



# Jednota

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

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NUMBER 5790



Peace on Earth to Men of Good Will

## PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS 2008 GREETINGS

**Dear Members and Friends:**

Christmas is near. Another year coming to a close. Another opportunity to gather with family and friends in a festive mood. Another chance to remember our loved ones. Another time to thank our Creator for all of our past blessings and pray for the future.

We all are one year older and hopefully wiser. Some of our Members have had or are having health problems. We pray for them in their time of need. Yet the message of Christmas is one of new life, the birth of the Savior. We as Catholics, and all Christians, realize that our time on earth is temporary

and that eternity awaits us in a new life, free of sorrows and complications. With that knowledge we work each day to the best of our ability to lead a life which will bring us closer to Christ.

The First Catholic Slovak Union was founded, in part, to address the earthly needs of its Members by providing insurance and investment products. However, our founders, especially Father Furdek, insisted that the Society also address the spiritual needs of its Members. Many changes have taken place in the United States, in its culture and in its people since 1890. Many changes have taken place in Slovakia since 1890. Some



Andrew M. Rajec

*continued on page 3*

### Inside

Editorial/Commentary..... 2  
 Branch/District Announcements... 7,10,11,16  
 Obituaries.....6  
 Coloring Contest..... 14,15  
 Slovak ..... 20-24

### Dear Friends,

Our celebration of the Lord's birth is drawing near. In addition to the meal plans and any travel plans that are being made for this special day is the decision families make on which Mass to attend. Some prefer going to Mass on Christmas Eve when attendance is so great that people arriving a few minutes before the scheduled start of Mass may not be able to locate a pew to sit. Others prefer the less crowded atmosphere of Christmas Day.

Whichever Mass is chosen, we will hear the homilist's reflection on this great mystery of our salvation. Some clergy may focus their talks on the conditions of Our Lord's birth, that Jesus was born in the most poor of surroundings. Others may choose to expand on the irony that among the first visitors to the newborn Shepherd of Souls were shepherds themselves. Some may speak on our Savior's birth as proof that God is faithful to the promises he makes to his people.

One wonders what St. Paul would have said regarding the birth of Jesus. There is no suggestion in any of his letters that this was a topic he addressed. Selections from his letter to Titus that are read at the Mass at Midnight and the Mass at Dawn do not deal directly with our Lord's birth, but these brief passages do mention things that, for us, express the "meaning of Christmas."

Paul tells us: Because of God's mercy for the human race, the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared to the world. Out of gratitude for this gift, live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age.

May our Lord watch over you and your family now and throughout the new year.

Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,  
 Fr. Thomas A. Nasta  
 National Chaplain

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

HOME OFFICE (TELECONFERENCE)  
 6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300  
 INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131  
 PHONE: 216-642-9406 \* FAX: 216-642-4310

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2008

*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 Saturday, December 13, 08 at 9:30 A.M. (telephonically).*

The monthly Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Friday, December 12, 2008.

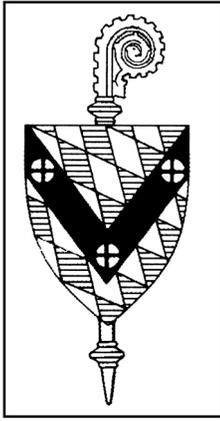
All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office prior to December 8, 2008.

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

# Insights and Viewpoints



## St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies Father Demetrius R. Dumm O.D.B.

**December 21, 2008**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Luke 1:26-38**

### Gospel Summary

On the carefully programmed Advent journey to Christmas, the Fourth Sunday belongs to Mary. This is so because Christmas, which celebrates the birth of Jesus, necessarily involves the motherhood of Mary. However, the story of that

birth is reserved for Midnight Mass, while today's gospel tells us how Mary prepared for that wonderful event by accepting the message of an angel, which meant allowing God to determine how she could be a mother and remain a virgin.

There is really very little information about Mary in the New Testament, but this story of her annunciation is the key to the central role of Mary in the drama of salvation. And if, through the centuries, Mary has captured the imagination of the Catholic world, it is in large measure because she faced the mystery of God and said, "Let it be done to me according to your word." Even her greatest privilege as mother of the Savior presupposes this radical trust and generosity on her part.

It is easy to ignore the mystery of God until the very end of life. It is also easy to live in fear of that mystery. However, human life will never be really successful until we learn to embrace God's mystery with trust and confidence. Mary shows us how to do that and what wonderful results will follow.

### Life Implications

Although we know very little about the "historical" Mary, her symbolic presence is real and powerful. In her case, symbolic truth presupposes an historical person but it reveals the universal and perennial significance of that person. It is a truth that transcends such limitations as age, race and gender as it reveals the meaning of Mary, Virgin and Mother, for all human beings everywhere.

As a virgin, Mary represents HOPE. Indeed, there are few images that capture the meaning of hope and promise more effectively than that of a teenage girl. (We note that, in the Jewish society of those days, marriage usually occurred in a girl's late teens). All of us, then, who strive to be positive and joyful and hopeful in a weary and despairing society, can look to virginal Mary as a model who is ready and willing to inspire and encourage us. As a mother, and specifically as the mother of our Savior, Mary is also the most perfect model of FRUITFULNESS. She represents, therefore, both virginal, promising springtime and fruitful, bountiful summer. She conquers cold, barren winter in our hearts and leads us to a rich and meaningful harvest.

There is such a temptation to live off of others and to complain rather than to contribute. Constant griping and blaming others means an empty harvest. By contrast, Mary models for us a life that is wonderfully fruitful through loving concern for the welfare and happiness of others. There is no better way to prepare for and to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

**December 28, 2008**  
**Feast of the Holy Family**  
**Luke 2:22-40**

### Gospel Summary

Today's gospel reading about the presentation of the child Jesus in the temple is most suitable for the feast of the Holy Family because it deals very gently with the difficult question of the relationship of young and old in families and in society generally.

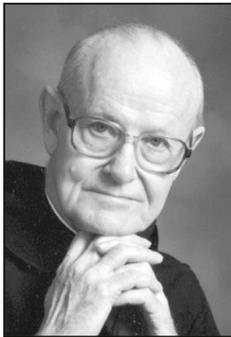
The parents of Jesus are very careful to observe the Jewish laws about offering the first-fruits of family and field to God, thus acknowledging that all blessings come ultimately for a loving creator. This affirms the importance of the Hebrew tradition for the future followers of Jesus. The aged Simeon and Anna are there to represent the people of Israel, who have for so long been yearning and praying for the arrival of the Messiah. They have been living for centuries with scarcely any tangible sign of God's concern for them but they have not lost hope.

We can well imagine Simeon's joy as God reveals to him that this Infant in his arms is the long-awaited Savior. He immediately resigns himself joyfully and trustingly to a future filled with the joy of God's promises. Anna too sees her patient piety rewarded by this sign of God's response to her persistent prayers.

### Life Implications

There are so many of us older people alive today that we need to reflect carefully upon the example offered to us by Simeon and Anna. We do not see in them any sign of resentment as they recognize that their places are being taken by energetic and often impatient younger men and women. They are able to welcome this new and younger world because their prayerful attention to the Lord has established the utter trustworthiness of God's promises of a future life beyond the weakness and the letting-go in death.

There are few more remarkable signs of hope than that of older people whose eyes are



Demetrius R. Dumm  
O.S.B.

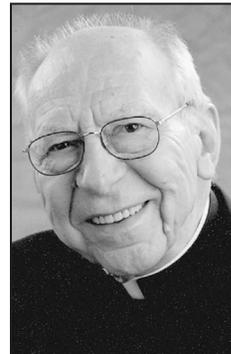
still bright with the promise of better days in the ultimate future. In fact, the very act of taking an infant into one's arms, as Simeon did, is a profound affirmation of one's sure knowledge that God has given the victory to life.

The effect of this trust in life and in the future is to create an ideal environment for the nurturing of new life. In fact, today's gospel tells us that, when Joseph and Mary welcomed the new world represented by their divine child, "The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him" (v. 40). All children have the right to be nurtured, day in and day out, with loving attention and trust, so that they too may acquire the freedom and wisdom needed for responsible living.

We must reflect with great sadness on the tragedy of neglected children in our world. They receive so little psychological or spiritual support to enable them to "grow and become strong, filled with wisdom." And we need to be deeply grateful for those parents whose love and care prepare their children for a future that can be, not only difficult and challenging, but also incredibly fruitful and joyful.

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

### 2 Corinth-3



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

In chapter 9 of 2 Corinthians, Paul writes about offerings. "Let me say this much: He who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will reap bountifully. Everyone must give according to what he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor. 9:6-7)

Beginning with chapter 10, Paul defends his ministry. See Corinth-1 where Jerome Murphy O'Connor, O.P., believes that this is the beginning of a second letter within 2 Corinthians. To the contrary, we read in the introduction to 2 Corinthians in the Saint Joseph Edition of the New American Bible, "...no theory fragmenting Second Corinthians into several letters has proved entirely convincing."

Whatever the case may be, Paul's attitude changes in these remaining chapters of 2 Corinthians.

"I, Paul exhort you by the meekness and kindness of Christ, I (who you say) when present in your midst am lowly but when absent am bold toward you." (2 Cor. 10:1) Paul in these chapters is defending himself against the criticism of those whom he names super-apostles (2 Cor. 11:5; 12:11) He defends his authority as an apostle.

If the congregation of the Corinthian church does not safeguard his authority, Paul will exercise his authority personally and fully.

"We are ready to punish disobedience in anyone else once your obedience is perfect." (2 Cor. 10:6)

"If I find I must make a few further claims about the power of the Lord has given us for your upbuilding and not for your destruction, this will not embarrass me in the least." (2 Cor. 10:8)

"His (Paul's) letters they say are severe and forceful, but when he is here in person he is unimpressive and his word makes no great impact. Well, let such people give this some thought, that what we are by word, in the letters during our absence, that we mean to be in action when we are present." (2 Cor. 10:10-11)

"It is not the man who recommends himself who is approved but the man whom the Lord recommends." (2 Cor. 10:18)

"I consider myself inferior to the "super-apostles" in nothing. I may be unskilled in speech

*continued on page 4*

# JEDNOTA

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ANTHONY X. SUTHERLAND, Editor; editorjednota@yahoo.com

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## Christmas Message from the Vice President



Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.  
National Vice President

As you know, the Christmas season starts earlier and earlier each year. This year it was well before Halloween.

The merchants want you to celebrate Christmas with material, items, such as gifts, trees, gifts, decorations, gifts, food, and more gifts. So much so, we are losing sight of what we really should be celebrating... the Birth of the Holy Christ Child, who brought faith and hope to the world.

Whenever Christmas is celebrated there should be a spirit of kindness and generous giving in keeping with the message of Jesus. "Glory to God in the Highest and on Earth- Peace and Good Will towards Men."

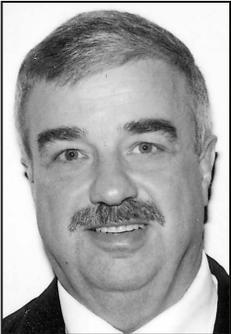
May this Christmas bring many graces and heavenly gifts to you and to all those dear to your hearts.

On behalf of my wife Maria, my family and myself, I will pray that the infant Jesus grants you and yours peace and happiness this Christmas season.

**Merry Christmas and God Bless!**

**Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.  
National Vice President**

## Christmas Greetings from the Executive Secretary



Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

I picked up the morning paper to read that are only so many shopping days till Christmas. The front page had a huge picture of local grade school students making ornaments which they will deliver to an area nursing home. Further down the page another article spoke of the homeless shelter which will be offering hot meals to the hungry during the Christmas season. There were two other articles I noticed, one which detailed how to contribute to the "clothe the children" drive and another speaking of donations being collected for victims of a house fire. 'Tis the season" for giving gifts, making donations, giving contributions and sharing your time. This is the holiday spirit.

The warm feeling of Christmas is one of life's finest gifts. As we prepare for Christmas and enjoy the love and warmth of family and friends let us try and remember that "Christmas feeling" of sharing and giving and have it continue throughout the year.

On behalf of myself, my wife Theresa and our family we wish everyone a Blessed and Joyous Christmas season.

**Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary**

## President's Christmas 2008 Greetings

*continued from page 1*

changes have taken place in the Catholic Church. Some changes have taken place in our Society. Someone much wiser than me said "Change is inevitable, accept it and work with it". Regardless of changes, the Jednota will remain faithful to its founders mission of trying to serve the spiritual and financial needs of its Members.

Our Country, and most of the World, is in the midst of an economic crisis some have compared to the Great Depression. Being born during World War II, I have only read and heard about the Depression, but like many people my age I was greatly influenced by my parents and grand-parents who lived through it. Thankfully, it appears that our government leaders, both current and incoming, are keenly aware of the dangers and are in the process of taking massive steps to deal with the problem. We are very optimistic they will be successful.

The F.C.S.U. has also taken steps to deal with the problem. We have examined our expenses and reduced where possible, and will continue to be pro-active. We saw some of the problems coming, and in late 2007 and in 2008 modified the Society's investment strategy by shortening the length of our bond portfolio. We made virtually no investments in the Stock Market and instead invested in U.S. Government backed securities. We also have accumulated a record of almost \$14 million dollars in cash to give us the flexibility for future investments (that is \$ 7 million more than we had on December 31, 2007) as the markets change.

The World has changed and we must change with it. Thank you for your support during the past year. I especially thank all our Recommenders for their work, without which the Society would not be as strong.

My family and all of us at the Home Office wish you and yours a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Veselé Vianoce a Šťastlivý Nový Rok.**

**Andrew M. Rajec  
President**

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## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21	MONDAY, JANUARY 12
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4	MONDAY, JANUARY 26

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

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Anthony Sutherland, Editor; editorjednota@yahoo.com  
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1001 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4835  
FAX: (717) 944-3107

# Insights and Viewpoints

## Reflections on Our Christianity

*continued from page 2*

but I know that I am not lacking in knowledge. We have made this evident to you in every conceivable way." (2 Cor. 11:5-6)

"When I was with you and in want I was a burden to none of you for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my needs. In every way possible I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and I shall continue to do so." (2 Cor. 11:9)

"Five times at the hands of the Jews I received forty lashes less one; three times I was beaten with rods; I was stoned once, shipwrecked three times; I passed a day and a night on the sea. I traveled continually, endangered by floods, robbers, my own people, the Gentiles; imperiled in the city, in the desert, at sea, by false brothers; enduring labor, hardships, many sleepless nights; in hunger and thirst and frequent fastings, in cold and nakedness. Leaving other sufferings unmentioned, there is that daily tension pressing on me, my anxiety for all the churches." (2 Cor. 11:24-28)

"In Damascus the ethnarch of King Aretas was keeping a close watch on the city to arrest me, but I was lowered in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands." (2 Cor. 11:32-33)

In chapter 12, Paul writes of his visions and revelations and of being "snatched up to the third heaven." He writes too of having been given a "thorn in the flesh" to keep him from getting proud. Rather than free him from this, the Lord said to him, "My grace is enough for you, for in weakness power reaches perfection." (vss. 2,7,9)

"If I do not want what you have, I only want you." (2 Cor. 12:14)

"I fear that when I come I may not find you to my liking, nor may you find me to yours. I fear I may find discord, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, slander and gossip, self-importance, disorder. I fear that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you, and I may have to mourn over the many who sinned earlier and have not repented of the uncleanness, fornication, and sexuality they practiced." (2 Cor. 12:20-21)

"Test yourselves to see whether you are living in faith; examine yourselves. Perhaps you yourselves do not realize that Christ Jesus is in you- unless, of course, you have failed the challenge." (2 Cor. 13:5)

"Mend your ways. Encourage one another. Live in harmony and peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!" (2 Cor. 13:11 & 13)



## Slovak Institute Offers Holiday Items

The Slovak Institute in Cleveland, Ohio, has a number of items for sale for the holiday season. Slovak Christmas cards (10 to a package) are available for \$10.00. Christmas cards to Canada cost \$12.00. There are also English Christmas cards for \$10.00. Christmas wafers or Oplatky are available for \$1.00 for a package of three wafers.

Small flags of Slovakia are available at a cost of \$4.00 while the large flag costs \$20.00. A large black and white map of Slovakia featuring all the cities and towns is available for \$10.00.

A number of books are available for sale: "Slovak Songs and Dances" by Michael Sinchak (\$7.00); "Pride in Slovak Origin" by Joseph Mikus (\$5.00); "Let's Learn Slovak" by Philip A. Hrobak (\$5.00), "Slovaks in Florida" by Andrew F. Hudak (\$10.00); and "The Night of the Barbarians" by Cardinal Jan Chryzostom Korec (\$28.). For a complete book list of books in both English and Slovak call the Slovak Institute at 216/721-5300, Ext.294 or visit [www.slovakinstitute.com](http://www.slovakinstitute.com). Add \$3.00 for postage and handling when ordering items. Make checks payable to Slovak Institute and send to: Slovak Institute and Library, St. Andrew Abbey, 10510 Buckeye Road, Cleveland, OH 44104.



## Coming Events

### December 14

-The Msgr. Michael Shuba District's Annual Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Mississauga, Ontario.

### December 16-

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District's Annual Meeting and Christmas Party at 6:30 p.m. at Marino's Banquet Center, 5423 Mahoning Avenue, Austintown, Ohio.

### December 21-

The Prince Pribina District's Annual Mass and Lunch at 11:00 a.m. in St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California.

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary:

## March for Life

January 22, 2009 is the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Right to Life March in Washington DC. FCSU along with FCSLA are offering free transportation for this very important event. Our goal for this March is to fill two buses with individuals who will march along side the many Pro-Life Organizations and American citizens who support this mission.

With a new administration taking over in January it is most important for us to support the position of the Pro Life Movement. The theme for the 2009 March is: REMEMBER – the *Life Principles* mean "Equal Care" with No Exceptions!

Please join us in supporting this very important March. If you wish to reserve a seat please contact Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary of FCSU at 1-800-533-6682 or Sue Ann Seich, Fraternal & Youth Director of FCSLA at 1-800-464-4642, EXT 1051 before December 20, 2008.



## The Cleveland Slovak School

The Cleveland Slovak School for Children will begin 17 week Slovak language classes on January 10, 2009, at St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church, 8111 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, Ohio. The instructor is Mrs. Miriam Visnovsky, a religion and ethics teacher trained in Slovakia. Prior to Mrs. Visnovsky's move to greater Cleveland area, she was employed as an elementary teacher in Kosice, Slovakia.

Sessions for children ages 3 to 7 years (Level 1) begin at 9:00 a.m. and go to 9:45 a.m. Sessions for children age 8 and older or adults with no Slovak language background (Level 2) are from 10:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. Classes for adults who have some previous Slovak language knowledge (Level 3) are from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The cost is \$100 for the first student in a family and \$50 for each additional student in a family which includes material costs. For applications or for further information please call Mary Ann Dzurec at 440/930-2197 or visit the Slovak School web site at [www.slovak-school.com](http://www.slovak-school.com).



## Slovak Vocabulary at Christmas

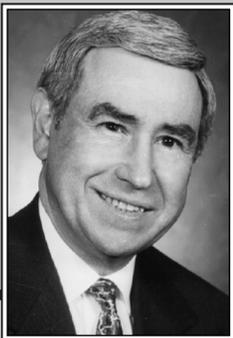
Vianoce	Christmas
Štedrý večer	Christmas Eve Dinner
Polnočná omša	Midnight Mass
Vianočný stromček	Christmas Tree
Vianočný darček	Christmas present
Páska	Christmas (white) bread with raisins
Božie narodenie	Christmas Day
Vianočný čas	Christmastime
Veselé Vianoce	Merry Christmas
Na Silvestra	New Year's Eve
Šťastný Nový Rok!	Happy New Year

## Reminder...

Please send all articles for publication (both English and Slovak) to Jednota Estates, 1001 Rosedale Ave, Middletown, PA 17057. Fax 717-944-3107. Email [editorjednota@yahoo.com](mailto:editorjednota@yahoo.com).

Readers are reminded that all address changes for the JEDNOTA newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. If you have an address change, a cancellation or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Rd., Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA; Fax: 1-800-642-4310; E-mail: [FCSU@aol.com](mailto:FCSU@aol.com)

# MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



**By Joseph T. Senko**

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



## Is Your Credit Score Costing You Money?

Especially during uncertain financial times, getting a mortgage or other type of loan can be difficult. That's why it's important to know your credit score and the effect it may have on your checkbook.

### Why it Matters

Your credit score is based on your financial situation and your past history of managing your credit. Companies use this score to decide whether or not to extend you credit or a loan.

Many people understand that lenders check credit scores when an individual applies for a mortgage, a credit score, or a car or student loan. You may not be aware, however, that your score can also be important when you try to rent an apartment. Landlords want access to this information to help gauge whether tenants will keep up with the rent. In addition, a bad credit score could mean higher car insurance premiums or an inability to sign up for certain cell phone plans. Finally, you may be surprised to learn that some employers check scores to get a better sense of the character and reliability of the person they're planning to hire.

### The Facts behind the Score

There are three national credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. Each one has its own scoring method, but they are typically based on one model, often known as FICO. Credit scores generally range from 300 at the low end to 850 at the high end. The score is calculated from a number of factors. The most important is payment history, including late payments and bankruptcies. The score also takes into account how recently any problems have happened, so a payment problem several years ago should carry less weight than a recent one. Another factor is current debt, including how much debt and how many credit cards you have. Credit bureaus also consider the length of your credit history and whether you have long-term loans or short-term installment debt.

### In Dollars and Cents

A weak credit score can have an actual impact on your finances. The FICO web site ([www.myfico.com](http://www.myfico.com)) provides some illustrations based on recent interest rates. For example, the monthly payment of a \$25,000, 36-month auto loan might be about \$763 for someone with a high credit score- in the 720-850 range- because they would be charged a low interest rate since they are considered a good credit risk. Conversely, a borrower in the 620 to 659 range would pay around \$814 per month; and someone with a low score, between 500 and 589, could end up paying around \$868. That's \$100 more per month than someone with the best credit score. Borrowers with a low credit score seeking to take out a 15-year home equity loan or a 30-year mortgage could pay several percentage points more than in interest on the loan, which could translate to hundreds of dollars each year.

## Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar in Chicago

Jednota members were well represented among the 72 attendees at the most recent Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar. The Midwest District of the Slovak Catholic Federation sponsored the annual seminar on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Saint Casimir on Chicago's south side.

Professional filmmaker Susan Marcinkus showed her documentary, "Pictures of the Old Country," which traces her search for her ancestral roots in Slovakia. The film has been shown on PBS stations across the country. A question and answer session followed the presentation. Everyone then enjoyed a catered buffet luncheon.

Rev. John J. Spitzkovky District officers John Jurcenko,, Dorothy Jurcenko and Robert Tapak Magruder serve on the Board of Directors of the SCF Midwest District.

**Robert Tapak Magruder**



**Joe and Emily Janusek of Branch 493.**



**Branch 493 members Valerie Vesely, Pete Turner and Don Cummings**



**Ed and Shirley Uram of Branch 706**



**Branch 313 members Theresa and Joe Bugel**



**Barbara and Art Fayta of Branch 706**

### FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ~ HOLIDAY HOURS

The Home Office and Jednota Editors Office will be closed on the following days during the holidays:



**Thanksgiving and the day after  
November 27 & 28, 2008**



**Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the day after  
December 24, 25 & 26, 2008**



**New Years Day and the day after  
January 1 & 2, 2009**



## REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### Michael Lupchinsky Branch 199 Hostetter, Pennsylvania



Michael "Pickles" Lupchinsky, 82, of Hostetter, Pennsylvania, died Saturday, November 15, 2008, at Loyalhanna Care Center, Derry Township. He was born November 19, 1925, in Hostetter, a son of the late Joseph and Mary (Dusecina) Lapinsky.

Michael was a member of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, Latrobe. He was a retired steward of the Hostetter Slovak Literary and Social Club with 47 years of service and was a veteran of World War II, having served in the Army. He was also a member of the American Legion Post No. 515, Latrobe, the Greek Club, Snyderstown, and the Slovak Club, Snyderstown.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two children, Joseph and Donna Lupchinsky; and five sisters, Elizabeth Lupchinsky, Anne Curry, Agnes Lapinsky, Irene

Upholster and Mary Lapinsky.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mary B. (Beredino) Lupchinsky; two sons, Dennis Lupchinsky of New Jersey, and Bernard Lupchinsky and his wife, Toni, of Latrobe; one daughter, Janet Luptinsky and her fiancé, Gene Bush of Rector; one sister Catherine Lapinsky of Hostetter; and five grandchildren, Julie Lupchinsky, Justin Lupchinsky, Ashlee Lupchinsky and her fiancé Joshua Naeger, Anthony Lupchinsky and Samantha Lupchinsky.

Friends were received at the John J. Lopatich Funeral Home, Latrobe. Military services were conducted at the funeral home with the American Legion Post No. 515 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 3414. A funeral service was held at the funeral home with the Rev. Regis Dusecina officiating. Interment was private.

Sophie Pipak

### Mary L. Kurtz Branch 75 Shamokin, Pennsylvania

Mary L. Kurtz, 90, formerly of Shamokin, Pennsylvania, died Monday, October 20, 2008, at Springwood Court Assisted Living Facility, where she had been a resident for the past six years.

Born in Shamokin on January 31, 1918, Mrs. Kurtz was the seventh of eight children born to John and Anna (Jakupko) Stremba. She attended St. Mary's Grade School and was a graduate of Shamokin High School Class of 1936.

She was married in 1947 at St. Mary's Church, Shamokin, to Joseph Kurtz who preceded her in death.

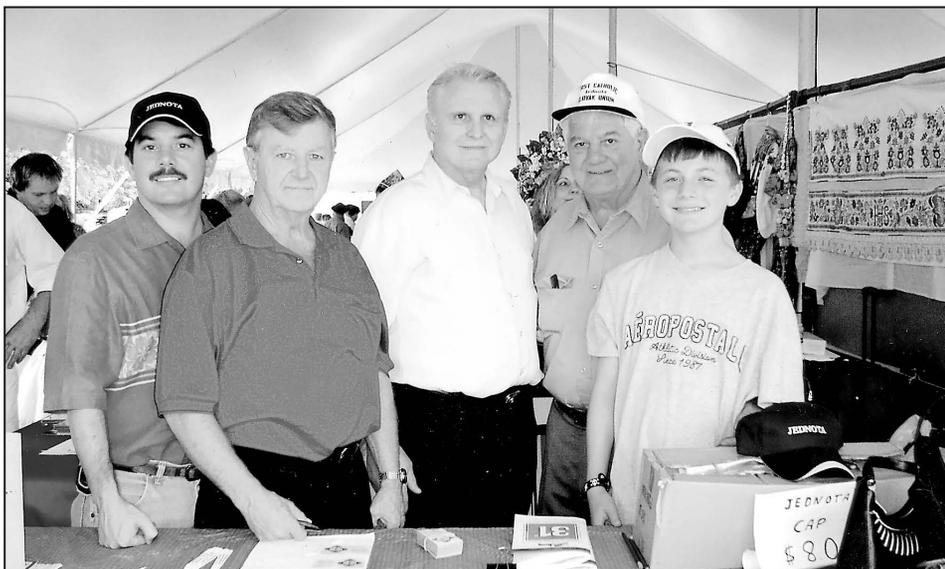
Mr. and Mrs. Kurtz lived for a time in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, before moving to Fort Myers, Florida in the 1960s.

Mrs. Kurtz worked as a bookkeeper. She was a member of St. Francis Xavier Church, Fort Myers. In her retirement, Mrs. Kurtz

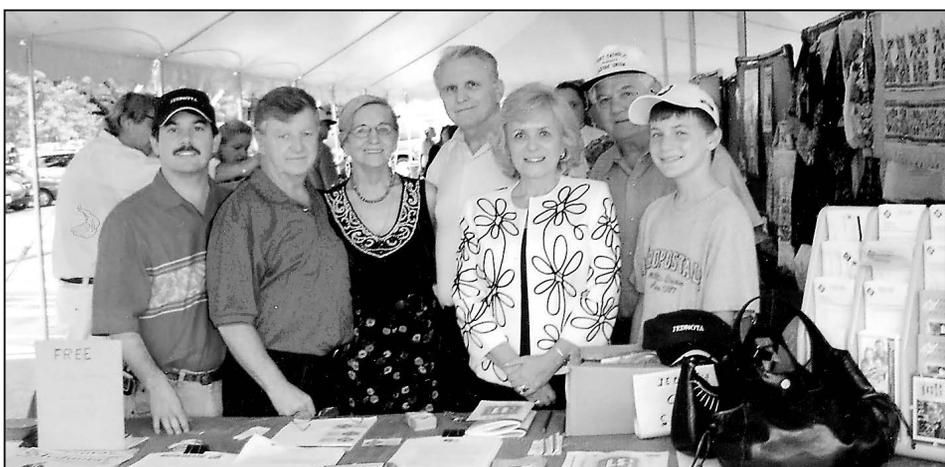
enjoyed cooking, especially Slovak favorites around the holidays. She was also a participant in the foster grandparent program in the Fort Myers area. Mrs. Kurtz was also an accomplished seamstress, having made many of her own clothes. At Springfield Court, she was known as the "jig-saw puzzle lady."

She is survived by several nieces and nephews, including Mary Ann Strembo, Mary Lou (James) Chiavaroli, the Rev. Stephen Sheetz, Anna Varano, Albert (Betty) Sheetz, and John (Mary Ann) Lyash; several grand-nieces and grand-nephews, and a close friend, Leslie Higgins of Fort Myers.

Funeral services and burial were held at Fort Myers Memorial Garden with a Catholic priest in attendance. In addition to her parents and husband, Mrs. Kurtz was preceded in death by five sisters, Anna, Kathryn, Helen, Margaret and Elizabeth, and two brothers, John and Matthew. She was the last survivor among her siblings.



Working the FCSU Booth are, L-R: Stephen Minarovich, National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr., National President Andrew M. Rajec, Regional Director Joseph Minarovich, and Adam Minarovich.



Left to right are Stephen Minarovich, National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr., Helen Brchnel, National President Andrew M. Rajec, Idka Rajec, Regional Director Joseph Minarovich, and Adam Minarovich.

## FCSU Officers Attend New Jersey Festival

On Sunday, September 28, 2008, the Membership and Marketing Committee set up a booth at the New Jersey Slovak Festival. The festival was held at the New Jersey Arts Center in Holmdel, NJ. Despite the inclement weather, an estimated crowd of over 5,000 attended this year's event.

In an effort to increase the visibility of the First Catholic Slovak Union, officers have been attending many of the Slovak festivals and events around the country. Copies of the Jednota newspaper and information on FCSU products were distributed to the attendees.



L-R: Sister Mary Michael Baksi, VSC, past Conference President; Sister Aurelia Cerny, OSF, president; Sister Roseann Velas, OSF, secretary/treasurer; and Sister Annamarie Pavlik, VSC, past secretary/treasurer

## Conference of Slovak Religious Elects New Board

The Conference of Slovak Religious held their annual meeting at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pennsylvania on October 24-25, 2008. Sister Mary Michael Baksi, VSC, president of the Conference, presided.

Margaret Schilling Van Lierde was the featured speaker for the Conference on the Friday evening of October 24. The speaker captivated her audience with a touching and inspiring presentation of the life and the beatification ceremony of her aunt, the Slovak Sister, Blessed Zdenka Schelingova, whom Pope John Paul II declared blessed in Slovakia in 2003.

During the business portion of the meeting, Brother Gabriel Balozovic, OSB and Sister Roseann Velas, OSF were elected as representatives of the Conference of Slovak Religious to the Executive Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

Elected by acclamation to the CSR Executive Board were: Brother Joseph Venonsky, OSB, Sister Philothea Fabian, SSCM, Sister Immaculata Pavlik, VSC, Sister Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SSCM and Sister Electa Barlok, OSF.

At the conclusion of the four-year term of leadership by the Vincentian Sisters of Charity, the School Sisters of St. Francis, U.S. Province, took the helm of the Conference of Slovak Religious. In a prayerful ceremony in which the Transfer of Leadership took place, Sister Aurelia Cerny, OSF was installed as the new president and Sister Roseann Velas, OSF, as the new secretary/treasurer.

**From the Desk of the  
National Secretary  
First Catholic Slovak Union  
Annuity & Ira Interest Rates**

**Effective October 1, 2008 thru December 31, 2008**

The annual yield on existing Flexible Premium Deferred Annuities & Ira's is 5.00% (4.879% APR)

The annual yield on a new "Park 2 Annuity" is 4.25% (4.162% APR)

The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash Interest" Options is 4.75% (4.641 APR)

The annual yield for new Settlement Options is based on 4.50% (4.402% APR)

If you have any questions about our annuities or IRA's, please contact your local branch officer or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682

**Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary**



**5.00%**

**FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY  
FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA**

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

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

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

**Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:**

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

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SGR. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT-BEDFORD, BLAIR, CAMBRIA, INDIANA, AND SOMERSET COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Msgr. John Martvon District held its Annual Meeting on October 26, 2008, at St. Francis Church Hall, Coral, Pennsylvania. The meeting was opened by at 2:10 p.m. by President Edward Surkosky. The president led the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. Rose Ann Rura, President of host Branch 484, gave the welcome. The president then welcomed the honored guests, National President Andrew Rajec and his wife Idka, President Emeritus Thomas Hricik, and Regional Director George Sprock and his wife Florence. Due to scheduling conflicts President Rajec's remarks were given at this time. He suggested that in order to get better attendance district meetings should have an 11:00 a.m. Mass, if possible, in the host church followed by a dinner and meeting. In addition, he recommended that parents and grandparents bring their children and grandchildren. He also spoke on the possible merger with other fraternal.

The recording secretary called the roll of officers. It was noted that Honorary Vice President John Stager had died. May he rest in peace. The other officers were present. Recording Secretary Joseph Rura read the minutes from the semiannual meeting and on a motion by Shirley Kovach, seconded by Leonard Fenimore, they were approved as read. The treasurer Joseph Slivosky gave his report. Janet Mical moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Edward Yoschak. Financial Secretary Theresa Cassat gave her report. On motions by William Smedo and Mary Moritz, the report was approved. President Emeritus Thomas Hricik spoke on the vitality of the society in the last ten years and the growth in assets.

National President Hricik chaired the election of officers. Shirley Kovach made a motion, seconded by Edward Yoschak, to retain the present officers for 2009 but to eliminate the position of Honorary Vice President. The motion was approved by a show of hands. The officers are: Rev. Andrew Stanko, Chaplain; Edward Surkosky, President; Lawrence Fenimore Vice President; Theresa Cassat, Financial Secretary; Joseph Slivosky, Treasurer; and Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary. The oath of office was administered by Mr. Hricik.

President Surkosky encouraged the delegates to sell insurance and sign up new members and thus promote the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Florence Sprock extended an invitation to all to attend the annual Stedry Vecer dinner on Sunday, December 7 at the Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Janet Mical and seconded by Leonard Fenimore. The semiannual meeting will be held April 26, 2009 in Johnstown. Branch 23 will be the host.

The meeting was closed with a prayer for the soul of deceased Honorary Vice President John Stager and the singing of Hej Slovaci. A delicious meal prepared by Monica Rura, Rose Ann Rura, Marge Holmes and Lois Rura was enjoyed by all. The meeting was attended by 29 delegates and guests representing seven branches.

**Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary**

**PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT-CALIFORNIA**

The Prince Pribina District invites you to celebrate the Christmas season with a Slovak Mass on Sunday, December 21, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. in St. John Bosco High School Chapel, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Following the liturgy, there will be a gourmet lunch with dessert in the cafeteria along with Slovak music and Christmas Carols. St. Nicholas will also visit and present gifts to the children.

The officers of the Prince Pribina District wish everyone a Blessed and Joyous Christmas.

**Paul Skuben**

**REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT-YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO**

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold its Annual Meeting and Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 16, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at Marino's Banquet Center, 5423 Mahoning Avenue, Austintown, Ohio. On the agenda will be the installation of officers for 2009. You must make reservations in order to attend the Christmas party. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. Reservations may be made by calling Carla Peshek at 330/779-3927, Nancy Scavina at 330/758-4536 or Paul Ritz at 330/744-2377.

The District is planning a bus trip to the Meadow's Casino on Saturday, January 31, 2009. All information concerning the trip will be available at the Christmas party.

**Carla Peshek**

**MSGR. MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT-TORONTO, CANADA**

The Msgr. Michael Shuba District will hold a joint Annual Meeting with Branch 785 on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Mississauga, Ontario.

**Milos Mitro, Regional Director**

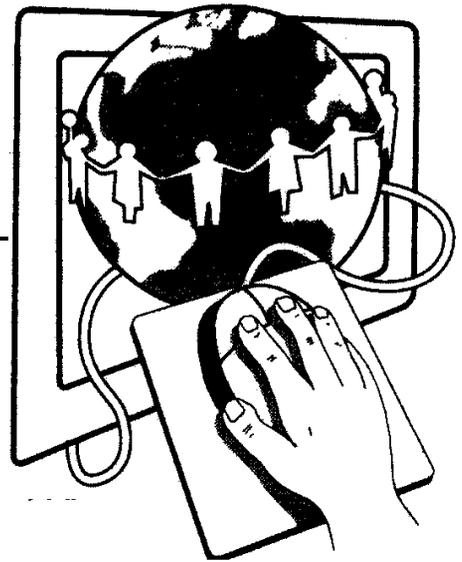
**If each member would sign up just one new member,  
we could double our Society immediately**

**THINK ABOUT IT!**



# UR\_space.jrs

Friends Events Sports Culture Trivia Activities



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December 2008

## Culture Space

### Christmas Eve



Families began preparing for Christmas weeks in advance. They cleaned their homes, baked cakes, and made decorations for their trees. During the last week before Christmas, women had to return things they borrowed, wash and clean everything, and organize their work. Spinning, weaving, and cleaning were forbidden between Christmas and Epiphany.

Beginning in the early morning on Christmas Eve, preparations for the Birth of Christ are underway in every home, from the richest to the poorest. A final batch of cookies is baked and the dishes for the Christmas Eve meal are prepared. In some areas, people visit on Christmas Eve. The first visitor to the home should be a man or boy, bringing greetings of luck, health, and happiness in the coming year. If the first visitor is a woman, there is a prediction of bad luck during the entire New Year.

The holiday table is prepared with clean straw under the tablecloth or on the floor to remind us that Christ was bedded on straw in the manger. In some villages, the table legs are also bound with chains to represent the link from Christ's birth to His death. When the holiday table is prepared, one extra place is set for an unknown guest. With preparations complete, the family eagerly awaits the appearance of the first evening star.

Before dinner begins, the father or mother takes a little honey to make a small sign of the cross on the foreheads of each person. This serves as a reminder that is proper at all time to keep our Divine Redeemer in our thoughts and to live and work so that harmony and pleasant fellowship will sweeten our lives.

After a dinner of mushroom soup, bobalky (tiny biscuits steamed and served with sauerkraut or poppyseed), peas, and fish, the home is cozy and quiet.

## Challenge Space

Try saying this as your Christmas wish on Christmas Eve morning.

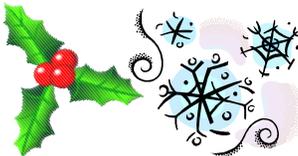
Aj ja vin-ču-jem ve-l'a Bo-žie-ho zdra-via pre gaz-du, gaz-din-u, a ce-lu ro-di-nu. Dob-re ra-no!

I wish God's Blessings for the man and lady of the household and for all your family. Good Morning!

Remember: say every letter, all the *j*s sound like *y*s, the *č* sounds like the *ch* in cheese, and the *ž* sounds like the *s* in vision.



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



## Activity Space



### The Symbols of the Christmas Eve Supper

**Oplatky (Wafers)** ~ Food of the gods. In some homes, honey is spread on the wafer. Breaking and sharing of bread is a sign of charity, unity and friendship. It also reminds us of the unleavened bread of the Passover supper of the Israelites.

**Honey** ~ Denotes the sweetness of the "good things in life." It reminds us of the sweetness of Christ's birth.

**Soup** ~ A soup of tart quality, usually made of sauerkraut, brine and dried mushrooms, recalls the bitterness of life without Christ.

**Poppyseed** ~ Recalls a pagan tradition in which poppyseed was strewn at the portal in order that the evil spirits might be occupied with picking up each morsel and thus, would not enter the house.

**Fish** ~ Usually a white fish that is baked or smoked; symbolic of the Christian faith as Christ was the fisher of men.

**Nuts** ~ Walnuts are tossed into the corners of the dining room for good luck. Family members crack a walnut to see what type of omen it holds for the future. A good healthy nut means a good coming year. If the nut is rotten, bad luck may dog that person in the new year.

**Apples** ~ Each family member slices an apple in half. If the seed forms a perfect five-point star, that person will have a happy and healthy year. If the seeds form a cross, there are hardships in store for the future. Apples are served in honor of Adam and Eve, whose feast day is observed on December 24.

**Vegetables** ~ Place a handful of peas, beans, and lentils on each corner of the table as a reminder of the bountiful year and to ensure that next year will be just as good.

**Lighted Candle** ~ The candle, which gives the light and warmth is the symbol of Christ, the Light of the World.

**Sprinkling of Holy Water** ~ The mother of the family sprinkles the table and the rest of the house so that the blessing of God might rest on the family.



# OUR FAVORITE RECIPES



## A Typical Slovak Christmas Eve Menu

- Oplatky
- Wine
- Honey
- Garlic
- Dried Peas
- Mushroom Soup
- Pagach
- Bobalky
- Stewed Prunes
- Mushroom Soup (Machanka)
- Caraway Soup
- Mushroom Stuffed Cabbage
- Bread for Christmas Eve
- Christmas Bread
- (Figs, Dates, Oranges, Apples, Tangerines)
- Mixed Nuts
- Nut Rolls
- Poppyseed Rolls
- Pirohy

### PIROHY

- 1 cup flour
- About 4 tablespoons water
- 1 egg

Mix flour and egg with enough water to make a soft dough; knead well. Roll out on floured board until thin. Cut into squares. Place 1 teaspoon filling on each square. Fold in half, making a triangle. Pinch edges well to keep filling inside. Drop into boiling salted water and cook until they rise to surface. Cook 5 minutes longer. Rinse in colander with hot water. Drain. Pour melted butter over pirohy and serve.

#### Cheese Filling

- 1/2 cup dry cottage cheese
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 teaspoon butter
- pinch salt

Mix together

#### Potato Filling

- 1 large potato cooked and mashed
- 1 tablespoon butter

(Optional-grated cheese to taste)

Lekvar may be used as filling. Cooked sauerkraut may also be used as filling. Drain and rinse sauerkraut in cold water. Brown diced onion in shortening, add sauerkraut. Cook for a few minutes.

### BREAD FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

- 1 package dry yeast
- 1/2 cup lukewarm water
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 6 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons salad oil

Dissolve yeast in warm water with 1/8 teaspoon salt and 1 tablespoon sugar. Set in warm place to rise. Sift 6 cups flour in deep bowl, add 2 cups warm water, 4 tablespoons sugar, 1 teaspoon salt, 4 tablespoons salad oil.

Knead well and set aside to rise. When double in bulk, punch down, let rise second time until double. Punch down. Divide dough in two. Shape one part into round bread, cover and let stand 20 minutes. Punch down

and reshape. Place in greased pan. Allow to rise until double in bulk. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Note: The second part of this dough will be use for Bobalky.

### CHRISTMAS EVE BOBALKY

Use other half of above dough for bobalky. Knead and roll on floured board into rope. Cut and roll into balls about 1 inch in diameter. Place on floured pan, let rise 15 minutes. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes or until just slightly brown. Cook then place in deep bowl, pour boiling water over just to soak a little. Drain in colander. Then place in serving dish, heat honey with a little water, pour over bobalky.

Mix 1.2 cup ground poppyseed and 1/4 cup sugar and then add to bobalky. Let stand several hours in cool place (or refrigerator) for several hours before serving.

Note: some bobalky are served with sweet cabbage or sauerkraut. Sautee cabbage or sauerkraut with onion in salad oil, then mix with bobalky.

### NUT ROLLS

- 8 cups flour
- 2 cups milk (scalded)
- 4 egg yolks
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 large yeast or 3 envelopes dry yeast
- 1/2 pound butter
- 1.2 pound oleo or crisco
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla

Dissolve yeast in 1 cup lukewarm milk. Stir well. Add sugar, shortening and salt to rest of the milk and cool. Beat egg slightly and add to mixtures, then add the yeast mixture to the rest of the lukewarm mixture. Put half of the flour in a bowl and add the above mixture a little at a time. Mix well. Add remainder of flour to make soft dough using just enough flour to knead without sticking. Cover. Let rise double in bulk.

Keep in warm place. Takes about 2 hours to rise. Knead down a little to get out puffiness. Divide into 6 parts and let stand 10 minutes. Roll out and spread with nut mixture. Roll tightly and place on greased baking sheet and let rise about 1 hour and bake in 350 degrees over 35 to 40 minutes. Brush each roll with slightly beaten egg before baking. Brush with melted butter after baked.

### NUT MIXTURE

- 4 pounds nuts (ground)
- 4 cups sugar
- 1 stick butter (melted)
- 1/4 cup milk (enough to moisten nut mixture)

### PAGACH

- 10 cups flour
- 2 yeast cakes (or 2 packages dry yeast)
- 2 sticks margarine
- 2 eggs beaten
- 2 tablespoons salt
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 1/2 cups milk (or more necessary)

Knead all together until well blended as for bread dough. Let rise double in bulk in warm place. Punch down, let rise once again. Turn out on floured board, separate into 8 or 10

portions. Let rise until light. With rolling pin flatten enough to place about 1 cup of filling in center of each mound of dough. Bring dough up over mound and pinch together to shape a round ball. Let rest about 1.2 hour with filling then carefully roll out as thin as you want it. Place on cookie sheet. Bake until golden brown then butter on both sides. Rounds should be about 14 inches in diameter or as thin as you like them.

Filling: Fried cabbage or potato and cheese

### TWO HOUR NUT AND POPPYSEED ROLLS

- 6 cups sifted flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 2 packages dry yeast
- 1/2 cup warm milk
- 1/4 pound butter
- 1/2 cup vegetable shortening
- 3 eggs beaten
- 1 cup sour cream

Dissolve yeast in warm milk. Sift together flour, salt and sugar. Add shortening and butter. Mix as for pie crust. Add beaten eggs and sour cream. Add yeast - blend well.

Divide dough in four parts. Let rise 30 minutes. Roll each part thin as for jelly roll. Spread with one of the following fillings. Roll and place on greased pan and allow to rise for one hour or until double in bulk. Bake 35 to 40 minutes at 350 degrees.

### NUT FILLING

- 1/2 pound chopped nuts
  - 1/2 cup sugar
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla
  - 1/4 cup scalded milk
  - 1 teaspoon melted butter
- Melt butter. Add walnuts, sugar and vanilla.
- Add scalded milk. Mix well.

### POPPYSEED FILLING

- 1/2 pound ground poppyseed
  - 3/4 cup sugar
  - 1/2 cup scalded milk
  - 1 tablespoon melted butter
- Combine all ingredients, mix well.

### CHRISTMAS BREAD

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 cups scalded milk
- 1 cup warm water (NOT HOT)
- 2 packages dry or compressed yeast
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 8 cups flour
- 1 cup seedless raisins

Put sugar, shortening, salt and scalded milk in a large bowl; stir until shortening melts. Cool to lukewarm. Pour warm water into small bowl; sprinkle or crumble in yeast, stir until dissolved. Add eggs and yeast to lukewarm milk mixture and blend. Add 2/3 of flour and beat until smooth. Gradually add remaining flour, mixing well after each addition. Add raisins and turn out on floured board and knead until smooth and elastic; place in greased bowl. Brush with melted shortening, cover, and let rise in warm place until it doubles (about 1 1/2 hours). Punch down divide into 3 equal portions. Shape into

2 round loaves; let rise again until it doubles. Brush with beaten eggs. Bake in hot oven for 10 minutes at 450 degrees then turn to 350 degrees and continue baking for 45 minutes or until golden brown.

### MUSHROOM CABBAGE

- 1 head cabbage (about 3 pounds)
  - 1 large can sauerkraut
  - 1 cup ground mushrooms (either canned, dry or frozen)
  - 1 cup rice (uncooked)
  - 2 tablespoons oleo
  - 1 medium onion
  - 1/2 teaspoon salt
  - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- For Sauce and Brown Gravy
- 1 tablespoon shortening
  - 1 tablespoon flour

Cut core out of cabbage to loosen leaves. Place cabbage into boiling water for a few minutes. Remove leaves, cut away the thick rib from cabbage leaves. Fry the onions in the oleo until soft, add to mushrooms, rice. Season to taste. Place about 1 teaspoon in each cabbage leaf and roll. Drain sauerkraut, use about half the kraut in the bottom of the pot. Arrange rolls over the kraut, cover the remaining kraut. Fill pot with water, to top off the rolls. Cook slowly for about 2 hours.

Sauce: Brown flour in shortening. Add about a cup of water. Bring to boil, then pour over the cabbage rolls. Cook for just about 5 more minutes.

### MUSHROOM SOUP (MACHANKA)

Wash dried mushrooms. Soak overnight. In morning cook mushrooms in the water. Add salt and pepper to taste. Cook slowly for 2 hours or more.

Zaprashka (Soup thickening)

Brown 1 chopped onion in 2 tablespoons salad oil, add browned onion to mushroom soup. To remaining oil add 2 tablespoons flour slowly, brown and then add to mushroom soup to thicken. Cook for a few minutes and serve hot.

#### MUSHROOM SOUP

- 7 cups fresh mushrooms (chopped)
- 3 quarts water
- 1 quart sauerkraut juice
- Salt and pepper (to taste)
- 1 small onion
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons flour

Cook mushrooms in water about 1 hour.

Brown butter onion; add flour and brown well. Add sauerkraut juice and boil this for 5 minutes. Add to soup and boil 1/2 hour longer.

### CARAWAY SOUP

- 3 tablespoons oleo
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon caraway seeds
- 3 cups boiling water
- 3 tablespoons flour

Melt shortening in heavy saucepan. Add chopped onion and cook over low heat until lightly golden. Add salt, flour and caraway seeds. Blend and cook, stirring constantly, until mixture is slightly thickened. Serve at once.

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 1- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 1, held a meeting on September 9, 2008. On the agenda was a discussion of the District meeting, the clustering of branches, the St. Andrew Abbey Benefit, our sick members, annual election of officers, and the Christmas Party on December 16.

**Mary Dubber, Secretary**

## BRANCH 1- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 1, will hold its Christmas Meeting and Social Party on Tuesday, December 16, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Cyril's Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. We encourage all our members to attend. The activities for 2008 and 2009 will be discussed and the officers will be elected.

We wish a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

**Mary Dubber, Secretary**

## BRANCH 3P- HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 3P, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 21, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. in Saint Joseph Church Cafeteria, North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. The election of officers for 2009 will be conducted followed by a short update on local branch activities. New ideas for branch activities will be entertained. Any changes of addresses or beneficiaries can be submitted at this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Mike Koval, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 5P- EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Evangelist Society, Branch 5P, will hold its Semiannual Meeting and Election of Officers on Sunday, December 21, 2008, at 1:00 P.M. at the home of President Leonard J. Zavada, 141 Second Street, Wyoming, Pennsylvania.

**Leonard J. Zavada, President**

## BRANCH 7- HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, 9:00 p.m. at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin Street, Houtzdale, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place. All members are urged to attend.

**Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 19- BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, now named the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall. The election of officers will also take place at this meeting.

**Henry Zack, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 23- JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 23, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Saturday, December 27, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at Leo's Pizza, 61 Fairfield Avenue, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be a general discussion of the branch business and the election of officers for the coming year. All members are invited to attend. A luncheon will be held following the business part of the meeting.

**Lawrence Fenimore, President**

## BRANCH 24- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Andrew Svorad Society, Branch 24, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the Karlin Club, 5308 Fleet Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. On the agenda will be a financial report, a discussion of branch activities, and the election of officers.

**Bob Kopco, President**

## BRANCH 35- BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael Slovak Society, Branch 35, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 10, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the residence of Joseph Yuros, 15 Sumner Avenue, Forest Hills, Pennsylvania. Fraternal activities for the year 2009 as well as other lodge business will be discussed. All members are invited to attend.

**Joseph Yuros, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 38- DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38, will hold its Annual Meeting on Friday, December 5, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Florence Matta, 3409 Eisenhower Court, White Oak, Pennsylvania. The agenda will include a recap of the Branch activities for the year, a discussion of plans for 2008, and the election of officers. The Branch is once more gathering useful items to be sent to our troops in Iraq through our local veteran organizations. For any further information, please call 412/466-7460.

We wish our members and their families a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry and Blessed Christmas Holiday.

**Florence K. Matta, Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 40- STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at Chippers Grill, 1733 N. Bloomington Street, Streator, Illinois. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, election of officers for 2009, and a discussion of events for next year. All members are invited to attend the meeting and dinner at no cost. Nonmembers will be charged \$12.00. Please make reservations by calling Maria Harcar at 815/672-6682 before December 12.

**Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 85- JESSUP, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Florian Society, Branch 85, will hold a meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the Jessup American Legion Post 411, Church Street, Jessup, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place at this meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

**Bernard Skovira**

## BRANCH 153- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Members of the St. Stephen Society, Branch 153, are invited to a wonderful afternoon of fraternalism around the Slovak Christmas Tree at the Museum of Science and Industry on Sunday, December 14, 2008, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

We thank the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District Christmas Tree Committee for their dedication in setting up a most spectacular tree each year.

**Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 157- CATASAUQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Andrew Society, Branch 157, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. in the upstairs hall in the Slovak Center. On the agenda will be the election of officers and a discussion of future business. The Christmas Party will start at 1:30 p.m. Santa will arrive at 2:00 p.m. To register your child (ages 0-10), call the Club at 610/264-0740.

The officers of Branch 157 wish everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

**Greg Harakal, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 162- UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in the third floor meeting room at the Meridian Point Apartments, Confer Vista Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Branch activities will be discussed and the election of officers will take place. All members are invited to attend.

**Dolores Marmol, Secretary**

## BRANCH 173- GREATER WILKES-BARRE AREA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 173, will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 17, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at Norms, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The meeting will be for general business.

If you have any questions or plan to attend the meeting, please contact Dorothy A. Ungvarsky, 15 Grove St., Mountaintop, PA 18707, Phone: 570/403-2067, or E-mail at [chumley4@prodigy.net](mailto:chumley4@prodigy.net) so that arrangements can be made.

**Dorothy A. Ungvarsky, President**

## BRANCH 181- UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 181, will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 11, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of George and Florence Sprock. All members are cordially invited to attend. The election of officers will take place.

We look forward to seeing all Branch 181 members at the meeting.

**G. Kovacina, Secretary**

## BRANCH 199- HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 199, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Francis Pipak. The election of officers will be held at that time. A good turnout is requested.

**Sophie Pipak, President**

## BRANCH 213- RENFREW, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael Society, Branch 213, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at 3061 Kensington Court, Renfrew, Pennsylvania. We will have the election of officers for 2009. All members are asked to attend.

The officers of Branch 213 extend to you and yours a most Blessed Holiday.

**Joe Belechak, Secretary**

## BRANCH 259- STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society,

Branch 259, will have a Mass celebrated on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church, Struthers, Ohio. The Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members of the branch. Following the liturgy, the Annual Meeting will be held at the Bedford Trails Golf Course, Coitsville, Ohio. All members are welcome and are urged to attend this meeting.

**Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 228- LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Society, Branch 228, will hold their next meeting on Monday, December 15, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 30<sup>th</sup> and Broadway, Lorain, Ohio. Our meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the American Slovak Club. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaws review during the December meeting as is done each December. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. The term of Tom Zuffa and Lisa Trifiletti-Palos will expire on December 31, 2008. Anyone interested in running for branch office and/or as ASC board representative should contact the branch officers and attend the December meeting. There is a lot of activity going on in both the FCSU and the Slovak Club so come and join in the fun. Visit the websites for the FCSU at [fcsu.com](http://fcsu.com) and the Slovak Club at [americanslovakclub.com](http://americanslovakclub.com) for an update. See you at the Club. Happy Holidays to all!

**Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 240P- TAYLOR, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 240P, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, January 11, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Stephen J. Kavulich, 41 Hedge Row Run, Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania.

**Mark Kavulich, Secretary**

## BRANCH 259- STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will have a Mass celebrated on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church, Struthers, Ohio. The Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members of the branch. Following the liturgy, the Annual Meeting will be held at the Bedford Trails Golf Course, Coitsville, Ohio. All members are welcome and are urged to attend this meeting.

**Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 266- HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 266, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 21, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. in Saint Joseph Church Cafeteria, 604 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. Officers will be elected for 2009 and suggestions for branch activities for the next year will be discussed. Please spread the word so more of our members will attend and become involved in branch activities. Please plan to attend.

**Richard Lazar, Financial Secretary**

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 292- WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 292, will hold its Annual Meeting and Christmas Party on Sunday, December 21, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, Pennsylvania. All members are asked to attend.

We wish to extend to all wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Edward T. Surkosky, President**

## BRANCH 293- LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 293, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Kathryn Drexel Church Social Hall, 124 East Abbot Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania.

Anyone needing service with their insurance should contact Robert Lakata, 527 East Bertsch St., Lansford, PA 18232 or leave a message at 570/645-4872.

**Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 313- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 313, will hold a meeting on Saturday, January 10, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. at Mother of Sorrows Convent, 5900 West 147<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. On the agenda will be officers' reports and a discussion of new membership for the FCSI which has good products to offer our members. We will also have reports from the auditors and the treasurer. After the meeting, the election of officers will take place.

Best wishes and congratulations to Jamie Clark and Laurin Tocik for winning FCSU Jednota 2008 Scholarships.

**Joseph M. Bugel,  
President & Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 313- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 313, is trying to locate the following members: Vincent Cerniuk, Theresa Hatfield, Amy Horwath, Stephen Izacovics, Colleen Komar, Eugene Korienek, Marguerite Korienek, Stephen Kosteb, Charles Kozak, Kenneth Michalik, Barbara Perkins, Kimberly Rozema, Thaddeus Rozema, Josephine Ruzon, Angela Schandor, and Lorna Talabay. If anyone knows the address or phone number for any of these members please call Joseph Bugel at 708/349-7873.

**Joseph M. Bugel, President**

## BRANCH 320- STOCKDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of the SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the next meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 12:00 noon at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. Since lunch will be served, please call Fran at 724/929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending.

**Mary Anne Higginbotham, President**

## BRANCH 327- POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 327, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 21, 2008 at 9:15 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church Social Hall, 370 South Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place.

**Georgia Zeleznick, Secretary**

## BRANCH 372- BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 372, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Michael Hudak, 829 Cameron Avenue, Beaverdale, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place.

The officers of Branch 372 wish all members a Blessed and Happy Holiday.

**Michael Hudak, President**

## BRANCH 382- SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382, is updating its file information system. If you have any changes in names, addresses, beneficiaries, please contact the financial secretary, John J. Slovenkai Sr., 318 Fourteenth Ave., Scranton, PA 18504-2512, as soon as possible.

We are also proud to announce three new members to the branch. They are: Anna Elizabeth Bajor, Samantha Rose Bajor and Michelle Bajor.

The officers of Branch 382 wish everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

**John J. Slovenkai, Sr., Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 393- HANNASTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Mary Ann Nalevanko, 459 Front Street, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

**Mary Ann Nalevanko, Secretary**

## BRANCH 421- NANTY GLO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 421, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Lillian Stager, 124 Circle Drive, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

**Lillian R. Stager, Secretary-Treasurer**

## BRANCH 456- HAWK RUN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 456, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 12:00 noon at the Lincoln Slovak Club, Fourth Street, Hawk Run, Pennsylvania.

**Alice Pollock**

## BRANCH 484- GRACETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph the Protector Society, Branch 484, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall, Coral, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be a discussion of the annual District meeting, financial reports, and the election of officers. All members are welcome.

The officers of Branch 484 wish all their members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 553- AKRON, OHIO

Will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. At this meeting we will hold the election of officers for the year 2009. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors of the Lodge, you must submit your name in writing and the position you would like to serve. This information must be sent to Vera Thomas, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee,

1232 Steve Drive, Akron, OH 44319. This information must be received by December 7, 2008.

The officers of Branch 553 wish all members a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Linda M. Hanko, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 567- ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 567, will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 17, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in St. John the Baptist Slovak Church Social Hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the annual report and the swearing in of officers. Members are urged to attend.

Our Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner was successful and enjoyed by all the people who attended.

The officers of Branch 567 wish everyone a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

**Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 581- GARY, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 581, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 28, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at Pruzins Funeral Home, 6360 Broadway, Merrillville, Indiana. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2009, a financial report, and a discussion of branch activities.

For information on insurance and annuity products call George Kelchak at 219/926-2410.

**George Kelchak, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 682- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. George Society, Branch 682, will hold its annual Christmas Party and Swearing in of Officers on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. at Materials Research Lab, Struthers, Ohio. All members are invited to attend.

**Andrew J. Hirt, President**

## BRANCH 721- BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 721, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at St. Cyril's Catholic Church Meeting Room. The election of officers will take place. All members are urged to attend.

**Joseph Beno, Jr., Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 731- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will hold its next scheduled meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008 at 12:30 p.m. at Saint Matthias Church Rectory, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio.

**James Bobby, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 743- STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Social Hall, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan. On the agenda will be officers' reports, a 2008 financial report, approval of the 2009 budget, a discussion of branch activities and other business pertaining to the branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The election of officers will also take place. Members are urged to attend the celebration of the Slo-

vak Mass before the meeting at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. Please come and enjoy our annual Christmas meeting with your fellow branch members.

Members who need assistance with their policy or need to change their address or beneficiary should contact the Financial Secretary of Branch 743, Joseph C. Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087 or phone 586/254-0225.

On behalf of the officers of Branch 743, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

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

## BRANCH 746- LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of Msgr. Komar Hall at Holy Family Church, Linden, New Jersey. The agenda will include election of officers for 2009 and the planning of events for the coming year. A holiday get together will follow the meeting.

**Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary**

## BRANCH 769- ENDICOTT, NEW YORK

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 769, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Wednesday, December 17, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the residence of Henry J. Pochily, 2809 Smith Drive, Endwell, New York. All members are encouraged and welcomed to attend.

**Henry J. Pochily, President**

## BRANCH 785- TORONTO, CANADA

The St. John Society, Branch 785 will have a joint Annual Meeting with the Msgr. Michael Shuba District on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Mississauga, Ontario. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Milos Mitro, Regional Director**

## BRANCH 844- LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 844, will hold its Annual Slovak Christmas Mass on Sunday, December 21, 2008, at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass will begin at 11:00 a.m. A delicious authentic Slovak lunch will be served after the liturgy along with the presentation of gifts for the children. Please come and join us in celebrating the Slovak spirit of Christmas.

Following the festivities, Branch 844 members will hold a meeting to review officers' reports, hold election of new officers and discuss branch activities.

We hope to see all our members on Sunday, December 21. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very special New Year.

**Milan Konkol, Secretary**

## BRANCH 831- TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Clement Society, Branch 831, held a meeting on Monday, December 8, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Kathleen Persun, 158 Davidson Street, Tarentum, Pennsylvania. The nomination of officers took place at this meeting.

The officers of Branch 831 would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Kathleen M. Persun, Secretary**  
*continued on page 16*

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## Dr. Edward A. Tuleya, Educator, Athlete and Scholar

Dr. Edward Andrew Tuleya, 89, of Millersville, Pennsylvania and former Curator and Archivist of the Slovak Museum & Archives in Middletown, died Wednesday, November 11, 2008.

Born September 10, 1919, in Bridgeport, Connecticut, he was the son of the late John and Barbara (Timchak) Tuleya. He married to Olga Lausegerova Tuleya in Prague on August 15, 1949.

A resident of York, Pennsylvania, Dr. Tuleya played baseball and basketball for William Penn High School, York Collegiate Institute and Penn State, where he graduated in 1942.

A veteran of World War II, Dr. Tuleya proudly served with the U.S. Army as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant and was the recipient of a Purple Heart and World War II Victory Medal.

After the war, he studied at Oxford University and other European universities. He received a M.A. in Modern European History from Columbia University in 1947 and a Ph.D. in Eastern European and Soviet Union History from American University in 1967.

He achieved Master Teacher status at William Penn High School, York, where he taught World Cultures, and coached baseball, 1948-1969. After receiving his Ph.D. he

taught history at Millersville University from 1968 until his retirement in 1981 as Professor Emeritus.

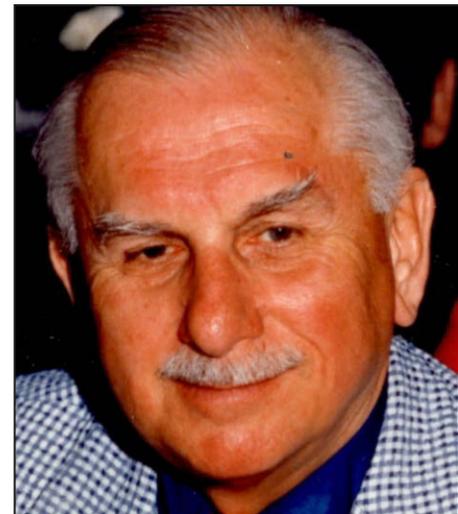
From 1983 until 1995 Dr. Tuleya served as curator and archivist at the Slovak Museum and Archives on the Jednota Estates in Middletown. As curator and archivist, Dr. Tuleya became well known among members in the FCSU who came to him for help in genealogy and with questions on Slovak history and culture. Dr. Tuleya was always very generous with his time and showed willingness to assist people in any way he could. He was also very well known for his beautiful displays at ethnic festivals at Penn State University and in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and other cities.

As a historian, he traveled widely and received many awards internationally for his work, including the John Hay Fellowship at the University of Chicago. At the time of his death he was completing a book on Frantisek Jehlicka.

Dr. Tuleya remained active throughout his life, studying and doing research, even until his last days. He loved people and was devoted to his family and friends. He loved to tend to his garden, draw, write poetry and was an avid college sports fan. His beloved dog was his constant companion.

He survived by his wife, Olga of Millersville; two daughters, Helena Tuleya-Payne, wife of Thomas Payne of Landisville, and Andrea Tuleya Angelo, wife of Jack Angelo of Reno, Nevada; five grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Friends were received at the Andrew T. Scheid Funeral Home, Millersville. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, Lancaster. Interment was in St. Joseph's New Catholic Cemetery, Bausman, with Military Rites accorded by the Red Rose Veteran's Honor Guard.



Dr. Edward A. Tuleya

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# FCSU 2008 Christmas Coloring Contest

A

Ring the bells of Christmas morn,  
Tell the world a king is born;  
He, the Saviour promised long,  
Come and hail Him with a song.  
Wake your harps, ye angels bright;  
Sing aloud, ye hosts of light;  
Sing, as on that holy night, Glory in the Highest!



B



Ring the bells of Christmas day,  
Waft the story far away;  
Thro' the air, the earth, the sea,  
Christ has come our life to be.  
Wake your harps, ye angels bright;  
Sing aloud, ye hosts of light;  
Sing, as on that holy night, Glory in the Highest!



## YOUTH ROUND-UP

Charles Boone of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a Bear Cub Scout. He is in the third grade at Our Lady of Grace School. He is an active member of Branch 853, Ellsworth, Pennsylvania. Charles is the son of Ron Boone and Monica Rodacy-Boone. Here Charles shares his experiences on a recent overnight camping trip.

On November 7-9 Cub Scout Pack 262 from Scott Township went on an overnight camping trip in South Park, which is located south of Pittsburgh.

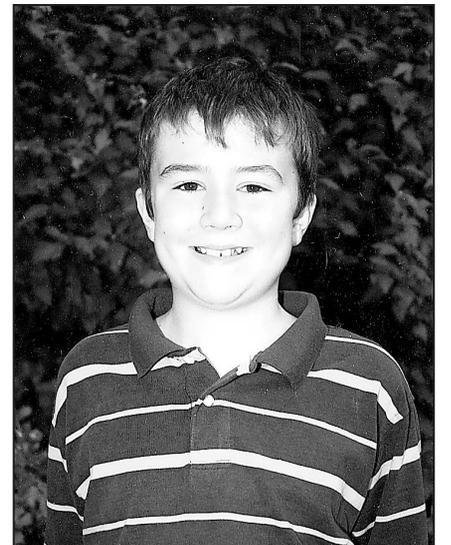
The first night we built a huge bonfire. We told scary stories with the other scouts. One story was "May I Carry Your Basket." It was about a guy who wants to carry a girl's basket and the girl's head comes out

of the basket and bites him on both legs! It was really scary.

On the second day, we used our compass to find our way on a Compass Course. We then did a scavenger hunt looking for a treasure chest full of candy. We were following some "eyes" which were pins on trees. Our group decided to hide in the woods and we scared other scouts when they came near. We all laughed.

We also did a bike hike where we rode on old tennis courts with two piles of chains and two platforms.

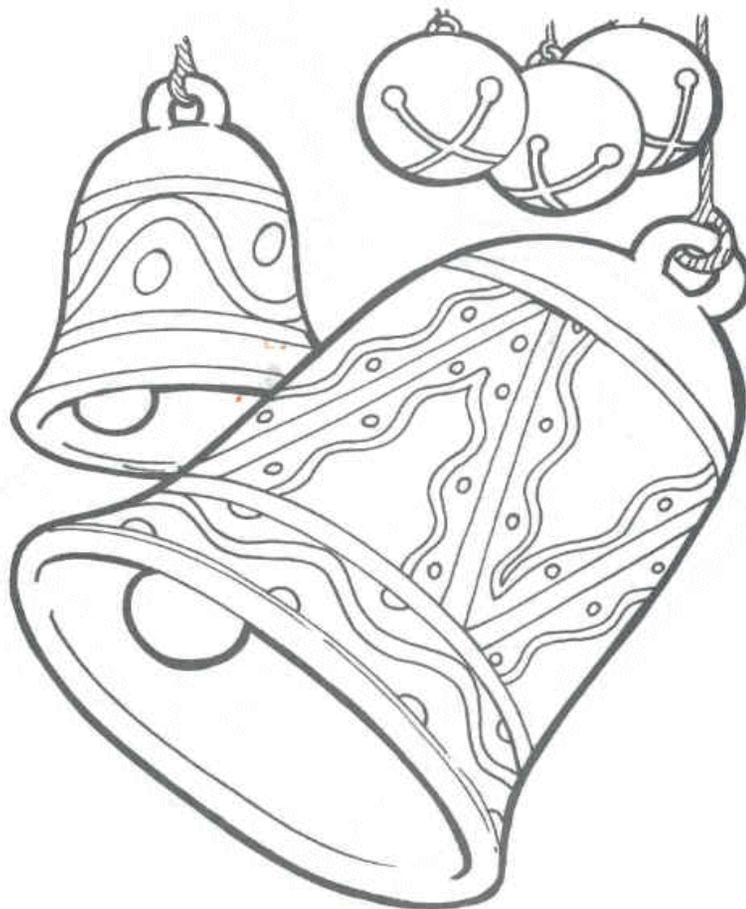
On both days we ended the day with a bonfire with the whole pack. I had a really good time and I am looking forward to the next camping trip.



Charles Boone

# FCSU 2008 Christmas Coloring Contest

C



Ring the bells of love and peace,  
 Ring the bells till time shall cease;  
 Lo, He comes with us to dwell,  
 Christ the Lord, Immanuel.  
 Wake your harps, ye angels bright;  
 Sing aloud, ye hosts of light;  
 Sing, as on that holy night, Glory in the Highest!

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**  
**Veselé Vianoce a Šťastný Nový Rok!**

**PRIZES**

Winners in each age group will receive the following:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Jednota fleece blanket and \$25.00**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Jednota fleece blanket and \$15.00**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Jednota fleece blanket and \$10.00**
- Honorable Mention - \$5 Gift Card**

**RULES**

1. Each age group is assigned a certain picture:  
**4 – 6 year olds – picture A**  
**7 – 9 year olds – picture B**  
**10 – 12 year olds – picture C**
2. Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
3. Pictures are allowed to be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.
4. Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
5. Your child's completed entry form, colored picture, and a photo of your child must be postmarked by **December 31, 2008**.
6. Mail to:  
 Susan Ondrejco  
 Fraternal Activities Director  
 234 Ilion St.  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

*Please submit this form with your child's entry by December 31, 2008*

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Certificate Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Regional Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Region 1 (New York, New Jersey, and New England States)  
 Region 2 (Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Washington D.C.)  
 Region 3 (Central Pennsylvania and SS. Cyril & Methodius District)  
 Region 4 (West of Harrisburg, West Virginia, and Florida)  
 Region 5 (Western Pennsylvania, Johnstown, and Pittsburgh)  
 Region 6 (State of Ohio)  
 Region 7 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Points West)  
 Regions 8 and 9 (Canada)

Joseph Minarovich  
 Damian D. Nasta  
 Carl Ungvarsky  
 George Sprock  
 Regis Brekosky  
 Henry Hassay  
 Rudolph Glugovsky  
 Milos Mitro



## Slovak Christmas Tree on Display in Chicago

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District is once again sponsoring the Slovak Christmas Tree display as part of the Museum of Science and Industry annual 'Christmas Around the World' exhibit in Chicago. Christmas trees from 54 nations, decorated by Chicago's various ethnic communities, are on display until January 4, 2009. This year's exhibit theme is 'Celebrating 75 Years of Museum Memories,' as the museum celebrates its Diamond Jubilee. Bring your children, grandchildren, friends and relatives to view the beautiful Slovaks Tree on display! The museum is located at 57<sup>th</sup> Street and South Lake Shore Drive on Chicago's south side, in the Hyde Park neighborhood near the University of Chicago. For more information, call 773/684-1414, or visit [www.msichicago.org](http://www.msichicago.org).

**Robert Tapak Magruder**  
 Slovak tree Committee-Publicist



The Slovak Christmas Tree in Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry



# Minster Jan Kubis Honored

By John Karch

On November 21, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic Jan Kubis was honored by the Woodrow Wilson Center of Washington, D.C. The Minister also had "working discussions with Pennsylvania Congressman Joe Sestak (D-7<sup>th</sup>) and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. In response to my question about his discussion with Minister Kubis, Congressman Sestak said:

"This was our second meeting and one I very much enjoyed both professionally and personally. Minister Kubis is a wonderful representative of his country, where my own roots are, through my father. We discussed the terrific value of Slovakia to the community of free countries, as well as challenges that confront both of our respective countries as we face the future together. From economic security to national security, our discussions were most insightful for me, harboring a greater understanding with each meeting of the contributions of the Slovak Republic to the community of nations."

## Warm Welcome

The Deputy Director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Michael Van Dusen, welcomed Minister Kubis to the Director's Forum, explaining that the Minister was joining the Center's important Annual Czech and Slovak Lecture series, initiated in 2000 by the Czech and Slovak Embassies in Washington, which continues to be cosponsored by them, to "commemorate the inspiring struggle for freedom by the Czech and Slovak people."

The Woodrow Wilson Center, he said, is "proud to host this annual lecture, a living memorial honoring President Woodrow Wilson. It provides an essential link between the worlds of ideas and policy, building bridges among viewpoints, cultures, and walks of life, in order to address current and future domestic and international challenges....Created by an Act of Congress, the Center is a non-partisan institution supported by both the public and private funds.

Over the last nine years, this lecture series has given the Wilson Center and its East European Studies Program the pleasure to host, among others, Secretary Madeleine Albright, Adam Michnik, a Solidarity leader and prominent newspaper editor, and Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic."

The Lecture Series is sponsored by the Friends of Slovakia (FOS) and the American Friends of the Czech Republic (AFOCR)...Mr. Van Dusen recognized and thanked Charge d'affaires of the Slovak Embassy, Andrej Droba, and of the Czech Embassy, Jaroslav Kurfurst, for their support of this program, as well as FOS Founding Chairman Ambassador Ted Russell and AFOCR incoming President Tom Dine and former President Phil Kasik. He also recognized FOS Chairman Joe Senko and Secretary Julie Slavik "who have worked to make Foreign Minister Kubis' Washington program a success."

## Illustrious Career

Before giving Minister Kubis the floor, Mr. Van Dusen gave a brief profile of the Minister's "illustrious career," beginning with his graduation from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations in 1976, and continuing with "a long and distinguished diplomatic career at the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Czecho-Slovakia." (See his experience in my JEDNOTA article "Slovak Minister Kubis Reflects New Government's Foreign Policy," October 18, 2006, p. 1.)

## Foreign Minister Kubis

Minister Kubis delivered a comprehensive lecture on "Strengthening U.S.-Slovak Cooperation and the Transatlantic Partnership: Opportunities and Challenges in Today's World." (As of this writing, this lecture can be seen and heard on the Center's video, but the usual summary was not yet available).

In his prepared text, Minister Kubis said, in part: "This personal invitation means a lot to me. It is truly an honor that I can follow so many distinguished predecessors and give this Czech and Slovak Freedom Lecture...."

## March Toward Freedom

"Today," the Minister continued, "Slovakia is an integral part of all global processes and efforts and shares with others its part of global responsibility. I say this with a feeling of pride, because I represent a country that only less than 20 years ago as a part of Czechoslovakia broke free from communism and some 15 years ago began to build a democratic future for its citizens as an independent country...."

The events of 1968 and the subsequent 20 years of darkness just reinforced in the minds of ma-



Photo by David Hawxhurst

Jan Kubis speaking at the 9th Annual Czech and Slovak Freedom Lecture

majority of the citizens of Czechoslovakia that communism means a future without perspective, life in an isolated and closed society, without personal and societal freedom, without access to unbiased information, with very limited opportunities to travel abroad, with weak possibilities for professional and intellectual developments and success, and first of all without a chance to decide on one's own future and destiny...."

In Slovakia this year we also commemorated the 20th anniversary of a massive candlelight Christian demonstration for human rights and civic freedoms in March 1988 in Bratislava. The ruling communist regime managed to put out the candles... with water hoses, but the light of freedom was burning anyway. And only a year later, on November 17, 1989, the participants in that candle-light demonstration, who longed for the fall of the totalitarian regime in the building of a free society, saw their dreams and prayers come true."

## Transition to Democracy

The transition...to a democratic system for Slovakia was complicated, he said, one important external factor being the role of the U.S. "Thanks to the U.S.," the Minister said, "support and trust in our people, Slovakia together with the whole Central European region joined the community of democratic countries of the world.... Slovakia and the U.S. enjoy excellent bilateral relations....And I am extraordinarily pleased that today, a few days after the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, I can with deep satisfaction state that our partnership has also been expressed through including Slovakia to the visa waiver program."

## Slovakia a Success

"Today's Slovakia," he declared, "is a success story....We strive to contribute to positive developments, above all in countries where we have historical ties and our story carries weight—in the Western Balkans and in Eastern Europe, but also in Cuba....Slovakia began engaging more deeply in support for democratic change in the Western Balkans in 1999...Later, the Bratislava-Belgrade Fund was established as a part of direct Slovak development assistance. In a similar vein, we have worked with civil society in Ukraine, Belarus, or Cuba. The Slovak Embassy in Kiev is NATO's official Contact Point Embassy."

## The Euro Zone

"Slovakia's membership in the EU and NATO," the Minister said, "means that we have assumed all the obligations arising from our membership....In a few weeks, the process of our European integration will be completed with Slovakia's accession to the Euro area. The Slovak crown ("koruna") will cease to be legal tender as of January 1, 2009 when the Euro will take over as Slovakia's currency...."

The Euro as a currency also has its psychological and social dimension. The introduction of the Euro makes Slovak citizens feel truly European, equal with others as members of this exclusive club of the most developed European countries—the Euro zone...." He then commented on Slovakia's peacekeeping role under the UN, NATO, and EU umbrella. He expressed his appreciation "for solidarity, help, and understanding of the Visegrad 4." However, democracy is not a simple system, there are no easy solutions, and challenges exist.

## The Hungarian Issue

Minister Kubis observed a troubling radicalism throughout the countries old and new. He specifically cited a major problem for Slovakia. "As recently as three weeks ago a uniformed group of such neo-nazis from Hungary crossed into the territory of Slovakia to commemorate the Munich Treaty—linked Vienna Arbitrage that in 1938 deprived Slovakia of a major part of its territory, including Kosice." This led to a meeting of the Slovak and Hungarian Prime Ministers "to declare their readiness to take measures against extremism and aggressive nationalism as well as hate speech."

## Transatlantic Relations

"Transatlantic relations," the Minister stressed, "are the foundation of Slovakia's security and we believe also of global security, stability and development....Now, after the elections in the U.S., what do we expect from the President-elect Obama? The world and, in particular, Europe expects the expression of a strong political will for genuine partnership, broad and intensive dialogue, a certain change of style in foreign policy, a departure from unilateralism, a restoration of the U.S. high moral ground. We do understand U.S. insistence on a EU assuming a greater share of responsibility for addressing common problems. The EU should indeed be ready to do this...."

In my view, the key prerequisite for a stable and effective system of international relations is strict compliance with international legal norms and standards.... I also believe that it is extremely dangerous to use the exercise of collective rights of minorities or ethnic groups (through distortion of international law) as an argument for violating the territorial integrity of internationally recognized states...."

The changing conditions in the world call for a coordinated response by the EU and the U.S.... The U.S. and Europe can indeed become a decisive force in the service of the general good. They, however, need to unite over a common vision for a safe and successful future."

## FOS and AFOCR Awards

The hour-long event was concluded with Ambassador Russell presenting Foreign Minister Kubis with the FOS Medal of Honor and Tom Dine and Phil Kasik with the AFOCR Certificate of Appreciation.

## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

*continued from page 11*

### BRANCH 856- WASHINGTON, D.C., MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA

Our Mother of Sorrows Society, Branch 856, will hold its next meeting on Thursday, December 11, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at the Pimmit Hills Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike (Route 7), Falls Church, Virginia. On the agenda will be a discussion of the District meeting, planning of our dinner get together, and the election of officers. All members are urged to attend this meeting. For more information call Stephen Matula at 703/671-3013 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 703/860-1693.

**Katherine Nowatkoski,**  
Financial Secretary/Treasurer

### BRANCH 857- LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 857, will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of the Financial Secretary

Andy Herman, 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, Pennsylvania. The election of officers for 2009 will be held at this meeting.

The officers of Branch 857 extend to all wishes for a Safe, Happy and Holy Holiday Season.

**Damian D. Nasta, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 888- WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 888, will hold its next two meetings on Sunday, December 7 and Sunday, December 14, 2008. Both meetings will take place at 1:00 p.m. at 4649 Perth Road, West Palm Beach, Florida. On the agenda will be a treasurer's report, and a discussion of future Branch activities and items of mutual interest to the membership. All Branch members are invited to attend. For directions and further information contact President David Rafaidus at 561/776-0449 or e-mail at [jednota888@yahoo.com](mailto:jednota888@yahoo.com).

**David Rafaidus, President**

# Realm of Slovak Genealogy



Ray Plutko

## “Welcome...to the New Kids on the Block”

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.)*

Over the course of the year I have occasionally formatted this column by sharing a variety of research questions from our readers, hopeful of providing “a sense of direction” as you build upon your individual family histories.

Recently while responding to a range of inquiries received via letters, emails, and telephone calls, a noticeable pattern emerged that had escaped my previous problem-solving efforts. The essence of your “message” was that a number of you are in their initial throes as researchers and made reference to this column’s preface— “This is another in a series. . .”

Your collective pleas are for access to a few of the “foundation articles” published previously, thereby providing insights that might compensate for months and possibly years of procrastination in jump-starting the process of tracing one’s Slovak ancestral past.

Simply said, I truly sense your new-found commitment and will be pleased to oblige!

Thus in the months ahead we will occasionally retrace our steps with topics paramount to Slovak genealogical sleuthing, making certain to note updates (new addresses, internet sites, etc.) where appropriate. And for those readers well along in your research we will continue to probe new directions and territory.

Having set our updated course, it’s time to respond to some of your latest inquiries.

Postal Carrier: “What is the latest status of filming and cataloging of parish records in Slovakia by the Family History Center?”

Response: Great and a timely question! Very pleased to report that the last phase of filming vital church records (birth, marriage, death) in Slovakia is currently being completed. More specifically this effort focuses on records from the Bytca and Bratislava archives in Western Slovakia. Although filming is virtually completed, cataloguing will be an on-going process before film copies are distributed to the respective Family History Centers nationwide and digital images made available on the internet.

Email Account: “My parents and most of their relatives/friends have passed away. Can you suggest a starting point in identifying who some of these individuals might have been in order to move me from what seems like a standstill with my research?”

Response: All sound research starts with oneself (YOU!) and works back in time— your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc. However one possible gold mine that could shower a wealth of information, if located, is the “Address Book” your parents kept next to their telephone. It will have a treasure trove of names, addresses, telephone numbers and possible notations in providing a roadmap for the early stages of your research. By the way, don’t forget to check your own “Address Book” for added clues.



## Slovak/ Pittsburgh 250 Celebration

On Sunday afternoon, November 9, the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association presented “Slovak/Pittsburgh 250 Celebration” at the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh. The event was actually a combination of several informative and interesting programs. Approximately 100 people attended.

After serving light refreshments, the audience sang Happy Birthday to Pittsburgh for its 250<sup>th</sup> birthday and enjoyed a special birthday cake. Afterward, Andrew Masich, president of the History Center, welcomed the group and invited them to tour the museum and sports complex after the program.

The Pittsburgh Agreement has finally returned home after being exhibited in Bratislava, Brno and Prague. Joe Bielecki, president of WPSCA, presented a brief history of the Pittsburgh Agreement. It will be permanently displayed in the Heinz History Center.

Peter Zelenek, Head of the Political Section of the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C., gave a brief explanation of the Slovak Visa Waiver Program which begins on November 17, 2008. He answered many questions from the audience.

The program ended with three young Slovak musicians entertaining the audience with excellent presentations of Slovak classical music. They performed the works of three renowned Slovak composers—Suchon, Trnavsky and Martinec. The musicians were Daniel Buranovsky, pianist; Andrea Cajova, soprano; and Ondrej Saling, tenor.

For many of those who attended, this was their first exposure to Slovak classical music. The program was well received by all.

Joseph Senko

Telephone Call: “I have a number of gaps in researching my one grandmother and a great-grandfather. What is the best way to fill in some of these holes?”

Response: An often-heard question indeed and to the point. I have used one technique that has proven successful, that of creating a time line. Simply make a chronological time line in five-year increments (1895, 1900, 1905, etc.) and the next to each date, list the individual’s age, place of residence, and if single or married. Once completed, step back and the visual time line will virtually point you in the direction of your next research steps.

My Christmas Gift to Each of You: Remember all those “family letters” we receive from relatives and friends each year as part of their Christmas card greetings? Don’t throw them out just yet as each provides a valuable first-hand chronicle in piecing together our family history. How many times have we said, “If I had only kept those from years past?” Just think what our children will say 20-30 years from now if we discard these valuable pieces of genealogical information— similar to what we quietly chastised our parents for having done so in the past.

*(Editor’s Note: There is now available a completely revised and updated Slovak Genealogy Research Kit (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 map for any village you specify in Slovakia at \$5 plus \$1 postage— make check payable to Ray Plutko, 6862 Palmer Court, Chino, CA. 91710-7343.)*

## SPECIAL REMINDERS

This is the only issue of the JEDNOTA newspaper in December. The next issue will be on January 7, 2009. Because of the holidays, the deadline for the January 9<sup>th</sup> issue is Tuesday, December 23.

A second reminder concerns a change in our address. The new address for sending all articles is Jednota Estates, 1001 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057. Please do not use the old 1011 Rosedale Avenue address. You may continue to send by fax at 717/944-3107 or by email at editorjednota@yahoo.com Thank you.

Fraternal  
Benefit

Open to all  
members of  
FCSU!

AD&D insurance  
for single or  
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coverage up to  
\$500,000 at a  
special rate.

Please contact our  
AD&D  
Administrator at  
1-800-968-2071  
for further  
information and  
rates or go to  
www.habianassociates.  
com/oh  
to apply online.



\$500,000  
Accidental Death &  
Dismemberment (AD&D)

Including:

Accidental Loss of Life  
Child Care

Cobra Premium & Educational Expense  
Home Invasion

Evacuation & Repatriation

Spouse or Domestic Partner Employment

Training Expense

Permanent Total Disability Benefit

Quarterly Premium Rates

Principal Sum	Single	Family
\$100,000	\$12	\$18
\$200,000	\$24	\$36
\$300,000	\$36	\$54
\$400,000	\$48	\$72
\$500,000	\$60	\$90

Premiums can be paid with  
Credit Cards, Debit Cards, or a Bank Account.

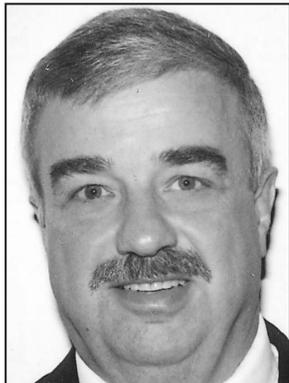
Special Fraternal Benefit

If a member or a new member (ages 30-65) is issued a minimum \$10,000 Whole Life, a 20-Pay Life, or a \*Single Premium Policy, issued after August 1, 2008, FCSU will include, as a Fraternal Benefit, a single \$25,000 \*\*AD&D Benefit at no additional charge for as long as a premium is being paid. Contact your local branch officer or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682 for further details.

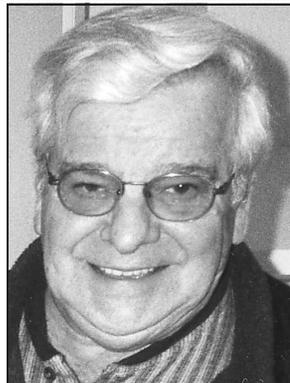
\*Single Premium Policies are eligible for the first 5 years  
\*\*Insurance is underwritten by Federal Insurance Company, a member insurer of the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies. Exclusions may apply. Insurance may not be available in all jurisdictions.

# The Best of the Best!

## Top Guns Thru October 31, 2008



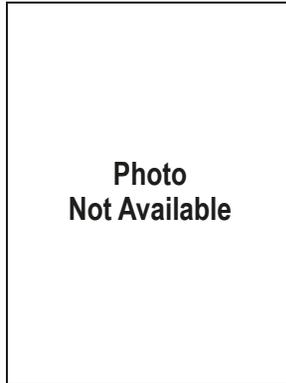
**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
First Place



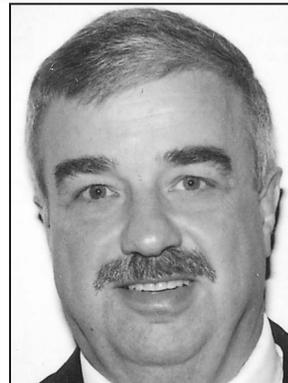
**George A. Sprock**  
Second Place



**George F. Matta**  
Third Place



**Dorothy J. Petrus**  
First Place



**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
Second Place



**Joseph F. Minarovich**  
Third Place

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

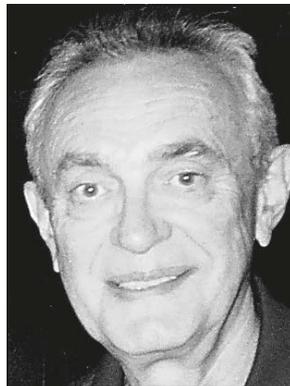
	Branch	Annuities
Kenneth A. Arendt, Vermilion, Ohio	228	\$349,713.35
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$173,288.16
George F. Matta, White Oak, Pennsylvania	38	\$153,205.50
Robert Joseph Kopco, Independence, Ohio	24	\$139,410.97
Thomas Hricik, Greensburg, Pennsylvania	181	\$120,856.34
Al Tipul, Columbia Station, Ohio	319	\$109,905.05
Albert R. Valo, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania	587	\$66,000.00
Michael Leo Koval, Hazleton, Pennsylvania	3P	\$61,624.13
Rosemary Deliman, Philipsburg, New Jersey	417	\$60,100.00
Roger T. Soltis, Massilon, Ohio	410	\$59,150.39

### TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS

	Branch	Total Points
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	358
Kenneth A. Arendt, Vermilion, Ohio	228	347
Joseph Minarovich, Bridgewater, New Jersey	290	298
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	276
Sophie B. Pipak, Norvelt, Pennsylvania	199	219
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	208
James R. Marmol, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	162	194
George F. Matta, White Oak, Pennsylvania	38	153
Robert Joseph Kopco, Independence, Ohio	24	138
Thomas Hricik, Greensburg, Pennsylvania	181	130



**Sophie B. Pipak**  
First Place



**John A. Jurcenko**  
Second Place



**George A. Sprock**  
Third Place

### TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF INSURANCE SOLD

	Branch	Insurance Amount
Sophie B. Pipak, Norvelt, Pennsylvania	199	\$520,922
John A. Jurcenko, Chicago, Illinois	153	\$450,000
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$333,614
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	\$285,489
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	\$162,000
Michael J. Slovenkai, Scranton, Pennsylvania	382	\$150,000
Joseph Minarovich, Bridgewater, New Jersey	290	\$130,000
Frances Tarquinio, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania	320	\$120,000
John J. Loftus, N. Catasauqua, Pennsylvania	157	\$110,000
Audrey Balazik, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	367	\$106,000

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

## ATTENTION ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS

The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2009 Scholarship Program.

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

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

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

The rules and requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants must have a minimum of \$1,000 of reserve insurance with F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of graduation from high school; or an applicant must have \$5,000 or more of term insurance with the F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of graduation from high school. All scholarship winners must maintain this insurance in force during their college years. Applicants must be insured prior to April 1, 2005 to be eligible under the rules of this period.
2. Applicants must apply for grants in the Spring of their senior year of high school.
3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term at a qualifying institution. Proof of college admission must be sent to the Home Office with application.
4. Applicants must apply on an official form which can be obtained from their branch, F.C.S.U. web site or the Executive Secretary of the F.C.S.U.
5. Applicants will send completed applications to: **Scholarship Program, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Independence, OH 44131.**
6. Applications will be accepted only on the proper forms signed by the branch financial secretary. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS (THOSE WHICH ARE RECEIVED NOT FULLY COMPLETED OR DO NOT HAVE ALL ATTACHMENTS) WILL BE INVALID AND WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.**
7. Winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee according to their individual merit in categories of high school cumulative grade point averages, extracurricular activities, talents, achievements, initiative, communication skills, transcripts and S.A.T. and/or A.C.T. test scores.
8. Final award checks will be made payable to the student.

The scholarship application is being mailed to all members between the ages of 17 and 19. If you are interested and do not receive the application, please contact your branch officer or the Home Office at 1-800-JEDNOTA. **Applications must be postmarked by Midnight, February 28, 2009.** **All applications without the above stipulated postmark will be considered invalid.**

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# Christmas Eve Service in the Home

*(To Be Conducted by the Head of the Household)*

Beams from your holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord at your birth.

Invocation: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Family: Amen**

**Lesson: The Christmas Story. Luke 2:1-20 (Read by the Head of the Household)**

Hymn: Come Rejoicing, Praises Voicing.....Tune Čas Radosti  
Come rejoicing, praises voicing; Christmas day is breaking  
The eternal Lord supernal human form is taking.  
He is born in a stall now he lives, infant small;  
In a manger, heav'nly stranger, Lord of all;  
In a manger, heav'nly stranger, Lord of all.

Whom the sages and the ages anxiously awaited,  
Angels proudly herald loudly in their songs elated.  
Let us, too, in these days, thankful hearts gladly raise,  
To the tender infant render all our praise;  
To the tender infant render all our praise

Child appealing, light revealing, Jesus Christ, our pleasure;  
God, yet very Son of Mary, Heaven's gift and treasure.  
Mighty king, gentle friend, As our Lord to us bend,  
And caressing us with blessing, now descend;  
And caressing us with blessing, now descend.

**Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7 (Read by the oldest child)**

The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, thou hast broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**Hymn: Silent Night, Holy Night**

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright. Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven a far, Heav'nly hosts...sing Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light Radiant

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which was called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased."

Prayer; Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and on the last day wake to the brightness of his glory, through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Family: Amen**

**The Distribution of the Oblatky**

Head of the Household: This Christmas wafer is a symbol of Christ's Body and His Nativity- God's becoming flesh and dwelling with us and then offering His Body to be broken on the cross to redeem us from sin and death. The honey on the wafer symbolizes the sweet love of God in sending His only begotten Son so that we might not perish but have everlasting life.

**Hymn: Away in a Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky...looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but the little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

**Benedicamus and Benediction:**

**Head of the Household:** Let us bless the Lord

**Family:** Thanks e to God

**Head of the Household:** The Lord almighty order our days and our deeds in His peace.

**Family: Amen**



## Christmas

The time of the year when we all like to get together  
We come from far and wide regardless of the weather.

We gather to share happiness which the season brings,  
The red-green of a tree, delicious food, among other things.

Things change but one. It warms hearts to know  
The Christmas spirit is the same wherever we are or go.

One night a miracle took place in some isolated cave,  
There God was born of purest Virgin Mother, souls to save.

Lonely shepherds without any fanfare on one cold night  
Saw God become man as the Christ Child is the world's light.

Wise men with gifts huddle in a desert and weary tread,  
Only shepherds and wise men adored at His manger bed.

People may come and go, yet there is no possible way  
We can love without Christ baffling men on Christmas Day.

It's Christmas in homes, streets, in our modern marts,  
Yet, the spirit of Christmas should stay in our hearts.

Unless we join Him there will never be peace on earth,  
That's what we bring to Him in honor of His holy birth.

**Matthew Bonk, O.S.B.**

## The Christmas Spirit

*What is the Christmas spirit?*

It is the spirit which brings a smile to the lips  
and tenderness to the heart;

It is the spirit which warms one into friendship  
with all the world, which impedes one to hold out the  
hand of fellowship to every man and woman.

For the Christmas motto is  
"Peace on earth, goodwill to men," and the  
Spirit of Christmas demands that it ring in our hearts and find  
expression in kindly acts and loving words.

What a joyful thing for the world it would be if the  
Christmas spirit could do this, not only on that holiday,  
but on every day of the year.

What a beautiful place the world would be to live in!

Peace and goodwill everywhere and always!

Let each one of us resolve that, so far as we are concerned, peace and goodwill shall be our motto every day, and that we will do our best to make the Christmas spirit last all the year round.

**Anonymous**



## Vianočný pozdrav 2008 hlavného predsedu IKSJ

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

a bolesti nás len čaká. Vo vedomí toho, každodenne pracujeme podľa našich najlepších schopností a snažíme sa život viesť tak, aby nás priviedol bližšie ku Kristovi.

Prvá Katolícka Jednota bola založená z časti, aby oslovila životné potreby svojich členov poskytnutím poistky a iných investičných produktov. Predsa naši zakladatelia, zvlášť otec Šefan Furdek nástojili, aby Jednota prispievala tiež k duchovnému blahu svojich členov. Od roku 1890 nastalo veľa zmien ako v kultúre Spojených štátov tak i u občanov. Od tej doby nastalo i na Slovensku veľa zmien. Ako aj niektoré zmeny nastali v katolíckej cirkvi. Niektorí múdrejší odo mňa vyhlásil „premena je nevyhnutná, prijmi ju a pracuj s ňou“. Bez ohľadu na premeny, Jednota vždy zostane verná misii svojich zakladateľov v snahe slúžiť duchovným a finančným potrebám svojich členov.

Naša krajina, a väčšina sveta sa nachádza v strede finančnej a ekonomickej krízy, niektorých porovnávajúcu k Veľkej hospodárskej kríze. Pretože som sa narodil počas druhej svetovej vojny, o svetovej hospodárskej kríze som len čítal, alebo počul. Ale ako veľa mojich rovesníkov, bol som značne ovplyvnený mojimi rodičmi a starými rodičmi, ktorí ju prežili. Ďakujúc javi sa, že naši vládni lídri, súčasní i nastupujúci, sú si vedomí nebezpečia a sú v procese podnikania značných opatrení ako sa vysporiadať s týmto problémom. Že v tom uspejú, sme veľmi optimistickí.

Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Jednota tiež počas týchto problémov pristúpila k určitým opatreniam. Preskúmali sme naše výdavky a znížili ich pokiaľ sa dalo, a naďalej budeme v tom aktívni. Určité problémy sme predvídali, a koncom roku 2007 a v roku 2008 sme upravili stratégiu investícií našej organizácie znížením dĺžky našich bond portfolio. V skutočnosti sme neinvestovali na trhoch akcií, ale miesto toho do U.S. Government backed securities. Taktiež sme akumulovali hotovosť rekordných skoro \$14 miliónov dolárov, ktoré nám dajú flexibilitu do budúcich investícií (to je \$7 miliónov viac, než sme mali 31. decembra 2007) podľa meniaceho sa trhu.

Svet sa zmenil a my sa tiež musíme s ním meniť. Ďakujem všetkým za vašu pomoc počas ulynulého roku. Zvlášť ďakujem našim odporúčateľom za ich prácu, bez nich by naša organizácia nebola tak pevná.

Celá moja rodina a všetcia pracovníci hlavného úradu želajú vám a vašim najmilším  
*Požehnané Vianoce a Šťastlivý Nový rok.*

**Andrej M. Rajec**  
hlavný predseda IKSJ

## Pastiersky list na Prvú adventnú nedeľu 2008

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

stavia svoj dom, ktorým je Cirkev. Cirkev je domom Božieho slova, je duchovnou stavbou, ktorá stojí na štyroch duchovných stĺpoch, o ktorých hovorí kniha Skutkov apoštolov, keď opisuje spoločenstvo veriacich: „Vytrvalo sa zúčastňovali na učení apoštolov a na bratskom spoločenstve, na lámaní chleba a na modlitbách.“ (Sk 2, 42).

Dom Božieho slova stojí na náuke apoštolov, tak ako ju všetci počúvame a učíme sa od predstaviteľov Cirkvi, keď sa nám predkladá pri vyučovaní náboženstva, pri katechézach v chráme, pri homíliách a kázňach pri svätej omši, pri každom opravdivom ohlasovaní Božieho slova, ktoré sa chce dotknúť aj mysle aj srdca každého z nás.

Druhým duchovným stĺpom je „lámanie chleba“, čiže Eucharistia, ktorá je prameňom a vrcholom života a poslania Cirkvi. Tak ako sa to stalo v Emauzoch, veriaci sú pozvaní k tomu, aby sa živili počas svätej omše zo stola Božieho slova a zo stola Kristovho tela.

Tretím stĺpom sú modlitby. Sú to modlitby žalmov, predovšetkým v liturgii hodín, ktorými sa kňazi, rehoľníci a rehoľníčky a chvályhodne aj laici obracajú k nebeskému Otcovi s chválami, vďakami, odprosovaním a prosbami za celú Cirkev i za celé ľudstvo. Ďalej je to vznešená modlitba ruženca, taká obľúbená medzi veriacimi a sú to aj mnohé iné modlitby, ktoré vychádzajú zo Svätého písma. Čoraz väčšiu obľubu si získava čítanie Svätého písma, ktoré prechádza do úvahy a modlitby, do prežívania Božej prítomnosti, k stretnutiu s Kristom, živým Božím Slovom. Tento spôsob modlitbového čítania Svätého písma poznáme aj pod menom lectio divina.

Posledným stĺpom je bratské spoločenstvo, lebo na to, aby sme boli pravými kresťanmi nestačí byť iba „poslucháčmi Božieho slova“, ale tiež tými, ktorí Božie slovo uskutočňujú cez konkrétne skutky lásky (porov. Lk 8, 21).

Božie slovo sa však chce vydať na cestu. „Chodte teda, učte všetky národy ... a naučte ich zachovávať všetko, čo som vám prikázal. ... Čo počujete do ucha, rozhlasujte zo striech.“ (Mt 28, 19-20; 10, 27). Božie slovo sa musí dostať na cesty nášho súčasného sveta, na naše ulice, na verejnosť, ale aj na autostrádu internetu, televízie a do ďalších prostriedkov komunikácie.

Sväté písmo sa musí dostať do rodín, aby ho čítali rodičia i deti, aby sa na základe Božieho slova spolu modlili, aby Božie slovo pre nich bolo skutočne lampou pre ich kroky na ceste životom (porov. Ž 119, 105). Sväté písmo sa musí dostať tiež do škôl a do všetkých prostredí kultúry, lebo celé storočia bolo základným zdrojom inšpirácie pre umenie, literatúru, hudbu, filozofiu a pre samotnú etiku. Jeho bohatstvo, poetická a rozprávačská sila ho robí nenahraditeľným prejavom a znakom krásy či pre vieru, či pre samotnú kultúru, vo svete, ktorý je dnes zranený toľkými nepeknými javmi.

Sväté písmo nám ukazuje aj vzdychy bolesti, ktoré vystupujú zo zeme, kloní sa k výkrikom utláčaných a k plaču nešťastných. Vrcholom je kríž, na ktorom Kristus, sám a opustený, prežíva mimoriadne kruté utrpenie a smrť. Zvlášť pre túto prítomnosť Božieho Syna, tmu zla a smrti prežaruje veľkonočné svetlo nádeje večného šťastia.

Drahí bratia a sestry, zadovážte si Sväté písmo, čítajte ho, prehĺbte sa a spoznávajte naplno jeho stránky, premeňte ich na osobnú modlitbu a svedectvo života, počúvajte ho s láskou a vierou pri svätej omši. Snažte sa spoznať poslanstvo Svätého písma hlbšie, zo srdca vám odporúčame aj časopis Sväté písmo pre každého.

„A teraz vás odporúčam Bohu a slovu jeho milosti“ (Sk 20, 32). Rovnakými slovami, akými sa lúčil svätý apoštol Pavol s predstaviteľmi spoločenstva veriacich z Efezu, aj my zverujeme všetky farnosti a každého z vás osobne Božiemu slovu, ktoré je iste pre nás tiež súdom, ale predovšetkým milosťou, Božiemu slovu, ktoré je ostrejšie ako meč, ale aj sladké ako plást medu. Je mocné a obdivuhodné a vedie nás po cestách dejín Ježišovou rukou, ktorého tak ako my iste aj vy milujete neporušenou láskou (porov. Ef 6, 24).

Nech vás počas adventu a celého liturgického roka posilňuje a ochraňuje sila Božieho slova.

**Biskupi Slovenska TK KBS**



Na obrázku v prvom rade zľava: Anna Hudock, Philip Tuhy, Bernadette Yencha, Andrew Chuba, William Zdancewicz. Druhý rad zľava: Jozef Biroš, Anna Biroš, Stanley Hozempa, Helen Savinski, Florence Hozempa, Dorothy Sullivan, Thomas Check, Magdalen Benish, Darina Tuhy, Betty Pirnick, a Margaret Baker.

## Spolok Slovenského dedičstva 25-ročný

Dňa 26. októbra 2008 sme sa zišli vo Wilkes-Barre, aby sme si pripomenuli 25. výročie založenia spolku Slovenského dedičstva (NEPA).

V kostole sv. Matúša, premietla Bernadette Yencha fotografie prostredníctvom komputera z najdôležitejších udalostí života tejto spoločnosti. Nebolo ich málo. Aj pri tej príležitosti sme s vďačnosťou spomínali na zapálené a ušľachtilé srdce nebohej Trudy Check-Tuhy, jednej zo zakladateľov a hnacím motorom tejto spoločnosti. S doprovodom vynikajúceho nášho harmonikára Andreja Chubu, sme si zaspievali slovenské ľudové piesne. Mnohí spomínali i na mladé časy, keď rodičia vstúpili lásku predovšetkým k Pánu Bohu a ich rodnej vlasti – Slovensku. Tam sa rodili zárodoky v zachovaní zvyku a spevu až do dnešnej doby. Ale dokedy? Aj u nás rady rednú a nové neprirastajú. Dorast sme si nevychovali a mládež záujem nemá. Škoda. V závere ďakujeme všetkým tým, ktorí pri tomto okrúhlom výročí stretnutie úspešne zorganizovali.

**Anna a Jozef Biroš**

## O p r a v a

### Modlitba k Panne Márii

Nepoškrvnená Matka Ježišova i Matka naša Mária, uchvátení sme my z Tvojej nebeskej krásy a hnaní úzkosťami terajšieho sveta. Utekáme sa do Tvojho náručia. Pevne dôverujeme, že Tvoje milujúce srdce splní naše vrúcne prosby a bude nám bezpečným útočiskom pred hriechom, ktorý robí našu dušu odpornou Bohu a otrokyňou pekla. Vypočuj ó vyvolená Božia úpenlivé vzdychy verných srdiec, ktoré sa vznášajú k Tebe v tomto roku. Schýľ sa nad naše bolavé rany, premeň srdcia zlých, osuš slzy utrápených a utláčaných. Vyhas hnevy, zošľachti drsné obyčaje a stráž kvet čistoty mládeže. Chráň svätú Cirkev a dopraj, aby všetci ľudia pocítili príťažlivú silu Kresťanskej dobroty, nad ktorou nech zažiarí slnko všeobecného a úprimného pokoja a mieru. Amen.

# Pastorálne koledy

Vianočné pastorely (umelé skladby s pastierskym, prírodným a dedinským námetom) sa na území Slovenska pestovali súbežne s okolitými stredoeurópskymi krajinami od prvých desaťročí 18. storočia. V tom čase prebiehala v európskej hudbe štýlová zmena, ktorá prinášala so sebou nové ideály jednoduchosti, prirodzenosti a ľudovosti. Obdobím najväčšieho rozmachu je 2. polovica 18. storočia a prvé desaťročia 19. storočia.

V pastoreloch sa zhudobňovali texty s tematikou narodenia Ježiša Krista. V európskej vianočnej tradícii sa pomerne skoro ustálili hlavné typy tematických okruhov vychádzajúcich z biblického opisu betlehemskej udalosti, ktoré prešli aj do hudobných spracovaní vianočného námetu: nočné zvestovanie radostnej udalosti anjelmi, budenie a rozhovor pastierov, scéna pri jaslíčkách (poklona, obetovanie darov) a príbeh o troch mudrcoch.

Je známe, že skladatelia pri tvorbe pastorel veľmi často čerpali z ľudovej hudobnej tradície alebo tvorili v jej štýle. Ale dialo sa tak i naopak, že do folklórnej tvorby prenikali prvky a piesne z umelej tvorby.

Pastorály, umelé a pololudové koledy tohto obdobia zásadne ovplyvnili a poznačili koledy nielen na Slovensku a v Čechách, ale i v ďalších krajinách strednej a západnej Európy. A tak v úzkej súvislosti s pastorálovou tvorbou (skladateľov i kantorov) a betlehenskými hrami sa formovali na Slovensku aj pastorálne koledy, v ktorých sa do popredia dostávajú obrazy pastierov, ktorí prichádzajú ako prví do Betlehema pozdraviť a privítať Božie dieťa. Tieto koledy reprezentujú novšiu vývinovú vrstvu.

Pastorálna koleda nadviazala na umelú duchovnú pieseň, pričom citeľne vytlačila a prekryla najmä staršie koledy i vinše svetského a prosperitatívneho charakteru. V tejto zložke koledového repertoáru vrcholí vývin vianočných kolied na území Slovenska v úzkom súvisi s okolitými národmi. Vzájomným obohacovaním umelej „pololudovej“ a ľudovej tvorby vzniká na jednej strane motivická (textová i melodická) bohatosť a rozmanitosť foriem, ktoré v sebe často syntetizujú aj staršie vývinové vrstvy kolied. Na druhej strane dochádza k návratom k ľudovej piesni a nástrojovej hudbe, a to najmä k piesni pastiersko-ovčiarkej a odzemkovej. Postupne sa koledy obohacujú o nové tematické a výrazové prvky oboma smermi: od umelej tvorby k ľudovej a naopak. Možno povedať, že pastorálne koledy tvoria najzaujímavejšiu vrstvu kolied, ktoré sa najbohatšie rozvíjajú v horských oblastiach Slovenska, kde v ľudovej kultúre prevláda valasko-pastierska štýlová vrstva.

## Novoročné koledy

Vianočné a novoročné koledy, tak ako sviatky Vianoc a Nového roka, majú veľa vzájomných väzieb. Dlhodobé splývajúce oboch sviatkov sa zrkadlí vo zvykoch i piesňach, ktoré s nimi súvisia. Má to svoje odpostatnenie, so zreteľom na ďalekosiahle historické korene.

Hodno spomenúť, že podľa starorímskeho vzoru oslavy významných udalostí trvali niekoľko dní. Začali sa v predvečer hlavného sviatku, na tzv. vigíliu. A tak aj Vianoce trvali od 24. decembra do 27. decembra. V tomto rozsahu prešli aj do kresťanského kalendára. Je zjavné, že medzi starorímskymi saturnáliami a Vianocami existujú určité analógie.

Predstavitelia cirkvi logicky usúdili, že ak kresťanský letopočet začína Kristovým narodením, deň, ktorý bol určený za výročie jeho narodenia, by mal byť zároveň Novým rokom.

V strednej Európe, ale aj v iných krajinách sa preto po celý stredovek s Novým rokom stotožňoval najčastejšie 25. december. V Uhorsku bol až v 15. storočí určený Nový rok na 1. január. Ale až r. 1691 pápež Inocent XII. stanovil Nový rok na 1. január pre celý kresťanský svet.

A tak v ľudovej tradícii aj na Slovensku obidva termíny, 25. december a 1. január, mali významné, takmer rovnocenné postavenie. K jednému i druhému sa viazali činnosti, obyčaje a úkony rovnakého významu.

Na Nový rok sa spravidla vinšovali vinše, ktoré sa vinšovali i na Vianoce. Tak sa do vianočných vinšovaní dostali aj želania súvisiace s Novým rokom. O tom svedčí mnoho príkladov.

## Napríklad vinš zo Zuberca (Orava):

*Vinšujem vám hodi svétki, s veľkou radosťou, Boskou milosťou; Na polách úrodí, v stodolách plienoti;*

*Daj, Bože, hojný rok, na tento Nový rok, abí s'te boli zdraví a veselí ako na ňebi anjelí.*

Pri novoročnom koledovaní a obchôdkach po domoch sa spievali koledy, ktoré sa opakovali aj počas Vianoc. Mnohé z nich sa obohatili o novoročnú tematiku, čím sa funkčne vyhranili. A tak so zreteľom na tematiku a funkčnosť ich osobitne vyčleňujeme ako novoročné koledy. V rámci nich majú prevahu svetské koledy s charakterom želania hospodárskej prosperity. Menej sú zastúpené duchovné koledy s náboženskými motívmi. Iba okrajovo medzi nimi nachádzame pastorálne koledy a spevy hlásnikov. Všetky patria k obchôdkovým piesňam vianočného obdobia.

## Slovesná zložka kolied

Koledy ako svojbytný ľudový piesňový žáner sa v priebehu svojej kryštalizácie vyhranili na základe slovesnej (textovej) a hudobnej zložky. Ak si bližšie ozrejmieme ich textovú zložku, môžeme konštatovať, že v ich obsahu sú zobrazené Vianoce v tradičnej podobe ľudového ponímania. Z jednotlivých textov možno usúdiť aj o ich obradovosti, ba i funkčnej spätosti s tradíciami jednotlivých vianočných

dní. Ich tematická zložka poukazuje na udalosti, ktoré sú späté s vianočnými sviatočnými dňami.

V tematických motívoch prevláda biblický príbeh narodenia Ježiša Krista v Betleheme. Ten sa bohato rozvíja v mnohorakých podobách na princípe variačného procesu folklórnej tvorby. Obohacujú ho motívy so svetskou tematikou, predovšetkým so želaním zdravia, šťastia a pokoja v rodine, prosperity hospodárstva. V podstate roľnícky, ale najmä pastiersky stav im vtlačil osobitnú pečať tvorby. Námety piesní charakterizujú často spoločné motívy, na základe ktorých ich možno členiť do motivických okruhov.

K tým najvýraznejším patria: prišiel som k vám na koledu, zdravia, šťastia vám vinšujeme;

**pastierske a hlásnické oznamy:** dajte nám, dajte; za vašim stolom;

**anjelské oznamy:** čas radosti, čas veselosti; narodil sa Kristus Pán; keď jasná hviezda vychodila; chodila Mária; pásli ovce valasi; vstávajú pastieri; pôjdeme my do Betlema; klaňanie a dary Ježiškovi; ideme my z Betlema; raduj sa, betlehemska chasa; nový rok nám nastal; my traja králi; legendy o narodení Ježiška; za koledu ďakujeme. Jednotlivé a základné motívy sa výrazne prejavujú a vystupujú do popredia i v rámci žánrovej diferencovanosti kolied.

## Vianočné ľudové koledy vinše a hry



# Slovenský automobilový priemysel by sa mal rozvíjať aj v ďalších rokoch

Žilina (TASR) - Slovensko sa rýchlo stalo Detroitom Európy. Uviedla to 30. novembra americká agentúra AP skice o situácii tohto odvetvia v našej krajine. Na rozdiel od amerického Detroitu má však celkom iné starosti. AP cituje šéfa KIA Motors Slovakia Jun-Bum Parka, ktorý v roku 2006 uvádzal do prevádzky výrobný komplex za miliardu eur (30.13 miliardy Sk) v Žiline. „Hovoríme o vytváraní nových pracovných miest a nie o ich rušení,“ povedal manažér. Podľa Márie Novákovej, generálnej tajomníčky Združenia automobilového priemyslu SR, by sa malo odteraz do roku 2010 vytvoriť v odvetví 30,000 pracovných miest. Aj za ich účasti by sa mal slovenský automobilový priemysel pripraviť na zaradenie vyššieho stupňa. Je isté, že USA, Kanada, Čína, Japonsko a Rusko vyrábajú podstatne viac automobilov ako Slovensko. Japonsko ich vyprodukovalo vlni takmer 11.6 milióna, americká veľká trojka (General Motors, Ford a Chrysler) ich dodali na trh 10.8 milióna.

Ale počtom malý národ, na území ktorého sa nachádza aj automobilka PSA Peugeot Citroën a nemeckého Volkswagenu, vyrába najviac automobilov na 1000 obyvateľov. Vlni sa ich na Slovensku vyrobilo 571,071, čo znamená, že na 1000 obyvateľov ich pripadlo 105.7. Tento rok sa odhaduje ich produkcia na 610,000. A automobilky na Slovensku ešte stále nejdú na plný výkon.

Analytici uvádzajú, že výrobcovia automobilov prišli na Slovensko, lebo má lacnú pracovnú silu, nízke dane, slabé odbory, dobré diaľnice a iné logistické prvky, strategickú polohu v geografickom srdci Európy. Je aj blízko k rastúcim trhom Ruska, Ukrajiny a iných republík bývalého Sovietskeho zväzu.

„To sú dôvody, prečo treba byť tam,“ povedal riaditeľ Centra pre výskum automobilového priemyslu v Nemecku Ferdinand Dudenhöffer. Centrum pôsobí na Univerzite v Gelsenkirchene.

„Môže krajina udržať svoj úspech tvárou v tvár recesii?“ Dudenhöffer je skeptický. „Na svete neexistuje krajina, alebo výrobca automobilov, ktorý by bol imúnny voči tejto kríze,“ poznamenáva riaditeľ.

Slovensko ešte pred vstupom do EÚ, uskutočnil bolestné reformy. Jeho ekonomika dosahuje v Európe vysoké prírastky. Tento rok by mal byť jej vzostup 7.4 % a predpokladá sa, že na rok to bude solídnych vyše 4 %. Od prvého januára sa krajina stane novým členom eurozóny. Priemerná mesačná mzda v krajine je 650 eur (19,582 Sk), v automobilovom priemysle je mesačný príjem 800 eur (24,100 Sk). To je len 25 % mzdy ich kolegov v Nemecku. Pritom náklady na dôchodky a zdravotnícku starostlivosť predstavujú len zlom výdavkov americkej Veľkej trojky.

Toto sú všetko dôvody, ktoré objasňujú, prečo si subdodávatelia budujú svoju sieť okolo KIA, Peugeotu a Volkswagenu. Automobilky vyprodukovali vlni so 76,000 zamestnancami hodnotu za 20.8 miliardy eur (626.62 miliárd Sk). Napriek tomu, že sa nad svetovým automobilovým priemyslom zbiehajú tmavé mraky, kórejský Hyundai Motor Co. to neodradilo od otvorenia nového závodu v moravskom meste Nošovice. Jeho výstavba stála miliardu eur (30.13 miliardy Sk). Peugeot Citroën uvádza, že má v úmysle vyrábať nový model C3 Picasso výhradne len na Slovensku. Informovala o tom agentúra AP. (1 EUR = 30.1260 SKK)

„Chlapček sa nám narodil, daný je nám Syn...“

Jeho meno je Emanuel – Boh s nami“

Kristus sa narodil a nadišiel čas radovať sa.

**Požehnané Vianoce a šťastný Nový rok!**



Dr. Edwarda Tuleyu pochovali na St. Joseph's Cemetery so všetkými vojenskými poctami. Zľava zástupca Red Rose Veteran's Honor Guard, dôstojný otec Mark E. Weiss a Msgr. Tomáš Kujovský, ktorý sype slovenskú zem na rakvu nebohého profesora Tuleyu.



Pre zúčastnených pohrebu sa konalo pohostenie. Na snímke zľava sediaci: brat nebohého, Ján Tuleya; dcéra Helena; manželka Olga; dcéra Andrea. Stojaci zľava jednotári: Štefan Matula, Ján Karch, Anna Birošová, Msgr. Tomáš Kujovský, Anna Sutherland, Anthony X. Sutherland a Jozef Biroš.

## Zomrel Šarišský barón

Dňa 11. novembra 2008 v plnom zdraví vo veku 89 rokov, odišiel navždy od nás Dr. Edward Andrew Tuleya, profesor histórie na Univerzite v Millersville, PA. Ako sám bývalý športovec a vášnivý fanúšik amerického futbalového klubu Penn State, 8. novembra 2008 sledoval vzrušujúci zápas medzi Penn State a Iowa, ktorý urobil svoje. Dr. Tuleya po tomto zápase pre nevoľnosť srdca skončil v nemocnici. Bol to vzácny a dobrý človek. Vynikal predovšetkým svojou skromnosťou a láskou k ľuďom. Tak ako sa vyjadrila jeho milovaná, manželka Olga, keď sme sa stretli pri rakve pred začiatkom modlitieb, na každom videl iba tie dobré vlastnosti.

Áno, bola to osobnosť, ktorá poznačila každého človeka, ktorý sa s ním stretol. Miloval predovšetkým svoju rodinu, manželku Olgu a dve dcéry Helenku, Andreu, päť vnúčencov, jedno pravnúčku, svoju prácu a študentov. Bol pyšný na svojich slovenských rodičov, ktorí mu vštepili lásku k ich rodnej hrudi, k Veľkému Šarišu. Odkiaľ pochádza aj názov Šarišský barón, ktorým sa rád predstavoval ako mu aj lichotilo byť ním oslovený. Po rodičoch zdedil vieru v Boha, odkiaľ čerpal aj lásku k ľuďom. Keď len mohol, tak rád navštívil tento kút Slovenska, naposledy v roku 2005 s celou rodinou. Aj milovaného krásneho psika bieleho čuvača si doniesol zo Slovenska.

Na dôchodku neodpočíval. Bol kurátorom Slovenského múzea v Middletowne, PA (1983-1995). Miloval históriu, zvlášť východného bloku. Bol členom Spolku sv. Petra, č. 278 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v Middletown, PA a činný takmer vo všetkých slovenských fraternalistických organizáciách.

Dôstojná rozlúčka s nebohým sa konala 15. novembra 2008 v kostole sv. Filipa v Millersville s veľkým počtom príbuzných, známych kolegov a priateľov. Pohrebnú svätú omšu celebroidal hlavný duchovný farár Mark E. Weiss spolu s koncelebrantmi Steven W. Fauserom a osobným priateľom profesora Tuleyu Msgr. Tomášom Kujovským, s ktorým sme sa chystali navštíviť Dr. Tuleyu a porozprávať sa o našich zážitkoch z nášho pobytu na Slovensku. Nestalo sa tak. Teraz už len budeme spomínať, ako sme spolu pri ich vianočnom stromčeku spievali slovenské koledy. Čo si ceníme, že medzi jednotármi, ktorí sa zúčastnili pohrebu, nechýbali ani pán Štefan Matula a pán Ján Karch, obidvaja v pokročilom veku.

Na cintoríne nad rakvou Msgr. Kujovský povedal, "Nech mu je americko-slovenská zem ľahká, a rozsypaná zem, ktorú si priniesol z jednej návštevy zo Slovenska. Jednotári, sa nad hrobom pomodlili po slovensky „Otče náš, Zdravas, Sláva a odpočinutie večné daj zomrelej duši Edwarda Tuleyu, Ó Pane a svetlo večné nech mu svieti“.

Nech mu je ozaj americko-slovenská zem ľahká. Česť jeho pamiatke.

Anna a Jozef Biroš

## Za Dr. Edwardom Tuleyom

Zákon života: raz začína a raz aj končí ...  
Aj Edo Tuleya odišiel ... a viac sa nevrátil späť.  
Jeho Stvoriteľ rozhodol, aby navždy opustil tento svet,  
ukončil jeho životnú púť, aby prišiel do novej vlasti,  
kde je večný pokoj, blaženosť a nebeské slasti.

Daroval mu 89, požehnaných rokov tu na zemi.  
Prišiel jeho čas, čas, ktorý všetko zmení.  
Len, dobré, milé spomienky nám ostali po ňom ...  
Bol z neho gentleman, bol nám dobrým príkladom a vzorom.  
Dobrý človek bol; veľké dobrácke srdce mal,  
až do času, kým si ho Pán k sebe povolal.



Dr. Edward Tuleya

V uniforme americkej armády, sa ako vlastenec, vždy pýšil,  
ale aj slovenskú hrdosť, na najvyšší stupeň povýšil.  
Jednotárske múzeum a archív, koníčkum mu bolo,  
a to zdedené, slovenské srdce a hlas pravdy v ňom znelo.

Malú záhradku a rôzne kvety, ktoré mal tak rád,  
včelička, motýľ, či štebotavý vtáčik, bol jeho kamarát.  
Ach a ten, slovenský ovčiarsky pes, takzvaný „Čuvač“,  
mu dával istotu a on Edo, sa cítil, ako dajaký boháč.

Vo veľkej úcte mal svojich rodičov, hlavne jeho mamu.  
Učila ho, sa prežehnať, modliť a uctievať, Božiu Matku Pannu.  
Ale nadovšetko, mal rád svoju rodinu, svoje deti  
a pre svoju vernú manželku Olgu, pol sveta obletí.  
Až do Európy, do bývalého Česko – Slovenska, jej život zasvätil.

Budeš nám chýbať Edo! Ďakujeme Ti za Tvoje priateľstvo.  
Kam teraz pôjdeme po radu? A čo Ti zato dáme?  
Iba tichú, skromnú modlitbu, pre Teba máme.  
Nech zbor anjelov, Ťa privíta a Jeho požehnanie, darom neba, je Ti.  
Nech to Božie večné svetlo, do nekonečna, Ti svieti !!!

Jozef Smák

## TV LUX v Kanade a USA

Dvaja členovia televíznej rady TV LUX Jozef Kovacik /KBS/ a Martin Lišhák /LUX communication/ absolvovali koncom novembra pracovné stretnutia v kanadskej katolíckej televízii Salt&Light TV v Toronte a v produkčnom televíznom centre HALLEL communications v štáte New York, ktoré už mnohé roky vedie slovenský katolícky kňaz George Torok.

Obe stretnutia prinesú v budúcnosti svoje ovocie na obrazovkách TV LUX v podobe viacerých dokumentárnych filmov, ktoré budú postupne odvysielané.

(TK KBS)

## Úmysly apoštolátu modlitby na december

Aby Cirkev zoči-voči šíriacej sa kultúre násilia a smrti odvážne šírila kultúru života vo všetkých svojich apoštolských a misijných podujatiach.

Aby kresťania, najmä v misijných krajinách, gestami bratstva ukazovali, že Dieťa narodené v betlehemskej maštali je žiarivou nádejou pre svet.

Aby sa v Adventnom období kazatelia svedomito pripravovali na ohlasovanie Božieho kráľovstva.

## Láska Božia nádej naša ...

Zdvihni rúčku, Jezuliatko,  
a požehnaj celý svet!  
Bo bez Tvojho požehnanja  
lásky, šťastia na ňom niet.

Moc Božia nech Vás  
stále posilňuje;  
ruka Božia nech Vás  
všade ochraňuje.

Žehnaj všetkých mojich milých,  
ktorých dnes pozdravujem,  
keď im na Tvoje Narodenie  
všetko dobré vinšujem.

Slovo Božie vo všetkom  
riadi a spravuje;  
láska Božia nech Vás  
stále potešuje.

Anna Trojčáková

## Minister zahraničia Ján Kubiš prednášal vo Wilsonovom centre vo Washingtone

Washington (TASR) - Minister zahraničných vecí SR Ján Kubiš sa 21. novembra vo Washingtone stretol s bývalou šéfkou americkej diplomacie Madeleine Albrightovou. Vystúpil tiež s prejavom na pôde prestížneho washingtonského Medzinárodného centra Woodrowa Wilsona. Počas jednodňovej návštevy americkej metropoly absolvoval aj stretnutie s demokratickým kongresmanom slovenského pôvodu Joe Sestakom.

Kubišov rozhovor s Albrightovou, významnou predstaviteľkou Demokratickej strany, sa okrem iného sústredil na priority budúcej administratívy novozvoleného prezidenta USA Baracka Obamu. Kubiš vystúpil vo Wilsonovom centre v rámci cyklu prednášok venovaných otázkam budovania demokracie a slobody, ktoré každoročne spoločne organizujú Priatelia Slovenska (Friend of Slovakia) a Americkí priatelia Českej republiky (American Friends of the Czech Republic). Časť svojho vystúpenia minister Kubiš venoval slovensko-americkým vzťahom a posilňovaniu partnerstva medzi Európskou úniou a USA.

Zmienil sa tiež o nových výzvach, ktoré v regióne strednej Európy predstavuje vzrast radikalizmu, agresívneho nacionalizmu a extrémizmu. V tejto súvislosti spomenul aj problematiku slovensko-maďarských vzťahov a ocenil odhodlanie premiérov SR a Maďarska Roberta Fica a Ferenc Gyurcsanya, ktorý na nedávnom spoločnom stretnutí vyjadrili pripravenosť prijať opatrenia na boj proti extrémizmu.



Ján Kubiš

## História adventného venca

Venec je od nepamäti symbolom víťazstva a kráľovskej dôstojnosti. Aj Biblia hovorí o venci ako o prejave úcty, radosti a víťazstva. Adventný venec vzdáva hold tomu, ktorý je očakávaný, a ktorý zároveň prichádza ako víťaz, ako kráľ a osloboditeľ. Rozlievajúce sa svetlo z horiacich sviec vyjadruje prichádzajúceho Krista, ktorý rozptyľuje temnotu a strach, pretože on je „Svetlo sveta“ (Jn, 8,12)

Začiatkom 19. storočia, v roku 1808 sa narodil v Hamburgu Johann Henrich Wichern. Bol najstarším synom a mal ešte 7 súrodencov. Neskôr sa stal vychovávateľom a študoval teológiu, aby sa mohol stať evanjelickým pastorm. Johann H. Wichern potom pôsobil ako učiteľ v hamburskej nedeľnej škole. V túžbe postarať sa o chudobných ľudí, sa rozhodol zriadiť predovšetkým pre chudobné a opustené deti útulok. Neskôr sa mu vďaka milodarom a tvrdej práci podarilo jeho plán zrealizovať. Dom nazval Drsný dom, v ktorom opustené deti v jeho opatere boli nielen ubytované, ale sa aj priučali remeslu. Na základe neustálych otázok týchto detí, koľko dní ešte zostáva do Vianoc, sa rozhodol vyrobiť drevený venec s 24 sviečkami – 19 tenšími, ktoré predstavovali všedné dni a 4 hrubšími sviečkami, symbolizujúcimi štyri adventné nedele.



Archív TK KBS

## Peter Burian vymenovaný do funkcie vedúceho diplomatickej misie v USA

Bratislava (TASR) - Novovymenovaný veľvyslanec SR v USA Peter Burian chce počas svojho pôsobenia v zámorí využiť všetky možnosti, ktoré otvorilo nedávne zrušenie vízovej povinnosti pre cestovanie Slovákov do Spojených štátov. Slovensko je podľa neho zaujímavým partnerom USA nielen z pohľadu svojho členstva v EÚ, ale najmä pre unikátne skúsenosti a poznatky z vývoja v komplikovaných regiónoch západného Balkánu či v „zamrazených konfliktoch“. Povedal to po jeho vymenovaní do funkcie vedúceho diplomatickej misie v USA.

Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič 26. novembra v Prezidentskom paláci odovzdal poverovacie listiny aj novému veľvyslancovi v Portugalskej republike Jaroslavovi Jarúnekovi a Petrovi Svitekovi, ktorý nastúpi na obnovený post veľvyslancu vo Vietnamskej socialistickej republike. Hlava štátu pripomenula, že pre SR sú tieto zastupiteľstvá veľmi významné.

„Nová administratíva naznačuje, že sa chce venovať multilaterálnym riešeniam súčasných problémov viac, než to bolo v minulosti,“ uviedol Burian. Zdôraznil, že tento nový moment chce počas svojej misie využiť vo vzťahu medzi EÚ a Spojenými štátmi. Peter Burian, ktorý zastával v New Yorku významný post veľvyslancu NATO, sa chce zamerať aj na rozvoj ekonomických vzťahov. Podľa neho sa práve v súčasnej situácii finančnej a ekonomickej krízy ešte viac zvyrazňuje dôležitosť tejto spolupráce, ako aj hľadania nových investorov, ktorí by prišli do SR, rovnako aj hľadania nových možností exportu pre slovenské podniky. Podľa prezidenta bude v USA dôležité posilniť vzťahy s Kongresom.



FOTO TASR – Pavel Neubauer

Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič odovzdal 26. novembra 2008 v Prezidentskom paláci poverovacie listiny diplomatovi, ktorí v zahraničí povedú diplomatické misie Slovenskej republiky. Na snímke vpravo prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič odovzdáva poverovaciu listinu vedúcemu diplomatickej misie v USA Petrovi Burianovi.

## Gašparovič bude od nového roka udeľovať aj Medailu prezidenta

BRATISLAVA (TASR) - Prezident Slovenskej republiky bude mať od nového roka možnosť udeľovať okrem existujúcich štátnych vyznamenaní aj Medailu prezidenta SR. Vyplyva to zo zákona o vyznamenaní Slovenskej republiky, ktorý podpísal prezident Ivan Gašparovič. Autori zákona Mojmir Mamojka a Dušan Jarjabek (obaja Smer-SD) tiež navrhujú obnoviť udeľovanie Radu Andreja Hlinku. Predmetom ocenenia Medailou prezidenta SR sú podľa návrhu zákona významné zásluhy o zriadenie a správu štátu a o rozvoj v oblasti obrany a bezpečnosti Slovenskej republiky, hospodárstva SR, územnej samosprávy, školstva, kultúry a v ďalších oblastiach. Podľa novej právnej úpravy by sa štátne vyznamenania, s výnimkou Radu Bieleho dvojkríža, mali udeľovať len raz do roka, a to pri príležitosti výročia vzniku SR. Mieru zásluh jednotlivca, ktorá je rozhodujúcim kritériom na udelenie štátneho vyznamenania, by mala po novom hodnotiť Komisia na posudzovanie podnetov na predloženie návrhov na udelenie štátnych vyznamenaní.

Slovenský prezident v súčasnosti udeľuje vyznamenania v podobe radov a krížov. Rad Bieleho dvojkríža prináleží výhradne cudzincom, Rad Andreja Hlinku občanom SR, ktorí sa mimoriadnym spôsobom zaslúžili o vznik SR, jeho udeľovanie bolo pôvodne obmedzené do 1. januára 2003. Rad Ľudovíta Štúra získavajú občania SR, ktorí sa mimoriadnym spôsobom zaslúžili o rozvoj v oblasti spoločnosti, štátu, vedy či športu.

Kríž Milana Rastislava Štefánika sa udeľuje občanom SR, ktorí sa s nasadením vlastného života zaslúžili o obranu SR, záchranu ľudského života alebo materiálnych hodnôt. Pribinov kríž prináleží občanom SR, ktorí sa mimoriadne zaslúžili o hospodársky, sociálny alebo kultúrny rozvoj krajiny.

## Deň vd'akvyzdania v Bratislave

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Bratislava (TASR) - Na veľkú oslavu amerického sviatku Dňa vd'akvyzdania prišlo v sobotu 29. novembra do jedného z bratislavských business centier okolo 350 ľudí, medzi ktorými nechýbali americký veľvyslanec v SR Vincent Obsitnik a šéf slovenskej diplomacie Ján Kubiš, ako aj jeho predchodca Eduard Kukan. Slávnostný charitatívny galavečer pri príležitosti jedného z najväčších amerických sviatkov zorganizovala Americká obchodná komora v SR (AmCham), ktorá bola založená v roku 1993 v Bratislave.

Kulisou slávnostnej večere, na ktorej nechýbal tradičný pečený moriak, plnka, kukurica, brusnicová omáčka či sladké zemiaky, bol bohatý spoločenský program. Neoddeliteľnou súčasťou galavečera bola aj tombola, ktorej výťažok, spoločne so ziskom z predaja vstupeniciek na podujatie, poputuje na charitatívny projekt AmCham Thanksgiving Charity Drive. V rámci neho AmCham v roku 2007 darovala viac ako milión Sk (33.193 eur) jedenástim charitatívnym organizáciám z rôznych regiónov Slovenska. Tento sviatok sa v USA dodnes považuje za jeden z najdôležitejších v roku. Jeho symbolmi sú vd'ačnosť a ochota pomôcť.



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

# Jednota

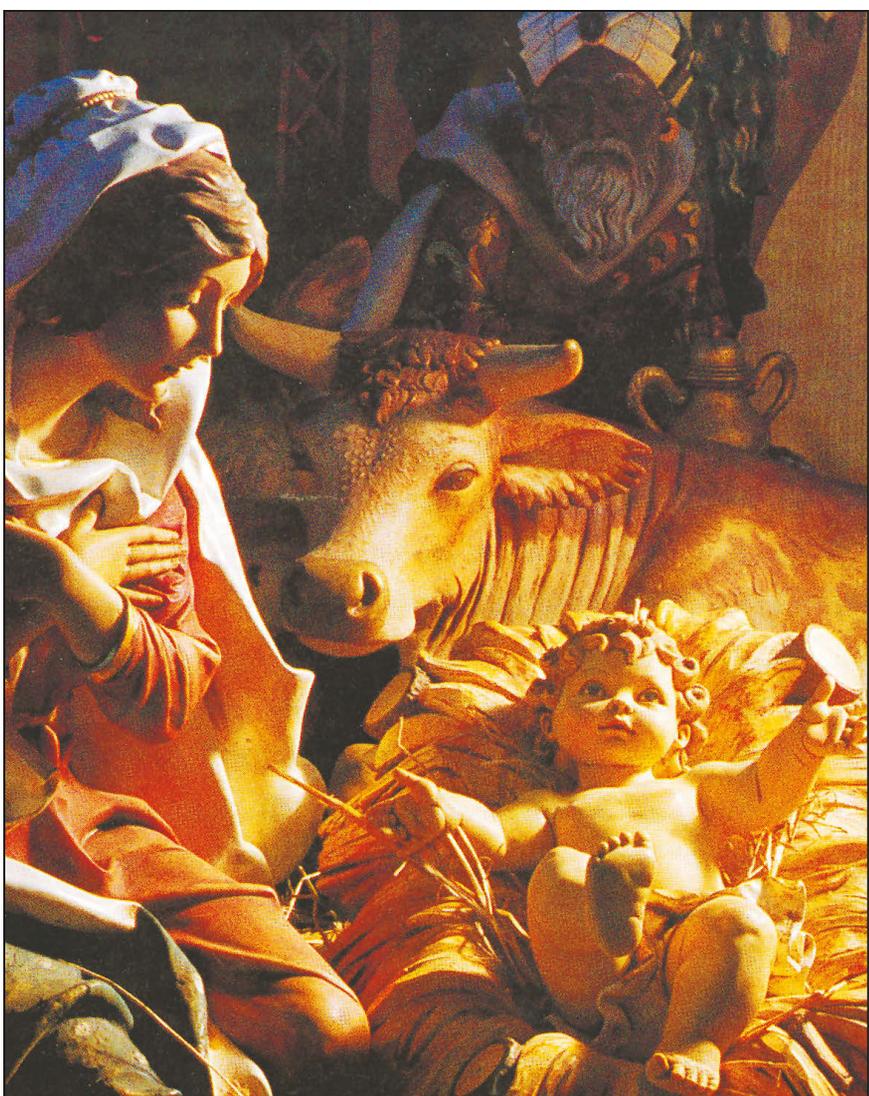


ÚRADNÝ ORGÁN PRVEJ KATOLÍCKEJ SLOVENSKEJ JEDNOTY V SPOJENÝCH ŠTÁTOCH A V KANADE

Ročník 117

STREDA, 10. DECEMBER, 2008

Číslo 5790



## Vianoce 2008

*Nech požehná Boh  
všetky dni a roky,  
ktoré nám ešte chystá.  
Nech viera, nádej, láska  
oblažia naše kroky.*

*Nech pokoj Boží  
plní nám vždycky srdcia  
a milosť nech ich pospája.  
Veď narodil sa Kristus Pán,  
putuje s nami do raja.*

*Vianočná radosť nech nám spieva,  
keď dni sú jasné alebo sa stmieva.*

*Nech to Jezuliatko v jasiach uložené,  
Vás v tom Novom roku, žehná  
každodenne.*

*A tiež v budúcnosti, dá mnohé milosti,  
by ste tie dni strávili v Nebeskej ra-  
dosti.*

## Vianočný pozdrav 2008 hlavného predsedu IKSJ

Milí členovia a priatelia,  
Vianoce sa blížia. A ďalší rok sa končí. Ďalšia príležitosť na stretnutie rodiny a priateľov vo sviatočnej nálade. Možnosť zaspomínať si na našich najmilších. Pre nás ďalšia príležitosť poďakovať sa nášmu Stvoriteľovi za všetky uplynulé požehnanie a modliť sa za našu budúcnosť.

Všetci sme rok starší a dúfajúc i múdrejší. Niektorí z našich členov zápasili, alebo zápasia s problémami svojho zdravia. Modlíme sa za nich v čase ich potreby. Posolstvom Vianoc je jedno z nových životov, narodenie Spasiteľa. Ako katolíci a všetci kresťania vieme, že naše bytie na tomto zemi je dočasné a že večnosť v nový život bez trápenia

Pokračovanie na str. 20



Andrej M. Rajec

## Pastiersky list na Prvú adventnú nedeľu 2008

Milí bratia a sestry,

na Prvú adventnú nedeľu začíname nový cirkevný rok, počas ktorého budeme znova prežívať najdôležitejšie udalosti dejín našej spásy. V dejinách spásy je rozhodujúcou skutočnosťou Božia láska, ktorá sa osobitne prejavuje aj v Božom slove. Práve tejto téme bolo venované 12. riadne generálne zhromaždenie Biskupskej synody, ktorá sa uskutočnila v októbri tohto roku v Ríme. Z biskupskej synody prichádza k nám vznešené posolstvo, ktoré vám chceme priblížiť.

Božie slovo je Božím hlasom. Ozýva sa na začiatku stvorenia, prerušuje ticho ničoty a spôsobuje vznik podivuhodných krás celého vesmíru. Hlas Božieho slova preniká do dejín, ktoré sú ranené ľudským hriechom, trápené bolesťou a telesnou smrťou. Počas stáročí Boží hlas zjavuje, že Pán sprevádza ľudstvo na jeho ceste, aby mu ponúkol svoju milosť, svoju zmluvu, svoju spásu. Hlas Božieho slova zostupuje na stránky Svätého písma, ktoré čítame dnes v Cirkvi.

Svätý evanjelista Ján napísal: „Slovo sa stalo telom“ (Jn 1, 14). Božie Slovo takto dostalo svoju ľudskú tvár. Je to tvár Ježiša Krista, Syna večného a nekonečného Boha, ale aj ako človeka smrteľného, viazaného na konkrétnu historickú dobu, na určitý národ, na určitú krajinu. Ježiš Kristus žil ľudský osud, plný námahy až po smrť, ale vstal slávne zmŕtvych a je živý navždy. On úplne zdokonalil naše stretnutie s Božím slovom. On je tým, kto nám zjavuje plný a jednotný zmysel Svätého písma, spôsobuje, že kresťanstvo je náboženstvom, ktoré má v strede osobu Ježiša Krista a on nám zjavuje Otca. Ježiš Kristus nám pomáha pochopiť, že aj texty Svätého písma sú „stelesnením“ Božieho slova, čiže sú to síce ľudské formulácie, ktoré treba pochopiť a študovať v ich spôsobe vyjadrovania sa, ale obsahujú vo svojom vnútri svetlo Božej pravdy a my môžeme túto Božiu pravdu správne porozumieť a žiť iba s pomocou Ducha Svätého.

Božie Slovo tým, ktorí ho prijali, dalo schopnosť stať sa Božími deťmi (porov. Jn 1, 12,14). Spoločenstvo Božích detí tvorí Cirkev, Božie slovo si pripravilo a

Pokračovanie na str. 20



## Deň vd'akvyzdania v Bratislave



FOTO TASR - Miroslav Košířer

Bratislavské Apollo Business Centrum 29.novembra 2008 ožilo veľkolepou oslavou amerického sviatku Dňa vd'akvyzdania, ktorú už pätnásťkrát na Slovensku organizovala Americká obchodná komora v SR (AmCham). Jeden z najväčších amerických sviatkov oslávili predstavitelia členských spoločností AmCham a ďalšie osobnosti podnikateľskej, politickej a diplomatickej komunity na Slovensku. Na snímke sprava exminister zahraničných vecí Eduard Kukan, exprezident Michal Kováč, americký veľvyslanec Vincent Obsitnik s manželkou.

Pokračovanie na str. 23