



Catholic Fraternal Bi-Weekly

Jednota

THE UNION

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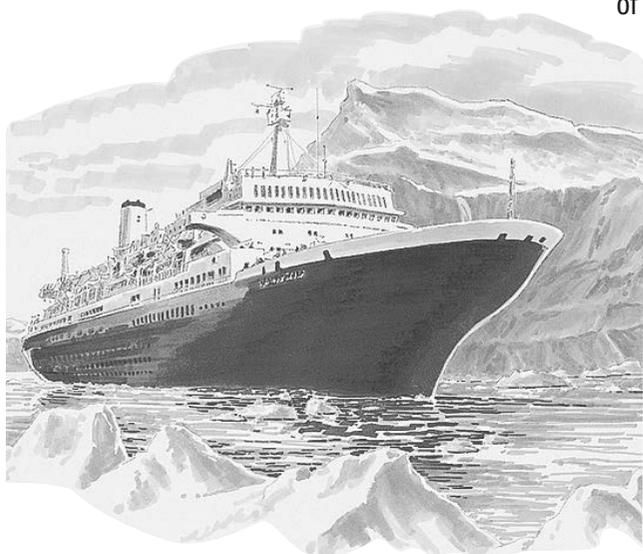
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Volume 116 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2007 Number 5746

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

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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 3

New Years Message From Your National Vice President



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

The year 2007 is here. As you get older you may come to the conclusion that New Years Day arrives quicker and quicker every year.

Granted – our time on earth is a brief stay. For some it may be 80 – 90 years, for others, less.

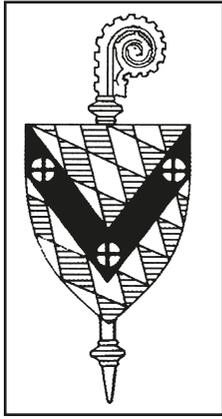
Before we spend our Christmas's in heaven, we must get our priorities in line here on earth. One of our top priorities should be making sure our families will continue to have many Merry Christmas's and Happy New Years after we are gone. The best way to do that is to be covered by sufficient life insurance.

People buy life insurance primarily because a branch recommender convinces them they need it and prompts them to act before it's too late.

It bothers me to see the heads of the household insure their homes, insure their automobiles and insure

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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.

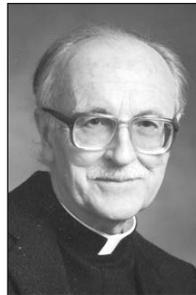
February 4, 2007

Fifth Sunday of ordinary time

Gospel Summary

While Jesus was speaking to a crowd that was pressing in on him by the Lake of Gennesaret, he noticed some fishermen washing their nets. He got into one of their boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. He then taught the crowd of people from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he told Simon to go out into deep water and lower his nets for a

Luke 5:1-11



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

catch. Simon replied that they had worked all night and caught nothing, but he would do as Jesus asked. Simon and his partners caught so many fish that their nets were about to break, and their two boats were completely filled.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, I am a sinful man." Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they reached shore, Simon and his partners, James and John, left everything and followed Jesus.

Life Implications

One of the most pervasive threats to the faith of Christians during the first centuries of the Church was a religious philosophy called Gnosticism (from a Greek word meaning "to know"). This philosophy rejected the creator God of Genesis for a supreme, unknowable Divine Spirit beyond the God of Scripture. Further, Gnostics taught that all matter, including the human body, was evil. They believed, however, that certain human beings were a spark of the Divine Spirit, and through a secret knowledge could be freed from the prison of their bodily humanness to realize their true, eternal spiritual nature.

In their view, Jesus was a Gnostic, a spark of the Divine Spirit, who only appeared to share the nature and lot of human beings. He, therefore, really did not suffer and die, but came only to teach the secret knowledge to other "spirituals" in the fallen world. In its negation of the material world, Gnosticism was a threat to Christian faith because it seemed to be spiritually superior. The New Testament, on the other hand, stresses the reality of the suffering and death of Jesus in whom "dwells the whole fullness of the deity bodily" (Gal 2:9). Jesus endured the shame of the cross, Paul said, and to proclaim Christ crucified was a "stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles" (1 Cor 1:23).

The spirit of Gnosticism remains a pervasive force in our culture, not in regard to the humanness of Jesus, but in regard to bypassing the Church in its all-too-apparent humanness. There is an attractiveness about emulating the Gnostics, who with superior knowledge feel no need for institutionalized religion, and thus are free for spiritual life in a variety of New Age ways. Harold Bloom, a perceptive cultural critic, in his book *The American Religion: The Emergence of the Post-Christian Nation* may not be far off the mark when he asserts: "And the American Religion, for its two centuries of existence, seems to me irretrievably Gnostic. It is a knowing, by and of an uncreated self, or self-within-the-self, and the knowledge leads to freedom, a dangerous and doom-eager freedom; from nature, time, history, community, other selves." Gnosticism is a cultural mind-set, not a denomination.

In the mind of Jesus, there is no bypassing humanness, either his own humanity or the humanity of the Church. Today's gospel reveals an important moment in the coming-to-be of the Church, a very human, structured society that Jesus intended even during his earthly ministry. Through this society, aptly called his own Body, he would continue his mission in history, not merely for elite spirituals, but for the whole crowd of people pressing in on him. The Church, which Jesus initiated at the beginning of his earthly ministry, he continues to complete as Risen Lord by sending the promise of his Father (Lk 24:49). It will thus be from the abiding presence of Jesus through his Spirit that Peter will again hear the words of today's gospel as he speaks to the crowds at Pentecost: "Do not be afraid; from now on you will now be catching men."

For many people today, the humanness of the Church, if not a scandal and foolishness, is often regarded as an obstacle to direct communion with the Divine Spirit. I am sure that

Reflections on Our Christianity

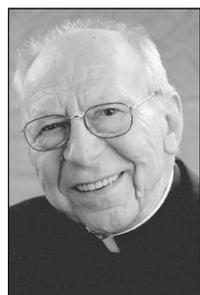
Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

The Body

"You must know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is within – the Spirit you have received from God. You are not your own. You have been purchased and at a price. So glorify God in your body." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

"Even those members of the body which seem less important are in fact indispensable. We honor the members we consider less honorable by clothing them with greater care, thus bestowing on the less presentable a propriety which the more presentable already have." (ibidem 12:22-24)

"As you well know, we have our citizenship in heaven; it is from



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

continued on page 3

many times the successors of Peter have echoed his words in their hearts: "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Yet, the good news is that Jesus has not departed, and has promised never to depart from the Church. And it is through the humanness of the Church, as through the humanness of Jesus, that God finds us and welcomes us to our true home.



February 11, 2007

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 6:17, 20-26

Gospel Summary

It is instructive to compare Luke's Beatitudes with those of Matthew (5:2-12). Luke offers just four Beatitudes while Matthew gives us eight. But the four that Luke shares with Matthew are considered the oldest version and contain the essential teaching. Luke also adds four Woes, which are intended to re-enforce, by contrast, the message of the previous Beatitudes.

The most important word in all the Beatitudes is the subject of the first one, namely, the "poor." This English word, suggesting economic destitution, does not at all capture the full meaning of the Hebrew word from which it is ultimately derived. In that fuller sense, the poor are the "afflicted ones" or, more specifically, the "powerless ones." This often includes the economically destitute but it includes also those who recognize their radical poverty when it comes to the matter of final salvation. In the gospel, the poor stand in contrast to the Scribes and Pharisees who, though themselves far from materially rich, were so "full of themselves" and so smug about salvation that they effectively closed themselves to the free gift of the Kingdom.

In essence, therefore, God gives salvation to those humble ones who know how powerless they really are in spiritual matters and who are ready to turn humbly to God who is more than willing to give them the Kingdom. The "hungry" and the "weeping" and the "persecuted" are variations on the poor ones. The hungry know that only God can ultimately satisfy their needs and do not try to place that burden on any merely human creature. The weeping know that God's command to love often leads to grieving...and who love nonetheless. The persecuted, or ridiculed, gladly embrace the "foolish" wisdom of unselfish service because they realize that God's gift is only for the generous ones.

Life Implications

The seemingly benign appearance of these well-known Beatitudes conceal a very harsh judgment on many of the attitudes of the secular culture in which we live and by which we are probably influenced far more than we realize. This secular culture (and our natural instincts) lead us to place a very high premium on control. A metaphor for this in our contemporary world is the remote control for our TVs. There is a pleasing sense of power in being able to "zap" advertisements and people on the screen with whom we disagree.

This tendency could be relatively harmless except when we allow it to influence our relationship with God and our attitude toward other people. An excessive yearning for control is clearly a prideful attitude and it is pride, more than anything else that blocks our access to the free gift of salvation. It can also destroy the delicate fabric of our loving relationship with other people.

The opposite of our passion for control is our willingness to love to the point of vulnerability. Machismo is unhealthy because it is so out of touch with reality. We are living in a dangerous illusion when we think that we must always be in control. The fact is that we do not control the most important realities in life, such as love, happiness and life itself. These are wonderful gifts and we should be happy to accept them as such. When we try to seize them, they inevitably slip through our fingers.

We need to understand the true role of power. It can be very useful but it must always be guided by love. When that happens, we can also let go of it, when the time comes, and thus be ready for the exquisite gift of God's Kingdom.

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Insights and Viewpoints

Reflections on Our Christianity

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there that we eagerly await the coming of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will give a new form to this lowly body of ours and remake it according to the pattern of his glorified body, by his power to subject everything to himself." (Philippians 3:20-21)

"Give to the Lord the glory due his name! Bring gifts, and enter his presence; worship the Lord in holy attire." (1 Chronicles 16:29)

The body is an indispensable part of our humanity because it houses our soul in this life and is destined to be remade in eternal life. Our intellect and its functioning, our ability to make choices, and our emotions of love and concern for our fellow human beings, the faculties of our soul are housed, if you will, in our bodies, which complement the operation of our souls.

The body therefore must be recognized as the temple of the Holy Spirit and attended with respect, propriety, care and always presented in cleanliness and clothed with dignity.

Our bodies must never be abused with alcohol, licentiousness, medicinal substances such as narcotics, hallucinogens or stimulants causing addiction or any plant of the genus "Nicotiana."

Our bodies must be so clothed so that everywhere and before everyone we give it dignity, show it with its God-given beauty and exemplify the highest standards of propriety, i.e., correctness of behavior in ethics and morals.

Remember, God has made us little less than the angels and has crowned us with glory and honor. (See Psalm 8:6)

In all of these ways, we must walk in humility because we are not the creators of our God-given attributes. We are just their caretakers with an obligation to keep what God has given us without abusing or prostituting His gifts.

Clothe yourselves with dignity, your garments honoring the temple you are. Reject the fashions of our day: sloppiness in appearance, garments that are torn, dirty, ill-fitting and designed to expose the body rather than dignify it, hair and beards that are either vanity or belonging in the jungle. Keep your footwear spotlessly clean or shined to mark your footsteps as a creature of God rather than a beast of the fields.

When you go to Church, appear in holy attire as a believer in Jesus Christ, as an exemplar of His teaching, as a humble beneficiary of His crowning you with glory and honor.

Do not spend more time polishing your car than yourself. Its body will eventually be tossed in a junkyard with no possibility of its body being remade.

New Years Message From Your National Vice President

continued from page 1

material items. Yet they refuse to insure their most valuable asset...the only asset they can't replace...his or her life. It is known with absolute certainty that mortality is 110% guaranteed. I don't know of anyone who cheated death...even God died to save us. So let's make it a point to save our family the agony of scrimping and saving to make ends meet by taking out sufficient life insurance.

The death of the principle wage earner could result in a significant social and economic crisis for the family. Unless adequate life insurance coverage is purchased, the children could go uneducated, the family's home could be lost and the surviving spouse could face a lifetime of insecurity and a lowered standard of living.

I read that this past Christmas an average family spent \$800.00 on gifts. How much was spent on one of the best presents you can purchase...a life insurance policy?

Let's set a goal for every member of our Society to pledge to sign up just one new member in 2007. Meeting this worthy goal is certainly within each of our member's ability. Surely, everyone knows someone who needs insurance.

The First Catholic Slovak Union has many quality, competitive and affordable insurance products. Contact your local branch officers and have them explain our various plans or call the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

On behalf of my loved ones and myself, I want to wish you and yours a very healthy, happy and prosperous New Year. May God bless and protect all of you through the coming year.

Andrew R. Harcar Sr.
National Vice President

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 13th 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!



Commitment

need a friend – that's me,
need a smile – that's me,
need comfort – that's me,
need courage – that's me,
need faith, hope, charity - that's me,
need humor, laughter – that's me,
need joy, peace – that's me,
need grace, wisdom – that's me,
You see – all the above comes through
me from the Most Holy Trinity!

Francis X. Markley, OPL



NEWS FLASH - continued from page 1

~NEWS FLASH~

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

Sign Me Up for the Bonus Program!

1. Proposed Annuitant: o M
 a. Name: _____ o F
 b. Date and Place of Birth: _____
 c. Address: _____
 d. Social Security No.: _____ Telephone No.: _____
2. Amount paid with this application: _____
3. Beneficiary: (Show full name and relationship to the Proposed Annuitant.)
 Primary: _____
 Contingent: _____
4. Will the plan applied for be a tax qualified plan: o Yes. o No. If Yes, show basis (such as IRA):
5. Will the plan now applied for replace or change any existing insurance or annuity: o Yes. o 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: _____

Members Enjoy Traditional Vilija Dinner in Akron

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 553, sponsored its annual Vilija or Christmas Eve Dinner on Sunday, December 3, 2006, at the Slovak "J" Club in Akron, Ohio. A capacity crowd filled the hall with some guests coming from the East Coast, Florida and Nevada.

The evening began with traditional Slovak music furnished by the Barberton, Ohio Slovak Sokol Button Box Band using the old traditional button accordions. Our Chaplain, the Rev. Ralph Coletta and Rev. Richard Ondreyka led us in prayer and explained the religious aspects of the Vilija. The menu was traditional Slovak food including oplatky, kapustnica, pirohy, fish, bobalky and much more. The food was prepared by our branch volunteers.

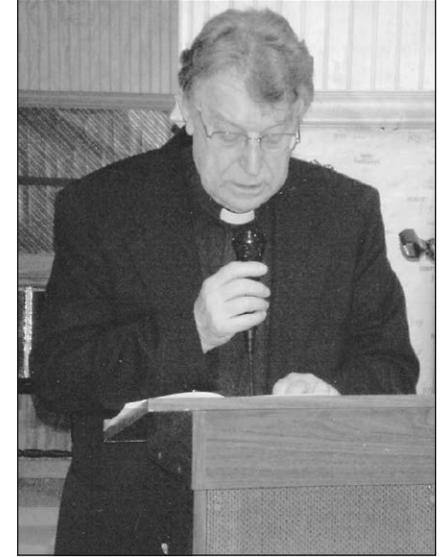
During the entire program our Master of Ceremonies Steve Petrasek, explained the meaning of the traditions in both Slovak and English. It was very gratifying to hear many people comment that our traditions were very much like those of their parents.

During the program we announced the donation of nearly \$10,000 to four very worthy organizations.

We wish to thank all our volunteers who helped make this event such a success.



Branch 553 Chaplain Rev. Ralph Coletta opened the Vilija with a prayer.



Rev. Richard Ondreyka read the Slovak prayers.

Stephen Petrasek, Br. 553



The Barberton Slovak Sokol "Button Box" Group.



The Barberton Slovak Sokol "Button Box" musicians with their wives.



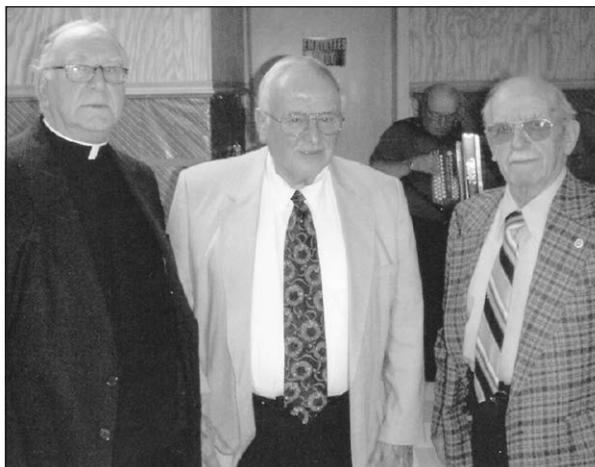
Ray Jurkowski, chief auditor and director of our charity programs with Sister Helen Therese Scasny, retired chief executive officer of "Light of Hearts" Villa in Bedford, Ohio.



Sitting at the head table, L-R: Stephen Petrasek, President of Branch 553 and Master of Ceremonies; Doris Petrasek; Sister Helen Therese Scasny, Barb Hammrel, executive director of "Light of Hearts" Villa; Father Ralph Coletta and Father Richard Ondreyka.



Ray Jurkowski with Barb Hammrel, executive director of "Light of Hearts" Villa, and one of the awards recipients.



L-R: Rev. Ralph Coletta, Stephen Petrasek, and a visitor from Canton, Ohio.



Branch 553 President Stephen Petrasek with his wife Doris and Sister Helen Therese Scasny of the Sisters of Charity and "Light of Hearts" Villa in Bedford, Ohio.



L-R: Vice President Greg Petrasek, Grace Bacot of Youngstown, Ohio; George Kacsanek, new president, Joseph Petrasek; and Cecelia Petrasek.

Realm of SLOVAK GENEALOGY



Ray Plutko

"Genealogical Gifts from the Holidays"

By Ray Plutko

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is another in a series of feature articles addressing the realm of genealogy. It is one specifically designed for Slovak descendants and is so structured to serve as an introductory course for the novice, meet the needs of the advanced researcher— or, if nothing else, the curious.)

Well it took awhile, but I finally caught my breath from the seemingly hectic pace of the holiday season.

Without question the most challenging were the post-rituals of exchanging two gifts (wrong size), taking down the outside decorative lights, coming up one box short to store those Christmas tree ornaments, and the most difficult of all— explaining to the young grandkids why it was necessary to attend Mass both Sunday and Monday on consecutive weekends.

And just for the record not once did I shout, pout, or cry and I'm telling you why, my "Genealogical Santa Claus" came to town and left some great presents for this Christmas past.

Excuse me for not asking earlier, but how did you do? I mean with all of your (genealogical) gifts?

I don't want to dwell on the commercialism of the holiday season, but I would categorize "Christmas 2006" as a bonanza in the Plutko household!

Foremost were the Christmas cards, which I quickly labeled as a misnomer. Case in point: In separating the 42 cards just from the immediate family, I am sad to report that only 8 were indeed traditional greeting cards. The remaining 34 were an assortment of those new-fad "picture cards" and lengthy holiday letters that chronicle anything and everything.

Simply said, what a genealogical treasure trove!

In fact every time I glance at the box containing all of the newly acquired artifacts, I fashion a grin that rivals the Slovak Svaty Mikulas himself. What is even more telling is that the majority of family members represented in that box are the same individuals who neglected numerous pleas throughout the year for just a shred of information that would assist my tireless efforts of compiling a family history.

The "picture cards" – yes, even those with the family dog front and center – provide a priceless visual for years to come. And in virtually all cases, each individual is properly identified. However to make each artifact complete, I urge you write the year (2006) on the reverse side AND the mailing addresses of the sender.

Just as we vent our frustration with an unidentified photograph from 30/40 years past, think of your son/daughter/grandchild examining a family Christmas "picture card" in the year 2036 and singing your words of praise. Not only will you have identified each individual, but will have pinpointed their residence three decades past! Genealogy sleuthing at its best!

And remember those lengthy and often-boring holiday letters I referenced earlier?

Placed in proper genealogical perspective, you have a personalized, historical, and chronological accounting of each sender—rich information that could take years to gather in the traditional research manner. Once again, make certain to note the sender's surname (Christmas letters are often signed with just first names), the year, and the residence mailing address.

I would be remiss in failing to offer condolences to those of you who had a momentary mental lapse and have already discarded this year's collection of genealogical gifts, but caution there will be no forgiveness if it occurs again next year.

Remember, you better not shout, you better not pout, and you better not cry I'm telling you why...

(EDITOR'S NOTE: There is now available a completely revised and updated Slovak Genealogy Research Kit (from 18 to 52 pages, plus forms), one designed exclusively for those tracing their Slovak roots. The kit may be ordered for \$13, plus \$1.75 postage. Also available is a detailed historical summary and comprehensive area map for any single village that you specify in Slovakia at \$5 plus \$1 postage—make check payable to Ray Plutko, Slovak Genealogy Research Center, 6862 Palmer Court, Chino, CA 91710-7343.)

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



Svaty Mikulas, an angel and cert (devil) entertained the party attendees.



Valerie Vesely, Recording Secretary
of Branch 493.



District II Recording Secretary,
Robert Tapak Magruder.

Christmas Party in Illinois

The Czech and Slovak American Genealogical Society of Illinois (CSAGSI) sponsored a hugely successful Christmas party on Monday, December 4, 2006, at the Bohemian Crystal Restaurant in Westmont, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. The entire restaurant, which is usually closed on Monday, was reserved for the Society. A capacity crowd of 160 people attended the event. A family style delicious dinner was served to attendees, who also enjoyed a visit from Svaty Mikulas along with the singing of Christmas carols.

The CSAGSI is comprised of people from Illinois and surrounding states who are interested in genealogical information about the territories in the former Czechoslovakia, Slovakia, Ruthenia, Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia.

Robert Tapak Magruder and Valerie Vesely, members of Branch 493, represented the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District at the event.

Robert Tapak Magruder

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

Long-Time Branch 553 Officer Steps Down



Stephen Petrasek

Stephen Petrasek of Akron, Ohio, announced recently that he would not seek another term as president of the St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 553, in Akron. Steve has served Branch 553 as President for 12 terms but decided this year to pass on the torch to someone else. In appreciation of his dedication and work for the lodge, the Board of Directors and members of Branch 553 sent this letter to Steve Petrasek:

"We at the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 553, wish to express our sincere appreciation to you for all the years of leadership experience, guidance and expression of Christian fellowship you have shown our branch.

The Board was deeply saddened to hear of your decision not to seek a 13th term as President for personal medical reasons. However, rest assured our branch of 980 bona fide members and 500 social members of the "J" Club will hold you fondly in our prayers.

The 2007 Board unanimously voted to name you, Stephen E. Petrasek, President Emeritus, the first in our branch's 99 years of existence.

We welcome our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to send their expressions of support to Steve at the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 533, 485 Morgan Ave., Akron, OH 44311, and the Board will personally deliver them to him.

I'm honored to follow in Steve's footsteps, not only as a fellow Catholic Slovak, but as a loving little brother. With Sincere thanks, Joe Petrasek, President, and the Board of Directors and Members of Branch 553."



Noted Iconographer to Speak in Wilkes-Barre

The Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania will present a Lecture on "From Darkness to Light: Understanding the Spirituality of Icons" on Sunday, January 28, 2007, in Holy Resurrection Russian Orthodox Cathedral on North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, according to an announcement by Chair Philip R. Tuhy. Lecture is set to begin at 2:00 p.m., and the public is invited to attend.

Guest Lecturer will be Raymond J. Mastroberte, well-known iconographer for over 25 years, having studied in the United States and Europe, developing a mix of Byzantine and Russian styles.

Mastroberte has produced thousands of pieces for home, churches, chapels, and exhibits in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, France, Luxemburg, Italy, Vatican City, Russia, Bulgaria, Romania, Syria and Germany. It is anticipated a selection of his Icons and other religious materials will be on display at the Lecture.

Educated and raised in both Roman and Greek Catholic traditions, Mastroberte has been surrounded by churches of various old world backgrounds such as Slovak, Hungarian, Carpatho-Russian, Polish, Ukrainian, and German and has made it a regular habit to visit these places of worship.

Mastroberte visited the land of his Slavic heritage in 1979 and during a three-week stay in Slovakia, he was able to meet with relatives in Konus and Baskovce (north of Sobrance). While there, he visited many churches which exhibit fine examples of Iconography, such as the wooden Greek Catholic Church of St. Michael the Archangel in the village of Inovce, dating back to the early 19th century. A desire of his is to travel again to Slovakia for the purpose of painting churches and panels in the land of his spiritual and maternal roots.

Articles on prayer and spirituality by Mastroberte have been a regular monthly feature of the Orthodox Herald since 1997. He celebrated his 25th year as an iconographer in 2004 with a special observance and presentation at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, Wilkes-Barre. His presentations on the subject of iconography have been highlights at seminaries, clergy gatherings, altar boy retreats, churches, schools and interfaith meetings, plus the subject of many newspaper articles and television features.

The lecture by Iconographer Mastroberte is open to the public, a free-will offering accepted. Further information and directions available through the e-mail of The Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania, shsnepa@verizon.net. or by contacting the Society's Web site at www.shsnepa.org.



Slovak Language Classes in the Baltimore Area

The Czech and Slovak Language School is now accepting registration for its spring semester Slovak Language Courses that begin on Saturday, January 27, 2007, at the Maryland School for the Blind, 3501 Taylor Avenue in Parkville, Maryland. Classes will meet for ten Saturdays. Call 410/435-1317 or 410/243-1710 for detailed information, and for an advance registration form see: www.czslha.org., or email LHybl@bcpl.net.



Sister City Exchange Students Attend Youngstown Vilija

Youngstown Sister Cities (YSC) high school exchange students from Slovakia and the Czech Republic were guests at the annual Vilija Dinner sponsored by the American Slovak Cultural Association in Youngstown, Ohio. Host families were also present at the event. Slovak Ambassador Rastislav Kacer was the guest of honor and keynote speaker at the event. He also spent some time talking with the exchange students.

Attending the dinner, seated, L-R: Martin Drexler of Prague, Czech Republic; Brianna Heib, former YSC exchange student in Slovakia and a member of a host family; Veronica Tomalova, hosted by Professor John Biros of Marshall University in West Virginia; Daniela of Spisska Nova Ves, Slovakia; and Michael Perignath of Kezmarok, Slovakia. Back row, Youngstown Sister Cities officers, L-R: Ray Novotny, YSC Board Member; Bernie Demechko, YSC Secretary; Steve Bacon, YSC President Emeritus; and Jim Bench, YSC Director.

Youngstown Sister Cities Sets Slovak Tour

Youngstown Sister Cities has scheduled its 13th annual tour of Slovakia, July 3-17, 2007. In addition to the standard sites of castles, rafting on the Dunajec River, and a cable car ride in the Tatra Mountains, the tour will include wine tasting in the Tokaj vineyard and a day at the Kezmarok street fair. The annual champagne breakfast with Sister City Mayor at the Radnica, will be followed by a visit to the Dana Crystal Factory and shopping in our sister city, Nova Ves. The Spis Party, where tourists can bring their relatives as guests, will include a dinner and performances by local folk artists. A full day to relax and receive a spa treatment awaits the tourists at Bojnice. The group will be accommodated in the restored Chateau Salgovce built in 1767. A special feature will include a performance by Duraci School of Dance (100 youngsters). The final days will be spent in the Bratislava area.

Cost of the tour is \$2899 (and tax) from Pittsburgh. For brochures and information, contact tour hosts Kay and Jim Bench, 724/694-5101; Bernie Demechko 330/782-8638, or Adventure International Travel (800) 542-2487.



Slovak Ambassador Rastislav Kacer (center) met with Jim and Kay Bench at the recent dinner held in his honor in Youngstown, Ohio, hosted by the Youngstown Sister Cities. Jim Bench is a Board Member of the Youngstown Sister Cities and a Member of the Supreme Court of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Dolores J. Soska was Editor of ZENSKA JEDNOTA

Dolores J. Soska, 65, of Vandergrift, Pennsylvania, died Sunday, November 12, 2006, after a brief illness. Since 1980, Dolores served as National Editor of FRATERNALLY YOURS, ZENSKA



JEDNOTA, the official publication of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. Under her editorship, the monthly FRATERNALLY YOURS received a number of awards. In 1983, FRATERNALLY YOURS was given a certificate of excellence from the Slovak World Congress for its national and fraternal concepts and for serving to further Slovak causes. In 2002, the publication was awarded first place for "excellence in presentation style and overall communication skills" by the Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress.

Born in East Vandergrift, June 10, 1941, she was a daughter of John and Margaret Soska. She received a B.A. degree from Seton Hill College, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, in 1964, and a Masters degree in Secondary Education from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Before becoming National Editor, she taught elementary school for 15 years.

She was a member of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in East Vandergrift and the former Holy Trinity Slovak Parish, where she served as music director for many years.

She is survived by her mother, Margaret Soska, and a sister, Linda Killeen. She was predeceased by her father, John J. Soska.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Thursday, November 16, at 10:00 a.m. in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church. The Rev. Joseph A. Grosko, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in West Mifflin and National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, was the principal celebrant. Interment was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Vandergrift. May she rest in peace.

JOSEPH S. KOSTIK Branch 260 Campbell, Ohio



Joseph S. Kostik, Sr., 77, died Sunday, December 17, 2006, in Greenbriar Health Center.

Mr. Kostik was born June 19, 1929, in Youngstown, Ohio, a son of Lawrence and Elizabeth Repasky Kostik, and was a lifelong resident.

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Mr. Kostik was a driver and salesman for the Schwebel's Baking Company, retiring in 1991 after 36 years of service. After retiring he was a ranger at Bedford Trails Golf Course.

Mr. Kostik was a member of St. Elizabeth Church, the Holy Name Society, where he served as former president, and Jednota Branch 260. He was an avid golfer and bowler, once bowling a perfect 300 game. He was a member of the Campbell Golf League and several bowling leagues in the area.

He is survived by his wife, the former S. Jane Gallagher, whom he married August 12, 1950; a son, Joseph S. Kostik, Jr., of Struthers, Ohio; two daughters, Patricia

(Brian) Starr of Poland, Ohio, and Sharon (Michael) Longrich of Parma, Ohio; and seven grandchildren, Sharon, Jeremy and Eric Starr, Jarrod and Jason Longrich, Stephen and David Kostik.

His parents, a sister, Dolores Forney, and a son Lawrence Eugene Kostik preceded him in death.

The family received friends at the Wasko Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Elizabeth Church.

The officers of Branch 260 offer their deepest condolences to wife S. Jane and family. May he rest in peace!

Charles M. Terek

RONALD ELIAS MEHOLICK Branch 322 Sykesville, Pennsylvania

Ronald Elias Meholic, 69, of Sykesville, Pennsylvania, died Saturday, December 30, 2006, at Christ the King Manor, Du Bois, Pennsylvania.

Born April 14, 1937, in Helvetia, Pennsylvania, he was a son of the late Eli and Mary Gresock Meholic. He was married to Katherine Smith Meholic on August 15, 1959. She survives.

Mr. Meholic was a 1956 graduate of Sykesville-Henderson High School. He was employed by the B & O Railroad, was a barber, then retired as a welder for Penn Dot.

He was a member and cantor at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Du Bois, and was one of the founders of that church. He was a member of Branch 322 of the First Catholic Slovak Union in Sykesville.

He played the saxophone and clarinet for more than 40 years in various local bands.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three sons, Christopher Meholic of Reynoldsville, Pennsylvania, Father Mark Meholic of Du Bois, and John Meholic of Rhode Island; one daughter, Mrs. Thomas (Catherine) Stewart of Georgia; and 13 grandchildren.

Friends were received at the Leo Nedza Funeral Home, Sykesville. There was a Parastas Service at the Funeral Home on Monday, January 1, and prayers on Tuesday, January 2, followed by a funeral service at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church with Father Mark Meholic officiating. Burial was in Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Cemetery, Sykesville. Memorial donations may be made to St. Nicholas Church, Handicapped Accessibility Fund.

Dorothy A. Torretti

CATHERINE MARIE CALLAHAN Branch 280 Natrona, Pennsylvania

Catherine "Katie" Marie Callahan, 83, of Bakersfield, California, died Wednesday, September 13, 2006, at her daughters home where she had lived for the past six years. Catherine was born in Freeport, Pennsylvania, on July 21, 1923, a daughter of Steven and Johanna Brestansky. She was the youngest of seven children.

On Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1949, she married Paul George Callahan of Tarentum, Pennsylvania. They were blessed with 49 years of marriage before Paul's passing on September 6, 1999.

Katie is preceded in death by her father, mother and brothers Stephen, Frank, Joseph, Louis, and Thomas. She is survived by her

extended family in Pennsylvania, Lawrence Brestansky, Mary Brestansky, Eva Brestansky, Rose Brestansky, and Antoinette Callahan. She is also survived by her children, Paul Callahan, Patrick Callahan and his wife Lori, Antoinette Piuser and her husband Dave, Daniel Callahan and his wife Shirley; her grandchildren, Christen and her husband Mike, Raelynn, David and his wife Leisa, Catherine, Stephen, Kevin, and Brynne; and two great-grandchildren, David and Emma.

Katie's greatest joys were her family and her faith. She was happiest when surrounded by those she loved. Her gentle spirit and beautiful smile will be missed by all who knew her. Our lives have been enriched by the values that Katie and Paul have instilled in us: strong family values, loyalty, and a sense of humor.

Funeral services were held at Christ the King Church. Memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association.

JOSEPH J. BREZINA Branch 381

Jersey City, New Jersey

Joseph J. Brezina, 73, of Jersey City, New Jersey, died suddenly on January 16, 2006, at his home. He was the son of the late Stefan and Katarina Brezina.

Mr. Brezina was a lifelong resident of Jersey City and taught classical studies and languages at Ridgefield Memorial High School

for over 35 years. He retired in 1994.

He was a graduate of St. Peter's Prep and St. Peter's College in Jersey City. The Jesuits had a profound effect on his growing up and adult life. He received master's degrees in classical studies from New York University and in English from Fordham University. He was a member of the Third Order of Dominicans, the Lafayette Senior Citizens Club, and was a Eucharistic Minister and lector at Assumption/All Saints Church.

His father, Stefan Brezina, was former president of Branch 381, at Assumption parish founded in 1909 during the era of Rev. John P. Miklus and later by Msgr. Michael Hornak and his brother Rev. William Hornak.

Joseph's father emigrated to the United States from the Kubachy and Spiske Bystre region of Slovakia in the early 1920s. He was followed six years later by his wife, Katarina Kneznik Brezina, and their daughter Catherine. Three other children, Stephen, Joseph and Mary Ann were born in Jersey City.

Joseph Brezina is survived by two sisters, Catherine of Lake Hauto, Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania, and Sister Mary Ann Brezina, O.P., a Jersey Caldwell Dominican; a niece, Catherine Scott; a nephew, Mark Vancho; and a grandniece, Emily Vancho.

May his soul and all the souls of the Brezina and Kneznik families rest in peace.

Sister Mary Ann Brezina, O.P.

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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 55— Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 55, will hold a meeting on Sunday, February 4, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of the secretary, Josephine E. Gerba, 188 DiMarco Drive, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For directions and additional information, please call 215/637-6530 or 610/356-7956.

We wish all the members a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**Josephine E. Gerba,
Secretary**

Branch 75— SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 75, held its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2006, at the residence of President and Financial Secretary, Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, Pennsylvania.

President Anderson opened the meeting with a prayer. Recording Secretary Christine Anderson read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were accepted as read with a grammatical correction. Mr. Anderson gave the Financial Secretary's report. A motion to accept the report was made by Mark Gilger and seconded by Bill Gilger, Jr. As of December 1, 2006, the Society had a net worth of \$9,848.70. Ronald Anderson gave the Auditor's report. A motion to accept the report was made by William J. Gilger, Jr., and seconded by Christine Anderson. The Auditor's report was in agreement with the Financial Secretary's report.

A motion was made by Mark Gilger to retain all officers for 2007. Ronald Anderson seconded the motion. The following officers will serve for the year 2007: Ronald M. Anderson, President and Financial Secretary; Mark Gilger, Sr., Vice President; Christine Anderson, Recording Secretary; William Gilger,

Jr., Treasurer; Christine Jacoby, Steve Jacoby and Mark Gilger, Sr., Auditors; and George Dorko, Fraternal Activities Director.

Delegates Christine Anderson and Ronald Anderson gave a report on the proceedings and results of the recent convention in Boca Raton, Florida.

It was announced that local lodge dues notices would be ready for mailing by December 11, 2006. The annual donation of \$75.00 to the Mother Cabrini Youth Center was unanimously approved following a motion by Christine Anderson and seconded by William Gilger, Jr. A motion to adjourn was made by William Gilger, Jr., and seconded by Steve Jacoby.

**Christine Anderson,
Recording Secretary**

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 322— SYKESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. George Society, Branch 322, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Dorothy A. Torretti, 2998 Kramer Road, Stump Creek, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend.

Dorothy A. Torretti, President

Branch 567— ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 567, held its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 20, 2006, at St. John the Baptist Church Social Hall, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Plans for the new year were discussed. The following officers were sworn in to serve in 2007: Bernadine Gerhard, President; William Micek, Financial Secretary and Treasurer; Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary; and Loretta Dashner and Helen Fiala, Auditors.

The officers of Branch 567 wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year.

Helen Fiala, Recording 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 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**



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**

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

New Members Welcomed at New York Branch 45 Annual Meeting



The new members were welcomed by lodge officers, fellow members and Rev. Martin Svitan, pastor of St. John Nepomucene Church. L-R: Emil Pavelek, Maria Zakovic, Helena Zakutny, Michael Zakutny, Anna Korcak, Jozef Korcak, Helen Brchnel, Zelmira Beckova, Anton Kucharovic, Joseph Jurasi, Rev. Martin Svitan, Maria Jurasi, and Vladislav Mihalik.

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 45, welcomed new members at its Annual Meeting held on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at St. John Nepomucene Church Rectory in New York City. Several new members were officially introduced and welcomed during the meeting. A traditional "Hostina" followed the regular business meeting. The wonderful luncheon included a number of Slovak culinary specialties, such as klobasy, kapusta, gulas, and homemade nut and poppy-seed kolac. It was an enjoyable fraternal afternoon for everyone.



Branch 45 President and Supreme Court Member Joseph Jurasi stands with fellow members, L-R: Anna Zakovic, Michael Zakutny, Vladislav Mihalik, Helena Zakutny and Anna Korcak.

The St. Matthew Society remains one of the most active societies in the organization. It works hard to keep alive Slovak fraternalism in the New York metropolitan area.



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)

the Book Corner

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum, *Historical Dictionary of Slovakia*, 2nd edition, Lanham, MD & Toronto: Scarecrow Press, 2007, ISBN – 13: 978-0-8108-5535-9 and ISBN 10: 0-8108-5535-6 (*Historical Dictionaries of Europe*, No.47)

British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, after returning from his infamous trip to Munich in October 1938, said of Czechoslovakia that it is a country "about which we know nothing." If that statement was at all true, then even truer would have been a similar statement about Slovakia, at least until January 1993, and perhaps for a few years after that. Not that nothing was written about Slovakia in the West; rather very little and often what was written left a lot to be desired. Works of a reference nature were particularly absent in Western scholarship and whatever there was on Slovakia represented a small part of the information on Czechoslovakia. This is a situation that had to be redressed and that process has finally been underway for the last few years, not just in Slovakia, but also abroad.

Professor Stanislav J. Kirschbaum of York University, Glendon College, was in the forefront of filling the reference gap on Slovakia already in 1998, when he published the first edition of the *Historical Dictionary of Slovakia*. It was volume 31 of a new series that began publishing historical dictionaries of Europe in 1993. It soon went out of print and Professor Kirschbaum was asked to prepare a second edition. The first edition had focused on historical personalities and events and required an update and information on the Slovak Republic and its institutions.

The updated second edition complements the first by offering cross-referenced dictionary entries on Slovak political, social, and economic development since the creation of the second Slovak Republic in 1993 and its admission into the European Union in 2004. Entries describe presidents, prime ministers, and party leaders, and many leading academics and cultural personalities, including those from the national minorities. It also contains entries on the various institutions, such as the judiciary system, armed forces, media, and parliamentary committees, and explains Slovakia's position and role in international organizations like NATO and the European Union. It contains a historical survey that explains its post-Communist transformation, how it almost did not acquire membership in these institutions. A chronology of events enables the reader to find out about important events in Slovakia's struggle for survival, whether at home or abroad, and the bibliography contains the most recent works in Western scholarship on Slovakia. It is a goldmine of information presented in a clear and engaging style.

This volume confirms yet again Professor Kirschbaum's standing as one of the most distinguished scholars on Slovakia. It complements his seminal work *A History of Slovakia. The Struggle for Survival* (2nd edition, 2005), the first history of this nation in a Western language. The dictionary is a very valuable book that all public and private educational institutions should possess.

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

YOUTH

ROUND-UP



District II President John Jurcenko (center) and District II Treasurer Art Fayta present the Bishop Stefan Moyzes Scholarship Award to Lindsay Zehr at the District's Annual Meeting on November 5.

Members of Branch 40, in Streator, Illinois, are very proud of Lindsay Zehr. Lindsay, a member of Branch 40, is a 2006 FCSU Scholarship Winner. She was also awarded a \$100.00 college grant from the Bishop Stefan Moyzes Scholarship Fund of the Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District. The award presentation took place at the District's Annual Meeting on November 5, 2006. Lindsay is a freshman at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois.

Robert Tapak Magruder



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 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, Ohio 44131 or telephone 1-800-533-6682 and we will send an application form and specific details on how to verify fraternal involvement and financial need. Completed applications **must be submitted by March 1, 2007**, to the Chair of the NYFC Scholarship Committee.

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

This year marks the 100th 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.

"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.

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 7	MONDAY, JANUARY 29
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

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

Dr. Thomas Check's Volunteer Work Featured in Professional Journal



Dr. Thomas Check, D.M.D.

Dr. Thomas Check, D.M.D., of Norristown, Pennsylvania, has a record of dental volunteerism that spans more than 40 years. An article on Dr. Check appeared recently in the PENNSYLVANIA DENTAL JOURNAL detailing his volunteer work in providing dental care to the needy children on the island of Jamaica.

In 1964, Dr. Check began what would be an annual trip to Jamaica and opened a clinic where he offered free dental care to children. Since then, thousands of children have been treated at the Alpha Boys School and Saint John Bosco Children's Home on the island. In the 1960s, a converted farm shed and barber's chair served as his dental office. Today there is a modern facility where root canal therapy and restorations can be performed. The progress of his work can readily be seen in the dental health of the

children at these schools. In 1962, there was on the average 8 teeth lost per child, now that number is down to one tooth for every 12 children.

During his many trips to Jamaica, Dr. Check has been accompanied by his wife Elizabeth, who assists him at the clinic. Their dedication is now being passed on to their son, Dr. Thomas C. Check, who has volunteered in the Mission of Mercy Dental Service in New Orleans following in the wake of the devastating hurricane Katrina.

The members of the First Catholic Slovak Union commend Dr. Thomas and Elizabeth Check for their work and sacrifices for the poor children of Jamaica.



*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.

5. Applicants will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee according to their individual merit in categories of high school cumulative grade point averages, extracurricular 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.**

Annual Slovak Ball Set for February 17 at New York Athletic Club

The Slovak-American Cultural Center cordially invites you to attend the 15th Annual Slovak Ball on Saturday, February 17, 2007, at the New York Athletic Club, 180 Central Park South, New York City. Cocktails will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. Music will be provided by the Marek Soltis Orchestra. Tickets to this black tie preferred event are \$320 per couple, \$160 per individual, and \$95 for students. Please make checks payable to S-ACC (Slovak-American Cultural Center, and send by January 29, 2007 to: Judith Lepko, 18 Jane Dr., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632. For more information call: Mrs. Lubica Markovich at 212/923-7800 ext 1244, Mrs. Gita Hlavinka at 201/242-0214, or Matus Culen at 914/738-9115.

The Slovak Ball has become a well-established traditional event attracting members of the Slovak-American community in the tri-state area and beyond. The proceeds of this event help make worthy contributions to American Slovak relations in culture and education. This year, S-ACC has been able to provide four Jozef Stasko Scholarships at the City University in Bratislava. This institution is a branch of the City University of Bellevue, Washington. It provides an American college education at reasonable costs in both Trencin and Bratislava. All this would not be possible without the generosity of our members and friends.

Members of the Slovak community are invited to advertise in the Ball Bulletin, which will be distributed to all the guests at the Ball. Full-page ads are \$100; half page-\$50; and quarter page-\$25. Please send your ad (camera-ready copy, your business card, or greeting) no later than February 1, 2007 to Mrs. Irena Sebo, 77 Sprain Valley Rd., Scarsdale, NY 10583. Phone/Fax: 914/725-2504. E-mail: isebo@optonline.net.

Make check payable to S-ACC.

Feast of SS. Cyril and Methodius to be Commemorated in Pittsburgh

On Sunday, February 11th the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Prince of Peace Parish, St. Adalbert Church, on Pittsburgh's South Side, will commemorate the feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Patrons of Church Unity. The rich multi-ethnic background of the Pittsburgh community will be reflected in this Pan Slavic Mass with hymns and prayers in Polish, Latin, Lithuanian, Slovak and Croatian.

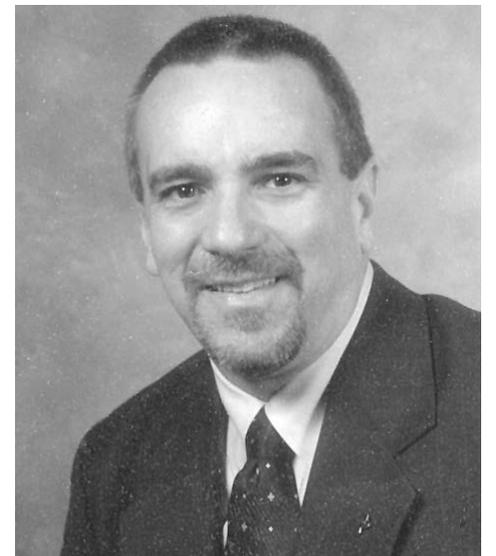
Answering the call of Emperor Michael III of Byzantium, Cyril and Methodius left their home in Greece, in 861, to preach the news of Christ to the inhabitants of Great Moravia in Central and Eastern Europe – the areas that are now known as Poland, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Hungary, Austria, East Germany and parts of Serbia and Slovenia. Cyril and Methodius are credited with developing the first written alphabet of the Slavic people, which evolved into Cyrillic, and is still in use today. In 1180 Pope Leo XIII declared these holy brothers the Patrons of Church Unity; and in 1980, Pope John Paul II named them Co-Patrons of Europe. Prince of Peace has commemorated the feast day of SS. Cyril and Methodius, each year since 1996, on the Sunday closest to February 14, prayerfully requesting blessing of a united spiritual community. In the USA, the feast day of the sainted brothers in February 14; it is observed on July 5 in Europe, which is believed to be the date the two brothers arrived in Great Moravia in 863. Persons attending the 9:00 a.m. Pan Slavic Mass on February 11, 2007, are invited to wear costumes representing their own ethnic backgrounds and to participate in the entrance procession.



James Hunt Honored as Municipal Leader of the Year

James C. Hunt of Clarksburg, West Virginia, has been named the 2006 Municipal Leader of the Year by Prism Business Media's AMERICAN CITY AND COUNTY MAGAZINE. James Hunt, president of the National League of Cities (NLC) and councilman from Clarksburg, was presented with this honor at the Annual National League of Cities Congress in Reno on December 8, 2006. Mr. Hunt was chosen for this award for his efforts in promoting inclusiveness in local government. As a councilman, Mr. Hunt has helped found a civil rights organization and had signs made in Clarksburg which read, "Welcome - We are Building an Inclusive Community."

The National League of Cities is an organization of over 1,600 cities and 49 state municipal leagues in the United States. More than 137 cities have joined the National League of Cities Partnership for Working Toward Inclusive Communities.



James C. Hunt

James Hunt is a member of Branch 348 in Clarksburg. We congratulate James on achieving this honor.



JEDNOTA BOWLING RESULTS

JEDNOTA BOWLING RESULTS AKRON MIXED RETIREES (BRANCH 553)

November 16, 2006

Team	Won	Lost
Old Timers	32	24
Hot Shots	32	24
Strugglers	32	24
Revelers	29	27
Phantoms	28	28
Cliff Hangers	28	28
Mark'm	27	29
Alley Cats	25	31
Saints	24	32
Bits & Pieces	23	33

High single game team: Phantoms-823. High three games team: Phantoms-2410. High single game individual: (woman) Mary Falatok-219; (man) Gary Kolb-278. High three games individual: (woman) Mary Falatok-474; (man) Steve Dishauzi-624.

Next four high single game: (women) Betty Nolan-187, Clara Vegh-168, Betty Reed-164, Joyce Walsh-161; (men) Steve Dishauzi-227, Frank Rizzo-222, Walt Nolan-210, Tom Walsh-201.

Next four high three games: (women) Betty Nolan-470, Clara Vegh-439, Joyce Walsh-436, Betty Reed-429; (men) Tom Walsh-568, Walt Nolan-552, Joe Wozniak-544, Frank Rizzo-520.

November 30, 2006

Team	Won	Lost
Old Timers	37	26
Hot Shots	36	27
Phantoms	33	30
Strugglers	32	31
Alley Cats	32	31
Revelers	31	32
Cliff Hangers	30	33
Saints	29	34
Mark'm	29	34
Bits & Pieces	26	37

High single game team: Phantoms-860. High three games team: Phantoms-2390. High single game individual: (woman) Katie Corall-178; (man) Art Berndt-213. High three games individual: (woman) Katie Corall-489; (man) Art Berndt-603.

Next four high single game: (women) Mary Falatok-173, Doris Clapp-161, Cecilia Petrusek-153, Clara Vegh-147; (men) Joe Simkanin-211, Tom Walsh-210, Steve Dishauzi-201, Walt Nolan-197.

Next four high three games: (women) Mary Falatok-486, Doris Clapp-427, Joanne Head-416, Clara Vegh-406; (men) Joe Simkanin-551, Tom Walsh-547, Walt Nolan-527, Steve Dishauzi-527, Walt Blateric-508.

December 6, 2006

Team	Won	Lost
Old Timers	42	28
Phantoms	40	30
Hot Shots	38	32
Saints	36	34
Alley Cats	35	35
Revelers	35	35
Mark'm	34	36
Strugglers	32	38
Cliff Hangers	30	40
Bits & Pieces	28	42

High single game team: Phantoms-840. High three games team: Phantoms-2317.

High single game individual: (woman) Joanne Head-203; (man) Tom Walsh-228. High three games individual: (woman) Joanne Head-504; (man) Tom Walsh-581.

Next four high single game: (women) Connie Pisciotta-158, Ruth Perich-154, Katie Corall-153, Marge Simkanin-150; (men) Frank Rizzo-217, Art Berndt-210, Len Gmerek-209, George Kacsanek-203.

Next four high three games: (women) Katie Corall-439, Vera Thomas 431, Ruth Perich-424, Marge Simkanin-412; (men) Hurland Parker-577, George Kacsanek-550, Don Olenick-547, Len Gmerek-540.

December 14, 2006

Team	Won	Lost
Old Timers	47	30
Hot Shots	43	34
Phantoms	42	35
Mark'm	41	36
Alley Cats	40	37
Saints	38	39
Revelers	37	40
Bits & Pieces	33	44
Cliff Hangers	32	45
Strugglers	32	45

High single game team: Alley Cats-845. High three games team: Alley Cats-2438. High single game individual: (woman) Connie Pisciotta-194; (man) Hi Colligan-220. High three games individual: (woman) Connie Pisciotta-538; (man) George Kacsanek-571.

Next four high single game: (women) Doris Clapp-165, Marge Simkanin-159, Vera Thomas-152, Cecilia Petrusek-151; (men) Joe Wozniak-211, Joe Simkanin-203, Tom Walsh-202, George Kacsanek-201.

Next four high three games: (women) Doris Clapp-481, Marge Simkanin-441, Mary Shuttleworth-437; (men) Don Olenick-567, Joe Wozniak-559, Joe Simkanin-522, Tom Walsh-511.

December 21, 2006

Team	Won	Lost
Old Timers	52	32
Phantoms	47	37
Alley Cats	47	37
Hot Shots	45	39
Mark'm	43	41
Saints	43	41
Revelers	42	42
Bits & Pieces	35	49
Strugglers	34	50
Cliff Hangers	32	52

High single game team: Old Timers-900. High three games team: Old Timers-2425. High single game individual: (woman) Joanne Head-191; (man) Hurland Parker-239. High three games individual: (woman) Betty Reed-478, Joanne Head-478; (man) George Kacsanek-583.

Next four high single game: (women) Marge Simkanin-180, Betty Reed-178, Betty Nolan-172, Doris Clapp-150; (men) Joe Simkanin-207, Steve Dishauzi-206, George Kacsanek-205, Ernie Chudick-205, Andy Kacsanek-202.

Next four high three games: (women) Betty Nolan-438, Joanne Head-434, Rose Moskos-397, Joyce Walsh-384; (men) Ernie Chudick-579, Joe Simkanin-573, Steve Dishauzi-564, Hurland Parker-560.

December 28, 2006

Team	Won	Lost
Old Timers	57	34
Phantoms	52	39
Hot Shots	52	39
Alley Cats	49	42
Revelers	49	42
Mark'm	47	44
Saints	45	46
Bits & Pieces	38	53
Strugglers	34	57
Cliff Hangers	34	57

High single game team: Old Timers-889. High three games team: Old Timers-2541. High single game individual: (woman) Betty Reed-214; (man) Frank Rizzo-212. High three games individual: (woman) Betty Reed-494; (man) Frank Rizzo-600.

Next four high single game: (women) Betty Nolan-178, Joyce Walsh-176, Katie Corall-167, Joanne Head-161; (men) Tom Walsh-207, Hurland Parker-202, George Kacsanek-201, Joe Wozniak-197.

Next four high three games: (women) Betty Nolan-478, Joyce Walsh-445, Marge Simkanin-445, Joanne Head-416, Connie Pisciotta-413; (men) Joe Wozniak-562, Hurland Parker-560, Tom Walsh-552, George Kovac-547.

Vera Thomas, Secretary

MONTREAL JEDNOTA MIXED

December 5, 2006

Team	Points
John Gaydos	61
James Verrillo	60
Gerry Madejchuk	55
Emil Ondrechak	50
John Jasko	47
Steve Szubiak	46
Tony Makovsky	46
Mary Makovsky	43
Domenic Pugliese	42
Paul Dvorsky	40

High single game team: James Verrillo-643. High three games team: James Verrillo-1832. High single game individual: (woman) Mary Jurkanin-177; (man) James Verrillo-255. High three games individual: (woman) Mary Jurkanin-451; (man) James Verrillo-702.

Next four high single game: (women) Olga Slodichak-171, Mary Makovsky-168, Anne Szubiak-164, Ann Ondrechak-161; (men) Emil Ondrechak-223, Gerry Madejchuk-204, John Chandik-185, Domenic Pugliese-184.

Next four high three games: (women) Olga Slodichak-437, Mary Makovsky-433, Rosa Pugliese-429, Marta Fuska-408; (men) Emil Ondrechak-620, Gerry Madejchuk-554, John Chandik-515, Domenic Pugliese-496.

December 12, 2006

Team	Points
John Gaydos	66
James Verrillo	65
Emil Ondrechak	57
Gerry Madejchuk	57
Steve Szubiak	51
John Jasko	49
Tony Makovsky	48
Domenic Pugliese	45
Paul Dvorsky	44
Mary Makovsky	41

High single game team: John Gaydos-668. High three games team: Emil Ondrechak-1921. High single game individual: (woman) Valerie Demendy-182; (man) Domenic Pugliese-214. High three games individual: (woman) Mary Jurkanin-497; (man) Domenic Pugliese-608.

Next four high single game: (women) Mary Jurkanin-170, Ann Ondrechak-170, Mary Makovsky-156, Olga Slodichak-152, Suzanne Hurtuk-148; (men) James Verrillo-208, Emil Ondrechak-206, Gerry Madejchuk-196, John Gaydos-194.

Next four high three games: (women) Valerie Demendy-489, Mary Makovsky-453, Ann Ondrechak-452, Olga Slodichak-431; (men) Emil Ondrechak-599, James Verrillo-556, Gerry Madejchuk-532, John Gaydos-466.

December 19, 2006

Team	Points
John Gaydos	69
James Verrillo	67
Emil Ondrechak	64
Gerry Madejchuk	59
John Jasko	54
Tony Makovsky	53
Steve Szubiak	51
Domenic Pugliese	49
Mary Makovsky	48
Paul Dvorsky	46

High single game team: John Gaydos-640. High three games team: Emil Ondrechak-1840. High single game individual: (woman) Mary Jurkanin-156; (man) James Verrillo-257. High three games individual: (woman) Pauline Dvorsky-442; (man) James Verrillo-608.

Next four high single game: (women) Valerie Demendy-153, Ann Ondrechak-152, Pauline Dvorsky-150, Helen Corej-148; (men) Domenic Pugliese-237, Tony Makovsky-215, John Chandik-210, Emil Ondrechak-206.

Next four high three games: (women) Anne Szubiak-426, Mary Jurkanin-419, Mary Makovsky-412, Valerie Demendy-406; (men) Emil Ondrechak-584, John Chandik-574, Domenic Pugliese-571, Tony Makovsky-557.

Mary Makovsky, Secretary

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.



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



O. Štefan Furelek
Náš zakladateľ

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

Volume 116

STREDA, 24. JANUÁR 2007

Číslo 5746

Gašparovič uznal rodinu za základ zdravého štátu

Bratislava (TK KBS) – Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič 9. januára prijal predstaviteľov cirkví a náboženských spoločností na Slovensku. Hostami tradičného zdvorilostného novoročného stretnutia boli minister kultúry SR Marek Maďarič, riaditeľ cirkevného odboru Ministerstva kultúry Ján Juran a apoštolský nuncius v SR Henryk Józef Nowacki.

Prezident republiky sa vo svojom príhovore poďakoval prítomným predstaviteľom cirkví a náboženských spoločností za to, že pomáhajú ľuďom hľadať a konať dobro, že ich učia žiť podľa Desatora i za to, že upozorňujú na význam rodiny v dnešnom svete. Ivan Gašparovič vyzdvihol obetavú prácu kňazov, farárov, kazateľov, rehoľníkov i rehoľníčok, biskupov a kardinálov i všetkých veriacich a vyslovil im poďakovanie za ich úsilie zrealizovať slovo "dobro". "Je ho medzi nami málo. Cítíme deficit dobra. Dobro sa dostáva v rozličných podobách do našich priani

Pokračovanie na str. 14



FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer

Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič (vpravo) prijal 9. januára 2007 v bratislavskom Prezidentskom paláci predstaviteľov cirkví a náboženských spoločností v Slovenskej republike. Vľavo apoštolský nuncius Henryk Józef Nowacki.

Dotácie na aktivity Slovákov v zahraničí na rok 2007

Vážení krajanovia, dovoľujeme si Vás informovať, že spolky, organizácie i fyzické osoby majú možnosť podať žiadosť o dotáciu na krytie aktivít Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí z rozpočtu Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí na rok 2007 do 31. januára 2007. Žiadosti je potrebné zaslať v stanovenom termíne a s povinnými prílohami. Tlačivá na rok 2007 a postup pri podávaní žiadostí sú uverejnené na internetovej stránke úradu

<http://www.uszz.gov.sk/>

Žiadosti posielajte poštou na adresu: Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, Radlinského 13, 817 80 Bratislava 15, Slovak Republic.

Dovoľujeme si tiež informovať, že v prípade organizovania prezentácie slo-

venskej kultúry v zahraničí, majú Vaši partneri - umelci zo Slovenskej republiky možnosť požiadať o finančnú podporu z grantového systému Ministerstva kultúry Slovenskej republiky, z programu 5. Pro Slovakia, podprogramu 5.1. Prezentácia umenia a kultúry v zahraničí. Termíny uzávierok tohto programu sú 15. januára 2007 a 1. júna 2007. Bližšie informácie nájdete na stránkach <http://www.culture.gov.sk>.

S cieľom oboznámiť s týmito informáciami čo najväčší počet Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, prosíme Vás o ich šírenie v radoch krajanov.

S pozdravom

Mgr. Alena Pastorková
Teritoriálny odbor

Rok od tragickej havárie lietadla AN-24 v Hejciach

Bratislava (TASR) – V piatok 19. januára uplynul rok od tragickej havárie vojenského špeciálu AN-24 pri maďarskej obci Hejce. Na palube stroja, ktorý sa zrútil krátko pred pristátím, zahynulo 42 príslušníkov ozbrojených síl SR, prežil jediný - nadporučík Martin Farkaš. Vojaci sa vracali z misie KFOR v Kosove, pristáť mali na košickom letisku. Podľa výsledkov vyšetrovania tragédie, ktorú rezort obrany zverejnil 25. októbra minulého roku bolo pravdepodobnou príčinou havárie zlyhanie posádky. Tá nevyužila prístrojové vybavenie a prešla na manuálne riadenie pri približovaní na pristátie. Analýza technického stavu lietadla podľa vyšetrovateľov nepotvrdila zlyhanie techniky, avšak príčina vzhľadom na komplikovanosť vyšetrovania a nedostatok priamych dokázaných pozostatkov lietadla nemohla byť jednoznačne určená. Vyšetrovanie príčin leteckej nehody viedla odborná komisia zložená z dvadsiatich piatich odbor-

níkov, ktorú viedol náčelník Generálneho štábu Ozbrojených síl Ľubomír Bulík. Pri odškodňovaní pozostalých obetí vláda súhlasila s maximálnou výškou odškodnenia podľa zákona o sociálnom zabezpečení policajtov a vojakov vo výške 60-násobku vymeriavacieho základu. U pozostalých veliteľov letu a zároveň pilota, ktorý bol vyšetrovaním uznaný za zodpovedného, bolo odškodnenie znížené. Celková výška odškodného dosiahla sumu 67,127,391 korún. Vyššia vojenská prokuratúra potvrdila rozhodnutie prešovskej vojenskej prokuratúry o zastavení stihania, pretože nemožno viesť vyšetrovanie voči niekomu, kto zomrel. Proti jeho rozhodnutiu pozostalí podali tri sťažnosti. Dve žiadosti vyššia vojenská prokuratúra zamietla ako neopodstatnené a jednu ako podanú oneskorene. Proti tomuto rozhodnutiu už neexistuje opravný prostriedok, čo znamená, že vyšetrovanie bolo uzavreté.

Ľudská osoba je srdcom pokoja

Homília kardinála Jána Chryzostoma Korca, emeritného biskupa nitrianskej diecézy, počas svätej omše vysielanej na Rádiu Slovensko 1. januára 2007

Svätý Otec Benedikt XVI. zvolil ako tému svojho posolstva ku Svetovému dňu pokoja 1. januára 2007 túto myšlienku: Ľudská osoba je srdcom pokoja". Zamyslime sa nad touto pravdou.

Život každého z nás a pre každého z nás je predovšetkým dar. Ale je to aj úloha. Každý z nás je od prvej chvíle svojho života človek. Každý z nás dostal svoj život ako dar bez svojich zásluh.

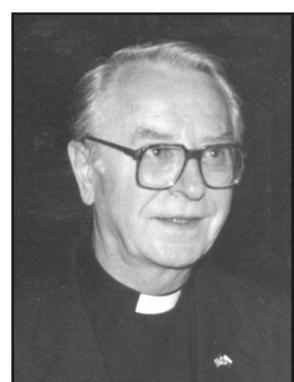
Sväté písmo vyjadruje toto tajomstvo stvorenia dôstojnými slovami: "I riekol Boh: Učiniť človeka na náš obraz, nám podobný ... I stvoril Boh človeka na svoj obraz, na obraz Boží stvoril ho, ako muža a ženu stvoril ich ... A požehnal ich... a riekol im...: Naplňte zem! Podmaňte si ju!" (Gen. 1,26). - Tento Boží dar ľudského života sa týka každého z nás.

Ale život sme dostali nielen ako dar. Dostali sme ho aj ako úlohu. Každý z nás prichádza na svet ako človek, a predsa každý z nás sa človekom, zrelým človekom postupne len stáva. Život človeka je dar, ale život človeka je zároveň aj úloha, veľká a posvätná úloha ľudskej slobody. Nie každému sa táto úloha podarí. Niektorí si svojou slobodou život naplnia rozvinie. Iní si svojou slobodou život zmárnia a zničia.

Aj pokoj, o ktorom sa toľko dnes hovorí a ktorý tak veľmi potrebujeme, je pre nás zároveň dar i úloha. Svet, i ľudský svet, boli stvorené ako poriadok, ako harmónia, ako základný pokoj, ako dar. Aj vykúpenie bolo darom, darom obnoveného pokoja sveta, ktorý hlavne ľudia narušili svojim zneužívaním darovanej slobody. Stvorený i vykúpený dar pokoja v spoločenstve možno tiež narušiť, možno ho premárniť, ba i zničiť. No dar pokoja možno aj chrániť, a rozvíjať ako drahocennú hodnotu rodín, národov a sveta. Pokoj je pre nás všetkých i darom a je pre nás i úlohou.

Pokoj medzi ľuďmi má byť aj ovocím nášho úsilia - úsilia odpovedať svojim životom božiemu plánu a zámerom so svetom a s nami. Tak ako nám to tľočí svedomie, svedomie každého z nás, každého človeka - cti otca i matku a neublížuj, nezabiješ, nekradni, nemaj v nenávisti, nebudeš krivo svedčiť, nerozbíjaj manželstvo iných. To je život podľa Desatora.

Pokračovanie na str. 13



Kardinál Ján Ch. Korec, S.J.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Skupina koledníkov Dobrej noviny z podtatranských obcí Spišský Štiavnik a Betlanovce 3. januára krátko popoludní navštívila v Bratislave apoštolského nuncia v SR Henryka Jozefa Nowackeho. Deti a mládež oblečení v krojoch svojho regiónu koledovali a zapievali nunciovi v spišskom nárečí. Nuncius Nowacki vyjadril vďačnosť za krásne koledy a piesne a vyzdvihol tradíciu koledovania Dobrej noviny. Dobrá novina je podľa jeho slov krásna akcia, ktorá potvrdzuje, že Slovensko má veľké srdce, nemyslí len na seba, ale aj na iných, predovšetkým na chudobné deti v Afrike, ktoré potrebuje nielen základné veci, ale aj to, aby boli v našich srdciach.

V roku 2007 by sa malo narodiť tamer 53-tisíc detí. Je to o niečo viac ako v posledných rokoch, na zastavenie stárnutia a vymierania to však nestačí. Najnižšia pôrodnosť bola v roku 2001, odvtedy mierne stúpa. Tento trend by mal pokračovať ešte tri roky, ani to však populačný problém nevyrieši. Na udržanie počtu obyvateľov a vyrovnanej vekovej štruktúry je nevyhnutné, aby na každú ženu pripadlo 2.3 dieťaťa. Na Slovensku bolo toto číslo v roku 2005 iba 1.2, čo patrí k najnižším na svete.

Už takmer 250 ľudí zamestnal v Hnúšti kórejsky výrobca káblových zväzkov do automobilov, spoločnosť Sewon ESC. Časť ľudí už pracuje priamo v jednej z nevyužitých hál spoločnosti T-Gum, ktorú si kórejska firma prenajala. "Išlo to veľmi rýchlo. Kórejčania za niekoľko týždňov namontovali v hale výrobné linky a už sa aj vyrába," povedal primátor mesta Michal Bagačka. Spoločnosť zamestnancov postupne školí v ďalšom svojom závode v Lednických Rovniach. Tí, prichádzajú po výškolení, zaučujú nových zamestnancov priamo v Hnúšti. "Firma chce čo najskôr zamestnať okolo 300 ľudí," dodal primátor.

Najvyšší predaj šumivého vína zaznamenáva akciová spoločnosť Hubert J.E. Sereď vždy na konci decembra. Jej produkt u nás ľudia volajú šampanské, ale tento názov v skutočnosti prislúcha len sektu z francúzskej oblasti Champagne. V Seredi vyrobí ročne 5.5 milióna fliaš sektu, spoločnosť ho dodáva najmä na slovenských trh. Je ťažké presadiť sa v zahraničí, zákazníci sú konzervatívni, uprednostňujú tradičnú značku. V Seredi sa šumivé víno vyrába viac ako 180 rokov, je to najstaršia výroba na svete okrem Francúzska.

Dovedna 121 Slovákov požiadalo v uplynulom roku o azyl v Belgicku. Vyplýva to zo štatistiky, ktorú zverejnil belgický cudzinecký úrad. Medzi slovenskými občanmi bolo aj jedno dvojročné dieťa. V porovnaní s rokom 2005 sa počet slovenských žiadateľov značne znížil. Išlo vtedy o 773 osôb, predovšetkým Rómov. Slovensko malo v minulosti veľké problémy so žiadateľmi o azyl v Belgicku. V rokoch 2000-01 ich sem prichádzalo mesačne aj okolo 400 a Brusel viackrát zaviedol voči Slovákom vízovú povinnosť.

Slovenská republika nadviazala od svojho vzniku diplomatické styky so 171 štátmi sveta. V uplynulom roku došlo k nadviazaniu diplomatických vzťahov so Srbskom a Čiernou Horou, ktoré vznikli po rozdelení spoločného štátu, a s ostrovnými krajinami Dominika, Tuvalu a Mikronezia. Hneď prvý deň po vzniku 1. januára 1993 Slovensko diplomaticky uznalo 93 krajín, medzi nimi aj USA, Rusko, Čína, Veľká Británia, Nemecko či Francúzsko.

Od krádeže obrazov Martina Benku, Janka Alexyho a Edmunda Gwerka za päť miliónov uplynul rok, no stále sa nenašli. V Tekovskom múzeu, z ktorého vzácne diela zmizli za tri minúty, sa chcú vyhnúť podobným katastrofám, preto investovali do mreží vyše 300,000 korún. Zloději sú aj po roku stále neznámi. Trestné stíhanie vo veci sa prerušilo, ale pátra sa ďalej, povedal hovorca krajskej polície v Nitre Miloš Fábry.

Novou zástupkyňou SR pred Európskym súdom pre ľudské práva sa na základe výsledkov konania stala Marica Pirošíková. V kancelárii zástupcu SR pred ESLP pôsobí od septembra 2000. V októbri bola vymenovaná za spoluzástupkyňu SR pred ESLP. Pirošíková má bohaté praktické skúsenosti v oblasti medzinárodného práva a potrebné jazykové znalosti. Je autorkou mnohých článkov a publikácií týkajúcich sa judikatúry Európskeho súdu pre ľudské práva a spoluautorkou Francúzsko-slovenského a slovensko-francúzskeho právnického slovníka. Pravidelne organizuje a lektoruje semináre a o Dohovore o ochrane ľudských práv a slobôd pre sudcov a prokurátorov.

František Mikloško, Ján Vojtek a Pavel Vido - to sú zatiaľ známi kandidáti na predsedu Správnej rady Ústavu pamäti Národa (ÚPN). Kandidátku podali individuálne. Poslanec KDH Mikloško svoju kandidátku verejne ohlásil. Vyhlásil však, že sa nehodlá vzdať poslanskeho mandátu. Koalícia sa už dohodla na predložení vlastného kandidáta na šéfa Správnej rady UPN, jeho meno však zatiaľ nezverejnila. Vojtek zo Združenia nespravodlivo prepustených policajtov sa po tretíkrát uchádza o dôveru poslancov. Novým kandidátom je Vido, ktorý je absolventom Elektrotechnickej fakulty Slovenskej vysokej školy technickej. Šéfa UPN budú poslanci voliť v tajných voľbách na schôdzi NR SR, ktorá sa začne 30. januára. Toto miesto nie je obsadené už pol roka, kedy tragicky zahynul jeho prvý predseda a zakladateľ Ján Langoš. Odvtedy poslanci už dvakrát rozhodovali o jeho nástupcovi, ale nezvolili nikoho.

Slovenská agentúra pre rozvoj investícií a obchodu (SARIO) má v spolupráci s Ministerstvom hospodárstva (MH)SR rozpracovaných 120 projektov v celkovom objeme 3.43 miliardy EUR, v prepočte približne 118 miliárd SKK, ktoré by mali prísť na Slovensko v roku 2007. Najviac projektov smeruje do automobilového,

strojárského a elektrotechnického priemyslu. Podľa kajiny pôvodu je ich najviac rozpracovaných z Nemecka a USA.

Až 47.7 percenta Slovákov sympatizuje so stranou Smer - sociálna demokracia. Slovenská národná strana (SNS) má sympatie 11.8 percenta obyvateľov Slovenska a s SDKÚ-DS sympatizuje 10.7 percenta Slovákov. Vyplýva to z reprezentatívneho prieskumu ÚVVM pri ŠÚ SR, ktorý v čase od 1. do 9. januára pýtal respondentov, s ktorou stranou najviac sympatizujú. Začiatkom prvého mesiaca v roku nesympatizovalo so žiadnym politickým subjektom 27.5 percenta občanov. S S-HZDS sympatizuje 9.6 percenta občanov, SMK (9.1) KDH (7.3), KSS (1.9), HZD (0.6), SF (0.5) a ANO (0,4).

TASR a slovenské časopisy



FOTO TASR - Štefan Puškáš

Po prvý raz v tomto roku zasadli do lavíc školopovinné deti v Bratislave. Základná škola na Vrútockej ulici má pre ne pripravené aj prekvapenie v podobe školského skanzenu dobových tried. Jednotlivé expozície v štyroch triedach sú rozdelené na obdobie z čias Rakúsko-Uhorska, prvej Československej republiky, 50. a 70. rokov minulého storočia. Súčasťou je aj historická materská škola a chýza starej mamy. Staré lavice, katedry, harmónia i učebnice poskytujú deťom pohľad na dávno zabudnutú históriu škôl a vzdelávacieho procesu. No staré triedy si nechodia prezeráť iba žiaci, ale zavítajú aj bývalí školáci, ba dokonca aj zahraniční Slováci počas návštevy svojej domoviny. Všetky exponáty zbierala vyše 40 rokov učiteľka, dnes už na dôchodku, Marta Galádová. Starosti s údržbou muzeálneho zariadenia má nemálo, no expozíciu chce v budúcnosti ešte rozšíriť aj o triedu s dobovou videoprojekciou. Školský skanzen je k dispozícii aj pre návštevy z iných bratislavských škôl.

Slovák manažérom U.S. Steel v USA

Košice (TASR) – Anton Lukáč sa stal generálnym manažérom závodu Mon Valley. Oznámila to spoločnosť United States Steel Corporation. V tejto pozícii bude 46-ročný Lukáč zodpovedný za všetky výrobné prevádzky v okolí Pittsburghu, vrátane závodov Edgar Thomson v Braddocku a Irvin vo West Miffline, ako aj koksárenského a chemického závodu v Clairtone. Takisto bude zodpovedať za galvanizačnú prevádzku vo Fairlesse neďaleko Philadelphie. Organizačne bude Lukáč patriť pod Georga F. Babcocka, viceprezidenta pre výrobu.

"Jedným z prínosov nášho prístupu rešpektujúceho globálnu diverzitu sú aj takíto talentovaní manažéri, pripravení zaujať výnimočné a náročné pozície kdekoľvek v našej korporácii," povedal výkonný viceprezident U.S. Steel John H. Goodish.

Lukáč je absolventom Strojníckej fakulty Technickej univerzity v Košiciach. Svoju profesionálnu kariéru začal v roku 1982 ako technolog Strojníckej fakulty Technickej univerzity v Košiciach. Počas ďalších 16 rokov pôsobil na mnohých úsekoch, vrátane mikroelektroniky, technického

rozvoja a inžinierskych činností, účtovníctva a financií. V rokoch 1998 - 1999 bol projektovým manažérom spoločného podniku VSŽ U.S. Steel a následne bol vymenovaný za riaditeľa VSŽ OCE, oceliarskej časti podniku a viceprezidenta pre technológiu VSŽ.

Keď v novembri 2000 vznikla spoločnosť U.S. Steel Košice, bol vymenovaný za viceprezidenta pre strategické implementácie a spadal priamo pod prezidenta spoločnosti. Na tomto poste bol zodpovedný za výrobu rúr a radiátorov, riadil 18 domácich a zahraničných dcérskych spoločností a pobočiek, podporoval regionálny rozvoj prostredníctvom Centra ekonomického rozvoja a viedol tímy pri príprave nových obchodných príležitostí U.S. Steel v Európe.

V júli 2003 sa Anton Lukáč spolu s rodinou presťahoval do Spojených štátov po tom ako bol vymenovaný za riaditeľa závodu v Clairtone neďaleko Pittsburghu. Pred nástupom do súčasnej pozície bol riaditeľom závodu Edgar Thomson. Informoval o tom hovorca U.S. Steel Košice, s.r.o., Ján Bača.

Spomienka na zosnulú Trudy Check-Tuhú

13. januára tohto roku by sa bola dožila nedávno zosnulá Trudy Check-Tuhá svojich 72 rokov. Prečo to spomíname? Lebo na tomto mieste by sme chceli slovenskú verejnosť oboznámiť s jej plodným životom, z ktorého podstatnú časť venovala práve zachovaniu slovenských tradícií v USA. Žiada sa spomenúť, že heslo "Dedičstvo otcov zachovaj nám Pane", bolo v rodine hrdej na slovenský pôvod hlboko zakorenené. Nechajme však prehovoriť jej brata doktora Tomáša, ktorý Zamyslenie na jej pamiatku vyjadril prítomným po pohrebe nebohej na kare v hoteli Genetti vo Wilkes-Barre, Pa. (Vid' následne preložený príhovor - Zamyslenie.)

Zamyslenie

Moja sestra Trudy bola najmladšia zo štyroch detí v našej rodine. Náš dom bol plný spevu. Naša mamka často spievala spontánne pri práci, čo vytváralo dobrú náladu v dome. Túto oddanosť hudbe, najviac zdedila sestra Trudy. Lásku ku spevu a hudbe prejavila už ako dvojročná, keď spievala slovenskú pieseň pred verejnosťou. Lásku k hudbe a spevu sa postupne umocňovala. Počas gymnázia mala možnosť študovať aj hudbu. Hrala na klavíri a husliach, v cvičení bola veľmi usilovná a disciplinovaná.

Po skončení gymnázia vyštudovala vysokú školu Misericordia, Dallas, Pa v hudobnom odbore. Pretože láska k hudbe sa u nej stupňovala a cítila, že to bude to, čo ju už nikdy neopustí. Po promócií na vysokej škole, ďalej pokračovala v štúdiu klasickej hudby, opery, ale aj v chórovom speve. Tak sa stala odborníčkou v odbore vážnej hudby, kde dokázala spievať v siedmych jazykoch. Úctu ku kultúre cez hudbu a vieru zdedila po rodičoch, čím obšťastňovala obecenstvo.

Stala sa učiteľkou hudby na gymnáziu vo Wyoming Valley. Dirigovala spevokol, organizovala programy na verejné vystúpenia. Vždy na česť a chválu Pánu Bohu. Bola nadaná, schopná, tvorivá ale aj všetečná a mala rada poriadok. Ako odborníčka v hudbe, rýchle zbadala chybný krok a hneď ho vedela naprávať. Bola prísna a priama učiteľka. Nebola tvrdohlavá, ale vždy sa sústreďovala na dokonalé prevedenie diela tak, aby to tešilo a ohodnotilo obecenstvo.

Mala vždy dobré vzťahy k ľuďom a mnoho priateľov. Jej nadania otvorilo mnoho dvier, nebola bojazlivá, ale brala šancu všetko vziať s láskou a zodpovednosťou. Jej štedrosť zasiahla mnoho ľudí, organizácií, ale prejavila ju hlavne k Pánu Bohu. V rodine o jej štedrosti koluje nasledovná udalosť. Vždy sme mávali rodinné stretnutie v našej chate na Poconos. Naše dve vnúčatá Tomášho 8-ročný, Adamko 10-ročný, vyzerali cez okno, kto by ešte mal prísť. Odrazu videli tetu Trudku prichádzať k oknu a vnúčatá vzrušujúco kričali: "Aha, kto prichádza teta Trudka, určite dostaneme peniažky," vraveli deti.

Svojou oddanosťou, osobnou láskou k Pánu Bohu ovplyvňovala veľa ľudí. Pri prednese na liturgii, vyberala tie hymny, ktoré by mohli najlepšie zvýrazňovať chválu Bohu. Jej spiritualita bola umocňovaná častým čítaním Biblie. S podobnou horlivosťou sa zúčastňovala v spevokoloch v rôznych kostoloch inej viery.

Tiež vyjadrila veľké zadosťučinenie, že mohla spolu s manželom Philipom, zúčastňovať sa na obradoch v židovskom chráme, kde spievala v chóre, ale aj v sólovom prednese. Zvlášť sa jej páčili obrady Yom Kipur, kde sa vzájomne odprosujú prv, ako odprosia Boha za urážky.

Pred jej kariérou, strávila letné obdobie ako misionárka - učiteľka na Jamajke, kde učila hudbu dievčatá, ktoré nemali domov. Ku koncu obdobia urobila verejný koncert jamajských piesní. V jej živote uplatňovala ekumenizmus cez lásku k druhému, tak aj žila a praktizovala. Pri vstupe do miestnosti všade zažiarila svojou prítomnosťou a jej sebavedomie a vzplanutie prítomných povzbudzovalo k činnosti.

Čo bolo jej najväčším potešením bola práca so Slovak Heritage Society of NE PA (Spolok slovenského dedičstva). Založila spevokol pod názvom "Spev". Piesne boli vydané formou platní, audio pásky a CD. Podobne s veľkým ohlasom boli prijaté



Trudy Check-Tuhá

audio pásky "Pašie" a "Čas radosti". Veľa času venovala nielen zachovaniu piesne ale aj slovenských zvykov knižným vydaním, "Slovenské zvyky a tradície".

Boli to šťastné a úrodné roky keď v kostole Božského Srdca Ježišovho zneli slovenské piesne spevokolu pod vedením Trudy. Truda nám nechala dedičstvo živého príkladu, včítane jej nedokonalosti, štedro rozdávala svoje nadanie, ktorým ju Boh obdaroval. Bola pyšná na svoj slovenský pôvod. A rozvíjala dedičstvo svojich rodičov, ktorých milovala. Boli sme o to viac bohatší, že bola s nami a nám ukázala ako vzor - viac oceňovať svoje slovenské dedičstvo na ktoré máme byť právom hrdí.

Na koniec by som rád vyslovil slová piesne, ktorú rada spievala, aj v posledných dňoch svojho života:

*Jezu idem k Tebe dneská, lebo volá ma Tvá láska
Ó daj mne prebývať s Tebou. Jezu idem k Tebe.
Jezu idem k Tebe.*

*Jezu čakať viac nemôžem, či zajtra dožijem, neviem
Tvoj milý hlas poslúchať mám.
Jezu idem k Tebe, Jezu idem k Tebe.*

*Jezu čakať viac nemôžem, či zajtra dožijem, neviem
Tvoj milý hlas poslúchať mám.
Jezu idem k Tebe. Jezu idem k Tebe.*

*Jezu idem práve jak som, ľutujem za hriechy srdcom
Ty odpustiš mi istým som,
Jezu idem k Tebe, Jezu idem k Tebe.*

(Svätá omša za nebohú Trudy Check-Tuhú sa konala 14. decembra 2006 v kostole Nepoškvrneného počatia Panny Márie vo Wilkes Barre, Pa. Trudy bola členkou Spolku č. 10 IKSJ.)

Češť jej pamiatke. Nech odpočíva v pokoji.

Anna a Jozef Biroš

Inštalácia Rev. Juraja Toroka

Táto slávnostná udalosť sa konala v nedeľu 19. novembra 2006 v kostole Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Tappan, N.Y. Kostol bol zaplnený do posledného miesta. Ľudia stáli po okrajoch lavíc. Prítomní boli tiež Slováci a Slovenky z New Yorku a New Jersey.

Rev. John Dwyer, senior osady povedal homíliu a Msgr. Edward Weber, Episcopal Vicar previedol inštaláciu. Predstavení boli asistujúci slovenskí kňazi: Rev. Vladimír Chripko, Rev. Martin Kertys, farský poradný zbor, dôverníci a farský personál. Nasledovalo symbolické odovzdanie kľúčov kostola, knihy evanjelia, symbol sviatosti krstenia - krstiteľnička, fialová štóla a sväté oleje. Prísahou a apoštolským vyznaním viery sa uvedenie nového správcu do úradu skončilo. Potom Rev. J. Torok pozval všetkých prítomných na pohostenie, ktoré bolo ozaj veľkolepé, veľmi dobre pripravené a zorganizované v inej farskej miestnosti.

Noviny Journal News, ktoré slúžia verejnosti v Dolnom údolí Hudson, N.Y. od r. 1850 priniesli správu o inštalácii na dvoch stranách veľkými písmenami a fotografiami: Living history joins church; From Slovakia to Tappan, Roman Catholic priest brings experience to Tappan. Obsiahly článok napísal Gerald McKinstry.

Autor opisuje uväznenie Rev. J. Toroka, jeho odvážny útek z komunistického koncentračného tábora cez rieku Moravu, príchod do Talianska a vysvätenie za kňaza r. 1959. Kým bol v Ríme pracoval s vynikajúcimi teológmi a mal možnosť zoznámiť sa s pápežom Jánom XXIII. V ďalšej časti článku autor píše o práci Rev. Toroka v katolíckych podporných organizáciách, v misiách v Afrike, Ázii včítane štátov Indonézia, Thailand a v utečeneckých táborech v Kambodži. Keďže Rev. J. Torok je filmárom (samouk), to mu umožnilo zoznámiť sa s Matkou Terezou v Calcutte a s pápežom Pavlom II.

Rev. J. Torok založil Hallel, to je katolícka komunikačná inštitúcia profesionálov v Sparkill, N.Y. Jeho filmy sú používané ako učebné pomôcky vedcov v školách.

Rev. Torok prišiel do Ameriky v roku 1968 vypomáhať v slovenskej farnosti sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku. Malo to byť len na krátky čas. Ale bola to úloha na 14 rokov. Neskoršie vypomáhal u Dominican Sisters v Sparkill, vo farnosti ST. Boniface, Wesley Hills a vo viacerých slovenských osadách v New Yorku a New Jersey. Nikdy nemal svoju farnosť ako pastor, vždy len vypomáhal.

Inštalácia otca Toroka je významnou a radostnou udalosťou zvlášť pre nás Slovákov. Slovenské meno sa pozdvihlo a čítame ho častejšie aj v amerických novinách. Farníci osady Our Lady of the Sacred Heart sa tešia, že farnosť bude v spoľahlivých rukách. Dlhoročné skúsenosti Rev. Toroka zvlášť s mládežou iste obohatia všestrannú činnosť farnosti.

Srdečne blahoželáme Rev. Torokovi, prajeme mu pevné zdravie a prosíme Pána, aby všetky jeho šlachetné úsilia Všemohúci Boh žehnal a milosť svoju naň zosiela. A osade Our Lady of the Sacred Heart prajeme, aby bola ohniskom ľudskej lásky, teplým hrejivým domovom cirkevného spoločenstva a semeniskom zdravých kresťanských rodín.

Rudo L. Greguš

Gašparovič uznal rodinu za základ zdravého štátu

Pokračovanie zo str. 16

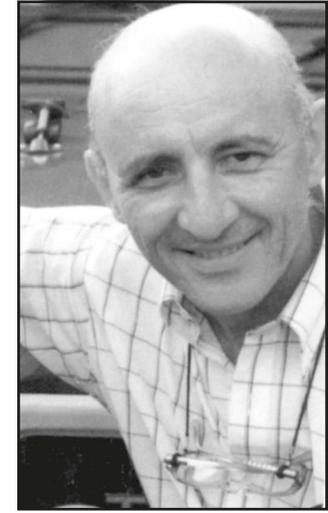
vinšov aj preto, že sa nevie naplniť počas celého roka, že sa nevie presadiť medzi ľuďmi, na pracoviskách, ale často ani v rodinách.

Po prejave hlavy štátu vystúpili so svojimi príhovorami spišský diecézny biskup a predseda KBS František Tondra a generálny biskup ECAV na Slovensku Miloš Klátik.

"Demokracia, ktorej sa tešíme, dáva možnosť aj cirkvám a náboženským spoločnostiam ponúkať svoju službu k plnosti života všetkým občanom SR, ktorí o túto službu cirkví majú záujem," uviedol Mons. František Tondra a dodal: "Viera a náboženstvo sa dotýkajú jadra osobnosti človeka a robia z neho nové bytie, schopné tvoriť pevné rodiny, ktoré sú základom spoločnosti, a bohatšie prispieť k spoločnému dobru, ktoré v teológii označujeme ako 'bonum commune' a v ekonómii ako 'public good'."

V závere príhovoru biskup Tondra v mene prítomných zaželel prezidentovi republiky v prihovorom občianskom roku veľa zdravia, Božieho požehnanie a úspechov, ale i múdrosti a rozvážnosti, aby viedol Slovensko po ceste prosperity.

Na prijatí v prezidentskom paláci sa zúčastnil aj nitriansky biskup a generálny sekretár KBS Marián Chovanec a prešovský eparchiálny biskup Ján Babjak. Pravoslávnu cirkev na Slovensku zastupoval vladyka Ján, arcibiskup prešovský a Slovenska. Prítomný bol tiež čestný predseda Ústredného zväzu židovských náboženských obcí Pavel Traubner.



Rev. Juraj Torok

L'udská osoba je srdcom pokoja

Pokračovanie zo str. 16

Rozvrat pokoja v našom svete vyplýva dnes z nesprávneho a nepravdivého chápania človeka i z nesprávneho chápania Boha. Dnes mnohí popierajú pravú podstatu človeka ako stvoreného na Boží obraz a na Božiu podobu. Pokladajú ho za produkt náhodnej evolúcie, v ktorej platí zásada boja o život a pretrvávajú silnejšieho. To je pre jednotlivca, pre národy a pre svet však otrasne plytké a lživé chápanie človeka a života. Vedie k násiliu, k nespravodlivosti a k ničeniu. Vedie k vojnám a k hrozbám nových vojen. Rovnakým, ba možno ešte väčším nešťastím je, ak celé národy uznávajú síce Boha, no nie ako Otca všetkých ľudí, lež ako pohnútku boja a tzv. svätých vojen. Zlé chápanie človeka, zlé chápanie Boha, alebo život bez Boha a proti Bohu bol nešťastím pre trvalý pokoj vo svete nielen za zločinných systémov nacizmu alebo komunizmu. Na to nás upozorňuje Svätý Otec vo svojom Posolstve.

Vieme, že má pravdu. V dnešnom svete niet pokoja. Od druhej svetovej vojny sme boli a sme svedkami desiatok a desiatok ďalších vojen - v Európe, Afrike, Ázii, v strednej a južnej Amerike. Príčiny? Sebecko, nespravodlivosť, túžba po moci, pomstivnosť. Európa a celý západný svet majú na tom veľký podiel. Takmer všade sa domáhali bohatstva iných národov. - Aj naši vojaci sú vo vojnových oblastiach, i keď len ako odmiňovači či strážcovia prímeria. Ale aj tí padajú mŕtvi. - Čo bolo a čo je za tým všetkým?

Mnohí historici a uvažujúci ľudia sa nad tým zamýšľali. Ruský mysliteľ Berďajev sa zahľadel do dejín a napísal, že mnohí Európania vstupovali do moderných čias plní dôvery v seba a vo svoje tvorivé sily, mnohí z nich to robili bez Boha alebo rovno proti Bohu. Na úsvite modernej doby sa im zdalo, že všetko závisí od ich schopností, ktoré nepoznajú nijaké hranice. Dnes na konci týchto čias Európania vstupujú vysilení do neznámej epochy. Bez Boha z ich viery vo vlastné sily a schopnosti zostali len žalostné zdrapy. Európanom ako občanom hrozí, že navždy stratia jadro svojich osobností. Aký je to tragický rozdiel medzi začiatkom a koncom modernej histórie. Rozbilo a rozplynulo sa priveľa nádejí. Obraz človeka sa postupne zatemnil. A osobnosti, obdarené videním a intuíciou sa radi vracajú do dejín aby zatemnenému obrazu vrátili živý obsah človeka. Náš čas je časom rozpadu kultúry, manželstva, rodín, je časom vraždenia detí, časom teroru a strachu, časom úpadku a nie rastu. Moderná doba nepovzniesla človeka. Zbavila ho do veľkej miery dôstojnosti a úcty. Humanizmus bez Boha nedodrжал svoje sľuby. L'udská osoba sa stratila v mase. A národy dnes nevládu uniesť svoju bezradnosť.

Veľké revolúcie francúzska i komunistická, sľubovali slobodu, rovnosť a bratstvo, nacizmus sľuboval bez Boha raj pre nemecký národ. Spoločné mali to, že znetvorili chápanie človeka. Najmä tým, že popreli Boha ako základ života a jeho pravdu. Popreli duchovno človeka a duchovno národov. Vlády národov sa snažili udržať ľudí v trvalej orientácii len na vonkajší svet, v trvalej nevedomosti o sebe samých, v trvalej nevedomosti o podstate sveta a človeka, a tým aj v nevedomosti o podstate hospodárskeho, politického a kultúrneho života. Modernej kultúre sa darilo odvádzať pozornosť ľudí od ich vlastného vnútra. To trvá dodnes. Noviny, knihy a masmédiá vôbec nepretržite oslovovali a oslovujú len najnižšiu rovinu života človeka. Ponárajú ľudí do biológie, do vonkajšieho sveta, a to v úsilí manipulovať ľuďmi a ich vedomím, ovládať ľudí, ponúkať im príjemné zmyslové podnety bez potreby premýšľať a namáhať sa. Moderná kultúra vychovala z ľudí konzumentov tovaru a zábavy a nenásytí túžbu po prepychu. To zmenilo mnohých ľudí v Európe a do veľkej miery aj u nás bezmála na nemysliace automaty. Iné národy, ktoré sú chudobné, nemajú zatiaľ chlieb a učia sa nenávidieť bohatých.

Mnohým našim demokraciám to vyhovuje - ľudia, ktorí si odvykli premýšľať, dajú sa ľahšie ovládať. Jedinou uznávanou cnosťou sa postupne stala tolerancia. Tolerancia ako ľahostajnosť k pravým hodnotám, ľudia stratili odvahu mať vlastné presvedčenie a stáť si za ním. Stali sme sa takými tolerantnými, že ľahostajne hľadáme na to, ako nám ktosi podpaľuje náš vlastný národný dom, ako nám ktosi podryva manželstvá a rodiny, ako ktosi ničí našu stáročnú morálku pansexualizmom, surovými časopismi, novinami, filmami a obrazovkami, ba cez niektorých učiteľov aj školami. Sme takí tolerantní, že ani nebadáme, že si po zločinných plynových komorách a gulagoch chystáme nové ohrozenia života svojho národa, ostatných národov, ba celej planéty. Robíme to mnohorakým spôsobom, až po zavinené roztápanie ľadovcov na Severnom póle a po zavinené nebezpečné zmeny podnebia zeme otepľovaním.

Kapitáni života štátov, bez Boha a bez duchovných hodnôt, šíria cez masmédiá slobodu bez hraníc pod heslom bezhraničného liberalizmu, v ktorom je všetko dovolené. Všetko v mene takzvanej slobody. Profesor práva to zhrnul v televízii takto: Kedysi ľudia vedeli, že kone sa priahajú do vozov v smere jazdy. Dnes ich ľudia priahajú kone proti jazde, ľudia obrátili na ruby sedem hlavných hriechov a vyhlásili ich za cnosti. Pýchu nazvali zdravým sebedovomím, lakomstvo zákonom ekonomiky, smilstvo zdravým biologickým inštinktom a takmer jedinou radosťou zo života, nestriednosť nazvali vyššou životnou úrovňou, surovú závisť a nenávisť nazvali bojom o spravodlivosť a politickú slobodu, hnev nazvali rozhorčením nad názormi druhých, lenivosť nazvali filozofickým postojom. Takto kapitáni štátov bez Boha paralyzovali ľudí a národy. A zmocňujú sa ľudí i sveta.

Tradičia znamená odovzdávanie. V dejinách sa odovzdáva život, ale i to, čím sa život udržuje a rozvíja. Toto odovzdávanie má byť živé a tvorivé. Skostnatenuť tradíciu možno opustiť. Ale dôležité je uchovať veľké a živé bohatstvá tradície, nadobudnuté stáročnou skúsenosťou, ktorými žijú rodiny, národy a štáty.

Na základe našej kresťanskej tradície vznikli u nás najcennejšie diela kultúry, umenia, literatúry a duchovných hodnôt ale i osobností, ktoré vychovávali našich otcov i matky, ktoré si našťastie vychovávali, chránili a udržujeme dodnes. Kresťanské tradície sú bohatstvom nielen Slovenska, ale do veľkej miery celej Európy. Bolo preto nepochopiteľné, prečo niektorí štátnici odmietli čo len zmienku o Bohu v preambule Ústavy Európskej únie. Pritom aj taký slobodomyselný muž, ako bol prezident Mitterand, sa vyjadril, že Európu nemožno vybudovať len výrobou

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

Slovenský ples v New Yorku

17. februára 2007

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko (SACC) v New Yorku usporiada 15. slovenský ples v sobotu 17. februára 2007 v New York Athletic Club, 180 Central Park South (na rohu 59. ulice a 7. Ave.) New York, N.Y.

Toto tradičné podujatie vie pritiahnúť slovensko-americkú verejnosť a záujemcov nielen z New Yorku, New Jersey a Connecticut, ale aj zo štátov Pensylvánia a Massachusetts. Z finančného zisku SACC poskytuje americké vysokoškolské štúdium slovenským študentom v Trenčíne a v Bratislave. Tento rok SACC poskytol štipendium štyrom študentom zo štipendijného fondu Dr. Jozefa Stašku. Toto by nebolo možné bez štedrosti a porozumenia členov SACC-u a priateľov. Každý príspevok na tento cieľ je vítaný a neoceniteľný.

Vstupné na ples je \$160.00 za osobu a \$95.00 pre študentov. Do tanca bude hrať Marek SOLTIS Orchestra. O 6. hod. bude koktail a o 7. hod. sa bude podávať hlavné jedlo. Výbor plesu sa postaral o hodnotné ceny do výhry, ktoré sa vylosujú počas večera.

Attire: black tie alebo večerný oblek. Rezervácie: L'ubica Markovič (212) 781-5843 a Gitka Hlavinka (201) 242 - 0214. Šeky treba vystaviť na: SACC a poslať na túto adresu: SACC, c/o Ms. Judith Lepko, 18 Jane Drive, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 07632. Zľavnené parkovanie je možné na blízkom parkovisku ICON. Ale je potrebné, aby ústrižok z parkoviska bol opečiatkovaný pri vchode do New York Athletic Club. Konferencierom bude známa rozhlasová osobnosť Greg Whiteside. Výbor očakáva reakciu do 29. januára 2007.

Usporiadatelia srdečne pozývajú slovensko-americkú pospolitosť a priateľov. Toto stretnutie je nielen zábavné a spoločenské, ale aj národnokultúrnym príspevkom do pokladnice slovenských hodnôt.

Rudo L. Greguš

Výročná schôdza I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v N.Y.C.

Vážení priatelia,

pozývame všetkých členov I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v New York City ako i hostí na výročnú schôdzu I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v N.Y.C. v nedeľu dňa 28. januára 2007 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street N.Y.C. Na schôdzi vyhodnotíme prácu I. Zboru za uplynulé obdobie, v programe je podanie finančnej správy, voľba výboru na rok 2007 a plán podujatí na rok 2007.

Očakávame, že sa na tejto schôdzi v hojnom počte zúčastníte.

Ostávam s priateľským pozdravom

Milan R. Dait, predseda

a obchodovaním, že európsku totožnosť legitimuje a vyjadruje najmä kultúra a duchovná spriaznenosť a tá bola kresťanská.

Cirkev aj u nás obhajovala za komunizmu človeka, jeho práva a jeho slobodu. Veriaci laici i kňazi boli v tejto obhajobe nútení znášať príkoria a väzenia zatiaľ, čo iní si žili na výslni a útočia na Cirkev aj za dnešných pomerov. No Cirkev vyslovovala pravdu o človekovi včera a vyslovuje ju i dnes. Bráni pravdu a tým bráni človeka, všetkých ľudí a život. Robí to tým, že ohlasuje Krista, ktorý je cesta, pravda a život. Cirkev ohlasovaním pravdy o človeku presadzuje aj spravodlivosť pre všetkých ľudí. Má na mysli každého človeka každého národa a je ochrancom práv a nedotknuteľnosti každého človeka a práv každého národa. Takto v úcte ku každému človeku a v úcte k národom ako spoločenstvu živých osôb Cirkvi pomáha presadzovať spravodlivosť a pokoj už výchovou detí, ale aj vplyvom na celý spoločenský, kultúrny a hospodársky a sociálny život národov, aj nášho Slovenska.

Cirkev a v nej kresťanstvo je nie len vzácny klenot našej tisícročnej slovenskej minulosti. Je to stále živá a stále obohacujúca sila a hodnota nášho národa, celého nášho Slovenska. Kresťanstvo nám podáva aj dnes, v čase nových mýtov, polopravd lží plnú pravdu o človeku, o jeho pôvode a posvätnosti, o jeho poslaní a cieľi. Podáva nám aj pravdu o národe. Je vecou každého z nás, či túto pravdu prijmeme a či sa stane tvorivou silou nášho života, zárukou našej solidarnosti a nášho pokoja. Ak by sme túto pravdu odmietli, aké iné svetlo by osvetľovalo cesty našich budúcich dní? Ako nám pred rokmi povedal Petrov Nástupca Ján Pavol II., Slovensko svojou vierou, svojimi mučeníkmi, vyznavačmi a novými generáciami má možnosť zdravo žiť, rozvíjať sa a má čo ponúknuť Európe a svetu pre náš život v pokoji. No tak ako život každého človeka je dar i úloha, tak aj udržanie pokoja v rodinách, v národoch i vo svete je zároveň darom i úlohou, za čo sa hodno i modliť i pracovať.

(Mierne skrátené)

Nitra, 1. januára 2007

Kardinál Ján Chryzostom KOREC, S.J.