



Catholic Fraternal Bi-Weekly

Jednota

THE UNION

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Fr. Stephen Furdak
Our Founder

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2007

Number 5761

SEPTEMBER IS LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH

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QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

HOME OFFICE

6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300

INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131

PHONE: 216-642-9406 • FAX: 216-642-3107

SEPTEMBER 14 AND 15, 2007

The Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 14 and 15, 2007.

All Officers are requested to consult Section 6.03(b) and Section 6.03(c) of our Bylaws for further information concerning officer participation and the conduct of this meeting.

The monthly Executive Committee Meeting will be held at the conclusion of the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Officers who are required to give reports at the Quarterly Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary at the Home Office located at 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, Ohio 44131, on or before September 4, 2007.

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office prior to September 4, 2007. For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9406 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President
Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

August 20, 2007

Dear Jednota Members:

More than seven months have passed since I took office.

I've had the opportunity to meet a number of you on my trips to branch and district meetings, the Slovak League Anniversary, various picnics and the Jednota bowling and golf tournaments. I hope to meet more of you in the near future.

I've visited our Middletown holdings on two occasions and expect this to be a regular occurrence. We must maximize the value of these holdings for the greatest benefit of our Society.

Our financial strength continues to advance. For the first 6 months of 2007 we had a profit from operations of \$ 575,550.00 and added \$ 642,184.00 to our surplus, which stands at a record \$ 12,197,778.00 as of June 30, 2007.

As I write this report, the US financial markets are in flux, reacting in large part to the sub-prime mortgage problems. Let me remind you that the Society has a conservative investment policy and continues through its Executive Committee to monitor our investments and invest your funds in a conservative, prudent manner.

We are in the process of developing a Senior Promotion Life Insurance Program for Members age 55-80. Look for it in the Fall.

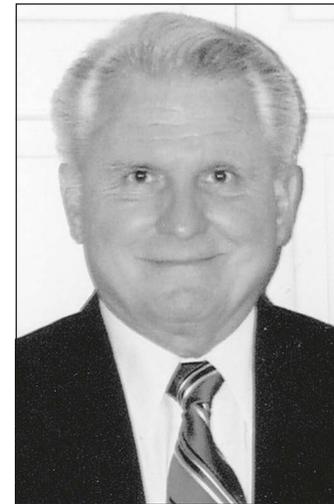
On another note, I recently attended the Slovak Catholic Sokol convention on August 6 and 7, 2007 and gave the following greetings to their Convention Members:

Slavna konvencia – drahi Sokoli a Sokolky !

Reverend Bishops, Clergy, fellow Sokol Members, Guests and Friends:

I am Andrew Rajec, President of the First Catholic Slovak Union since January 1,

continued on page 5



Andrew M. Rajec

FCSU Life Single Premium Insurance Fall Special

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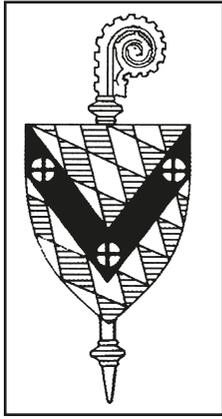


Example – Newborn Male		Example – Newborn Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$290	\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$250
\$10,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$580	\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$500
Example – Age 5 Male		Example – Age 5 Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$340	\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$290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

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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.

September 16, 2007 (Year C)
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 15:1-32

Gospel Summary

The Pharisees and scribes are complaining that Jesus is a companion of tax collectors and sinners: "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Jesus responds to the criticism through three parables. In the first two parables, a shepherd's finding a lost sheep and a woman's finding a lost coin are compared to the joy of God upon finding a lost sinner. In the third parable, Jesus reveals that

God is like a father who welcomes back a prodigal son who had left home and foolishly squandered his share of the estate. Furthermore, the father continues to love an older, resentful son who refuses to join in welcoming back his younger brother.

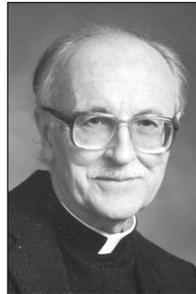
Life Implications

In the social-religious culture of that time, sinners and those in dishonorable occupations, as well as those who associated with them, were judged to be excluded from friendship with God. In the parables Jesus justifies his companionship with social and religious outcasts by implying that what he is doing reflects his knowledge of God's nature and God's will. In another place in Luke's gospel, Jesus' claim of acting with divine authority is made explicit: "No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him" (10:22). (This central theme of the Son's knowledge of the Father is developed more theologically in the Last Supper Discourse of the Fourth Gospel.)

In the three parables of today's gospel Jesus reveals the joyful news that God loves us. There could be no deeper source of awareness of our worth than to trust Jesus and to believe that we human beings are truly precious in the eyes of God. Further life-implications may come to light if we imaginatively identify with the Pharisees and scribes to whom the parables are addressed and also with the two sons of the third parable.

We succumb to the self-righteous illusion of the Pharisees and scribes when we judge that some of our fellow human beings are excluded from God's love, and thereby may be excluded from our love. We become like the foolish younger son when we fall victim to the illusion that our happiness and freedom lie in autonomy from God. We become like the older son when we remain in our Father's house, but do not experience the joy of being at home. The older brother did not live as a child of a loving father, but as an employee who keeps track of what the boss owes to him and to other employees as well. In his resentment of unfair compensation, he can no longer recognize his brother as brother.

In Jesus' third parable, only the younger son comes to his senses and returns to his father, who forgetting his own dignity runs to welcome him home as a beloved child. If today we receive the grace to be freed from our own illusions, we can also come to identify with the attitude of Jesus and allow God's love to be present in the world through our actions. This



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

is the most effective way of proclaiming to the world that God truly does love all of us as his own children.

Luke in his gospel repeatedly points out that Jesus sought to be in harmony with his Father's will through prayer. In this way he wants to teach us that only through prayer can we have confidence of acting in harmony with God's will in the particular circumstances of our lives. Also in prayer, we ask for the grace that will enable us to respond to new criticisms of God's ways with the insight and wit of Jesus.



September 23, 2007 (Year C)

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 16:1-13

Gospel Summary

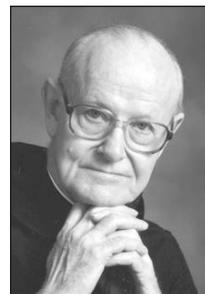
In order to appreciate fully the import of today's gospel text, which gives us the parable of the Unjust Steward, we must remember that parables, unlike allegories, focus on only one element in the comparison. Thus, the lesson to be drawn from this parable is that the followers of Jesus must also act prudently in regard to their own future prospects.

It should also be noted that this steward, though lacking in good management, was probably not as unjust as at first appears. In all likelihood, he was simply subtracting his own substantial commission from the debt owed to his master. This would be similar to the prudence of a small-market baseball team that trades away a good player because he is eligible for free agency and will be lost anyway!

The sayings that follow the parable sharpen its focus by making it clear that what Jesus has in mind is the attitude that his followers must adopt in regard to their earthly possessions, whether they be wealth or personal talents. If one allows these human and temporal things to monopolize one's attention, there is grave danger that the eternal treasure will be lost.

Life Implications

A distinctive feature of Luke's gospel is the deep concern he shows for the dangerous situation of wealthy or talented individuals who have become so engrossed in managing their riches that they are fatally distracted from the real purpose of human life. In this situation, they may very well be so distracted that they will discover, only when it is



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

too late, that they have wasted the only ultimately significant opportunity in their lives. This same lesson is found in the situation of a strikingly beautiful person who has never needed to develop a mature and pleasing personality. This is what is meant when we speak of the "curse" of great talent.

This wisdom is also dramatically portrayed in Luke's parable of the rich man and Lazarus (16:19-31). It is important to notice that this rich man is never presented as a one who has acquired his wealth through crime or some other immoral strategy. He ends up in hell simply because he is so preoccupied in managing his wealth that he does not notice that a poor man is starving on his doorstep!

This sensitivity of Luke concerning the danger of earthly possessions derives in part from his observation of the effect of wealth on the inhabitants of his hometown of Antioch. This was a prosperous trading center where the extremes of wealth and poverty were clearly evident. Luke warns, therefore, that possessions can have, in a sense, a drugging effect on their owners. One sees this clearly in Luke's story of the rich farmer who is worrying about building bigger barns for his bountiful harvest whereas God is calling him to face final judgment (12:16-20).

Luke does not condemn wealth as such. What he does condemn is a preoccupation or obsession with riches that precludes one's need to place the awareness of others and of their needs at the top of one's list of responsibilities. When the gospel says that we must choose between God and mammon, it is asking us to declare where we finally put our trust. Wealth and talents can serve God's purposes, but they must never replace God as the center of our attention in life.

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

The Trainer

Trainers have specified skills and apply them for specific purposes. There are trainers for horses and for dogs as well as for athletes and for individuals who can afford them. Their expertise is focused upon their subjects.

Trainers of horses teach them how to side step, back up, spin, and these commands are guided by the legs of the rider. Horses are fed from a bucket and not the hand. As a reprimand, the trainer makes a "shhhhhhhh" sound. They love to have their eyes, ears, nose and mouth massaged. Remember that a stallion is the leader of the mares but it is the lead mare that determines the direction in which the herd goes.

Trainers get a puppy to sit by holding food above the puppy's head and saying "Sit." The puppy naturally raises its head to the food and command and the trainer lowers its rear to the floor. To get a puppy to "lie down," the trainer lowers the food to the floor and takes it forward in their position of an "L." The command "Wait" is signaled by quickly pushing the hand, palm open, down in front of the puppy.

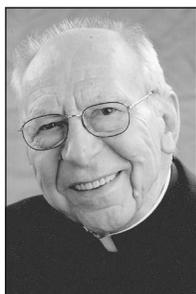
In all of these moves, the trainer seeks to bond with the animal.

When it comes to human beings, trainers, as with animals, consider the personality of the subject and seek bonding.

One of the most helpless of all newly born is the human baby. It communicates only by laughter or by crying. The baby cannot walk or even turn over. The baby recognizes this dependence upon its parents and seeks immediately bonding with the parents and the security they provide.

The parents, on the other hand, have a responsibility toward the infant that will extend

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Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

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Apostleship of Prayer - Intentions for September 2007

General Intention

Romanian Assembly. That the ecumenical assembly in Romania this month may contribute to the growth of unity among all Christians.

Pope Benedict is concerned about the Church in Europe, a continent that has seen a long decline in all traditional Christian churches. Europe seems to have forgotten its first love, the Crucified and the Risen Jesus Christ, and the darkness of relativism has invaded all the institutions of Europe.

Opposing this darkness, the 3rd European Ecumenical Assembly has chosen this theme: "The light of Christ shines upon all. Hope for renewal and unity in Europe." Ironically, the diminished churches bring an opportunity for greater unity as 3,000 delegates gather in Sibiu (Hermannstadt), Romania, September 4-8.

This meeting culminates a "pilgrimage of the major Christian traditions of Europe as they listen together to the Word of Christ and seek the essence of what makes us Christian. At the Last Supper, Jesus prayed that all his followers might be one in him. He knew how easily divisions set in, even among sincere followers.

With Jesus, we pray that the assembly delegates may grow in understanding, love, and unity through the power of the Holy Spirit. We pray for the light of Christ on them as they discuss many topics, including the visible unity of the Church, the reconciliation between peoples and cultures, the safeguarding of creation, and the dialogue with other religious and philosophical viewpoints, starting with Judaism and Islam.

We pray that they may set in motion a powerful unification of all Christians in Europe and throughout the world.

Reflection

Do you know someone from a different tradition who follows Jesus? Ignoring all that divides you for a moment, can you think of a way to express your oneness with him or her?

Mission Intention

Missionaries. That, following Christ joyfully, all missionaries may know how to overcome the difficulties they meet in everyday life.

While celebrating Eucharist with fellow bishops in Brazil this past May, Pope Benedict spoke of the missionary nature of the Church. As Jesus was the missionary of the Father, so the Church extends Christ's love throughout the world.

What difficulties face today's missionaries? According to the Holy Father, "secularized culture, the crisis of the family, the drop in vocations, the aging of the clergy, churches closing

in on themselves, and lowered hopes" are difficulties more formidable than perilous travel, primitive life, and savage rejection such as have afflicted past missionary efforts.

Some of today's greatest missionary difficulties arise from the need to re-evangelize formerly Christian nations and peoples.

We pray in obedience to the Holy Father that missionaries may be full of Christ's joy. We pray that their joy will give them strength and understanding needed to overcome the serious difficulties they face in their work.

Rather than lose hope ourselves, we ask God to make us passionate about evangelization in all its forms. Let us see new opportunities in new technologies. Let us welcome missionaries into our midst. And most of all, let us give ourselves to the missions in our prayers. We Apostles of Prayer seek everyday to "be apostles now." We venture by our prayers into all the difficulties faced by the men and women missionaries we support.

With joy, with hope, we offer ourselves again tomorrow- and again and again- until God's Kingdom comes.

Reflection

God has worked against severe difficulties to spread His Kingdom throughout two millennia. As we face new difficulties in our missionary activities, is there any reason for new hope, new joy?



Reflections on Our Christianity

continued from page 2

through adolescence to adulthood. Training must begin immediately and it is shown through their bonding love for their offspring, their selfless dedication to its very life, and their training as the infant matures from crawling to choosing its vocation in life.

This training concerns "reading" the son/daughter, behavior and behavioral modification, developing of mental attitudes, maintaining parental leadership in serving as mentor, guiding hand, providing emotional grounding and being the model for ethical and moral conduct and consistent and fair in their every action. The parents lead rather than indulge their children, exemplifying in their own lives the persons they want their children to become.

On one occasion, a parent approached me in catechism class with the request "Make him a good boy." I replied that it was already too late. When questioned, I replied, "You've had him for seven years and he already has a value system or lives by whatever he has already been taught."

Training by the parents is full time work, if you will, on a daily basis, responding at first to the life situations posed by the infant, particularly regarding safety. The infant is in a brand new world and cannot recognize danger. Here, the child learns the meaning of "No," without explanation.

As the infant grows, the unrecognized perils multiply and hand-holding between child and parent begins. The child now knows there are perils to its safety and life and eagerly seeks the hand of his parents, and the word "Mommy" is frequently heard.

As growth continues, the personality of the child emerges and attitude enters the picture, compliance, stubbornness, "I want this," and conflicts with brothers and sisters. In one conflict, the mother reminded her sons that Jesus would graciously yield to the demands of his brother. One brother quickly said to the other, "You be Jesus."

A new dimension is now and has been entering the life of the son/daughter: Jesus Christ, Redeemer and Savior, divine/human person with codes of behavior and ethics, to which even the parents respond.

This divine/human person's presence is necessary for every human being for two reasons. The one is explained by Paul of the Hebrews tribe Benjamin (Romans 11:1).

"We know that the law is spiritual, whereas I am weak flesh sold into slavery of sin. I cannot even understand my own actions. I do not do what I want to do but what I hate. When I act against my own will, by that very fact I agree that the law is good. This indicates that it is not I who do it but sin which resides in me. I know that no good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; the desire to do right is there but not the power. What happens is that I do, not the good I will to do, but the evil I do not intend. But if I do what is against my will, it is not I who do it, but sin, which dwells in me. This means that even though I want to do what is right, a law that leads to wrongdoing is always at hand. My inner self agrees with the law of God, but I see in my body's member another law at war with the law of my mind; this makes me the prisoner of the law of sin in my members. What a wretched man I am! Who can free me from this body under the power of death? All praise to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord! So with my mind I served the law of God but with my flesh the law of sin." (Romans 7:14-25)

If we do not understand this and reject Jesus Christ our Lord, we are lost souls in this life, diseased both in body and in mind, self-condemned to death in a body destroyed by self-indulgence, and sentenced to an eternity of soul-wrenching sorrow for neglect of the teaching of Jesus Christ and devoid of any hope of escaping from these judgments of Jesus Christ, "I do not know you," (Matthew 25:12) and "Out of my sight, you condemned, into that everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels." (Matthew 25:41) Our life on earth ends with our death and eternal life begins the moment we stop breathing.

Our first trainers are our parents. Later on, as our life of pilgrimage continues, we become the trainers. Your children depend on you. Then, in time, the Lord Jesus Christ focuses his attention upon you as parent and trainer.

Slovak Mass at the National Shrine in Washington, D.C.

The 42nd anniversary of the Mother of Sorrows Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated with a Slovak Mass at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 9, 2007. The Mass will be celebrated in the Crypt Church in the Basilica.

The Mother of Sorrows Chapel was

donated to the Shrine by the First Catholic Slovak Union and dedicated on September 5, 1965. This award winning chapel with its Pieta Statue is a monument for all Slovak Americans. It has become a tradition to celebrate the anniversary of the dedication with a Mass each September. All are encouraged to attend.

This year the Mass is being held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Rev. Stephen Furdek District of Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland and Washington, D.C. Delegates are invited to attend the Mass. The meeting will be held in the Basilica Executive Conference Center after the liturgy.

The Basilica is located at 400 Michigan Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C.



Johnstown Branch 23 to Sponsor Talent Show

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 23, is sponsoring a Talent Show on Saturday, September 15, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. at the Slovak Educational Hall, Maryland and Delaware Avenues, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Admission to see the show is \$4.00. If you plan to participate, call 814/536-7952 or 814/244-9464 for details.

September Dawn

September dawn...
should have you feeling a peace coming from a great new day full of expectations, prestigious moments-offering new opportunities that you alone forge yourself with dignity.

September dawn...
should have you laughing hard, often as you hilariously move from one experience to another- alas, programming daily available itineraries which cruise into success -just perhaps a total new, happy you.

Therefore accept September dawns painting orange, yellow and green forests.

Francis X. Markley

Slovak Catholic Family Day in Mississauga, Ontario

The Msgr. Michael Shuba District and SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish sponsored their annual Slovak Catholic Family Day Picnic on Sunday, July 29, 2007, at Creditvale Park in Mississauga, Ontario. The weather was hot and sunny, perfect for a picnic. Over 600 people attended the affair. Approximately 235 lunches (schnitzels) were served, over 200 ice cream cones were given away, and 10 watermelons were available for all to enjoy.

The day began with a Mass at noon. Father Miroslav Vercimak, Pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Mississauga, was the main celebrant. Concelebrating with Father Vercimak were Father Gregory Nowiki, Assistant Pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish, Father Mike Kolarcik, and Father Tomas.

After the liturgy, a Slovak home cooked lunch was served. There was also a cultural program, games for children (water balloon contest and kick-your-shoe contest for ladies), swimming, and a bacon and hot dog barbeque. Miro Letko provided the song and dance music in the afternoon and evening until 9:00 p.m.

Jerry Siman



L-R: Father Gregory Nowiki, Father Mike Kolarcik, Father Miroslav Vercimak, and Father Tomas celebrated the Mass.



Children had a great time in the swimming pool.



Vychodna Junior Dance group performed during the cultural program.



Ladies get ready for the kick-your-shoe contest.



Serving on the Entrance Gate Committee were L-R: Ed Penaska, Olga Dobis, Mike Kapitan, Ed Forma, Terry Tomko, and Joe Tomko.



Selling tickets for food and beverages were L-R: Pauline Jursa, Cathy Szabo, Ed Jursa, Diane Pella Milan Zoldak, and Milos Mitko.



At the barbeque were L-R: Mike Grnak, Jerry Siman, John Tokarsky, and Ed Penaska.



Serving gulash were L-R: Jana Puskar, Marta Zjavka, Helen von Friedle, Agnes Petko and Anne Mitro.



Fabiola Mokry and Cathy Szabo served ice cream to all the children.



L-R Jason Chadwick, Jaclyn Bokla, Sarah Bokla, and Rachel Chadwick.



At left: Enjoying the picnic lunch are L-R Diane Chadwick, Dave Chadwick, Barb Bokla, Sarah Bokla, Rachel Chadwick, Jason Chadwick, and Josie Siman.

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 5

Blessed Zdenka Banner Dedicated in Wisconsin

A banner honoring Blessed Sister Zdenka Schellingova was dedicated in the Holy Cross Chapel of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross USA Province in Merrill, Wisconsin on her official feast day, Monday July 30, 2007. Blessed Sister Zdenka was a member of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross in the former Czechoslovakia. Pope John Paul II proclaimed her a martyr on July 7, 2003, and beatified her in Bratislava on September 14, 2003.

In February 1952, Blessed Sister Zdenka was working as a nurse caring for patients in a state hospital there. She learned that one of her patients, a priest, was to be taken away the next day for trial after having spent some weeks recovering from serious injuries he received as a result of communist interrogation. She drugged his guard and helped the priest escape. Some time later she was arrested after attempting to arrange an escape for several other imprisoned priests. After three months of severe torture she was tried for treason, convicted, and sentenced to 12 years in prison. After three years of inhumane treatment in five different prisons she was released, close to death as a result of disease and torture. She died July 31, 1955.

After the fall of communism in the country in 1990 and the dissolution of Czechoslovakia into two separate republics in 1993, court and other records became accessible. The late Dr. Anton Habovstiak, a renowned Slovak writer, soon began to write and lecture about Sister Zdenka. In a relatively short time permission was given to begin the process for beatification, which ended successfully with the solemn rite being performed four years ago. In the short time since, Blessed



This banner honoring Blessed Sister Zdenka hangs in the Chapel of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross USA Province, Merrill, Wisconsin.

Zdenka has become very much loved by the Slovak people, and known and prayed to by others throughout the world. There have been many answers to prayer due to her intercession, and increasing reports of such successful petitions give hope that one day she will be brought into full sainthood in the Catholic Church.

Blessed Sister Zdenka was the youngest sister of the late John Shelling of Cleveland, Ohio, and aunt of Margaret Shelling of Van Lierde of Vienna, Virginia.

Fall Dance Party in New York on October 20

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 45, is holding a Fall Dance Party on Saturday, October 20, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, 411 East 66th Street, New York City. Admission is \$25.00 per person, and that includes, dinner, coffee, and Slovak style cookies. A raffle will also be held. Entertainment will be provided by Jozef Jurasi and his well known Slovak band Kontaky. Parking on the streets in New York City is free after 7:00 p.m. We hope to see all of you there.

Jozef Jurasi

Message From The President

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2007. I say fellow Sokol members because I've been a member for 35 + years and my 2 sons have participated in several "slets" – in fact Brother Steve has told me that my younger son, Dan, still holds several track records over 15 years old.

Both the First Catholic Slovak Union and the Sokol were founded over 100 year ago. Many great accomplishments and great people have passed, over these 100 + years. However, times have changed. Many for good, some not so good. Things are not the same as in 1900, 1920, 1940 or 1960; and never will be. Almost all ethnic fraternal are losing membership. Why? I simply say – "This is America".

The challenges we face include: a diverse membership, a geographically dispersed population, weak or non-active branches or assemblies, the closing of Slovak founded parishes and strong commercial insurance competition.

There are no easy answers and no magic solution. But there are some steps that could set the stage for fundamentally addressing the present and future challenges. Over the past few years I've had any number of people say to me "Why don't the Slovak Fraternal get together – combine their memberships and assets and preserve their best strengths such as their youth programs, financial expertise and their publications into a large, financially and politically stronger unit?"

Unfortunately, I recently heard someone, who is a member of several Slovak Fraternal, say: "It makes so much sense that that it will never happen, or happen too late". I hope that skeptic is wrong – only time will tell.

Our Society wishes you the best in your deliberations and for the success of this Convention and for the future of the great Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Two short Slovak phrases come to mind that summarize the purpose of the Sokol and this Convention.

Za Boha a Narod – For "God and Nation"

and

Zdar Boh – "Praise God".

Thank you and best wishes.

The responses I received were mostly positive. What future reactions might result, if any, are unknown at this time.

I am always happy to hear from our Members. Remember our local Branches are the foundation of our Society. Be active.

Za Boha a Narod.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

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

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

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

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

Slovak Catholic Family Day in Mississauga, Ontario

continued from page 4



L-R Mary Marhut, Nellie Zeman, Judy Uran, Mary Marr, Lydia Scibravy, Ernestine Walters and Rose Carey.



The Dobis and Kapsa families.



The Murcina and Uhraney families.



A current photo of the anniversary couple.

Isabelle and Francis Kercimar Celebrate 60 Years of Marriage

Isabelle Sivak Burdock Kercimar and Francis Charles Kercimar of Allentown, Pennsylvania, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on August 30, 2007. They are members of Branch 567 in Allentown.

The Kercimars were married in St. John the Baptist Church, Allentown on August 30, 1947, by the late Father Stephen Knute. They held their wedding reception at the Sokol Hall and spent their honeymoon in Wildwood, New Jersey.

Mr. Kercimar is the son of the late Joseph and Mary (Vavrek) Kacmar of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Mr. Kercimar served in the Army Air Corps in the South Pacific during World War II. He attended Lehigh University and graduated in 1950. He retired from Ingersol-Rand Co. as a Quality Control Engineer. Mr. Kercimar celebrated his 82th birthday on August 29, 2007.

Mrs. Kercimar is the daughter of the late Florence Stephania Sivak Burdock Bandzi of Allentown. Mrs. Kercimar graduated from business college and was the former Mrs. Allentown in the Mrs. America Pageant. She had been active as a radio talk show hostess and owned her own talent-booking agency under the name of Bell-Mar Enterprises. Currently, she is writing a book.

The Kercimars have a son, Bruce; a daughter attorney Diane Romaine (Tim) Schofer, and an 8 year-old granddaughter, Danica Stephania.

A family celebration was held in their honor.



Isabelle and Francis Kercimar on their wedding day, August 30, 1947.

**FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF
THE UNITED STATES & CANADA
6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131
1-800-JEDNOTA**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

PRIVACY – PERSONAL FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

Protecting the privacy of your personal financial and medical information has always been and will continue to be a matter of top priority for us. When used in this notice, the following terms have the meaning shown.

Public Information means information that is lawfully available to the general public from: Federal State or local government records; widely distributed media; or, disclosures to the general public that are required to be made by Federal, State or local law.

Non-Public Information means personally identifiable financial and medical information. It also means any list, description or other grouping of individuals, and publicly available information pertaining to them, that is derived from any personally identifiable information that is not publicly available.

Consumer Reporting Agency means an entity, which regularly provides reports (Consumer Reports) including information regarding an individual's: general reputation, character, personal characteristics or mode of living and financial status. The information may be obtained through interviews with the individual or third parties such as the individual's: business associates, family members, friends, neighbors, acquaintances or financial sources.

We obtain information about you from the following sources:

- information you provide to us in an application or other form;
- information about your transactions with us (such as premium payments, loans, claims, etc.), or others; and
- information that we may receive from a Consumer Reporting Agency.

We do not disclose any personal, Non-Public Information about you to anyone, except as permitted or required by law. We will not disclose personal medical information about you, except as permitted by law or as you may authorize.

We restrict access to your personal, insurance and medical information to those of our employees who need to know that information in order to provide insurance or service to you. We are, and will continue to be, vigilant in the safeguarding of your personal, financial, and medical information. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to comply with Federal and State regulations regarding the safeguarding of Non-Public Information.

It is our sincere desire to maintain complete, accurate and up-to-date records. You may contact us at the address shown below, to access, as provided by law, information included in your file. We will promptly correct any error in our information. To protect your privacy, you will need to identify yourself by providing us with your name, date of birth and social security number.

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

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

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

Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

- The FCSU guarantees your deposits will accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- Your annuity continues to accumulate interest after you have stopped contributing and have begun to receive retirement income. The interest rate you receive on your annuity after settlement will never be less than 3.0%.
- Death Benefit-If you die prior to settlement, your beneficiary receives the full cash value of the annuity. If you die while receiving retirement benefits, the value of your remaining guaranteed benefits will be paid to your beneficiary.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Since annuities are meant to be long-term investments for providing retirement funds, funds withdrawn during the first six years of your contract are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. You may withdraw 10% of your 'beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- Your interest will be added to your account. You may, however, elect to have your interest paid directly to you on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually basis. This is called an Interest Option and the interest rate is slightly lower than if you left your interest to accumulate.
- Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- Also available in a Traditional IRA or Roth IRA (subject to IRA Guidelines)

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

Copy Deadline

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:

Anthony Sutherland, Editor

"JEDNOTA"

1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4835

FAX: (717) 944-3107

VISIT THE FCSU'S WEBSITE

Home page at: <http://www.fcsu.com>

Send e-mail to the FCSU at the following address:

fcsu@aol.com

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Mary "Mae" Hudak Branch 260 Campbell, Ohio

Mary Hudak, 77, passed away Thursday, July 26, 2007, at her residence. Mary was born February 27, 1930, a daughter of John and Anna Repasky Hudak. She was lovingly called "Mae" by her family and friends. She was lifelong member of St. Elizabeth Church and for many years was in charge of the Thursday Night Social. She also co-chaired the annual Reverse Raffle and Dinner. She served as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector, and was a member of the choir. She was President of the Infant Jesus Prague Guild and was a member of the Rosary Society. She attended Mass daily in Campbell and at St. Dominic Church. Her great love was Jesus and his divine mercy.

A 1947 graduate of Campbell Memorial High School, she worked as a Secretary Temp for the Youngstown Letter Shop, moving up to become the Office Manager. She retired from the Mahoning County Board of Elections in 1998 after 30 years of employment.

She is survived by three sisters, Margaret Kresovsky, Helen Toth, and Ann Kozar; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and four brothers, Joseph, Frank, Stephen, and John.

Friends were received at the church prior to a Mass of Christian Burial. The Wasko Funeral Home was in charge of funeral arrangements.

The officers of the St. Matthew Society, Branch 260, offer their deepest sympathy to the family of Mary Hudak. May she rest in peace.

Charles M. Terek

Anna Loughman Branch 2 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Anna Elizabeth Loughman, 88, of Washington, Pennsylvania, died Thursday, February 15, 2007, in Washington Hospital.

She was born November 3, 1918, in Pittsburgh, a daughter of John and Pauline Rajcan Likavec.

Mrs. Loughman attended Pittsburgh schools and worked as a printer and assembler at American Steel Printing for 10 years.

She was a member of Immaculate Conception Church, Chestnut Ridge Grange 1133 and Branch 2 of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Mrs. Loughman enjoyed crafts, doll making and sewing.

On May 26, 1972, she married John Frank Loughman, who died October 28, 1981

Surviving are three stepsons, John F. Loughman of Tip City, Ohio, David Loughman of Jacksonville, Florida; four stepdaughters, Catherine Breitweiser of Houston, Eleanor Grubby of Ypsilanti, Michigan, Florence Six of Jacksonville, Florida, and Happy Hennen of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania; a sister, Louise



Anna Loughman

Helferty of McMinnville, Oregon; several step-grandchildren; several step-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by two sisters, Mary Springel and Sister Mary Regina; and two brothers, Joseph and Benjamin Likavec.

Friends were received at the William G. Neal Funeral Home, Washington. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Immaculate Conception Church by Father Kevin Poecking. Burial was in St. Augustine Cemetery, Millvale.

Michael Mihalko Jr. Branch 454 Clairton, Pennsylvania

Michael F. Mihalko, 80, of Clairton, Pennsylvania, died Saturday, July 28, 2007, at St. Clair Hospital in Mt. Lebanon.



Michael Mihalko Jr.

Mr. Mihalko was born May 12, 1927, in Clairton, a son of the late Michael F. and Mary Demchak Mihalko Sr. He was employed at the U.S. Steel Plant, National Tube Works in McKeesport as a mobile repairman. He retired in 1985.

He was a member of St. Clare of Assisi Parish in Clairton. He was a sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corp, serving in World War II and the Korean War. He was a member of American Legion, Daniel Keffer Post 75 of Clairton and the SOAR Chapter, District 10-Local 1408, Wilson Civic Association, and the AARP Clairton Hills, Chapter 2862.

He was Past President of Branch 454 in Clairton of the First Catholic Slovak Union, a former member of the Jednota Supreme Court, Regional Director of District 5, and a Pittsburgh District Regional Director Emeritus.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Audrey (Mayzel) Mihalko; a daughter, Carol (Robert) Matthews of Clairton; sons, Michael W. (Cathy) Mihalko of Elizabeth Township, Ronald J. (Diane) Mihalko of Las Vegas, Mark F. (Cary) Mihalko of South Park; a sister, Gloria Barela of Apple Valley, California; a brother, Edward Mihalko of San Antonio, Texas; eight grandchildren, Sarah Kurzeja, Katelyn Reinertson, Misty Wald, Kelly Matthews, Steven and Justin Mihalko, and Robert and Kevin Matthews; and two great-grandchildren, Jacob Reinertson and Tyler Timothy Matthews. He was predeceased by two sisters, Elsie Cain and Mary Ann Susic.

Friends were received at the A.J. Bekavac Funeral Home, Fifth Street, Clairton. A Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, July 31 at St. Clare of Assisi Parish with the Rev. Richard Zilik, O.F.M. CAP as celebrant, and the Rev. Harry Parson and Rev. Miro Stelmazyk as concelebrants. Interment was in St. Clare Cemetery. The Marine Corps Color Guard was present at the cemetery.

The officers and members of the St. Joseph the Guardian Society offers their deepest condolences to his family. May he rest in peace.

George F. Matta, National Treasurer

A Son's Tribute to and Remembrance of Centurion Helen Stipkala

By Frank M. Stipkala

June 28 was the saddest day of my life. That was the day that my dear mother, Helen Stipkala, drew her last breath. Had she lived four more days, she would have been 102 years old.

She died clasping her white-beaded rosary, which had been blessed by Pope John Paul II and given to her by Benedictine monk, Father Lawrence Sevcik, O.S.B.

On rising every morning, the first thing she did was to sit on the side of her bed to say her morning prayers. After 20 minutes, she came to the breakfast table, but dipped her fingers into a holy water fountain first, then blessed herself.

In earlier years, when she could walk without her walker, she would arise at 5:45 a.m. to listen to the recitation of the Rosary on WELW Radio. On Sunday morning, she got up at 6:00 a.m. to view the Mass on WJW-TV. Then she prayed for about an hour until a husband-wife Eucharistic minister team came to give her Holy Communion. She smiled at the two ministers and thanked them for coming. Receiving the Sacrament was the highlight of her week.

Each evening before retiring she asked me to join her in saying her Slovak prayers. She would pray nonstop for 20 minutes, then followed with 10 minutes of singing

Helen Stipkala with granddaughters Judy Bruno and Ann Marie Wert

Marian hymns. My mom's mind was so sharp that she could recite, from memory, every prayer in her Slovak prayer book...about 250 prayers.

When she went into her bedroom, she would pray the Rosary until she fell asleep. Her life revolved around God, Mary and prayer.

Even at 101, she would never retire for the evening until every dirty dish was washed and put away. She used one hand to wash dishes, while her other hand held on to her walker.

Even towards the end, she would still go down to the basement on Mondays to wash clothes. Since she couldn't walk down the stairs any more, she would slide down on her buttocks until she reached the cellar. She washed clothes this way until she literally could not walk any more.

As for being charitable, my mom sent \$5.00 bills regularly to any religious group that solicited her: Saint Andrew Abbey, Franciscan Shrine, Immaculate Conception Cathedral, and more. Her credo was: God comes first, everything else is secondary.

Even though her brother and sister both lived till the mid-90s, and she outlived all of her friends by an average of 40 years, she would show extreme remorse when a younger person died. At such times, she would ask: "Why am I still here and younger persons die?" My retort was: "God does not want to leave me alone, He wants you here to keep me company."

Mom worked as a cleaning lady all her adult life, retiring at age 80. She spent about 20 years cleaning the classrooms at Benedictine High School where she earned the nickname, "Two-Mop Stipkala." While the other ladies pushed one mop down the floor, my mom would place two mops side-by-side, thereby, cut the time in half. Even when we moved to the suburbs, some 10 miles from the school, a monk would pick her up in the morning and drive her back home. That's how much the Benedictine monks appreciated her work ethic.

She worked as a cleaning lady for about 20 different families and for some of Cleveland's major downtown buildings such as the Palace Theater, the Old Arcade, Bond Clothes, The Engineers Building and the Hanna Building. Mom would work until midnight, and then take the streetcar home, arriving at 1:00 a.m., after a half-mile walk from the streetcar stop.

Mom's memory was unerring. She had a mind like a bear trap. She remembered everything!

Unlike her brother, Dr. Joseph Mikus, who got a Ph.D. degree and a law degree, my mom was allowed to go to school for only six years because of the Hungarian government school system.

But because I lived with mom for 73 years, I know that her mind was just as sharp as her brother's. I saw her analytic mind in action daily. She solved more problems than Dr. Laura and Dr. Phil combined. With different circumstances, I know that my mom could easily have joined her brother, Joseph, as a Ph.D.

Yes, she could easily have become known as Helen Stipkala, Ph.D., or better yet, Dr. Helen Stipkala.

S Bohom, Draha Matka

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Branch 3P— Hazleton, Pennsylvania

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 3P, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, October 7, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. in St. Joseph Church Cafeteria, North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend and become active in branch activities. Please spread the word to fellow members.

Mike Koval, Financial Secretary

Branch 24— CLEVELAND, OHIO

Members of the St. Andrew Svorad Society, Branch 24, were invited to attend the annual Slovak Festival sponsored by the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club on Sunday, September 2, 2007, at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Parma, Ohio. The event featured a performance at 3:00 p.m. by Lucina, North America's premier folklore ensemble.

Bob Kopco, President

Branch 95— MCKEES ROCKS, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 95, McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, has merged with the St. Wenceslaus Society, Branch 254 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This merger took place on August 1, 2007. Members in Branch 95 will now hold membership in Branch 254. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Albina Senko, 230 Thornberry Circle, Pittsburgh, PA 15234, or phone 412/343-5031.

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

Branch 153— CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 153, will hold its Annual Meeting earlier than usual this year. The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 14, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. at the home of President John Jurcenko, 7113 West Talcott Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. The election of officers and charitable donations will be on the agenda. All members are cordially invited to attend. There will be a fraternal luncheon after the meeting.

Please remember in your prayers the following members who have passed on to their eternal rest: Alex Zemancik, Igor Dubravec, Andrew Koril, Anthony Zibrida, Mary Zibrida, Stephen Zahora, Lucille Taylor, and Walter Varek.

Dorohty Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

Branch 266— HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 266, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, October 7, 2007, at 10:15 a.m. in St. Joseph Church Cafeteria, 604 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. All members are welcome.

Richard Lazar, Financial Secretary

Branch 311 — MONESSEN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Tarquino, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 or phone 724/929-9788.

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

Branch 393— HANNASTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold a Picnic and Meeting on Sunday, September 9, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of John and Mary Ann Nalevanko, 459 Front Street, Hannastown Road. All members and their families are invited to attend.

Mary Ann Nalevanko, Secretary

Branch 493 — CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

**Robert Tapak Magruder,
Financial Secretary**

Branch 493— CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Saturday, September 29, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the Bohemian Crystal Restaurant, 639 North Blackhawk Drive, Westmont, Illinois. After the meeting, attendees will enjoy a family style dinner. If you plan to attend, please contact Robert Tapak Magruder by September 21 at 773/505-0117. Members of other FCSU lodges who attend will pay via separate check.

**Robert Tapak Magruder,
Financial Secretary**

Branch 510— KENOSHA, WISCONSIN

The St. Anthony Society, Branch 510, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, September 30, 2007, at 5:30 p.m. at Bombay Louie's, Kenosha, Wisconsin. On the agenda will be the officers' reports and updates on the insurance and annuity programs. Future programs and plans for the year will also be discussed. The elections of officers will take place following the business session. Please plan your new slate of officers. A discussion of better treatment of the smaller branches is also on the agenda. Dinner will be available for those who attend. For reservations call President Joseph Scuglik at 262/654-7364.

Joseph Scuglik, President

Branch 580— WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 580, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, September 30, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. after the Mass at the home of the Financial Secretary. All members are urged to attend.

Mary G. Perun, Financial Secretary

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, November 18, 2007, at 12:00 noon at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon in Donora, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

Branch 706— SOUTH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Members of the St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 706, are invited to attend this year's Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar on Sunday, September 30, 2007, at Annunciation of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church, 14610 South Will-Cook Road, Homer Glen, Illinois. The Very Rev. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA, will celebrate a Byzantine Catholic Divine Liturgy at 1:00 p.m. followed by this year's topic, "Painted Byzantine Catholic Icons in the Annunciation Church." Pre-registration is necessary. Admission is \$15.00 and that includes a catered meal. Branch 706 will pay the \$15.00 for its members who attend. Members must notify Branch Treasurer Art Fayta at 219/864-8251 before September 18, if they plan to attend. This is very important. Arrangements must be made well in advance of the event.

Art Fayta, Treasurer

Branch 716— NEW YORK CITY

The St. Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 25, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at St. John

Nepomucene Church Hall, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be financial and officers' reports, the election of officers, and a discussion of plans for the coming year. All members are urged to attend this meeting.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary

Branch 721— BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 721, will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, September 19, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Julius Remenar, 8977 South Mason Road, Bannister, Michigan. The election of officers will take place. All members are urged to attend.

Julius Remenar, Financial Secretary

Branch 746— LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, October 21, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, Linden, New Jersey. On the agenda will be a discussion and planning for a Christmas get-together, as well as finalizing plans for the Dinner Dance on November 17, 2007. Please bring your suggestions. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

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

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

"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.

Annual Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar Set for September 30

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

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

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

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT — New Jersey

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

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

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

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

Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary

MICHIGAN DISTRICT — Michigan

The Michigan District invites all District branch members to celebrate with us on Sunday, September 9, 2007, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Sterling Heights, Michigan. We will be holding our District Picnic as part of the church festival. The 12:00 noon Slovak Mass will be offered for all the living and deceased members of the Michigan District. Mark your calendars for this Mass and picnic.

Victor Jiomkowski, President

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

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

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

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

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District will hold its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Sunday, October 21, 2007, at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Priory, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. A short period of fraternal fellowship will commence at 1:30 p.m. with the meeting starting promptly at 2:00 p.m.

Please note section 4.05 (g) of the current FCSU Bylaws (page 14) stipulates that branches which wish to receive the \$4.00 per member payment from the Home Office must send "a branch representative to 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."

Attendees will enjoy a catered dinner. If you plan to attend, please notify district president John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

SS. CYRIL AND METHIDIUS DISTRICT — Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, Pennsylvania and Broome County, New York

The SS. Cyril and Methodius District will hold its Annual Summer Picnic on Sunday, September 16, 2007, from 10:00 a.m. to dusk at McDade Park, Scranton, Pennsylvania. Binghamton Branch 166 and Scranton Branch 382 will co-sponsor a continental breakfast from 10:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. A variety of ethnic foods will be served at 12:30 p.m. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be grilled to order later in the day. Snacks and beverages will be available throughout the day.

The cost of the event is \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children under age 12. Reservations are required and may be made by calling Michael Slovenkai at 570/342-7562, Dorothy Ungvasky at 570/403-2067; Frank Haynak 607/797-6160; or Elizabeth Slovenkai at 570/344-3854. Some branches may choose to share a portion of the cost of the meal.

Donations for the Gift Basket or a monetary donation (\$25.00 limit) from each and every branch will be raffled off at the park. Bring your donation to the park or arrange for pickup. Call Michael Slovenkai or Elizabeth Slovenkai if you have not received a letter regarding the above.

McDade Park has a variety of activities including a children's play area, nature trails, and sports areas. Visitors have access to the Anthracite Heritage Museum and the Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour for nominal fees.

The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, September 23, 2007, at 12:00 noon in Holy Family Church Hall, Scranton, Pennsylvania. Members are invited to attend the Mass at 10:30 a.m. Dinner will be served immediately after the Mass. Reservations should be made with President Slovenkai at 570/342-7562; Treasurer/Financial Secretary Dorothy Ungvasky at 570/403-2067 or Vice President Arlo Meeker at 670/775-4896.

The election of officers will take place at this meeting. Your presence and participation is what makes your District and Branch special. Support your officers and get the latest information about Jednota's activities and insurance.

Theresa Chupka, Recording Secretary

MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT — New York

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 4, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Yonkers, New York. On the agenda will be a financial report, a discussion of next year's program, and the election of officers for 2008. Other business will also be discussed.

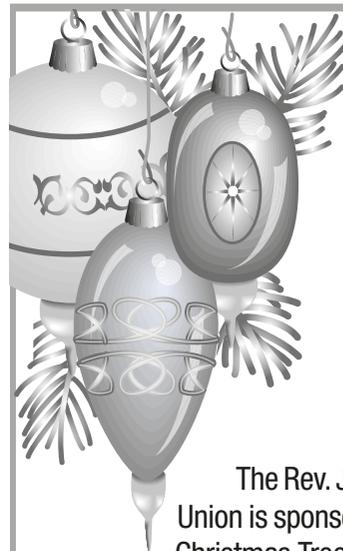
We urge all District branches to send representatives to this meeting. All other members of the FCSU are also welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served by host Branch 41.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary-Treasurer

MSGR. ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT — Monongahela Valley, Pennsylvania

The Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 18, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon in Donora, Pennsylvania. Members of the various District branches are urged to attend.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary



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

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

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

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

Mail your ornament to: District II Vice President

Mrs. Barbara Fayta

1544 Rokosz Lane

Dyer, IN 46311

Thank you and I look forward to seeing your ornaments.

Mark Forrest Coming to St. Thomas A' Becket Church

As part of the Golden Anniversary Celebration of St. Thomas A' Becket Parish in Jefferson Hills, Pennsylvania, Mark Forrest will present A Time of Meditation, Music, Prayer and Healing on Saturday and Sunday, September 29 and 30, 2007. On Saturday the evening will consist of Praise and Worship Music, Scripture Meditations, and Silent Adoration in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:30 p.m.

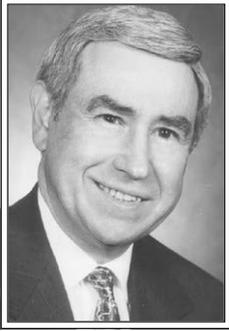
An inspirational concert will be held on Sunday, September 30 at 3:00 p.m.

Mark's melodic voice has filled the concert halls and cathedrals worldwide. He has sung inspirational hymns for luminaries such as the late Holy Father Pope John Paul II and Blessed Mother Teresa. Mark Forrest's "song" is The Faith and Family Foundation, an organization he and his wife, Muriel, founded in 1999 to support and encourage families with special needs.

St. Thomas A' Becket is blessed in having Mark Forrest return here for the third time. This special event promises to be a very spiritually uplifting time for the parish family of St. Thomas A' Becket and others.

The public is invited to attend. St. Thomas A' Becket is located at 139 Gill Hall Road in Jefferson Hills. For more information you may contact the parish office at 412/655-2885.

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By Joseph T. Senko

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



Tailor Disability Insurance Policy to Your Needs

What would happen if your paycheck suddenly stopped because you were ill or injured and couldn't work? Could you pay your mortgage or rent and monthly bills? You could if you had long-term disability insurance. Disability insurance provides monthly income when you're disabled and unable to work. Without coverage, a disability can deplete your savings or drive you into serious debt.

Coverage Options

You may already have some disability coverage through your employer, but it may not be enough. Benefits provided by employers typically cover 50 percent of your income up to a certain monthly maximum (which may be less than 50 percent for highly compensated employees).

You cannot count on Social Security either. Social Security disability replaces only a limited portion of your salary, and it's very difficult to qualify. Generally speaking, you must have been disabled for at least five months, and have a disability that is expected to last at least one year or end in death. Additionally, you must be unable to be gainfully employed in any occupation, not just the occupation you worked in at the time your disability began.

There are several types of disability policies available with features that make it possible to tailor coverage to fit your needs. To select the best policy for you, consider the following scenarios.

Own Occupation or Any Occupation?

The most important consideration is how your policy defines disability. The best policies pay benefits if you are unable to perform the major duties of your own occupation, even if you can do some other tasks. Other policies pay only if you cannot perform the duties of any occupation for which you are reasonably qualified by training, experience, or education.

Short Elimination Period or Longer?

All long-term disability plans have an elimination period before benefits are paid. An elimination period is similar to the deductible for medical and car insurance. The most common waiting period is 90 days, but you can select a policy that doesn't pay until you've been disabled for 180, 365, or 730 days. The longer the elimination period, the lower the premium.

Two Years of Benefits or More?

With most policies, you can select to receive benefits for a specified period of time, such as two years, five years, or until retirement age. The shorter the benefit period, the less expensive the policy. If you can afford it, it's best to purchase a policy that provides benefits until retirement age.

60,70, or 80 Percent of Income?

Disability insurance is designed to pay you enough to cover the basics, but not enough to keep you from returning to work as soon as possible. To determine the percentage of income you want to replace, compute how much you would need each month to cover your monthly expenses. Keep in mind that while some work-related expenses may be lower, you could be paying more for medical expenses. On the plus side, unlike a group plan, benefits from a personal disability policy are generally tax-free.

Non-cancelable or Guaranteed Renewable?

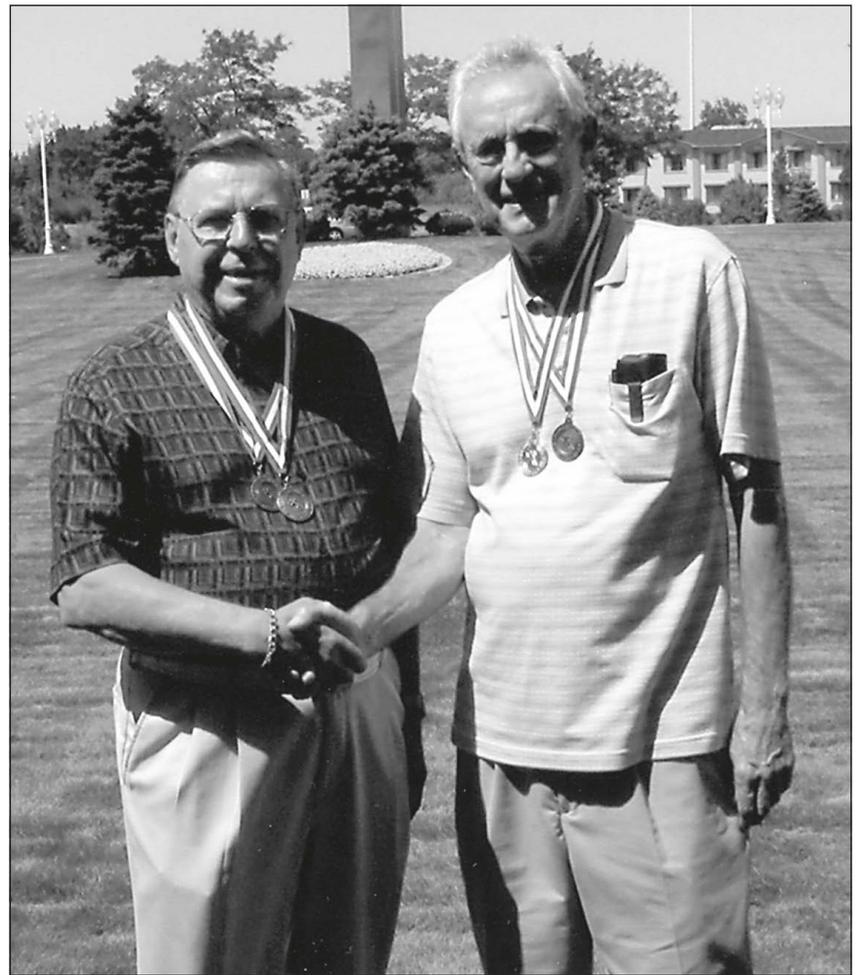
Under a non-cancelable contract, once you have been approved, the company cannot cancel your policy or raise your premiums. With a guaranteed renewable policy, your policy cannot be canceled as long as you pay the premiums, but the insurer can raise your premiums as long as the change affects an entire class of policyholders and doesn't single you out. While the price for a non-cancelable policy is higher, it's the best option as it locks your rates and benefits.

With all the options available, it's best to select a personal disability policy within the context of your overall financial plan.



St. Andrew Abbey Annual Benefit on November 4

St. Andrew Abbey will hold its Annual Benefit on Sunday, November 4, 2007, from 12:15 to 4:00 p.m. at Assumption Church Parish Hall, 9183 Broadview Road, Broadview Heights, Ohio. Mass will be celebrated at 12:15 p.m. followed by cocktails, appetizers, dinner and program. The dinner will be catered by Tom's Country Place. Individual tickets are \$60 and "Honor a Monk" are \$100. Sponsorships begin at \$250. For additional information about sponsorships, please contact Dave Smith at 216/297-1425. For ticket information call Bill Andrews at 721/5300 ext 0. If you have any additional questions or need information regarding this event, please contact Marie Golias at 216/228-8179.



Two officers of the St. Stephen Society, Branch 153, in Chicago, Illinois, participated in the 6 County Senior Olympics in the Chicago area during the week of July 16. Rudy Bernath, Auditor of Branch 153 (left) and John Jurcenko, President of Branch 153, received two medals during the competition. Congratulations Rudy and John!

Coming Events

SEPTEMBER

- 9 – The Rev. Stephen Furdek District's Annual Meeting at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. Mass at 11:00 a.m. in the Crypt Church followed by lunch and the meeting in the Basilica Executive Conference Center.
- 9 – The Michigan District's annual Mass at 11:30 a.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Sterling Heights, Michigan.
- 23 – The SS. Cyril and Methodius District's Annual Meeting at Holy Family Church Hall, Scranton, Pennsylvania. Mass at 12:00 noon followed by the dinner and meeting.

OCTOBER

- 14 – The Rev. John E. Rura District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church Hall, Carteret, New Jersey.
- 21 – The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District's Annual Meeting and Election of Officers at 1:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Priory, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois.

NOVEMBER

- 4 – The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District's Annual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Yonkers, New York.
- 18 – 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 –
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

Matthew R. Visnovsky Graduates From West Point

Matthew R. Visnovsky, a member of Branchy 292 in Windber, Pennsylvania, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York in May 2007. Matthew received a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineer Management and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers. He will receive Engineer Officer Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Matthew is the son of Major Robert and Betteanne Visnovsky of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, and the grandson of Erma Visnovsky and the late George Visnovsky of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Major Visnovsky graduated from West Point in 1974.

Matthew's great-grandfather George J. Visnovsky, Sr., was one of the organizers of Branch 292 in Windber, and served as president for many years. His grandfather, George J. Visnovsky, Jr., was a catcher on the Windber team in the Jednota Baseball League.

Matthew's sister, Emily, was a 2006 Jednota Scholarship recipient. She is currently a sophomore at Wagner College, Staten Island, New York.



Matthew Visnovsky

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

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

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

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

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

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

THESE RATES WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2007.

**Kenneth A. Arendt
National Secretary**

New England Fraternal Congress Scholarships

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

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

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



Slovak Language Courses in Maryland

The Czech and Slovak Language School is now accepting registrations for its fall semester Slovak language course that begin on Saturday, September 8, 2007, at the Maryland School for the Blind, 3501 Taylor Avenue, Parkville, Maryland. Classes will meet for ten Saturdays. Call 410/435-1317 or 410/243-1710 for detailed information and for an advance registration form see www.czslha.org or e-mail LHybl@bcpl.net.

The language school is open to anyone- elementary students to elders- interested in learning about the Slovak language, history, and culture. The language school is sponsored by the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association.

the Book Corner

Margarete Hurn, **THE FOREIGNER'S GUIDE TO LIVING IN SLOVAKIA** (San Diego: Modra Publishing, 2007), 200 pages

THE FOREIGNER'S GUIDE TO LIVING IN SLOVAKIA covers the social, economic, historic and traditional influences on the life and culture of Slovakia, a unique country in Central Europe. Designed to acclimate a traveler to the ins and outs of life in Slovakia, this guide provides more depth than just the basic country facts found in travel guides.

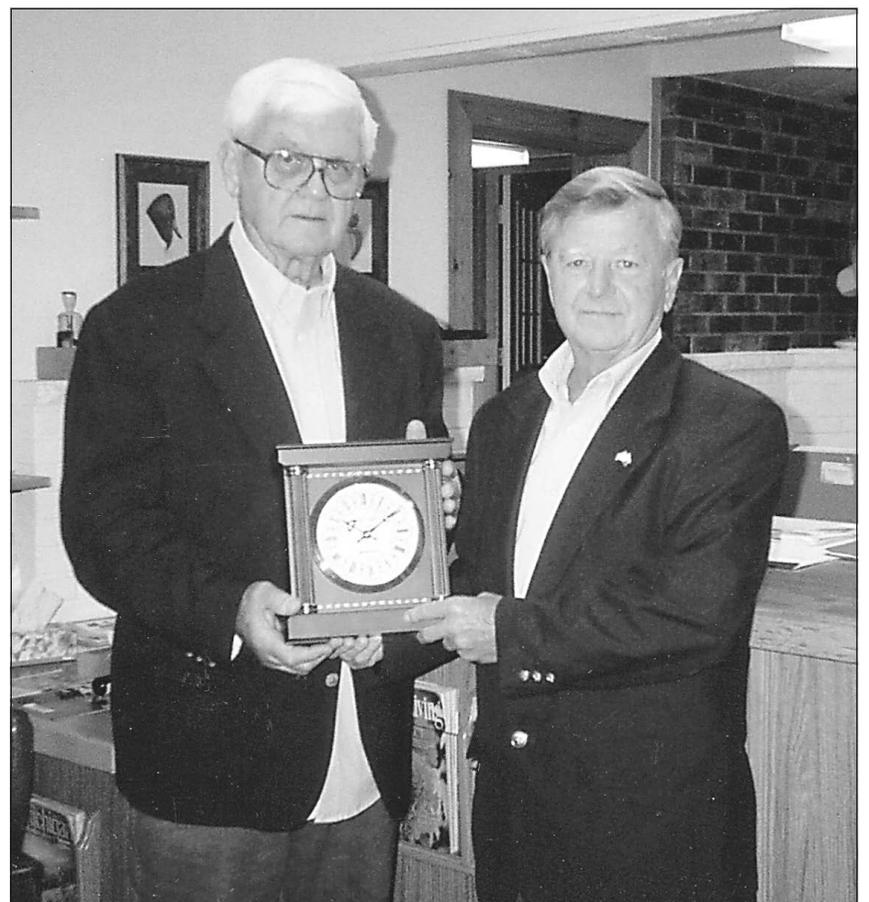
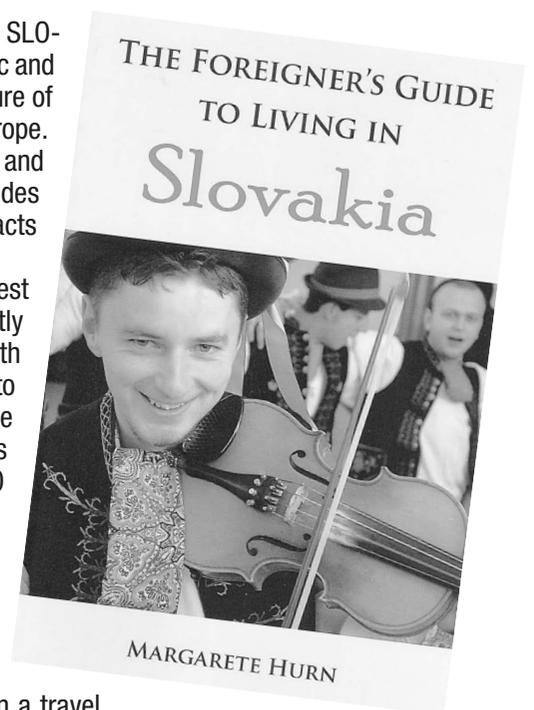
Slovakia has been developing in interest due to its strong economic growth, recently confirmed by its record 8.3 percent growth in GDP for 2006. As Slovakia continues to increase in importance, the need for the variety and depth of information that is covered in THE FOREIGNER'S GUIDE TO LIVING IN SLOVAKIA becomes more apparent, particularly since there is not a single "culture guide" presently written on Slovakia.

"When I moved to Slovakia six years ago, there was no resources available beyond the basics that could be found in a travel guide written for the Czech and Slovak Republics. Information is still limited. I wrote this guide to fill the void of needed practical information about life in Slovakia," said Margarete Hurn, author of THE FOREIGNER'S GUIDE TO LIVING IN SLOVAKIA.

Having traveled frequently to Slovakia from the age of 15 and having lived in Slovakia for five years, Hurn has been a first-hand observer of the political, economic and social changes that have taken place in the last 16 years. Through her experience writing articles for the European public affairs e-magazine Café Babel and for the newsletter SLOVAKIA, she is able to use her understanding as a foreigner living in Slovakia to share her thoughts and experiences from this unique perspective.

Contents of the book include an overview of what defines Slovakia, how history is interwoven with the present day, and topics a person might find unfamiliar or confusing, such as how to read a Slovak public transportation schedule. Other important topics are relocating to Slovakia, which laws a foreigner is likely to need to understand, recreational possibilities, and Slovak foods. Finally, folk tradition and culture is described along with major holidays, social and business customs.

The book sells for \$16.95 and is available through bookstores and internet book sellers. For a discount or multiple copies, contact the publisher directly: Modra Publishing, 9334 Shawn Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123. tel. 858/382-7244 www.modra-publishing.com



National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr. (right), presented a token of appreciation from the First Catholic Slovak Union to William F. Liptak of Streator, Illinois, for being its Top Insurance Agent in 2006. Congratulations!

Realm of SLOVAK GENEALOGY



Ray Plutko

"Holding Hands Down Memory Lane ...and Through the White Pages"

By Ray Plutko

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

In some respects the crafting of these monthly columns have been a treasured trip down "memory lane" and each of you as readers have made our on-going genealogical journey that much more enjoyable.

Be it your letters, emails, telephone calls, or just some good ol' fashioned Slovak curiosity, we have learned a great deal about each other and more so, of our ancestral past.

In the process we have broached topics as to the geography and village locations in Slovakia; the art of obtaining vital records from Slovakia; often overlooked genealogy sources in the United States/Canada; the identification and patterns of Slovak surnames; research techniques for immigrant records at Ellis Island; writing to Slovakia in search of a long-lost relative; and discovering naturalization records to list just a few among a litany of subjects.

No, this is not a farewell "thank you." Far from it.

What I have noted over the course of these monthly exchanges though is that each of you are at varying stages of research and thus the challenge of providing a meaningful dialogue for a wide audience with each session.

There are those of you who are at the "I'm starting tomorrow stage," others at the "I have been at this for two months now, tell me what to do next;" and still others at the 10-15 years labor of love stage asking, "I need one small clue to a piece of information from 1862 in the village of Krasnovce in order to pull together my entire work. Help!"

With each of you in mind I plan to continue our monthly get-togethers, but will periodically "repeat" a critical foundation column that has been updated in order to assist a majority of you at the initial two stages of research.

But as they say... first things first.

As we indeed attempt to pull together a focus of our respective family picture we often encounter gaps of information and in particular, on the maternal side of the lineage. No matter what techniques we utilize, that surname being searched seems to have just disappeared as there were no male heirs to continue the family line—at least this is what we think or have been told.

This is the point where we hold hands and walk through the white pages, literally.

Simply go to www.whitepages.com and hopefully return that wide smile to your face. What you will actually be doing is conducting a search through the white pages of a massive telephone book, based upon the state you choose.

Thus if you believe the name Babyak disappeared in the state of Ohio, the last you heard, on the first screen that appears hit People Search on the top line and then go to the corresponding People Search box below and to the left. The beauty of this search is that all you have to do is type Babyak in the Last Name box, then go to the State or Province box and pull up Ohio, and then hit the Search button! Just ignore the other two boxes of First Name and City.

If the surname Babyak still exists in Ohio, you will receive an instant printout screen, complete in most attempts with a mailing address and telephone number of all individuals!!! If you thought the state was Ohio or possibly Michigan, then repeat the search for the state of Michigan, etc.

Two points of caution: If you are searching a common surname such as King or Gray, your list of hits may be quite lengthy. Secondly, the search will only generate surnames that are listed in the white pages. Thus, if an individual has an unlisted telephone number the search will create a void for that singular individual.

Now to place your new-found information into action, corresponding to the area where the family name last disappeared, send a brief letter to each new listing with your return address, telephone number and email address and a SASE (self addressed, stamped envelope).

Just another trip down our "memory lane."

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

◆◆◆ Allentown Parish to Hold "Meat Bingo"

St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church will sponsor a "Meat Bingo" on Sunday, September 16, 2007, in the church Social Hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Doors open at 12:00 noon. Bingo starts at 1:00 p.m. Donation is \$5.00 plus specials. Refreshments will be available. For information call Bill Drost at 610/432-3505 or Helen Fiala at 610/434-8614.



L-R: National President Andrew Rajec, National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., and James Marmol.

Uniontown Veterans Memorial Bricks Still Available

Several years ago a group of concerned citizens in Uniontown, Pennsylvania decided to honor their local World War II veterans with a new monument to replace the existing one at the Fayette County Courthouse. James Marmol, president of Branch 162 in Uniontown and project manager of K2 Engineering, designed the memorial and saw it to its completion. On Friday, December 8, 2006, the monument was formally dedicated.

The monument consists of three 6-foot walls with names, granite benches, flagpoles and a walkway. In addition, the monument has 1,400 memorial bricks for veterans of other wars. Each brick has the name, rank, military branch, years of service, and hometown.

A limited number of memorial bricks are still available for purchase. People can still purchase bricks in honor of veterans and family members. For more information, call 724/438-8688.



St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene Church Plans Centennial Celebration

St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene Slovak Catholic Church invites all to participate in the celebration of its centennial on Sunday, November 4, 2007 at the church, 319 Brown Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. by His Eminence Justin Cardinal Rigali. A reception will follow at the Sheet Metal Workers Hall on Columbus Boulevard. For further information and to inquire regarding tickets, please call the Rectory at 215/627-0340.

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

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

The following are the rules and requirements:

Applicants must:

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

The Patroness of Slovakia: Our Lady of Sorrows

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

Many of us know that Our Lady of Sorrows is the patroness of Slovakia, but often we do not know how the Virgin Mary and her sufferings came to be identified with the people of Slovakia. The identification of the sorrowful Mother with the Slovak nation stems from a miracle which occurred long ago in the 16th century.

It all started in Šaštín, a town in western Slovakia which lies between the Myjava Hills and the Záhorie Lowland, not far from Moravia. Since 2001, the town was renamed Šaštína – Stráži, a city of not quite 5,000 inhabitants.

In 1564, the Virgin Mary, as Our Lady of Sorrows, first appeared to Angelika Bakicová, who was the wife of the landowner named Imrich Czobor. The apparition occurred while she was praying for help to deal with some personal trials in her life.

In thanksgiving for hearing her prayers, Pani Bakicová commissioned an unknown artist to sculpt a wooden statue at the place of the apparition. Soon word spread of her vision, and the faithful from nearby towns and villages began to visit the site as a place of pilgrimage. Before long, pilgrims from far away heard of the apparition and also started to make longer journeys to pay homage to Our Sorrowful Mother. A triangular Marian Chapel was then built to house the statue in the late 16th century.

During the Turkish wars, the statue was moved in 1654 for protection to the chapel of St. Imrich, in a nearby manor house. It did not return to its original chapel until 1710, and soon attracted throngs of pilgrims who credited Our Lady of Sorrows for many spiritual and physical miracles of healing.

Not until the early 18th century did the Church officially grant its approval for public worship of the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows. But this involved an official Church investigation. On August 25, 1732, the statue was moved to the Loreto chapel of the town church. In the meantime, an official Church commission found that as many as 726 miracles were associated with the statue.

Finally, Archbishop Imrich Esterházy in Esztergom, the center of Catholicism in Hungary, sanctioned the chapel in Šaštín as an official place of pilgrimage. The statue returned to its original location in the triangular chapel, under the care of Rev. Ján Schon. A throng of over 20,000 people gathered to celebrate the first Holy Mass at the chapel. This sealed its sanctity as place of worship for centuries to come.

The Pauline order received responsibility to minister and take care of the shrine starting in 1733. Upon arriving in Šaštín, the Paulines decided to build a basilica to accommodate pilgrims and a monastery to house the clergy. The cornerstone for the new church was laid on July 16, 1736. Johann Damian and later Matej Vepý from Vienna directed its construction. The builders completed construction of the main part of the basilica and its roof in 1748, and three years later, the adjoining monastery was finished.

Once the building was finished, attention turned to the decoration of the interior. In 1757, the Austrian court painter, Jean-Joseph Chamant, adorned the basilica ceiling and the side altars with a series of colorful frescoes and murals. Another important Austrian master of the era, Johann Lucas

Kracker, painted three side altars of the basilica.

During the reign of Empress Maria Theresa, the renowned Habsburg imperial architect, Franz Hildebrand, recommended additional adornments, including the construction of a main altar made of red marble and the decoration of the façade of the basilica. The donations of the simple people of Slovakia and Maria Theresa's personal contribution funded the project. All was done to prepare for the 200th anniversary of the apparition in 1764.

The official blessing and dedication of the basilica occurred on August 15, 1764. The culmination of the ceremony featured the presentation of the statue at the main altar. In addition to the many thousands of pilgrims who came for the grand event, the attendees at the event sounded like a list of "who's who" in the Habsburg Empire – the Esztergom Archbishop Barkoczi, Empress Maria Theresa and her husband Francis of Lorraine, and many other clergy and dignitaries.

Other improvements continued in the ensuing years. Just a year later, the bells were blessed and the domes finished. In 1771, a lectern was completed, as well as a magnificent organ with 25 variations to fill the basilica with heavenly music. Gradually the side altars were worked on and finished.

When the reforming Emperor Joseph II dissolved the monasteries in the empire, the basilica became government property. The Paulines fled to Poland in 1786. The Šaštín pastor Jakub Schneider and four chaplains then closed their parish church, moved to the monastery quarters, and took over administering the basilica. The Salesian Order would later take over the ministering of the shrine when the monastery was later reopened after Joseph II's reign.

The next notable event of record happened in 1864 was the 300th anniversary of the apparition. In preparation for the event, Deacon Štefan Hrebicek contracted Jozef Bárta from Hodonín to raise the two towers to their current height and renovate the basilica. A grand ceremony took place on September 8, 1864, which 300 clergy and over 120,000 pilgrims attended. Presided over by the Esztergom Archbishop, Cardinal Ján Scitovsky, he placed on the statue a crown of gold blessed by Pope Pius IX.

Šaštín appeared in the news again when the Emperor Franz Joseph paid a visit to the shrine in 1902. But details were lacking about this historic visit.

Next mention of the shrine is during World War I, when the bells were hidden to protect them from possible damage or melting down to make weapons. After the war in 1926, the basilica had four more large bells consecrated.

The greatest moment for the shrine came the following year in April, when Pope Pius XI declared that Our Sorrowful Mother would be the patroness of Slovakia. In order to acknowledge the Holy See's decision, this patronage, three bishops celebrated a Holy

Mass on May 22, 1927, attended by over 40,000 pilgrims.

Improvements to the basilica continued over the next couple decades: in 1929 a new national bell to Our Lady of Seven Sorrows weighed about 5,000 pounds. The next year the basilica acquired electric lighting. During World War II, renovations improved the sanctuary, the organ, and the building itself. Slovaks living in Vienna donated stations of the cross for the shrine.

After the war, the communist dictatorship attacked all Holy Orders and forcefully expelled the Salesians from the shrine in 1950. The shrine once again came under the administration of the diocese and the local parish. Nonetheless, the pilgrims continued to flock to the shrine and a new grander organ was even completed.

On the occasion of the 400th anniversary of Angelika Bakicová's apparition, Pope Paul VI declared in 1964 the church in Šaštín would be a minor basilica. Trnava's Bishop Lazik presided at the celebration Mass just after Christmas of that year.

When Slovak leader Alexander Dubcek relaxed many of the anti-religious laws in Czechoslovakia during 1968, the Salesians could return temporarily to minister the shrine. While short-lived, further improvements to the bells and church included a new marble altar completed in 1975.

Another great moment in the history of the shrine was the visit of Mother Theresa of Calcutta, who visited there in 1987, hosted by the new archbishop-metropolitan of Trnava, Ján Sokol, who serves in that office to this day.

The fall of communism after 1989 meant the final return of the Salesians to take care of the shrine in February 1990. The Rev. Ján Malženický continued to renovate the basilica and monastery in preparation for the first national pilgrimage after years of totalitarian rule. During his sojourn to Bratislava, Pope John Paul II flew over the shrine in a helicopter during April on his first visit to Slovakia and blessed it, promising to return personally to pay homage to Our Lady of Sorrows. The faithful of Slovakia responded with a massive celebration, which counted 900 priests and many thousands of pilgrims at the May event.

The Pope fulfilled his promise to Our Lady and the people of Slovakia in 1995, when he made an afternoon visit to the shrine on July 1. Over one half million pilgrims attended for the papal visit. There he concelebrated Holy Mass with 48 high Church dignitaries, but his sermon addressed the poor, whom he said gave him strength to carry on his mission. He repeatedly mentioned how he joined with the poor in prayer. The pope also blessed 20 cornerstones from which new churches would be built across Slovakia.

The papal visit in 1995 was indeed the culmination of the revitalization of the Šaštín shrine to Our Lady of Sorrows. Since then the annual pilgrimages continue to take place annually on September 15 and on the Feast of SS. Cyril and Methodius on July 5. Improvements to the basilica continue and the slow process of restoring the beautiful interior and Chamant's frescoes is ongoing.

In 1998, the Slovak Republic also issued a stamp with the Pieta

statue from main altar of the Marian Basilica of Our Lady of Sorrows.

Here in the United States, Slovak Americans also have remembered Our Lady of Sorrows. Our First Catholic Slovak Union in 1965 contributed to the building the Jednota Chapel in her honor at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

A Slovak language inscription at the statue reads in English translation:

"Our Mother of Sorrows, patroness of Slovakia, pray for us."



Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel

Many Slovak parishes annually hold special Masses to honor Our Lady on and around September 15, and it is important that Slovak Americans continue to pay homage to Our Lady and remember her sufferings when we face our own trials in life.

Here is a short prayer to Our Lady, the Mother of Sorrows.

Prayer in honor of Our Lady of Sorrows

Father, As your Son was raised on the cross,

His mother Mary stood by Him, sharing His suffering.

May she, who is also our spiritual Mother and patroness in heaven,

help us to find renewed strength at the cross of Christ

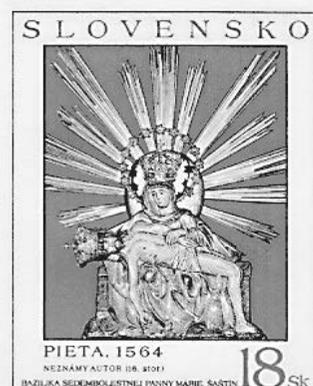
and so to come to share in His rising to new life,

where He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God forever and ever. Amen.

YOUTH ROUND-UP

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



Our Lady of Sorrows stamp.

VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM MEMORIAL DAY OF DEDICATION

By John Karch

The long-awaited dedication of the Victims of Communism (VOC) Memorial—familiar to readers of JEDNOTA articles on annual Captive Nations Week and the annual VOC Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom Recipients—took place June 12, 2007 in Washington, D.C. The Memorial is a visual reminder of the 100 million killed by communist totalitarian regimes in the 20th century. As is also known by readers, June 12 of twenty years ago is the date of President Ronald Reagan's speech at the Brandenburg Gate in West Berlin in which he voiced his historic declaration "Come here to this gate, Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

The Memorial is a 10-foot bronze statue replica of the "Goddess of Democracy" erected by Chinese students in 1989 which had been destroyed by tanks in Tiananmen Square. Modeled on the Statue of Liberty, the front pedestal of the "Goddess of Democracy" contains "To the more than one hundred million victims of communism and to those who love liberty" The back reads "To the freedom and independence of all captive nations and peoples." The Memorial is located at the Northwest intersection of Massachusetts Ave., New Jersey Ave., and C St., two blocks from Union Station and with a view of the Capitol.

On this sunny, hot day, the morning program, attended by some 400 guests, was highly covered by the mass media, including C-SPAN, and monitored by tight security. James Roberts of Radio America was the M.C. He called for a Pledge of Allegiance,

the rendition of the Star Spangled Banner by Russian-born soprano Marina Oberlander, then the Invocation.

Invocation to Remember

The Invocation was given by His Excellency Most Rev. Pietro Sambì, Apostolic Nuncio in Washington, D.C. Among other things, Archbishop Sambì said: "The last century was a century of martyrs, many whose names are to be found on a long page, written by Communism.... Communism oppressed the individual, regarding his or her freedom, starting with religious liberty--which is the Mother of all freedoms. Communism negated democracy, reducing the human being to two strong arms for production.... Countless men and women were unknown victims; it is, thanks to them, that the human person can once again breathe with dignity, freedom and democracy."

In his prayer, the Nuncio said "Almighty God, help us to inspire others that You desire that all people might come to know Truth and live in Freedom. May this monument serve to remind all those who might look upon it to appreciate the noble character of every human person and to defend those most basic human rights that begin with religious liberty. To You, O Loving Father, we commend the souls of all of those men and women who lost their lives as victims of the cruel and inhuman ideology that sought to obliterate Your precious imprint from the hearts and minds of each of your sons and daughters.... Give us strength and grace O God, that we may never tire to inspire others to respect the inalienable rights of every

human being...."

Wreath-Laying

The M.C. invited Matthew and Elizabeth Spalding and their adopted children Joseph (9) and Catherine (5) to lay the wreath at the Goddess of Democracy statue, "fitting for today's ceremony," he said, adding "the children were born in Russia." Dr. Spalding is Director of the B. Kenneth Simon Center for American Studies at The Heritage Foundation. Three speakers followed.

Congressman Rohrabacher

The M.C. introduced Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) briefly as "principal author authorizing the construction of the Victims of Communism Memorial." Among his other comments, the VOC supporter said "Today, we commemorate the tens of millions victims of communism, that evil ideology that was a monstrous threat to the people of this planet for seven decades. We remember them and we are grateful to those who put themselves in harm's way and often gave their lives to protect the free people of the world, to prevent us from becoming victims of communism...."

We stopped and defeated Japanese Militarism and Nazism. During the Cold War, sometimes suffering slings and arrows from front and back, America persevered and freedom prevailed over communism.... Yes, challenges remain in how we will deal with the remnants of Leninist tyranny in countries like China, Cuba, Laos and Vietnam. Nevertheless there is a new scourge threatening the free people of the world in the form of radical Islam.

Americans will lead the way, defeating

this historic challenge as well. We will honor the victims of communism with our bravery to see that tyranny that would destroy the longings for freedom in the human heart will never victimize the people of the world again."

Lantos - Keynote Speaker

Tom Lantos (D-CA), the only Jewish Holocaust survivor in the U.S. Congress, was the Keynote Speaker. The Congressman is Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. According to his official biography, he was born in Budapest in February 1928 and was 16 years of age when Nazi Germany occupied his native Hungary. As a teenager he was placed in a Hungarian fascist forced labor camp. He succeeded in escaping and was able to survive in a safe house in Budapest set up by Swedish humanitarian Raoul Wallenberg. In 1947 he came to the U.S. on a scholarship. He received degrees from several universities, including a Ph.D. in Economics which he taught for 30 years. He was elected to Congress in 1980 and is the founding Co-Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Human Rights and supporter of the VOC Memorial.

Congressman Lantos noted that the lessons of the Cold War are and should remain a part of present-day American life. "We are in an ahistorical (sic.) society that is why this monument is so significant to the upcoming generations... The wave of the future is not godless communism, it is not distorted Islamic fascism, but it is free and open and democratic societies.... Communism was not the only monstrous phenomenon determined

continued on page 16

Branch 493 Sponsors Youth Outing

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493, in Chicago, Illinois, invited its junior members to an outing on Sunday, August 5, 2007. The junior members gathered at the Schererville, Indiana Golf and Fun Center at 3:00 p.m. for a pizza party. Twelve members from Branch 493 enjoyed pizza, pop and ice cream. Later the kids played games in the arcade, rode go-karts and practiced their swing in the batting cages.

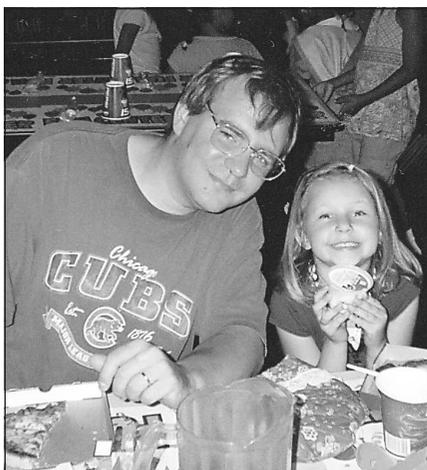
Robert Tapak Magruder



Financial Secretary Robert Tapak Magruder with Todd Peters.



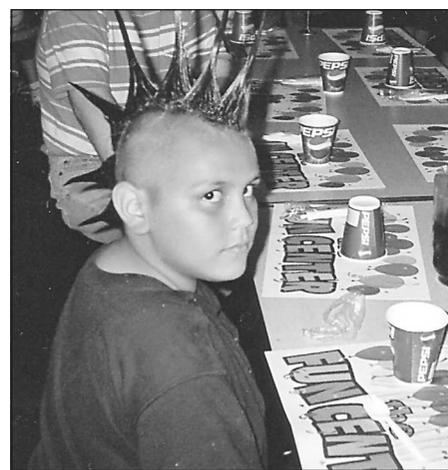
Chris Peters, Sherrie Peters, and Ryan Peters.



Ken Peters with daughter Sarah.



Megan Mota and Crystal Munoz.



John Munoz shows off his new Mohawk haircut.



Branch 493 Recording Secretary Val Vesely and Don Cummings.



Corporate sponsored team, Akron Medical Inc. L-R: President James Gazdacko, Tommy Neighbor, Jimmy Gazdacko, and Jon Gazdacko.



Ladies Division. L-R Mary Ann Minrovic, Charma Baker, Joan Boothe, and Karen Bakita.



The Thomas Family. L-R Becky Thomas, Jason Thomas, Vera Thomas, and Ernie Chudik.



Tom Herceg and Jim Gazdacko (not pictured) prepare steaks for the golfers.



Volunteer and Solicitation Chairwoman Sue Eller prepares for the post outing feast.

Akron Branch 553 Hold 38th Annual "Kielbasa" Open

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 553, hosted a sold out golf extravaganza on Saturday, June 30, 2007, at Green Hills Golf Course. All 92 participants enjoyed a beautiful day, filled with quality homemade Slovak food and refreshments. President Joe Petrasek said, "The success of this outing is a direct result of the hard work of our volunteers and the financial generosity from all of our sponsors." The volunteers organized, catered and in every way exceeded every golfer's expectation of what a true Slovak outing is all about.

Mark your calendars for our 39th event scheduled for the last Saturday in June 2008.

Greg Petrasek, Vice President

More Useful Websites

- | | |
|--|--|
| www.skonline.sk | Slovakia Travel Guide |
| www.travelguide.sk | Hotel and Spa Guide |
| kosice.region.sk | Kosice-City Travel Guide |
| www.slovakia.org | Bratislava-Information about the City |
| www.vtaty.sk | Useful Information about the High Tatras |
| www.tatry.net | Complete Information on Tatra Region |
| www.hotel-net.sk | Tourist Accommodation |
| www.skonline.sk | Slovakia On-Line (general information) |
| www.kultura.sk | Slovak cultural calendar |
| www.snm.sk | Slovak National Museum |
| www.savba.sk | Slovak Academy of Sciences |
| www.government.gov.sk | Government of the Slovak Republic |
| www.snd.sk | Slovak National Theater |
| www.stv.sk | Slovak Television |
| www.nbs.sk | National Bank of Slovakia |

ATTENTION

THE JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION, INC 2007 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2007 Scholarship Program.

THE COMMITTEE SHALL AWARD UP TO TEN ONE-TIME \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE CANDIDATES WHO BEST SATISFY THE AWARD CRITERIA.

- Any individual of Slovak descent and Catholic faith who will attend an Approved Post Secondary Educational Institution is eligible for a Scholarship
- Applicants will be required to describe accomplishments they believe would qualify them for recognition in general, and specifically, accomplishments in the areas of:

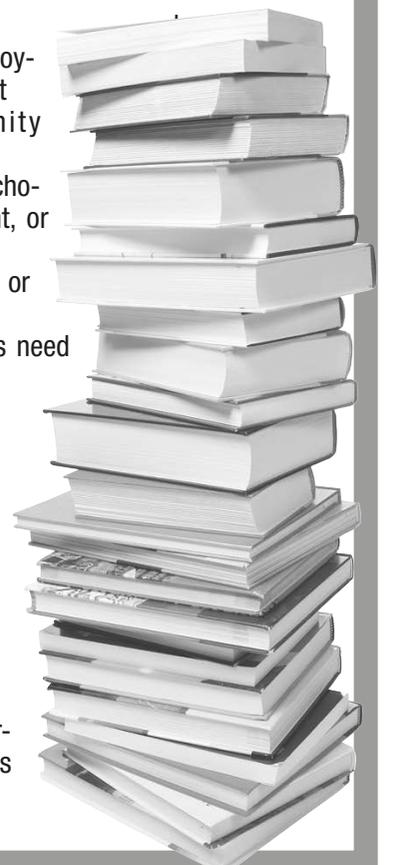
- § Scholarship
- § Leadership
- § Service to school, church and community
- Applicants will also be required to provide:
 - § An official copy of applicant's college transcript, which indicates applicant's grades and all standardized, test scores achieved, including all ACT and SAT scores.
 - § One (1) letter of recommendation authored teacher, counselor, administrator or an employment supervisor familiar with the applicant
 - § Examples of applicant's community involvement
 - § A list of awards received by applicant for scholastic excellence, community involvement, or leadership ability
 - § A description of the applicant's academic or career objectives
 - § A statement demonstrating an applicant's need for education financing

For application, please contact:

First Catholic Slovak Union
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300
Independence, Ohio 44131
Phone 1-800-533-6682
Fax 216-642-4310
E-mail: fcsu@aol.com

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED
BY MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 12, 2007**

*Family members of members of the Scholarship Committee are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.



VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM MEMORIAL DAY OF DEDICATION

continued from page 14

to destroy free and open societies, it was my privilege to fight against Nazism and it was my privilege to fight against Communism. And it is now my privilege to fight against Islamic terrorism determined to take us back 13 centuries....Everyone who has tasted communism, from Albania to Estonia, knows that without the United States, this existential struggle would have been lost."

Presidential Address

In his major address, President George W. Bush, VOCMF Honorary Chairman, said "Here in the company of men and women who resisted evil and helped bring down an empire, I proudly accept the Victims of Communism Memorial on behalf of the American people ...The 20th century will be remembered as the deadliest century in human history. And the record of this brutal era is commemorated in memorials across this city. Yet, until now, our Nation's Capital had no monument to the victims of imperial Communism, an ideology that took the lives of an estimated 100 million innocent men, women and children...."

Behind these numbers are human stories of individuals with families and dreams whose lives were cut short by men in pursuit of totalitarian power. Some of communism's victims are well-known. They include a Swedish diplomat named Raoul Wallenberg, who saved 100,000 Jews from the Nazis, only to be arrested on Stalin's orders and sent to Moscow's Lubyanka Prison, where he disappeared without a trace. They include a Polish priest named Father Popieluszko, who made his Warsaw church a sanctuary for the Solidarity underground, and was kidnapped, and beaten, and drowned in the Vistula by the secret police....The sacrifices of these individuals haunt history—and behind them are millions more who were killed in anonymity by Communism's brutal hand.

With this memorial, we say of Communism's innocent and anonymous victims, these men and women lived and they shall not be forgotten....

We recall the great lessons of the Cold War: that freedom is precious and cannot be taken for granted...It's important that



President Bush at the podium, with Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation Chairman Lee Edwards, Congressman Tom Lantos, and Congressman Dana Rohrabach.

we recall these lessons because the evil and hatred that inspired the death of tens of millions of people in the 20th century is still at work. We saw its face on September 11, 2001....By remaining steadfast in freedom's cause, we will ensure that a future American President does not have to stand in a place like this and dedicate a memorial to the millions killed by the radicals and extremists of the 21st century....

May the victims of Communism rest in peace. May those who continue to suffer under Communism find their freedom. And may the God who gave us liberty bless this great memorial and all who come to visit her."

Reception and Discussion

A Dedication Reception followed in the National Guard Association Hall of States. The M.C. was Karl Altau, Managing Director, Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc. Remarks were made by foreign dignitaries, ethnic and other leaders, including Emil

Constantinescu, former President of Romania; Goran Lindblad, Member, Swedish and European Parliaments; and Janos Horvath, Member of the Hungarian Parliament.

At 2:00 P.M. a Roundtable Discussion commenced at The Heritage Foundation devoted to "Victims and Crimes of Communism from 1917 to the Present." The Moderator was Paul Goble, former VOA and RFE/RL official and former Vice Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities at the Audentes Univ., Tallinn, Estonia. The distinguished panelists included historians, dissident leaders, and former political prisoners.

These were President Emil Constantinescu; Dr. Richard Pipes, Baird Prof. of History, Emeritus, Harvard Univ.; Dr. Paul Hollander, Prof. Emeritus of Sociology, Univ. of MA at Amherst; Dr. Alan Kors, Prof. of History, Univ. of PA; Harry Wu, political prisoner in China's laogai for 19 years; Chi Tien Nguyen, political prisoner in Vietnam for 27 years; Pedro

Fuentes, political prisoner in Cuba's prison for 18 years; and several others.

Gala Awards Dinner

An evening of music, reception and the GALA AWARDS Dinner, held at the J.W. Marriott, concluded the "Dedication Day." The M.C. was Randal Teague, Esq., Chairman, The Fund for American Studies. Following the Posting of Colors and the rendition of The Spangled Banner by Ms. Oberlander, remarks were made by Joseph Wu, Representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, and Lithuanian Ambassador Audrius Bruzga.

In his comments following dinner, VOCMF Chairman Dr. Edwards raised the question about the number of people who died under communism in the 90 years since the Bolshevik Revolution. His answer was that "Few can provide anything close to an accurate answer....They don't know that the communist plague has exacted a death toll of more than 100 million men, women and children, a number documented in 'The Black Book of Communism', published by the Harvard University Press. That number surpasses the death tolls of all the wars of the 20th century combined."

The democracy statue, based on our Statue of Liberty, he said is a "symbol of communism's always-brutal reaction to those who challenge its authority. The statue has become a global symbol of man's innate desire for freedom."

However, the Foundation's task is not concluded. He said "We look forward to the next steps in our educational program: the creation of a 'virtual museum' on the Internet and the construction of a bricks-and-mortar museum and library near Washington."

The Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom was presented to William F. Buckley, Jr., by the Hon. Jack Kemp, and to the late Senator Henry M. (Scoop) Jackson by Senator Joe Lieberman (I-CT) and accepted by daughter Anna Marie Laurence. Elena Bonner (Mrs. Sakharov) of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation was the keynote speaker. Closing remarks were by the M.C. ended this historic Day of Dedication.

Youngstown SCF Chapter Host Annual Pilgrimage

The Youngstown Chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation will host the 14th Annual Pilgrimage in honor of our Sorrowful Mother, Patroness of Slovak people, on Sunday, September 16, 2007. The pilgrimage will take place at the beautiful National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon, 2757 Lipkey Road, North Jackson Ohio. The Shrine is designated as a place of pilgrimage with all appropriate rights and privileges.

All devotions will be Slovak, beginning at 3:00 p.m. with the recitation of the rosary followed by the Way of the Cross led by Msgr. Cyril Adamko. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available in both Slovak and English in the chapel. The singing of beautiful Slovak hymns will precede the 4:00 p.m. Slovak Mass. Rev. George M. Franko, Spiritual Advisor of the Youngstown Chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation, will be the principal celebrant with attending clergy concelebrating. Msgr. James R. Kolp, Pastor Emeritus of St. Mary Church, Massillon, Ohio, will be the guest homilist. A dinner will be served in the Shrine Dining Hall following the Liturgy.

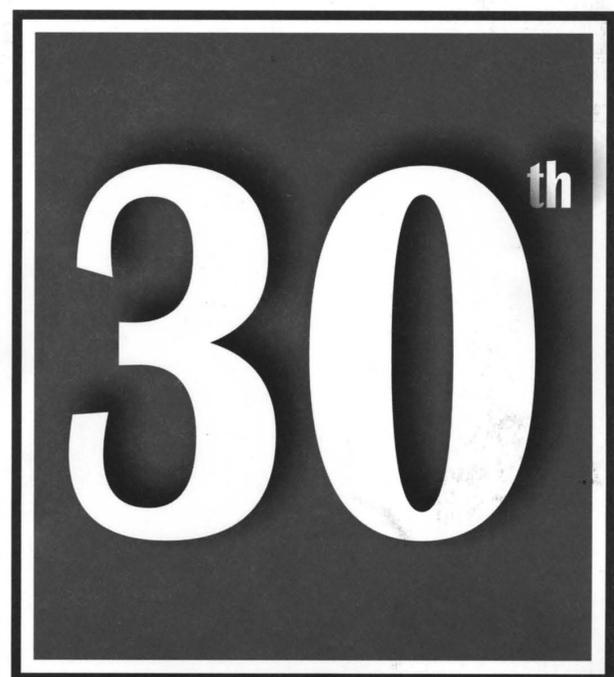
Dinner tickets are \$13.00 and may be purchased in advance from members of the SCF or by calling 330/782-9126 or 330/793-5338.

In recent years this pilgrimage has become the focal activity of the Slovak community of the Mahoning Valley. Visitors from neighboring cities and states have also come to honor our Sorrowful Mother. The Slovak Catholic Federation officers and members extend a cordial invitation to all and look forward to your presence at our pilgrimage.

Ane Marie Vidis

Slovak Heritage Festival

Pozvánka na 30. Festival slovenského dedičstva
Oslavujeme Slovensko

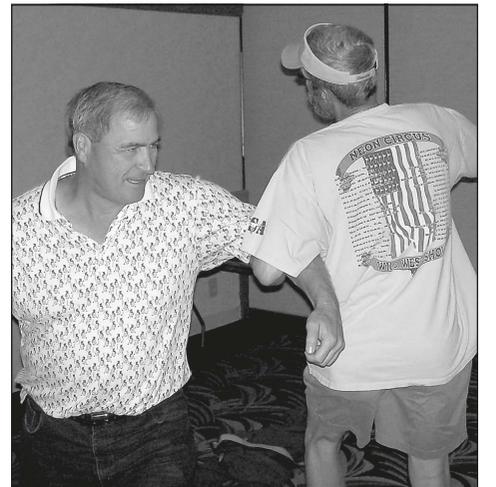
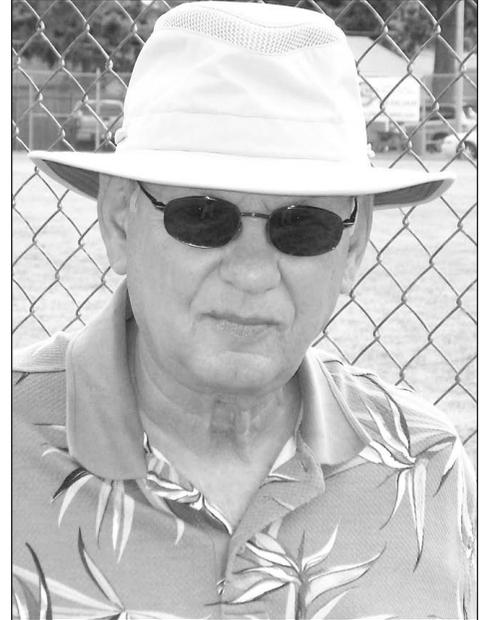
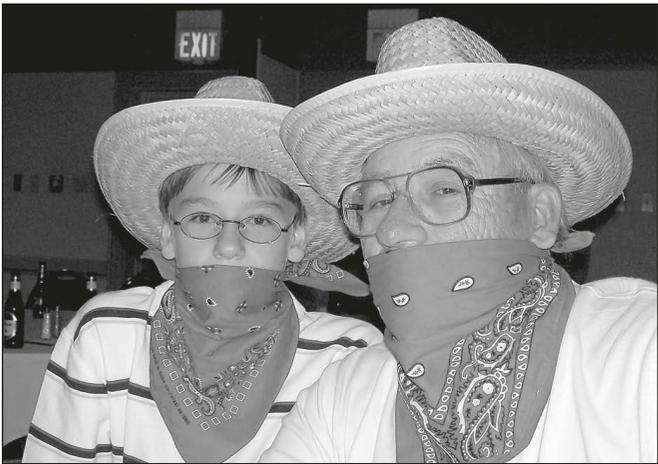
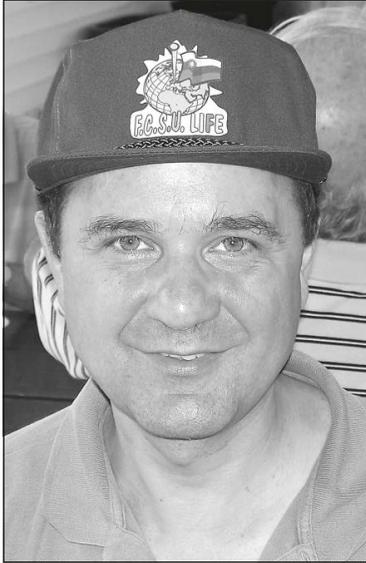


Invitation to the 30th Slovak Heritage Festival
Salute To Slovakia

Nedeľa 23. septembra 2007 - Sunday, September 23, 2007

PNC Bank Arts Center, Garden State Parkway, Exit 116, Holmdel, New Jersey

Scenes from the 2007 Jednota International Golf Tournament at the Thunderbird Golf Club Huron, Ohio, July 21, 22, 2007





Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota

O. Štefan Furedek
Náš zakladateľ

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

Volume 116

STREDA, 5. SEPTEMBER 2007

Číslo 5761

Gašparovič na čele delegácie na Valnom zhromaždení OSN

Bratislava (TASR) – Prezident Ivan Gašparovič bude viesť delegáciu Slovenskej republiky na 62. zasadnutí Valného zhromaždenia Organizácie Spojených národov (VZ OSN). S účasťou slovenských zástupcov v New Yorku 8. augusta súhlasila vláda. Hlavná časť zasadnutia 192 členských krajín sa uskutoční od 25. septembra do konca tohto roka v závislosti od ukončenia práce hlavných výborov. Do predbežného plánu práce je zaradených 148 bodov, ktoré sa zaoberajú odzbrojovaním, globalizáciou, terorizmom, trvalo udržateľným rozvojom, životným prostredím, ochranou ľudských práv, udržiavaním mieru, ako aj obnovou postkonfliktných spoločností.

Gašparovič sa zúčastní všeobecnej rozpravy zhromaždenia od 23. do 27. septembra. Vo svojom prejave bude prezentovať stanoviská SR k otázkam, týkajúcim sa udržiavania medzinárodnej bezpečnosti, dôležitých sociálnoekonomických otázok a reformy multilaterálneho systému. Prezident tiež vystúpi 24. septembra na podujatí OSN o klimatických zmenách vo svete. Táto problematika by sa mala zároveň prelínať vo všetkých národných prejavoch vedúcich delegácií členských krajín OSN. Slovensko okrem toho predložilo kandidatúru do Rady OSN pre ľudské práva pre roky 2008 až 2011. Voľby do tohto orgánu sa uskutočnia práve počas 62. valného zhromaždenia organizácie. Zástupcami vedúceho slovenskej delegácie budú minister zahraničných vecí Ján Kubiš a stály predstaviteľ SR pri OSN v New Yorku Peter Burian.



Prezident Ivan Gašparovič

Propagátor veľkej modlitby za život v Bratislave

Na pozvanie Fóra života a združenia Život ako dar dňa 19. 8. 2007 navštívila Slovensko významná osobnosť svetového prolifera hnutia Mons. Philip Reilly z New Yorku. V evanjelizačnom dome Quo Vadis viedol od rána duchovnú obnovu zameranú na zmysel modlitby za nenarodené deti ohrozené umelým potratom a za šírenie kultúry života. Program vyvrcholil vo večerných hodinách svätou omšou v kostole svätého Ladislava, v rámci ktorej Mons. Reilly predniesol homíliu. Program bol uzavretý modlitebným pochodom za život k sanatóriu Koch na Partizánskej ulici, na ktorom sa zúčastnilo asi 70 ľudí.

O význame návštevy Mons. Reillyho hovorí riaditeľ Fóra života Marek Michalčík "Zatiaľ čo na americkom kontinente si kresťania čoraz viac uvedomujú extrémnu dôležitosť modlitby za deti ohrozené umelým potratom a

modlitbové hnutie za život sa vzťahuje, v Európe, snáď iba s výnimkou Poľska, stále neprístupujú kresťania k modlitbám s potrebným zápalom a naliehavosťou. Verím, že táto už tretia návšteva Mons. Reillyho na Slovensku prinesie svoje ovocie a povzbudí kresťanov v našej krajine, aby padli na kolená a začali spolu so Stvoriteľom života budovať hrádzu voči stále sa rozmáhajúcej kultúre smrti.

Mons. Reillyho sprevádzali na Slovensko ďalší zapálení ľudia z Rakúska a Spojených štátov. Okrem Slovenska šíril Mons. Reilly svoje posolstvo o sile modlitby za život v Rumunsku, Rakúsku, Maďarsku, Nemecku a Českej republike. Texty, ktoré predniesol Mons. Reilly, ale aj jeho ďalšie prednášky, bude možné po ich spracovaní stiahnuť zo stránky www.forumzivota.sk.

TK KBS

Konferencia 'Kultúrne dedičstvo Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí'

Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí pripravuje v dňoch 25. až 26. októbra 2007 v Bratislave, Hoteli Bôrik, konferenciu pod názvom Kultúrne dedičstvo Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí a databáza informácií o tejto problematike.

Cieľom konferencie je zmapovať stav spracovania písomných dokumentov, muzeálnych predmetov, knižných vydaní a tlačovín, týkajúcich sa dejín a života Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, v inštitúciách na Slovensku i v zahraničí.

Pokračovanie na str. 23

Pittsburghská dohoda bude uložená v Pittsburghu

Slávnostné odovzdanie Heinzovmu historickému centru bude 9. septembra za prítomnosti predstaviteľov slovenských organizácií

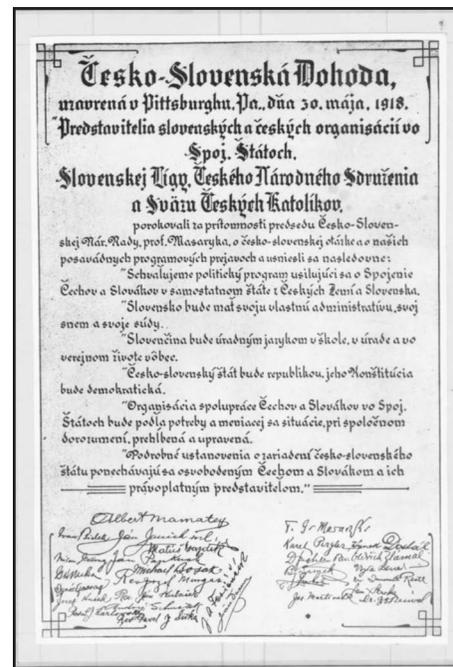
Po skoro 90 rokoch originál Pittsburghskej dohody (PD) z mája 1918 bude mať trvalé miesto. Slovenská liga v Amerike, ktorá tento dokument dosiaľ opatrovala, ho slávnostne odovzdá v nedeľu 9. septembra 2007 pittsburghskému regionálnemu múzeu Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center.

Originál Pittsburghskej dohody, ktorý opatrovala Slovenská liga, bol v posledných 17 rokoch uložený v trezore Slovenského katolíckeho sokola, lebo v tejto budove má svoju kanceláriu aj Slovenská liga v Amerike. Predtým skoro 30 rokov bol uložený v Slovenskom ústave v Clevelande a v predchádzajúcich rokoch ho opatrovali predsedovia Slovenskej ligy alebo dlhoročný tajomník Ján Kocúr.

Výkonný výbor Slovenskej ligy už dlhší čas hľadal vhodné miesto pre trvalé uloženie Pittsburghskej dohody. Hlavná diskusia sa viedla o tom, či má byť Pittsburghská dohoda odovzdaná Slovenskej republike, alebo uložená vo vhodnej inštitúcii v Amerike. Kým Výkonný výbor sa viackrát priklonil k odovzdaniu Slovensku, kongres SLvA dvakrát hlasoval za ponechanie dohody v Amerike.

Po poslednom rozhodnutí kongresu SLvA na jar 2006 Výkonný výbor prijal ponuku Heinzovho historického centra, ktoré sa zaviazalo tento dokument odborne opatrovať a vhodným spôsobom ho sprístupniť verejnosti. A tak sa originál Pittsburghskej dohody dostane do mesta, v ktorom sa zrodil.

Slávnostné odovzdanie PD sa uskutoční v nedeľu 9. septembra o 12. hodine v budove Heinzovho historického centra na 1212 Smallman Street v Pittsburghu. Na slávnosť je pozvaná aj verejnosť. Prítomní budú predstavitelia Heinzovho centra, Slovenskej ligy v Amerike a slovenských fraternalistických organizácií, ako aj mestskí činitelia.



Pokračovanie na str. 22



FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer

Tradičná jesenná husacinová sezóna sa začala v Slovenskom Grobe. Na snímke prezidentka Cechu husacinárov Dana Kislingová vkladá hus do murovanej pece 28. augusta 2007 v Slovenskom Grobe.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Miera nezamestnanosti na Slovensku dosiahla v júni 10.7%, čo je najviac v rámci celej Európskej únie (EÚ). Informoval o tom nedávno štatistický úrad EÚ Eurostat. V porovnaní s májom miera nezamestnanosti v SR klesla o 0.1% a v porovnaní s júnom 2006 o 2.7%. Celková miera nezamestnanosti v EÚ v júni klesla na 6.9% z májových 7%. Druhú najvyššiu nezamestnanosť malo v júni Poľsko s 10.2%, za ktorým nasleduje Francúzsko s 8.6%. Naopak, najnižšiu nezamestnanosť v únii má Holandsko (3.3%), nasledované Dánskom (3.5%) a Cyprom (3.9%). Informoval o tom štatistický úrad Európskej únie Eurostat.

Americký prezident George W. Bush navrhol Vincenta Obšitnika, podnikateľa slovenského pôvodu zo štátu Virginia, za nového veľvyslanca USA v Slovinsku. Ak Obšitnika v septembri schváli Senát, vo funkcii vystrieda Thomasa Robertsona. Obšitnik, ktorý získal bakalársky titul na Národnej akadémii USA a titul magistra na Americkej univerzite vo Washingtone, pracoval až do minulého roka ako člen Komisie USA pre zachovanie amerického dedičstva v zahraničí. Nominovaný Obšitnik ešte Slovinsko nenavštívil, ale pokladajú ho za muža s vynikajúcimi kontaktmi vo Washingtone.

Na Slovensku po prvý raz odstránili laparoskopicky žlčník formou jednoduchovej chirurgie. Operácia sa uskutočnila na pracovisku CIBAMED v Bojniciach. Pacientom bol 46-ročný muž, ktorý odišiel domov necelých 24 hodín po operácii. Laparoskopickú cholecystektómiu - teda odstránenie žlčníka dal zaradiť do zoznamu výkonov jednoduchovej chirurgie vo februári 2006 minister zdravotníctva Rudolf Zajac. Od apríla tohto roku sa SAJCH podarilo dohodnúť so zdravotnými poisťovňami o uhrádzaní tohto výkonu na pracoviskách jednoduchovej chirurgie.

Ministerstvo spravodlivosti (MS) SR spustilo 1. augusta elektronické obchodné služby na internete. Cieľom je poskytovať elektronické služby Obchodného registra občanom a podnikateľom. Hlavnou výhodou je to, že občania nebudú musieť navštevovať súdy, znížia sa poplatky a zrýchli sa korešpondencia medzi občanom a súdom. Napríklad za registráciu akciovej spoločnosti, ktorej je súdny poplatok 25,000 korún, elektronickou formou bude stáť 12,500 korún.

Národný strategický referenčný rámec (NSRR) SR na roky 2007 až 2013 schválila Európska komisia (EK) v polovici augusta. Dokument s prílohami popisuje, na aké typy projektov plánuje Slovensko využiť prostriedky v sume 11.36 miliardy EUR, v prepočte 384.11 mliardy SKK, počas nového 7-ročného programového obdobia. Podľa EK sa slovenská vláda v NSRR zaviazala prednostne rozvíjať znalostnú ekonomiku, dopravnú a environmentálnu infraštruktúru a oblasť ľudských zdrojov a vzdelávania.

Každý piaty Slovák priznal, že v poslednom čase dal úplatok. Najviac upláca staršia generácia, tvoriví odborní pracovníci, podnikatelia a živnostníci. Naopak, úplatky odmietajú dávať mladí ľudia so základným vzdelaním. Vyplýva to z exkluzívneho prieskumu, ktorý pre denník Hospodárske noviny vypracovala agentúra Focus. Asi oblasti, kde sa rozdáva najviac úplatkov sa podľa opýtaných nemenia. Väčšina si myslí, že najväčšia korupcia je v zdravotníctve a v polícii.

Značka Corgoň sa v rámci 2. ročníka súťaže o najlepšie slovenské flaškové pivo Slovenská pivná korunka 2007 stala jednotkou vo všetkých troch kategóriách - 10% svetlé pivo, 12% svetlé pivo i tmavé pivo. V súťaži sa predstavili všetky slovenské pivovary s celkovým počtom 33 prihlásených vzoriek. Súťažili o zlatú, striebornú a bronzovú korunku v jednotlivých kategóriách. Prvé 3 miesta v kategórii 10% svetlé pivo obsadili značky Corgoň, Kelt a Zlatý Bažant. V kategórii 12% svetlé pivo na 1. až 3. mieste skončili značky Corgoň, Urpiner a Zlatý Bažant. Za najlepšie flaškové tmavé pivo porota vyhlásila Corgoň 11.5%, Zlatý Bažant 11.5% a Šariš 11%. Ocenenia si súťažiaci prevzali v druhej polovici augusta z rúk ministra pôdohospodárstva SR Miroslava Jureňa na medzinárodnej výstave Agrokomplex v Nitre.

Pozíciu najčítanejšieho celoštátneho denníka si naďalej udržiava Nový Čas, ktorý číta 22 percent občanov, teda asi jeden milión čitateľov. Vyplýva to z reprezentatívneho prieskumu Market & Media & Lifestyle TGI. Na vzorke 4,117 respondentov od 14 do 79 rokov ho realizovala agentúra Median SK od 8. januára do 24. júna 2007. Na druhom mieste skončila Pravda s deviatimi percentami, za ňou Sme s ôsmimi percentami, nasleduje denník Plus jeden deň so siedmimi percentami a Korzár s čítanosťou päť percent populácie.

Medzi Bratislavou a Viedňou by mal premávať katamarán "Twin City Liner". Nová loď by sa mala prvýkrát objaviť na vlnách Dunaja v júni na budúci rok. Katamarán "Twin City Liner" momentálne jazdí trikrát denne. Po spustení prevádzky novej lode by jazdili štyri razy. Rozšírila by sa aj ponuka pre chartrové jazdy. Nórska lodenica už má objednávku na ďalší katamarán. Náklady na nový katamarán by mali dosiahnuť tri milióny eur. Prvý a zatiaľ jediný katamarán začal premávať medzi rakúskym a slovenským hlavným mestom v júni 2006. Katamarány majú symbolizovať prosperujúci región Viedeň - Bratislava.

Nový rekord padol 22. augusta na medzinárodnom letisku Poprad - Tatry. Jeho bránami prešiel už 41,501 tohtoročný cestujúci. Oproti vlaňajšku zaznamenávajú v Poprade až 30-percentný nárast cestujúcich. Prispieva k tomu nielen rozšírenie ponuky pravidelných letov, ale aj lepšie obsadenie chartrových letov a rastúci počet letov malých lietadiel, tzv. aerotaxi. Poprad má v súčasnosti už dve pravidelné linky, trikrát do týždňa lieta linka Poprad-Londýn a šesťkrát do týždňa Poprad-Sliac-

Praha. Na letisku očakávajú, že za celý rok vybaví približne 54-tisíc cestujúcich.

Dve príležitostné poštové známky spoločne vydané so San Marinom - La Rocca o Guaita a Oravský hrad vydala 24. augusta Slovenská pošta a.s. Slávnostne ich predstavili na Oravskom hrade. Obidve poštové známky vyšli v náklade 100-tisíc kusov. Vytlačili ich ocelotlačou z plochých platní v kombinácii s ofsetom. Na upravenom tlačovom liste sú štyri známky identických rozmerov 30.5 x 44.4 mm s námetom Oravského hradu a štyri známky s námetom La Rocca o Guaita zo San Marina. Inauguráciu známok pripravili Slovenská pošta so Žilinským samosprávnym krajom.

Vyššie 650 účinkujúcich z jedenástich krajín Európy, Ázie a Afriky sa predstavilo na 8. ročníku Európskeho festivalu kultúry národov a národností Feman 2007 v Košiciach, ktorý nedávno slávnostne otvorili Terasa festom. Na svoje si prišli nielen milovníci folklóru, ale aj mladí ľudia obľubujúci modernú hudbu a tanec. Súčasťou festivalu bola aj Košická kulinária na ktorej prezentovali gastronomické špeciality. Festival, ktorý sa stal oficiálnou súčasťou podujatí na podporu kandidatury mesta Košice o titul Európske hlavné mesto kultúry, vyvrcholil galavečerom a Euro party.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Cudzinci sa môžu učiť slovenčinu aj cez internet

Bratislava (TASR) – Cudzinci, ktorí sa chý učiť po slovensky alebo už základy slovenčiny ovládajú, nájdu jazykový kurz aj na internetovej stránke www.e-slovak.sk. Pri učení a zvládaní situácií v obchode, v meste, práci i v rodine im pomáhajú štyri hlavné "virtuálne" postavy - Robert, Johanna, Carlo a Zuzana. Sprostredkovacím jazykom kurzu je angličtina a po jeho úspešnom ukončení získa študent potvrdenie o jeho absolvovaní.

Kurz je určený najmä zahraničným slovakistom a slavistom, zahraničným Slovákom a krajanom žijúcim v zahraničí, uchádzačom o štúdium v rámci rozvojovej pomoci, ako aj účastníkom letnej školy Studia Academica Slovaca (SAS), ktorá otvorí svoje brány 141 záujemcom z celého sveta. "Kurzy sú

rozdelené podľa jazykových úrovní. Úplní začiatocníci sa naučia zoznamovať, orientovať v meste, objednať si jedlo v reštaurácii a zvládať mnoho iných základných situácií," informovala riaditeľka Studia Academica Slovaca - centra pre slovenčinu ako cudzí jazyk (SAS) Jana Pekarovičová. Záujemcovia si môžu vybrať, či budú študovať individuálne alebo skupinovo. Zatiaľ čo výhodou samostatného štúdia je, že si každý môže zvoliť svoje vlastné tempo, skupinové štúdium má svojho lektora, ktorý koordinuje prácu účastníkov a udáva tempo skupiny. E-Slovak je kurz slovenčiny pre cudzincov a je súčasťou vzdelávacieho programu Slovensčina ako cudzí jazyk, ktorý cudzincom ponúka SAS v spolupráci s ministerstvom školstva.

Konferencia Kultúrne dedičstvo Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Na konferenciu pozývame zo Slovenska zástupcov inštitúcií, ktoré majú vo svojich fondoch materiály týkajúce sa tejto problematiky, členov poradného orgánu ÚSZZ - Komisie kultúrneho dedičstva Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí. Zo zahraničia pozývame zástupcov slovenských spolkov, dokumentačných stredísk, múzeí, ako aj zástupcov zahraničných inštitúcií, ktoré majú vo svojich fondoch dokumenty a zbierky týkajúce sa dejín a života slovenskej komunity.

Pozvaní zahraniční účastníci vystúpia na konferencii s vypracovaným referátom na tému záchrany hmotného i duchovného kultúrneho dedičstva slovenskej komunity v domovskej krajine, spôsobe a forme sústredovania a spracovania historických dokumentov, muzeálnych predmetov, pamiatok ľudovej kultúry, artefaktov, písomných pozostalostí významných osobností. Domáci účastníci prednesú referáty o spôsobe a forme sústredovania a spracovania týchto písomných dokumentov, knižnej a časopiseckej produkcie, muzeálnych predmetov či pamiatok ľudovej kultúry.

Úrad Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí



FOTO TASR - František Iván
V Bardejove otvorili 24. augusta 2007 za účasti prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča (na snímke) v poradí 656. historický a 36. novodobý jarmok.

Bolestná Matka

Mons. Rudolf Baláž

Slovensko 15. septembra slávi Sedembolestnú Pannu Máriu. Za svoju národnú patrónku si ju malý národ zvolil v čase tureckých vpádov, aby bola jeho ochrankyňou. Už roku 1564 bola známa úcta k jej obrazu v celom okolí Šaštína.

Kresťanská klasika sa občas numericky drží biblického čísla sedem a na jednotlivých výrazných zastávkach Ježišovho pozemského života nám podáva obraz deja pre náš život. Spomeňme si na útoky farizejov, saducejov, židovskej veľrady i samotného diabla na Ježišovu osobu. Mária to všetko precítila a vnútorne pretrpela. Tým bolestnejšie, že svojmu Synovi rozumela najlepšie z ľudí. Všimnime si sedem významných udalostí, ktoré priniesli nesmiernu bolesť materskému srdcu Márie.

Simeonova predpoveď pri obetovaní Ježiša v chráme. Svätý stavec videl Krista ako svetlo v tmách a predpovedal jeho víťazstvo. V nadšení si želal spokojne odísť z tohto sveta, lebo dosiahol vrchol svojich túžob, čo vyjadruje jeho výrok: "Teraz prepustiš, Pane svojho služobníka v pokoji ..." (Lk 2,29). Potom pozrel na mladučku Máriu a najradšej by bol zostal ticho. Ale ako muž pravdy musel povedať všetko: "On je ustanovený na pád a na povstanie mnohých v Izraeli a na znamenie, ktorému budú odporovať - a tvoju vlastnú dušu prenikne meč ..." (Lk 2, 34-35). Mária chcela stáť v pokoji a radosti pri kolíske svojho dieťaťa, ale odteraz ju sprevádza vedomie, že vychováva Syna pre zápas, boj, obeť a tragickú smrť, aby dorástol na veľkosť kríža.

Čím bližšie sa priblížime k Ježišovi, nevyhnutne sa musíme stretnúť aj s jeho krížom. Ak to chceme inač, potom sa musíme pýtať: Patrím ešte vôbec Kristovi? Útek do Egypta je dôkazom toho, že Simeonovo proroctvo sa spĺňa. Mária, Božia Matka, sa ocitla v situácii exulantky. Herodes vždy reprezentuje kruté systémy, ktoré broja proti Bohu. Ale najťažšie je to vtedy, ak si je človek sám sebe herodesom - ak v sebe naháňa Krista a svojim pomýleným životom ho vytláča zo svojho vnútra. V tomto rozmere by mal náš národ uvažovať.

Ako celok nás uzdraví iba Kristus v našom národnom strede. Strata Ježiša v chráme. Pre veriaceho by malo byť najväčšou bolesťou zostať bez Ježiša. To sa vždy stáva hriechom. Je však aj druhá strata Ježiša a to veľmi nebezpečná - ak sa strácame v zástupe, kde nám pre problematické zástupy Ježiš mizne z dohľadu. Stretnutie s Ježišom na krížovej ceste. Keď ho iní opúšťajú, objavuje sa dobrotivá Matka. Ona vie, kedy a kde má byť. Kde nabrala táto žena sily, aby ju nezmiatli zdivočené zástupy? Matka je už taká. Vždy si nájde miesto - nielen pri promócií alebo na primíciách svojho syna, ale aj na jeho krížovej ceste. Matky, v Márii máte vzor. Vedzte, že každé obdobie pokoja, osobného šťastia má byť kvalitnou prípravou na dni ťažkých skúšok. Mária pod krížom. Veľmi trpela, ale nezúfala. Vierou videla ďalej, ako jej dovoľovali udalosti. Preto sa stala Matkou Cirkvi: "Hľa, tvoj syn!" A stala sa jedinečnou Matkou nás všetkých: "Hľa, tvoja matka!" Nech nás to naplní odvahou a vytrvalosťou na našej osobnej kalvárii. Mária drží v náručí Ježišovo mŕtve telo. Svetoznámy sochár Wilhelm Achtermann žil vo veľkej biede. Keď mu bolo najhoršie, obracal sa na Bolestnú Matku. Pri modlitbách sa v ňom zrodila myšlienka urobiť veľkú sochu Sedembolestnej. Prelial do nej trpkosť i teplo uboleného srdca. Mária v tomto nádhernom diele pozerá na svojho mŕtveho Syna, ktorého z kríža zložil do jej náručia. Istý anglický konvertita povedal sochárovi: "Videl som v Mníchove vašu Pietu. Veľa som pri nej meditoval. Nakoniec som konvertoval. Prosím, aby ste mi boli krstným otcom. Ježišovo telo kladú do hrobu. Spisovateľ Carlo Carretto uvažuje o Márii po pohrebe jej Syna. Dáva jej fiktívnu otázku: Čo urobíš, Mária, v tomto čase smútku, aký kedy bol na zemi! Veď si predsa matkou pochovaného Syna. Všetci jeho blízki sú smutní, stratili dobrého priateľa. Čo ty?" A ona odpovedá: "Som spokojná, lebo sa celkom splnil Boží plán. Vychovala som Božieho Syna, a Boh predsa neumiera. Viem, že vstane. Až potom bude jeho dielo dokončené."

Katolícke noviny

Slovenský piknik v Greenwich, Connecticut

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko (SAKS) v New Yorku usporiadalo 12. augusta t. r. v poradí už siedmy piknik v Greenwich, Connecticut.

Napriek neistému počasiu prišiel pekný počet záujemcov. Niektorí boli zo Slovenska na návšteve, ale prišli medzi svojich aby nás pozdravili a posmelili do ďalšej práce. Dobré nám padlo stretnúť a pohovoriť si so známymi a priateľmi po dlhšom čase.

Viacerí z prítomných sa kúpali na blízkom pobreží, iní hrali volejbal, karty, debatovali v chládzku pod stromami a pochutnávali si na slovenských špecialitách. Smäd hasili pivom a limonádou.

Keď sa Slováci stretnú či už je to na tanečnej zábave alebo na iných spoločenských a kultúrnych podnikoch, vždy sa vedia dobre zabaviť, zaspievať si a pohovoriť o novotách a zážitkoch. Stretnutie je vždy dynamické a priateľské. To je slovenská charakteristika. A keď sa rozchádzajú, lúčenie nemá konca. Tak tomu bolo aj na tomto podujatí.

Treba sa nám poďakovať výboru, ktorý nám pripravil skvelú pohodu. Vďaka tiež tým, ktorí prišli medzi nás. Takéto podujatia zblížujú naše konanie i myslenie. Hodno ich poriadat každý rok. Dúfame, že na budúcom pikniku sa počet prítomných zdvojnásobí.

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko v New Yorku organizuje Slovenský ples každý rok v zimnom období v New York Athletic Club, plní si svoje poslanie na kultúrnom poli a udeľuje štipendium slovenským študentom na univerzite v Bratislave. Aby SAKS mohol konať túto prácu potrebné rozšíriť a podľa možnosti omladiť členstvo. Preto SAKS volá do svojich radov každého Slováka a Slovenku, aby sme spoločnými silami udržali slovenský život v Amerike.

Rudo L. Greguš



Sediaci zľava: Dr. E. Lepko, J. Lepko, T. Bereš, E. Staško a R. Greguš. Stojaci zľava: E. Greguš, G. Hlavinka, O. Guggenheimer.



Jedna zo skupín prítomných na pikniku. Stojaci zľava Dr. M. Bereš, E. Greguš, Dr. E. Lepko, J. Lepko, O. Guggenheimer. Sediaci zľava: T. Bereš, E. Staško a R. Greguš.

Pittsburghská dohoda bude uložená v Pittsburghu

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Na slávnosti prehovorila: prezident Heinzovho centra Andrew Masich, predseda Slovenskej ligy v Amerike Daniel Tanzone, honorárny konzul Jozef Senko, podpredsedníčka SLvA pre Pennsylvaniu Cynthia Maleski i tajomníčka Nina Holá. Pozdravy povedia aj veľvyslanci Slovenskej republiky a Českej republiky.

Po programe bude nasledovať prehliadka múzea. Pri organizačnej stránke slávnosti Slovenskej lige bolo na pomoci Slovenské kultúrne združenie v západnej Pennsylvánii (Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association).

Pittsburghská dohoda bola dohodnutá medzi českými a slovenskými organizáciami v Amerike 30. mája 1918 v budove, ktorá stála na mieste, kde je teraz výšková budova Dominion Liberty Tower. V máji 1989 slávnostne umiestnili vo vstupnej hale tejto budovy pamätnú tabuľu s informáciou o dohodnutí a podpísaní PD v tejto budove. Na pamätnej tabuli je aj reliéf T. G. Masaryka. Na slávnosti bol prítomný aj senátor John Heinz, ktorý mal veľmi dobré styky so slovenskou i s českou komunitou a podporoval úsilie Sovietmi porobených národov o oslobodenie spod sovietskej okupácie. Jeho pričinením priebeh slávnosti vysielali do Česko-Slovenska prostredníctvom Rádio Free Europe.

Sen. Heinz neskoršie zahynul v leteckej nehode a mesto Pittsburgh ho poctilo pomenovaním regionálneho múzea po ňom.

**Získajte ešte dnes nového člena
do Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej
Jednoty**

Konská železnica v Bratislave prvá v Európe



Historická budova konskej železnice v Bratislave

Mnohí, ale hlavne novší občania Bratislavy si v každodennom zhone mesta azda nepovšimnú, že v zákutí Nového Mesta Bratislavy, ktoré je už dnes centrom, stojí budova prvej konskej železnice, dnes Kultúrnej technickej pamiatky, chránenej Krajským Pamiatkovým úradom v Bratislave.

Tento ojedinelý železničný objekt z roku 1846 z ktorého vypravovali po jedinej kolaji železničnú osobnú dopravu do Sv. Jura a Trnavy, vyvolalo pozornosť nie len toho kraja, ale na tú dobu aj krásna budova prvej železničnej stanice, ktorá je zachránenou technickou pamiatkou svojho druhu v celej Európe.

Po dlhých desaťročiach jej činnosti a zastaralého vybavenia, hrozil jej už zánik a uvažovalo sa aj o zbúraní budovy, ktorá v centre mesta bola už nefunkčnou. Napokon ju predsa zreštaurovali zásluhou starostlivosti Mestského úradu Bratislava Nové Mesto, ktoré ponúklo ekonomickým záujemcom na prenájom, prípadne odpredaj pod podmienkou, že každý zásah do tejto historickej budovy prvej železničnej stanice musí byť iba so súhlasom Krajskej pamiatkovej starostlivosti v pôvodnom stavebnom slohu, ako historicky chránený objekt Európy, zachovalý z r. 1846 dnešným generáciám.

Eugen Kalman

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Výročná schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu, spolok č. 16 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že výročná členská schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu, spolok č. 16 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa bude konať v nedeľu 4. novembra 2007 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola Najsvätejšej Trojice v Yonkers, N.Y.

Prosíme všetkých predsedov spolkov, aby poslali čo najviac delegátov a privítame medzi sebou aj nedelegátov. Program schôdze bude zameraný na prípravu činnosti na budúce obdobie, na voľbu nových úradníkov a taktiež oboznámenie prítomných s finančnou správou. Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripravia členovia Spolku č. 41 Yonkers, N.Y.

Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka/ pokladníčka

Členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v nedeľu dňa 25. novembra 2007 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia sa uskutoční výročná členská schôdza v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v N.Y.C.

Na programe je finančná správa, príprava programu a voľba nových úradníkov na budúce obdobie. Vyzývame všetkých členov aby sa tejto výročnej schôdze zúčastnili.

Ostávame s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta Daitová, tajomníčka

Jesenná tanečná zábava v New York City

Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New York City vás pozýva na Jesennú tanečnú zábavu, ktorá sa uskutoční v sobotu dňa 20. októbra 2007 o 7:00 hod. večer v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street, New York City. Vstupné je \$25.00. V cene vstupenky je započítaná večera, káva a koláč. V priebehu podujatia bude losovaná tombola. Zabávať vás bude skupina Jozefa Jurášiho - Kontakty. Parkovanie v NYC je po 7:00 hod. večer bezplatné. Tešíme sa na vašu účasť.

Jozef Juráši, predseda

Rudo a Elena Greguš sa presťahovali do štátu New Jersey

Viacerí Slováci sa pýtali čo je s nami, keď nás nevideli na slovenských podujatiach a nečítali články, oznamy alebo správy od pisateľa v novinách Jednota niekoľko mesiacov.

Od Vianoc minulého roku 2006 sme boli plne zaneprázdnení starosťami, plánmi a zdravotnými neudhami až do dnešného dňa. Márne, pribudlo rokov a ubudlo energie i sviežosti života. Bolo potrebné predať dom, hľadať nové prostredie, zjednodušiť a uľaviť si jeseň nášho života. To sa nám aj podarilo v pomerne krátkom čase. Nutno spomenúť naše dve dcéry a niektorých priateľov, ktorí nám ochotne pomohli prekonať celý proces presťahovania.

Bolo nám smutno opúšťať dom, v ktorom sme prežili 39 rokov. Mali sme dobrých a nápomocných susedov. Celé okolie nás poznalo. Možno povedať, že

v dobrom.

Nové prostredie a bývanie sme našli v štáte New Jersey. Urobili sme dobrý krok. Bude menej starosti, život pohodlnejší a viac času pre seba. V budove nášho príbytku sú mnohé možnosti zapojiť sa do rôznych aktivít: predstavenia na javisku, gymnastika, kino, knižnica, bingo, biliard, šachy, hranie v karty a iné.

Chcem ešte pripomenúť, že budem písať do slovenských novín a podľa možnosti byť prítomný na slovenských podujatiach. Mám ešte čo povedať i napísať. Dokiaľ zdravie vydrží, slovenská verejnosť bude o nás vedieť. Naša nová adresa: Rudolf a Elena Greguš, Waterford Towers, Apt. 114, 190 River Road, Edgewater, N.J. 07020; Telefón: (201) 941-0043.

Rudo Greguš

Slovenské národné noviny čaká niekoľko zmien

Bratislava (TASR) – Slovenské národné noviny, ktoré vychádzajú pod hlavičkou Matice slovenskej (MS), čaká od jesene niekoľko zmien. Opäť ožije literárna príloha Orol tatranský, do ktorej môže prispievať vlastnou poéziou a prózou aj široká verejnosť. Od roka 2008 by mali Slovenské národné noviny zvýšiť periodicitu vydávania z dvojtýždenníka na týždenník a podľa hovorcu MS Stanislava Bajaníka ráta sa aj s úpravou niekoľkých rubriek. Zároveň sa MS pripravuje aj na novembrové Valné zhromaždenie. Ako uviedol Bajaník, na ňom zhrnú vlastné volebné obdobie, budú sa zaoberať Národným programom MS a stanovujú priority na ďalšie obdobie.

Garden State
Cultural Center Fund Presents



Slovak Heritage Festival

30th

Pozvánka na 30. Festival slovenského dedičstva
Oslavujeme Slovensko

Invitation to the 30th Slovak Heritage Festival
Salute To Slovakia

Nedeľa 23. septembra 2007 - Sunday, September 23, 2007
PNC Bank Arts Center, Garden State Parkway, Exit 116, Holmdel, New Jersey

Vstup voľný.

Program:

11:00 Rímskokatolícka omša
Mons. Ján Sokol, Arcibiskup-Metropolita Bratislavsko-Trnavskej Arcidiecézy

14:00 Prehliadka slovenských krojov • Kultúrny program

Celodenný program: Futbalový turnaj • Detské hry
Slovenské jedlá a nápoje • Predajné stánky

Nitra milá Nitra, Ty slovenská mati ...

Táto pieseň mi prišla na um, keď sme prichádzali do Nitry 5. júla na Cyrilometodskú púť do areálu Nitrianskeho hradu.

Tešili sme sa o to viac, že hlavným celebrantom bude americký biskup slovenského pôvodu Jozef Adamec. Boli sme tam predčasne, asi hodinu pred začiatkom svätej omše, ale priestor pripravovaných osláv bol už zaplnený. Tisíce pútnikov z celého Slovenska, ale aj zo zahraničia srdečne vítali duchovenstvo zo Slovenska i zo zahraničia.

Biskup Adamec hneď úvodom poďakoval za tú česť, ktorá sa mu dostala, že mohol slúžiť svätú omšu s dvoma slovenskými kardinálmi Jozefom Tomkom a Jánom Chryzostomom Korcom. Zvlášť na takýto veľký sviatok to nebýva zvykom.

Téma homílie biskupa Adamca bola tomuto sviatku najpriliehavejšia - Dedičstvo otcov, zachovaj nám Pane! Áno, to dedičstvo, ktoré nám priniesli sv. Cyril a sv. Metod, nie hmotné, ale duchovné. Vyzýval pútnikov, aby dedičstvo vierozvestcov sv. Cyrila a Metoda sa uplatňovalo s plnou vážnosťou, hlavne v rodinách, ktoré sú zvlášť v dnešnej dobe tak veľmi ohrozené. Jeho slová boli prerušované potleskom účastníkov najmä keď spomínal, ako Slováci v Amerike počas totalitného režimu s bôľom v srdci a na perách s modlitbami prosili Boha o slobodu slova a slobodu vierovyznania na milovanom Slovensku. A dnes, keď je to možné, treba živou vierou preukázať, že odkaz sv. Cyrila a Metoda bude zachovaný. Netreba zabúdať na obeť mnohých slovenských mučeníkov a mučieníc, ktorí za toto duchovné dedičstvo neváhali položiť aj život.

Na záver prehovoril aj apoštolský nuncius na Slovensku Henryk Józef Nowacki, ktorý poďakoval Bohu, že zásluhou sv. Cyrila a Metoda zažiarilo svetlo aj do našej krajiny, ktorá aj dnes potrebuje podobných ľudí. Budujte cirkev Kristovu s láskou, lebo len láska prežiarí svet!

Biskup Adamec poďakoval prítomným za peknú účasť na tejto púti, ktorá bola síce pod visiacimi mrakmi, ale pod plášt'om Sedembolestnej nespustili dážď do konca svätej omše. Hoci sprievod do hradu už pocítil aj prudký dážď s vetrom, ale ani to neodradilo pútnikov, aby si mohli prezrieť novootevorené múzeum a nádhernú baziliku sv. Emeráma.

Anna a Jozef Bíroš



Biskup Jozef V. Adamec počas homílie.



Sprava biskup Jozef V. Adamec v spoločnosti manželov Bírošových.



Pohľad na zúčastnených pútnikov počas duchovných slávností k sviatku svätého Cyrila a Metoda.

Projekt talenty novej Európy

Bratislava (TASR) – Nadaná mládež dostane tento rok šancu rozvíjať svoj talent v rámci grantového programu Talenty Novej Európy. Zorganizovala ho Stredoeurópska nadácia (CEF) a spoločnosť Slovaft, mladých mienia podporiť sumou 2 milióny korún.

Zastávame názor, že Slovensko by nemalo prichádzať o mladých ľudí s výnimočným talentom, najmä v oblasti vedy a umenia, len pre nedostatok finančných prostriedkov," povedal generálny riaditeľ spoločnosti Slovaft Oszkár Világi.

Do programu sa môžu prihlásiť mladé umelecké a vedecké talenty vo veku od osem do 18 rokov, ktoré už v danej oblasti dosahujú úspechy doma i v zahraničí. To znamená, že na domácich súťažiach obsadzujú 1. až 3.

miesto a na medzinárodných 1. až 10. miesto. Budúcich držiteľov grantov vyberie z prihlásených uchádzačov osemčlenná porota. Budú ju tvoriť zástupcovia umeleckej sféry Peter Marcin a Marián Čekovský, renomovaný vedec Antolij Dvurečenskij, zástupcovia médií, CEF a Slovaftu.

Získaný grant môže talentovaná mládež použiť napríklad na materiálne vybavenie, na úhradu nákladov spojených s vedeckou alebo umeleckou činnosťou či na úhradu výdavkov na vzdelávanie.

Zákonní zástupcovia môžu svoje mladé talenty prihlásiť do programu, ak spĺňajú všetky podmienky, do 20. októbra 2007. Bližšie informácie a prihlášku nájdu záujemcovia na stránke www.cef.sk

Americkí vedci v spolupráci so Slovenskou akadémiou vied

Bratislava (TASR) – Nové, významné poznatky o vzťahu medzi vplyvom stresu na obezitu zistili americkí vedci z viacerých pracovísk v USA v spolupráci s partnermi z Ústavu experimentálnej endokrinológie Slovenskej akadémie vied (UEE SAV) v Bratislave. Publikovali ich v júli tohto roku v prestížnom časopise Nature Medicine a hlavná riešiteľka projektu, profesorka Žofia Zukovska z USA o nich informovala aj na medzinárodnom vedeckom sympóziu o strese a hormónoch v júni 2007 v Smoleniciach neďaleko Bratislavy.

"Podarilo sa nám dokázať, že stres zvyšuje obezitu pri zvýšenom prijímaní potravy, a to mechanizmom pôsobenia neuropeptidu Y (NPY) priamo na brušné tukové tkanivo," uviedol vedúci Laboratória pre výskum stresu UEE SAV a hlavný riešiteľ projektu za slovenskú stranu RNDr. Richard Kvetňanský, DrSc., na stretnutí začiatkom augusta s novinármi v Bratislave. Ako ďalej Kvetňanský konštatoval, kým niektorí ľudia reagujú na stres chudnutím, iní počas stresu priberajú. Stresory vyplávajú vo zvýšenej miere

NPY z nervových zakončení v rôznych orgánoch organizmu, vrátane tukového tkaniva. Neuropeptid Y potom realizuje svoj účinok cez receptor NPY-2, ktorý spôsobuje zvýšenú tvorbu tuku v brušnej oblasti, a to zložitým mechanizmom, ktorý vedie k zvýšenej tvorbe tukových buniek. V súčinnosti s príivodom potravy, ktorá má vyšší obsah tuku a cukru, čo je ďalší častý dôsledok stresu, NPY-2 spôsobuje namnoženie tukových buniek a ich ukladanie v oblasti brucha.

Za veľmi dôležitý označil Kvetňanský poznatok, že rast tuku počas stresu je možné spomaliť niekoľkými cestami - farmakologicky podávaním inhibitorov receptora NPY-2, resp. vyradením génu, ktorý tvorí uvedený receptor. Túto druhú možnosť vedci úspešne overovali zatiaľ len u myší. Oplyvňovanie receptorov NPY-2 v tukovom tkanive pôsobením blokátorov receptorov neuropeptidu Y naznačuje novú cestu ako zabrániť tvorbe tuku a liečiť obezitu podnietenú stresom i metabolický syndrom, t.j. zníženú citlivosť na inzulín, zdôraznil Kvetňanský.

Univerzita Komenského najžiadanejšou na Slovensku

Bratislava (TASR) – Najžiadanejšou univerzitou na Slovensku je Univerzita (UK) v Bratislave - do 31. mája na ňu prišlo viac ako 20-tisíc prihlášok na štúdium. Podľa údajov Ústavu informácií a prognóz školstva zaevidovali verejné školy na Slovensku k 31. máju približne 127-tisíc prihlášok a súkromné viac ako 10-tisíc. Tieto čísla však ešte nie sú konečné, pretože niektoré fakulty stále prijímajú prihlášky na štúdium v akademickom roku 2007/2008. Hoci v rámci univerzít patrí prvenstvo UK, najžiadanejšou fakultou je Filozofická fakulta Univerzity Konštantína Filozofa v Nitre. O štúdium na nej v dennej aj externej forme prejavilo záujem 4,083 uchádzačov, a tak prijatý môže byť len každý 3.6 uchádzač. Za touto fakultou nasleduje s minimálnym rozdielom Fakulta manažmentu Prešovskej univerzity (PU) v Prešove. Zo 4,036 záujemcov však môžu prijať len takmer každého desiateho, na dennú formu sa dokonca dostane len každý 11.8 záujemca, čo je na Slovensku najvyšší

priemer.

Druhá najvyššia šanca neprijatia je na Fakulte masmediálnej komunikácie Univerzity Cyrila a Metoda v Trnave, kde sa na dennú formu štúdia prihlásilo ku koncu mája 1,893 ľudí, no prijať môžu len každého 10.8 záujemcu. Trojicu dopĺňa Akadémia Policajného zboru v Bratislave. Na denné štúdium tu prijmu z 966 prihlásených len 90, teda každého 10.7 uchádzača.

Na UK, kde chce študovať 20,367 ľudí, je najväčší záujem o štúdium humanitných vied, prírodných vied a práva. Druhou najžiadanejšou univerzitou je Univerzita Mateja Bella v Banskej Bystrici, na ktorej sedem fakúlt poslalo prihlášky 12,394 záujemcov. Z nich najviac sa zaujíma o pedagogické a ekonomické smery. Trojicu dopĺňa Prešovská univerzita v Prešove s 11,839 uchádzačmi o štúdium na ôsmich fakultách. Spomedzi desiatich súkromných vysokých škôl sa ukázala ako najatraktívnejšia Vysoká škola zdravotnícka a sociálnej práce sv. Alžbety v Bratislave.

Divadelno-spevácky súbor Jána Palárika

Divadelno-spevácky súbor Jána Palárika v Majcichove vznikol pri Farskom úrade v Majcichove kvôli zachovaniu odkazu "slávneho spisovateľa slovenského" ako to po smrti Jána Palárika čítame v titule "Sobraných dramatických spisov Jána Palárika (Beskydova)."

Založil som ho so všetkými členmi farskej ekonomickej rady: Mgr. Annou Čičmancovou, Augustínom Kalivodom, Michalom Klučárom a Annou Sabovou.

Divadelný - spevácky súbor Jána Palárika v Majcichove naplňajúc veľké a nezabudnuteľné kultúrne dedičstvo Jána Palárika pre Cirkev ako i pre Slovensko, sa podujal rozširovať okruh nadšencov aktuálneho Palárikovho odkazu formou literárnej súťaže Palárikovi nasledovníci s tým, že chce natrvalo spájať obce a miesta s Palárikovskou tradíciou ako to mal v úmysle iniciátor a zakladateľ pravidelných stretnutí Palárikovských obcí, bývalý starosta z Rakovej, František Broš, keď 24. októbra 2003 založil spolu so starostami obcí Majcichov, Starý Tekov, Hronské Kľačany, Štiavnické Bane ako i zástupcami slovenskej samosprávy v Budapešti tieto stretnutia pod názom: Životnými cestami Jána Palárika.

Túto úžasnú myšlienku si Divadelno-spevácky súbor Jána Palárika osvojuje, podporuje a podnecuje, aby sa v širšom okruhu do nej zapojili aj Palárikove:

1. miesta štúdií: Žilina, Kečkemét, Trnava, Bratislava a Ostrihom
2. všetky ďalšie miesta pôsobenia: Banská Štiavnica, Hoste a Abrahám
3. všetky Palárikove inštitúcie: okrem tu prítomných aj Divadlo Jána Palárika v Trnave
4. ako i Slovenská národná knižnica v Martine, Matica Slovenská v Martine a Katolícke Noviny.

Preto môžeme konštatovať, že utvárajúc jednotu, za ktorú Ján Palárik jednak horlil ale i trpel, chce Divadelno-spevácky súbor Jána Palárika každý rok vyhlasovať literárnu súťaž "Palárikovi nasledovníci" v tvorbe poézie a prózy pre deti, mládež a dospelých vždy s iným Palárikovským miestom, samozrejme v rešpektovaní ich slobodného rozhodnutia.

V mene Divadelno-speváckeho súboru Jána Palárika a Obecného úradu v Majcichove sme radi, že sa na našu stranu ako spoluorganizátori pridali i Obec Opoj, pretože deti z Opoja chodia do Majcichova do školy a spravujem aj farnosť Najsvätejšej Trojice pod ochranou Bolestnej Panny Márie v Opoji. Ďalej Spolok Sv. Vojtecha v Trnave, ktorý na sklonku svojho života Ján Palárik mal tú česť spoluzakladať, Arcibiskupské Gymnázium v Trnave a Pedagogická a sociálna akadémia blahoslavenej Laury v Trnave.

Ako iste všetci dobre vieme, takéto podujatie je o ľuďoch a preto sme vďační Pánu Bohu, že dobrí ľudia stále sú, vie sa o nich a oni sú vždy ochotní pridať ruku k dielu. A tak dnes môžeme konštatovať, že Divadelno-spevácky súbor Jána Palárika má okrem 5 zakladajúcich aj 44 riadnych členov. No stretávame sa aj s čestnými členmi Divadelno-speváckeho súboru Jána Palárika, ktorými za zásluhy už sú:

1. Mons. ThLic. Gejza Veselý, kaplán v Mikulove na Morave. Rodák z neďalekých Bučian, ktorý počas svojho pobytu v Ríme, kde bol vysvätený za kňaza a v Nepomucene vykonával funkciu vicerektora, si vykonával aj postgraduálne licenciatnske teologické štúdiá na Pápežskej lateránskej univerzite v Ríme, kde napísal a obhájil v roku 1988 prácu v taliančine na tému: Slovenská cirkevná provincia do počiatku až po jej konečné realizovanie. V nej sa hneď v úvode prvej kapitoly (jednej z troch) zmieňuje o víziách Jána Palárika mať samostatnú slovenskú - nie uhorskú cirkevnú provinciu s arcibiskupom prímasom a so sídlom v Nitre alebo v Trnave.

2. Michal Horecký - veľký horliteľ za Palárikov odkaz, bývalý dlhoročný organista, kronikár, sprievodca Pamätnej izby a nositeľ Ceny obce Raková a Ceny obce Majcichov.

3. Pavel Pinček - bývalý starosta obce Majcichov, podporovateľ a aktívny spoluzakladateľ pravidelných stretnutí "Životnými cestami Jána Palárika"

4. Prof. PhDr. Jozef Šimončík, CSc., ktorý počas externých štúdií na Vysokej škole pedagogickej v Bratislave v roku 1954 dva mesiace učil v Majcichove. Ako vysokoškolský profesor histórie je podporovateľom a programátorom Palárikovskej myšlienky v slovenských dejinách. Do súčasnej podoby upravil 400 - ročný erb obce Majcichov, ktorý spolu s pečatou a zástavou obce Majcichov 10. júla 1994 v kostole slávnostne posvätil vdp. Marian Ondrejka.

5. Mgr. Ľubomír Gabriel Novotný, riaditeľ ZŠ Jána Palárika v Majcichove. Cenu mu Divadelno-spevácky súbor Jána Palárika udeľuje ako pedagógovi, dlhoročnému riaditeľovi ZŠ Jána Palárika v Majcichove, vernému opatrovateľovi odkazu J. Palárika z príležitosti životného jubilea 60. rokov.

6. František Broš - bývalý starosta obce Raková. Cenu mu Divadelno-spevácky súbor Jána Palárika udeľuje ako vernému širitel'ovi odkazu Jána Palárika a iniciátorovi a zakladateľovi pravidelných stretnutí obcí, kde Palárik pôsobil, pod názvom: Životnými cestami Jána Palárika.

Čestným členom DSSJP in memoriam je

ThDr. Anton Grman - aktívny širitel' odkazu Jána Palárika, ktorý v roku 1982 pri príležitosti 170. výročia narodenia Jána Palárika publikoval článok: Ján Palárik v Majcichove a v jeho pozostalosti sa zachovali dve vzácne publikácie: kniha vdp. J. Vavroviča: Ján Palárik, jeho ekumenizmus a panslavizmus, napísaná po francúzsky, vydaná Slovenským inštitútom v Clevelande a Ríme v roku 1974 - Dr. Grman ju dostal ako dar zo dňa 6. februára 1985 od misionára Jozefa Figuru v Japonsku. Z jeho pozostalosti sa zachovala aj kniha vdp. Prof. ThDr. Antona Bagina: Portréty kňazov - buditeľov, so životopisom J. Palárika, ktorú dostal ako dar "milému priateľovi" z 19. novembra 1980.

Dr. Pavol Zemko

Modlitba nad hrobom Jána Palárika

Ján Palárik, veľký syn slovenského národa! Sme tu pri tvojom hrobe, aby sme si pripomenuli významné dielo, ktoré si nám zanechal, lebo siaha až do našich dní. Nechceme naň nikdy zabudnúť! Nie, to nie je správne vyjadrené: Nechceme na teba zabudnúť, lebo ty si ho pre nás vytvoril! Zanechal si nám myšlienky tolerance, ktorú si presadzoval v politike, v kultúre ale i v duchovnom živote. No hlásal si aj cestu zmierenia na báze obojstranných výhod. A to všetko sa prejavilo v tvojej slavianskej teórii, keď si sa postavil proti tútorstvu väčších národov voči menším národom a žiadal si toľko samostatných slovanských štátov, koľko je rozvinutých národov.

Vzácný majcichovský farár, spoločne teraz chválime Pána Boha za to, že ťa obdaroval obdivuhodnými darmi a schopnosťami, lebo si majstrovsky dokázal svoje názory nielen hlásať, o nich si písal, ale nadôvažok si svoje idey a vízie vložil i do svojich divadelných hier.

Žil si svoje kňazstvo v službe pre osvetu a vzdelanosť slovenského národa; ty si nám ale ukázal, že život v spoločenstve vyžaduje aj obeť, ktoré si denne kládol na oltár vlasti a na paténu pri každodennom slávení Kristovej eucharistickej obeti; ty si žil pre druhých - jednak pre Boha ale i pre svojho blížneho - veď si bol katolícky kňaz; a tak si sa vedel pre Cirkev a národ obetovať a dával si im všetok svoj správne zúžitkovný čas. Pretože si počas celého svojho života hľadel do ďalekej budúcnosti, tvoje názory sa stávajú vzorom pre život spoločnosti v demokracii ba v našich časoch už prežívanej európskej integrácii; už dnes môžeme povedať, že si prorokom cirkevného ekumenizmu a vzniku samostatnej Slovenskej cirkevnej provincie.

Neodťahoval si sa od akejkoľvek práce, či už to bolo na poli služby Cirkvi - ako kaplán, farár, učiteľ náboženstva a tvorca kníh pre katolícke školy, hlásateľ evanjelia a vysluhovateľ svätých tajomstiev, kde si sa profiloval ako ľudomil a podporovateľ osvety a vzdelanosti, ktorý sa vždy vie podriaďiť vôli predstavených - o čom ešte svedčia aj nútené Duchovné cvičenia, ktoré si múdro a rozumne využil pre svoj ale i náš súčasný duchovný prospech; bol si skvelým redaktorom a novinárom, prispievateľom do novín a časopisov, nehanbil si sa postaviť do prvej línie pri zakladaní tak politickej strany ako i pri vzniku národných inštitúcií Matice slovenskej a Spolku sv. Vojtecha; trefne si vystihol svoju dobu vo svojich divadelných hrách, keď si nám ju predstavil v reálnom zobrazení jednotlivých postáv.

Preto tu teraz môžeme smelo a pravdivo o tebe, nezabudnuteľný môj predchodca, povedať, že si nepremárnil evanjeliové talenty, ktoré ti boli našim Majstrom Ježišom Kristom zverené, ale mnohonásobne si ich rozmnožil a zúročil. Preto veríme, že ti Pán už odpustil tvoje ľudské slabosti, hriechy a poklesky a ako my ťa tu na zemi ctíme a chválime, tak ťa určite aj On oslávil v nebi a dal ti za odmenu korunu svojej večnej slávy.

Za čo sa ešte aj teraz spoločne modlíme!

Dr. Pavol Zemko



Ján Palárik

Bolestná matka

*Bolestná Matka bolestného ľudu,
ochraňuj plody podtatranskej pôdy
pred hrádzou, čo si sadá na národy,
sterilizuje pokrstení hrudu
a strieka do žíl rezignačnú budu.*

*Tvoj ochranný plášť nevyškrtli
z módy
vychutnávači čmudu, pevci bludu...
Raz každý z nás sa doteperi k sídu
a s trasúcim srdcom, s citmi
nepohody,
snáď s ľarchou vín a s dlaňou
bez úrody.*

*Ctiteľov svojich vylúč z tohto prúdu
a preved' ich cez nádejnejšie brody
do blaženosti, na mýtnické hody,
hoc farizeji škúliť, šomrať budú...
Veď načo sú! Nuž - prepáč!
- na ostudu!*

*Viem, drahá, Matka, že sú strmé
schody
k vyššinám, ak sa vôľa nevzdá pudu.
Sirény chcú nás zmeniť na obludu,
lež ty nás preved' cez vírivé vody
z tiem na výslnie, z okov
do slobody!*

Gorazd Zvonický
(Tie Šaštínske zvony,

Vydavateľstvo Don Bosco, Bratislava 2002, zo zbierky Obolus, 1985)

Pamätný deň vzniku Matice slovenskej z roku 1863

Bratislava (TASR) – V Turčianskom Svätom Martine sa 4. augusta pred 144. rokmi konalo zakladajúce valné zhromaždenie Matice slovenskej. Týmto aktom vznikla najvýznamnejšia kultúrno-spoločenská inštitúcia v dejinách slovenského národa. Bola druhá, po spolku Tatrín, ktorý založili 26. augusta 1844. V Martine sa zišlo okolo 5,000 ľudí, ktorí v neočakávane príjemnej atmosfére, plnej národnej sebauvedomovania sa stali spoluzakladateľmi Matice slovenskej. Stretnutie národovcov malo najskôr duchovný podtext, keď sa v rímskokatolíckom kostole a neskôr v evanjelickom chráme konali služby božie okrem iného na počesť tisícročia príchodu Konštantína a Metoda na Veľkú Moravu. Po duchovnej časti zhromaždenia došlo k zasadnutiu prvých matičiarov. Rokovanie dočasného matičného výboru otvoril Ján Francisci, ktorý bol jeho predsedom. Novozaložená inštitúcia dokonca dostala dar 1 000 zlatých od rakúskeho cisára ako príspevok k jej začínajúcemu pôsobeniu. Ján Francisci predložil zhromaždeniu aj zozbieraných 94 000 zlatých na vznik Matice slovenskej. Valné zhromaždenie prijalo zároveň uznesenie, že Maticu slovenskú založili "na tisícročnú pamiatku pokresťančenia a založenia písom-

níctva slovanského". Na základe terajšieho bádania v 21. storočí však môžeme konštatovať, že kristianizácia slovenského obyvateľstva na území Slovenska prebiehala už skôr - od začiatku 9. storočia, pred príchodom byzantskej misie v roku 863. Valné zhromaždenie zvolilo aj predsedu Matice slovenskej. Stal sa ním Štefan Moyzes, rímskokatolícky, banskobystrický biskup. Prvým podpredsedom novozaloženej inštitúcie sa stal Karol Kuzmány, evanjelik a.v., superintendent patentálnych cirkevných zborov. Išlo o dohovor vtedy rozhodujúcich konfesií na Slovensku, ktoré v žičlivej atmosfére navrhli svojich kandidátov na dané posty. Obaja sa stali hlavnými predstaviteľmi národnej ustanovizne, ktorá sa stala nosnou obhajkyňou a predstaviteľkou národa slovenského. Po prehratej bitke Rakúska s Pruskom pri Hradci Králove, maďarskí predstavitelia využili oslabené pozície cisárskej moci a došlo k rakúsko-uhorskému vyrovnaniu. Následne nastala maďarizácia a uhorské úrady sa pozerali s nevôľou na účinkovanie Matice slovenskej. V roku 1875 ju uhorská vládna moc zatvorila, obnovili ju až 1. januára 1919. Postavenie Matice slovenskej upravuje Zákon č. 68/1977 Z.z.

Slovenské obce zapojené do súťaže Dedina roka 2007

Príbelce/Očová/Medzibrod (TASR) – Príbelce v okrese Veľký Krtíš sú jednou z mála slovenských obcí, kde dodnes stretnete na ulici ženy v tradičných ľudových krojoch. K zvykom predkov sa ale nehlási len staršia generácia, veľmi blízko majú k nim aj najmladší.

Obec, ktorá sa prihlásila do súťaže o Dedinu roka 2007, neustále žije bohatým kultúrnym životom. V priebehu roka sa tu konajú desiatky kultúrnych a spoločenských podujatí, ale aj viaceré aktivity na skrášenie a obnovu dediny. Príbelce na rozdiel od iných v regióne mladnú Prichádzajú do nej najmä mladí ľudia z blízkyh i vzdialenejších miest a stavajú si tu domy, prípadne opravujú staré, rodinové. Rastie aj vzdelanostná úroveň - v dedine s 580 obyvateľmi žije asi 70 mladých ľudí s vysokoškolským vzdelaním. Príbelce boli za svoj družný život ocenené v súťaži o dedinu roka už predtým, keď im hodnotiacia komisia Slovenskej agentúry životného prostredia priznala titul Pospolitá dedina roka.

Aj Očová ako ďalšia obec Banskobystrického kraja, ktorá sa tento rok uchádza o titul Dedina roka 2007, sa má čím pochváliť. Podpolianska obec s 3 tisíc obyvateľmi bola kedysi známa ovčiarstvom, ale aj spevom a tancom. Dnes sa snaží na tieto tradície nadviazať. Čulý ruch vládne v Očovej aj v týchto dňoch, keď sa rozbieha rekon-

štrukcia starého mlyna v strede obce. Vzniknúť by mal z neho remeselný dvor, v ktorom budú lektori vyučovať tradičné ľudové remeslá. Na financovanie stavby získali z eurofondov 25 miliónov korún. Podľa plánu bude v mlyne, ktorý naposledy pracoval pred asi 50 rokmi, obnovené aj koleso, cez ktoré má tak ako kedysi pretekať voda. Podobný projekt vypracovala smospráva aj na neďaleký starý gazdovský dom, kde by mala v najbližších rokoch vyrásť kováčska dielňa a informačná kancelária.

Starostka Medzibrodu v okrese Banská Bystrica Zdenka Huřková tvrdí, že obec má čo ukázať aj ponúknuť návštevníkom. Obec sa pýši najmä bohatou spolkovou činnosťou. Pôsobí v nej štrnásť "živých" spolkov, veľa ľudí združuje najmä hasičský zbor, Jednota dôchodcov, Červený kríž, zväzy rybárov či poľovníkov. Medzibrod má i bohaté kultúrne tradície, ktoré udržiavajú tri divadelné súbory. Starší ochotníci robia už 95 rokov klasické divadlo z dedinského prostredia a operety. Divadlo mladých Medzibrodway prezentuje modernejšie hry zo súčasnosti, ako aj autorské. Už päť rokov sa konajú v Medzibrode Tajovského divadelné dni - regionálna prehliadka ochotníckych divadelných kolektívov. Obec s vyše 1 300 obyvateľmi sa vyznačovala šikovnými remeselníkmi, najmä nožiarmi.

Modra Publishing uvádza na trh publikáciu The Foreigner's Guide to Living in Slovakia

Sprievodca krajinou, ktorý pomáha cudzincom prispôbiť sa životu na Slovensku

San Diego, Kalifornia – The Foreigner's Guide to Living in Slovakia, (Modra Publishing) opisuje spoločenské, ekonomické, historické podnety a ľudové tradície, ktoré ovplyvnili život a kultúru na Slovensku. Sprievodca si kladie za cieľ pomôcť návštevníkom ľahšie sa orientovať v písaných aj nepísaných pravidlách spojených so životom na Slovensku a poskytnúť viac informácií o tejto krajine, ako je možné nájsť v bežných turistických sprievodcoch. Slovensko sa teší narastajúcemu záujmu zahraničia vďaka silnému ekonomickému rastu, ktorý bol v roku 2006 potvrdený rekordným nárastom HDP o 8.3 percenta. S nárastom záujmu o Slovensko, ako aj jeho posilňujúcou sa pozíciou na medzinárodnej scéne, narastá aj potreba získania rozličných podrobných informácií o Slovensku, ktoré práve The Foreigner's Guide to Living in Slovakia obsahuje. Táto potreba je zvýraznená tým, že na trhu nie je momentálne dostupná žiadna iná publikácia v anglickom jazyku typu "sprievodca kultúrou" zameraná na Slovensko.

"Keď som sa pred šiestimi rokmi presťahovala na Slovensko, okrem základných údajov, ktoré poskytoval spoločný turistický spievodca po Čechách a Slovensku, na trhu nebol dostupný žiadny podrobný materiál o tejto krajine. Ešte aj dnes existuje nedostatok informácií o Slovensku. Napísala som túto knihu, aby som vyplnila priestor chýbajúcich praktických a teoretických poznatkov a rád o živote na Slovensku," povedala Margarete Hurn, autorka knihy The Foreigner's Guide to Living in Slovakia.

Margarete Hurnová od svojich pätnástich rokov často cestuje na Slovensko, kde žila päť rokov. Stala sa tak priamym pozorovateľom politických, ekonomických a spoločenských zmien, ktoré sa udiali za posledných šestnásť rokov. So svojimi myšlienkami a zážitkami zo svojho pobytu na Slovensku z pohľadu cudzinca sa začala deliť ako prispievateľka do európskeho elektronického časopisu Café Babel a bulletinu Slovakia.

Kniha rozoberá rôzne charakteristiky Slovenska, zaoberá sa slovenskou históriou, ktorá ovplyvňuje jej súčasnosť, ako aj témami, ktoré môžu byť z pohľadu cudzinca nové alebo nejasné - napríklad ako sa orientovať v slovenskom cestovnom poriadku. Súčasťou knihy sú témy spojené so sťahovaním sa na Slovensko, zákony, o ktorých by mal cudzinec vedieť, prehľad rekreačných možností alebo informácie o slovenskej kuchyni. Napokon tu nájdeme aj časť venovanú ľudovým tradíciám a kultúre, prehľad hlavných sviatkov, voľných dní a spoločenské a obchodné pravidlá.

"Keďže žijem na Slovensku už niekoľko rokov, môžem povedať, že tento spievodca poskytuje množstvo užitočných a praktických informácií, a je vzácnou príručkou, ktorá pútavo oboznamuje čitateľa s tým najpodstatnejším o živote na Slovensku." Jake Slegers, výkonný riaditeľ Americkej obchodnej komory v Slovenskej republike.

The Foreigner's Guide to Living in Slovakia, Margarete Hurn. ISBN 978-979-0300-3-1, 22x14 cm, 200 strán a 40 ilustrácií. Cena \$16.95. Publikácia je momentálne dostupná v kníhkupectvách alebo u internetových predajcov v Severnej Amerike, na európskom trhu bude dostupná v druhom polroku 2007. V prípade záujmu o výtlačok pred uvedením knihy na európsky trh alebo pre väčší odber so zľavami kontaktujte prosím, priamo vydavateľa.

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Zlaté zrnká

"Ježiš urobil niečo výnimočné: rozhodol sa ísť cestou slabosti a na prvý pohľad sa zdalo, že dopustil, aby iní zvíťazili nad ním. Na cestu, ktorá viedla k slabosti a pokore sa vydal už vo chvíli, keď sa v Máriinom lone Slovo stalo telom."

Jean Vanier

"Keď sa tešíš, otváraš srdcia; keď nariekaš, zatváraš ich. Boh je Bohom radosti. Radosť je teda pravým postojom nábožného človeka."

Sv. František Saleský

"Viem, Boh nepotrebuje nikoho, ale Ježiš chce, aby sme mali podiel na jeho starostiach o ľudí. Nepotrebuje naše diela, ale potrebuje našu lásku."

Sv. Terézia z Lisieux

PRAKTIZUJTE FRATERNALIZMUS