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Fr. Stephen Furdak
Our Founder

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

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Number 5753

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION RECEIVES HIGHEST MEMBERSHIP STANDARD FROM NATIONAL TRADE ASSOCIATION

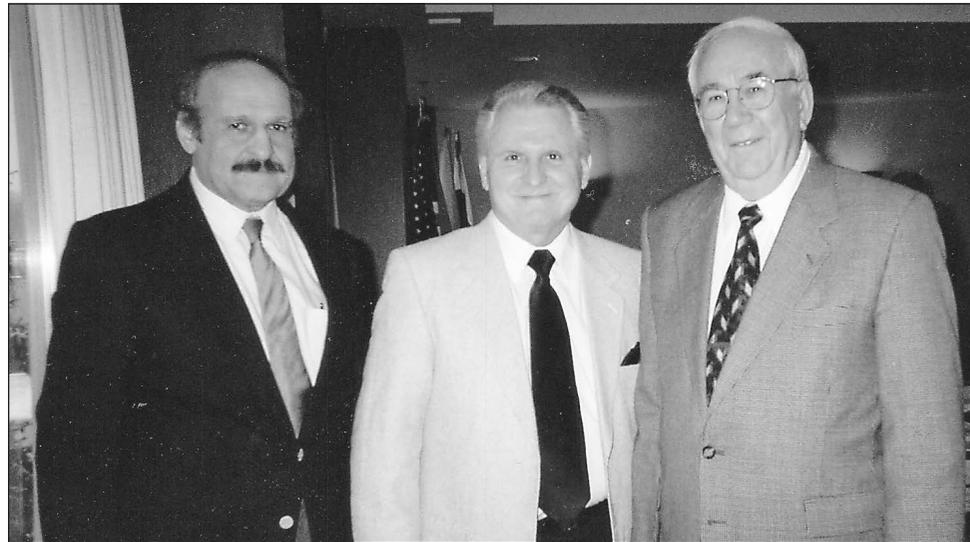
*National Fraternal Congress of America bestows
"Member in Good Standing" Designation on First Catholic Slovak Union*

Independence, Ohio – First Catholic Slovak Union, Independence, has been designated a "Member in Good Standing" by the National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCA), the trade association of American fraternal benefit societies. This level of achievement for 2007 recognizes the society for the highest standards of performance, both in fraternal programming and financial operation, over a one-year period.

The Chicagoland-based NFCA, which celebrates its 121st anniversary in 2007, successfully links its 75 member-societies – fraternal benefit societies that are not-for-profit membership organizations offering life insurance, accident and health insurance, and annuities – to encourage education, training and service to communities at the national and grassroots levels. The association represents approximately 10 million people in more than 36,000 chapters, making it one of America's largest volunteer networks.

"The NFCA's" "Member in Good Standing" designation reflects The First Catholic Slovak

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L-R: Regional Director Carl Ungvarsky, National President Andrew Rajec and Regional Director Regis Brekosky.

FCSU Holds Productive Annual Meeting in Independence, Ohio

The Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union held their Annual Meeting on Friday and Saturday, March 16-17, 2007, at the FCSU Home Office in Independence, Ohio. This was the first annual meeting presided over by Andrew M. Rajec since his election as National President at the 48th Convention in Boca Raton, Florida, in July 2006.

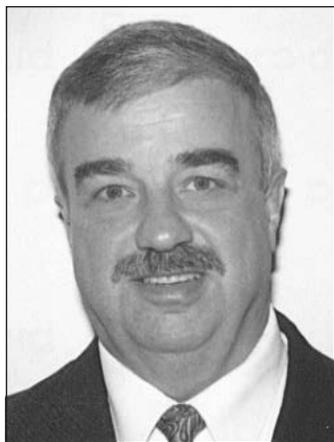
President Rajec gave his annual report on the state of the Society. Reports were also presented by National Chaplain Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr., Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt, National Treasurer George Matta, Fraternal Activities Director Susan Ondrejco, Chairperson of Auditors Karen Hunka, and others. An Actuarial Report was given by Edward DePersis of Bruce and DePersis. Mass was celebrated each day by the Rev. Thomas Nasta.

The annual reports contain valuable information on our Society. Some reports appeared in the last issue, the remainder in this issue. Members are encouraged to read and study these reports and to take an active interest in the First Catholic Slovak Union. Remember, this is your Society.

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 5



Report Of The Executive Secretary March 16 -17, 2007



Kenneth A. Arendt

Reverend Father, Mr. President and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada:

It is my pleasure to present this report to you, the Board of Directors of the FCSU.

The Society enjoyed a net gain from operations and before capital gains of \$1,489,106. The 2006 gain reflects the twelfth profitable year in a row by the Society. Assets increased over \$1,700,000 (1.0%), while liabilities increased .1%, and surplus increased 17.1%. The increase in surplus was primarily due to the operating profit plus realized and unrealized capital gain.

Realized capital gains (\$49,903) resulted from income on defaulted bonds (\$263,052) that had previously been written off. A portion of the realized gains were offset by realized losses of \$213,149 on the sale of

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Report of the National Treasurer

Reverend Father, President Rajec and Brother and Sister Officers:

Once more, I am pleased to report that all the financials and other reports as required by the various states where the First Catholic Slovak Union is licensed to do business have all been properly filed by March 1, 2007.

The Economy

The economy in 2006 was slightly better than the year 2005. In prior years, the Federal Reserve kept interest rates, as a result, the FCSU along with other fraternal were in a position to attract annuitants with interest rates in the 6 to 6 1/2% range. However, after seventeen consecutive interest rate hikes over two years, the Federal Reserve paused in August 2006. The effects of these actions created a level playing field with the fraternal and the banks. As a result of the higher interest rates, we no longer were in a competitive position to offer lower-quality corporate bonds at their current yields. We also believe that longer maturity Treasury bond yields already reflect most of the economic slowdown. We do not expect the Federal Reserve to lower rates to any significant degree in 2007. So we prefer a continued policy of shorter maturities, in the 6% range, no longer



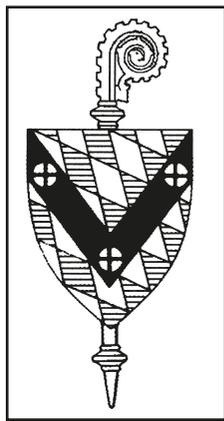
George F. Matta

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Insights and Viewpoints



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

May 13, 2007

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Gospel Summary

When Jesus says, in today's gospel, "Whoever loves me will keep my word," he wishes to remind us that, though it is easy to say that we love him, it is far more difficult to love others for his sake. Such concern for others is, however, the indispensable proof of our authentic love of Jesus. For to love Jesus means ultimately to commit oneself to imitate his unconditional love of others or, better perhaps, to allow his love to flow through us for the benefit of others.

This challenge is very difficult, and may even seem impossible at times, but our feeble efforts will be strengthened by the love of the Father--the same divine Father whose love is revealed in Jesus. And when we allow that divine love to flow through us, we will discover that both Jesus and the Father will make their dwelling with us in an ineffable mystical communion. Nothing could be more desirable.

Jesus promises to send us the Advocate, which is the special name John gives to the Holy Spirit. An advocate is one who stands with another to take away that person's fear and sense of aloneness or inadequacy. This divine Advocate will thus dwell deep within us and will continue the work of Jesus by drawing out all the implications of his teaching.

Life Implications

John's gospel is full of reminders that Jesus has come among us to reveal the true nature of God as one who cherishes his love for more than his power. It is for that reason that Jesus is called the Word of God, for he reveals what is hidden in God just as our words make known our hidden thoughts.

When we accept in faith the testimony of Jesus about the love of God for us, we are liberated from the need to worry excessively about ourselves and are thus enabled to become more and more aware of others and more ready to share our love with them. When this happens, we are drawn into that powerful flow of life and love which courses between the Father and Jesus. In this sense, we can understand how the Father and Jesus will "make their dwelling" with us. They will do this through the ministry of the Holy Spirit who is the One who enables us to discover at the center of our beings the love of the Father brought to us by Jesus. As St. Paul tells us, "When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (Rom 8:15-16).

The Advocate/Spirit is given to us, therefore, as one who stands at our side, in bright days and dark, to help us understand the reality of this love of God that Jesus offers to us. As we do so, we become ever more united with Jesus who has revealed the Father's love and who wishes to lead us back to the source of that love. It will be only then that we will really begin to understand the meaning of coming home.



May 17 (20), 2007

Ascension of the Lord

Gospel Summary

The feast of the Ascension celebrates the departure of the Risen Lord from this world to the place reserved for him in heaven. As such, it is the continuation of his Resurrection and the completion of his victory over the forces of sin and death.

In Luke's gospel account, the Ascension takes on special meaning because it not only signals the end of the earthly sojourn of Jesus but also prepares for the continuation of his work of salvation in the Acts of the Apostles, which is Luke's sequel to his gospel. We recall that Luke's gospel is dominated by the "journey" of Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem (9:51-21:38). Jerusalem is like a magnet for his ministry because it is there that we find

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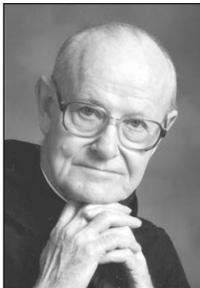
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John 14:23-29



Demetrius R. Dumm,
O.S.B.

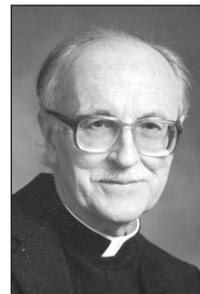
Seventh Sunday of Easter

Gospel Summary

This Sunday's gospel passage contains part of the prayer Jesus addressed to his Father following his Last Supper discourse with its the promise of the holy Spirit. Jesus prays for his disciples and for all who will believe in him through their words. The depth and poetic beauty of Jesus' prayer defies making an adequate prose summary. Principal elements of the prayer are listed here merely as an aid to memory for the reader -- communion in the life of Father and Son, desire that the world come to believe in him, desire that all may see his eternal glory, desire that the Father's love be in all who believe.

Life Implications

We usually associate the presence of the Spirit that Jesus gave to his disciples after the resurrection with the audacity with which they preached the gospel (the *parresia* of Acts 4:13,29,31). The first reading of today's liturgy from the Acts of the Apostles alludes to that understanding in recounting the story of Stephen ("filled with the holy Spirit") who was enabled to follow Jesus with courage even to death in his martyrdom. Our gospel passage perhaps is even a more striking illustration of the belief that Jesus shares his Spirit with the church.



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

What could be more audacious than to express in words the intimate communion of Jesus with his Father in prayer as today's gospel passage does? The church today continues to pray with the Spirit of Jesus, particularly in its eucharistic liturgy. The Spirit also guides each of us in our unique, individual prayer so that we may become more aware that Jesus lives and prays in us. And the Spirit enables us to live in the awareness that the Father loves us with the same love that he loves Jesus. (Raymond E. Brown in his commentary on the fourth gospel calls this last implication of Jesus' prayer "breathhtaking".)

The prayer of Jesus is not past tense: as Risen Lord Jesus prays in the eternal now with the same desire of love, and invites us to pray with him in company with all the angels and saints. This is the truth that the second reading of today's liturgy from the Book of Revelation calls to our attention. And this is the truth Saint Augustine taught newly baptized Christians in his Easter Sunday sermon of the year 415. In the eucharistic liturgy we already now are participants with the Risen Lord in the liturgy of heaven. "You are urged to lift up your hearts. That is only right for the members of Christ. If the head had not gone ahead before, the members would never follow. So our head is in heaven. That is why, after the words Lift up your hearts, you reply, We have lifted them up to the Lord."

Jesus continues to pray that all may be one just as the Father and he are one in order that the world may come to believe. In Jesus' mind, the unity and love among his followers will draw all people to believe in him. The separation and hostility among Christians surely is a scandal in the strictest sense -- an obstacle to belief. "See how they attack one another" seems so often to have replaced the saying of pagans about Christians in the ancient world, "See how they love one another." We might recall that at the Last Supper Jesus was aware that he would soon become the innocent victim of violence. Nevertheless, Jesus refused to save himself by responding to violence with "sacred" violence, however justified that response might appear. He experienced God as loving; therefore, he could not be anything else. He knew that even "sacred" violence results only in deeper separation and deeper hostility. It cannot transform the human heart. Only the Father's love in Jesus and in us can work that supreme miracle.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY BEFORE THE ISSUE DATE, unless otherwise stated below because of special holiday scheduling. Copy that is not received by this deadline will not necessarily appear in the following Wednesday's issue.

Issue Date

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13

Copy Deadline

MONDAY, MAY 7

MONDAY, MAY 21

MONDAY, JUNE 4

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:

Anthony Sutherland, Editor

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Apostleship of Prayer Intentions for May 2007

GENERAL INTENTION

Attentiveness to God. That, like the Virgin Mary, all Christians may be guided by the Word of God and remain attentive to the signs of the Lord in their own lives.

God was attracted by the humility of Mary, and she found favor in His eyes (Lk 1:30). Open to God's Word, she became the Mother of God. Even before she could fully understand God's Word, she said yes. Mary is the model for Christians, not only because she obeys the Word of God, but also because she offers to each broken person her Son, the Savior. She welcomed Jesus with trust and gave Him to the world with love. Through Mary, through the Church, through us—Jesus blesses the whole world.

Last December His Holiness Benedict XVI enjoined teachers and students to "learn from the Virgin Mary, the first person to contemplate the humanity of the Incarnate Word, the humanity of Divine Wisdom."

The first way to learn from Mary is to become familiar with the Scriptures. As we understand how God worked in the lives of His Chosen People, we find wisdom to discern God's purposes in our own circumstances and in the people we encounter. Humbly, like Mary, we must contemplate in our hearts how God is speaking to us through them and using us to serve them.

In the Morning Offering we give to God our entire day. It's fitting that we look back at the end of each day to see exactly what it was we gave to God. The Prayer of the Month included here is an evening review. Its purpose is to help you to see God's hand in your life and to hear His voice. May it lead you into greater attentiveness to God.

For reflection

When do you hear God speaking to you? How do you say yes to God and allow Him to become flesh in you?

MISSION INTENTION

Seminary Teachers. That in mission territories there may be good and enlightened teachers in the major seminaries and institutes of consecrated life.

Speaking to Bishops of Africa last September, Pope Benedict said, "It is important that teachers... be well formed in the faith and able to communicate both the joy and the challenge of following Christ." Sound doctrine is of great importance for the growth of true faith, especially in the mission territories where the teachings of the Church are unfamiliar.

But the Holy Father recognizes that priests are formed by far more than education in doctrines. They are also formed in the joy of their own salvation—a joy they must be able to communicate to others, even in the midst of great challenges.

The Pope went on to say that "a priest is called to live for others and not for himself, in imitation of Christ, who came 'not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many'" (Mk 10:45).

So we pray that seminary teachers all over the world will have grace to teach the truths of the Church in the joy of the Lord. We pray that our future priests all over the world will learn to imitate Christ to the point of laying down their lives for others.

Where does one get the courage to give oneself so completely? The Holy Father tells us



Ascension of the Lord

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the temple, representing God's presence, and the altar, prepared for the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus.

This sacrifice of Jesus in Jerusalem seems to be the end of his career but in fact it releases the power of the Spirit, which flows from Jerusalem to the farthest corners of the earth. Though Jesus does indeed "leave" his disciples when he ascends to heaven, he assures them that he is sending the "promise" of his Father upon them. This is the Holy Spirit who will guide and strengthen them (and all of us) for witnessing to Jesus, in word and deed, everywhere in the world.

Life Implications

Those of us who follow Jesus belong to the period of the Church. Through preaching and the sacraments, the Church strives to make Jesus present among us so that we may be empowered to bear witness to the power of God to deliver us from the bondage of sin and despair. It is the Holy Spirit who guides and supports us as we attempt to live the ideals of our calling and to introduce others to the salvation won for us by the sacrifice of Jesus.

One of the principal roles of this Holy Spirit is to enable us to recognize how to live as Jesus did in circumstances that are far removed from the situation in first century Israel. It is the role of the Spirit to tell us then what Jesus would do if he were living here in the twenty-first century. Such guidance will not only give us courage and confidence but it will also enable us to understand what unselfish love means in difficult and worrisome situations.

It is truly remarkable that the disciples in the gospel story do not grieve when Jesus leaves them. Instead, they "returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God" (Luke 24:52-3). As we live in the Spirit and try to be sensitive to the Spirit's promptings, we too can be filled with joy and find it fitting to express that joy with words of praise and thanksgiving. As we do so, we will surely attract others who will want to know our secret and will thus be ready to learn about the wonderful gift of salvation won for us by the love of Jesus.

Demetrius R. Dumm, OSB

that the secret is deep prayer. "Friendship with Christ," he said, "demands a constant and joyful search of communion of thought, will, and action with Him, in humble and faithful obedience. This communion can be achieved to the extent that the priest is an authentic man of prayer."

Amen.

For reflection

Think of a priest, brother, or sister you admire. What qualities does he or she possess?

Reflections on Our Christianity

Msgr. Edward V. Rosack



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

It is Written in Scripture

Part 2

For the teaching of Jesus Christ, go to the Scriptures where you will find it in texts which are easily understood and which will inspire you to cleanse and perfect your lives so that one day you will be able to say with Paul the Apostle, "The time of my dissolution is near. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. From now on a merited crown awaits me; on that Day the Lord, just judge that he is, will award it to me — and not only to me, but to all who have looked for his appearing with eager longing. (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

Read the scripture below and also the text surrounding the quotation to understand the word of God fully.

Make it your practice instead to store up heavenly treasure, which neither moths nor rust corrode nor thieves break in and steal. Remember, where your treasure is, there your heart is also. (Matthew 6:20-21)

None of those who cry out, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of God but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. (Matthew 7:21)

Always speak and act as men destined for judgment under the law of freedom. Merciless is the judgment on the man who has not shown mercy; but mercy triumphs over judgment. (James 2:12)

My heavenly Father will treat you in exactly the same way unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart. (Matthew 18:35)

How accurately Isaiah prophesied about you hypocrites when he wrote, "This people pays me lip service but their heart is far from me. Empty is the reverence they do me because they teach as dogmas mere human precepts. He went on to say: "You have made a fine art of setting aside God's commandments in the interests of keeping your traditions! For example, Moses said, "Honor your father and your mother;" and in another place, "Whoever curses father or mother shall be put to death." Yet you declare, "If a person says to his father or mother, Any support you might have had from me is "korban" (that is, dedicated to God), you allow him to do nothing more for his father or mother. That is why you nullify God's word in favor of the traditions you have handed on. (Mark 7:6-13)

Commentary: "Korban" (from "karav" "draw near") originally meant something that was brought near — offered to God. Later it came to mean that which was designed to bring man nearer to God, for example the sacrificing of clean species of animals, bullock, ox, cow, calf, sheep, lamb, goat, turtle-doves and pigeons. In the passage above, the "korban" practice deprived the parents of the benefits from their son's property. Instead of caring for his parents, the son ignored them and gave his gifts to God via the temple. In the temple-worshippers' eyes, the son was respected as a devout worshipper of God; in the meanwhile, his parents suffered want. The practice of "korban" came to overrule the Fourth Commandment.

Why do you for your part act contrary to the commandments of God for the sake of your tradition? ...for the sake of your tradition you have nullified God's word. (Matthew 15:3 and 6)

To love our neighbors as ourselves is worth more than any burnt offering or sacrifice. (Mark 12:33)

Avoid greed in all its forms. A man may be wealthy, but his possessions do not guarantee him life. (Luke 12:15)

The Scripture says, 'You shall not put a muzzle on an ox when he is threshing the grain,' and also, 'The worker deserves his wages.' (1 Timothy 5:18)

Your heavenly Father knows all that you need. Seek first his kingship over you, his way of holiness, and all these things will be given you besides. Enough, then, of worrying about tomorrow, let tomorrow take care of itself. Today has troubles enough of its own. (Matthew 6:32-34)

Stop worrying. (Luke 12:29)

Fear is useless; what is needed is trust and her life will be spared. (Luke 8:50)

Fear nothing, then. You are worth more than a flock of sparrows. (Luke 12:7)

Love has no room for fear; rather, perfect love casts out all fear. And since fear has to do with punishment, love is not yet perfect in one who is afraid. (1 John 4:18)

I give you my word, if you are ready to believe that you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer, it shall be done for you. (Mark 11:24)

They have listened to the word, but anxieties over life's demands, and the desire for wealth, and cravings of other sorts come to choke it off; it bears no yield. But those sown

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Insights and Viewpoints

Light One Candle Dennis Heaney, President, The Christophers

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



Dennis Heaney

Thank You, School Teachers

While I love kids, if you told me I had to teach them five days a week for nine months and that I'd be doing it for decades, my first reaction would be "Absolutely not!" And the conversation would go downhill from there.

Recently, I attended the National Catholic Educational Association annual convention in Baltimore. Over a three-day period I had the opportunity to visit with many teachers and administrators from schools all over the United States and they were, to a person, extremely positive about their work.

It's pretty well known that teachers, particularly parochial school teachers, don't make much money. If you converted their salaries to hourly wages, based on classroom hours plus the time they actually put in correcting papers, doing lesson plans and talking with parents, they're not getting much of a return on their investment in a college education. Yet, while acknowledging the low pay, most of those that I visited with have been teaching for five, 10, even 30 years.

When I asked what they considered the best thing about their work, most of them said, in one way or another, that their reward comes from the opportunity to make a difference in a child's life. Or, as a couple of them told me, feeling the accomplishment that comes when they encounter a child who resists the very idea of school, but with the teacher's guidance turns into a true student, eager to learn.

The cost of educating a child in a Catholic school today is high. A number of administrators told me that they work hard to pay teachers more, but the challenge comes from rising costs and often dwindling enrollments. Very often, when a family goes from educating one child to sending two, three or four to a Catholic school, the cost becomes prohibitive and many parents have to opt out of the system.

One high school administrator told me that tuition in her school was now at \$7,500 a student and that many parents are working a couple of jobs so that they can afford to send their children there. She said that fully 75 percent of her time, much of it evenings and weekends, is spent on fund-raising. "This isn't what I signed on for," she says, but she believes that fund-raising is critical to holding down tuition so that parents can provide their children a value-based Catholic education.

I asked a couple of teachers what their biggest challenge is. Their answer was helping parents find time to be involved in their child's school. With so many families needing two incomes just to break even, working parents don't have the freedom to attend school events or, in some cases, even help children with homework.

One teacher told me that she sends a daily e-mail report to parents, bringing them up to date on what the children are studying and the projects they're working on. She said it keeps them involved and helps them talk to the child about school. Another teacher has a "parent's hour" one evening a month and meets with any mom or dad who wants to talk. "It takes time, but the parent and I are in a partnership when it comes to educating the child so I want them to know how important it is to me."

We have a special blessing in the wonderfully talented and dedicated people who work in our school systems. They deserve our gratitude and prayers every day.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, HERE I AM, LORD – SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE TODAY, write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org



Reflections on Our Christianity

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on good soil are the ones who listen to the word, take it to heart, and yield at thirty- and sixty – and a hundredfold. (Mark 4:18-20)

When much has been given a man, much will be requested of him. More will be asked of a man to whom more has been entrusted. (Luke 12:48)

For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled and he who humbles himself shall be exalted. (Luke 14:11)

When you have done all that you have been commanded to do, say, "We are useless servants. We have done no more than our duty." (Luke 17:10)

You should be pleased that they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid in the resurrection of the just. (Luke 14:14)

No man who performs a miracle using my name can at the same time speak ill of me. Anyone who is not against us is with us. (Mark 9:39-40)

He shows you generous patience, since he wants none to perish but all to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

Do not swear by your head (you cannot make a single hair white or black). Say "Yes" when you mean "Yes" and "No" when you mean "No." Anything beyond that is from the evil one. (Matthew 5:36-37)

Anyone who does not take up his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:27)

First Catholic Slovak Union Receives

continued from page 1

Union's commitment to maintaining a strong, viable fraternal benefit society for our members," said, Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary. The First Catholic Slovak Union's good standing within the NFCA demonstrates a standard of system-wide excellence for 117 years of continuous service to our members, families and their communities.

"The leaders of the NFCA's 75 member-societies believe that the NFCA must enforce strict standards to promote exceptional performance," said NFCA Chair of the Board Janice U. Whipple. "The fraternal movement in the United States has a long and proud place in American history stretching back nearly 150 years. As such, the NFCA has a responsibility to its member-societies to maintain standards that ensure outstanding fraternal benefit society performance. The NFCA's standards show that each member-society is financially sound and meets or exceeds criteria upon which tax-exempt and regulatory privileges are granted under federal and state laws. On behalf of the NFCA Board of Directors, we are honored to bestow the highest ranking on First Catholic Slovak Union."

The NFCA Membership Standards Program was established in 1993 to assess the integrity and uniqueness of NFCA member-societies and prospective members. Fraternal benefit societies are required to provide the NFCA with information regarding financial performance, organizational structure and fraternal outreach activities. This information is gathered and prepared by the NFCA staff for Board review, with particular attention on a society's common bond, an active chapter system, a representative form of government, sound financial management and substantial, tangible fraternal and charitable activities.

If the society being evaluated meets the minimum standards established within the Program, the NFCA Board of Directors then determines individual member compliance with Program requirements. Societies achieving "Member in Good Standing" status in 2007 are evaluated on 2005 information, the most recent year for which complete information is available.

Fraternal benefit societies provide leadership, social, educational, spiritual, patriotic, volunteer, financial and social opportunities to members united by a common bond such as religion, ethnic heritage, trade, gender or other interests. In providing these services, fraternal benefit societies' unique status as not-for-profit organizations allow millions of people to protect their families financially while making a significant difference in their communities. Combined, the NFCA's member-societies maintain more than \$324 billion of life insurance-in-force and, in 2005 alone, contributed almost \$400 million to charitable and fraternal programs. Members of the NFCA's 75 societies, including First Catholic Slovak Union, volunteered 93 million hours for community-service projects in 2005.

For more information on the NFCA, please contact Riase Riccetti, Director of Communications and Marketing, at NFCA Headquarters, 630/522-6322, ext. 114, or rriccetti@nfcanet.org. For more information on First Catholic Slovak Union, please contact Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary, at the Home Office, (800) 533-6682 or fcsu@aol.com.



Report of the Fraternal Activities Director March 6, 2007

Fr. Nasta, President Rajec, and Members of the FCSU Board:

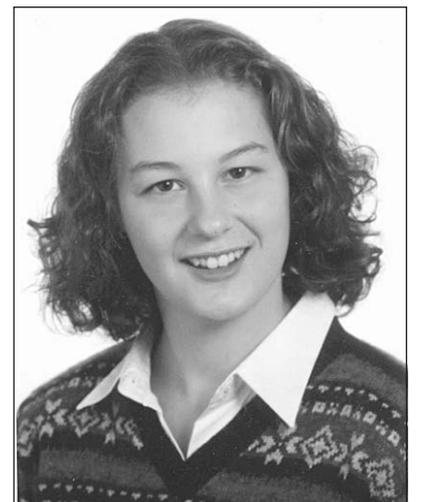
The 2005 Coloring Contest was again met with enthusiasm from our young members. We received 153 entries. Congratulations to all the entrants and especially to all the winners.

The St. Michael Branch (Branch 2) hosted the 2006 Bowling Tournament. Noble Manor Lanes of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, welcomed 194 Jednota Bowlers the weekend of April 21 – 23, 2006. Sincere thanks to Mike Lako, Sue Ondrejco, and the local committee who coordinated a welcoming reception for the bowlers and all the members from the Pittsburgh area who joined our celebration at the banquet.

The 2006 Golf Tournament was held at the Treasure Lake Golf Club near DuBois, PA, the weekend of July 22, 2006. The challenge and beautiful scenery of the courses produced an exciting weekend for the 103 golfers who participated. Following Mass Saturday evening, golfers and guests had the opportunity to spend the evening with us as we enjoyed the entertainment provided by the King himself – Elvis Presley.

During this past year's Convention, the delegates elected a new Fraternal Activities Director, Susan M. Ondrejco. I wish her good luck and will assist her in any way I can.

In conclusion, I again thank the Members of the Board that have supported the various activities throughout the year. I thank you, the members of the First Catholic Slovak Union, for giving me the opportunity to serve you in this position. I wish the F.C.S.U. continued success in all her future endeavors.



Theresa Ondrejco

**Fraternally submitted,
Theresa Ondrejco
Director of Fraternal Activities**

FCSU Holds Productive Annual Meeting in Independence, Ohio

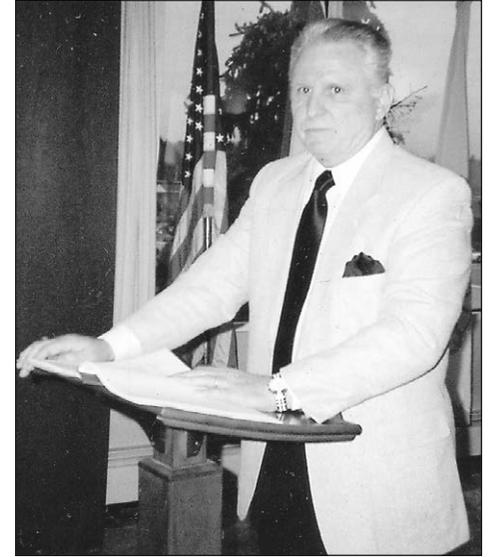
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National Chaplain Rev. Thomas Nasta, Fraternal Activities Director Susan Ondrejco and Regional Director Damian Nasta study the reports.



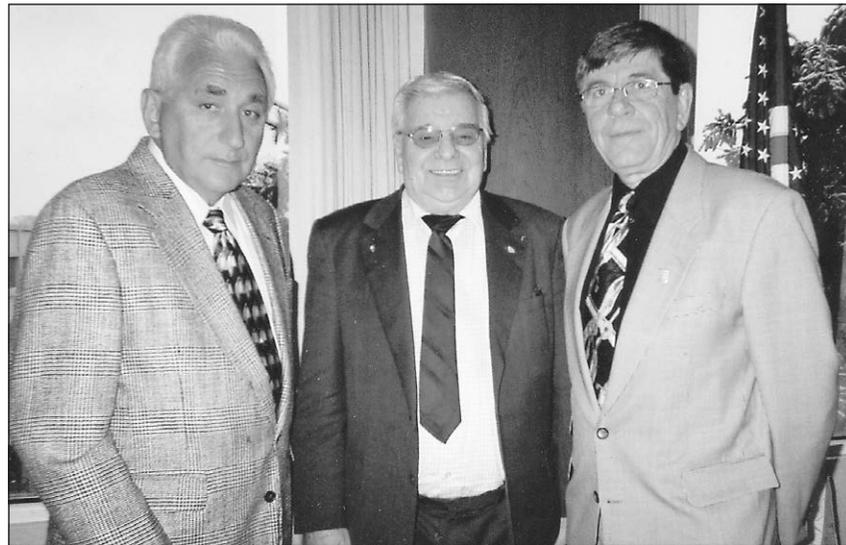
General Counsel Gary Matta (left) and Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt review the reports.



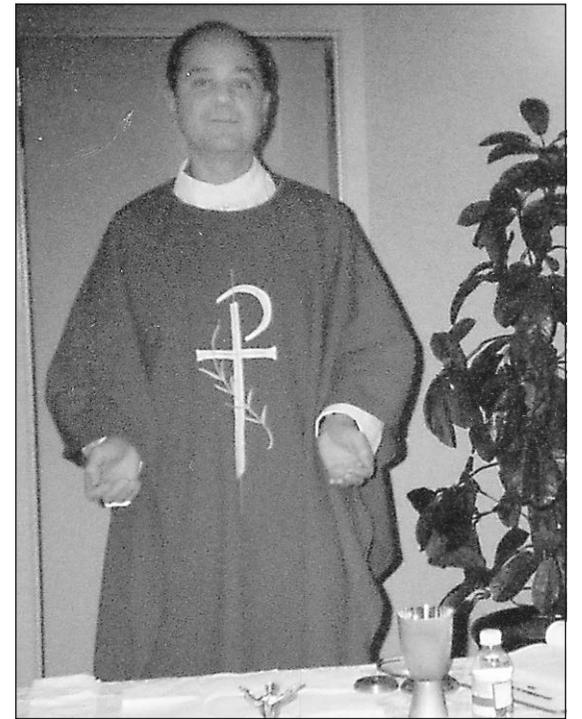
National President Andrew M. Rajec gives his annual report.



National Vice President Andrew Harcar Sr. and National Treasurer George Matta go over the financial report.



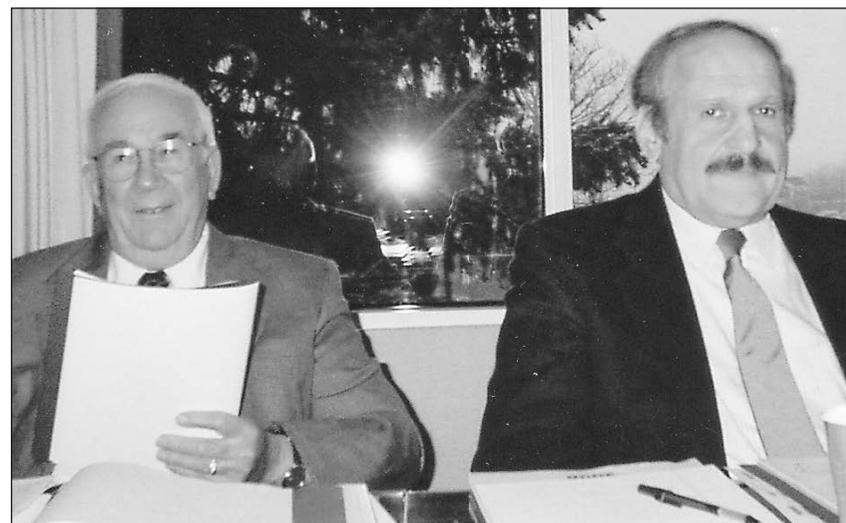
L-R: Regional Directors Henry Hassay, George Sprock and Milos Mitro.



The National Chaplain Rev. Thomas Nasta celebrated Mass for the Board of Directors each day of the meeting.



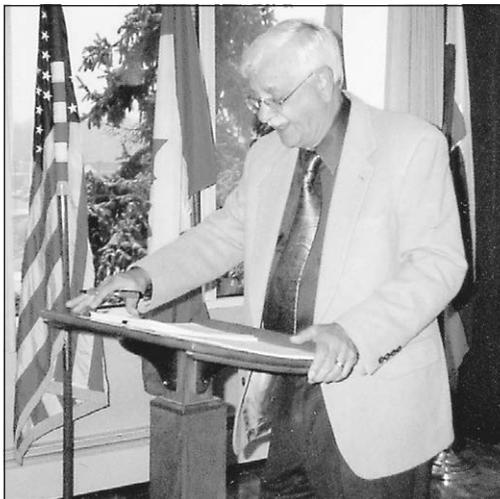
Chairperson of Auditors Karen Hunka presents the Management Report.



L-R: Regional Directors Regis Brekosky and Carl Ungvarsky.



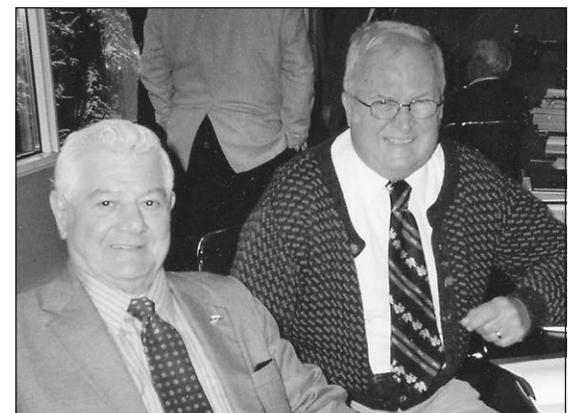
Director of Fraternal Activities Susan Ondrejco and Chairperson of Auditors Karen Hunka.



Giving the Actuarial Report is Edward DePersis of Bruce and DePersis.



Regional Directors Carl Ungvarsky, Damian Nasta and George Sprock.



Regional Directors Joseph Minarovich and Rudy Glogovsky.

Report Of The Executive Secretary

common stock.

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Life premium income showed an increase of 4.9% while there was a drop of 46.5% in annuity premium resulting in a 47.8% decrease in total premium income. Investment income was level despite the low interest rates currently available. Overall, total income for the year decreased (14.4%) which is less than the (18.5%) decrease in 2005.

Our 2006 premium income is broken down as follows:

Life Insurance	\$ 1,356,060
Annuities	3,369,327
Total	\$ 4,725,387

Investment income for 2006 is broken down as follows.

Investment Income for 2006:

Government Bonds	\$ 2,226,969
Bonds	8,263,335
Preferred Stock	1,397,663
Common Stock	69,036
Mortgage Loans	174,420
Real Estate	374,156
Certificate Loans	38,831
Short-Term Investments	105,444
Other Investment Assets	49,833
Write-ins for Investment Income	(490,851)
Total Investment Income	\$12,207,836

Investment Expenses:

Depreciation on Real Estate and Other Investment Expenses (Investment Taxes, License Fees, etc.)	\$ (461,146)
Net Investment Income	\$11,746,690

Listed below is a five-year comparison of assets, premium income and net income.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Assets	\$151,850,291	\$173,449,883	\$186,464,507	195,540,901	\$197,310,824
Prem. Income	18,812,246	18,030,652	11,507,748	7,596,237	4,725,837
Invest. Income	9,893,336	10,832,495	11,479,736	11,764,645	11,746,690
Net Income	514,979	1,057,176	2,068,565	1,342,404	1,489,106

The FCSU Board of Directors declared a dividend to be paid in 2006.

Bonds constitute 83.2% (-3.3%) of the Society's assets, and have an average maturity of 15.82 years. The FCSU enjoys excellent bond quality, with 86.6% (1.6%) of the bonds in the two highest NAIC rating classes despite the downgrading of Ford and General Motors Bonds to below investment grade. In an effort to diversify the portfolio and increase investment return, Preferred Stock now makes up 9.2% of invested assets (including \$8,000,000 of hybrid securities transferred to preferred stock) and Common Stock 0.8%. Other assets consist of mortgages (1.2%), real estate (1.5%) and all others (4.2%). The Society owns \$2,244,00 of Surplus Notes which are listed on schedule BA and shown as other invested assets on the asset page. The Society's net investment rate of return was 6.2%, which is lower than the five-year average of 6.59% excellent in the current market conditions.

The most significant increases in liabilities were: life policy reserves increased less than 1.1%; annuity reserves increased 5.8% and AVR 20%. Average lapse ratio remains at a very favorable 2.0% over five years. The Society has no liabilities in Canada. Therefore, the Foreign Exchange Reserve was reduced to \$5,000.

Surplus continues to grow at (17.1%) for 2006 and surplus has increased (94.5%) in the last five years.

The Society continues to emphasize Bonds and Preferred Stock in its investments, which constitutes over 92.4% of its investment portfolio.

Unrealized gains were \$551,836 representing the higher market value of stocks owned, and increased non-admitted value of bonds with Annual Statement NAIC rating of "6". The AVR increased by \$431,991 and is at its maximum in all components. The increase in AVR was due to the continued downgrading of Ford Motor, Ford Motor Credit, General Motors Acceptance Corporation Bonds. The IMR decreased 2.2% and now stands at \$3,540,809.

The combination of surplus, AVR and IMR total \$17,686,539, an increase of 13.1% over the same items in 2005. This represents very strong growth in the area of solvency.

The items which provide liquidity are \$4,884,625 of cash/short term funds, \$1,532,745 of Common Stock, almost \$2,300,000 of bonds maturing in less than one year, over \$4,700,000 of premium income and over \$11,700,000 of investment income. Expected outgo for benefit payments, commissions, dividends and expenses is less than \$14,200,000. The society has more than adequate liquidity as reflected by the \$2,300,000 of cash from operations in 2006.

The Risk Based Surplus calculations indicate that total adjusted surplus is \$14,305,730, which is more than \$2,700,000 above actual surplus. This does not include the IMR. The total for 50% of the calculated RBS was \$3,052,205 (after RBC Cash Flow Scenario testing which did not require an adjustment entry), which is substantially lower than actual surplus. The Society's RBS ratio of 469 is safely above regulatory action levels.

The Society has only 3 IRIS ratios outside the NAIC designated range which were due to the drop in premium income particularly in the annuity income.

Total member benefits were 25.7% higher. Total life benefits remained level; annuity benefits increased by 39%. Annuity reserves increased only 14% reflecting the decrease in premium income and increase only in annuity benefits. Commissions were 20% lower reflecting the lower premium income; operation expenses were 12.6% higher, led by General Expenses, which were 14.5% higher, but taxes were 11.2% lower. Management continues to control expenses. Dividends to members were based on the normal Society scale for in force policies. The Society enjoyed a gain from operations for the 12th year in a row.

Bond capital gains of 263,000 were offset by a loss on the sale of common stock totaling \$213,149. The common stock loss was offset as part of unrealized gains of \$481,994. The Society has only 1 bond with an NAIC rating of "6" representing less than .1% of its portfolio. Bond unrealized capital gains were 132,004.

Our 2006 financial statements, quarterly and year-end, were compiled and completed on a timely basis and filed with the various states in which we are licensed to do business. We are continually in contact with the regulatory agencies of the various states regarding their requirements, which are constantly changing. We are in compliance with all of the states' and NAIC accounting regulations.

In 2006 we had a loss in membership (death claims, cash withdrawals, expels, etc.) of 580 members compared to a loss of 979 in 2005. We had a decrease in the number of life insurance certificates of 1,063 in 2006 compared to a loss of 1,412 in 2005.

The Society recorded a net \$4,188,000 increase in insurance in force. This represents stable growth. Insurance in force has increased 2.2% since 2002.

As of December 31, 2006, the Society had 3,891 annuity certificates, which represents a loss of 154 certificates. As of December 31, 2006, annuitant membership was decreased

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Report of the National Treasurer

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than 20 years, and ratings of no lower than A/A.

In past years, longer maturing bonds would provide higher yields than shorter maturities, however during the 2006 year, we were experiencing lower maturing bonds offered at an inverted curve, and even at the present time, the yields between the lower and longer maturities are basically flat.

Net investment rate of return remained an attractive 6.2%. This return ranks near the top among fraternal and commercial insurers. The average FCSU investment return for the past five years is 6.59%.

The Executive Committee meet on a quarterly basis, March, June, September and December, to review and set the rate of interest we will pay on our annuities. We take in consideration the rates being offered in areas that our branches and members are located in providing a competitive return.

The year 2006 increase in the Asset Value Reserve (AVR) was \$431,991 vs. an increase of only \$193,255 in 2005. A factor in the AVR was the downgrading of the ratings on Ford and General Motors bonds. The lower rating demands a much higher reserve requirement. The Asset Valuation Reserve remains at its maximum. The significance is that future common stock capital gains, in excess of the annual increments will go directly into surplus.

The majority of the General Motors maturities are less than ten years and the Ford Motor maturities are three to five years. The greater significance is that the majority of the yields are 6.50% to 9.50%. In addition, our broker advises that at the present time, both the General Motors and Ford Motor are valued at near par and since the maturities are so short, they maybe higher than par value. We will continue to monitor them for future direction.

Although the Society primarily holds bonds for income and does not actively trade, the FCSU has on occasions accepted profitable tender offers that we felt would improve the Society's portfolio.

In 2006, \$288,040 of prior years' profits was included as a part of income. This amount was released from the Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR). The IMR requires that most profits or losses realized when bonds, preferred stocks are matured, called or sold, must be placed in this reserve and amortized to the original date of maturity. The total IMR is now \$3,540,809, a portion of which will provide average annual income to the Society of approximately \$170,000 for the next 20 years.

The Society purchased \$20,100,000 of securities in the year 2006, while almost \$18,200 of securities were matured, called or sold. The large volume of activity was required by the large number of calls. The challenge continues to be to find replacement bonds of equal value and the best interest rates available.

FCSU Investment Performance

Investment Income continues to provide the strength for the Society. Following is the investment income enjoyed during the past six years.

Investment Income

2001	\$ 9,120,654	2004	\$11,479,736
2002	9,893,336	2005	12,055,609
2003	10,832,495	2006	11,746,690

The investment income is slightly lower than in 2005 due to convention year expenses and some annuity withdrawals.

Bonds make up 83.2% of the investment portfolio, and are high quality. Investment grade bonds are 86.6% of bonds owned. Only 1 company whose bonds are owned by the Society, are rated category 6 (Delta Airlines). Preferred stocks make up 9.2% of the portfolio and have helped sustain the strong investment income return. All preferred stocks owned by the Society are in the top 3 NAIC investment rating grades and enjoy attractive yields.

The combination of securities portrays a stable, non-volatile investment portfolio and the Society enjoyed a very fine, \$1,763,053, increase in its investment assets.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Officers, Members of the Board of Directors for their assistance in the performance of their duties and their support to me as their treasurer.

**Respectfully submitted,
George F. Matta
National Treasurer**

Report Of The Executive Secretary

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by 25 members for a total of 1,241 annuitant members (this total does not reflect members who have both insurance and annuity contracts). The total cash value of our annuity accounts for 2006 was \$97,451,383 compared to \$96,787,614 in 2005. Our annuity products continue to be the bright spot in our portfolio, bringing in over \$62,000,000 in the last five years alone. This represents great confidence in our Society and its continued growth.

The First Catholic Slovak Union's insurance and annuity portfolio contains many products, which suit all insurance and annuity needs. The Membership and Marketing Committee, along with our actuarial firm, Bruce and Bruce Company, and our Financial Consulting Firm, Bruce and DePersis, continues to explore avenues to improve and enhance our existing products (premium costs, etc.) and develop new products for our members. We are in the process of introducing our new 20Year Fixed Term Policy in the first quarter of 2007. This product will fit well into our portfolio and will be marketed as a solution to mortgage insurance. We have expanded our marketing to include advertising in 12 diocesan newspapers in the eastern part of the United States and will continue to advertise on two radio stations.

In 2006 we continued to offer training seminars to our branches and districts. These seminars are designed to educate our branch officers, district officers and recommenders not only about our existing products but also our new products and ways to present them. We believe these seminars will help stimulate the growth of our Society, develop motivation and strengthen the relationship between the home office, our branches and recommenders. Our goal is to keep the lines of communication open among our branches, districts, recommenders and the home office. We encourage our district officers, branch officers and recommenders to personally discuss their thoughts and ideas with us.

The home office maintains a supply of sales tools, which aid our officers and recommenders with their presentation of our products. Some of these tools are sales kits, which contain information regarding our products (rates, application forms, etc.) and sales brochures describing our products. The new updated 2001 Mortality Tables have also been incorporated into the sales kits. We still have available the pamphlet: *What is the Jednota*. This pamphlet gives a brief history of our Society. Our highly qualified home office staff is also available during normal business hours to answer any questions concerning rates, completing applications, etc. To better serve our members and to increase efficiency, we offer an automatic premium payment service, which enables our members to have their premium payments automatically deducted from their bank accounts. Automatic deposit for annuity checks is also available to our annuity holders.

We continue to use, direct mail as a means of contacting our branches and our members, giving them information about our existing and new products. Direct mail is a necessary tool in marketing our products as we can reach a vast majority of our members in a short time. Our official organ, *Jednota*, is also a very useful vehicle for advertising our products.

We are continually updating our computer system to ensure that it meets and exceeds all state and NAIC requirements and customizing and updating it to be more efficient and cost saving is an ongoing process.

The FCSU maintains its own web site (www.fcsu.com), which contains the history of our Society and information about our products. We are continuing to update our website so that when you visit it you will not only have the latest information regarding our insurance and annuity products but also information about what is going on in the FCSU (branch meetings, district meetings, etc.). The Jednota newspaper (English and Slovak sections) is now on our web page and for our members convenience 4 back issues and the current issue are maintained on the web page at all times. The site contains links to Slovak news agencies, the Slovak Embassy and also to our Fraternal Activities Director's website.

We have the capability of sending and receiving information from our members through our e-mail address, fcsu@aol.com. We encourage our members and officers to use e-mail when corresponding with the home office. In 2006 our annual statement was filed electronically with the NAIC. We have been filing electronically financial and various reports required by the states in which we are licensed.

We use the Internet daily to receive information from the Slovak Embassy and the Slovak News Agency. This information is used to write articles about current events in Slovakia.

We are continually looking for ways to improve our home office operations. We believe a strong communication and working relationship between the home office, branches and recommenders is vital. Input from our members is necessary and very important to us. The home office always welcomes suggestions about ways to improve service to our members.

In 2006 our internal auditors and outside auditors, Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, conducted their audits for the period ending December 31, 2006. Their audits consisted of a complete review of our quarterly and year-end financial statements and our home office operations. As a result of these audits our Society received an excellent review.

During 2006, we continued merging inactive branches with other branches. This process will continue through 2007. This is an ongoing problem for our home office since many of our branch officers are unable to continue to service the members in their branches and not only is it difficult to find replacements for them within their branches, but it is also difficult to find other branches to merge them with.

The Year 2006 was the eighth year that our branches had to meet the requirements set forth by the 46th Convention to qualify for the \$3.00 per member stipend. It is estimated that 100 branches out of approximately 207 have met the requirements and are eligible to receive the stipend. We encourage our branch officers that if they are unable to perform their duties and cannot find anyone in their branches to take over their duties, to call the home office. We will try to merge them with an active branch. For those branches that do not wish to merge, the

home office can offer you guidelines as to how you can meet the requirements and receive the stipend. Beginning in 2007 there will be new requirements to qualify for the branch stipend set forth by the 48th Quadrennial convention. They are as follows:

4.05 Financial Obligations

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) semi-annual 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 (1) 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.

The FCSU has an outstanding scholarship program, which is available to our members who meet the requirements. Members may contact the home office for information concerning the scholarship program.

The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, which is separate from the Society's scholarship program, is available to any person pursuing post-secondary education. To be eligible for this one-time scholarship, the applicant must be of Slovak descent and Catholic faith. At this time, ten non-renewable scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 each are expected to be awarded.

Our Society is very active in fraternal activities. We sponsor bowling and golf tournaments each year. A coloring contest for the younger members of our Society is held each December. Family picnics are now held on the District level and are more centrally located for our members. There were activities for the young and older members of the FCSU at the picnics. We hope to continue this practice annually. One of the activities that the FCSU takes part in each year is the March for Life, which is held in Washington, D.C. in January. Members of our Society join with all others who respect the rights of the unborn. We are exploring joint adventures with other fraternal in the near future.

As I have stated in the past, the economic success of our Society hinges on three factors: the effective sale and promoting of our insurance and annuity products to increase premium income; the effective management of our investment portfolio to increase our investment income; and continuing to control our operating expenses.

We must look for new ways to attract members to our Society. New members are vital to our growth.

As your Executive Secretary, I represent the FCSU on the Board of Directors of the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Slovak League. I have attended and represented the Society at fraternal functions not only within our FCSU but also other fraternal societies. I represent the society at various branch and district meetings throughout the year. Each year I attend the National Fraternal Congress of America's Annual Meeting. I also attend many seminars, including the Bruce and Bruce Seminars, which are always very informative regarding current insurance trends and pending state and NAIC regulations that might affect the FCSU.

This has been a good productive year; our 48th Quadrennial Convention held in Boca Raton, Florida was very successful. The convention delegates worked hard on the bylaws and we came away with several changes and new amendments. The new bylaw books have been printed and distributed to all branches. My family and myself appreciate your trust and support the convention delegates have shown by re-electing me as your Executive Secretary. I will continue to work and do my very best for our society. I look forward to working with the new administration and as we begin a new year and work toward a stronger society we need to respect each other and at all times to address all issues with honesty and integrity. We are the First Catholic Slovak Union and I pray that our Society continues to grow. We have outstanding products with competitive rates and we all need to be involved in reaching new members and promote our society.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of my fellow officers and board members who assisted me throughout the year. A special thank you goes to our home office staff, a very hard-working entity of our Society.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Branch 5P— EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Evangelist Society, Branch 5P, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, May 20, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of President Leonard J. Zavada, 141 Second Street, Wyoming, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be a discussion on ways of finding and developing new clients, and how to provide service after the sale. All members are invited to attend this meeting.

Leonard J. Zavada, President

Branch 38— DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38, will hold its Spring Meeting on Friday, June 1, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Florence Matta, 310 Harden Avenue, Duquesne, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be officers' reports and a discussion of Branch activities for the coming year.

The Pittsburgh District, as in past years will sponsor a Father's Day Mass on June 17, 2007 at Holy Trinity Church, 929 West Grant Avenue Ext., West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. Mass will begin at 9:30 a.m. followed by breakfast in the church Social Hall. All interested members of Branch 38 who wish to attend are requested to contact Florence Matta at 412/466-7460 no later than June 11, 2007.

Florence K. Matta, Secretary-Treasurer

Branch 41— YONKERS, NEW YORK

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41, is sponsoring its 7th Communion Breakfast on Trinity Sunday, June 3, 2007, following the 9:00 a.m. Mass. The breakfast will be held in Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Trinity Street, Yonkers, New York. The menu will consist of juice, eggs, bacon, sausage or ham, home fries, rolls, donuts, and coffee or tea.

Tickets are available for this parish event by contacting any of our Branch Officers: President Emeritus John Fialkovich at 914/965-7546, President Paul Fialkovich at 914/375-1650, Vice President and Recording Secretary Robert Lutz at 914/337-2026, Financial Secretary and Treasurer Albert Figura at 914/963-8229, or Auditor William Kuderna at 914/963-3483. Reservations and checks (payable to Jednota Branch 41) can be mailed to Albert Figura, 92 Wicks Ave., Yonkers, NY 10701. Tickets are \$10.00 per person and \$3.00 for children under age 10. The deadline for purchasing tickets will be Thursday, May 31, 2007. After the deadline tickets will be \$11.00 for adults.

Reserve this date, June 3, 2007, Trinity Sunday, for this parish event sponsored by Jednota Branch 41. See you there!

Robert J. Lutz, Recording Secretary

Branch 55— PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

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

We try to follow the tradition of Slovak Catholic fraternal societies of having a Mass before a meeting. Therefore, we urge all members to attend the 10:30 a.m. Mass before the meeting. Please call the president

at 610/356-7956 for directions.

Josephine E. Gerba, Secretary

Branch 60— MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 60, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, May 20, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of President Ann Wargovich, 58 Lilmont Avenue, Swissvale, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be officers' reports and a discussion of branch activities. All members are urged to attend.

Margaret M. Perla, Secretary

Branch 85— JESSUP, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Florian Society, Branch 85, will hold a meeting on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the Jessup American Legion Post 411, Church Street, Jessup, Pennsylvania. The 21st Golf Tournament to be held in July will be open for discussion. All members interested in the Golf Tournament are invited to attend. Plans for attending other functions will also be discussed.

Bernard Skovira

Branch 153— CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 153, will hold its Summer Meeting on Saturday, June 16, 2007, at 12:00 noon at the home of President John Jurcenko, 7113 West Talcott Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. All members are cordially invited to attend. There will be a fraternal luncheon after the meeting.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

Branch 278— MIDDLETOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Peter Society, Branch 278, will hold a meeting on Monday, May 21, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. in the cry room of Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Middletown, Pennsylvania. All members are invited to attend.

Andrew Trojcek, President

Branch 484— CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph the Protector Society, Branch 484, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, June 10, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. in St. Francis Church Hall, Coral, Pennsylvania. All members are invited to attend.

Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary

Branch 633— FLINT, MICHIGAN

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 633, will hold a membership meeting on Saturday, May 5, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the Old Country Buffet, Courtland Mall, Burton, Michigan. All members are invited to attend. Please bring some new members with you.

Leslie Pirich, President

Branch 670— DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of the St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the next meeting on Sunday, June 10, 2007, at 12:00 noon at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon, Donora, Pennsylvania. Members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

Branch 746— LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday,

May 20, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, Linden, New Jersey. On the agenda will be a discussion and planning for the summer picnic and other possible events. Please bring your suggestions. Refreshments will follow.

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

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

Branch 764— WARREN, OHIO

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 764, will hold a Continental Breakfast on Sunday, May 6, 2007, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Social

Hall, Warren, Ohio. A branch meeting will be held after the breakfast. All members are welcome and urged to attend.

Joanne Odom, Secretary

Branch 856— WASHINGTON, D.C., MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA

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

**Katherine Nowatkoski,
Financial Secretary**

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRINCE RASTISLAV DISTRICT— Montreal, Quebec

The Prince Rastislav District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, May 27, 2007, at 12:00 noon at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall, Montreal, Quebec. Members are urged to attend.

Anthony S. Makovsky, President

MSGR. ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT— Monongahela Valley, Pennsylvania

The Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 10, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon, Donora, Pennsylvania. Members of the various branches in the District are urged to attend.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT— New York

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, June 3, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Yonkers, New York. We urge all District branches to send representatives to this meeting. All members of the FCSU are also welcome. Refreshments will be served by host branch 716.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary-Treasurer

"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.

National Catholic Prayer Breakfast

'New Evangelization' Shows Growth

By John Karch

Pope John Paul II's call for "New Evangelization" inspired Joseph J. Cella to found the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast which began modestly in 2004 and 2005 in Washington, D.C. Lasting several hours the major speakers in 2004 were Avery Cardinal Dulles, S.J., Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson, Congressman Bart Stupak, and Senator Sam Brownback. In 2005 they were President George W. Bush and Archbishop Charles Chaput. In 2006 two, one-hour, panels were added and the main speakers were President Bush, Bishop Robert C. Morlino, Fr. Benedict Groeschel, and Dr. Scott Hahn. This year, an Educational Program and Book Signing were planned and the major speakers were President Bush, Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl, Fr. Richard John Neuhaus, Dr. Hahn, and Mr. Steve McEveety, Producer of *The Passion of the Christ*.

Mr. Cella, President of Fidelis, a Catholic-based advocacy organization, became the Catholic Prayer Breakfast's President. The Board of Directors consists of the President; Mr. Austin Ruse, Vice President and President of the Catholic Human Rights Institute; Ms. Jacqueline Halbig, Secretary-Treasurer; Leonard Leo, Esq.; and William L. Saunders, Esq., Senior Fellow and Director of the Family Research Council's Center for Human Life and Bioethics. Archbishop Emeritus Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua is Ecclesiastical Advisor.

The success of these annual prayer breakfasts and positive comments led, logically, to a more comprehensive scope of activities. Also, participation grew, the idea spread nationwide, with state, college, and other prayer breakfasts, as well as abroad. The U.S. media coverage has been increasing, although some mainstream media still ignore the event.

Prayer Breakfast Mission

The mission of the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast is: "We have created the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in response to the call of Pope John Paul the Great for a 'New Evangelization,' new in order, methods and expression. We gather from across the United States of America for worship and fellowship. We gather to thank Our Lord for his abundant blessings upon this Land. We reaffirm our faith in Him and renew our dedication to this great Republic. We commit ourselves to providing for our brothers and sisters who are the most vulnerable in society, and we commit our country to the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary."

The April 12-14, 2007 National Catholic Prayer Breakfast program, with some 1,600 participants, has been the most ambitious. It began with an evening Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral, with Bishop of Arlington, Virginia, the Principal Celebrant and Homilist. The Speaker's Reception followed at the Army Navy Club.

Bishop Loverde, Homilist

In his homily at St. Mathew's Cathedral, Most Reverend Paul Loverde said that "through Word and Sacrament, the Risen Christ is revealing Himself to us right now! With eyes of faith we recognize him! With hearts full of love, we welcome Him!"

He then quoted Pope John Paul II "Since



L-R: Board Member Leonard Leo, President George W. Bush, Mother Assumpta Long, Msgr. Thomas Bohlin, and Board Member Bill Saunders.

lay people are at the forefront of the Church's mission to evangelize all areas of human activity—including the workplace, the worlds of science and medicine, the world of politics, and the diverse world of culture... testify how the Christian faith constitutes the only valid response... to the problems and hopes that life poses to every person and society."

Therefore, he stressed "You are being missioned to bring the Life of Christ's Truth to contemporary issues," those involving human life from its first moment of conception all the way to its last moment at natural death, issues concerning social justice, marriage and family, the chaste life, and the pursuit of peace." Fundamental to these issues, he said, is the "inestimable dignity and worth of the human person, created in God's image and likeness."

Thus, all of us must engage in "Christian activism: Not just actively for its own sake nor just pursuing public policy for the sake of efficiency, but rather, bringing the Gospel of Truth and Life and its source, Jesus Christ, into every sphere of human life like the apostles did in the early Church."

Friday the 13th—Very Busy

Preceding the 7:45 A.M. Prayer Breakfast was Rosary at 7:15, followed by an Educational Program and Book Signing at 10 A.M. with Authors Dr. Hahn ("Divine Liturgy as Our Prayer") and Fr. Neuhaus ("Why I Am Not an American Catholic"). After lunch, the afternoon sessions consisted of two panels with, said President Cella, "dynamic speakers who will address a number of very timely topics of interest to Catholics." They did indeed. The first panel addressed "Public Policy Issues of Interest to Catholics" and "The Constitution: Judges and the Confirmation Process." Panel II tackled "Catholics in Entertainment and the New Evangelization."

President Bush

Despite his numerous responsibilities, President George W. Bush appeared genuinely at ease, enjoying this, his third, appearance. See JEDNOTA, May 3, 2006, p. 1.

"It's good to be with you," he said, "You know how to make a Methodist feel right at home. (Laughter.) I noticed that this year's breakfast was the Friday after Lent

—(laughter) - you can eat your bacon in good conscience. (Laughter.) And the priests can relax." (Laughter.)

He continued: "I appreciate the opportunity to be with you, I really do. I thank you for having this prayer breakfast. Prayer breakfasts show the true strength of our nation... Our Declaration of Independence states that our freedom rests on self-evident truth about the dignity of the human person.... This morning we give thanks for the blessings of freedom, and we ask Almighty God to guide us as we renew our founding promise of liberty and justice for all."

Of the 56 men who signed our Declaration of Independence, he pointed out, one was a Catholic—Charles Carroll who was one of the wealthiest men in America. But because he was a Catholic, he could not vote or hold public office in his native Maryland. However, he knew that freedom was far more precious. "He knew," the President said, "that in America where people were free to worship God as they saw fit it would be a land where Catholics would flourish and prosper... and he understood that... our founding promise would always be a source of hope and renewal for our country. Renewing the promise of America begins with upholding the dignity of human life."

Today, he continued, "there is a temptation to manipulate life in ways that do not respect the humanity of the person.... We must continue to work for a culture of life—where the strong protect the weak, and where we recognize in every human life the image of our Creator."

"Renewing the promise of America," he said, "requires good citizens who look out for their neighbors. One of the reasons that I am such a strong believer in the power of our faith-based institutions is that they add something the government never can, and that is love." He cited Pope Benedict XVI: "There is no ordering of the state so just that it can eliminate the need for a service of love." In parishes and neighborhoods across our nation, Catholics take this call to heart—and that is why we find so many of you leading America's armies of compassion. You are changing America one heart, one soul at a time, and I thank you."

"Renewing the promise of America also included a sound education for every single child," he said, "America's Catholic schools play a vital role in our nation. The schools were built by poor immigrants, they were staffed by legions of dedicated nuns, brothers, and priests—and they have given millions of Americans the knowledge and character they need to succeed in life. Today, these schools are also serving thousands of non-Catholic children in some of the nation's poorest neighborhoods. I appreciate the tremendous sacrifices that many dioceses are making to keep their inner-city schools. I am worried that too many of these schools are closing—and our nation needs to do something about it."

"Finally, to realize the miracle of America, we must have comprehensive immigration reform that enforces our laws and upholds the dignity of every single person in the United States."

In conclusion, he said, "I thank you for your fine tradition. I applaud you for the love of neighbor you show through your organizations and your churches. I ask that you pray for our soldiers and their families in harms way. And I ask that you pray that in a troubled world, America may always remain a beacon of hope and freedom. May God bless you all."

Archbishop Wuerl

The Most Reverend Donald W. Wuerl, S.T.D., Archdiocese of Washington, was the Keynote Speaker on one of Pope Benedict XVI's core themes: "Christianity and National Identity." In his opening remarks, the Archbishop referred to the pilgrims who agreed to the Mayflower Compact which recognized two principles to guide them: "law of God and the common good." "We are a free people", the Archbishop continued, who recognize the sovereignty of God and God's law in our personal and societal life."

He noted that "We have become accustomed over the centuries to the voice of the Church as the voice of conscience. Today the common debate on our military presence in Iraq is framed in no small part in principles rooted in Catholic moral theology. So is the question of abortion, embryonic stem cell research, physician assisted suicide, and immigration involving Asian, Pacific rim and Latin American people."

In referring to *Rerum Novarum* as the foundation of Catholic social teaching, Archbishop Wuerl said "Today our struggle is to achieve the same success using Pope John II encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae*, and the Church's teaching tradition on the dignity of life in the defense of unborn human life. Religious faith has played and continues to play a significant role in promoting social justice issues as it does in defending all innocent human life."

The Third Day

On Saturday, April 14, the attendees, coming from various states, were given an opportunity, to tour "Catholic Washington" in the morning. In the afternoon, they toured Capitol Hill, attended Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine the Immaculate Conception, a lunch and tour at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

PROFESSOR MICHAEL SINCHAK (1919-2007)

Mike Sincak (Sinchak)—simply known as Mike, was born October 5, 1919, in a typical Slovak village, Sliepkovce, which lies in the district of Michalovce in the eastern part of Slovakia. When he was eight years old, Mike and his mother emigrated to Canada to join



Professor Michael Sinchak

his father who had preceded them by a few years. As a young boy, he attended the Slovak school, which was affiliated with a French school, St. Jacques, located at the corner of de Montigny and Sanguinet Streets. Upon his graduation from D'Arcy McGee High School, Mike entered Jacques Cartier Normal School where he obtained a teacher's diploma. From that time until his retirement, he taught in various schools under the jurisdiction of the Montreal Catholic School Commission, his last assignment being at Pius X High School. In addition to his teacher's diploma, Mike also earned two bachelor's degrees from the University of Montreal, as well as a Master's degree in Music from the University of Chicago. During the Second World War, after completing his basic and advanced training, he was attached to the Military Band Unit where he mastered brass instruments. In his adolescent years, he had been a member of the parish and Jednota bands.

In the Slovak community, he was deeply admired and respected for his musical talent. The many concerts and musicals, which he produced in collaboration with Steve Hreha—and, in particular, their folklore presentation on Slovak National Day at Expo '67 in Montreal aptly entitled *Vcera, dnes a zajtra* (Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow)—were highly rated.

However, Mike will be mostly remembered as the parish organist of SS. Cyril & Method Church, a position he held from the early age of 14 until his demise at the age of 87. No doubt a unique achievement in the annals of church history. He served his God, his country, his homeland and his community passionately and without hesitation.

He died on February 15, 2007. Funeral services were held on February 19 at the parish church where he had served loyally, faithfully, and continuously for almost 75 years as organist and choir director. Occasionally, he also served the Polish and Hungarian congregations. The Mass of Resurrection was celebrated by Rev. Thomas McKenty, assisted by Rev. Frantisek Kruspinsky, pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. A very moving eulogy was delivered by Marta Fуска, former parish warden. During the mass, the soloist was Margaret Schneider, a well-known Slovak singer.

Mike is mourned by his two sons, Terry and John, his daughter Cathy (Mrs. Marino) and family, his companion Clemence Lepage, as well as a wide circle of parishioners, friends, and admirers. He was laid to rest at the Cote-des-Neiges Cemetery alongside his wife Helen (Sumeraj) who preceded him to her eternal rest on December 19, 1997.

May he rest in peace, and may his contribution to help preserve and prolong our Slovak heritage through music and song

never be forgotten and may his effort to keep the Slovak community alive and vibrant be both appreciated and acknowledged by our upcoming generations.

'Till we meet again I bid you Au Revoir, Mike, my lifelong friend.

Stefan Hreha
Montreal, Quebec

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

Sister M. Daniel (Anna Zajac) 89, died at Maria Hall, on Monday, April 9, 2007. The daughter of Edward and Anna (Sabol) Zajac, she was born in Shamokin, Pennsylvania, on January 16, 1918.

She attended St. Mary School in Shamokin and graduated from Shamokin High School. Sister attended Marywood University, Scranton and received a B.S. in Home Economics from College Misericordia, Dallas, Pennsylvania. She also received a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

Sister Daniel entered the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius on October 2, 1936, and was received as a novice on May 5, 1937. She was professed on October 17, 1939.

As an elementary teacher, she taught in grades 4-8 in parish schools in Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania.

Sister Daniel spent twenty-six years as a secondary teacher in seven high schools. She taught Business and Home Economics at Andean, Merrillville, Indiana, and Bishop Hafey, Hazleton; Bishop McDevitt, Harrisburg; Lebanon Catholic, Lebanon; Lourdes Regional, Shamokin; St. Cyril Academy, Danville, and St. Pius X, Pottstown, all in Pennsylvania.

For two years at St. Benedict's Wellness Center, Niles, Illinois, Sister was Coordinator of Volunteers. She served as an Advocate for the Aging for Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Harrisburg for two years. In the summers she volunteered her services at Maria Joseph Manor, Danville, Pennsylvania, and Villa St. Cyril, Highland Park, Illinois.

One of her most treasured ministries was as sacristan for eight years in the Basilica of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Danville.

Sister Daniel was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Sister M. Aloysia, SS.C.M. She is survived by a sister, Mrs. Catherine Tighe, Rutherford, New Jersey, and a brother, Edward Zajac, Green Valley, Arizona, and several nieces.

The transferal rite and recitation of the Rosary took place at 9:30 a.m. and the Wake Service at 11:15 a.m. on Friday, April 13, 2007, at Maria Hall. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 1:30 p.m. in the Basilica of SS. Cyril and Methodius, Danville, Pennsylvania. The main celebrant and homilist was the Reverend Philip Latronico. Concelebrants were the Reverend Lawrence Nwabueze, O.P., the Reverend Albert Oldfield, and the Reverend Cyril Rable. Deacon Adrien Picard assisted at the altar.

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

SISTER M. ANNETTE (CONSTANCE) KUCHTA, OSF Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Sister M. Annette Kuchta, a member of the School Sisters of St. Francis of the U.S. Province for 53 years, died on Saturday, April 14, 2007, at Family Hospice at Mount

Nazareth, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She was 72 years old. Sister Annette entered the community from St. Clement Parish in Tarentum, Pennsylvania in 1952 and professed her first vows in 1954. She spent a number of years teaching in various dioceses (Pittsburgh, Erie, Altoona-Johnstown and Greensburg). In 1969 she received her nursing degree and was the first administrator of Marian Hall Personal Care Home. She most recently served as a receptionist at Marian Hall Home in Ross Township.

She was the daughter of the late George Kuchta and Mary Hamonaj. She was preceded in death by her sisters: Ann Dolinich, Helen Kuchta, Rose Sutara, Mary Cani, Lucille Bartoli, Wilma Posney and Ethel Maliszewski, brothers William and George. She is survived by her religious community and sisters Regina Ostrowski, Janice Rakowski, and several nieces and nephews.

At Sister Annette's request, there was no public viewing. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 19th at Queen of Angels Chapel, Mount Assisi, Bellevue. Arrangements have been made by Lawrence T. Miller Funeral Home, Inc. Bellevue, PA.

VERONICA T. COSTELLO Branch 484 Coral, Pennsylvania

Veronica T. Costello, 86, of Homer City, Pennsylvania, died Friday, April 6, 2007, at St. Andrews Village, Indiana, Pennsylvania.

She was born September 11, 1920, in Barnesboro, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Andrew and Anna Tkach Biros.

She was a member of St. Louis Roman Catholic Church, Lucernemines, and Jednota Branch 484, in Coral.

She is survived by three children, Stephen Costello and his wife, Delores, of Indiana, Pennsylvania, Barbara Brendlinger and her husband, Earl, of Clyde, Pennsylvania, and Robert Costello of Homer City, Pennsylvania; 10 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; a brother, Joseph Biros and his wife, Betty, of Bedford, Ohio; a sister, Helen Biros of Northern Cambria, Pennsylvania; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Costello, in 1993; an infant daughter, Mary; three brothers, Andrew Jr., John and Michael Biros; and two sisters, Ann Biros and Mary Petrisko.

Friends were received at the C. Frederick Bowser Funeral Home in Homer City on Monday, April 9, where a vigil service was held. A Blessing Service was held Tuesday, April 10 at the funeral home followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Louis Roman Catholic Church in Lucernemines with Msgr. Larry Kiniry as celebrant. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Joseph E. Rura

WILLIAM J. "BILL" FRKUSKA Branch 635 Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania



William J. "Bill" Frkuska, 75, of Chippewa Township, Pennsylvania, died Thursday, April 5, 2007, at his residence.

Born May 7, 1931, in New Brighton, Pennsylvania, a son of the late August and Julia Bogola Frkuska, he was a U.S. Navy veteran of the Korean War having served four years on the USS Chilton as a yeoman first class. He retired from the sales department of the Babcock & Wilcox Company with 36 years of service. He was a member of Christ the Divine Teacher Roman Catholic Church, Chippewa Township, American Legion, New Brighton; Polish Falcons, Beaver Falls; Jednota Branch 635, Beaver Falls; and was a former member of the VFW, Warren, Pennsylvania.

Surviving are his wife of 42 years, Frances Shebish Frkuska; two sons and daughters-in-law, William W. "Bill" and Jodi Frkuska of Navarre, Ohio, and Daniel August and Melissa Frkuska of South Beaver Township, Pennsylvania; a daughter, Linda L. Frkuska and Kim Logan of Seattle, Washington; a sister, Catherine Babcanec of New Brighton; and a grandson, Danny Frkuska.

Friends were received at the Lutton Chippewa Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Christ the Divine Teacher Church by Father Robert Franco. Interment was in St. Joseph Cemetery, New Brighton.

Vincent Ciganik

Coming Events

MAY

27 – The Prince Rastislav District's Semiannual Meeting at 12:00 noon at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall, Montreal, Quebec.

JUNE

3 – The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Yonkers, New York.

10 – A meeting of the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District at 1:00 p.m. at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon, Donora, Pennsylvania.

From the desk of the Executive Secretary:

DIVIDENDS INCREASED BY 25%

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

Last Call for Articles for THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The deadline for articles for the 2007 edition of The Good Shepherd is June 20, 2007. The scope of the articles is broad. Any topic of interest to Slovak-American Catholics can be included in the annual. Articles solely political in nature will not be accepted.

In order to facilitate the editing and printing of The Good Shepherd, the following guidelines are established for those who wish to have their submissions considered for inclusion in the annual:

All articles must be type-written, double-spaced in Microsoft WORD format in 12 point, Times New Roman font. It is strongly preferred that articles be e-mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., Editor, at: bernsscm@yahoo.com. In this age of modern technology, it is easier and more economical to work from a text that is provided via a digital file rather than of having to retype a full article. If it is not possible for an article to be e-mailed, a "hard copy" may be mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

Kindly keep your article between three and ten typewritten pages. We cannot accept an article which is fewer than three pages. Please try not to go beyond ten pages.

If at all possible, kindly send photos to accompany articles. If sending photos electronically, save as separate JPEGs to accompany the article. Indication should be given as to where photos are to be located within the body of the article, but do not imbed the photos into the text; please save them as separate JPEG files to accompany the text. Be sure to properly identify the persons, places and/or situations depicted in the photo(s). In the event that the article is e-mailed and photos are not included as attachments, prints of the photos should be mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., for inclusion in the article. (Please do not send photos run out on a home printer on "typewriter" paper. They are generally grainy and of very poor quality for reproduction. Photos you print out yourself should be of the same quality as if you had them developed commercially.) If more convenient, photos can also be saved to a CD, which the printer can then link up with the article. Once again, please be sure that the photos are properly identified and kindly note where, within the article, the photos are to be inserted.

As Editor, Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., retains the right to correct grammatical errors, delete repetitions, rearrange phrasing to make it more clear, etc. However, she will not substantially change your ideas.

It is preferred that articles be written in English. If, however, articles in Slovak are submitted, they will be sent to a third party for editing.

On behalf of the Slovak Catholic Federation, I sincerely thank all of the faithful contributors to The Good Shepherd. Your contributions, year after year, ensure the fact that we are able to provide a quality annual which helps celebrate our Catholic faith, preserves our Slovak heritage, and allows our readers to stay in touch with what's happening in the Catholic Church, in Slovakia, and in the Slovak-American community. We are looking forward to your contributions again this year.

During this year of transition, your patience, understanding, and continued support of The Good Shepherd and the Slovak Catholic Federation are deeply appreciated!

May God bless you!

Rev. Philip A. Altavilla
National President, Slovak Catholic Federation

SEMINARS

For every three (3) new JEP Contracts...OR...one (1) new Ten Year Term Policy...or...any new Whole Life Policy with a face value of at least \$10,000 you bring to the seminar in your area, you will receive a Modra Dish made in Slovakia. There is no limit on the number of dishes you can receive. The following seminars are finalized.

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

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

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

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

More seminars are being scheduled!

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

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

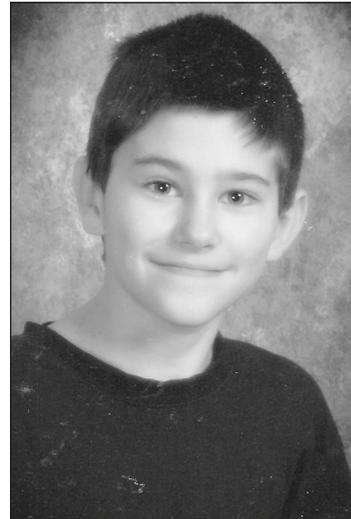
Please form a car pool and attend the seminars that will be scheduled in your area.

Until next time...

Good luck and God bless!

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

YOUTH ROUND-UP



Nicholas Rosensweet

Nicholas Rosensweet won the 5th Grade Essay Contest at St. Theresa School in Hellertown, Pennsylvania. He is a member of Branch 567, in Allentown, and the grandson of William Micek, Financial Secretary-Treasurer of Branch 567.

I'm Proud to Be an American

I am proud to be an American because our country is an orderly, modern, and peaceful country. Our country has many features that make it great. Some examples of these freedoms are listed in our constitution, and others include good paying jobs and strong security. A few more features include having good agriculture, industry, and environmental research on how we can preserve the ecosystem. One other and important feature is being able to be educated in various subjects and methods.

Our constitution guarantees us many fair and equal freedoms. Some include freedom of speech, religion, and expression. They allow you to be free and do what you

think is right. They allow people to have their own religious beliefs, say what they think should be said, and express their opinions about business and the government. It also includes choosing a job you want and not being turned away because of who you are.

Our country is also peaceful as it is fair towards its people. A very good example would be the USA Freedom Corps. It is an organization dedicated to helping people in need throughout the country and generously volunteering whenever they can. They help people to understand what it is like being a volunteer and making a difference in communities every day. This organization donates its time and talents into improving the lives of people in need and helping to make America a better place to live.

Some of the final things that make our country great are a good economy and an experienced and highly trained military. Our economy includes farming crops, pumping fuels, and manufacturing materials and appliances we use daily. Our military is well trained, well equipped, and dedicated to protect and serve our country. They are also sent off to places currently in a state of conflict such as Iraq and are succeeding in maintaining order there. These were several of the major reasons why I'm proud to be an American.

Nicholas Rosensweet



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

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

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

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

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

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

THESE RATES WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE THROUGH JUNE 30, 2007.

Kenneth A. Arendt
National Secretary

Insurance Sales Person

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

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

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

JEDNOTA BOWLING RESULTS



AKRON MIXED RETIREES (BRANCH 553) March 1, 2007

Team	Won	Lost
Alley Cats	86	68
Revelers	86	68
Hot Shots	84	70
Old Timers	83	71
Phantoms	80	74
Mark'm	80	74
Saints	77	77
Bits & Pieces	73	81
Strugglers	69	85
Cliff Hangers	54	100

High single game team: Phantoms-898. High three games team: Phantoms-2555. High single game individual: (woman) Connie Pisciotta-188; (man) Steve Dishauzi-245. High three games individual: (woman) Connie Pisciotta-479; (man) Steve Dishauzi-638.

Next four high single games: (women) Mary Shuttleworth-187, Betty Reed-175, Mary Falatok-168, Kay Dishauzi-164, Vera Thomas-164; (men) Tom Walsh-213, Art Berndt-201, Lenny Gmerek 198, Gary Kolb-194.

Next four high three games: (women) Joanne Head-476, Betty Reed-465, Doris Clapp-444, Mary Shuttleworth-427; (men) Tom Walsh-562, Art Berndt-528, George Kacsanek-522, Gary Kolb-519, Hurland Parker-519.

March 8, 2007

Team	Won	Lost
Revelers	93	68
Hot Shots	88	73
Old Timers	87	74
Phantoms	87	74
Mark'm	87	74
Alley Cats	86	75
Saints	80	81
Bits & Pieces	73	88
Strugglers	72	89
Cliff Hangers	54	107

High single game team: Phantoms 860. High three games team: Phantoms-2518. High single game individual: (woman) Joanne Head-181; (man) Gary Kolb-221. High three games individual: (woman) Katie Corall-494; (man) Gary Kolb-631.

Next four high single games: (women) Katie Corall-179, Betty Nolan-171, Vera Thomas-

169, Kay Dishauzi-168; (men) George Kacsanek-214, Joe Simkanin-203, Steve Dishauzi-201, Frank Rizzo-198.

Next four high three games: (women) Joanne Head-465, Cecelia Petrsek-453, Kay Dishauzi-451, Ruth Perich-436; (men) George Kacsanek-582, Tom Walsh-555, Joe Simkanin-547, Steve Dishauzi-537.

March 15, 2007

Team	Won	Lost
Revelers	100	68
Hot Shots	95	73
Phantoms	92	76
Alley Cats	91	77
Mark'm	87	81
Old Timers	87	81
Saints	82	86
Strugglers	79	89
Bits & Pieces	73	95
Cliff Hangers	56	112

High single game team: Phantoms-837. High three games team: Phantoms-2477. High single game individual: (woman) Katie Corall-201; (man) George Kacsanek-208. High three games individual: (woman) Katie Corall-484; (man) George Kacsanek-542.

Next four high single games: (women) Kay Dishauzi-173, Betty Nolan-164, Cecelia Petrsek-162, Vera Thomas-156; (men) Tom Walsh-200, Andy Kacsanek-198, Steve Dishauzi-197, Walt Nolan-190.

Next four high three games: (women) Kay Dishauzi-472, Betty Nolan-453, Vera Thomas-444, Joyce Walsh-421; (men) Joe Simkanin-534, Tom Walsh-528, Steve Dishauzi-514, Walt Nolan-507.

March 22, 2007

Team	Won	Lost
Revelers	105	70
Hot Shots	100	75
Phantoms	99	76
Alley Cats	93	82
Old Timers	89	86
Saints	89	86
Mark'm	87	88
Strugglers	86	89
Bits & Pieces	73	102
Cliff Hangers	56	119

High single game team: Phantoms-827. High three games team: Phantoms-2448. High single game individual: (woman) Joanne Head-188; (man) George Kacsanek-226. High three games individual: (woman) Vera Thomas-478; (man) Joe Simkanin-644.

Next four high single games: (women) Vera Thomas-180, Kay Dishauzi-178, Katie Corall-175, Betty Reed-169; (men) Joe Simkanin-222, Walt Blateric-207, Art Berndt-204, Ernie Chudick-197, Joe Wozniak-197.

Next four high three games: (women) Katie Corall-468, Joyce Walsh-461, Kay Dishauzi-445, Betty Reed-445, Marilyn Bohling-426; (men) George Kacsanek-574, Art Berndt-554, Joe Wozniak-540, George Kovac-540, Walt Blateric-539.

March 29, 2007

Team	Won	Lost
Revelers	110	72
Phantoms	104	78
Hot Shots	102	80
Alley Cats	97	85
Saints	92	90
Mark'm	92	90
Old Timers	91	91
Strugglers	88	94
Bits & Pieces	78	104
Cliff Hangers	58	124

High single game team: Phantoms-890. High three games team: Phantoms-2488. High single game individual: (woman) Joyce Walsh-183; (man) George Kacsanek-233. High three games individual: (woman) Katie Corall-477; (man) Joe Simkanin-620.

Next four high single games: (women) Cecelia Petrsek-179, Marge Simkanin-168, Katie Corall-168, Betty Nolan-156, Rose Moskos-154; (men) Mike Novachek-222, Joe Simkanin-218, Gary Kolb-201, Steve Dishauzi-201, Art Berndt-200.

Next four high three games: (women) Joyce Walsh-472, Marge Simkanin-463, Cecelia Petrsek-431, Betty Nolan-426; (men) George Kacsanek-595, Art Berndt-537, Steve Dishauzi-536, Mike Novachek-532.

Vera Thomas, Secretary

TORONTO SLOVAK MIXED (BRANCH #785) March 14, 2007

Pos	Tm#	Team	Won	Lost
1	6	Jerry Siman	121.0	68.0
2	15	Michael Kapitan	120.0	62.0
3	2	Stan Pella	114.0	75.0
4	4	Emil Jursa	110.0	79.0
5	8	Jim Szabo	105.0	84.0
6	3	Rose Pikul	105.0	84.0
7	5	Joe Jursa	98.0	91.0
8	14	John Jursa	98.0	91.0
9	11	Jason Ubeika	96.0	93.0
10	9	Greg Gryns	94.0	95.0
11	13	Anne Mitro	94.0	95.0
12	12	Ed Jursa	94.0	95.0
13	7	Hank Gryns	92.0	97.0
14	1	Sharon Tomas	90.0	99.0
15	10	Denise Ricciuti	67.0	122.0

This Week's Individual High Scores
HI-SERIES-FLAT: Jason Ubeika-598; Cathy Szabo-536.

HI-SERIES-HCP: Joe McKenna-711; Helen von Friedl-680.

HI-GAME-FLAT: Danny Zrobok-248; Cathy Szabo-210.

HI-GAME-HCP: Danny Zrobok-265; Cathy Szabo-255.

March 21, 2007

Pos	Tm#	Team	Won	Lost
1	6	Jerry Siman	126.0	70.0
2	15	Michael Kapitan	125.0	64.0
3	2	Stan Pella	116.0	80.0
4	4	Emil Jursa	115.0	81.0
5	8	Jim Szabo	110.0	86.0
6	3	Rose Pikul	110.0	86.0
7	11	Jason Ubeika	103.0	93.0
8	5	Joe Jursa	103.0	93.0
9	14	John Jursa	100.0	96.0
10	12	Ed Jursa	99.0	97.0
11	9	Greg Gryns	96.0	100.0
12	13	Anne Mitro	96.0	100.0
13	7	Hank Gryns	94.0	102.0
14	1	Sharon Tomas	92.0	104.0
15	10	Denise Ricciuti	69.0	127.0

This Week's Individual High Scores
HI-SERIES-FLAT: Jim Szabo-599; Cathy Szabo-490.

HI-SERIES-HCP: Ted Golla-712; Mary Novak-710.

HI-GAME-FLAT: Milos Mitro-220; Paula Manuel-184.

HI-GAME-HCP: Milos Mitro-257; Mary Novak-256.

March 28, 2007

Pos	Tm#	Team	Won	Lost
1	6	Jerry Siman	133.0	70.0
2	15	Michael Kapitan	130.0	66.0
3	4	Emil Jursa	120.0	83.0
4	2	Stan Pella	118.0	85.0
5	8	Jim Szabo	112.0	91.0
6	3	Rose Pikul	112.0	91.0
7	11	Jason Ubeika	108.0	95.0
8	12	Ed Jursa	106.0	97.0
9	5	Joe Jursa	103.0	100.0
10	14	John Jursa	102.0	101.0
11	7	Hank Gryns	101.0	102.0
12	9	Greg Gryns	101.0	102.0
13	13	Anne Mitro	98.0	105.0
14	1	Sharon Tomas	92.0	111.0
15	10	Denise Ricciuti	74.0	129.0

This Week's Individual High Scores
HI-SERIES-FLAT: Jason Ubeika-657; Cathy Szabo-505.

HI-SERIES-HCP: Frank Bokor-732; Josie Siman-684.

HI-GAME-FLAT: Greg Gryns-247; Anne Mitro-195.

HI-GAME-HCP: Frank Bokor-275; Christine McKee-246.

Sharon Tomas, Secretary

Allentown Parish to Hold "Meat Bingo"

The St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church will hold a "Meat Bingo" on Sunday, May 20, 2007, in the church Social Hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Doors open at 12:00 noon and bingo begins at 1:00 p.m. Donations are \$5.00 plus specials. Refreshments will be served. For information call Bill Drost at 610/432-3505 or Helen Fiala at 610/434-8614.

2008 JEDNOTA INTERNATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT OFFERS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Any District or branch interested in sponsoring the 2008 Bowling Tournament may submit their offers. The customary dates for the Tournament are April 11-13, or April 18-20, 2008. If circumstances would warrant, we would use both weekends. We prefer using only one weekend. Please furnish the following information in your written offer.

Branch or District hosting the Tournament:

Local Contact Person:

Name
Address
Phone Number

Bowling Lanes:

Name
Contact Person at Lanes
Address
Phone Number
Number of lanes available

**Please note: A minimum of 40 lanes will be needed for one weekend, preferably more. If two establishments are to be used, we will need at least 40 lanes in one house and at least 30 lanes in the other house.

Approximate cost per game
Scoring Equipment Available

Housing:

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

Deadline for all offers is July 1, 2007.

Please send offers to the FCSU Fraternal Activities Director:

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



Accent on Activities



2007 International Bowling Tournament

May 2007



John Tokarsky, from Toronto, aims to bowl over the tenth pin.

The 53rd Men's and 44th Women's International Jednota Ten Pin Handicap Bowling Tournament was held the weekend of April 20 - 22 in Cheektowaga, New York. Bowlers from Akron, Barberton, Ford City, Mon Valley, Pittsburgh, Toronto, and Whitehall arrived at Airport Lanes to meet and compete in the tournament. Friday night, men's and women's teams tried to knock over the most pins. Saturday and Sunday, the men and women competed in doubles and singles events. The results of the tournament will be available after May 10th.

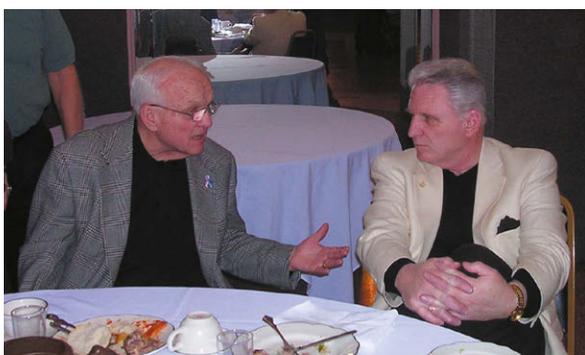
Saturday evening, National Chaplain, Fr. Tom Nasta, celebrated Mass at the Holiday Inn Airport. At the conclusion of Mass, the bowlers boarded buses to go to dinner at the Como Restaurant in Niagara Falls. National President, Andy Rajec, offered words of welcome to the bowlers. After a bountiful buffet dinner, the current standings were announced and two special awards were presented to the men's and women's team who put their best foot forward and played with utmost enthusiasm, even though it wasn't reflected in their final scores. The winner of the women's "Better Luck Next Year Award" was Mon Valley #6 and the winner of the men's "Don't Stand a Chance Award" was #4 Pallo's. Then the party split up to view Niagara Falls or to spend some time in Seneca Niagara Casino. More details will be published in future issues.



Barberton Jednota #1 – Barberton, OH



Mon Valley #3 – Donora, PA



National Treasurer, George Matta, with National President, Andy Rajec



We Came, We Saw, We Lost – Pittsburgh, PA



Toronto members enjoying the banquet.

50/50 Winners:

- Irene Gorman, Toronto
- George Tritinger, Pittsburgh
- Ron Sabo, Barberton
- Jim Shank, Mon Valley
- Rich Joschak, Pittsburgh

Sweepstakes Winners:

- Greg Gryss, Toronto
- Jeanne Hlas, Barberton
- John Kapsa, Toronto
- Sharon Tomas, Toronto
- Steve Fekete, Whitehall
- George Kacsanek, Akron
- Jim Simkanin, Akron
- Zachary Hunt, Mon Valley
- Dean Detwiler, Pittsburgh

National President, Andy Rajec, presenting the "Better Luck Next Year Award" to Larry Healey, Mon Valley Bowlers



Bowling Poker Winners:

- Michael Nichols, Jr., Barberton
- Ron Sabo, Barberton
- John Roberts, Mon Valley
- Daniel Joscak, Pittsburgh
- David Joscak, Pittsburgh

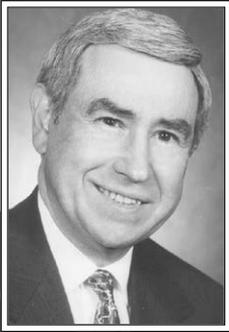


Members from Akron and Ford City enjoying dinner at the Como Restaurant.

Chuck Detwiler, Pittsburgh, launching a strike ball.



MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By Joseph T. Senko

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



Protect Your Finances: Avoid Investment Scams

Americans lose more than a billion dollars every year to fraudulent investments, according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

Avoid becoming the victim of an investment scam. There are common red flags: promises of high returns on no-risk investments, requests for personal financial information, and demands for immediate decisions.

Don't Believe Everything You Read on the Internet

The Internet can be a valuable tool for researching legitimate investment opportunities, but it also has made it easy to create the illusion of a credible investment, while reaching millions of potential victims with minimal cost and effort. Using a range of tools that include mass e-mails, bulletin boards, online newsletters, and chat rooms, a swindler can generate a significant and credible-sounding "buzz" around an investment.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) does not e-mail taxpayers. Do not respond to any e-mail you receive from a source claiming to be the IRS. The IRS does not call taxpayers to offer them incentives, grants, or other financial benefits. If you receive such a call or e-mail, advise a CPA, attorney, or the authorities.

Never Invest in Anything You Don't Understand

The right investment for you will make sense because you understand it and you feel comfortable with the degree of risk involved. Do your homework before you invest.

Verify a Brokerage Firm's Listing

Under federal securities laws, many – but not all – public companies are required to register with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and file annual reports with audited financial statements. Before you invest with a company, check to see if it's registered in the SEC's EDGAR database (www.sec.gov/edgar.shtml).

Smaller companies do not have to register their securities or file reports on EDGAR. Instead, they may need to file a hard copy of the "offering circular" or Form D. If a company is not registered and has not filed a Form D with the SEC, another option is to check with your state securities regulator.

Ask For a Prospectus and Other Written Information

Get written documentation, but don't be sold by this information alone. Con artists often produce glossy brochures and a false prospectus to boost their credibility. Be sure to thoroughly research and verify any information you receive.

Beware of Testimonials

Fraudulent companies sometimes go so far as to pay false references to claim that they have invested successfully with the company in question. Be on the lookout for Ponzi schemes, illegal pyramid plots in which early investors are repaid with money from later investors, who ultimately lose their money.

Never Make Out a Check Payable to the Salesperson

Always make payments to the investment company.

Don't be Pressured to "Act Today"

Legitimate investments will be there tomorrow and the next day. Say "no" to any salesperson who pressures you to make an on-the-spot decision.

Report Fraud

Don't let embarrassment or fear keep you from reporting investment fraud. If you fall victim, know that you're not the only one to allow the promise of a big payoff to get in the way of a sound investment decision. Alert authorities, so you can help others avoid the same trap.

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



From the desk of the Executive Secretary –

Visit our web site! www.fcsu.com

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

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

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

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

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

WEB SITE – www.fcsu.com



St. Thomas A' Becket Preschool children getting ready for their Easter Parade.

St. Thomas A' Becket Preschoolers Get Ready For Their Easter Parade

In the Preschool Classes at St. Thomas A' Becket in Jefferson Hills, Pennsylvania, at Easter time it has been traditional that the Easter Bonnet and Top Hat have been part of their activities and their Easter Parade. For a week before the big day, the sounds of "In Your Easter Bonnet With All the Frills Upon It" could resound through the corridor of the school.

Their teacher, Miss Connie, and all the volunteer teacher aides spent time with the girls to have them select their colors and the type of flowers they would like on their bonnet. The boys selected colors for the flowers on their lapels.

On a given day, the girls were all dressed with their fancy hats and the boys with their Top Hats and lapel flowers and the parade proceeded. . The parents were there with their digital cameras and camcorders to capture the moment of their child "as the parade marched on". It was a day of fun!

Sister Dolores Ann Therasse, VSC, is the Director of the Preschool and Miss Connie Dorsey is the Master Teacher. Along with them are 20 volunteer teacher aides who assist in activities throughout the week.

2008 JEDNOTA INTERNATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

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

Local Contact Person:

Name
Address
Phone Number

Golf Course/Resort:

Name
Contact Person at Course
Address
Phone Number

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

Housing:

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

Deadline for proposals is July 1, 2008.

Please send proposals to FCSU Fraternal Activities Director:

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

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

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

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

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

How do you earn this 2% Bonus?

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

* Bonus Rules *

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

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

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

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

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

- Your annuity continues to accumulate interest after you have stopped contributing and have begun to receive retirement income. The interest rate you receive on your annuity after settlement will never be less than 3.0%.
- Death Benefit-If you die prior to settlement, your beneficiary receives the full cash value of the annuity. If you die while receiving retirement benefits, the value of your remaining guaranteed benefits will be paid to your beneficiary.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Since annuities are meant to be long-term investments for providing retirement funds, funds withdrawn during the first six years of your contract are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. You may withdraw 10% of your 'beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- Your interest will be added to your account. You may, however, elect to have your interest paid directly to you on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually basis. This is called an Interest Option and the interest rate is slightly lower than if you left your interest



Virginia Oplinger – A Candidate for Westmoreland County Commissioner

Virginia Oplinger of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, is asking for your support as Westmoreland County Commissioner on Election Day, May 15, 2007. If elected, she promises to be a leader, not a politician, and be an advocate for the senior citizens, the poor and homeless, the disabled, and all the people. She wants to put people in charge rather than special interest groups of the community. She will be honest, courageous and make decisions that will benefit the future of the community. She will be dedicated to promoting positive community service and development.

Born September 4, 1935, in Youngwood, Pennsylvania, Virginia Oplinger was educated at Holy Cross School, Youngwood High School, Class of 1953, and attended Seton Hill College for one year. She has been married for 47 years to James W. Oplinger and is the mother of three children, John Oplinger, Bonnie Grant, and Elizabeth Oplinger. She has been a resident of South Greensburg for 43 years. She is the president of the Westmoreland County Retirees Association and the Westmoreland County AARP 4729, and a member of AARP Widowed Persons Services and the Democratic Club. Virginia's work experience includes Clover Farm Stores, Howard Johnson manager for 15 years, and Westmoreland Manor for 21 years. She retired in 2001 and now works part time at WCCC.

Virginia has received endorsement from Pro-Life organizations. She is a member of Jednota Branch 512 in Greensburg.

Virginia will appreciate your vote on May 5. You will appreciate the change!



Virginia Oplinger

to accumulate.

- Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- Also available in a Traditional IRA or Roth IRA (subject to IRA Guidelines)

DON'T DELAY, ACT NOW!

For information, contact:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

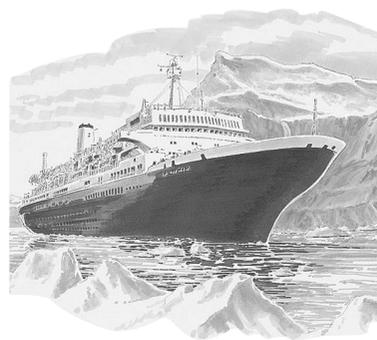
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

P. O. Box 318013

Independence, OH 44131-8013

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

A SAILING WE WILL GO!



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HURRY – ROOMS ARE LIMITED!

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

Until we meet at the meet!

Good luck and God bless,

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.

Membership and Marketing Chairman

Great News!

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

The 2007 Annual Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast in Pittsburgh

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

On March 31, 2007, my daughter Milenka and I took advantage of the opportunity to attend the "Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast." The annual event occurs each year at Prince of Peace parish in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on the Saturday prior to Holy Week. This year, it was held in beautiful St. Adalbert Church, the former Polish church which became Prince of Peace parish after the consolidation of seven local parishes on Pittsburgh's Southside.

As we walked into church, girls dressed in Slovak kroj (folk costume) handed the faithful booklets with the liturgy of Holy Mass entitled "Klaniame sa, vdaku a chvalu vzdavame Panovi a Bohu nasmu" (We worship, give thanks and praise to the Lord our God). Those attending also received a song sheet, and a small pink brochure with Slovak prayers, an explanation of the customs surrounding various foods, and a listing of vendors at the breakfast and craft demonstrations at the breakfast after Mass.

The Holy Rosary in Slovak

The church event began with the recitation of the Holy Rosary led by a Vincentian sister in the Slovak language, complete with the Sorrowful Mysteries. Following the Rosary, Father Peter Haladej celebrated the Holy Mass. Rev. Haladej, a native of the Diocese of Kosice, Slovakia, currently serves as Associate Pastor at St. Rose Church in Girard, Ohio.

The Mass intention was offered for the living and deceased members of the parish Cultural Diversity Committee, for the former pastor, Father Jerome Pavlik, and for Catherine Tomasko, who had played such a pivotal role in organizing the Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast program.

Holy Mass in Slovak

Holy Mass began with the processional hymn Radostou oplyvam (I am filled with joy). Following the Scripture readings in Slovak and an English language sermon, the congregation sang O Maria Bolestiva (Oh Agonizing Maria), which recalls the pain that the Virgin Mary went through over Christ's passion and death.

The ushers took up a collection for Father Peter, who has allowed the tradition to continue after the consolidation of the former St. Matthew parish. A second collection benefited two charities in Slovakia – the orphanage in Ruzomberok, which the Sisters of St. Francis minister, and the Balicka Institute, a school for disabled children in Presov.

After the Offertory, it was so wonderful to sing the Sanctus in Slovak and recite the Otce Nas (Our Father) in Slovak. At Holy Communion, the congregation joined in the purifying hymn O Pane nie som hoden (O Lord I am not worthy), and then sang the very moving Moj mily Jezisu (My Dear Jesus), which recalls the redemptive passion of Christ. Following Communion, those present joined in singing a verse of Sladke srdce (Sweet Heart), dedicated to the most holy Sacred Heart of Jesus.

For the recessional hymn, the faithful joined in to sing Srdce puka (The Heart Bursts), which recalls the sorrow associated with Jesus' painful death for sinners, the price of the redemption of sinners. The second verse of the hymn reminds one again



St. Adalbert Church, Pittsburgh.



Slovak memorabilia exhibit from the Slovak-American collection of Barb Mima, with Donna Mima at the table.

of the trying drama that the Virgin Mary experienced in witnessing and enduring her Son's cruel torture and death.

The Slovak hymns of passion are quite moving and spare no details in describing the bloody details and mental anguish of Jesus' last days and crucifixion. The extreme sadness of these songs serve as a counterpoint to the great joy of His Resurrection on Easter Sunday; they make the Resurrection seem that much more glorious.

The Slovak Easter Breakfast

After this very memorable experience of the Slovak Mass, the congregation headed several blocks away to the parish hall for a Slovak Easter Breakfast. There all would enjoy a complimentary Slovak Easter breakfast and could witness firsthand the customs involved with typical Slovak Easter traditions.

The exhibits included displays of a variety of Slovak-American items as well as imported Slovak books, cards, crystal, dolls, pottery, embroideries, etc. My daughter bought some beautiful greeting cards handcrafted by disabled students from the Barlicka Institute in Presov. I bought a nice little booklet on Slovak Easter customs and some comical buttons which read "You bet your dupa I'm Slovak!"

Other demonstrations showed actual crafts being made and offered the opportunity to purchase them. Larry Kozlowski demonstrated how to make pysanky, the colorful Easter eggs with the intricate details of traditional Slavic motifs. Florence Kozlowski specialized in weaving palms. Carol Lako featured the Morena Dolls, the traditional symbol of winter, which was thrown out and burned in Slovak villages at this time of year. Ondrejana Zatek and Katie McDonough displayed their painting on glass. Debbie Nelson showed visitors the beautiful parta, the crowns of flowers. Danitza Zatek demonstrated the wonderful flowers that Slovaks crafted from paper.

There were a variety of cultural displays by Evelyn Belansky and Ella Zabelski, Joseph Bielecki of Sokol USA, the Paul Zatek family, and Mrs. Pittsburgh Slovak herself, Susan Ondrejco, the host of the Slovak radio program, which is broadcast on 730 AM every Sunday at 3 pm.

My favorite exhibit was Slovak American Collection, exhibited by Donna Mima for her sister, Barb Mima. This display featured many historical artifacts of the Slovak Americans from the Pittsburgh area, including medals and badges, old songbooks, pictures, dolls, and books and pamphlets, and other memorabilia. One gets a glimpse of these historical treasures in the attached photo.

Easter Foods

In addition to these exhibits and demonstrations, all could taste the special traditional foods associated with what one would enjoy on Easter morning in a typical Slovak village. The simple meal included an Easter egg, a slice of sunka (ham), klobasa (smoked sausage), paska (Easter bread), hrudka or syrek (cheese), chren (horseradish), maslo (butter), sol (salt), and some kolace (nut and poppy seed rolls) for dessert.

A bake sale featured homemade kolace, paska (which quickly sold out), and other Slovak delicacies.

To add congeniality to the occasion, we met old friends and found new ones. One of the great surprises was seeing Rick Schen of Canton, Ohio, who had formerly worked with our team at the Slovak Radio team in Akron, Ohio during the 1980s.

After the breakfast, together with Rick, we toured the ethnic areas of Southside Pittsburgh. Then we enjoyed a great ethnic lunch at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Church, which is located on Jane Street, just a few blocks from Prince of Peace parish. The ladies there had prepared a feast complete with homemade kurova polievka (chicken soup), pirohy (potato dumplings), chalupky (stuffed cabbage), fazule (green beans), and klobasa. The lady volunteers also sold a variety of baked goods to benefit the church, so we were able to purchase some homemade paska, which had sold out at the Slovak breakfast.

Anyone wishing to experience a Slovak Lenten Mass and a Slovak Easter breakfast should take advantage of this annual event on Pittsburgh's Southside.



Pictured L-R: Rick Schen of Canton, Ohio, Milenka Kopanic of Springdale, PA and Michael Kopanic of Cresson, PA.

Photos by Michael Kopanic

Mother's Day
Sunday, May 13



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

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Oslava storočnice Slovenskej ligy v Amerike

Podpredseda vlády Čaplovič príde na oslavy SLvA

Podpredseda vlády SR Dušan Čaplovič potvrdil účasť na oslavách storočnice Slovenskej ligy v hoteli Crowne Plaza v Secaucus, N.J. 10. júna t.r. Podpredseda vlády bude mať na bankete slávnostný prejav.

Účasť dosiaľ tiež potvrdili predsedníčka Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí Vilma Prívarová a predseda Matice slovenskej Jozef Markuš.

Program banketu obohatí populárny spevák zo Slovenska Jozef Ivaška. Počas recepcie a stolovania bude hrať známa kapela Kontakty.

Pokračovanie na str. 18

Otvorenie automobilky Kia Motors Slovakia

Teplička nad Váhom (TASR) – Zhru- ba miliardu EUR si vyžiadala výstavba automobilky Kia Motors Slovakia, ktorú otvorili v utorok 24. apríla.

Na slávnostnom otvorení sa zúčastnili štátni predstavitelia Slovenska a najvyšší zástupcovia Kia Motors. Hostí privítal predseda predstavenstva spoločnosti Kia Motors Corporation Mong-Koo Chung. Pri príležitosti otvorenia závodu podpísali predstavitelia Kia Motors Corporation s európskou futbalovou úniou (UEFA) zmluvu, ktorá sa týka blížiacich sa majstrovstiev Európy vo futbale v Rakúsku a Švajčiarsku, ale aj ďalších podujatí, ktoré UEFA pri-

pravuje. Kia sa má stať jedným z hlavných partnerov európskej futbalovej únie.

Automobilku Kia Motors Slovakia v Tepličke nad Váhom začali stavať v októbri 2004, keď sa Kia Motors Corporation rozhodla vybudovať svoj prvý európsky závod na základe neustáleho zvyšovania predaja a rastúceho trhového podielu v Európe. Toto rozhodnutie je tiež v súlade s plánom spoločnosti Kia stať sa jedným z popredných svetových výrobcov automobilov. Výstavbu závodu skončili v decembri 2005 a v lete 2006 začali so skúšobnou prevádzkou.



FOTO TASR - Pavol Ďurčo

V novootvorenej automobilke KIA v Tepličke nad Váhom pri Žiline podpísali 24. apríla 2007 zmluvu o sponzorstve medzi UEFA a KIA pri organizovaní majstrovstiev Európy vo futbale v roku 2008. Zmluvu za UEFA podpísal Philippe Margraff (vľavo v popredí) a za automobilku Eutsun Chung (vpravo v popredí). Na slávnostnom podpise zmluvy sa zúčastnil aj premiér SR Robert Fico (uprostred v pozadí).

Stála konferencia Slovenská republika a Slováci žijúci v zahraničí 2007

Jednou z najdôležitejších úloh Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, ktorú mu ukladá zákon, je popri realizácii štátnej politiky starostlivosti o Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí aj analýza meniacich sa podmienok a tvorba koncepcie politiky Slovenskej republiky v danej oblasti. V súvislosti s uvedenými záväzkami Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí pripravil Stálu konferenciu Slovenská republika a Slováci žijúci v zahraničí 2007.

Konferencia sa uskutočnila 27. a 28. apríla 2007 v City Hoteli Bratislava pod záštitou predsedu vlády Slovenskej republiky, Roberta Fica a za účasti predstaviteľov vlády, parlamentu a jednotlivých ministerstiev. Jej ústrednou témou bola "Tézy štátnej politiky starostlivosti o Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí na roky 2008-2012 a Program štátnej politiky starostlivosti o Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí na rok 2008".

Dvojdňová konferencia bola pokračovaním dialógu a vyhodnocovaním postupne sa meniacich podmienok života Slovákov v jednotlivých krajinách, čo zabezpečí spätnú väzbu a potrebné informácie pre výkon štátnej politiky a jej ďalší rozvoj.

Hlavným poslaním konferencie bolo vytvorenie priestoru pre vystúpenie predstaviteľov a zástupcov krajských spolok, organizácií a misií a formulovanie problémov, potrieb, záujmov a priorít jednotlivých komunít na rok 2008 v oblasti: kultúrno-spoločenskej, výchovno-vzdelávacej a vedecko-výskumnej, mediálnej, informačnej, náboženského života, zefektívnenia vzájomnej komunikácie a spolupráce.

Informácie z vystúpení a diskusie delegátov budú zapracované do záverov konferencie, ktoré Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí využije pri systémovom návrhu štátnej politiky starostlivosti o Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí na roky 2008-2012 a príprave Programu štátnej starostlivosti o Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí na rok 2008, ktorý bude v júni predložený na rokovanie vlády SR a v septembri na rokovanie Národnej rady SR.

Sme presvečení, že delegáti svojou účasťou na konferencii sa spolupodieľali na formovaní strednodobej koncepcie štátnej politiky starostlivosti SR o Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí a na jej aktualizácii pre rok 2008, čím prispeli k prehĺbeniu tradične otvoreného a plodného dialógu medzi Slovenskou republikou a jej príbuzenskou menšinou.

Vilma Prívarová

Predsedníčka Úradu Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí

Spomienka na matku

Už dávno tento svet opustila
v tej zemi, ktorú si osvojila.
Viem, žeby ľahšie odpočívala
v tej zemi, kde svoj život začala.

Často na ňu synovsky spomínam,
jej radosť i tú jej bolesť vnímam,
žialim, že už ju tu viac nemám,
ver!, jej pohľad pred sebou stále mám.
V trpezlivej nádeji čakala
a čakala, že príde tá chvíľa,
aby svoju rodnú zem spatrila,
ktorú až po hrob zbožne ľúbila.

Návratu domov sa nedožila,
svoju cestu žitia tu skončila,
bo pani Smrť jej život skrátila,
lebo Božia moc tak nariadila.

Hľa, aký to trpký zjav ironie,
ona tu a otec doma hľvie,
bo také bolo Jeho želanie
a ja čakám na nové zožňanie.

Skláňam hlavu pred krížom na hrobe,
ponížený v skrušenej modlitbe,
a mnoho ráz zazlievam sám sebe:
Prečo som bol nechápavý k tebe?

Zavrela oči v krutej bolesti,
odíš do nenávratnej večnosti:
Tu som, Pane, v Tvojej posvätnosti,
sláva Ti, Otče náš, na výsosti!

Dni za dňami rýchlo utekajú,
ba i roky v reťaz sa spájajú,
len spomienky, mamko, ostávajú,
nech ti anjeli choálu vzdávajú.

Už ju zriem len na tmavom obrázku,
tú moju dávnu porodnú lásku,
v mojich hmlých očiach sveta krásku.
Čuj! Zbožňujem moju mŕtvou matku.

Štefan Hreha
Montréal, máj 2007

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Najdôveryhodnejším politikom na Slovensku zostáva premiér Robert Fico, dôveruje mu 39.9% občanov SR. Vyplýva to z pravidelného mesačného reprezentatívneho prieskumu verejnej mienky, ktorý uskutočnil Ústav pre výskum verejnej mienky (ÚVVM) pri Štatistickom úrade (ŠÚ) SR od 1. do 10. apríla na vzorke 1,110 občanov vo veku od 18 rokov. Respondenti mohli uviesť maximálne tri osobnosti slovenskej politickej scény, ktoré majú ich dôveru. V prvej trojke najdôveryhodnejších politikov sa umiestnili okrem predsedu vlády líder SNS Ján Slota s 15.6% a prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič, ktorému dôveruje 13.9% respondentov prieskumu.

Slovenská koruna 18. apríla predpoludním dosiahla nové historické maximum k americkému doláru 24.519 SKK/USD. "Dôvodom posilnenia koruny k doláru je oslabenie americkej meny k euru," uviedol diler VÚB Ladislav Benedek.

Časopis pre teológiu a duchovný život Duchovný pastier má 90 rokov. Z tejto príležitosti sa konalo v dňoch 17. - 18. apríla 2007 v Nitre slávnostné zasadnutie jeho redakčnej rady a uskutočnil sa aj medzinárodný odborný historický seminár na tému: Duchovný pastier, jeho šéfredaktori a význam tohto periodika v dejinách Katolíckej cirkvi na Slovensku. Nad podujatím prevzal záštitu nitriansky diecézny biskup Viliam Judák. Podľa neho Duchovný pastier "celé tieto desaťročia šíril písaným slovom kresťanské hodnoty, usiloval sa byť na pomoci kňazom vedeckými odbornými článkami, pastorálnymi radami, homíliami." Duchovný pastier vychádza každý mesiac okrem letných prázdnin v náklade približne 1,500 kusov.

Vo štvrtok 19. apríla 2007 sa v Konkatedrále sv. Martina v Bratislave za účasti apoštolského nuncia v SR Mons. Henryka Jozefa Nowackého uskutočnila slávnostná svätá omša pri príležitosti 2. výročia zvolenia pápeža Benedikta XVI. Homíliu predniesol predseda Konferencie biskupov Slovenska a spišský diecézny biskup Mons. František Tondra.

Pivovarnícky gigant Heineken a ďalšie holandské pivovary musia pre nelegálne cenové špekulácie zaplatiť 273.8 milióna EUR, v prepočte 9.154 miliardy SKK. Z toho Heineken má zaplatiť 219.3 milióna. Pivovar InBev bol oslobodený od pokuty, lebo spolupracoval s komisiou pri vyšetovaní. Rozhodla o tom Európska komisia. Pivovary Heineken, Grolsch, Bavaria a holandská dcéra brazílsko-belgického pivovaru InBev v rokoch 1996-1999 tvorili nelegálny cenový kartel na holandskom trhu, keď umelo držali fixné ceny na neprimerane vysokej úrovni.

Vysoké školy budú asi môcť vyberať poplatky za diaľkové štúdium. Vláda súhlasila s novelou vysokoškolského zákona, ktorá okrem toho zmení postavenie niektorých vysokých škôl a umožní školám aj ďalšie vyberanie poplatkov. Školy budú môcť účtovať poplatky nielen od externých študentov, ale aj od tých, čo prekročia obvyklú dĺžku štúdia a študentov viacerých vysokých škôl. V prípade externistov bude výška školného neobmedzená, v ostatných prípadoch bude výška školného obmedzená a nemala by presiahnuť 45,000 korún. Zákon okrem toho rozdeľuje školy na kategórie. Najprestížnejšie školy by mali niesť názov univerzity, tie nebudú môcť mať viac externých študentov ako 50 percent z počtu denných študentov. Odborné vysoké školy by mali poskytovať najmä bakalárske štúdium.

Na meteorologickej stanici Slovenského hydrometeorologického ústavu na popradskom letisku padol 17. apríla sedemročný denný teplotný rekord, kde namerali popoludní rovných 20 stupňov Celzia. Je to o 0.9 stupňa viac ako v roku 2000, keď teplota vystúpila na 19.1 stupňov. Naopak najchladnejší 17. apríl bol ešte v roku 1954, keď teplota klesla až na mínus 7.4 stupňov Celzia.

Policajti v Liptovskom Mikuláši obvinili z podielníctva 28-ročného majiteľa autoservisu z Liptovskej Porúbky, ktorý predával a sprostredkúval predaj áut pochádzajúcich z krádeží. Policajti pri dvoch rozsiahlych akciách zaistili 19 osobných áut Škoda Octavia, Škoda Fabia, BMW, Volkswagen a Seat, pričom expertízne skúmania preukázali, že zaistené autá i súčiastky pochádzajú z krádeží.

Ministerstvo financií (MF) SR v súčasnosti nepripravuje novelu zákona o dani z príjmov fyzických a právnických osôb, ktorou by došlo k zníženiu daňovej sadzby. Ministerstvo tým poprelo medializované informácie, že pripravuje návrh na zníženie dane z príjmov zo súčasných 19% na 16%. Uviedol Fico 23. apríla počas svojej prednášky na Právnickej fakulte Univerzity Komenského (UK). Zároveň však kabinet nemá záujem ani na zvyšovaní priamych daní.

Od 1. júla tohto roka by mali mať všetci zákazníci SPP, a.s., starší ako 65 rokov, nárok na paušálnu zľavu 600 Sk z ročných poplatkov za odber plynu. Návrh v tomto zmysle, ktorý vytvorí novú tarifu pre seniorov, predloží SPP v najbližšom čase Úradu pre reguláciu sieťových odvetí (ÚRSO). Ako informoval predseda vlády Robert Fico, dohodli sa na tom predstavitelia vlády a SPP.

Fakulta manažmentu (FM) Prešovskej univerzity (PU) v Prešove získala právo konať habilitácie a inaugurácie, čo znamená, že v odbore manažment bude môcť priznávať titul docent a menovať profesorov. Rozhodla o tom Akreditačná komisia, poradný orgán vlády SR, ktorej rozhodnutie podpísal minister školstva Ján Mikolaj. FM PU má akreditované študijné programy na bakalárskom, magisterskom i doktorantskom stupni. Na Slovensku v odbore manažment má práva habilitácií a profesorských menovacích konaní iba niekoľko málo fakúlt, v Prešovskom kraji ide o jedinú pre daný študijný program.

Americký investor postaví nový závod v Prešove

Prešov (TASR) – Americká firma Lear Corporation Michigan, popredný celosvetový dodávateľ automobilových sedadiel, elektronických a elektrických rozvodových systémov v polovici apríla oznámil, že v Prešove postaví nový závod na výrobu autosedačiek. Výstavba nového závodu, ktorá sa začne vo 4. štvrtroku tohto roka predstavuje investíciu v objeme zhruba 2 miliardy Sk. "Prešov potrebuje reálnych veľkých investorov. My sme mu sľúbili pomoc v rámci dopravy, infraštruktúry aj v rámci tréningu pracovníkov na preškolovanie a poriešime aj bytovú otázku. Je to veľmi pozitívne pre zamestnanosť. V prvej fáze chce zamestnať najmenej 500 ľudí. Predpokladám, že automobilový priemysel bude rásť, takže sa to bude rozširovať," uviedol primátor Prešova Pavel Hagyari. Nový závod vznikne v areáli bývalého podniku ZPA pri autobusovej stanici, kde existuje priestor pre tzv. hnedý priemyselný park.

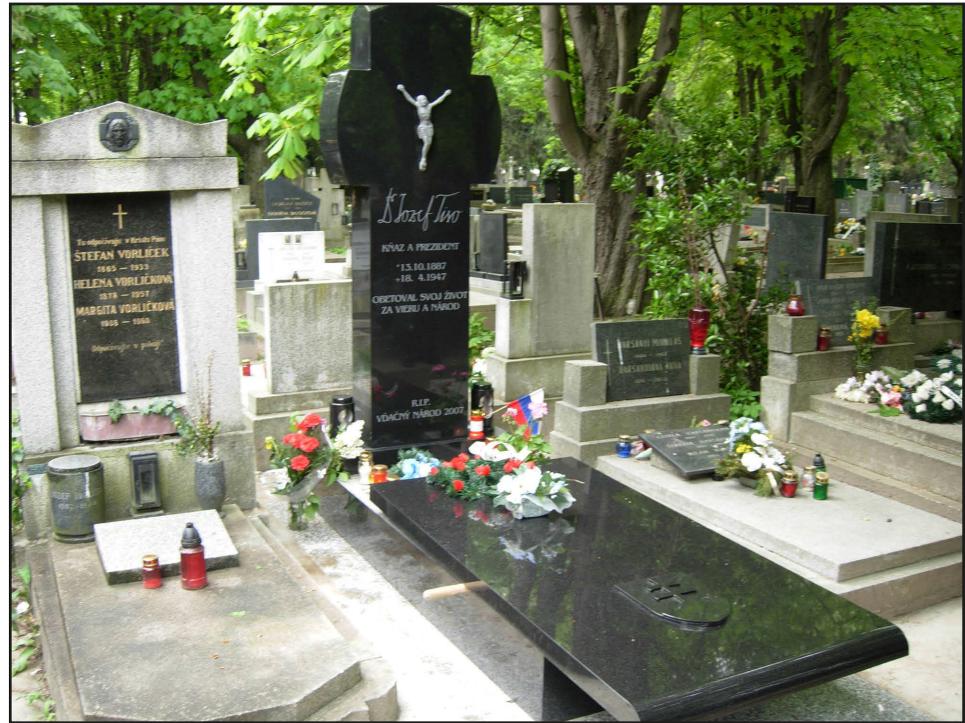


FOTO TASR - Eduard Fašung

Hrob Jozefa Tisa na Martinskom cintoríne dostal 18. apríla 2007 novú podobu. Nový náhrobný pomník má zachované rozmery hrobu. Pomník v tvare vyše dvojmetrového masívneho kríža urobili z čiernej švédskej žuly. "Obetoval svoj život za vieru a národ," stojí na ňom. Náhrobnú dosku zdobí asi 40-centimetrový slovenský znak. Občianske združenie Andreja Hlinku s ďalšími priaznivcami chce pomník odhaliť na 60. výročie Tisovej mučeníckej smrti.

Na duchovnom seminári sa diskutovalo o Tisovi

Nitra (SITA) – Jozef Tiso bol jednou z tém diskusie duchovného seminára v Nitre, ktorý 18. apríla zorganizoval Spolok svätého Vojtecha v spolupráci s Kňazským seminárom svätého Gorazda. Podujatie sa konalo pri príležitosti 90. výročia vzniku časopisu slovenského katolíckeho duchovenstva Duchovný pastier, zároveň však aj na 60. výročie popravy prezidenta vojnového Slovenského štátu Tisa. Tiso bol tretím šéfredaktorom tohto periodika po Jozefovi Budayovi a Andrejovi Hlinkovi.

Z radov starších občanov v diskusii odznela požiadavka na obnovu Tisovho súdneho procesu i verejnej diskusie o jeho osobe. S týmto názorom sa stotožnil aj šéfredaktor Duchovného pastiera Daniel Dian. Dodal, že nastolenie otázky nebude ľahké, pretože "médiá sú dnes žiaľ v rukách proticirkevných skupín". Stanislav Ďurica vo svojej prednáške vyzdvihol Tisov negatívny postoj k nekresťanským ideológiám. V diskusii vystúpil aj poslanec Národnej rady SR za SNS Jozef Rydlo, ktorý vyhlásil, že 18. apríla chodí už od detstva pravidelne do kostola. Beata Blehová z Ústavu pre východoeurópske dejiny vo Viedni zdôraznila, že dodnes neexistuje objektívny historický výskum epochy slovenského štátu. Podľa nitrianskeho diecézneho biskupa Viliama Judáka Tiso pôsobil vo veľmi ťažkej

situácii, keď na seba ako katolícky kňaz zobral úrad prezidenta. "Je ešte veľa záležitostí, ktoré treba objasniť v súvislosti s jeho zodpovednosťou za všetko, čo sa počas existencie Slovenského štátu udialo – najmä s nespravodlivými zákonmi voči židovskému obyvateľstvu," povedal Judák. Zdôraznil, že za tieto udalosti Tiso niesol zodpovednosť. "Bol kompetentný a informovaný o záležitostiach, ktoré my s odstupom času samozrejme odsudzujeme a nesúhlasíme s nimi," dodal Judák. Podľa neho by mali tieto kontroverzné epochu slovenských dejín preskúmať objektívni a nezaujatí historici. Obnovu Tisovho procesu však nepokladá za reálnu. Išlo totiž o zvláštny retribučný politický proces, ktorým by sa zároveň otvorilo aj množstvo ďalších podobných procesov.

Judák sa nedávno zúčastnil exhumácie údajného Tisovho hrobu. "Našlo sa tam telo, ktoré malo kňazské atribúty, ale zatiaľ nevieme, či ide o telo prezidenta Tisa, pretože po poprave sa urobili určité opatrenia, aby sa toto miesto nezestilo. Rozšírila sa téza o jeho spoločnom krematóriu v Brne a boli vykopané aj ďalšie hroby," povedal Judák. Telo bolo oblečené do kňazských šiat, okrem toho sa v hrobe našli okuliare, ruženec, kožené topánky a zhrdzavený zvyšok kovového kríža. Identitu tela určia testy DNA.

Oslava storočnice Slovenskej ligy v Amerike

Pokračovanie zo str. 20



Hotel Crowne Plaza v Secaucus - Meadowlands, N.J., v ktorom bude hlavná oslava storočnice Slovenskej ligy v Amerike v nedeľu 10. júna 2007.

Hlavná oslava stého jubilea Slovenskej ligy v Amerike sa bude konať v hoteli Crowne Plaza v Secaucus - Meadowlands v blízkosti New Yorku. Uvádzame informácie o rezervácii izieb, o bankete a cestovné inštrukcie.

Rezervácie izieb a adresa hotela: Crowne Plaza, 2 Harmon Plaza, Secaucus, N.J. 07094. Telefónne čísla na rezerváciu izieb: (201) 348-6900 ext. 1128 alebo (201) 866-5220. Cena izieb pre účastníkov oslavy Slovenskej ligy je \$129.00. Rezervujte si izbu včas, nakoľko uvedená cena platí len do 22. mája.

Prístup do hotela je pomerne jednoduchý zo všetkých smerov. Hotel Crowne Plaza je vzdialený 5-6 míľ od Lincoln tunela, ktorý je cestným spojom New Yorku s New Jersey.

Vstupenky na recepciu a banket. Hlavná oslava storočnice Slovenskej ligy v hoteli Crowne Plaza sa začne recepciou o 1.15 hod a bude pokračovať slávnostným banketom o 2.15 hod. Cena vstupeniek je \$50.00 za osobu. Vstupenky si možno objednať prostredníctvom návratky.

**Slovak League of America
205 Madison Street
Passaic NJ 07055**

Objednávam vstupeniek na jubilejný banket Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, ktorý sa bude konať hoteli Crowne Plaza v Secaucus, N.J. Pripojujem šek (M.O) na obnos

\$

Meno

Adresa

.....

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Dzurinda prevzal cenu Európskej regionálnej integrácie

St. Polten (TASR) – Predsedovi SDKÚ-DS Mikulášovi Dzurindovi odovzdali 11. apríla Cenu Európskej regionálnej integrácie (ERI), ktorú udeľujú Dunajská univerzita v Kremse a vláda spolkovej krajiny Dolné Rakúsko. Bývalý slovenský premiér si ju v St. Poltene prevzal z rúk predsedu senátu Dunajskej univerzity profesora Manfreda Straubera. Profesor Strauber ocenil, že bývalému slovenskému premiérovi sa podarilo naplniť kritériá vstupu Slovenska do Európskej únie. Vyzdvihol tiež skutočnosť, že jeho reformy boli v Európe veľmi pozitívne hodnotené. Profesor Strauber deklaroval záujem Dunajskej univerzity o spoluprácu so slovenskými univerzitami v moderných odvetviach, akými su napríklad biotechnológie a nanotechnológie. Rakúska univerzita má tiež bohaté skúsenosti so vzdelávaním ľudí v produktívnom veku. Rakúsko a Slovensko čakajú podľa Dzurindu ďalšie veľké projekty. Časť sa týka dopravy, konkrétne diaľnice medzi Bratislavou a Viedňou, ktorá by mala byť hotová v novembri tohto roku. V novembri 2005 sa začala príprava projektu výstavby mosta medzi Záhorskou Vsou a Angernom. Aktuálny projekt sa týka spoločného archeologického výskumu, podporovaného vládou Dolného Rakúska.

Pápež oslávil svoje 80. narodeniny

Vatikán (TASR) – Pápež Benedikt XVI. 16. apríla oslávil 80. narodeniny obedom vo Vatikáne v spoločnosti približne 50 kardinálov a popoludňajším VIP koncertom usporiadaným na jeho počesť.

V rozhovore pre Rádio Vatikán osobný pápežov tajomník Georg Gänswein vyhlásil, že Benedikt XVI. dostal množstvo darčiekov, vrátane hudobných CD nosičov, kníh kvetov a veľkého plyšového medveďa.

Radoví katolícki veriaci mali možnosť zaželať mu všetko najlepšie už počas nedeľnej omše na Námestí svätého Petra, ktorej sa podľa odhadov zúčastnilo 50,000 ľudí. V nezvyčajne osobne ladennej kázni pápež spomenul, že veľká časť jeho života sa uzavrela a pokračoval sa svojej rodine a priateľom.

“Ďakujem Bohu, že som mohol zažiť, čo znamená rodina ... čo znamená materská láska... ďakujem Bohu za svojich súrodencov, ktorí pri mne stáli a pomáhali mi počas celého môjho života,” vyhlásil v taliančine nemecký

rodák Joseph Ratzinger.

Jeho narodeniny takisto oslavovali v bavorskom mestečku Marktl am Inn, kde sa budúci pápež 16. apríla 1927 narodil. V deň narodenín poobede s kolegami kardinálmi Benedikt XVI. navštívil koncert Stuttgartskeho rozhlasového symfonického orchestra, ktorý zahrail diela Wolfganga Amadea Mozarta a Antonína Dvořáka.

Benedikta XVI., vášnivého klaviristu, podľa očakávania vo vatikánskej Nerviho sále pozdravila talianska filmová diva Sofia Lorenová a ďalší VIP hostia. Informoval o tom taliansky denník Corriere della Sera. Zamestnanci Vatikánu, ktorí sa podieľali na oslavách, dostali deň voľna a príplatok 500 eur (16,670 Sk) na osobu.

Pondelok, 16. apríla takisto vychádza Ratzingerova prvá kniha v období jeho pontifikátu s názvom Ježiš Nazaretský: od krstu po premenenie. Ratzinger zvolili za duchovného vodcu katolíckej cirkvi 19. apríla 2005, iba tri dni po jeho 78. narodeninách.

Cudzinci získajú slovenské občianstvo po ôsmich rokoch

Bratislava (TASR) – Podmienky na získanie slovenského občianstva sa pravdepodobne sprísnia. Kabinet 4. apríla na návrh ministerstva vnútra schválil novelu zákona, ktorá predpokladá, že o občianstvo bude môcť cudzinec požiadať až po ôsmich rokoch trvalého pobytu na Slovensku, prítvrdia sa nároky na znalosti slovenčiny a predĺži sa proces schvaľovania žiadostí. Zmeny musí ešte schváliť parlament, kde má vládna koalícia väčšinu.

Podmienky na získanie občianstva sa prísňujú aj v iných krajinách EÚ, urobilo to napríklad Rakúsko a prítvrdiť plánuje aj Nemecko.

Ministerstvo bude musieť podľa novely udelenie občianstva konzultovať s políciou, prípadne tajnou službou. Dlhšie bude trvať i samotný proces, lehota na rozhodnutie sa predĺži z deviatich mesiacov na dva roky. Obdobie, počas ktorého musí mať cudzinec trvalý pobyt na Slovensku, sa má predĺžiť na osem rokov z doterajších piatich. Ministerstvo tvrdí, že mu to umožní lepšie preveriť, ako sa žiadateľ zžil so slovenskou spoločnosťou. Rýchlejšie budú stále môcť získať občianstvo cudzinci žijúci v manželskom zväzku so slovenským občanom, ale aj zahraniční Slováci. Komplikovanejšiu situáciu budú mať naopak úspešní žiadatelia o azyl, ktorí sa po novom budú môcť o občianstvo uchádzať až po štyroch rokoch od získania azylu na Slovensku.

Tvrdsie budú aj kritériá na ovládanie slovenského jazyka. Vyžadovať sa bude znalosť jazyka “slovom a písmom”, doteraz stačilo len základné ovládanie. Žiadateľov by mala skúšať zo slovenčiny a základných údajov o Slovensku trojčlenná komisia. Pribudnú aj ďalšie povinné doklady, ktoré bude musieť žiadateľ o udelenie občianstva obsahovať, napríklad potvrdenie o zaplatení daní či odvod.

V roku 2005 získalo podľa ministerstva vnútra slovenské občianstvo 1,537 žiadateľov, najviac z Ukrajiny a Rumunska, ale aj zo susedného Česka. Úplné údaje za minulý rok ešte ministerstvo nemá k dispozícii. Podľa minuloročných údajov Eurostatu však na Slovensku žilo najmenšie percento cudzincov spomedzi všetkých krajín EÚ.

“Bolševizmus nie je filozofickým smerom, ale chorobným prejavom, apokalyptickým chaosom, v ktorom sa prejavujú najnižšie pudy; pokiaľ ide o bolševických vodcov, sú to autokrati v celej hrôze tohto slova; demokracia musí bojovať proti tejto záplave; koketovať s bolševickými zámerami znamenalo by opustiť cestu cti a zdravého rozumu.”

Gen. M. R. Štefánik



**Gen. M. R. Štefánik
(21.7.1880 - 4.5.1919)**

Umrel Jimmy Reha Realtor-staviteľ

V kanadskom Montréale po dlhej a trápnej nemoci na Veľký piatok, 6. apríla 2007, zaopatrený cirkevnými sviatosťami, dokončil svoju pozemskú púť Jimmy (Gejza) Reha (Hreha) vo veku 84 rokov v paliatívnej opatere v nemocnici Mount Sioni.

Jimmy Reha sa narodil 7. mája 1922 vo východoslovenskej obci Čemerné, dnes súčasť okresného mesta Vranov nad Topľou, v uvedomelej slovenskej rodine. Jeho najstarší brat, Štefan Hreha, bol zakladajúcim redaktorom týždenníka Kanadský Slovák. V 14. roku svojho života, v decembri 1936, s matkou a dvoma staršími bratmi odišli do Kanady k otcovi, ktorý ich tam predišiel na jar 1927. V Kanade do rodiny pribudlo dievčatko Stella Kvetuška.

Celý svoj život, až na vojnové roky, prežil v Montréale. Počas druhej Svetovej vojny slúžil pri letectve v Anglicku. Po návrate z vojny stal sa úspešným podnikateľom. Spravoval svoju vlastnú realitnú firmu a stavitel'ský podnik.

Ako uvedomelý člen slovenskej rodiny, horlivo podporoval slovenské podujatia a obidve cirkevné osady. Striedavo navštevoval omše v kostole a cerkvy. Bol spoluzakladateľom a predsedom the Canadian Slovak Professional & Business Inc., ktorá v roku 1999 ho poctila pamätnou plaketou za jeho zásluhy v Asociácii. Prominentne figuroval aj pri kúpe pozemkov a stavbe bývalej Slovenskej budovy na Hutchison ulici.

S manželkou Claire žili spolu 48 rokov. Vychovali dvoch synov. Starší syn, Michael, je promováný advokát a úspešný entrepreneur. Mladší syn, Peter, pokračuje v šľapajoch svojho otca. Na svoj rodný kraj nezabudol. S manželkou a deťmi navštívili Slovensko dvakrát. Prvý raz v roku 1972 a druhý raz v roku 1990.

Zádušná sv. omša bola 12. apríla 2007 v slovenskom kostole. Odslúžil ju Rev. František Krušpínský, správca osady sv. Cyrila a Metoda. Organoval Wilhem Mlodzien. Sólisti boli klaviristka Magdaléna Wolny a operný spevák Janusz Wolny. Po omši so svojim otcom v precítennom preslove, pretkanom humornými spomienkami, navždy sa rozlúčil syn Michael. Z kostola ho vyprevadili sólovým spevom Sinatrovej populárnej piesne "I did it my way".

Široký kruh priateľov až z ďalekého Toronta (Kozelovci, Krajičkovci, Pollakovci) a známych zo slovenskej, profesionálnej a politickej spoločnosti, prišiel sa s ním rozlúčiť do slovenského kostola na Jean Talon ulici a 2nd Avenue i napriek nepriaznivému počasiu. V ten deň v Montréale napadlo 12 cm mokrého snehu. V krematóriu na Côte de Neige cintoríne po skončení cirkevných modlitieb, Margaret Divá z osadného spevokolu, spontánne zaspievala sentimentálnu pohrebnú pieseň "Bližšie k Tebe, Pane".

Pohreb mal na starosti John Jaško, direktor pohrebného domu Jaško Moshonas Quimet. Počas vizitácie na obrazovke prebiehala prezentácia jeho vzorného života od detských rokov po súčasnosť.

Bol dobrým manželom, starostlivým otcom, dobrým synom svojich rodičov, bratom, švagrom, oddaným priateľom a všeobecne známym a rešpektovaným členom slovenskej komunity v Montréale. Jeho pozemský život možno sumerizovať v tunajšej frazeológii "He lived in style and he went in style".

Po pohrebných obradoch v krematóriu, rodina a početní priatelia sa zišli na kare v miestnej reštaurácii.

Smútia za ním manželka Claire (Thousignant), synovia Michael (Martin) s rodinou a Peter, brat Steve (Pauline) s rodinou a sestra Stella (John Weisnagel) s rodinou, ako aj početní blízki a vzdialení rodinní príslušníci.

Jeho telesné pozostatky boli spopolnené a urna s popolom uložená do hrobu jeho matky a staršieho brata Alberta na Côte de Neige cintoríne. Otec zomrel doma počas návštevy.

Nech večný pokoj ožiaruje jeho kresťanskú dušu!

Goodbye a do videnia. Tvoj smútiaci brat,

Steva



James Reha



KRÁSA ŽENY

Malý chlapec sa spýtal mamy:

"Prečo plačeš?"

"Pretože som žena", povedala mu.

"Nerozumiem", povedal syn.

Jeho mama ho len objala a povedala:

"A nikdy ani neporozumieš."

Neskôr sa chlapec opýtal svojho otca:

"Prečo sa mi zdá, že mama plače bez dôvodu?"

"Všetky ženy plačú bez dôvodu", bolo všetko, čo mohol otec odpovedať.

Malý chlapec vyrástol a stal sa mužom, avšak stále nerozumejúc, prečo ženy plačú.

Nakoniec zavola Bohu a keď sa dovolal, spýtal sa:

"Bože, prečo sa ženy rozplačú tak ľahko?"

Boh odpovedal:

"Keď som urobil ženu, musela byť výnimočná.

Urobil som jej plecيا dost silné na to, aby uniesla váhu sveta, ale natoľko jemné, aby poskytovali pohodlie.

Dal som jej vnútornú silu, aby vydržala pôrod dieťaťa a odmietnutie, ktoré veľa ráz okúsi od svojich detí.

Dal som jej tvrdosť, ktorá jej pomôže stále pokračovať, keď sa všetci ostatní vzdávajú a starať sa o svoju rodinu napriek chorobám a únave bez sťažovania sa.

Dal som jej cit milovať svoje deti za všetkých okolností, dokonca aj vtedy, ak ju jej dieťa hlboko ranilo.

Dal som jej silu prijať svojho manžela napriek jeho chybám a sformoval som ju z jeho rebra, aby chránila jeho srdce.

Dal som jej múdrosť, aby vedela, že dobrý manžel neraní svoju ženu,

ale niekedy skúša jej silu a rozhodnosť stáť vedľa neho bez výhrad.

A nakoniec som jej dal slzu, ktorú vyroní, ktorá je výlučne jej, aby ju použila kedykoľvek je za potreby.

Krása ženy nie je v šatách, ktoré nosí, v postave, ktorú má, ani v spôsobe akým si češe vlasy.

Krása ženy musí byť v jej očiach, pretože tie sú bránou k jej srdcu, miestu, kde sídli láska."

Šťastný a veselý Deň matiek

V Trnave postaví hotel Holiday Inn

Trnava (TASR) – V Trnave sa začína výstavba hotela Holiday Inn. Bude sa nachádzať v centre mesta pri sídle Trnavskej univerzity. Investormom je spoločnosť Trnava Inn, s.r.o. V nasledujúcich dňoch ohradia stavenisko. Okrem toho obkolesia ochrannou konštrukciou storočný dub v lokalite výstavby, ktorého zachovanie si stanovila radnica. Stavebné práce by mali trvať približne 20 mesiacov. Bude to v poradí druhý štvorhviezdičkový hotel v Trnave.

Mestskí poslanci schválili predaj pozemkov pôvodne na výstavbu trojhviezdičkového hotela pred dvoma rok-

mi. Projekt bol však po čase prerobený na štvorhviezdičkový hotel. Vlni preto investor podľa hovorcu radnice Pavla Tomašoviča požiadal o oddialenie termínu začatia výstavby na koniec marca. Starý dub, ktorý musí zotrvať na mieste nového hotelového komplexu, nie je nijako historicky výnimočný. Zaujímavý je hlavne vekom. Práve ten mesto viedol k požiadavke jeho zapracovania do architektonického riešenia hotelového nádvoria. Prvý štvorhviezdičkový hotel v meste bol dobudovaný začiatkom tohto roka. Je ním hotel Empire situovaný v susedstve športového areálu Slávia.

Zájazd do Washingtonu, DC

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

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

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

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

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Polročná členská schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu IKSJ

Všetkým členom Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu, spolok číslo 16 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty oznamujeme, že jeho riadna polročná členská schôdza sa bude konať v nedeľu 3. júna 2007 o 1.00 hodine odpoľudnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola Najsvätejšej Trojice, Yonkers, N.Y. Prosíme všetkých predsedov Spolku, aby poslali čo najviac delegátov. Upozorňujeme, že aj nedelegáti sú vítaní. Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripraví Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ.

Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová

Májová zábava v Linden, N.J.

Slovenské kultúrne stredisko aj toho roku usporiada zábavu v sobotu 19. mája 2007 v Msgr. Komar Hall 2806 Parkway Ave (Tremley Point) v Linden, New Jersey. Večera bude na bufetový spôsob od 8.00 do 9.00 hodiny, prosíme vás aby ste prišli načas! Vstupné za osobu je \$ 25.00 spolu s večerou. Do tanca bude hrať skupina "Relax". O rezervácie a zakúpenie lístkov volajte na tieto čísla:

Mary Karch (732) 572-2331; Mary Tkach (908) 862-2782.

Za Slovenské kultúrne stredisko

Mary Karch