

Jednota

THE UNION

USPS #273500 ISSN #1087-3392



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

Volume 116

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2007

Number 5759



During the historic centennial tour of Slovakia hosted by the Slovak League of America in May, National President Andrew M. Rajec visited the Bratislava headquarters of the Matica Slovenska to participate in the dedication of the statue of the Rev. Stephen Furdek on May 14. President Rajec, second from the left, is shown presenting a commemorative Jednota plate to Matica Slovenska President Jozef Markus. Looking on are Daniel F. Tanzone, president of the Slovak League of America and Idka Rajec. The Matica Slovenska, established in 1863, is Slovakia's oldest and most important cultural and historical organization.

Toronto Bowling League Conclude Season with Banquet and Dance

The Toronto Slovak Bowling League (TSBL) held its annual banquet and dance on May 25, 2007 at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish Auditorium in Mississauga, Ontario. This event marked both the end of a successful 2006-2007 bowling season and the 55th year of the league's existence.

The pennant race was once again an exciting one this year with Mike Kapitan's team consisting of Mike, Anne Fedurco, Christine McKee, Melissa Rak and Frank Lipka emerging victorious on the very last evening of competition. Runners-up were Jerry Siman's team made up of Jerry, Slavo Kovac, John Mrozek, Christine Tokarsky, and Walt Ubeika.

The playoffs saw other teams dominate with Ed Jursa's team winning the "A" series. Other members of Ed's team were Lida Scibravy, Irene Gorman, Frank Bokor and Ted Golla. The "B" series was captured by Greg Gry's (captain), Irene Breen, Rose Carey, Bernie Zrobok and John Tokarsky.

In the individual awards, Greg Gry's was the leader among the men again with a 204 average while Cathy Szabo was also a repeat winner in the women's division with an average of 161. High Series Scratch for men went to Danny Zrobok (669) while Anne Mitro (549) earned the women's honors. Hank Gry's (773) came away with the Men's High Series With Handicap and Melissa Rak (757) was the women's leader.

A super game of 287 was rolled by John O'Donnell to collect the Men's High Single Flat award while Lida Scibravy accomplished the same among the women with a 204. High Game With Handicap went to Frank Bokor with a 300 score while Bernie Zrobok achieved women's honors in the same category with a 284. Most improved bowlers were Jim Szabo (+6.92) and Christine Tokarsky (+8.35).

As in the past two or three years, the awards were presented, when possible, by the previous year's winners.

Generous prize money, an exciting door prize table, a deliciously satisfying meal and Ed Gutza's excellent orchestra combined to make it a most enjoyable evening for the bowlers and their guests. We look forward to another excellent season in 2007-2008.

Jerry Siman



At the head table are standing LR:TSBL President Emil Jursa, TSBL Secretary Sharon Tomas, and Regional Director Milos Mitro. Sitting L-R: TSBL Treasurer Anne Mitro, Father Miro Vercimak, Pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church; Father Gregory Nowicki, Assistant Pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church; and Ed Jursa, President of the Msgr. Michael Shuba District.

MORE BANQUET PHOTOS ON PAGE 8

Uniontown Seminar

The Membership and Marketing Committee of the First Catholic Slovak Union held a Seminar on Saturday, May 5, 2007, at St. Mary's Nativity School in Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

Thirty-three recommenders from the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District, George Onda District, Frank T. Holly, Jr. District, and Rev. John Martvon District attended the seminar. Among those present were National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr., Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt, National Treasurer George Matta, Chairperson of Auditors Karen Hunka, and representing Region 4 was Regional Director George Sprock.

The seminar was very well received by everyone present. The seminar centered on the Society's insurance portfolio, annuity products, Home Office procedures and new products being formulated.

There was a buffet following the seminar. Door prizes were given out. The Membership and Marketing Committee express their gratitude to Branch 162 for hosting the seminar.

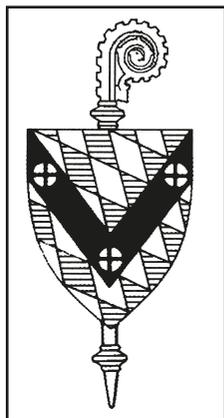
The reason we conduct seminars is to educate our recommenders on our attrac-

continued on page 6

Inside

Editorial/Commentary.....	2, 3
Branch/District Announcements.....	4
Obituaries	7
Youth	9
Sports.....	10
Slovak.....	15-20

Insights and Viewpoints



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

August 5, 2007 (Year C)

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 12:13-21

Gospel summary

While Jesus is teaching a crowd of people, someone asks him to settle a dispute about an inheritance. Jesus refuses to act as a judge in the dispute, and uses the occasion to warn the crowd against all forms of greed or covetousness. He then illustrates what he means by telling a story about a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. The man decided

to build large barns to store his grain and other goods. And he thought about the future day when he would say to himself, "Now as for you, you have so many things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, and be merry!" But God said to him, "You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you." The story is a warning for all who store up treasure for themselves, but are not rich in what matters to God.

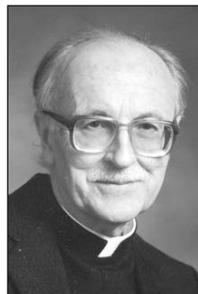
Life Implications

Jesus' teaching about the deadly sin of covetousness is at the heart of the biblical tradition. David Noel Freedman, in his recent book *The Nine Commandments*, contends that the first nine books of the bible after Genesis tell how Israel from the Exodus to the Exile violated all Ten Commandments and as a consequence suffered God's just punishment: Exodus (idolatry), Leviticus (taking God's name in vain), Numbers (keeping the Sabbath), Deuteronomy (honoring parents), Joshua (stealing), Judges (murder), 1 and 2 Samuel (adultery), 1 and 2 Kings (false witness). Covetousness (the tenth commandment) is the motivating force behind the violation of all the commandments. (This summary is from a review by Daniel J. Harrington, SJ, *America*, March 12, 2001.)

Today's homily could use examples from any of these books to deepen the understanding of Jesus' warning against covetousness. Genesis, particularly the first eleven chapters, also shows how deadly a sin covetousness is. Here the truths that Israel had learned the hard way through the events of its history are revealed to be true for all humanity. Just as covetousness was the motivating force of Israel's violation of the Ten Commandments, so it was also the motivation of Adam and Eve's violation of the commandment God had given to them. The covetousness was expressed in their desire to be like gods. In the account we can also see the connection between covetousness and fear. Sensing their fear of death, Satan had said to Eve, "You certainly will not die." Their fear it seems impelled them to the covetousness that was their downfall.

Covetousness also seems to have made Adam and Eve forget about God as they were about to eat the fruit. They also forgot that they already were like God—created in the divine image and likeness to live and be creative in their beautiful garden of Eden. There is no suggestion of a rebellious, satanic "I will not serve" in the Genesis story of the Fall. Afterwards, God's response seems to be more disappointment than anger, much like the father of the prodigal son who was so covetous of an illusory good life. It is easy to relate to these universal human experiences in our culture of mass production and advertising. We readily succumb to the fear of being "nobodies" and are stimulated to covet all sorts of things that the "somebodies" have, foolishly forgetting what God might think about the matter. Covetousness seems to engender covetousness in others. It is thus not only the original sin, but it is also an originating sin.

Covetousness is a deadly sin because it causes us to forget about God, at times to the point of idolatry (Col 3:5). It also causes us to forget about other people except in resentment or envy. Notice that in Jesus' parable, the rich man thinks only of himself—taking it easy, eating, drinking and having a good time. He does not say to himself, "Now that I have all this money, I will feed the hungry, help the widows and orphans, and give my farm-workers a raise." If he had desired to do such things for others, he would have been rich in what matters to God. "The love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Tim 6:10). Money, on



*Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.*

the other hand, at the service of love is the root of countless good things. It takes money to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, heal the sick, do scientific research, or start a business. That love is a good kind of coveting.

At our Eucharist today we might pray that our loves will not be foolish, but will always be in harmony with God's wisdom. In that wisdom, we can work and live without anxiety even though we realize that this night our life may be demanded of us.



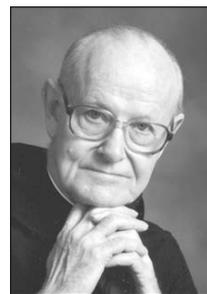
August 12, 2007 (Year C)

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 12:32-48

Gospel Summary

The very first verse of today's gospel reading tells us exactly why the gospel is Good News. Jesus calls us his "little flock" because he knows how powerless we sometimes feel in a world where violence is so prevalent. But we are also told not to fear, because our heavenly Father is pleased to give us the heavenly Kingdom. It is precisely because we rely on love and generosity rather than on control and violence that we are eligible for this most precious gift of the "kingdom," that is, ultimate freedom and happiness.



*Demetrius R. Dumm,
O.S.B.*

To rely on the way of love and kindness, which often appears so unpromising, is in fact to lay up an "inexhaustible treasure in heaven." The danger is that this way of living can often look like so much "pie in the sky." And that is why the remainder of this gospel reading focuses on the need for vigilance. The moment we are distracted from the wisdom of Jesus, we begin to slip back into the ways of the world, that is, we begin to forget where our true security and happiness are found.

To be vigilant means, therefore, to keep Jesus and his teaching constantly before our eyes. We recall that, in the garden of Gethsemane, when Jesus returned to his disciples and found them sleeping, he warned them to "watch and pray" (Mark 14:38). He could just as easily have said, "Watch, that is, pray." For it is only our prayerful remembrance of God's presence among us and of the promise of the Kingdom that will protect us from the fatal distractions that lead us to live by the world's standards and to be found unprepared when the Lord comes for us.

Life Implications

We live in a world where the pace of life is far quicker than it was at the time of Jesus. Our planes and automobiles are designed to go faster and faster. Even our medications must work ever more quickly. Sometimes we seem to be in a whirlwind and it is almost impossible to keep our bearings. All of this makes it much more difficult to live in the kind of peaceful world where the voice of God can be heard. Nor is it possible to find such a serene existence without a conscious and deliberate effort on our part.

Being alert to the reality and presence of God in our personal world means learning how to pray. The most important element in prayer is an attitude of being attentive to the Lord. Like Elijah on Mount Horeb, we are surrounded by thunder, lightning and earthquake, but it is the "tiny whispering sound" of God that we need to hear (1 Kings 19:11-12).

God is constantly whispering to us that we are his "little flock"—that we are precious in his eyes and that he wants very much to give us the freedom and joy of his Kingdom. But too often we are not listening. We are bombarded by sounds and sights that frighten and confuse us. The only remedy is to attune our ears to the divine sounds of love and harmony and peace. We recall those wonderful words of the Book of Revelation: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will enter his house and dine with him and he with me" (3:20). But we need to be quiet if we wish to hear the Lord knocking at the door of our hearts.

We all know how distressing it is to be saying something only to discover that no one is listening. At such times we realize that attentive listening is one of the most precious gift that we can offer to another person. It is also a precious gift to God when we offer him our attentiveness. And when we do so, God will speak to us as he spoke to Jesus at his baptism: You are my beloved child; in you I am well pleased. These words, spoken very softly, can change everything for us.

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Mom and Dad

You are the fruit of our love for each other. You have made our lives complete for in you we are bonded together not only in our own lives but in your own for in you we live now and in your children to come.

You are God's gift to us in return for our prayers, for our wishes for you and in our aspirations for you as we hold you, as we feed you and as we watch you sleeping peacefully, so confident of our love for you.

We begin our lives together with these words of Our Lord Jesus Christ, "Let the children come to me. Do not hinder them. The kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Matthew 20:14) We brought you to your Redeemer and Savior and ours at your baptism and, in our

guardianship of you, we pray that you will go eagerly to him and remain with your hand clasped in his all the days of your life.

Just as the Lord has given us a calling and the gifts to make it real, so, too, has he planted

continued on page 3

JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Bi-Weekly Issued 26 Times Annually

Publisher and Proprietor

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

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road

Independence OH 44131-2398

ANTHONY X. SUTHERLAND, Editor

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

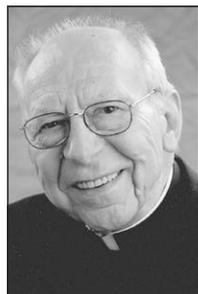
PRINTED AT: PRESS AND JOURNAL, 20 S. Union Street, Middletown, PA 17057

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

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

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

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



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Light One Candle Dennis Heaney, President, The Christophers

It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness. (Christopher Motto)



Dennis Heaney

A (Positive) Word to the Wise

Do you find yourself complaining and criticizing anything and everything that bothers you – even if you can't do anything about it? Are you tired of listening to other people carping from morning 'til night? Well, you're not the only one.

Rev. Will Bowen of Christ Church Unity in Kansas City, Missouri, decided to do something about all the complaints. He started, as religious leaders often do, with a sermon suggesting that his congregation stop complaining, criticizing and gossiping for three solid weeks. He chose this period of 21 days because he said that scientists believe it takes that long to form a new habit. But then he came up with an interesting gimmick to help the folks who wanted to try the experiment. The pastor gave away purple plastic bracelets with the idea that every time someone slipped up, that person had to move the bracelet to the other wrist and start over again.

Rev. Bowen admits it took him three months before he completed his 21 complaint-free days. It wasn't easy, even for somebody who says that it's his "job to see God, and good, in everything."

The idea caught on. After some newspaper and magazine stories appeared, people around the country wrote to the church requesting bracelets and the campaign for "A Complaint Free World" was born. What I particularly like about his idea is that the intent is not just to break a bad habit, but to encourage people to have happier, more loving and more positive lives. There's no doubt that our words and the feelings behind them affect others – for better or for worse.

"Everything comes down to the energy you put into it," says Rev. Bowen. "If I say calmly, 'I smashed my finger last week and it still hurts,' that's a statement of fact. But if I'm whining, 'Oooh, I hurt my finger! It hurts so bad!' then that's complaining. And 99 percent of it is not beneficial."

That last point is the most important. Is what we say beneficial in some way? Will it lead us to make a change for the better? No one should be a doormat for the bad actions and attitudes of others. And none of us has the right to be complaisant about the serious issues and genuine evils that exist in our world. After all, Jesus let the money-changers in the temple know in no uncertain terms that they had no business turning a house of prayer into a den of thieves. Rosa Parks didn't shrug and say, "Well, that's the way it is!" when a bus driver told her to give her seat to a white man that eventful day in Montgomery, Alabama. Mother Teresa of Calcutta didn't turn her back on the desperately needy men, women and children around her thinking, "Too bad, but there will always be poor people."

Poet Maya Angelou put it this way: "If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. Don't complain."

There's a world of difference in griping for the sake of griping and in seeing a problem and then choosing to do something constructive about it. And it wouldn't hurt, when you're making an effort to bite your tongue, to say the Serenity Prayer, either: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."



"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.

FCSU Life Single Premium Insurance Spring Special

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

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



Example – Newborn Male		Example – Newborn Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$290	\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$250
\$10,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$580	\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$500
Example – Age 5 Male		Example – Age 5 Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$340	\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$290
\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$680	\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$580
Example – Age 10 Male		Example – Age 10 Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$400	\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$340
\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$800	\$10,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$680
Example – Age 15 Male		Example – Age 15 Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$480	\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$405
\$10,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$960	\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$810

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

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



Reflections on Our Christianity

continued from page 2

in your soul a legacy accompanied by the talents to fulfill it. We do not yet know what it is but we will watch for it and nourish it as it unfolds in your life under the grace of Our Lord as do the petals of a flower opening to the sun.

Just as we will work to strengthen your body, so will we pursue the goal of a virtuous life for you, free from selfishness, pride, greed and earthly pursuits that are no more than the fog, which shuts out the sun for a time then disappears.

As your Mom and Dad, we will guide you, direct you, guard you and mold you into a person of integrity, honor, and courage not only for yourself but for all those with whom you will share your life so that others, witnessing your virtues, will respect the name we have given you, will adopt in their lives your values, and give praise to our heavenly Father.

We pray that our love for you will be reciprocated by your love for us. It is our fervent wish that you will easily confide in us your objectives in life, your anxieties, concerns, doubts and dreams with the assurance that we will be the guidance you seek, the armor you need, and the shepherd's staff on which you lean.

It is our sincere prayer that we will not fail you and that, you in return, will so live that the bond we enjoy will last beyond this life unto eternal life.

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, AUGUST 8	MONDAY, JULY 30

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

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

Joe Obester, Financial Secretary

Branch 7 — HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary

Branch 233 — BROCKPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Irene Halko

Branch 311 — MONESSEN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

Branch 493 — CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Members of the Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493, are encouraged to attend this year's Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar on Sunday, September 30, 2007, at Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church, 1410 South Will-Cook Road, in Homer Glen, Illinois. The topic for this year's seminar will be "Painted Byzantine Catholic Icons in Annunciation Church." Father Thomas Loya will celebrate a Byzantine Catholic Divine Liturgy at 1:00 p.m. The liturgy will satisfy the Sunday Mass Obligation for Roman Catholic attendees. Admission is \$15.00 for pre-registrants (by September 5) and \$20.00 at the door. For information, call John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810 or Gerry Hletko at 708/387-7812.

**Robert Tapak Magruder,
Financial Secretary**

Branch 456 — HAWK RUN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 456, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, August 19, 2007, at 12:00 noon at the

Lincoln Club Meeting Room, Fourth Street, Hawk Run, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend.

Frank Danko, Secretary

Branch 735 — PORTLAND, OREGON

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 735, will hold its Annual Picnic on Sunday, July 29, 2007, from 12:00 noon until dusk at Picnic Area Number 11 at the Oaks Park Amusement Park in the Sellwood area of Portland.

We invite members, guests and visitors who are of Slovak descent to meet for good food and fellowship. Bring your favorite picnic basket and friends for an enjoyable afternoon. Food and beverages are available at a nominal cost. Amusement ride bracelets and tickets can be purchased from President Herb Hirst.

Meetings are held in April and December at St. Patrick's Church Hall, N.W. 19th and Savior Streets in Northwest Portland.

John Kovach, Recording Secretary

Branch 746— LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, cordially invites you to a picnic on Sunday, August 5, 2007, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Linden Memorial Park, South Wood Avenue, Tremley Point, New Jersey. There will be a \$10.00 charge for nonmembers. For reservations and more information, please call Mary Karch at 732/572-2331.

Branch 746 is also sponsoring a bus trip on Saturday, October 6, 2007, to see "In the Beginning" at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Call Mary Karch for information and reservations.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary

MICHIGAN DISTRICT — Michigan

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

Victor Jiomkowski, President

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

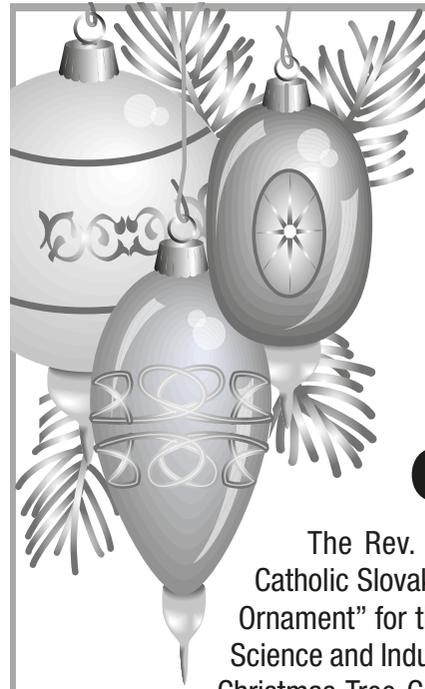
Members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District are encouraged to attend this year's Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar on Sunday, September 30, 2007, at Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church, 14610 South Will-Cook Road in Homer Glen, Illinois. The topic will be "Painted Byzantine Catholic Icons in Annunciation Church." Father Thomas Loya will celebrate a Byzantine Catholic Divine Liturgy at 1:00 p.m. This liturgy will satisfy the Sunday Mass Obligation for Roman Catholics. Attendees will also enjoy a delicious catered meal. Admission is \$15.00 for pre-registrants (by September 5), and \$20.00 at the door. For information call John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810, or Gerry Hletko at 708/387-7812.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT — Youngstown, Ohio

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

Carlie Peschek, President



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

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II of the First Catholic Slovak Union is sponsoring a "Create a Christmas Ornament" for the Slovak Christmas Tree at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, Illinois. As a member of the Christmas Tree Committee, we would like our young adults,

ages 12 through 18, who are members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District, to have the opportunity in decorating an ornament for our tree.

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

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

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

Thank you and I look forward to seeing your ornaments.

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746 Cordially invites you to a PICNIC

Sunday,
August 5, 2007
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

At Linden Memorial Park
South Wood Avenue
Tremley Point
New Jersey

For reservations and
information call
Mary Karch
at 732/572-2331



Phenomenal Performance by Slovak Piano Virtuoso Elena Letnanova in Washington, D.C.

By Jan Simko, Ph.D.

On Thursday, June 21, 2007, at the Slovak Embassy, a capacity audience of classical musical lovers were treated to a stellar recital by the well known Slovak virtuoso Elena Letnanova, Ph.D. of Bratislava. It came following her two previous appearances in the nation's Capital on February 11, 2003 (varied program; see my review in SLOVAK V AMERIKE, April 2003) and February 2004 (Chopin only; my reviews in both the SLOVAK V AMERIKE and JEDNOTA, March 2004), this latter displaying complementary dimensions of her rich piano repertoire.

The most recent program carried the title: "Mainly European Music Between 1914-1945." This is the period covering the two world wars. Not only in this time stretch quite long (nearly one third of a century) but especially, it extends from Russia (Scriabin) all the way to the U.S. (Cage). This wide area shares, in common, what is referred to as, "the Western music," based on common compositional principles.

There are, of course, shades of difference in the respective application of these principles somewhat distinguishing, musically, one ethnic region from another, depending upon the particular local inspiration, deriving from the individual character of the respective national folk music. While, then, the technical or structural bases are, on the whole, fundamentally, uniform, the local characteristic features can vary from area to area.

It is not difficult, for instance, to distinguish between, let us say, the pronouncedly idiosyncratic national character of a Hungarian kind of music from, let us say, a Spanish kind of music, although affinities have been suggested to exist between the two. The Spanish violin virtuoso Pablo de Sarasate (1844-1808) composed his popular "Gypsy Melodies" in the Hungarian style. Moreover, that period saw, as a result of political antagonisms, migration to the United States of European composers for them thus attempting to escape possible persecution and repression or even total suppression amounting to as much as total annihilation or death (such as, for instance, the dire fate of Hans Krasa or Prague born 1899 but died in Auschwitz in 1944).

The two most outstanding of the composers played, who had found refuge in the United States during World War II, were the Hungarian Bela Bartok and the Czech Bohuslav Martinu, the latter of whom had incorporated American jazz rhythms in some of his compositions (not played here now).

Elena Letnanova began with playing a piece by Alexander Scriabin of Russia (1879-1915), a favorite composer of the late Vladimir Horowitz (1904-1989). "Poem," opus 72, begins with lento chords in loose harmonies. The intensity is growing, with the left hand occasionally coming to the fore. Gradually, a compact-tone configuration emerges in fortissimo, and above the bass tones the right hand intones bits of a tone continuum. Finally, it is the left hand's bass tones that emerge as the dominant ones.

The four items by the Spaniard Federico Mompou (1895-1987) are striking as to the tones which we get to hear. The sequence opens with repeated trills in a loose

harmony. The tones move up and down, with an indeterminate conclusion. A fairly melodic passage is followed by polyphony. The fortissimo presto conclusion sounds as if in a French style.

Then were played four pieces by the Czech-born Bohuslav Martinu (1890-1959). Apart from spending World War II in the United States, he also resided in Paris and died in Switzerland. The titles of the pieces are those of the terms for the tempos: Moderato, Allegro, Adagio, Allegro. Throughout all for them, we cannot fail to recognize a strong element based on folk-tune rhythms and melodies. No. 2 opens with a dance rhythm and a fragment of a folk tune. It concludes with a minor-key folk melody. The "Etude in A" from Etudas and Polkas." Book III, after a slow start, picks up speed and volume, leading into a melody of a Latino sound.

Hungarian composer Bela Bartok (b. 1881) of a Slovak mother, Voitova, is one of the leading figures in 20th century music. He spent World War II in the United States where he died in 1945. He was the first to have compiled an expert collection of Slovak folk songs. He also found inspiration in the folk music of the peoples settled to the east and southeast of Hungary, especially in Romania. Excerpts from "Dances on Bulgarian Rhythms, Nos. 3,5,6," open with $\frac{3}{4}$ syncopes, ending in a fortissimo presto.

The music by the contemporary American composer John Cage (1912-1992) has found favor with our pianist, who had already played some of it here in 2004. For his "Bacchanalia For Prepared Piano" (1940), the piano had to be adjusted by the attachment of some gadgets to the piano strings thus adding to them the ability of producing some unusual sounds not normally heard from a piano. The "new" sound evokes the sound of the drumbeat. The musical style is held in the vein of the minimalist repetition, including rhythmic sequences with syncopes.

The last piece, "Blumental Dance" (2000) was by the contemporary Slovak composer Peter Zagar (b. 1961). Its Slovak rhythm evokes a Slovak folk song in the "modern garb." "Blumental" is a city district in Bratislava. Recently, he has composed ballet music inspired by Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. The thunderous applause by the enthusiastic audience was rewarded by a melodic "Nocturne" of Frederic Chopin (1810-1849).

While the performed pieces did not contain even one passage that could be remembered and "taken home" whistling, the pianist, nevertheless, mastered all the technical difficulties flawlessly. This absolute mastery of the piano technique earned her maximum and very warm admiration from the awe-inspired audience. What they applauded vigorously was, most probably, not any played piece in particular, per se. but its bravura rendering by the accomplished virtuoso. She also earned the audience's gratitude by verbally introducing and explaining, in spite of the poor quality of the sound system, the background of the origin of each played piece. She also made a strong impression on the enthusiastic public thanks to her noble, elegant, and effective appearance adorned with, probably, Slovakia's own haute couture.

The memorable recital was attended by the newly appointed ambassador from Malta and his amiable spouse, Mrs. Mark Miceli, as well as by Mr. Jerome Barry (and wife), director of the popular Embassy Series of Washington, D.C. under the umbrella of which many a Slovak musician has made his or her Washington introduction to the wide world of public performances.

The pianist was introduced by both Slovak cultural attaché Stella Kukuckova and Slovak Ambassador and Mrs. Rastislav Kacer.

Accepting the invitation from the housing estate, St. Mary's Court of Washington, D.C. serving mainly senior citizens, virtuoso Elena Letnanova came to perform a somewhat abbreviated program on Thursday, June 28. She thus followed in the footsteps of her first appearance there on February 4, 2004. Her advertised performance there

turned into as much an area event attracting a large audience from near and far outside D.C. The wish of the tenants, "Give us more such events," that is more quality musical performances, has thus been complied with. Dr. Letnanova is planning to return in 2008 to play with the outstanding local Slovak pianist, Mrs. Monica Mockovcakova, in a fourhand exhibition, to be repeated also at St. Mary's Court.

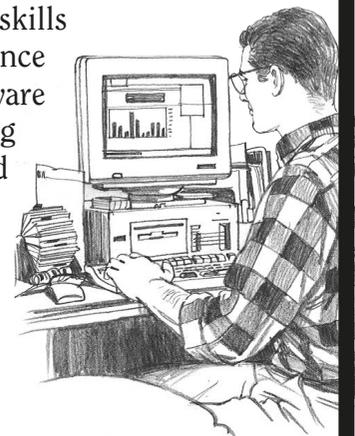


Elena Letnanova, Ph.D. of Bratislava performing.

Excellent Opportunities

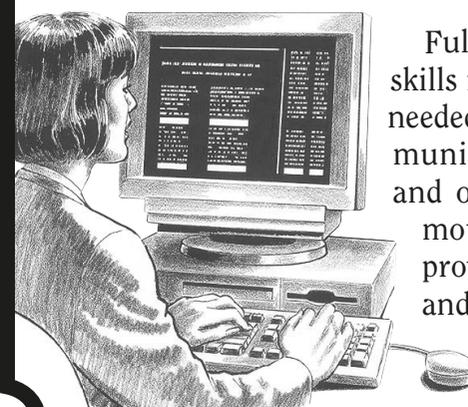
COMPUTER TECHNICIAN/CLERICAL for Fraternal Benefit Society

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



CLERICAL for a Fraternal Benefit Society

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



Realm of SLOVAK GENEALOGY

By Ray Plutko



Ray Plutko

"What Ever Happened to Grandpap's Worldly Possessions?"

(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.)

Sleuthing in the realm of Slovak genealogy, at times, may lead the determined researcher to obscure places and one such journey follows the trail of wills and probates.

One's familiarity with this topic is most often confined to the "last will and testament"— a legal declaration of an individual's wishes regarding the disposal of his or her estate after death. Meanwhile, the term probate is a legal act of proving that a will is legitimate and valid.

Traditionally this process required witnesses to a will to appear before a probate officer and swear that they saw the deceased sign the "document" and that the individual was mentally competent and under no duress at the time. However in more recent times the witnesses have been permitted to sign affidavits (sworn written statements) to these facts.

But grandpap didn't have a will— or an estate for that matter!

Don't be dismayed if this is the case and more so, refrain from judging your ancestor entirely on his/her possible probate file. In that a majority of Slovak immigrants during the period of 1898-1925 worked as laborers (steel mills, mines, etc.), worldly possessions were far and few. Just the same, when a person dies, each state has laws that provide for public supervision over the individual's estate that is left, whether or not there is a will.

If someone dies and leaves a will that names a person to administer it – pay the bills, collect debts owed, and distribute the proceeds – this person is known as an executor.

Conversely if an individual dies without a will or one that is not valid, the person is called an intestate and the property of an intestate estate goes to surviving relatives according to formulas set by the laws of each state jurisdiction.

However, the essential point of this writing is that probates often provide rich genealogical records in that they frequently involve property and individual relationships helpful to the researcher.

The settlement of an estate may identify and provide information on surviving family members at the time and insights to your ancestor's financial standing and possible occupation. In fact the bill for the funeral of the deceased may well be part of the probate portfolio— and a further clue for locating religious records.

The vast majority of wills are filed for probate in the county of the state where the individual resided at the time of death. These are generally found in the county court building in the office of probate. To find the exact addresses of these offices, search the internet at www.usgenweb.org and then browse to your state and county of choice.

Another good internet source is www.naco.org/counties/counties/index.cfm from the National Association of Counties.

In hopes of developing a successful probate search it is necessary to pinpoint the year or a tight time span (plus/minus three years) of the individual's death and the state/county location of residence.

Words of caution and added clues: Witnesses cannot be beneficiaries, but they are often relatives; wills are not always filed immediately after the individual's death, thus search the years following the person's death; and always verify the new-found information.

I'll meet you in the lobby of the courthouse. . .

(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.)



New England Fraternal Congress Scholarships

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

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

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

Uniontown Seminar

continued from page 1

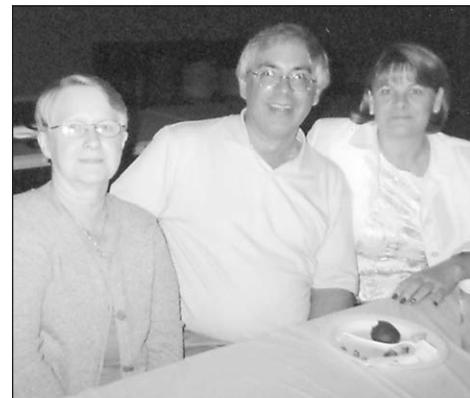
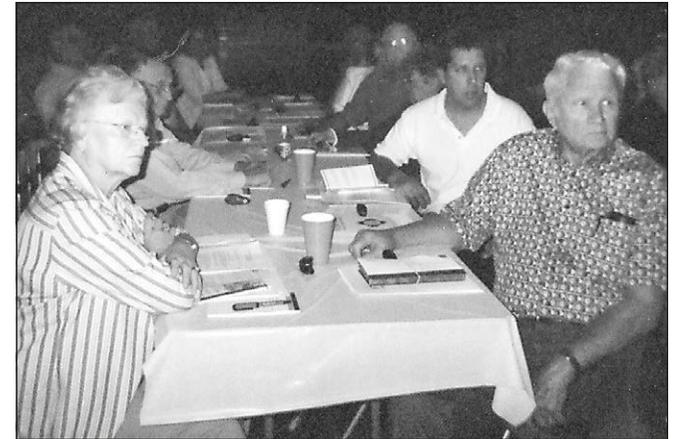
tive portfolio. We have high quality, competitive and affordable life insurance as well as exceptional rates on our annuities. Insurance is sold person to person and the more we know about our products, the more confident and the more effective we will become as proposers.

Please try to attend the seminar that is scheduled in your District. Hope to see you there.

Until then—Good Luck and God Bless!

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

Participants at the Uniontown Seminar



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

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

The following are the rules and requirements:

Applicants must:

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

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Helen Stipkala of Lyndhurst, Ohio, Dies at Age 101

Just five days short of her 102nd birthday, Helen Stipkala, a member of Branch 24 in Cleveland, Ohio, passed away peacefully on June 28, 2007, at her residence in Lyndhurst, Ohio, surrounded by family and friends. Except for a severe



Helen Stipkala

case of osteoporosis and also some thyroid and arthritic problems, she remained in relatively good health and even performed minor household tasks until the end.

Helen Stipkala was born July 3, 1905, in Kriva, Orava, the second of four children of Jozef and Kristina Balazova Mikus. Her father Jozef Mikus was a mayor (Rychtar) of Kriva at one time. Her older sister, Maria, died at age of eight. Her brother, Dr. Joseph Mikus (1939-1945), professor, historian, Slovak activist, and renowned diplomat of the First Slovak Republic (1939-1945), died in Kriva in 2005 at age 95. Her younger sister, Anna Schelingova, of Dolny Kubin, Orava, died several years ago at age 91. Clearly, the Mikuses had great genes.

In 1922, Helen married John Stipkala, who was also a native of Kriva, but by then a U.S. citizen by way of U.S. military service in World War I. As a result of this marriage, she, too, acquired U.S. citizenship. Her husband then returned to the United States to earn money, and she ultimately joined him in Cleveland in 1928. John Stipkala died in 1965. In the 1970s Helen moved to the Cleveland suburb of Lyndhurst.

She is survived by four children, Joseph J. Stipkala (Janet) of Avon, Ohio, Frank M. Stipkala of Lyndhurst, Ethel Nalepka (late Richard) of Lyndhurst, John R. Stipkala (Elaine) of Mentor, Ohio; twelve grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated on July 2, 2007, at St. Andrew Abbey in Cleveland. In his homily, Abbot Clement Zeleznik, whose family came from the same Cleveland parish as Helen, spoke glowingly of Helen's strong Catholic faith and her lifelong devotion to her church, the Rosary, and her family.

Helen's oldest son, Joseph, delivered the eulogy and recounted her life story, including 23 years in her homeland to which she never returned, and 78 years in the Cleveland area. He said there were two pivotal decisions in which she was involved that changed the course of history of the Stipkala family. The first was when she agreed to join her husband in the United States in 1928. If she had not done this, her husband most certainly would have returned to his homeland to be with her. We all would have lived under communism, Joseph added. The second major decision occurred during the 1930s when, because of the prevailing financial hardships of the times, Helen and her husband decided to return to Czechoslovakia. Their bank savings, however, were "frozen" due to the depression and they were unable to leave. They then decided to weather the financial storms and remain in Cleveland. "Thank God for the depression," said Joseph to the congregation.

During the late 1940s and 1950s the

Stipkala residence, which was across the street from St. Benedict Church and near St. Andrew Abbey and Benedictine High School, became a mecca for Slovak intellectuals, who learned that Helen Stipkala was a sister of Dr. Joseph Mikus. Among the regular people who came to the Stipkala home were Dr. and Mrs. Frantisek Hrusovsky, Father Mikulas Sprinc, Dr. Joseph Cincik, Karol and Mrs. Strman, and of course Dr. Mikus and his wife Renee. They all not only loved Helen's pastry but they were warmed by her husband John's congeniality.

Joseph described his mother as a very humble and deeply religious woman of great faith who was completely unselfish and thrived on hard work. She greatly helped the family finances through the tough times by going out via streetcars and buses to clean homes, offices and theaters, and later working in Benedictine High School cafeteria. Her life centered around the church and caring for her family.

Because of the conditions in Austria-Hungarian Empire, Helen's formal education ended after the sixth grade, nevertheless, she was always an avid reader of Slovak books, newspapers (mainly the JEDNOTA), and novels. As for English, she somehow picked it up on her own and did a decent job of speaking and reading.

Her main legacy was her family, her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, all successful, including lawyers, engineers, scientists, businessmen and other professions. And she was proud of each and every one of them.

Joseph ended his eulogy by saying that she was one of a kind and "they don't make them like Helen anymore."

Abbot Clement also performed the prayer services at Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland, where she was laid to rest next to her husband, John.

Joseph J. Stipkala

**Mike E. Vedro Sr.
Branch 587
Monaca, Pennsylvania**



Mike E. Vedro Sr., 78, of Center Township, Pennsylvania, died Saturday, June 23, 2007, in The Medical Center, Beaver.

Born July 22, 1928, in West Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, a son of the late John and Mary Vedro, he was a member of the St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. Mike was a retired employee of Arco Chemicals, Potter Township, and was a proud U.S. Navy veteran. He was also a very skilled craftsman who took great pride in the fact that he built his own home. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Kathryn "Kay" Vedro; a brother, John Vedro, and a sister, Annie Vedro.

He is survived by his son, Michael Vedro and wife Michelle of Aliquippa; a daughter, Cheryl Dax and husband Brian of Moon Township; a grandson, Nathan Dax of Moon Township; a sister-in-law, Rose Vedro of Rochester; and several nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at the Darroch Memorial Chapel, Aliquippa. A funeral service was held at the funeral chapel followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Frances Cabrini Church. Interment was in Mount

Olivet Catholic Cemetery. The Beaver County Special Unit met at the cemetery to provide military honors.

Albert R. Valo

**Edward Galis
Branch 493
Chicago, Illinois**



Edward Galis, 77, a member of the Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, died March 29, 2007, after a long illness.

A resident of Downers Grove, Illinois, Ed grew up in the neighborhood around Assumption B.V.M. Slovak Catholic Parish in the South Lawndale section of Chicago's Southwest Side. He was a member of the Pipe Fitters Union Local #597 for over 35 years. He was a member of the Slovak

Athletic Association and a proud U.S. Army Veteran of the Korean War. Everyone knew Ed as a family man and a great dancer, a mechanical genius who loved his pets, gardening, organizing, and soccer.

Ed was the beloved husband of Patricia for 50 years, whom he married at St. Jerome Croatian Parish in Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood. He was the loving father of Nicholas (Jackie) Galis and Nicholene (Quinn) McAuley; grandfather of Kristin Galis; brother of Hedviga Zajic; and fond uncle of Lubos and Lubika.

Friends were received at the Toon Funeral Home in Downers Grove. A Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Winfield, Illinois. Interment was in Assumption Cemetery, Winfield.

May she rest in peace.

Robert Tapak Magruder

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

ATTENTION ALL DISTRICT AND BRANCH OFFICERS!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

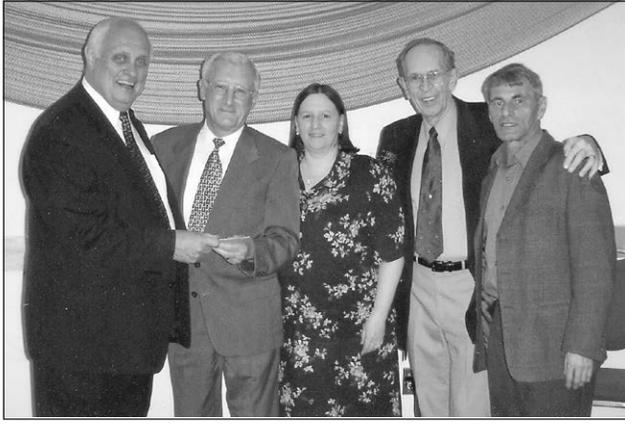
From the Desk of the Executive Secretary

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

Toronto Bowling League Banquet and Dance



President Emil Jursa presents trophy to Pennant Winning Team Captain, Mike Kapitan. Other team members L-R are Frank Lipka, Melissa Rak, Christine McKee and Anne Fedurco.



Emil Jursa presents Pennant Runner-up Team Captain, Jerry Siman with 2nd place award. Other team members are Chris Tokarsky, John Mrozer and Slavo Kovac.



Josie Siman (right) presents "A" Series Winner Trophy to Captain Ed Jursa. Other team members L-R are Ted Golla, Irene Gorman and Lida Scibravy.



Rose Marie Pikul (left) has just made a presentation to "B" Series Winner Captain Greg Gry's. Other team members L-R are Rose Carey, Bernie Zrobok, John Tokarsky and Irene Breen.



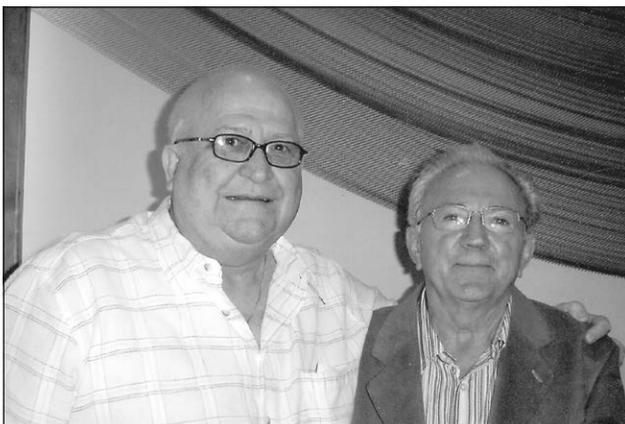
Men's High Average winner Greg Gry (left) receives award from Mike Kapitan.



Presenter Greg Gry (left) with High series Scratch winner Danny Zrobok.



Nellie Zeman (left) presents to High Series With Handicap winner Melissa Rak.



High Series With Handicap winner Hank Gry (left) with last year's winner, Gus Kapsa.



Sharon Tomas (left) congratulates High Game Flat winner Lida Scibravy.



John Mrozek (left) congratulates High Game Flat Winner John O'Donnell (right).

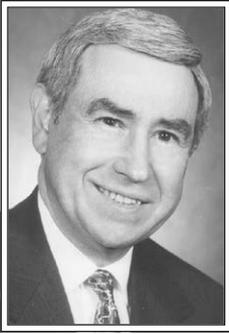


Josie Siman (left) makes the presentation to this year's Most Improved Female Bowler, Chris Tokarsky.



Standing L-R: Bill Goodyear, Jerry Siman, Josie Siman, Hank Gry. Seated L-R: Chris Goodyear, Frank Banon, Dorothy Banon, and Helen Gry.

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By Joseph T. Senko

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



Long-Term Care Insurance: What to Ask Before You Buy

Planning for your future care, or that loved one, has emotional and financial implications. There are a number of important questions you should ask before selecting a long-term policy.

When Do I Become Eligible for Benefits, and Do I Have to be Hospitalized First?

Most insurance companies decide when you're eligible for long-term care benefits based on your inability to perform a certain number—generally two or three—of activities of daily living (ADLs). These typically include bathing, dressing, eating, using the toilet, and getting in and out of bed. The trigger for benefits is the most crucial factor when choosing a long-term care policy.

What Type of Care Does the Policy Cover?

There are long-term care policies that cover home care, assisted living care, and skilled nursing home care. Since you can't predict the level of care you'll need, the best alternative is a policy that covers a spectrum of care.

How Much Does the Policy Pay Per Day for Each Type of Care?

Most policies pay a maximum daily amount for your care, but you don't necessarily have to insure for the full cost. Should you decide that you will be able to fund a portion of the daily cost from your savings, you can save on premiums by selecting a lower daily benefit.

How Long Will the Policy Continue to Pay for My Care?

The more years the policy covers, the higher the premium. According to the Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA), the average length of stay in a nursing home is 2 ½ years. Based on that information, many people choose a two-or three-year benefit period.

Is There a Waiting Period Before Benefits are Paid?

The waiting period is the number of days you must receive long-term care before the policy pays benefits. The standard waiting period is between 20 and 100 days, but a policy with a longer waiting period will come with a lower premium. What is best for you depends on your assets and how much you can afford to pay in premiums.

Does the Policy Come with a Premium Waiver?

This provision allows you to stop paying premiums during the time you are receiving benefits. Read your policy carefully; some policies require you to be receiving benefits for a period of time—60 to 90 days is common—before premiums are waived.

Does the Policy Offer Protection from Inflation?

With the cost of home health and nursing home care increasing sharply, it's important to select a policy that will increase the level of your benefits with inflation to ensure that you have adequate coverage for the future.

Is the Policy Tax-Qualified?

Most long-term care policies are tax-qualified, which means your premiums for long-term care insurance can be applied toward meeting the 7.5 percent threshold for medical expense deduction and that the benefits you receive are generally not considered taxable income.

How Long has the Insurer Been in Business?

In many cases, long-term care policyholders do not receive benefits for 10 to 20 years after the policy has been issued, so you want to be sure to select a company that is going to be around when you need the benefits.

Annual Slovak Picnic in Ontario

The Monsignor Shuba District cordially invites you to their Annual Slovak Family Day Picnic on Sunday, July 29, 2007, at Creditvale Park, Barbertown Road, Mississauga, Ontario. The day will begin with a Mass at 12:00 noon followed by lunch. Admission is \$6.00 for adults. Children under 12 are free.



**SLOVAK
INSTITUTE** and Library

www.slovakinstitute.com • slovakinstitute@csnmail.net



Legionnaire Uniform to be Presented at Slovak Institute

A Czechoslovak Legion uniform worn during World War I will be formally presented to the Slovak Institute and Library, Saint Andrew Abbey, Cleveland, Ohio, on Saturday, August 11, 2007. The uniform will be placed on permanent display at the Institute. The public is invited to attend.

The uniform was worn by Joseph Kacir while serving in General Milan Stefanik's Czechoslovak Legion. Ivan Kacir and Eleanor Schambach, children of Joseph Kacir, gave the uniform to Rudy Bachna, president of the Kent-Dudince Sister City Association, to prepare it for display.

Joseph Kacir is among 115 men listed on the Memorial plaque at Crown Hill Cemetery in Twinsburg, Ohio, who were personally recruited by General Stefanik. Four Legionnaires, Stefan Dianiska, Lorence Dzurec, John Istvan and Paul Stuman joined Joseph Kacir in the founding of Camp Bradlo, Richfield, Ohio. Camp Bradlo is currently celebrating its 76th anniversary.

Joseph Kacir was active in many Slovak American events. He served as financial secretary of Lodge 260 of the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol of Cleveland. He was active in the Stefanik Dramatic Society as well as the men's choral group "Krivan."

Andrew F. Hudak, Director, Slovak Institute



Proclamation on the 50th Anniversary of Ordination and 70th Birthday of Reverend Elemir Jozef Mikus, Former Pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Detroit, Michigan

Father Elemir Jozef Mikus: Slovaks in America congratulate you on your 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the priesthood and on your 70th Birthday.

Whereas: Father Jozef Mikus had dedicated his life serving God and helping the American Slovak community in Detroit, Michigan and the United States especially in the building of a new Slovak church dedicated to SS. Cyril and Methodius, co-patrons of Europe and helping new immigrants to

establish themselves in their new country.

Whereas Father Elemir Jozef Mikus was born July 26, 1927 in the town of Skalica in Western Slovakia, Father studied in Sastin and Trnava from 1940 to 1948 during which time he studied Pedagogy in Trnava and taught languages until he immigrated to Austria in March 1950. He studied Philosophy until 1950 to 1953 and Theology from 1953 until 1957. Father Mikus was ordained a priest by Cardinal Tisserant on July 1, 1957.

Whereas, in 1963 he returned to Rome to teach at the SS. Cyril and Methodius Institute, a Slovak seminary founded to help in the education of Slovak seminarians from around the world.

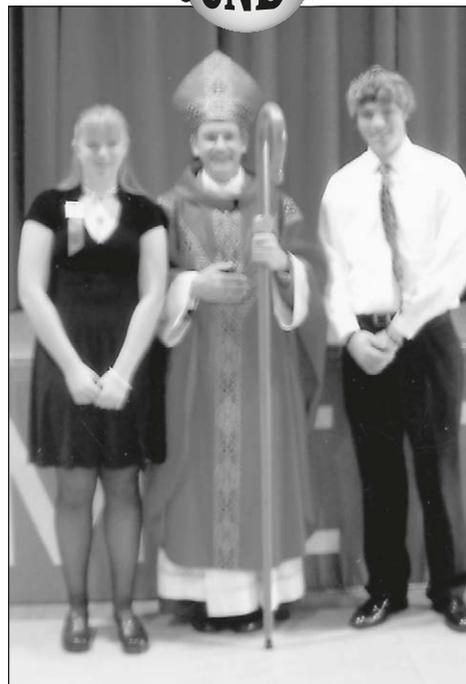
Whereas, Vienna, Austria became Father's next area of work where he became the pastor to the influx of immigrants passing through Vienna to seek new homes in foreign countries such as the United States. During this time Father Mikus cofounded and directed the Slovak Caritas under the guidance of Cardinal Konig.

Whereas, in March 1971, Father Mikus took up the post as pastor of immigrants in the United States. Six years later in 1977, he was appointed as pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Detroit by a decree of John Cardinal Dearden.

Now therefore, we at the Slovak Institute in Cleveland, Ohio, proclaim the month of July 2007, as Father Elemir Jozef Mikus Month and urge all his friends, parishioners of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Detroit and all Slovaks in America to wish him the best health and happiness during his retirement in Slovakia. Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary, Father. We ask the Slovak community in the United States to join us in this celebration and pray for his health and happiness.

**Andrew F. Hudak, Jr.,
Director of the Slovak Institute
Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB,
President of the Slovak Institute**

YOUTH ROUND-UP

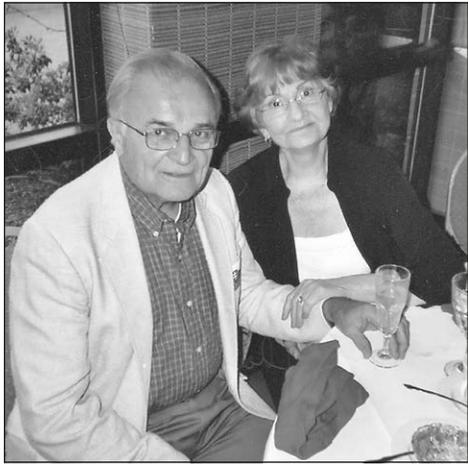


Sarah Qurada received the Sacrament of Confirmation recently at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Lemont, Illinois. Bishop Paprocki of Chicago administered the sacrament. Her brother, Jerry Paul Qurada was her sponsor. Both Sarah and Jerry are members of Branch 6 in Streator, Illinois.

Spitkovsky District Members Attend "Grease" Production

Thirty-five members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District attended the District's 4th Annual Dinner/Theater event at the Theater at the Center For Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana, on Sunday, May 20, 2007. Attendees arrived at 1:00 p.m. for the magnificent champagne brunch and buffet. At 2:30 p.m., Jednotars filed into the theater to watch the renowned musical, "Grease." Thanks go to District II Fraternal Activities Director George Kelchak for arranging this successful fraternal event. District II subsidized the cost of tickets for members.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary, District II



District II Fraternal Activities Director George Kelchak with his wife Beverly.



Noreen and Amber Miller of Branch 706



Tillie Mrmich and Micki Richter.



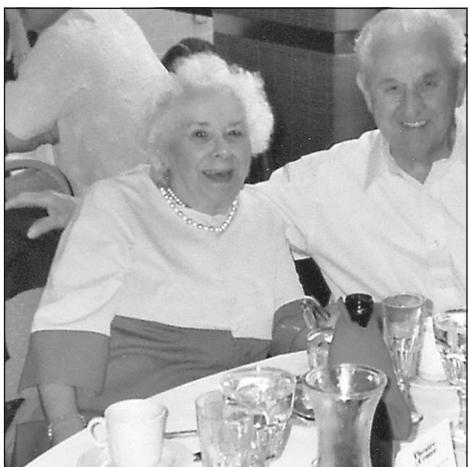
Branch 762 member Ed Bach with former Supreme Court Member George J.E. Michuda.



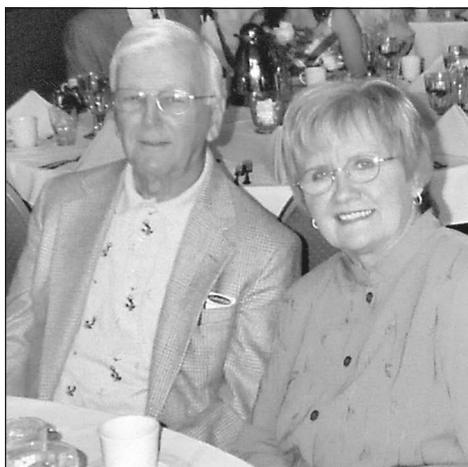
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Davis of Branch 686.



Branch 706 members Shirley and Ed Uram.

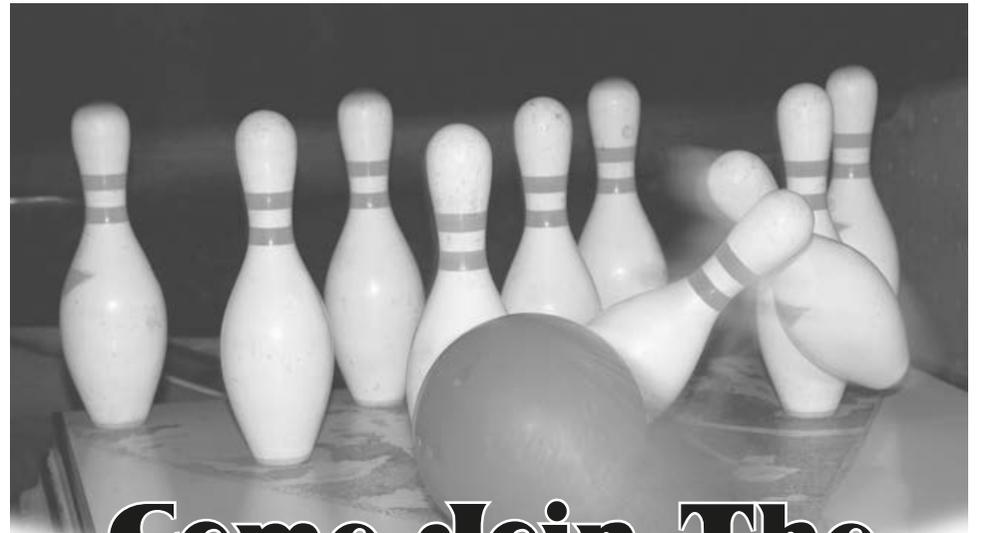


Theresa and Joe Bugel of Branch 313.



Art and Barb Fayta of Branch 706.

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 12



Come Join The Toronto Slovak Bowling League

Meet Your Fellow Jednotars and Slovaks Every Wednesday night at 8:30 pm Starting September 12, 2007

At Brunswick Mississauga on Stanfield Rd.

Call Emil Jursa at 905-279-6817

Sharon Tomas at 905-820-9375 or

Anne Mitro at 905-279-8154 for further details

Youngstown Branch 731 Plans Baseball Outing

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

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

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

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

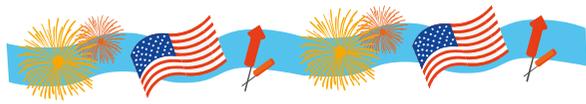
Jim Bobby, Secretary, Br. 731

Celebrate Slovak Day with the Pirates



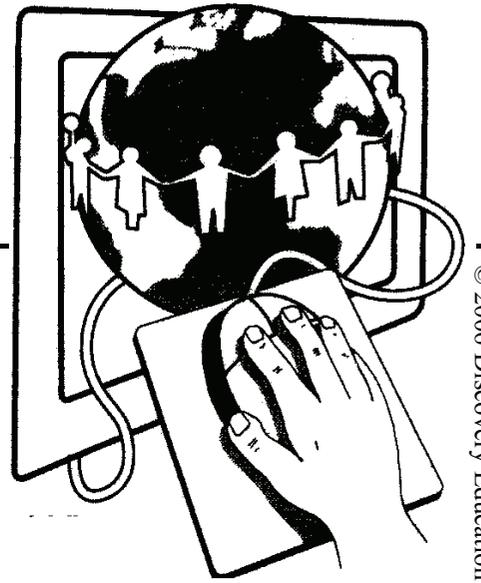
Join the Pittsburgh Pirates for Slovak cuisine, music and entertainment during the Slovak Day at PNC Park on Sunday, August 19, 2007, when the Pirates take on the Philadelphia Phillies. For \$25.00, you will receive a discounted outfield reserved ticket and early entry to Riverside events. (Gates open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

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



UR_spacejrs

Friends Events Sports Culture Trivia Activities



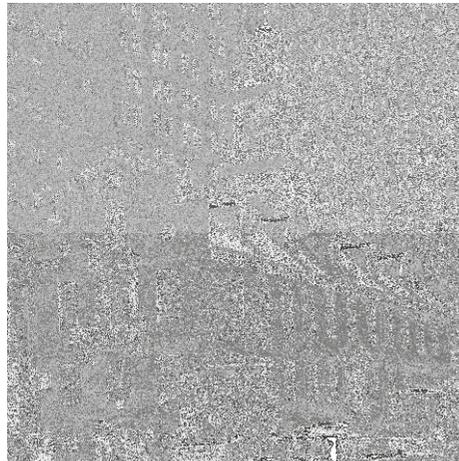
© 2006 Discovery Education

July 2007

Events Space

What historical document turned the American colonies into the United States of America?

On July 4, 1776, our forefathers signed the Declaration of Independence. This document announced our freedom from British rule. On July 18, 1776, Col. Thomas Crafts stood on the balcony of the Old State House in Boston, Massachusetts, and read the Declaration of Independence to the colonists. A copy of the Declaration had just arrived from Philadelphia. That night, jubilant citizens staged a bonfire in the square in front of the Old State House and they burned reminders of British rule. Today, the event is commemorated every year with a Fourth of July reading of the Declaration from the Old State House balcony - but no bonfire.



Old State House
Boston, Massachusetts



Trivia Space

Find the answer to these five questions. Send them in to the address below (email is also acceptable) by August 18. The first five entries to have all correct answers will win a prize!

1. A bicentennial is a 200th birthday. When was America's bicentennial?
2. Which Founding Father designed the beautiful home called Monticello?
3. What famous poem about the American Revolution begins, "Listen, my children, and you shall hear...?"
4. The Stamp Act triggered the American Revolution. Why was it so unpopular among the colonists?
5. When asked to surrender, what naval hero of the Revolution said, "I have not yet begun to fight?"

Science Space

Make your own Fireworks



- In a Glass

1. Fill a tall, clear drinking glass with room-temperature water, leaving about an inch of space at the top.
2. Pour 3 tablespoons of vegetable oil into a short glass and add 1 to 2 drops each of red and blue food coloring. Gently stir the mixture once or twice with a fork to just barely break up the drops. (Don't overmix! You want a collection of both small and large beads.)
3. Slowly pour the mixture into the water, then sit back and watch. Within about 30 seconds, the beads will begin to burst through the oil, releasing tiny red and blue streamers and miniature fireworks. Feel free to ooh and aah.

Jednota Members perform at the 51st Pittsburgh Folk Festival



Members of the Junior Pittsburgh Slovaks, also Members of the FCSU

The Junior Pittsburgh Slovaks represented Slovakia at the 51st Pittsburgh Folk Festival, held Memorial Day weekend. They performed songs and dances during the Children's Matinee on Saturday and Sunday. Slovakia also had a display of Slovak travel destinations and a kitchen, which served thousands of visitors delicious homemade food over the weekend. The FCSU was a co-sponsor of the booth.



Challenge Space

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!

Match each word on the left with its patriotic partner on the right.

PARADE
FIREWORKS
BURGERS
FRIENDS
LIBERTY
STARS
BONFIRE
LAND OF THE FREE
HONOR
PICNIC

FRIES
STRIPES
FLOATS
HOME OF THE BRAVE
LOYALTY
ANTS
FAMILY
SKY
BEACH
JUSTICE



There were 15 triangles in June's Challenge Space puzzle. Did you find that many?



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

SLOVAK DEFENSE DEPUTY ASSURES U.S. AND HONORS SLOVAK AMERICAN VETS

By John Karch

Following the June 2006 national elections in Slovakia and the formation of Robert Fico's Coalition Government, some observers in the U.S., including officials, wondered about possible changes in the country by SMER's socialist ideology not only domestically, but especially in its foreign policy. Thus, Foreign Minister Jan Kubis came to Washington, D.C. last September to explain Slovakia's wide-ranging policies which readers may remember in my JEDNOTA article.

Now, with some observers asking questions about Slovakia's policies, including withdrawing most of its troops from Afghanistan, U.S. Missile Defense on Polish and Czech territories, the European Union's (EU) growing power, its Constitution/Treaty, and the European Defense Agency (EDA), the State Secretary (Deputy) of the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic, appeared to have arrived at an opportune time. The time coincided with Slovakia commemorating war veterans, the Deputy Minister in the U.S. and Prime Minister Robert Fico in the UK where, on June 12, he participated at a Wreath-laying ceremony honoring the 88 Czechoslovak RAF pilots who died defending Great Britain against German attacks in World War II (WW II).

Interesting Bio.

The Deputy has a short but impressive biography. He is young, personable, and articulate. Born in 1975, he is married and has

three children. During 1989-93, he attended a Secondary Industrial School and, during 1993-98, Zilina University, Electro-Technical Faculty, graduating with honors in both. After several years of professional employment, in 2002 as Member of SMER—Social Democracy Party, he served in Parliament until 2006. As MP, Ing. Baska was a Member of the Permanent Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Also, during 2003-06, he was Mayor of Dohnany. In July last year, he was appointed State Secretary, Ministry of Defense, now being the sole Deputy whereas previously two officials were deputies at the Ministry.

Short but Busy Program

Deputy Baska came to the U.S. to discuss Slovakia's cooperation with the UN and the U.S., including bilateral relations with the latter as well. He was accompanied by Jozef Sieklik, Bohuslava Lukacovicova, and Mario Nicolini. Instrumental in preparing the program were the Slovak Embassy Defense, Military and Air Attache COL Miroslav Giertli, Deputy LCOL Peter Knanik, and Assistant C-WO2 Juraj Csefalvay.

After his UN visit, Ing. Baska and his Aides arrived in the nation's capital late on May 29. Early next morning he met with Slovak COL Martin Stoklasa, International Fellow during 2006-07 at the National War College (NWC) of the National Defense University (NDU). Then, together with his Aides, Slovak Ambassador Kacer and COL Giertli,



State Secretary Baska being greeted by Undersecretary Edelman at the Pentagon.

he went to the Pentagon for a discussion with Undersecretary for Policy Eric Edelman, Department of Defense (DOD), followed by a business luncheon with Friends of Slovakia. In the afternoon, the Deputy met with a representative of the Director of JIEDDO (Joint Improvised Explosive Devise Defeat

Organization).

The day ended with a meeting/panel discussion with NDU President LGEN Frances L. Wilson.

In the evening a Reception, hosted by Ambassador Kacer and COL Giertli, was held at the Slovak Embassy to honor the State Secretary. At this event, Deputy Baska honored American Slovak war veterans with a medal. [Note: See the next issue of JEDNOTA for a photo and a brief about each veteran.]

Before leaving for Tampa May 31, Ing. Baska and his group, accompanied by the three Defense Attaches, visited Arlington National Cemetery where the State Secretary laid a Wreath at heroic Sgt Michael Strank's grave, then to the Iwo Jima Memorial, Michael having been one of the six flag raisers on IWO.

Substance of Discussions

The State Secretary reflected his Ministry's stated guarantees which include: Defend the Slovak Republic, build and command the Army, coordinate the activities for the preparation for the Republic, safeguard Slovakia's air space, and command military intelligence.

At the UN, in his discussion with the Deputy Secretary General for Operations, Jean-Marie Guehenno, he highlighted Slovakia's continued commitment to UN Missions and lobbied for Slovak Commanders to have the honor and responsibility of commanding UN Missions.

He had a very good discussion with DOD Undersecretary Edelman, covering numerous topics, from Slovak-U.S. relations in defense to armed forces modernization, operational engagements abroad, and the future of our NATO Alliance.

At the National Defense University where Slovakia has had students for a number of years, the Deputy said "It's a great pleasure to be here. The NDU and its staff have been great friends and supporters of Slovakia and it's an honor for me to thank you personally. NDU has contributed significantly to the education of Slovakia's officers. COL

Spitkovsky District Members Attend "Grease" Production

continued from page 10



Members of the Kelchak family.



Branch 153 members Rudy Bernath, John Jurcenko and Dorothy Jurcenko.



Branch 493 members Val Vesely, Pete Turner and Don Cummings.



Branch 493 members Emil and Beverly Rusinak.



Robert Tapak Magruder and Ed Kedzuch of Branch 493.



Wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery at Sgt. Michael Strank's grave"

Slovak Defense Deputy Assures U.S. continued from page 12

Stoklasa will join the ranks of graduates who have returned from the NDU and other U.S. institutions to successful careers in the Slovak military. The list now includes our current Minister of Defense and the Chief of the General Staff."

His favorable comments are indeed gratifying and I'll pass them on to colleagues and associates. NDU has two colleges in Washington, D.C., the National War College where I was a Professor during 1979-82, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF). As a Member of the Board of Directors of the NWC Alumni Association, I have been informed that Slovakia will send another student, this one to ICAF, for the 2007-08 academic year.

At the Central Command, the Deputy discussed operations, particularly NATO's very challenging engagements in Afghanistan.

In discussions, the State Secretary pointed out that Slovakia today, three years

after NATO, EU, and OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) accession, is now part of the great and growing family of democratic nations. The country regained its sovereignty after decades of dictatorship, foreign dominance, and now has a full voice at the international table.

Slovak Troops Abroad

Deputy Baska said that Slovakia's strategic documents state "NATO First" principle in providing security for the Slovak Republic and its citizens. This is why Slovakia remains committed to its responsibilities to make the Alliance stronger, more effective, and better prepared for the rapidly changing security environment of the future.

Ing. Baska further explained that the Balkans has always been at the forefront of Slovakia's foreign policy, thus its presence there—one mechanized company in the Kosovo Force—is logical. In the ISAF operation in Afghanistan, Slovakia is aware of its

crucial importance. Currently its construction and de-mining contingent is moving from Kabul to Kandahar in the South. Bratislava has been contributing ammunition and materiel assistance to the Afghan

Army and National Police (\$30 million).

In Iraq, he said, only six troops of Slovakia's contingent remain, but it had assisted in training Iraqi policemen. Slovakia's donation to Iraq represented ammunition and de-mining remote control equipment valued at over \$5 million.

In addition to NATO operations, Slovakia has one guarding platoon in EU's operation Althea, 200 troops in the UN Mission in Cyprus and 100 troops in a UN Mission in the Golan Heights. Most recently, Bratislava sent surgeons to the UNIFIL Mission in Lebanon as part of a Belgian Field Hospital.

In its fight against terrorism, Slovakia has received international praise. The State Secretary said Slovakia is a NATO lead nation in Explosive Ordinance Disposal and consequence management. Its responsibility is to be a knowledge hub for the entire Alliance, he concluded.

FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA

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

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

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

Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

- The FCSU guarantees your deposits will accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- Your annuity continues to accumulate interest after you have stopped contributing and have begun to receive retirement income. The interest rate you receive on your annuity after settlement will never be less than 3.0%.

- Death Benefit-If you die prior to settlement, your beneficiary receives the full cash value of the annuity. If you die while receiving retirement benefits, the value of your remaining guaranteed benefits will be paid to your beneficiary.

- Withdrawal Privileges-Since annuities are meant to be long-term investments for providing retirement funds, funds withdrawn during the first six years of your contract are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. You may withdraw 10% of your 'beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.

- Your interest will be added to your account. You may, however, elect to have your interest paid directly to you on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually basis. This is called an Interest Option and the interest rate is slightly lower than if you left your interest to accumulate.

- Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.

- Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.

- Also available in a Traditional IRA or Roth IRA (subject to IRA Guidelines)

Coming Events

SEPTEMBER

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

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

YOUTH ROUND-UP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THESE RATES WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2007.

**Kenneth A. Arendt
National Secretary**

The Annual Pilgrimage to St. Anne near Kluknava

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

Each year on the last weekend of July, Slovaks commemorate the anniversary of the Feast Day of Saint Anne (Svata Anna) at a chapel in the wooded region just north of the eastern Spis villages of Kluknava and Richnava. The pilgrimage attracts thousands of believers mainly from the Spis and Saris regions, as it is on the border that divides the two regions, and south of the mountains known as the Branisko.

After World War I, even the renown Slovak priest and politician, Rev. Andrej Hlinka, attended the annual pilgrimage, attesting to its being familiar with people across Slovakia. It is the one of the most well known pilgrim sites, along with the more well known annual pilgrimage to Levoca in early July, and the more recent pilgrimages to the site of Our Lady's apparitions at Litmanová in northern Slovakia, near the Polish border.

Saint Anne is the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the grandmother of Jesus of Nazareth. Her name derives from the Hebrew name, Hannah. She holds a special place in the heart of many Slovaks. Many Slovak women, including my deceased mother, were traditionally named Anna. Among friends and family, Slovaks use the more familiar form of Hana and Hanka, and even Hanca (Haanchah) to refer to a lady or girl name Anna.

Tradition and early Church writings tell us the story that Anne and her husband Joachim were not able to bear children. After many years of childless life, an angel allegedly visited Anne after she promised to devote her child to God if she could conceive. Her feast day is July 25 in the Roman Catholic Church and July 26 on the calendar of the Byzantine Catholic Church.

To this day, Saint Anne garners faithful followers and devotees among the ranks of Christians. She is considered the patron saint of the Canadian province of Quebec and French province of Brittany. Saint Anne, Jesus' baba, is widely revered in Slovakia and is recognized as the patroness of women in labor and miners, who have a long tradition of working underground to earn a living in Slovakia.

Origins of the Pilgrimage near Kluknava

The origins of the St. Anne Chapel near Kluknava date before 1632, when Countess Anna Vesselényová had it built in honor of her patron saint. Later Count Imrich Csáky further enlarged the chapel to its present state.

In the summer months, Slovaks cherish being able to spend the hot summer days in the cooler wooded areas, where they can adore Saint Anne and beseech her for her intercession on their behalf. A sparkling spring provides a welcome refreshment for the many pilgrims who find rest and time to contemplate their lives and ask forgiveness for their transgressions. In 2005, over 3,000 pilgrims attended the weekend events.

Typically the occasions starts on Friday night, after some of the pilgrims have made their way to the site of the chapel. Some travel by foot as part of the pilgrimage, but most come by car or bus. The activities begin with a celebration of Holy Mass, which is often said by Spis Bishop Frantisek Tondra, or some other esteemed member of the clergy such as Archbishop Alojz Tkac of Kosice. Some of the faithful among the youth camp out near the site, so that they

might spend the entire weekend in prayer and contemplation.

Throughout both Saturday and Sunday, there are plenty of opportunities for receiving the Sacrament of reconciliation, and there are numerous priests on hand to help hear confessions. Holy Mass is celebrated in a beautiful outdoor ceremony which can accommodate the numerous attendees. Frequent themes in the sermons call upon the faithful to observe the sanctity of the Sacrament of Marriage and appeal to the youth to carry on the religious traditions of their parents and grandparents.

A common refrain is the following prayer.

"Svata Anna, babicka Krista Panna, oroduj za nas!"

Translation: Saint Anne, grandma of Christ the Lord, pray for us!

The litany to Saint Anne is recited continually during the course of the pilgrimage:

"Svata Anna, babicka Krista Panna, Svata Anna, Matko Panny Marie, Svata Anna, nevesto Joachimová, etc. Here is an English version of the litany: LITANY IN HONOR OF SAINT ANNE #2

"Saint Anne, Grandmother of Our Savior, Pray for us.

Saint Anne, Mother of Mary, the Blessed Virgin and Mother,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, ark of Noah,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, ark of the covenant,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, root of Jesse,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, fruitful vine,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, issue of royal race,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, joy of angels,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, daughter of the patriarchs,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, filled with grace,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, mirror of obedience,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, mirror of patience,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, mirror of mercy,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, mirror of piety,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, bulwark of the Church,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, liberator of captives,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, refuge of sinners,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, consoler of the married,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, mother of widows,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, mother of virgins,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, mother of the sick,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, harbor of salvation,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, light of the blind,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, tongue of the dumb,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, hearing of the deaf,

Pray for us.

Saint Anne, consolation of the afflicted,

Pray for us.
Saint Anne, help of all who have recourse to thee,

Pray for us.

Say the Our Father...

Say the Hail Mary...

V. God has loved Saint Anne,

R. And delighted in her beauty.

Let Us Pray

Almighty and Eternal God,

Who didst choose Saint Anne

to be the mother of the Mother

of Thine only Son,

grant, we beseech Thee,

that we who keep her in remembrance,

may, through her prayers,

attain to everlasting life,

through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Amen."

Since the pilgrimage in Slovakia is long and goes on for several days, many people bring their own picnic lunch and a few people sell refreshments as well, though it is not very commercialized by any means. But there are a few vendors who do sell holy pictures, rosaries, and other objects to assist in worshipping God.

The vending has apparently gone on for some time, and here is an excerpt of a common refrain of those seeking to sell their wares to pilgrims in need of food and refreshment.

"Limonada, cokolada, co má kazdá Hanca rada!"

Translation: Lemonade, chocolate for those who like Anna!

The little rhyme always garners a few chuckles.

A large number of youth of all ages at-

tend the pilgrimage, ranging from children to many teenagers and those in their twenties. On Saturday evening, there is typically Eucharistic adoration followed by a candlelight procession and a youth program put on by the nearby village of Vit'az.

The pilgrimage culminates with confessions and then a large concelebrated Holy Mass on Sunday. It is a great holy occasion, but also a social occasion where friends and family can worship together. Attendees come away refreshed in soul and spirit and have their hearts filled with the love that pours out from this holy occasion.

Having attended the Sunday pilgrimage to Saint Anne in July 2002, I can attest the very moving impact it has on those attending. My father, Michael Kopanic, Sr. and I attended, along with my deceased mother's girlhood best friend, Maria Kurilla and her family. We could not help but become wrapped up in the deep spirituality and we will always hold precious memories of the pious gathering of those dedicated to Saint Anne and her exemplary life of holiness.

Over the years, Slovak-Americans have also tried to continue the Slovak devotion to Saint Anne. For instance, the Anna Hurban okres of the FCSU in Cleveland, Ohio celebrates St. Ann's Day with a pilgrimage on Thursday, July 26, 2007. In the past, Holy Mass and a luncheon have been offered for those attending the event sponsored by Sisters of Charity at 1160 Broadway in Bedford, Ohio.

Even if we cannot attend the special event and Mass, all faithful Slovaks and Jednotars should remember Saint Anne and pay special devotion to her on July 25-26.

TRAVEL NEWS & NOTES

Protecting Your Travel Plans With Insurance

(NAPSA)-Increasingly, travelers are ensuring that their plans and property are protected when they plan a vacation. They're purchasing travel insurance.

Travelers can use travel insurance to protect themselves from substantial losses that can result from a variety of situations including canceled trips, lost baggage, medical emergencies, supplier defaults, as well as other unforeseen circumstances.

According to an industry group, the U.S. Travel Insurance Association, Americans now spend more than \$1 billion a year to protect their travel plans.

Unfortunately, some consumers still assume-incorrectly-that credit cards cover trip cancellation and that travel suppliers provide reimbursements to travelers who have to cancel trips. This is not always the case.

There are several general types of consumer travel insurance available. The coverage and limitations of each will vary depending on the insurance company issuing the policy. They include:

- Trip Cancellation: The most common type of travel insurance, it generally covers nonrefundable payments or deposits if a trip is canceled or interrupted due to unforeseen circumstances.

- Trip Delay: This provides reimbursement for expenses incurred when a trip is delayed.

- Accident/Sickness Medical Expenses:

Consumers use this type of insurance to cover costs incurred due to injury or illness that occurs while on a trip.

- Supplier Default: Covers deposits or payments lost due to the financial default of a travel supplier.

- Medical Evacuation/Emergency Transportation: Covers transportation when a medical emergency while traveling requires transportation to a hospital or other medical facility.

- Baggage/Personal Effects Loss or Delay: Covers losses due to items lost, damaged or delayed during a trip.

Many tour companies and cruise lines offer their own protection plans. These plans may provide very different coverage than that offered through third-party insurance companies.

When considering a supplier protection plan, you should carefully compare the coverage with third-party travel insurance products. Most travel agents-particularly those who are members of the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA)-not only recommend that clients purchase travel insurance for some trips but offer a variety of insurance provider policies. Agents may even require customers who decline insurance to sign a waiver form.

ASTA is the world's largest association of travel professionals.

To learn more, visit the Web site at www.travelsense.org.



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota

O. Štefan Furelek
Nás zakladateľ

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

Volume 116

STREDA, 25. JÚLA 2007

Číslo 5759

Kardinál Tomko na levočskej púti zdôraznil význam manželstva

Levoča (TASR) – Slávnostnou svätou omšou, ktorú celebroidal kardinál Jozef Tomko, vyvrcholila v nedeľu 8. júla na Mariánskej hore v Levoči najväčšia pútnická slávnosť katolíckych veriacich na Slovensku. Niesla sa v znamení 760. výročia existencie tohto pútnického miesta, ktoré patrí k dvadsiatke najväčších v Európe, akými sú napríklad Lurdy, Fatima, Czenstochowa či Mariazell.

Na tohtoročnej levočskej púti sa zúčastnilo vyše 400-tisíc veriacich zo Slovenska i zahraničia.

Hlavný celebrant svätej omše kardinál Jozef Tomko, emeritný prefekt Kongregácie pre evanjelizáciu národov v homílii vyzdvihol cyrilometodské dedičstvo, význam viery, manželstva a rodiny pre rozvoj spoločnosti. Odmietol pseudokultúru ducha, ktorá akcentuje materiálne hodnoty. "S rozkladom rodiny prichádza úpadok a rozklad národa," zdôraznil kardinál Tomko. Poukázal na množiace sa útoky na biskupov a kňazov, ktoré podľa neho majú za cieľ zničiť dôveru veriacich voči cirkvi, naštříbiť jej jednotu a silu. Kardinál pripomenul aj hrdinov cirkvi, ktorí trpeli za vieru a pamäť národa akoby na nich zabudla.



Mariánska hora už 760 rokov vydáva svedectvo o viere slovenských veriacich.

Levoča žije kultúrnym festivalom Dni Majstra Pavla

Levoča (TASR) – Pouličné divadlá a koncerty odštartovali v historickej Levoči 7. ročník kultúrneho festivalu Dni Majstra Pavla. Sú sériou podujatí, ktoré obohatia život v meste počas letnej turistickej sezóny.

V piatok 13. júla otvorili v priestoroch Základnej umeleckej školy výstavu fotografa Petra Župníka nazvanú Moje oči v Levoči, ktorá trochu netradične priblíži mesto a jeho zaujímavosti. V Kostole sv. Jakuba sa 25. júla uskutoční organový koncert v podaní Miroslava Kopnického venovaný patrónovi mesta a chrámu.

Kultúrny festival vyvrcholí v auguste. Od 10. do 18. augusta dostanú priestor fotografi, maliari a rezbári v rámci Plenára Majstra Pavla. Víkend v úvode druhej polovice augusta bude patriť Karpatským remeselným trhom s množstvom sprievodných podujatí. Lákadlom bude v sobotu 18. augusta večer v centre mesta program so svetelnou show nazvaný Tajomná Levoča.

Účastníci matičného festivalu prijali posolstvo k mládeži celého sveta

Kežmarok (TASR) – Prijatím posolstva k mládeži celého sveta vyvrcholil 6. júla v Kežmarku jubilejný 10. Matičný svetový festival slovenskej mládeže, ktorý sa začal 1. júla vo Vysokých Tatrách. V prijatom posolstve účastníci pripomenuli odkaz vierozvestcov sv. Cyrila a Metoda, ale aj úctu a spolupatričnosť Slovákov na celom svete. Vyzdvihli, že mladí Slováci sa pravidelne stretávajú od roku 1980 a dejiskom jubilejného 10. festivalu boli práve Vysoké Tatry, ktoré sú symbolom Slovenska.

Podujatie je zamerané na udržiavanie a prehĺbovanie vzťahov medzi Slovákami žijúcimi v zahraničí a domácimi Slovákami a koná sa každé tri roky.

Záštitu nad tohtoročným jubilejným 10. stretnutím mladých Slovákov prevzali prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič a predseda vlády Robert Fico. Prezident sa osobne zúčastnil na záverečnom programe festivalu a prihovril sa k účastníkom z bežmála 20 krajín sveta, pričom vyjadril ochotu pomáhať mladým ľuďom. Predseda Matice slovenskej Jozef Markuš ocenil pomoc mesta Kežmarok pri organizovaní jubilejného festivalu v regióne Tatier. Dejisko nasledujúceho 11. Matičného svetového festivalu slovenskej mládeže zatiaľ nie je známe, ale hosťiteľom 12. stretnutia o šesť rokov by malo byť mesto Martin, sídlo Matice slovenskej.

FOTO TASR - Martin Baumann
Slovensko si okázalými oslavami vo viacerých mestách pripomínalo 5. júla 2007 sviatok svätého Cyrila a Metoda. Na snímke pochod na hrad Devín počas osláv v Bratislave.

Prvé cirkevné múzeum na Nitrianskom hrade

Nitra (TASR) – Najstaršie písomné pamiatky z kresťanskej a kultúrnej minulosti Slovenska približuje Diecézne múzeum, ktoré 5. júla sprístupnilo v Nitre. Múzeum v areáli národnej kultúrnej pamiatky Nitrianskeho hradu je prvým cirkevným múzeom na Slovensku. Na jeho vzniku sa podieľali samospráva Nitry, biskupský úrad, archeológovia a historici. Podstatnú časť kolekcie exponátov predstavujú literárne pamiatky a písomnosti mimoriadnej historickej hodnoty. Takou je pápežská bula Industriae Tuae z júna 880 adresovaná kráľovi Svätoplukovi. Pápež Ján VIII. v nej nazýva Metoda arcibiskupom svätej moravskej cirkvi a Svätoplukovi, Metodovi, Veľkej Morave a moravskej cirkvi priznáva významné privilégia. V dokumente je aj dôležitá správa o tom, že kňaza menom Viching vysvätili v Ríme za biskupa svätej cirkvi nitrianskej. Bula je teda zároveň zakladajúcou listinou prvej známej diecézy na Slovensku, ba prvej diecézy v celej stredovýchodnej Európe vôbec. Podobnou vzácnou pamiatkou je spis O obrátení Bavorov a Korutáncov z roku 870.

Je to najstaršia písomná pamiatka, ktorá spomína Nitru ako miesto, kde salzburský arcibiskup Adalrád posvätil Pribinovi prvý známy kostol na Slovensku a zároveň prvý chrám v celej strednej a východnej Európe.

"V múzeu je viac pamiatok, ktoré sú vlastné Nitre. Popri iných nitriansky Evanjeliár, najstaršia náboženská liturgická kniha, pochádzajúca z druhej polovice 11. storočia. Na našom území sa zachovala v origináli. Potom sú to Zoborské listiny z rokov 1111 a 1113 i niektoré pamiatky, ktoré pochádzajú z Veľkomoravského obdobia," informoval nitriansky sídelný biskup Viliam Judák. Múzeum sa bude rozširovať o ďalšie exponáty, historické sakrálne predmety, umelecké diela a podobne. Samostatnú časť vytvorí klenotnica pokladu katedrálneho chrámu svätého Emeráma Baziliky Minor na Nitrianskom hrade. Jej sprístupnenie si vyžaduje špeciálnu úpravu prezentačných priestorov, popri inom inštaláciu technológiu na ochranu vzácných exponátov. O otvorení druhej časti múzea sa predbežne uvažuje v lete roku 2008.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Matičný festival, ktorý je zameraný na udržiavanie a prehlbovanie vzťahov medzi Slovákmi žijúcimi v zahraničí a domácimi Slovákmi pokračoval 5. júla výstupom na Kriváň, ktorý je symbolom Slovákov. Jubilejný 10. ročník Matičného svetového festivalu slovenskej mládeže sa konal od 1. - 6. júla vo Vysokých Tatrách. Zúčastnilo sa na ňom takmer tisíc mladých ľudí zo Slovenska i zahraničia. V deň sviatku sv. Cyrila a Metoda pripravili pre účastníkov slávnostnú omšu a bohoslužby v kostoloch v Novom Smokovci a v Poprade. Mladí ľudia navštívili oblasť Pienin, kde okrem splavu na pltiach po vodách Dunajca, mohli vystúpiť na vrch Tri koruny a zoznámiť sa s goralským folklórom.

Premiér Robert Fico a minister zahraničných vecí Ján Kubiš budú zastupovať Slovensko na Medzinárodnej konferencii Európskej únie (EÚ), ktorá sa začne 23. júla v Bruseli. Predsedom vlád a prezidentom členských krajín EÚ sa po náročných rokovaniach na nedávnom bruselskom summite podarilo dospieť k dohode na novej zmluve EÚ, ktorá má nahradiť zablokovanú euroústavu a zreformovať inštitúcie Únie. Európski lídri tak schválili mandát pre medzivládnu konferenciu, ktorá by mala do októbroveho summitu v Lisabone pripraviť definitívny dokument. Následne sa pristúpi k jeho ratifikácii jednotlivými krajinami tak, aby mala Únia novú zmluvu ešte pred voľbami do Európskeho parlamentu v roku 2009.

Mesto Kežmarok dokončilo pre zahraničných investorov priemyselný park. Ako informoval primátor mesta Kežmarok Igor Šajtlava, mesto je v rokovaní s novými investormi, ktorí sú pred rozhodnutím či investovať v tomto parku. V Kežmarku už investovali spoločnosti ako Tréves, Hengstler a firma Euroimuno Slovakia.

Obyvatelia Slovenska považujú Bratislavu najmä za drahé, veľké a rýchle mesto, ktoré ekonomicky napreduje na úkor zvyšku Slovenska. Vyplýva to z prieskumu, ktorý v máji tohto roka na reprezentatívnej vzorke 1 000 respondentov urobila spoločnosť TNS SK. Podľa výsledkov prieskumu Bratislavu ako drahé mesto označilo 47.9 percenta respondentov, za veľkú ju považuje 44.6 a za rýchlu 41 percent opýtaných. Hlavné mesto je moderné pre 32 percenta opýtaných, 25.3 percenta respondentov vníma Bratislavu ako úspešné mesto a 20.8 percenta ako špinavé mesto.

Pod Vysokými Tatrami vyrastie ďalší akvapark. Spoločnosť Golf International, s.r.o., ktorá prevádzkuje golfový areál Black Stork vo Veľkej Lomnici, plánuje v jeho blízkosti postaviť vodný svet. Základom nového akvaparku bude viac ako dva kilometre hlboký geotermálny vrt. Výdatnosť zdroja je minimálne 34 litrov za sekundu. V špičkových mesiacoch sa môže odber zvýšiť až na 84 litrov za sekundu. Teplota vody je 61.8 stupňa Celzia a je mierne mineralizovaná. V areáli akvaparku budú vnútorné i vonkajšie bazény a atrakcie, ktoré zatiaľ v žiadnom zo slovenských akvaparkoch nie sú. Nový akvapark by mal dotvoriť ponuku cestovného ruchu v oblasti Vysokých Tatier.

Priame zahraničné investície v prvom polroku 2007 dosiahli 700.3 milióna eur (takmer 24 miliárd Sk). To je viac než za celý minulý rok. Vtedy zahraničné firmy investovali na Slovensku 607 miliónov eur v rámci 65 projektov, informovala investičná agentúra SARIO. Od januára do júna agentúra asistovala pri 31 projektoch, vrátane investície juhokórejskej spoločnosti Samsung Electronics. Tieto projekty by mali priniesť viac než 7,000 nových pracovných miest. Od januára do mája agentúra SARIO podpísala 18 projektov v celkovej hodnote 463 miliónov eur. Rozpracovaných má ďalších 150 projektov, polovica z nich sú investície do strojárstva, výroby automobilov a elektrotechniky.

Slovenská ilustrátorka Petra Štefánková sa dostala medzi dve stovky autorov, ktorí budú v priestoroch London College of Communication od 6. do 28. júla vystavovať svoje diela v rámci 31. ročníka výstavy nazvanej To najlepšie zo súčasnej britskej ilustrácie v roku 2007. Spomedzi 1,300 prihlásených vybrala porota 230 autorov, uznávaných ako svetové špičky vo svojom odbore. Štefánková je držiteľkou desiatich medzinárodných cien za digitálnu ilustrátorskú tvorbu a grafický dizajn. V apríli napríklad dostala ocenenie za digitálnu tvorbu na medzinárodnom festivale mediálneho umenia, organizovanom univerzitou v kolumbijskom meste Caldas.

V Kežmarku sa začiatkom júla konal 17. ročník trojdňového festivalu Európske ľudové remeslo (ELRO), na ktorom sa zúčastnilo vyše 200 remeselníkov zo štyroch európskych krajín a takmer polstovka učňov z celého Slovenska. Spomedzi majstrov, ktorí predvádzali remeselnú zručnosť na Hlavnom a Hradnom námestí v Kežmarku, zaujali návštevníkov najmä keramikári, medzi nimi manželka Mária a Oskar Hanušekovci z Pezinka, ktorí prišli pod Tatry predviesť výrobu a predaj úžitkovej a dekoratívnej keramiky. Adriana Floreková z Námestova predvádzala techniku drôtovania úžitkovej keramiky - rôznych nádob, šálok či hrncov. Tohtoročný ELRO venovali organizátori cechu tkáčov ľanového plátna.

Slovensku, ale ani Česku a Poľsku sa nedarí obsadiť významné posty v Európskej únii ani tri roky po jej rozšírení. V Európskej komisii, najväčšom úrade únie, pracuje už 2,520 ľudí z 10 nových členských krajín, čo je 90 percent očakávaného stavu na tento rok. Medzi jednotlivými štátmi a postami sú veľké rozdiely. Slováci a Česi sa stávajú ľahko referentmi a sekretárkami, medzi šéfmí oddelení by malo byť 15 Slovákov, ale je ich tam šesť. Riaditelia a úradníci prechádzajú výberovým konaním, kde hrá značnú úlohu ich podpora z domova.

Amerika má záujem o slovenských učiteľov. O americkom školstve je známe, že zápasi s nedostatkom učiteľov. Aj preto organizuje rakúska asociácia AAECA

každoročne pracovné a študijné pobyty pre rakúskych aj slovenských, maďarských a ďalších učiteľov v New Yorku a jeho okolí. Doteraz sa v tom meste vystriedalo 43 slovenských učiteľov. Slovenskí pedagógovia v New Yorku, Bostone i New Jersey učia matematiku, biológiu, španielčinu, fyziku a chémiu.

Najvyššiu podporu od štátu spomedzi automobiliek nezíska Kia ani Peugeot, ale bratislavský Volkswagen (VW). Podľa odhadov Inštitútu finančnej politiky pri ministerstve financií by celkové daňové úľavy do roku 2008 mali dosiahnuť necelých 18 miliárd korún. Od roku 1991 by sa mali investície VW vypláhať na približne 60 miliárd korún. Na porovnanie juhokórejska Kia, ktorá prišla na Slovensko posledná, by mala zainvestovať 37 miliárd korún a slovenská vláda podporila výstavbu automobilky viac ako 10 miliardami korún. Pomoc štátu však mohla Kia využiť okamžite. Automobilka VW prišla na Slovensko začiatkom 90. rokov a daňové úľavy začali platiť až od roku 1999.

TASR a slovenské časopisy



FOTO TASR - Martin Baumann

Legendárny Orient Express sa prvýkrát v histórii zastavil aj na území Slovenska. Na snímke Orient Express na stanici Bratislava - Petržalka, 11. júla 2007.

Legendárny Orient Express v Banskej Bystrici

Banská Bystrica (TASR) – Legendárny vlak Orient Express, ktorý prišiel 11. júla 2007 do banskobystrickej železničnej stanice, čakali tisíce záujemcov. Stovku prominentných pasažierov z Anglicka, Belgicka, Švajčiarska, Francúzska, USA, Južnej Ameriky a Mexika, túžiacich po dobrodružstve na nestarnej ikone, privítali chlebom a soľou a primátor Banskej Bystrice Ivan Saktor, ktorý sa obliekol ako slávny detektív Hercule Poirot.

Trojhodinová prestávka v meste vyplnila cestujúcim prehliadka historického centra a koncert tamojších operných umelcov. Pasažieri sa zapísali do pamätnej knihy, čím vyjadrili podporu Banskej Bystrici v kandidatúre na získanie titulu Európske hlavné mesto kultúry 2013. "Banská Bystrica má veľmi dobrú polohu a je jedným z najlepších miest, kde by sme mohli zastavovať. Ak nás budú v meste chcieť, stane sa našou tradičnou zastávkou," povedal novinárom generálny riaditeľ Orient Expressu Claude Ginella. Poznamenal, že osemdňový výlet, ktorý pripravovali takmer tri roky, začínali v Benátkach v pondelok 9. júla pri 32-stupňovej horúčave. Pokračovali cez upršanú Viedeň na Slovensko. Je to špeciálna jazda pri príležitosti 25. výročia, lebo Orient Express začal po takmer 40-ročnej pauze znovu premávať 25. mája 1982. Aj cestujúcich je menej, inokedy zvykne v ňom cestovať až 180 ľudí. O komfort a pohodlie cestujúcich sa stará 41-členný personál. Tvorí ho Francúzi, Taliani, Kambodžania, Švaj-

čari, Austrálčania, Angličania a dokonca aj jeden Poliak. "Nie je to ani jedna z tradičných šiestich trás Orient Expressu. Je výnimočná aj tým, že prvýkrát prechádza cez Slovensko. Vlak mal kratučku zastávku v Bratislave-Petržalka, ktorá bola nevyhnutná kvôli technickej zmene. Podmienky v SR pri ťahaní vlakovej súpravy sú totiž iné ako v Rakúsku. Bola tam aj hraničná kontrola. Počas dopravnej cesty, ktorú zabezpečovali na území Slovenska Železnice SR, vlak niekoľkokrát preprahali z motorových rušňov na elektrické a taktiež z rakúskeho na slovenské na petržalskej strane. V Plavči, kde bude opúšťať Slovensko, ho prepriahnu na poľskú lokomotívu.

Orient Express ešte stále raz do roka jazdí na pôvodnej trase z Paríža do Istanbulu. O jeho vznik sa postaral Belgičan Georges Nagelmackers, ktorý sa v roku 1872 inšpiroval americkými rýchlovlakmi. Na svoju prvú cestu z Paríža do Konstantinopolu (Istanbul) sa tento legendárny vlak vydal 4. októbra 1883. Jazdy prerušila prvá svetová vojna v roku 1914, keď ho zrekvirovala nemecká armáda. Po vojne v roku 1919 obnovili viaceré trate a aj pôvodnú trasu Orient Expressu. Slávnu éru vlaku potom opäť prerušilo rinčanie zbraní v druhej svetovej vojne. Po nej nebolo o vlaku počuť takmer 40 rokov. V súprave je 17 pôvodných vozňov, jej hmotnosť je 920 ton, má dĺžku 400 metrov a rýchlosť nepresiahne 100 kilometrov za hodinu.

Jubilejné oslavy SLvA vyvrcholili slávnostným banketom 10. júna

Podpredseda vlády Čaplovič mal slávnostný prejav
Zastúpené boli všetky naše popredné organizácie

V New Yorku

Dňa 9. júna t.r., v predvečer hlavných osláv stého jubilea Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, sa v New Yorku v spoločenskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého konal kultúrno-spoločenský večierok za účasti oficiálnych hostí zo Slovenska a viacerých štátov Ameriky. Prítomných bolo vyše 150 účastníkov. Večierok usporiadal 1. zbor Slovenskej ligy, ktorý je jej najstarším zborom a tohto roku si tiež pripomína významné, 90. jubileum svojej existencie.

Slávnostný banket v Crowne Plaza

Oslavy storočnice SLvA vyvrcholili slávnostným banketom v nedeľu 10. júna v hoteli Crowne Plaza v Secaucus, N.J. v blízkosti New Yorku "na druhej strane rieky Hudson".

Hotelová sieň, v ktorej bola koktailová recepcia, sa začala naplňať už o 1. hodine. Účastníci z Ameriky tu mali možnosť postretáť hostí zo Slovenska. Na pobavenie prítomných hrala slovenské piesne kapela rodiny Jurášiovej Kontakty, ktorá bavila hostí tichou hudbou a spevom aj počas stolovania.

Brány do banketovej sály boli otvorené o 2.10 hod. Keď boli účastníci usadení, za zvukov slovenského pochodu prišli za hlavný stôl čelní hostia zo Slovenska a účinkujúci predstavitelia SLvA.

Predseda Prípravného výboru na oslavu storočnice Ján Holý privítal hostí zo Slovenska, slovenských diplomatov a všetkých prítomných a predstavil predsedu SLvA Daniela Tanzoneho ako moderátora ďalšieho programu. Po jeho úvodnom príhovore mons. Ján Demkovich predriekol invocáciu. Anna Mária Kulhanová potom viedla zhromaždenie v spievaní americkej hymny a Renata Jurášiová v spievaní slovenskej hymny. Členka Výkonného výboru Eileen Wilson potom predniesla prípitok s vínom k storočnici SLvA. Nasledoval obed. Okrem objednaného menu výbor sa postaral, aby na každom stole bol aj tanier so slovenskými koláčmi.

Po obede mal príhovor za slovenské organizácie a spolky v Amerike bývalý predseda IKSJ a dlhoročný člen Výkonného výboru SLvA Tomáš Hricík. Hovoril o zápasoch, ktoré Slováci v Amerike viedli za oslobodenie Slovenska a podpore, ktorú v týchto zápasoch SLvA dostala od slovenských fraternalistických organizácií.

Predseda Kanadskej slovenskej ligy Juraj Frajkor pre neočakávané okolnosti v poslednej chvíli oznámil, že nebude môcť byť prítomný. Jeho miesto zastal bývalý predseda KSL prof. Mark Stolárik, ktorý hovoril o tom ako pred 75 rokmi s pomocou Slovenskej ligy bola založená Kanadská slovenská liga. Obe ligy odvtedy viedli spoločný boj za slobodu slovenského národa a za zachovanie slovenského života na severoamerickom kontinente.

Na Slovensku i v Amerike populárny slovenský spevák Jozef Ivaška potom zaspieval viaceré slovenské piesne. Najväčší potlesk zožal po zaspievaní Petrom Dvorským prislávanej piesne Najkrajší kút v širom svete je moja rodná zem.

Hostia zo Slovenska

D. Tanzone potom predstavil veľvyslanca SR vo Washingtone, Rastislava Káčera, ktorý gratuloval Slovenskej lige a vyslovil jej poďakovanie za podporu Slovenska a spoluprácu s vyslanectvom a potom predstavil prvého popredného predsedu vlády Slovenskej republiky Dušana Čaploviča, ktorého účastníci poctili povstaním.

Nasledoval prejav predsedníčky Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí Vilmy Prívarovej, ktorá hovorila o práci jej úradu a o štátnej politike SR vo vzťahu k Slovákom v zahraničí. Jej prejav uverejňujeme osobitne na str. 16.

D. Tanzone potom pozval k mikrofónu predsedu MS Jozefa Markuša, ktorý povedal, že MS a SLvA už spolupracujú mnoho rokov a významným spoločným dielom bolo aj odhalenie busty zakladateľa SLvA Rev. Furdeka na budove, v ktorej teraz sídli MS a ktorá bola postavená s výdatnou pomocou SLvA v tridsiatych rokoch minulého storočia. Pripomenul tiež okolnosť, že na tento rok pripadá aj sté výročie Černovskej tragédie a smutne známeho Kovačického procesu v srbskej Vojvodine.

Po príhovoroch týchto významných hostí zo Slovenska predseda SLvA Daniel Tanzone, tajomníčka Nina Holá a predseda Storočnicového výboru Ján Holý odovzdali Dušanovi Čaplovičovi, Vilme Prívarovej a Jozefovi Markušovi



Prof. Mark Stolárik pozdravil za Kanadskú slovensku ligu.



Známy spevák zo Slovenska Jozef Ivaška speštril banket spevom slovenských piesní.

pamiatkový stojan vo forme plameňa z priesvitného plastu, na ktorom je odznak SLvA a s textom o jej jubileu a s osobným venovaním.

Nasledoval ešte pozdrav a príhovor vedúceho Misie SR pri OSN Petra Buriana a pozdravy od predsedníčky Prvej katolíckej slovenskej ženskej jednoty Mary Ann Johanek a od generálneho tajomníka Slovenského katolíckeho sokola Štefana Pogorelca.

Záverčný príhovor mala generálna tajomníčka SLvA Nina Holá, ktorá vyslovila poďakovanie účastníkom zo Slovenska, konferenciérovi programu, 1. zboru za spoluprácu a všetkým prítomným za účasť.

Program oslavy sa skončil záverečnou modlitbou mons. Františka Beedu, S.T.L. a zaspievaním hymnických piesní Hej Slováci a God Bless America.

Počas recepcie a banketu boli vystavené rôzne memorabiá z histórie SLvA, medzi nimi Pittsburghská dohoda, rôzne medaile a citácie, album z návštevy delegácie SLvA v Trstenej, poštová známka vydaná na počesť SLvA na Slovensku a dokumentačný materiál, ktorý poskytla Slovenská pošta.

Na bankete bolo vyše 250 účastníkov, medzi ktorými boli predstavitelia všetkých slovenských fraternalistických organizácií v Amerike. Medzi mnohými písomnými pozdravmi boli aj pozdravy od predsedu Združenia slovenských katolíkov Filipa Altavillu, od predsedu Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí Vladimíra Skalského a od biskupa Jozefa Adamca.

Slovák v Amerike



Podpredseda Dušan Čaplovič a predsedníčka Úradu pre Slovákov v zahraničí Vilma Prívarová si prezerajú pamiatkový dar, ktorý Slovenská liga darovala návštevníkom zo SR D. Čaplovičovi, V. Prívarovej a predsedovi Matice slovenskej Jozefovi Markušovi.



Predseda MS Jozef Markuš odovzdal SLvA Zlatú medailu MS. Na snímke zľava: veľvyslanec SR vo Washingtone Rastislav Káčer, tajomníčka SLvA Nina Holá a predseda Daniel Tanzone, predseda MS Jozef Markuš a predseda

2. kolo udeľovania dotácií pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí

Vážení krajanovia,

dovoľujeme si Vás informovať, že spolky, organizácie i fyzické osoby majú možnosť zasielať žiadosti do 2. kola udeľovania dotácií na krytie aktivít Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí z rozpočtu Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí na rok 2007 do 15. augusta.

Žiadosti je potrebné zaslať aj s povinnými prílohami do stanoveného termínu (rozhodujúca je pečiatka pošty). Tlačivá na rok 2007 a postup pri podávaní žiadostí sú uverejnené na internetovej stránke úradu: www.uszz.sk

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

SLvA ponúka pamätnú známku a Obálku prvého dňa

Slovenská liga v Amerike má na predaj obmedzený počet vkusne zhotovených obálok so slovenskou známkou vydanou na počesť SLvA s pečaťou prvého dňa (First Day Covers). Tieto predávame v balíčku, ktorý obsahuje: zberateľskú obálku so známku a pečaťou prvého dňa, umelecky zhotovený Pamätný list so známku a dve samostatné známky (na snímke v skutočnej veľkosti). Cena tohto balíčka je \$15.00 vrátane poštovného a balenia. Druhý balík obsahuje Obálku prvého dňa, vysvetlenie historického významu známky a štyri poštové známky SLvA. Cena tohto balíčka je \$10.00, vrátane poštovného.

Samostatné známky (najmenej štyri) možno objednať za \$6.00. Ak si želáte viac známok, za každú ďalšiu známku pridajte v objednávke jeden dolár. Objednávky pošlite na adresu:

**Slovak League of America,
205 Madison Str. - Passaic, N.J. 07055**

(Denominácia známky je 22 Sk - približne 84 centov. Je to poštová sadzba na letecky poslanom liste zo Slovenska do USA.)



Slovenská liga oznamuje

Po oslavách storočnice

Aj touto cestou ďakujeme prezidentovi SR Ivanovi Gašparovičovi za prijatie delegácie Slovenskej ligy v Prezidentskom paláci. Ďakujeme predsedovi Národnej rady SR Pavlovi Paškovi za prijatie delegácie a slovenskému parlamentu za odhlasovanie rezolúcie na poctu Slovenskej ligy, ďalej ďakujeme poslancovi Jozefovi Rydlovi za predloženie rezolúcie v parlamente a za výstižný prejav o úsilí a práci SLvA.

Ďalej vyslovujeme úprimnú vďaku Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, ktorý Slovenskej lige pomohol zorganizovať pekné oslavy storočnice v Bratislave a Dr. L' Bartalskej za autorstvo literárneho pásma o histórii Slovenskej ligy.

Vyslovujeme úprimnú vďaku aj podpredsedovi vlády SR Dušanovi Čaplovičovi, predsedníčke ÚSZZ Vilme Prívarovej a predsedovi MS Jozefovi Markušovi za ich účasť a prejavy na jubilejných oslavách.

Naša vrelá vďaka patrí aj Poštovému oddeleniu Ministerstva dopravy, pôšt a komunikácií za vydanie poštovej známky na počesť stého jubilea SLvA.

A u nás v Amerike vyslovujeme vďaku našim fraternalistickým organizáciám, ktoré boli na oslave plne zastúpené.

Sme vďační 1. zboru SLvA za zorganizovanie úspešného kultúrno-spoločenského večierka v New Yorku 9. júna a ďakujeme za dobrú spoluprácu pri príprave osláv aj 210. zboru SLvA v Linden, N.J. a 34. zboru v Detroit, Mich.

Ohlasy na výpravu SLvA na Slovensko

Viacerí účastníci výpravy Slovenskej ligy na Slovensko a osláv v Amerike nám napísali alebo telefonicky vyjadrili priaznivé hodnotenie osláv stého výročia SLvA. Vincent Rosick napísal, že na tie krásne udalosti nikdy nezabudne. Eileen Wilson ich označila za fantastické zážitky. Dr. Ján Adan ďakuje písomne za "dobro organizovanú túru na Slovensko a krásne oslavy v New Yorku a v New Jersey" a súčasne pridal finančný dar pre SLvA. Účastníci túry František Šuty a Mária Bandjelich tiež vysoko hodnotili túru a oslavy a poslali nám fotografie. Viacerí iní vyjadrili svoju pochvalu telefonicky. Všetkým ďakujeme.

Finančné dary na oslavy SLvA

Na rôzne akcie a programy spojené s oslavou stého výročia Slovenskej ligy sme dostali finančné dary od nasledujúcich:

Mimi Danihel	\$5 000.00
(\$ 2,500 na Furdekovu bustu a 2,500 na oslavy)	
Milan Čuba	500.00
1. Kat. slov. ženská jednota	500.00
Dr. Ján Adan	500.00
Ženská penn. slov.kat. jednota	250.00
Eileen Wilson	200.00
Matúš Čulen	150.00
Spolok IKSŽJ č. 313, Natrona	100.00
Viliam Faturík	75.00
Carolyn Potanko	25.00
Margaret Soska	25.00

Darcom srdečne ďakujeme.

Daniel F. Tanzone, predseda

Nina Holá, tajomníčka

Slovak League of America

205 Madison Street, Passaic, N. J. 07055

Tel. 973-472-8993; Fax: 973-669-8493 alebo 8483

Slovenská katolícka púť do West Haverstraw, N.Y

Spolok svätého Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty pozýva slovenskú verejnosť a známych na Slovenskú katolícku púť, ktorá sa uskutoční v nedeľu 12. augusta 2007 v Don Bosco Marian Shrine, West Haverstraw, New York 10993; Tel.: (845) 947-2200.

Spoveď bude pred svätou omšou; Svätá omša o 11:00 hodine dopoludnia; Obed o 12:30 hodine odpoľudnia; Ružencová procesia o 2:30 hodine odpoľudnia.

Kto má záujem cestovať na túto púť autobusom, nech sa prihlási u brata Jozefa Bilika! Autobus bude pristený pri Slovenskom kostole Sv. Jána Nepomuckého v meste New York. Bližšie informácie o púti vám podajú: Jozef Bilik: (718) 463-2084; Henrieta Daitová (201) 641-8922.

Púť v Danville, PA

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

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

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



Obálka a pamätný dokument sú na obrázku zmenšené.

Benediktínsky kláštor uprostred prác a modlitieb

Vzácní čitatelia a benediktínski priatelia!

Na Slovensku sa často používa, ak ide o vážne rozhodnutie medzi dvoma možnosťami, pravidlo "zlatej strednej cesty". Znamená to že múdry Slovák by sa mal pri rozhodovaní vedieť vyhnúť dvom krajnostiam. Na jednej strane sa musí vyhnúť preceňovaniu svojich síl a na druhej strane nevyberať najľahšiu cestu, ktorá zväčša ani nikde nevedie. Pri rozhodovaní, ako sa pustiť tento rok do realizácie stavby prvého Benediktínskeho kláštora sme aj my stáli pred obidvoma z týchto možností.

V roku 2006 sa nám podarilo s vierou v Božiu pomoc aj s rozvahou úspešne spustiť plánované úvodné práce v dedinke Sampor neďaleko Banskej Bystrice. Tak ako sme vám už písali sa od začiatku roku 2007 pokračovalo s prácami na budovaní všetkých troch podlaží domu pre hostí. Práce sú už takmer ukončené a veríme, že do konca augusta už budeme prvú budovu aj zastrešovať.

Dnes už stoja aj základy pre kostol, ku ktorému sme sa odhodlali po dlhých rozhodovaniach. Dnes stojíme pred rozhodnutím pustiť sa aj do budovania hrubej stavby kostola tak, aby sme ho mohli na jeseň tiež prikryť strechou. Budeme tak môcť aj v zime pokračovať na vnútorných prácach oboch budov čo nám veľmi pomôže pri dokončení kláštora v termíne. Podľa proroctva otca biskupa Rudolfa Baláža, by mal byť Benediktínsky kláštor "Premenenia Pána" v Sampore posvätený v roku 2009. Urobíme všetko, aby náš kláštor mohol slúžiť naozaj všetkým ľuďom, ktorí v dnešnej materialisticky orientovanej dobe hľadajú pravú tvár Boha, čo najskôr. To však záleží aj od vašej pomoci, ktorá je popri Božom požehnaní a modlitbách nenahraditeľná.

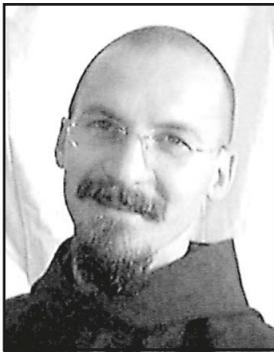
Tak ako sme ďakovali v úvode tohto roku chceme poďakovať aj dnes všetkým štedrým darcom, ktorí nám posielajú svoje finančné dary. Odvažujeme sa znova vás prosiť o finančnú pomoc pri prácach, ktoré nás uprostred roka čakajú. Veríme, že dobrý Boh odmení každého štedrého darcu tým najvzácnejším - večným životom.

Podporte svojou štedrosťou dokončenie historicky významného prvého Benediktínskeho kláštora na Slovensku po páde komunizmu. Pán Boh zaplať za prejavenu štedrosť a zároveň vás uistujeme, že na vás vo svojich modlitbách a pravidelných sv. omšiach naozaj myslíme.

Svoje dary pre projekt: "Návratu Benediktínov na Slovensko", môžete aj naďalej posielat' na známu adresu: **Saint Andrew Abbey, 10510 Buckeye Road, Cleveland, OH 44104-3725**. Úprimné Pán Boh zaplať všetkým štedrým darcom.

o. Brodňanský OSB

koordinátor projektu "Návrat Benediktínov na Slovensko" pre USA.



Otec Jozef Brodňanský, OSB

Príhovor predsedníčky ÚSZZ na oslave SLVA

Významný slovenský básnik Mikuláš Šprinc, ktorý po odchode do emigrácie v roku 1945 žil do svojej smrti v Clevelande, v jednom z najväčších stredísk slovenského života na americkom kontinente, kde vznikla aj Slovenská liga v Amerike, pri 50. výročí jej založenia napísal:

"Dejiny Slovenskej ligy sú dôkazom životaschopnosti Slovákov, ich oddanosti k USA, sú svedectvom slovenskej pracovitosti, svedomitosti, kultúrnosti a politickej vyspelosti. Sú časťou americkej histórie, sú zároveň aj jednou z najvážnejších kapitol histórie slovenského národa pod Tatrami."

Je to výstižná charakteristika, ktorá po ďalších 50 rokoch, ktoré od tých čias prešli, nestráca na aktuálnosti.

Pre náš Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí (ÚSZZ) bolo cťou a veľkou udalosťou, že storočnú históriu tejto organizácie a jej zásluhy na vzniku slovenskej slobody, demokracie a samostatného slovenského štátu sme mohli pri tomto jej jubileu prezentovať a osláviť spolu s delegáciou významných predstaviteľov tejto organizácie na Slovensku.

Dôkazom vysokej úrovne a úcty, ktorej sa Slovenskej lige v Amerike na Slovensku dostalo, je prijatie delegácie amerických Slovákov prezidentom Slovenskej republiky v Prezidentskom paláci, prijatie delegácie predsedom Národnej rady SR na pôde slovenského parlamentu, ako aj prijatie Deklarácie Národnej rady SR k 100. výročiu založenia Slovenskej ligy v Amerike a v neposlednom rade vydanie známky venovanej tomuto výročiu. Som presvedčená o tom, že touto oslavou Slovenskej ligy na Slovensku, ktorú považujeme za národnú manifestáciu, sa táto dostala do povedomia širšej slovenskej verejnosti na Slovensku a jej počiny z minulosti i súčasnosti pripomenuli všetkým Slovákom, že americkí Slováci sa svojou účasťou v zápase za slobodu starej vlasti stali spolutvorcami našich moderných slovenských dejín.

Vážení krajanovia, Slováci žijúci v Amerike, dovoľte mi využiť túto príležitosť a informovať Vás, že vláda Slovenskej republiky nezabúda na svojich krajanov, na všetkých Vás, ktorí žijete roztratení po rôznych kútoch našej zeme a zároveň Vás informovala, že od januára 2006 bol v rámci štátnej správy SR zriadený Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí. Hlavnou úlohou tohto úradu, na čele ktorého mám tú česť stáť ja, je výkon štátnej politiky starostlivosti SR o Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, zabezpečovanie pomoci Slovenskej republiky pre krajanové spoločenstvá v záujme zachovania slovenskej národnej, kultúrnej a jazykovej identity, ale i prezentácia kultúrnych počinov našich krajanov na území Slovenska, vydávanie osvedčení Slováka žijúceho v zahraničí a v neposlednom rade podnecovanie našich krajanov k návratu na rodnú hruď. Sme si vedomí, že úspech v našej práci môžeme dosiahnuť iba spoločným úsilím a koncentrovaním sa na dosiahnutie hlavného cieľa - upevnenie vzájomných vzťahov medzi Slovenskou republikou a slovenskými menšinami a komunitami v zahraničí a tým aj vzťahov s krajinami, v ktorých naši krajanovia žijú. V podmienkach dnešného, dynamicky sa meniaceho sveta nestačí iba uchovávať vytvorené, ale spoločne využívať silu, ducha a tvorivú invenciu, ktorou slovenský národ nepochybne disponuje, na rozvoj našich národných hodnôt, na naše spoločné prežitie a rozkvet, či už žijeme na rodnej hruď, alebo v zahraničí.

Po sviatočnom pripomenutí si storočnice Slovenskej ligy na Slovensku prichádzam sem medzi Vás, drahí krajanovia. Je pre mňa vzácnu príležitosťou, že tu môžem vedeniu Slovenskej ligy v Amerike a všetkým americkým Slovákom vyjadriť môj obdiv, úctu a poďakovanie za Vašu oddanosť Slovensku, krajine, ktorá je Vašou vlasťou, alebo vlasťou Vašich predkov, za ktorú ste Vy, Vaši otcovia, či starí otcovia prinášali mnohé obete.

Všetky obete a prosby za slobodu slovenského národa boli vypočuté u Najvyššieho. S radosťou i pokorou prijíam i ja v mene nášho Úradu tento dar, že môžem byť osobne prítomná na oslavách storočnice Ligy, keď v takej symbióze Slováci doma a Slováci v Amerike vzdávame spoločne hold našej drahej vlasti.

Dovoľte záverom, aby som celej Slovenskej lige v Amerike zaželať hojnosti požehnaní od Najvyššieho a do budúcnosti veľa oduševnených členov, v srdciach ktorých bude stále horieť láska k nášmu prekrásnemu Slovensku. Daj Boh všetkým americkým Slovákom šťastím a pokojom naplnený život v krajine, ktorá v rôznych obdobiach tak veľkoryso otvorila svoju náruč, ale dožiť im aj veľa šťastných návratov na Slovensko, ktoré Slovákov roztrúsených po celom svete nikdy neprestane považovať za súčasť slovenského národa.



Vilma Prívarová

Biskup Adamec označil kresťanskú vieru za najväčší dar solúnskych bratov

Nitra (TASR) – Dedičstvo otcov v podobe kresťanskej viery, prítomnosti Božieho syna Ježiša Krista v živote veriacich a bohatstvo duchovnej kultúry na Slovensku označil americký biskup slovenského pôvodu Jozef Viktor Adamec za najvzácnejšie dary, ktoré Slovákom zanechali solúnski bratia svätý Cyril a svätý Metod. Význam týchto darov pre celé dejiny Slovenska, jeho prítomnosť i budúcnosť vyzdvihol biskup Adamec na slávnostnej svätej omši, ktorá sa konala 5. júla k sviatku svätého Cyrila a svätého Metoda na Nitrianskom hrade v Nitre.

"Stáročia začínajú Slováci svoje modlitby k Bohu slovami Dedičstvo otcov zachovaj nám Pane. Dnes máme príležitosť hlbšie si uvedomiť, že otcami, ktorí nám poručili vzácne dedičstvo a dary pochádzajúce priamo od Boha, boli aj svätý Cyril a svätý Metod," povedal biskup.

Biskup Adamec, ktorý bol pôvodne kňazom Nitrianskej diecézy, vyzdvihol v kázni hlbokú vieru, lásku k Bohu, nádej, ale i odvahu s akou Slováci bránili a rozvíjali dedičstvo otcov v časoch totalitného režimu. "Spoza oceňujú k nám chodili správy o veľkých

duchovných slávnostiach, púťach, omšiach s účasťou tisícov veriacich. Prijímali sme ich s dojatím, pohnutím a obdivom, každý deň sme sa modlili k Bohu, aby vyslyšal prosby Slovákov o slobodu. Dnes sa radujem s vami, že nebeský otec naše prosby vypočul a my môžeme spoločne oslavovať prijatie veľkých Božích darov," povedal biskup Adamec.

Na duchovnej slávnosti sa zúčastnil apoštolský nuncius na Slovensku Henryk Józef Nowacki, slovenský kardinál Jozef Tomko z Ríma a Ján Chryzostom Korec, bratislavsko-trnavský arcibiskup, metropolita Ján Sokol, všetci slovenskí biskupi a zahraniční duchovní hostia. Prítomný bol aj podpredseda Národnej rady SR Milan Hort, podpredseda vlády a minister školstva SR Ján Mikolaj, komisár EÚ Ján Figel a ďalší predstavitelia politického, spoločenského a kultúrneho života. Popri Cyrilo-metodskej národnej púti spojenej s omšou na Nitrianskom hrade sa v meste pod Zoborom konali viaceré kultúrne podujatia, ktorými Nitrania a návštevníci starobylého mesta oslávili sviatok svätých Cyrila Metoda.

Získajte ešte dnes nového člena do Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty

Vyhlásenie Konferencie biskupov Slovenska k demografickej situácii na Slovensku

Nezabúdajte, že mladosť je obdobím prípravy a dospelosť aj obdobím odovzdávania daru života ďalším generáciám

1. My, biskupi Katolíckej cirkvi na Slovensku, zhromaždení pri príležitosti sviatku svätých solúnskych bratov Cyrila a Metoda, vedomí si svojej zodpovednosti a znepokojení pretrvávajúcim nepriaznivým demografickým vývojom na Slovensku, považujeme za svoju povinnosť znovu pripomenúť naliehavosť tohto závažného celospoločenského problému a povzbudiť všetkých k hľadaniu účinných, ľudsky i morálne prijateľných riešení.

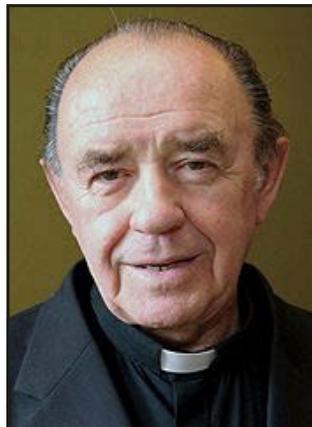
2. Nadväzujeme tak na vyhlásenie, ktorým sme sa v roku 1996 s veľkou starosťou i nádejou obrátili na štátne, vedecké a odborné inštitúcie a organizácie, ako aj na všetkých ľudí dobrej vôle na Slovensku a pozvali sme ich k symbolickému okrúhlemu stolu, aby sme spoločne hľadali potrebné riešenia a východiská. Vtedy sme upozorňovali na to, že prudký pokles pôrodnosti zaznamenaný v predchádzajúcom období nemožno podceňovať, pretože ohrozuje samotnú existenciu národa. Sme si vedomí, že odvtedy sa v našej spoločnosti veľa zmenilo. Dnes už azda nikto nepochybuje o tom, že naše vtedajšie obavy boli viac než oprávnené. Zároveň s určitým zadosťučinením konštatujeme, že náš apel nezostal bez ozveny. Demografický vývoj, jeho príčiny, možné dôsledky a súvislosti, sa stali predmetom intenzívneho záujmu i štúdií mnohých vedcov, politikov, ľudí médií a kultúry, ako aj širšej verejnosti. Rodinná a populačná politika sa dostala do politických programov i na rokovania vlády a parlamentu. S istým oneskorením, ale predsa si demografické starnutie Európy všimli aj v inštitúciách Európskej únie. A predsa to nestačí: napriek rôznym úvahám, dobrým snahám a viacerým potešiteľným aktivitám, nepriaznivý demografický vývoj na Slovensku pokračuje ďalej.

3. Čo je na súčasnom demografickom vývoji najznepokojujúcejšie! Na prvom mieste je to zaiste veľmi nízka úroveň pôrodnosti, ktorá je hlboko pod úrovňou potrebnou na zachovanie aspoň vyrovnanej bilancie obyvateľstva medzi prichádzajúcimi a odchádzajúcimi generáciami. Jej malé zvýšenie po roku 2002 túto hrozivú situáciu nerieši. Priemerný počet narodených detí pripadajúcich na jednu ženu je na Slovensku nižší ako pred desiatimi rokmi: miesto potrebných 2.1 poklesol z vtedajších 1.43 na dnešných 1.2. Aj keď vďaka nepravidelnej štruktúre počet obyvateľov Slovenska zatiaľ zreteľne neklesá, demografi upozorňujú, že o 10-20 rokov bude jeho rýchly úbytok neodvratný. Je zrejme, že rodina, ktorá nemá deti, naisto vymrie. To isté sa stane aj s národom, ktorý nemá deti. Navyše, starnutie a úbytok obyvateľstva prinášajú so sebou závažné ekonomické, sociálne i politické dôsledky (napr. neudržateľnosť doterajšieho systému dôchodkového a sociálneho zabezpečenia, či spomalenie alebo zastavenie ekonomického rastu).

4. Pokles pôrodnosti je však sprevádzaný postupným rozpadom rodiny, ľudia, ktorí nechcú mať deti, necítia potrebu založiť si stabilnú rodinu. Preto aj u nás klesá počet sobášov. Nejde len o odklad. Keďže je menej manželstiev, rodí sa stále viac detí mimo manželstva (podľa posledných údajov je to už vyše 25%). Z toho niektorí usudzujú, že manželstvo je nepotrebné, že budúcnosť patrí slobodným rodičom, ba vidia v tom aj akúsi nádej na zvyšovanie pôrodnosti. Zdôrazňujeme, že takýto prístup je vážnou krivdou voči deťom, ktoré majú prirodzené právo na oboch rodičov. Na druhej strane, demografi vedia, že ani nárastom počtu detí narodených mimo manželstva nemožno nahradiť pokles sobášnosti a manželskej plodnosti.

5. Aj keď verejná mienka ešte stále pripisuje manželstvu vysokú hodnotu, prax je často iná. Záujem o manželstvo, ako o trvalý zväzok muža a ženy a základ usporiadanej rodiny, klesá, a mnohí akoby zabúdajú, čo manželstvo vlastne je. Mladí ľudia, povzbudzovaní nezodpovednými médiami, sa neraz domnievajú, že neformálne voľné spolužitie (kohabitácia) je dobrou prípravou na manželstvo, ba dokonca i jeho "modernejšou" náhradou. V tom istom duchu sa vedie úsilie o presadzovanie iných zväzkov a typov spolužitia, ktoré vytvárajú skôr ilúziu riešenia skutočných problémov zúčastnených osôb. Našou povinnosťou je upozorňovať a varovať: každodenná i dejinná skúsenosť, ako aj súčasné vedecké výskumy dokazujú skôr pravý opak. Narastajúca rozvodovosť svedčí o prehľbujúcej sa neschopnosti vytvárať trvalé medziľudské vzťahy. Skutočná, obetavá a zodpovedná láska sa z našej spoločnosti pomaly vytráca.

6. Zmeny demografického správania sa postupne spájajú so zmenami zmýšľania širokých vrstiev spoločnosti. Tak sa demografické zmeny stávajú trvalými. Aj v našich národoch sa rozmáha individualizmus, životný postoj, ktorý sa nezaujíma o dobro blížnych, ale o vlastný úspech a prospech. Avšak, ako nás upozorňuje veľký pápež Ján Pavol II. v encyklike *Evangelium vitae*, takéto zmýšľanie a prax, ktoré nepoznajú solidaritu, sú prejavmi "kultúry smrti" (EV 12). Je paradoxné, že práve takýto individualizmus, ktorý nemá nič spoločné so zodpovednou starostlivosťou o osobný rast a rozvoj človeka, je dnes predkladaný takme ako "všeobecný svetonázor", propagovaný masmédiami a ospravedlňovaný ako jediná alternatíva marxistického, či iného kolektivismu. Jeho súčasťou je aj antikoncepcná mentalita, ktorá obracia naruby prirodzenú morálku. Zdôrazňujeme, že takýto individualizmus je v rozpore s princípmi kresťanskej etiky a cyrilometodským duchovným dedičstvom. Bez ozajstnej zmeny takéhoto zmýšľania sa obrat k



Mons. František Tondra, Spišský diecézny biskup



lepšiemu v populačnom vývoji sotva dá očakávať.

7. Súčasný demografický vývoj treba považovať za mimoriadne závažný celospoločenský problém, preto sa na jeho riešenie musí podieľať celá spoločnosť, teda aj štát a jeho inštitúcie. Pripomínáme, že medzi základné úlohy štátu patrí vytvárať priaznivé podmienky pre život a primeranú reprodukciu svojho obyvateľstva. Áno, rodina, manželstvo a zodpovedné rodičovstvo patria predovšetkým do vnútornej sféry človeka. Rodina bola prv ako štát a štát by do nej nemal zbytočne zasahovať. Na druhej strane, štát a spoločnosť by mali v duchu princípu subsidiarity rodinu primerane podporovať, rešpektovať a chrániť pred zásahmi, ktoré na ňu môžu pôsobiť deštruktívne. A nemali by sa zdráhať napraviť deformácie spôsobené v minulosti. Zodpovedná rodinná a populačná politika je dnes nevyhnutnosťou. Musí však rešpektovať prioritu rodiny. Vyzývame našich štátnych predstaviteľov, príslušné ministerstvá, poslancov Národnej rady SR, našu odbornú a vedeckú verejnosť, ako aj všetkých, ktorí akýmkoľvek spôsobom môžu podporiť zdravú, stabilnú rodinu, aby neľutovali námahy a prostriedky vynaložené na tento cieľ.

8. Chceli by sme sa dnes zvlášť prihovoriť mladým rodinám, ako aj tým mladým ľuďom, ktorí sú už síce zrelí na manželstvo, ale z rôznych dôvodov sa zdráhajú založiť si rodinu. Vy ste budúcnosť národa! Tešíme sa z vašich úspechov a napredovania na ceste osobného i profesionálneho rastu. Prosíme vás však, nezabúdajte, že mladosť je obdobím prípravy a dospelosť aj obdobím odovzdávania daru života ďalším generáciám. Nepremárnite dary a nádej svojej mladosti. Nebojte sa založiť si a zveľaďovať rodinu, napriek všemožným ťažkostiam, ktoré sú s takýmto rozhodnutím spojené. Nebojte sa vstúpiť do manželstva ako celoživotného zväzku i záväzku naozajstnej ľudskej lásky. Nebojte sa zodpovedne prijať do svojich rodín deti a s múdrosťou a láskou ich vychovávať. Len ten život človeka má zmysel, ktorý sa žije pre iných. Aj dnes môžete zažiť, že deti sú naozaj živým požehnaním: vašim, vášho života, i požehnaním celého národa a spoločnosti.

9. Zároveň by sme sa opätovne chceli obrátiť aj na všetkých ľudí dobrej vôle, s ktorými zdieľame radosti, starosti aj zodpovednosť života v našej spoločnej vlasti. Prosíme vás, vážme si spoločne posvätnosť a nedotknuteľnosť ľudského života, jeho nezameniteľnú, neopakovateľnú hodnotu a dôstojnosť. Vážme si tých, ktorí sa nebáli zodpovedne vo svojich rodinách prijať deti, i viac detí, a každodennou prácou a všemožným úsilím vytvárajú podmienky pre ich šťastný život a dobrú výchovu. Buďme s nimi solidárni. Napomôcť životu človeka i rodiny sa dá rôznymi spôsobmi a na každej úrovni. Hľadajme nové, účinné cesty, ako to urobiť. Všetci sme povolani k službe životu (EV 43). Veriaci nech sú v tomto úsilí živým príkladom a účinnou pomocou. Šíriť kultúru života, ohlasovať "evanjelium života" sa musí stať úlohou a prioritou celého cirkevného spoločenstva. Od slov je potrebné prejsť k činom konkrétnej pomoci, podpory a solidarity. Žiadna rodina, žiadne dieťa, žiaden rodič by nemali ostať bez účinnej pomoci v situáciách, keď takúto pomoc najviac potrebujú.

10. "Demografická zima" – situácia a čas, keď v rodinách a v spoločnosti chýbajú deti a spoločnosť i rodina preto stagnujú, starnú a postupne vymierajú – rozširuje dnes postupne svoje smutné panovanie po celej Európe i v iných častiach sveta. Náprava tohto stavu je mimoriadne náročná. V prvom rade je potrebné zmeniť postoj k životu. Prijímať život ako dar, ako neopakovateľnú hodnotu a príležitosť. Pozývame všetkých ľudí dobrej vôle k spolupráci, a to i na medzinárodnej úrovni. Ako pripomenul nedávny 4. svetový kongres rodín vo Varšave, nádej na skončenie "demografickej zimy" existuje. Tou nádejou, ktorá môže priniesť Európe "demografickú jar", je prirodzená úplná rodina. Bez detí niet budúcnosti, no deti potrebujú rodinu. Nezabúdajte na to. Chránme, rešpektujme a podporujme ju! Božie požehnanie nech sprevádza všetky Vaše námahy, iniciatívy a dobré podujatia.

Mons. František Tondra, predseda KBS

TKKBS

Prezident Gašparovič odhalil v Sp. N.Vsi pamätník M.R. Štefánika

Spišska Nová Ves (TASR) – Stretnutím s predsedom Košického samosprávneho kraja Zdenkom Trebulom, primátorom Spišskej Novej Vsi Jánom Volným a predstaviteľmi mesta začal pracovný výjazd 12. júla na Spiši prezident Slovenskej republiky Ivan Gašparovič. V rámci výjazdu odhalil predpoludním na Štefánikovom námestí v Spišskej Novej Vsi pamätník Milana Rastislava Štefánika, dielo akademického sochára Ladislava Kacvinského, rodáka z metropoly Spiša. Následne sa

stretol v priestoroch mestského úradu s poslancami tamojšieho zastupiteľstva, primátormi a starostami okolitých miest a obcí, predstaviteľmi štátnej správy a zástupcami podnikateľskej sféry. Populudní zavítal Gašparovič do spoločnosti Embraco Slovakia v Spišskej Novej Vsi, ktorá produkuje kompresory do chladničiek a chladiacich systémov a je najväčším zamestnávateľom v regióne. Za tým sa zúčastnil na slávnostnom otvorení 52. ročníka Spišského trhu a 40. ročníka Spišských výstavných trhov.

**FRATERNALIZMUS POSILŇUJE
RODINU**