypru, Malty, Bulharska, Rumunska, Grécka a Južnej Kórey cestovať do USA bez víz. Podľa Rosenzweiga by sa tak mohlo stať ešte do konca druhého funkčného obdobia amerického prezidenta Georgea W. Busha, teda začiatkom roku 2009.

"Zmena je na náš vzájomný prospech," uviedol po stretnutí Rosenzweig. Schôdzka nadviazala na vyhlásenie prezidenta USA Georgea W. Busha počas návštevy v Talline v novembri minulého roku, na ktorej oznámil zámer americkej administratívy modifikovať existujúci bezvízový program USA. Rosenzweig pripomenul, že ešte stále bude treba

doriešiť niektoré zostávajúce otázky, napríklad ako si nové krajiny bezvízového programu budú vymieňať s americkými úradmi informácie o stratených a ukradnutých cestovných pasoch svojich občanov. Bezvízový program USA vznikol v roku 1988 a v súčasnosti zahŕňa 27 krajín, občania ktorých môžu cestovať a zdržiavať sa na území USA bez víz po dobu 90 dní. V rámci programu navštívi ročne USA asi 15 miliónov ľudí. Spomedzi starých členských krajín Európskej únie potrebujú do USA víza len Gréci, spomedzi nových majú bezvízový styk iba Slováci. Cieľom modifikácie programu je zvýšiť bezpečnosť pri cestovaní do USA a uľahčiť a zrušiť vízovú povinnosť pre občanov dotknutých krajín pri plnení požadovaných bezpečnostných opatrení. Ďalším krokom zo strany americkej administratívy bude predloženie príslušných legislatívnych zmien Kongresu USA na schválenie a pokračujúce konzultácie na expertnej úrovni medzi dotknutými krajinami a USA.

## Nové knihy

### Metod M. Balco: Život na dvoch Kontinentoch

Do rúk čitateľov sa v týchto dňoch dostáva kniha Život na dvoch kontinentoch, ktorá vyšla v edícii Slovenský svet, Vydavateľstvo Matice slovenskej. Kniha obsahuje 167 strán a jej témou sú životné osudy človeka, ktorý sa narodil v USA, detstvo a mladosť prežil na Slovensku a od r. 1947 žije opäť v krajine, ktorú mu Boh určil ako jeho rodisko.

Metod M. Balco (\*18. október 1918) sa narodil v Spojených štátoch amerických v rodine slovenských vstáhaľovcov. Rodina sa v roku 1921 vrátila na Slovensko a Metod prežíval svoje detstvo a mladosť na Liptove. Študoval na Učiteľskom ústave v Spišskej Kapitule a pôsobil ako učiteľ na meštianskej škole v Medzilaborciach. V roku 1945 odchádza do zahraničia a ako americký občan sa vracia do svojho rodiska v Spojených štátoch amerických. Hoci žije už vyše 60 rokov v inojazyčnom prostredí, svojim srdcom, zmýšľaním navždy zostal Slovákom, čo dokazoval svojimi činmi a postojmi v každom okamihu života. Po skončení 2. svetovej vojny pomáhal a organizoval odchod slovenských emigrantov do Severnej a Južnej Ameriky. Jeho zaujatosť za slovenskú vec sa prejavila pri jeho práci v rôznych krajských spolkoch, vo Svetovom kongrese Slovákov, ale i pri politickej práci pre Republikánsku stranu. Publikácia Život na dvoch kontinentoch je stručným zhrnutím jeho celoživotných aktivít dokresľujúcich zápas Slovákov v zahraničí v druhej polovici dvadsiateho storočia o akceptáciu a uznanie samostatného Slovenska.

Podľa slov autora k napísaniu knihy ho nevedli nijaké osobné pohnútky odhaľovať a vystatovať na obdiv svoju minulosť. Nepokladá sa za až tak veľmi dôležitého. Bol iba jedným z mnohých, ktorým osud národa ležal na srdci a ktorí sa usilovali získať pre svoj národ to postavenie na medzinárodnej scéne, ktoré mu - ako samobytnému, kultúrne i politicky vyspelému národu - po zásluže patrí. V tomto duchu predkladá svoju knihu a prosí čitateľov aby ju tak aj prijali.

(Edícia Slovenský svet si kladie za cieľ sprístupniť čitateľskej verejnosti dlho zabudovanú literárnu tvorbu slovenského exilu, aby sa stala aktívnou zložkou nášho kultúrneho organizmu. Knihy z edície Slovenský svet si môžete s výhodnými zľavami objednať vo Vydavateľstve Matice slovenskej; www.vydavatel.sk )

### Stanislav Vojtko: Novou cestou I.

Príbehy zo života svätých, Vydavateľstvo Svätej rodiny v spolupráci s vydavateľstvom Oto Németh, 2006

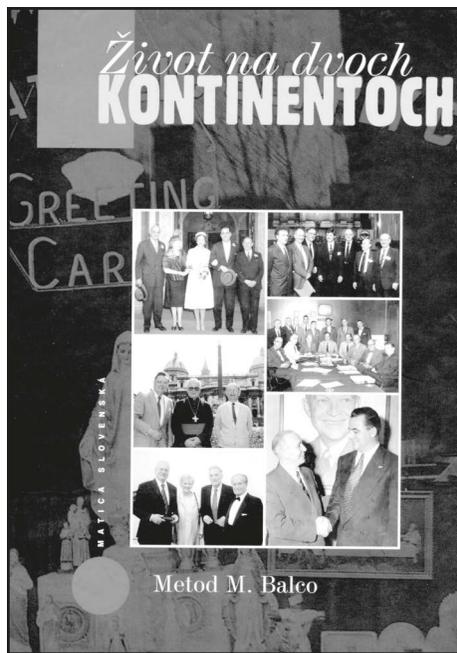
Hoci moderná mládež vníma svätcov ako bytosti, ktoré patria do čias dávno minulých, publikácia Stanislava Vojtka Novou cestou I. deti a mládež istotne zaujme. Príbehy zo života svätých ponúka autor v skrátenej, no obsahovo vyčerpávajúcej forme tak, aby čo najpriamejšie oslovili čitateľa. Pri každom svätcovi, počnúc sv. Egidom, pustovníkom, ktorého sviatok pripadá na 1. septembra, a končiac 31. decembra sv. Silvestrom I., pápežom, čitateľ nájde nielen základné údaje, ako je dátum a miesto narodenia a úmrtia, ale aj krátky príbeh zo života toho-ktorého svätca. Za príbehom nasleduje prosba s modlitbou k Ježišovi Kristovi, ktorý má podľa slov Stanislava Vojtka byť jedinou superstar v našom živote. Keďže kniha Novou cestou I. je určená najmä mládeži, životopisy svätých sa končia výrokmi mladých ľudí. Nie sú to však hocikaké výroky. Ide o osobné rozhodnutia, záväzky a sľuby týkajúce sa umŕtvenia a polepšenia sa inšpirované životom a skutkami jednotlivých svätcov.

Katolícke noviny

## Zasadnutie Svetového združenia Slovákov

Bratislava (TASR) – Svetové združenie Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí navrhlo zriadenie Čestného grémiu. Do jeho čela 19. januára zvolili Jána Holého, ktorý je aj čestným funkcionárom Slovenskej ligy v Amerike. Združenie zároveň zriadilo odbornú komisie. Predsedom komisie pre kultúru sa stal Ondrej Štefanko, pre legislatívu Peter Lipták, pre tradičnú kultúru Ladislav Miňo, pre média Ján Uzurčák.

Zaoberalo sa tiež prípravou na májové oslavy storočnice Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, ktoré sa uskutočnia v Spojených štátoch amerických a v Bratislave. V USA sa budú prezentovať v kultúrnom programe jednotlivé zložky kultúrneho života Slovákov v Amerike, ako i



Metod M. Balco

mnohí umelci zo Slovenska, ktorí vystupujú na pozvanie Slovákov žijúcich v Amerike.

“Združenie sa zaoberalo i výstavbou pamätníka pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, ktorý by mal dôstojné miesto pred Úradom vlády SR, hoci pôvodný základný kameň mal položený v Sade Janka Kráľa v Petržalke. Tam však musel ustúpiť iným architektonickým zámerom. Celkové náklady na jeho realizáciu by nemali presiahnuť desať miliónov korún. Nejde nám o honosné dielo, ide skôr o jeho morálnu hodnotu, symboliku,” prezradil Vladimír Skalický, predseda Svetového združenia Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí.

## Slovenská vláda ponúka štipendium pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí

Vláda Slovenskej republiky v budúcom akademickom roku ponúka štipendium na slovenskej vysokej škole 70 Slovákom žijúcim v zahraničí. Podmienkou pre získanie štipendia je zvládnutie slovenského jazyka a prijatie na štúdium vo zvolenom študijnom odbore verejnej vysokej školy.

Úspešní uchádzači získajú mesačné štipendium vo výške 6,000 až 7,000 korún a jednorázový príspevok pri nástupe a ukončení štúdia 1,000 Sk. Vysokej škole, ktorá študenta prijme, vláda prispeje sumou 2,000 až 7,000 korún mesačne.

V súčasnosti na Slovensku študuje 281 krajanov, ktorí poberajú štipen-

dium vlády SR. Z toho 267 navštevuje magisterské a 15 doktorandské štúdium. Záujem je predovšetkým o spoločenské vedy, učiteľstvo a výchovateľstvo, poľnohospodárstvo a informačné a komunikačné technológie.

Poskytovanie štipendií vlády SR zabezpečuje rezort školstva. Informácie o možnosti študovať na Slovensku sprostredkujú v zahraničí zastupiteľské úrady SR;

Embassy of Slovak Republic, 3523 International Court, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008

Consulate General of Slovak Republic, 801 Second Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017.

## Získať slovenské občianstvo bude ešte ťažšie

Bratislava (TASR) – Cudzinci s trvalým pobytom na Slovensku, ktorí chcú získať slovenské občianstvo, by mali naň čakať po novom namiesto doterajších minimálne piatich až osem rokov. Navrhuje to Ministerstvo vnútra SR v novela zákona o štátnom občianstve, ktorý 25. januára predložilo do pripomienkového konania.

“Počas dlhšieho pobytu na území SR bude možné dôkladnejšie preveriť zžitie sa žiadateľa s právnym poriadkom SR, ako aj s našim kultúrnym prostredím,” argumentuje rezort vnútra.

Pre žiadateľa, ktorý je v manželstve so slovenským občanom, sa má predĺžiť podmienka dĺžky žitia v tomto manželstve v domácnosti na území SR z troch na päť rokov. Ak je žiadateľom azylant, bude musieť mať na Slovensku

taktiež aspoň päťročný pobyt. “Uvedená dĺžka pobytu je potrebná na dostatočné preskúmanie integrácie azylanta do spoločnosti,” konštatuje MV SR. Cudzincem s osvedčením o postavení Slováka žijúceho v zahraničí bude možné udeliť občianstvo po troch rokoch nepretržitého pobytu.

Podľa novely by o výnimkách z týchto podmienok mal rozhodovať priamo minister vnútra. Týkalo by sa to žiadateľov, ktorí znamenali významný prínos pre SR v niektorých spoločenských oblastiach. Ministerstvo zároveň chce rozšíriť rozsah dokladov, ktoré majú žiadatelia predložiť na udelenie občianstva. Spresniť sa majú pravidlá preukazovania ovládania slovenského jazyka žiadateľom ako jednej zo zákoných podmienok.

## Spomienka na Trudy Check -Tuhy

(Dobrá, jak jarný vánok, jak letné, krásne dúhy)

Ťažko-ťažko, sa je lúčiť s tými, ktorých sme mali radi. Aj, keď vieme, že On, naše osudy, života riadi. Ako ťažko je vysloviť, to smutné, posledné “S Bohom”. V srdci nám zostane spomienka, poznačená bolesťou. Len nedávno, čo bola ešte medzi nami, veselá, čiperná, rozdávala lásku a úsmev, jej celoživotný cieľ, bola hudba, piano a spev. Po rodičoch zdedila, lásku k slovenskému rodu, bola naň hrdá, prejavila to na každom kroku. Po slovensky si spievala, temperamentne dupla nohou pri čardáši, živá, veselá, ako mladá družička na svadbe, na sobáši. Ale jej Stvoriteľ, mal pre ňu iné, krajšie plány, povolal si ju koncertovať, do Jeho večnej slávy. Tam Mu bude hrať piano a spievať slovenské piesne, tam, kde už viac nebude žiaľ, bolesť, smútok, tiesne, ale večná spása, blaženosť, spokojnosť a radosť.



Ďakujeme Ti Trudy, že si nás rozveselila svojim spevom, na našich, slovenských podujatiach, na našich piknikoch, hudbu a spev širila v našom slovenskom kostole vo Wilkes-Barre. Spomienka na Teba nám zostane, našou soľou a chlebom.

Jozef Smák

# Budúcnosť Slovenska závisí od viery

*Pokračovanie zo str. 20*

## Dedičstvo otcov - životodárne korene

Každý národ si zachováva pamäť na svoje počiatky a na hodnoty dôležité pre jeho históriu i prítomnosť. My také dedičstvo tiež máme, len si ho musíme znovu a znovu obnovovať a oživovať, aby sa nestalo iba vzletným rečníckym výrazom, ktorý už pre nové generácie málo znamená. Pripomenul nám to pápež Ján Pavol VI. roku 1969, na tisícste výročí smrti sv. Cyrila, keď nás vyzval: "Nech je pre vás posvätným záväzkom s nadšením si pripomínať staroslávne vznešené činy vlastného národa a s pozornosťou oživovať význačné udalosti zaznačené v dejinách. Veď každá ustanovizeň udržuje vlastnú životnú silu v tej miere, v akej dbá na svoj pôvod a v akej zachováva posvätné dedičstvo otcov. Keď ním pohŕda, zakrpatie a oslabne." Čo je teda podstatným obsahom "cyrilo-metodského duchovného dedičstva", ako ho nazýva naša ústava? Aký testament nám zanechali naši dvaja apoštoli?

Je to predovšetkým dar kresťanskej viery s jej vieroučným i mravoučným obsahom. Život Metoda zdôrazňuje: "Milosrdný Boh chce, aby každý človek dosiahol spásu a prišiel k poznaniu pravdy." Živá viera je svetlom pre životnú cestu: vierou nás Boh Otec "vzkriesením Ježiša Krista z mŕtvych znovuzrodil pre živú nádej" (1Pt 1,3). Viera dáva zmysel životu, lebo nám dáva odpoveď na najzákladnejšie otázky bytia: Odkiaľ som? Kam idem? Načo žijem? Iba viera nám dodáva posilňujúcu istotu, že pochádzame z lásky jedného Otca a že žijeme večne (znie to priam neuveriteľne) a pre večnosť; iba viera nám odkrýva tajomstvo smrti a toho, čo je za hranicou nášho zmyslami dostupného života aj prirodzeného poznania. Viera nám dáva okrem svetla aj duchovnú silu. Pomáha človeku utvoriť si ucelený svetonázor a utvrdzuje v ňom presvedčenie, ktoré dodáva vnútornú istotu. Taká istota je potrebná jednotlivcom, rodinám i národu, najmä keď sa treba vyrovnávať s nešťastím a utrpením a keď doliehajú vonkajšie i vnútorné útoky. V dejinách slovenského ľudu, ktoré sú preplnené utrpením a protivenstvami, značila a ešte značí táto sila viery veľmi mnoho.

## Viera, prenikajúca život a kultúru

Živá viera teda nie je iba nejaká pobožnosť a modlitbička v kostole, bez účinku na konkrétny, každodenný život veriaceho. Poklad, ktorý nám svätí Cyril a Metod priniesli, zahrňuje aj celé mravné správanie človeka, ktoré sa riadi podľa Desatora a príkazu lásky. Viera, aj keď je Božím slovom a darom pre človeka, musí sa vteliť, vrásť do života jednotlivcov i národov. Zjavené Božie slovo potrebuje zvýraznenie v hovorenom a písanom slove a stáva sa tak slovesnosťou, čiže písomníctvom a kultúrnym javom. Viera sa však vteľuje aj do povahy a do životných foriem človeka i národa. To je vlastne inkulturácia viery. Preto k nám solúnski bratia došli vyzbrojení Božím slovom, ktoré mohlo zaznieť v ušiach našich pohanských predkov a obrátiť ich srdcia. Sv. Cyril preložil štyri evanjeliá do staroslovienčiny. Začal prekladom Evanjelia podľa Jána, ktoré sa začína slávnostným vyznaním viery v božstvo Ježiša Krista - Božie Slovo: "Iskoni bje Slovo a Slovo bje u Boga i Bog bje Slovo." Veru takto sa začína jeden z prvých písomných dokumentov našej histórie, ktorým sme vstúpili na kultúrne javisko Európy. My sme sa vlastne kultúrne zrodili prijatím krstu a Božieho slova. Na samom začiatku nášho kultúrneho jestvovania my nemáme ani rozprávanie o vlčici, ktorá nadávala Romula a Réma, ako je to u Rimanov, ani správy o ľudských obeťach, ani mytologické historiky iných národov; my tu nachádzame slovo o Božom Slove! Tak hlboko zasahuje evanjelium do našej histórie a kultúry. Môžeme povedať, že Cyril a Metod nám vstúpili podstatu kresťanstva akoby do genetického kódu našej kultúry!

## Viera - hybná sila našich dejín

Kresťanská viera, múdro a prezieravo ohlasovaná a zaštepená do domácej kultúry, rýchlo pretvorila srdcia a mravy našich predkov. Ako sa dozvedáme z historických prameňov 9. storočia, naši predkovia, podobne ako iné také národy, mali tvrdé, pohanské správanie: boli ukrutní, nemilosrdní a neľudskí najmä v trestaní, vierolomní, nemravní a podobne.

Viera im pomohla odkryť to, čo mali hodnotné v povahe, zošľachtiť charakter, očistiť a povzniesť kladné prvky a pridať ešte nové hodnoty. Naši vierozvestovia napomohli ten proces zakladaním škôl, najmä na výchovu kňazov, do ktorých však zaviedli aj filozofiu, gramatiku, hudbu a iné predmety. Na požiadanie panovníka preložili zbierku gréckych civilných a náboženských zákonov Nomokánon a pripravili aj Zákon sudný ľuďom. Tak nahradili často neľudské zvykové právo kresťanským duchom preniknutými písanými zákonmi. Kresťanstvo sa znovu ukázalo ako súhrn vzácných hodnôt, ktoré dvíhajú človeka a sú osožné nielen pre privátny život, ale aj pre spoločnosť. Cyril a Metod tak vytvorili predpoklady na spoluprácu verejnej moci a náboženstva na osov všetkých obyvateľov.

Kresťanská viera potom sprevádzala Slovákov cez celé dejiny. Kým väčšie národy zmizli z mapy Európy, viera a mravnosť zachránili malý slovenský národ pred zánikom a vymretím, za rôznych vpádov a pohrôm, hladu, moru, cholery; za rôznych prenasledovaní a útlaku. Slováci práve v najťažších obdobiach svojej histórie cítili, ako keby sa z diela svätých Cyrila a Metoda zrodili nielen nábožensky, ale aj kultúrne a národné. Chcieť dnes vyhnúť Krista z kultúrneho a vôbec z verejného života a znovu zahnať náboženstvo a kresťanstvo do sakristie značí poprieť slovenské dejiny a celý ich zmysel! Značí to zradiť dedičstvo otcov a konať proti zmyslu cyrilo-metodského duchovného dedičstva našej vlastnej ústavy. Značí to ešte raz vyhnúť Metodových žiakov i Gorazda do cudziny.

## Žiť z dedičstva

Ateistický štát jednoducho popieral Boha a nepripúšťal prínos náboženstva a viery vo verejnej a spoločenskej oblasti. "Osvietenský" štát dnešnej Európy slovami hlása určitú neutralitu voči náboženstvu, ale v mene svetského, laického postoja chce konať, "ako keby Boha nebolo", čiže v duchu praktického agnosticizmu, ba často aj ateizmu.

## Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

### Schôdza spolku sv. Antona č. 638 IKSJ v Thunder Bay, ON, Kanada

Spolok sv. Antona č. 638 IKSJ v Thunder Bay, Ontario oznamuje svojim členom, že budúca schôdza sa uskutoční 11. februára 2007 v osadnej hale kostola sv. Petra hneď po svätej omši. Prosíme všetkých našich členov ako aj priateľov, aby sa tejto schôdze všetci zúčastnili.

S pozdravom ostávajú

**Corey Humenaj, predseda**  
**Peter Šuffák, tajomník**

Znovu len vytláča náboženstvo z každého verejného poľa ako čisto súkromnú záležitosť do sakristie, popiera mu právo a priestor vysloviť sa o rodine, o manželstve, o spravodlivosti a ľudských právach, o etike na sociálnom, hospodárskom, kultúrnom a politickom poli. Každý prejav náboženskej autority, nech je hocako zamierený na obranu náboženskej slobody, základných ľudských práv, hodnosti človeka a diktovaný eticko-mravnými dôvodmi, sa hneď vyhlási za nelegálne zasahovanie do politiky. Každá skupina občanov, aj keď je na pokraji ľudskej dôstojnosti, má demokratické právo vysloviť sa k takým základným otázkam, len náboženstvo a Cirkev nie. Pritom si však štát nárokuje právo vydávať záväzné zákony v najdôležitejších etických otázkach, ktoré sa týkajú pôvodu, zmyslu a prirodzenosti človeka, ako aj jeho existencie, a to nielen materiálneho blaha, o ktoré by sa mal starať. Štát dnes rozhoduje o práve človeka na život od jeho splodenia, o jeho rodinnom zriadení a podobne, a to často bez etických ohľadov a čisto pod tlakom ziskuchtivých skupín alebo záujmových ideológií. Spomeňme si len na potrat a na eutanáziu, na manipulácie v oblasti vzniku života, na klonovanie, na podrývanie manželstva ako spoločenstva muža a ženy, na všemohúcnosť peňazí a praktickú bezbrannosť chudobných a nezamestnaných, na korupciu. Ide o veci v zárodku spomínané v Desatore, ktoré je náboženským výrazom základných ľudských práv. Dnes "osvietenský" štát rozhoduje, čo je dobré a čo zlé. Človek a štát sa stavajú na miesto Boha, prvé rajske pokušenie "Budete ako Boh, budete poznať dobro a zlo" sa naplno uskutočňuje. Neutralita štátu sa mení na nový druh ateizmu, naozaj na spôsob života, "ako keby Boha nebolo". Benedikt XVI. ešte ako kardinál Ratzinger sa v mene tej neutrality pýtal, prečo sa politika neriadi, aspoň ako hypotézou, tou druhou možnosťou - konať, "ako keby Boh jestvoval"?!

### Bez viery sa spoločnosť nedá udržať

Priznajme si: aj dnes a najmä dnes musíme uznať prínos viery a náboženstva pre spoločenský život, a to aj pre štát. Ten nemôže iba svojou autoritou zaručiť etické a mravné správanie sa občanov. Ba nemá ani právo vydávať zákony, ktoré sa protivia základným ľudským právam. Nemá práva donucovať niekoho, aby konal proti vlastnému svedomiu. Iba vnútorné presvedčenie a svedomie, človeka, ktoré formujú práve viera a náboženstvo, vytvárajú mravne a eticky zrelého človeka a občana a tým aj usporiadanú politickú a štátnu spoločnosť. Nábožensky založený človek je poctivý, znášateľný, statočný, nezabíja, nekradne, nepoškodzuje život iného ani jeho majetok, nekorumpuje a nedá sa skorumpovať a podobne.

Štát teda potrebuje opierať sa o etiku, ku ktorej účinne vychováva náboženstvo a viera. Musí rešpektovať takú podstatnú náboženskú tradíciu vlastných občanov. Náboženstvo teda bez toho, aby vstupovalo do kompetencie štátu, vykonáva určitú verejnú službu. Kresťanstvo prináša tak jednotlivcom, ako aj spoločnosti spoľahlivú oporu v etike založenej na Desatore a na príkaze lásky, živí svoje mravné presvedčenie vierou v posolstvo Ježiša Krista.

My sme takú vzácnu mravnú kultúru dostali ako cyrilo-metodské dedičstvo. Nemusíme čerpať z otrávených studní, ktoré spomína Písmo. Solúnski bratia nám priniesli evanjelium aj ním inšpirovaný Nomokánon. Tak prispeli k vybudovaniu zdravej ľudskej spoločnosti a k poľudšteniu-humanizácii našich predkov, ale aj dnešnej spoločnosti. Naša budúcnosť je v tom, že svetská moc nebude bojovať proti mravným princípom, proti Bohu a jeho zákonom pre dobro človeka, proti plnej slobode vyznávať a snažiť sa uplatňovať kresťanské zásady aj vo verejnom živote.

Za toto duchovné dedičstvo, ktoré nám svätí Cyril a Metod nechali ako testament, "chváliť nám patrí slávnych mužov, svojich otcov" ako nás povzbudzuje dnešné prvé čítanie -, lebo "o ich múdrosti rozprávať si budú národy". Sv. Pavol nás v druhom čítaní vyzýva: "Preto vás prosím..., aby ste žili dôstojne podľa povolania, ktorého sa vám dostalo, so všetkou pokorou, miernosťou a zhovievavosťou. Znášajte sa navzájom v láske a usilujte sa zachovať jednotu ducha vo zväzku pokoja". Trojjedinému Bohu nech je teda večná vďaka za tento dar. "Dedičstvo otcov zachovaj nám, Pane!" Ako vždy v našich dejinách, tak aj dnes len vernosť tomuto odkazu nás zachráni ako jedincov, ako národ a ako štát.

**Kardinál Jozef Tomko**  
**TK KBS**

## Husacina v Slovenskom Grobe

Obec Slovenský Grob zaujala v Bruseli svojím projektom zameraným na zachovanie tradície s názvom Husacina v Slovenskom Grobe. V rámci udelovania oceňovania najúspešnejších podnikateľských regiónov Európy dostala obec od poroty spolu so švédskym mestom Hulstfred osobitné uznanie za "výnimočný projekt". V obci sa propagovaním husaciny ako svojho tradičného jedla podarilo vybudovať širokú škálu podnikov, vrátane 23 reštaurácií, ktoré servírujú túto miestnu špecialitu. Slovenský Grob sa tak stal najnavštevovanejšou turistickou atrakciou na Slovensku. Do Slovenského Grobu ročne zavíta 70,000 návštevníkov, z čoho 40% sú zahraniční turisti.

## Slovenskí poslanci vyhlásili Rok 2007 - Rok Jozefa M. Hurbana

Bratislava (TASR) – Národná rada 30. januára vyhlásila rok 2007 za Rok Jozefa Miloslava Hurbana pri príležitosti 190. výročia jeho narodenia. "Som presvedčený, že všetci poslanci slovenského parlamentu si ctia odkaz historicky prvého predsedu Slovenskej národnej rady, odkaz človeka, ktorý položil korene slovenskému parlamentarizmu, slovenskej štátnosti a nevdojak aj demokratického vývoja slovenskej spoločnosti," povedal Paška. Zdôraznil, že štát, ktorý si nepripomína najväčšie osobnosti svojich dejín, zákonite zabúda a štát, ktorý zabúda na svoju históriu, stráca pôdu pod nohami. V histórii sa skrýva kľúč k pochopeniu našej cesty a nášho smerovania, dodal.

Kancelária NR SR sa v spolupráci s Trenčianskym samosprávnym krajom bude podieľať na príprave kultúrnych podujatí a vo vstupnej hale parlamentu bude expozícia historických dokumentov a artefaktov týkajúce sa života Jozefa M. Hurbana.



Jozef. M. Hurban

## Vybrané mesto SR roku 2013 Európskym hlavným mestom kultúry

Bratislava (TASR) – Jedno vybrané slovenské mesto bude v roku 2013 nosiť titul Európske hlavné mesto kultúry. Vláda schválila návrh rámcového zabezpečenia účasti Slovenska na tomto medzinárodnom projekte. V rámci Európskej únie (EÚ) ide o najrozsiahlejšie a najpopulárnejšie kultúrne podujatie, s myšlienkou ktorého prišla grécka ministerka kultúry Melina Mercouriova a svoju históriu začalo v júni 1985. Súťaž miest o štatút hlavného mesta európskej kultúry vyhlási Ministerstvo kultúry SR. Súťaž bude dvojkolová, výberová komisia by mala odporučiť víťazné mesto v auguste 2008. Projekt má vyzdvihnúť bohatstvo kultúrnej

rozmanitosti v Európe a kľasť dôraz na spoločné aspekty európskej kultúry. Kritéria výberu sa sústreďujú na európsky rozmer, podporu udržateľného rozvoja mesta, na zmenu imidžu a pozdvihnutie profilu mesta na medzinárodnú úroveň, rozvoj domáceho a zahraničného cestovného ruchu či budovanie partnerstva medzi inštitúciami a občanmi nielen v rámci EÚ. Slovenské mesto, ktorého projekt v súťaži vyhrá, EK odmení cenou vo výške do 1.5 milióna eur. Okrem slovenského mesta bude v roku 2013 nosiť titul Európske hlavné mesto kultúry aj jedno mesto z Francúzska.

## Kláštorný kostol v Pieninách sprístupnia verejnosti

Levoča (TASR) – Približne po polstoročí si bude môcť verejnosť pozrieť vynovený interiér dlhodobo chátrajúceho kostola v areáli bývalého kartuziánskeho kláštora v Červenom Kláštore na Zamagurí. "Reštaurovanie kláštorného kostola sa po dlhých rokoch dostalo do finálnej časti. My sme začali s prácami v interiéri v roku 1998. Zdôrazňujem, že ukončené je len reštaurovanie štukovej výzdoby a nástenných malieb. Kostol môže byť sprístupnený verejnosti pred novou turistickou sezónou," povedal vedúci Obrastného reštaurátorského ateliéru (ORA) v Levoči Ivan Tkáč. Doplnil, že zatiaľ nie je zreštaurovaný hlavný oltár ani kaplnky prislúchajúce ku kostolu. Správcom a vlastníkom areálu je Pamiatkový úrad Slovenskej republiky v Bratislave. Levočskí reštaurátori sa budú snažiť "zúťulniť" interiér kláš-

torného kostola v Pieninách o prvky, ktoré by chceli postupne zreštaurovať. Pracovníci ORA ukončili aj druhú etapu obnovy veže kostola sv. Jakuba v Levoči. S jej rekonštrukciou začali v roku 2000 a práce si doposiaľ vyžiadali 27 miliónov Sk. Vlni levočskí špecialisti reštaurovali predovšetkým objekty na východnom Slovensku, v Prešovskom a Košickom kraji. Celkový objem prác dosiahol takmer 20 miliónov Sk, z toho polovicu tvorili fakturované výkony pre extérnych zadávateľov. Z rozhľadnejších akcií spomenul Tkáč reštaurátorské práce v exteriéri Mauzólea rodiny Andrassyovcov v Trebišove, ktoré by chceli v tomto roku ukončiť. Na Slovensku pôsobia v súčasnosti dva štátne reštaurátorské ateliéry - v Levoči a Bratislave. Levočský ORA má 20 pracovníkov.

## Tri spoločné národné a európske priority pre Slovensko

Bratislava (TASR) – Za tri spoločné národné a európske priority pre Slovensko na najbližšie roky považuje slovenský eurokomisár Ján Figel' vstup do Schengenu, prijatie eura k 1. januáru 2009 a efektívne využívanie štrukturálnych fondov Európskej únie (EÚ). Spájanie národného a európskeho záujmu je podľa Figela novou skúsenosťou a kontinuálnou výzvou pre Slovensko aj v nasledujúcom období. Pripomína pritom, že vstup SR do EÚ bol v uplynulých 14 rokoch najkonsenzuálnejšou politickou a spoločenskou prioritou. Prejavilo sa to podľa neho nielen v doteraz jedinom platnom referende (o vstupe SR do EÚ), ale aj v pokračujúcom pozitívnom vzťahu väčšiny obyvateľov k spoločnej Európe. K prioritám do budúcnosti eurokomisár dodáva, že rozšírenie Schengenu o Slovensko a susedné krajiny si vyžiada výrazné úsilie a investície v priebehu tohto roka. Najneskôr k 31. decembru 2007 sa majú zrušiť kontroly na hraničných priechodoch v rámci únie, podmienkou však je, že nové členské krajiny budú na vstup do Schengenu pripravené. Vstup Slovenska do eurozóny znamená podľa Figela náročné obdobie pre štát, banky, hospodárstvo, ako aj občanov z hľadiska zabezpečenia postupnej konvergenencie a prípravy na euro v nasledujúcich dvoch rokoch. Využívanie fondov EÚ v novom programovom období v rokoch 2007-13 bude na základe národného rozvojového rámca, ktorého návrh Slovensko zaslalo v decembri Európskej komisii. Rozsiahle európske prostriedky môžu zásadným spôsobom pomôcť pri modernizácii dopravnej a environmentálnej infraštruktúry, a pri rozvoji regiónov. "Za osobitne dôležitú však považujem potrebu účinnejšieho zvyšovania vedomostného potenciálu spoločnosti, ktorý je zo strategického hľadiska rozhodujúcim faktorom pre vyššiu zamestnanosť, pre dlhodobý hospodársky rast a pre konkurencieschopnosť Slovenska v čase pokračujúcej integrácie a globalizácie," uviedol Figel'. Dodal, že investície do vzdelania sa vracajú pomalšie, ale miera ich návratnosti je najvyššia, a pre celkový, dlhodobý vývoj spoločnosti a ekonomiky sú rozhodujúce.

## Slováci sa dožívajú viac rokov

Bratislava (TASR) – V roku 1999 predstavovala stredná dĺžka života (SDZ) u mužov 68.95 a žien 77.03 roka. V roku 2004 sa tieto údaje zmenili, u mužov zaznamenali 70.3 a žien 77.8 roka. SDZ charakterizuje stav zdravia populácie a úroveň systému zdravotníctva. Uvádza sa to v Správe o realizovaní Štátnej politiky zdravia v Slovenskej republike za roky 2004 - 2005. Napriek tomu, že sa vek Slovákov zvyšuje, z európskeho hľadiska sa radíme medzi priemerné krajiny. Predĺženie SDZ súvisí nielen s poklesom dojčenskej a novorodeneckej úmrtnosti, ale aj s poklesom úmrtnosti na choroby obehovej sústavy, najmä na ischemickú chorobu srdca. Hlavným cieľom štátnej politiky zdravia schválenej vládou v roku 2000 bolo nasmerovať záujmy a snahy všetkých zložiek spoločnosti na zdravie ako kľúčový faktor jej rozvoja. Zámerom bolo tiež vytvoriť prostredie, v ktorom občania budú mať zaručené podmienky na podporu a ochranu svojho zdravia, právo na zdravotnú starostlivosť, na jej dostupnosť a rovnosť v jej poskytovaní, píše sa okrem iného v správe, ktorú predkladá rezort zdravotníctva.

## Priemerné platy v slovenskom zdravotníctve

(údaje za 3. štvrťrok 2006, mesačne v Sk)

Profesia	Nemocnice MZ SR	Samospráva	Neziskové organizácie
Lekári	30 733	26 557	26 765
Zubní lekári	23 523	20 194	44 425
Farmaceuti	28 992	26 535	28 229
Zdravotné sestry	17 002	14 237	13 477
Pôrodné asistentky	17 749	14 989	13 930
Laboranti	16 155	14 323	13 778

Zdroj: HN

Graf: TASR

Priemerné platy v slovenskom zdravotníctve (údaje za 3. štvrťrok 2006, mesačne v Sk) TASR 30. januára 2007

## Novostavbu SND slávnostne otvoria 14. apríla 2007

Bratislava (TASR) – Slávnostné otvorenie novostavby Slovenského národného divadla (SND) sa uskutoční v plánovanom termíne 14. apríla 2007. Na stretnutí s ministrom kultúry Marekom Maďaričom to potvrdili zúčastnené strany aj napriek tomu, že nastal posun priebežných termínov niektorých dokončovacích prác na novostavbe. Významne k tomu prispelo SND tým, že súhlasilo so skrátením skúšobnej prevádzky a takisto nezanedbateľný je každodenný tlak ministerstva a investora na dodávateľov. Dôležitým krokom, ktorý v poslednej fáze zjednoduší a urýchli proces odovzdania novostavby do správy SND, je Maďaričovo rozhodnutie delimitovať na SND kompetencie stavebníka. Dôvodom je, aby kolaudačné rozhodnutie vydali priamo na národné divadlo. Ministerstvo kultúry sa na takomto postupe dohodlo s generálnou riaditeľkou SND. Garantovalo jej, že MK si splní všetky svoje investorské povinnosti prostredníctvom Správy kultúrnych zariadení MK SR a aj naďalej bude nápomocné pri zložitých otázkach prevádzkovania nového divadla.