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Photo Credit Department of Homeland Security by Mike Lutz

In Bratislava Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff held a Press Conference with Slovak Minister of Interior Robert Kalinak.

## At White House in October Two Memorable Fridays

By John Karch

In October, members of the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC), in which I represent the Slovak League of America, received "Cordial" invitations to attend two White House events of importance to the United States and to the CEEC.

The first, for Friday, October 17, was to attend "remarks" on "The Visa Waiver Program" at the White House Rose Garden. With me was COL Stephen Matula, President of FCSU Branch 856 and member of the League. (See the previous issue of JEDNOTA.) The CEEC

brought to the White House its October 2008 "Position statement", containing important issues to us, including NATO Enlargement, Visa Waiver Program (VWP), U.S. financial assistance to the CEEC region, U.S. international broadcasting, energy, and human rights (see "Briefers" and the President below).

### VWP for Slovakia Set

According to the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava, on October 28, at a press conference at the Borik Hotel with Minister of Interior Robert Kalinak, Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff announced the expansion of the VWP to include citizens and nationals of the Slovak Republic. Visa-free travel will begin on November 17. The Secretary said he recognized the significance of October 28 and November 17 in Slovak and Czech history, and that admission of Slovakia into the VWP is a further symbol of shared respect for freedom that underpins our two countries' friendship.

To travel under the VWP, he explained, one

*continued on page 5*



Milenka Kopanic Feighner singing "Aj ja Taka carna"

## The Eighteenth Annual Slovak Festival at the University of Pittsburgh

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

Every year on the first Sunday of November, the University of Pittsburgh hosts a splendid Slovak Festival, one of the best ethnic gatherings in the U.S.A. This year marked the 18<sup>th</sup> time the annual event has taken place, and as usual, it was a roaring success. The Slovak Festival provides a unique opportunity to enjoy oneself and at the same time, learn more about Slovakia and Slovak culture.

As in previous years, the Slovak Festival featured diverse Slovak songs and dances by several

*continued on page 3*

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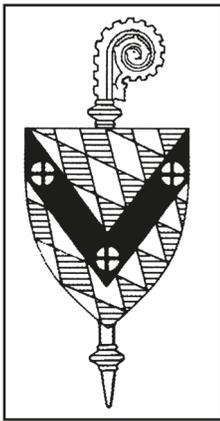
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## Inside

Editorial/Commentary.....	2
Branch/District Announcements....	7,10,11
Obituaries.....	8
Coloring Contest.....	14,15
Slovak.....	20-24



# Insights and Viewpoints



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

**December 8, 2008**

**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

**Luke 1:26-38**

### Gospel Summary:

The feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates one of the special privileges granted to Mary in view of her most intimate relationship to her divine Son and our Savior. It means that, in anticipation of her becoming the mother of Jesus, she

was granted the privilege of exemption from the stain of original sin which is the common burden of all the rest of us. It is important to be clear about this because there is a tendency to think that this exception pertains to Jesus rather than to his mother.

It is important to recall also, as today's gospel reminds us, that Mary became the mother of Jesus in consequence of her loving and generous response to the angel Gabriel: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." All the privileges of Mary derive from that moment of self-commitment to the plans of God. It should not surprise us, therefore, to see that the gospel of Luke devotes more attention to the Annunciation than to any other event of Mary's life.

### Life Implications:

The sinless condition of Mary, from the beginning to the end of her life, elicits our admiration and prompts us to be grateful to God for making this possible in one who shares our nature as human beings. Although we cannot imitate her sinless condition, we can be greatly encouraged by this signal victory over evil. We live in a world of so much sin and violence that we are tempted to wonder whether the light really can overcome the darkness, as John's Prologue promises. But we are immensely reassured as we celebrate each year this victory of Mary, "our tainted nature's solitary boast" (William Wordsworth).

At the same time, we need to remember that this victory came directly from the willingness of Mary to accept a mysterious mission from God which, as she surely must have suspected, would lead to grievous suffering. We too need to make difficult choices that may demand much love and courage. And we too are aware that it may be very painful to remain faithful to the choices that God expects of us. In such situations, the generosity of Mary remains a wonderful model for us. Moreover, we can be sure that her maternal solicitude will accompany us as we try to live in accordance with our best instincts.

When we reflect upon the fact that sin is the worst kind of bondage, the sinless Mary is recognized also as the only one among us human beings who is truly free. Those who aspire to freedom solely through the acquisition of power should pause to consider that the ultimate freedom of Mary came through her resolute and loving obedience to the mission that God offered to her. She became a model of freedom through her loving generosity, and this will always be the only truly effective way to acquire human freedom and dignity.



**December 14, 2008**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**John 1:6-8, 19-28**

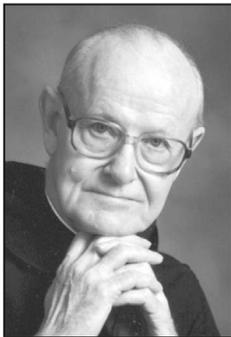
### Gospel Summary

The gospel passage tells us about a man named John who was sent by God to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. This is the way the testimony happened. Religious leaders from Jerusalem came to find out who he was. John tells them that he is not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet. He does say: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord . . ." Then John is asked: "Why do you baptize . . . ?" He answers: "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

### Life Implications

The life implication of this gospel passage is ultimate in its significance: whether or not we recognize God's coming among us in Jesus Christ. The passage is from the prologue of John's gospel (1:1-34) in which are contained the essential doctrinal truths about Jesus. It is better to read the entire prologue for oneself than to read a summary here. What is essential to note is that in the prologue we have the essential truths about Jesus. Only then does John begin his gospel narrative. Jesus himself now appears on the scene, and personally addresses two men who had heard about him and were following him. Jesus asks: "What are you looking for?" They reply: "Where do you dwell?" Jesus says to them: "Come, and you will see."

We, the readers of the gospel, already know from the prologue that Jesus, Son of God and the Word, has dwelt with God and was God "in the beginning." John then in the gospel narrative proceeds to tell us how various people came to recognize the divine reality of Je-



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

sus through the gift of faith. Tragically, however, we learn that others, with hardened hearts, failed to recognize him, thus remaining blind in darkness. The gospel tells us about the miracles or signs which occasioned both the recognition and the rejection of Jesus.

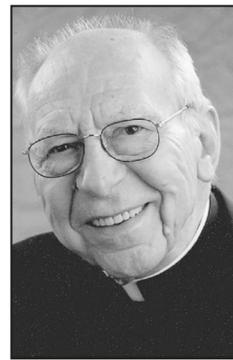
At the conclusion of his gospel, John tells us that Jesus did many other signs which he did not write about. But, he adds, these signs are written "that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name (Jn 20:30-31).

The life implication for us is the same as it was for the people who heard about Jesus during his historical life. How do we cross that infinite space between blindness and sight, between hearing about Jesus and recognizing him as the divine person who desires to dwell in us? (Read Jn 14-17.) As in John's gospel, it is through miracles or signs that the divine presence is revealed. For some, John's gospel can become a sign which occasions the recognition of Jesus as living Lord. For others, it may be reading the words of a saint, receiving an act of kindness, seeing a person in need, experiencing an odd coincidence, seeing the beauty of art, music, or nature. Even a tragic event in one's life can become a miracle or sign which leads to the recognition of the divine presence.

Advent is a special time for open-hearted prayer of hope for the gift of recognizing God's coming among us. If today you should hear his voice, harden not your heart. Lord, I believe, help my unbelief.

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

**2 Corinth-2**



**Msgr. Edward V. Rosack**

"Am I beginning to speak well of myself again? Or do I need letters of recommendation to you or from you as others might?" (2Cor. 3:1)

"Because we possess this ministry through God's mercy, we do not give in to discouragement. Rather, we repudiate shameful, underhanded practices. We do not resort to trickery or falsify the word of God. We proclaim the truth openly and commend ourselves to every man's conscience before God." (2 Cor. 4:1-2)

"We are afflicted in every way possible, but we are not crushed; full of doubts, we never despair. We are persecuted but never abandoned; we are struck down but never destroyed." (2 Cor. 4:8-9)

"Indeed, we know that when the earthly tent in which we dwell is destroyed we have a dwelling provided for us by God, a dwelling in

the heavens, not made by hands but to last forever. We groan while we are here, even as we yearn to have our heavenly habitation envelop us. This it will, provided we will be found clothed and not naked. While we live in our present tent we groan; we are weighed down because we do not wish to be stripped naked but rather to have the heavenly dwelling envelop us, so that what is mortal may be absorbed by life. God has fashioned us for this very thing and has given us the Spirit as a pledge of it.

"Therefore we continue to be confident. We know that while we dwell in the body we are away from the Lord. We walk by faith, not by sight, I repeat, we are full of confidence and would much rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. This being so, we make it our aim to please him whether we are with him or away from him. The lives of all of us are to be revealed before the tribunal of Christ so that each one may receive his recompense, good or bad, according to his life in the body." (2 Cor. 5:1-10)

"Men of Corinth, we have spoken to you frankly, opening our hearts wide to you. There is no lack of room for you in us; the narrowness is in you." (2 Cor. 6:11-12)

*continued on page 4*

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# The Eighteenth Annual Slovak Festival at the University of Pittsburgh

*continued from page 1*

groups, educational lectures and displays, Slovak ethnic foods and pastries, and vendors selling novelties, books, recordings, crafts, Christmas ornaments, and other assorted Slovak merchandise.

Some of the exhibits included the following: Helene Cincebeaux's with of Slovak *kroj* (costume), Joseph Armata's with Slovak weaving and embroidery, Bill Kurtek's ethnic map and display, Mary Gido with Slovak bobbin lace, Carolyn Petrus with Slovak folk dress and textiles, Karen Mesaros nad Kay Ann Cober's genealogical and travel agency, Lisa Also's fine cooking book and genealogical guides, and many others' sales of Slovak items and cd's.

No gathering of Slovaks is complete without a good meal, and Sue Ondrejco and her helpers did a marvelous job of preparing a tasty Slovak lunch -- *halušky*, *pirohy*, *klobasa*, *holupky*, and a variety of desserts, including *čeregy*.

The musical program on the main stage kicked off with the Ben Sorensen's playing that unique Slovak shepherd's horn, the *fujara*. The Pittsburgh Area Slovak Ensemble (PAS) followed with an energetic performance of a variety of lively folk songs, mainly of western Slovak origins. This author's daughter, Milenka Kopanic Feighner, sang a solo of *Aj ja taka čarná* (I am so dark!), preceded by Tina Prekača (Precaca), who sang *A od Prešova* (And from Prešov, a city in eastern Slovakia).

John and Angela Lipchick direct PAS, and on November 23 at 2 p.m., the group will be holding a benefit concert entitled "*Drotár*" (The Tinker) at Carlow University in Pittsburgh. PAS is hoping to raise money to fund its trip to perform at the Detva Folk Festival in Slovakia during July 2009.

After PAS, the Slavjane Folk Ensemble of over 60 members put on a breathtaking performance of traditional Carpatho-Rusyn and Slovak songs and dances, tossing and turning so much that the audience's eyes were spinning. Then the program featured tenor Jozef Ivaška, the "Man of a Thousand Songs," who both entertained and led a sing-a-long of some of his lively tunes. Proceeding further, the fabulous Reviľak Family Singers moved the crowd with their traditional songs, ending with the popular *Ja Parobok z Kapušán* (I am a Young Man from Kapušany), which many attendees joined in singing along.

After the Reviľaks' leaving the stage to hearty applause, Helene Cincebeaux demonstrated traditional *Kroj* (Slovak Folk Costume). The main musical program then ended with the lively traditional Slovak folk dancing of the Pittsburgh Jr. Slovaks and the Pittsburgh Slovaks. They capped the program with their colorful dances and singing.

Directed by Rudy and Sue Ondrejco (Slovak Radio Hours hosts on Sundays at 3:00 pm on WPIT-AM), the Pittsburgh Slovaks have aimed to be accurate and authentic in their renditions of so many Slovak folk songs, and the Slovak American community owes them both deep gratitude and raving applause for their ongoing dedication.

When attendees wished a respite from the music, they could attend several superb presentations in the beautifully decorated Nationality Rooms. The lectures included the following:

- 1) Lisa Alzo – "Surfing for Slovak Ancestors: Find Your Roots Online"
- 2) Monika Krajčová – "Teaching Slovakia's Roma (Gypsies): Outlooks for a New Generation"
- 3) Susan Marcinkus – "Slovak and Czech Cinema: A Reflection of History and Culture"
- 4) Tony Brendel – "Slovak Cuisine" (Author of a new book, *Slovak American Touches*)
- 5) Judy Sheary and Matthew Eppley – "Rock the Folk: Popular Music in Contemporary Slovakia"

All attending thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the opportunity to be entertained, learn something new, and relish a great meal.

We can look forward to next year's Slovak Festival at the University of Pittsburgh, and wish to thank the Festival Director, Christine Metil, who meticulously organizes the event, and the head of the Slovak Studies Department, Dr. Martin Votruba, who ensures a high level of scholarly yet popular lectures and presentations.

We should also acknowledge the very generous support of the Slovak fraternal societies that helped make the Slovak Studies Program and this festival possible – the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, the



The Pittsburgh Slovaks

Slovak Catholic Sokol, the National Slovak Society, and all those who devoted their time and effort to making this wonderful annual event a continuing adventure..

For further information about the annual event or the Slovak Studies Program, one may call 412-624-5906 or send an email to [slavic@pitt.edu](mailto:slavic@pitt.edu).

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Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10	MONDAY, DECEMBER 1
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21	MONDAY, JANUARY 12

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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# Insights and Viewpoints

## Reflections on Our Christianity

*continued from page 2*

"Make room for us in your hearts! We have injured no one, we have corrupted no one, we have cheated no one. I do not condemn you. I have already said that you are in our hearts, even to the sharing of life and death together. I speak to you with utter frankness and boast much about you. I am filled with consolation, and despite my many afflictions my joy knows no bounds.

"When I arrived in Macedonia I was restless and exhausted. I was under all kinds of stress-quarrels with others and fears within myself. But God, who gives heart to those who are low in spirit, gave me strength with the arrival of Titus. This he did, not only with his arrival but by the reinforcement Titus had already received from you; for he reported your longing, your grief, and your ardent concern for me, so that my joy is greater still. If I have saddened you by my letter I have no regrets. Or if I did feel some regret (because I understand that the letter caused you grief for a time), I am happy once again; not because you were saddened, but because your sadness led to repentance. You were filled with sorrow that came from God; thus you did not suffer any loss from us. Indeed, sorrow for God's sake produces a repentance without regrets, leading to salvation, whereas worldly sorrow brings death." (2 Cor. 7:2-10)

We don't know much about Titus. He was a Greek Christian who was associated with Paul for nearly 20 years. During the time Titus was with Paul, there was a controversy in the Church dealing with circumcision. Many Christians in Jerusalem resented the acceptance of Gentile Christians. They insisted that those Gentiles (non-Jews) who wished to become Christians had to be circumcised in accordance with Mosaic Law. Paul challenged the position of those Christians who insisted on circumcision for Gentile Christians. "Then, after fourteen years, I went up to Jerusalem again with Barnabas, this time taking Titus with me. I was prompted by a revelation, and I laid out for their scrutiny the gospel as I presented it to the Gentiles- all this in private conference with the leaders, to make sure the course I was pursuing, or had pursued, was not useless. Not even Titus, who was with me, was ordered to undergo circumcision, despite his being Greek." (Galatians 2:1-3)

Regarding the collection for the poor Christians in Jerusalem, Paul wrote: "I am about to give you some advice on this matter of rich and poor. It will help you who began this work last year, not only to carry it through, but to do so willingly. Carry it through now to a successful completion, so that your ready resolve may be matched by giving according to your means. The willingness to give should accord with one's means, not go beyond them. The relief of others ought not to impoverish you: there should be a certain equality. Your plenty at the present time should supply their need so that their surplus may one day supply your need, with equality as a result. It is written, 'He who gathered much had no excess and he who gathered little had no lack.'" (2 Cor. 8:10-15)



## Oplatky and Christmas Cards for Sale

Oplatky are currently available through the Jankola Library. The traditional Christmas wafers are packaged five (5) to a thermo-sealed packet for a donation of \$3.00. Postage (Priority Mail) and handling is an additional \$5.50.

Slovak religious Christmas cards are also available at eight (8) cards for \$5.00 plus postage and handling, unless they are mailed with the oplatky.

To order or to make inquiries, please call 570/275-5606; e-mail at [jankolalib@jlink.net](mailto:jankolalib@jlink.net); or write to: Sister M. John Vianney, SS.C.M., Jankola Library, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698

### 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



## Apostleship of Prayer

Intentions for December 2008

### General Intention

Culture of Life. That, faced with the expansion of the culture of violence and death, the Church may courageously promote the culture of life through all her apostolic and missionary activities.

Pope Benedict XVI asks us to pray for the culture of life- specifically, that the Church may effectively promote life through its activities.

Prayer for the culture of life is urgent because the culture of violence and death is growing.

The culture of death is based on the idea that humans are something less than beings in the image of God, unique creatures so loved by their Creator that he took flesh and died to restore us to friendship with himself. When a society loses this belief in the inestimable value of each person, the culture of death creeps in.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church in its discussion of the fifth commandment, "You shall not kill," specifically condemns murder, abortion, euthanasia, genocide, wars that are not necessary for defense, slavery, racism, sexism, torture, abuse, suicide, and all other acts that degrade or victimize people (2258-2317).

Although its moral vision has sharpened throughout history, the Church has always condemned the practices of the culture of death.

The truth we uphold is that God is Love and Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Jesus both affirmed and reversed the negative "thou shalt not" of the fifth commandment by giving us the positive commandment to love others and do good to them, even to our enemies. We are to love, protect, and serve all who are vulnerable, including the unborn, young, old, ill, handicapped, weak, hurting, outcast, and oppressed.

This month we pray that the whole Church may promote the culture of life and be a true light to our darkening world.

Reflection. Because we are sinners, we all have done things or have attitudes that are opposed to the culture of life. How do you think God wants to change you?

### Mission Intention

Fraternal Witness. That, especially in mission countries, Christians may show through gestures of kindness that the Child born in Bethlehem is the Hope of the world.

This month the Pope offers us a Christmas intention that emphasizes again that Christians ought to be doers and not just hearers of the Word of God. We are to pray that all Christians will show by actions as well as words that the Child born in Bethlehem is the true Hope of the world.

What actions? "Gestures of kindness," says the Holy Father. What is the message? That God became a human being, a fragile child born into a world torn by sin and strife. God was never indifferent to our plight, but chose in one person at one time and in one place to manifest his love. Previously God spoke through the prophets; this time he spoke through a gesture, his own appearance in the flesh.

In so doing, he unites himself with every person. Jesus was like us in all things, except sin. He walked among us and spoke God's own words. But then in another incomprehensible gesture of kindness toward us, he offered himself as an innocent sacrifice for our eternal life. Now "each one of us can say with the Apostle: The Son of God 'loved me and gave himself up for me' (Galatians 2:20)" (Gaudium et Spes, 26).

Gaudium et Spes (Joy and Hope) was approved by the bishops at the end of the great Church council of the 1960's. The document speaks eloquently about the Hope that extends from Bethlehem to our own world today. "By suffering for us he not only provided us with an example for our imitation, he blazed a trail, and if we follow it, life and death are made holy and take on new meaning." (27)

"Through Christ and in Christ, the riddles of sorrow and death grow meaningful. Apart from his gospel, they overwhelm us. Christ has risen, destroying death by his death; he lavished life upon us so that, as sons in the Son, we can carry out in the Spirit: Abba, Father" (33, 34).

By the power of that same Spirit of Christ, may Christians everywhere reflect their great Hope by "gestures of kindness," gestures small and large, expressing genuine love for others, forgetful of ourselves.

Reflection. Through what gestures of kindness will you express your faith that the child born in Bethlehem is the Hope of the world?

## 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)

# At White House in October Two Memorable Fridays

*continued from page 3*

will need a biometric passport, an electronic travel authorization (ESTA), and the trip must be 90 days or less. The Embassy gave the website on which ESTA can be accessed.

With the cooperation of the Ministry of Interior, the Embassy undertook immediately an "Educational Outreach" program, explaining VWP and ESTA to the public in person and through the media. For example, Vice Consul Ann Meceda and Information Officer Keith Hughes briefed journalists and gave interviews on what VWP is, how a person qualifies to travel visa-free, and how the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) works. On Markiza's Telerano November 10, Ambassador Vincent Obsitnik announced that Embassy officers will wish "Dobru cestu" at the airport to the first Visa Waiver travelers from Slovakia.

## Back to White House

The CEEC members were thanked for attending the first visit and invited for the second, Friday, October 24, on "NATO Accession Protocols for Albania and Croatia."

However, in addition to these formal events, to which U.S. and foreign officials were invited, the 33 CEEC participants, including Steve Matula, would receive a briefing/discussion, which we had sought, with National Security Council (NSC) officials in the White House State Dining Room. The tables were covered by white table cloths, the seating alphabetically of the organizations, each participant identified by his/her name and organization. Each seating had mixed nuts (very good) and several chocolates with a White House logo. Drinks were water or soda. Thus, everyone was comfortable and impressed, ready for the briefings and, possibly, the President to say a word or two.

## The Briefers

The briefers were Ambassador to NATO Kurt Volker and Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives and External Affairs Barry Jackson. Present were National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley, his Deputy Judith Ansley, Office of Public Liaison's Vanessa Beebe, and several others of the NSC. In addition to NATO enlargement the briefings covered the President's Freedom Agenda, the Visa Waiver Program, difficulties involving the Ukraine and Georgia, support of democracy building in Belarus, the approaching 60<sup>th</sup> NATO Summit in 2009, U.S.-Russian relations, and the Victims of Communism Memorial.

## President Bush

Near the end of these briefings we were honored by a Welcome from President George W. Bush who, although very busy, entered the room, shook hands with all 33 of us, and thanked us for our support and promotion of the new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe for NATO membership. Then, surprisingly, he talked and answered questions for nearly a half hour, especially about his perception of the U.S. role in, importance of, and his view of NATO's future. He referred to his Administration's accomplishments and CEEC's support of the rounds of NATO's enlargement. He emphasized the necessity of CEEC's continued endeavors during the incoming presidential administration and that NATO must continue to admit those countries that aspire to membership and are prepared to undertake the burdens of membership, including Macedonia, Ukraine and Georgia.

## NATO Enlargement

Following this fascinating episode, we were able to visit various rooms of the White House while waiting for the signing ceremony—a media event in the East Room—of NATO Accession Protocols—for Albania and Croatia. Several rows of seats were designated for CEEC participants.

## President Bush

At 6:30 P.M. after welcoming NATO's Secretary General and the Ambassadors of Albania and Croatia, and others, President Bush opened the NATO enlargement event saying, in part, the following: "With today's ceremony we celebrate two young and vigorous democracies seeking to assume new responsibilities in a time of terrorism and a time of war. We strengthen America's



White House photo by Chris Greenberg

President George W Bush is joined on stage by Croatian Ambassador Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic (left), Albanian Ambassador Alesksander Saliabanda and NATO Secretary General Jaap De Hoop Scheffer (right) as he signs the NATO accession protocols on October 24, 2008 in the East Room of the White House, in support of the nations of Albania and Croatia to join the NATO alliance.

partnership with nations that once found themselves in the shackles of communism. We rejoice in taking a major step toward welcoming the people of Albania and Croatia into the greatest alliance for freedom the world has ever known....

The invitation to join NATO is recognition of the difficult reforms these countries have undertaken on the path to prosperity and peace. In return, NATO membership offers the promise of security and stability. The United States and our NATO allies will stand united in defense of our fellow members....

Once Albania and Croatia formally join NATO, their people can know: If any nation threatens their security, every member of our Alliance will be at their side....

America looks forward to the day when the ranks of NATO include all the nations in the Balkans—including Macedonia.... Today I reiterate America's commitment to the NATO aspirations of Ukraine, Georgia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Montenegro. The door to NATO membership also remains open to the people of Serbia should they choose that path.... On behalf of my fellow Americans, I offer congratulations to the people of Albania and Croatia on this historic achievement...."

## NATO Secretary General

In response Secretary General De Hoop Scheffer said, in part: "Credit where credit is due.... Almost 60 years ago, when NATO's founding treaty was signed right here in this city, one delegate expressed the hope that it would prove to be a continuous creation. Today's ceremony is ample proof that this hope has been realized...."

Today we will be witnessing the United States of America ratification of the Protocols of Accession. Given the indispensable political and military role of this nation in our Alliance, this is a most significant moment.... Their accession will be a boon for NATO as it will strengthen our common effort to safeguard and promote security and stability....

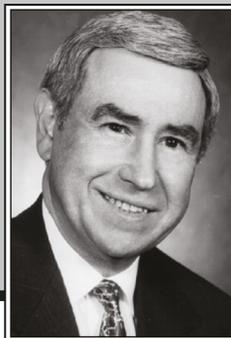
Let me end, Mr. President, by crediting you for your relentless investment and your relentless energy of making NATO a larger and more successful Alliance. I think we have seen in your eight years the energy this Alliance deserves—but without your personal commitment, I think this would not have been possible."

Then the President signed the NATO Accession Protocols. This concluded CEEC's memorable visit to the White House.

## MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS

*By Joseph T. Senko*

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



## Don't Let Your Teen Get Caught in a Credit Crunch

The teen years are a great time to introduce children to the rules for managing credit and debt.

Don't miss out on an opportunity to broach this important topic. Young adults are swamped with advertisements for credit cards as soon as they enter college, and many don't know how to say no. Some estimates say undergraduates are carrying an average outstanding balance on their credit cards of \$2,100. Between credit card debt and hefty student loan balances, young people often struggle to cover their payments.

### Explain the Good and the Bad

Let your children know that there's nothing wrong with credit. It's a useful tool that can make it possible for people to buy a home or finance purchases such as cars or appliances. However, remind your kids that this privilege comes with a responsibility to spend wisely and make the necessary payments when they come due.

### Interest Rates and Payoff Dates

The next time you receive credit card offer, sit down with your child and explain how it works. In particular, show him or her how to find the interest rate and any other fees associated with the card. Explain that if he or she doesn't pay off a balance immediately, anything bought will cost more than the sticker price because of interest charges.

### Calculate the Difference

Your next step is to show them how interest works. Many online sites contain calculators that reveal the real cost of debt and how long it takes to pay off a purchase if you pay only the minimum amount due. Your teen will quickly see the cost of charging a purchase rather than paying with cash.

### Use the Best Resources

The 360 Degrees of Financial Literacy program—a public service effort created by the CPA profession—has a treasure trove of information on teaching your children to spend wisely. The "Childhood" section of the Web site [www.360financialliteracy.org](http://www.360financialliteracy.org) contains articles on topics such as teaching teens about money, investments, and how to manage their summer earnings.

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2008

### HOME OFFICE • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

#### OPEN

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and asked Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., to lead the prayer.

#### ROLL CALL

Members Attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President  
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary  
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President  
George F. Matta, Treasurer

#### ACCEPTANCE OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the September, 2008 Executive Committee meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Matta to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

#### TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

Treasurer George Matta presented a written report (see enclosed). The Executive Committee reviewed the written report and the Treasurer answered their questions. The Treasurer further led a discussion concerning a possibility of investing our excess funds in a money market or U.S. Treasury Bonds. He will update the Executive Committee when more information becomes available. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

#### FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK

The Executive Secretary led a discussion that we received the approval of our application for membership with Federal Home Loan Bank.

The Executive Secretary informed the Executive Committee that we will have an orientation meeting with Jim O'Toole, Assistant Vice President of Federal Home Loan Bank, on October 23, 2008. This membership is intended as an investment as the Federal Home Loan Bank has a history of paying dividends ranging from 5 1/2 % to 7 1/2 %.

#### 2010 CONVENTION

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee about the progress on finding a suitable convention site. The Executive Secretary instructed Jim Harmon, an event planner, to inspect several new locations as possible convention sites as suggested by the Board of Directors. The Executive Secretary will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

The President stated that he would like to make the decision about the Convention site at the March Board of Directors meeting, since our By-laws state that the site must be selected one year prior to the convention.

#### JEDNOTA ESTATES

The President updated the Executive Committee about the meeting with the representatives of the potential developer of our property in Middletown, PA. He stated that he contracted an appraisal company located in Pennsylvania to have the property appraised. Once this is completed, the President will update the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.

#### BOND REPOSITORY AGENT

The Executive Secretary stated that he met with the representatives of two local area banks to discuss the possibility of becoming custodian(s) of our bonds to replace Merrill Lynch. A copy of the proposals from each bank was given to the members of the Executive Committee for review. The Executive Secretary will investigate and will update the Executive Committee about the progress.

#### SALES AND MARKETING

The Vice President reviewed our Sales Production Report in different Regions and answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Vice President updated on the progress on the AD & D (Accidental Death & Dismemberment).

#### Seminars

The Vice President updated the Executive Committee on the seminars he conducted and stated that he is in process of planning seminars for 2009.

The Executive Secretary informed the Executive Committee that the Home Office is set up to accept credit card payments for all types of insurance policies, certificate loans and Jednota newspaper subscriptions, but not for annuity deposits. A notice about the acceptance of credit card payments will be put in newspaper, on the website and mailed with premium billing statements.

The Vice President further updated the Executive Committee on the progress in recruiting independent agents in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He stated that he will start advertising in Ohio after January 1, 2009.

The Vice President also stated that we continue with advertising our products in the Jednota newspaper, which is now printed with some color pages. Information on our new products will be included in each branch mailing and billing statement.

A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by George Matta to accept the Vice President's report. Motion carried.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

The President stated he that he attended the Fraternal Activities Meeting in Pittsburgh. He stated that the Fraternal Activities Director from the Slovak Catholic Sokol was present and he was updated about the progress on our joint events planned for 2009. The

President further stated that also discussed was the possibility of having a one day bowling tournament as well as the possibility of cooperating with other tournaments beside bowling and golfing.

#### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

##### MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of September for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

##### MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

The Executive Secretary reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of September:

Disbursements for the month of September 2008

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$145,547.74
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 29,560.97
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ - 0 -
Trust Fund	\$ - 0 -

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report. The Executive Committee reviewed the rest of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary answered their questions.

##### REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

Requests were reviewed and acted upon.

#### ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Matta to adjourn the meeting. The Vice President closed the meeting with prayer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew M. Rajec  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

### September 2008 Treasurer's Report

Prepared by George F. Matta, National Treasurer

During the month of September only the following bond was purchased

WACHOVIA SECURITIES						
A2/A	WACHOVIA COR	6.375	02-01-09	99.125	8.85	200K
			NON CALL			



## 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**

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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

### REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT- EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District held its annual meeting on Sunday, October 5, 2008, at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Church, Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania. Mass was celebrated at 11:00 a.m. by the Rev. Kevin Gallagher. The officers, delegates and guests enjoyed a delicious dinner at Gil's Catering Service.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Msgr. Thomas Derzack. The meeting was called to order by President Greg Harakal. Roll call was taken with 6 officers and 16 delegates present. On a motion by Kathy Nowatskoski and Gerald Fabian, the count was accepted and approved. The secretary read the minutes, and as there were no corrections or additions, the report was accepted and approved on motions by Karen Sterling and Bernard Madeja. There was no financial reports available as Financial Secretary and Treasurer Ed Nasta could not attend since his father Don Nasta was taken to the hospital. A prayer was offered for Andrew Trojcek who died recently. Victor Sebo announced that Branch 61 was being dissolved. There followed a discussion about branches being merged or dissolved.

The election of officers took place. The following were elected: Greg Harakal, President; Helena Gaydos, Vice President; Damian Nasta, Financial Secretary; Edward Nasta, Treasurer; Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary; AnnaRose Payne, Fraternal Director; Bernardine Gerhard, Chairperson of Auditors; Helen Fiala and Gerald Fabian, Auditors; and Msgr. Thomas Derzack, Chaplain. The officers were sworn in by B.J. Nowatskoski.

Helen Fiala wished to thank everyone for their cooperation for the past 25 years as their recording secretary. She was pleased that her daughter Loretta Dashner took over the position.

The semiannual meeting will be held on March 29, 2009 in Allentown, PA.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Phyllis Roman and Karen Sterling. Msgr. Derzack closed the meeting with a prayer. All sang "Hej Slovaci" and "God Bless America".

Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary

### PITTSBURGH DISTRICT - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Pittsburgh District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. Branch 38 will be the host for this meeting. All branches are expected to send representatives. The meeting will include officers' reports and a discussion of FCSU business. Branch hosts for 2009 events will be selected. District officers for 2009 will be elected at this meeting.

A Family Christmas Party will be held following the business meeting. This is a new event for the district and members are encouraged to bring their children and grandchildren. Please notify Florence Matta at 412/466-7460 or George Matta at 412/672-5330 if you plan to attend. Come and visit Holy Trinity Church which now has an outstanding new mural featuring Saints Cyril and Methodius with background scenes of the New World and the Old Country.

The officers of the Pittsburgh District wish all the members a Happy and Holy Holiday Season.

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

### 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

## Attention St. Cyril Academy Alumnae

Back issues of the FIALKY, the semi-annual publication as well as the yearbook of graduates are available. Former students who might wish to reminisce about the experiences of their teen years may find them very interesting. Please send requests to: Sister M. John Vianney, SS.C.M., Jankola Library, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698, or call 570/275-5606 or E-mail jankolalib@jlink.net

## Coming Events

### December 7

The Pittsburgh District's Annual Meeting and Family Christmas Party at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania.

### 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.



## George Onda District Annual Stedry Vecer

The George Onda District will hold its annual Stedry Vecer on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at the Bishop Connare Center, Route 30 East, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The evening will begin with Mass at 4:00 p.m. in the chapel followed by a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner. Door prizes will be awarded and the Pittsburgh Slovaks will provide the entertainment.

Tickets are \$16.00 for adults and \$11.00 for children 16 and younger. Tickets are limited so make your reservations early by calling Ed Mizikar at 724/423-2616. No tickets will be sold after December 1.

Please make plans to attend and help us keep this beautiful Slovak custom alive.

Linda L. Gonta, 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)

## REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### Mary G. Perun

Branch 580

Duquesne, Pennsylvania

Mary G. (Cvejkus) Perun, 87, of West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, died suddenly on Monday, September 22, 2008 at home. She was born April 25, 1921, the daughter of the late Michael and Helen Koval Cvejkus. She was the beloved wife of the late Albert R. Perun.

Mrs. Perun was a member of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in West Mifflin and its Rosary Society and Confraternity of Christian Mothers. She was also the financial secretary of the Osadny Lodge for 50 years until it was converted to Branch 580 of the First Catholic Slovak Union, where she continued her duties for the past six years. She was also a former committee member of Troop 8 Boy Scouts in Homestead, a former employee of Union Switch and Signal in Swissvale, Gimbel's Department Store in Pittsburgh, and the printing department of the University of Pittsburgh. She and her husband Albert were also former proprietors of Homeville Coffee Shop. Her kind heart and thoughtfulness touched the lives of many.

She is survived by two loving sons, Alan R. (Diane) Perun of Jefferson Hills, and Robert A. Perun of West Mifflin and his finance Tammie Mack; a brother, Michael J. Cvejkus of Duquesne; a sister, Anna Mae Ondechek (Robert) of York; and nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at the William S. Skovranko Memorial Home, Duquesne. A Blessing ceremony took place in the Memorial Home followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in Holy Trinity Church with the Rev. Joseph Grosko as celebrant. Burial was in Jefferson Memorial Park.

The members and officers of Branch 580 express their deepest sympathy to the Perun and Cvejkus families. The officers would also like to thank Mary and her family for the years devoted to the Osadny Lodge and Jednota Branch 580. We are grateful for

Mary's service and dedication. Mary will be sadly missed by all. May she rest in peace in Heaven with the Lord forever.

Michael J. Cvejkus

### John L. Backo

Branch 831

Tarentum, Pennsylvania

John L. Backo, 82, of Tarentum, Pennsylvania, died Friday, July 4, 2008, at his home. Born March 15, 1926, in West Natrona, he was a son of the late John and Sophie (Brestensky) Backo. For the past 56 years, he lived in Tarentum. Prior to retirement in 1988, he was employed as a first helper at the electric furnace at Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corp., Brackenridge, with 42 years of service.

A World War II veteran, he served in the Navy in the South Pacific

He was a member of Holy Martyrs Church, Tarentum. Mr. Backo was a member of the former St. Clement Church, Tarentum, where he sang in the choir for many years. He was a life member of the Natrona American Legion and Jednota Branch 831. In 1944, he graduated from Har-Brack High School, where he played football. Mr. Backo was an avid baseball player. He played for the New York Yankees farm team in Newark, Ohio, and also played for the local Tri County League. An avid golfer, he was a member of River Forest Country Club and played many area courses. He caddied at Oakmont and Laurel Valley for the likes of Ben Hogan and Arnold Palmer.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Betty P. (Pracko) Backo; three children, Paula (James) Valicenti of Tarentum, James A. Backo of Boise, Idaho, and Alice M. (James "Jay") Conant of Jupiter, Florida; grandchildren, Marcy, Jonathan and Tony; great-grandchildren, Lauren, Brandon, Tyler, Scott, Sydney and Alana; a brother, Joseph (Joan) Backo of Elizabeth City, North Carolina; a sister, Ann Demharter of Natrona Heights;



and numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Stephen Backo; a sister, Helen Rogala; half brothers, Louis and Tony Marko; and a half sister, Mary Mazur.

Friends were received at the Duster Funeral Home, Tarentum, where a blessing service was held. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Holy Martyrs Church by Rev. Aaron J. Kriss, his pastor. Burial was Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, Frazer Township.

Kathleen M. Persun

### Joseph J. Schaefer

Branch 831

Tarentum, Pennsylvania

Joseph John Schaefer, 56, of Tarentum, Pennsylvania, died unexpectedly on Friday, February 29, 2008, after shoveling snow at his place of work.

He was born November 13, 1951, in Natrona Heights, a son of Helen N. (Stens) Schaefer and the late Joseph Conrad Schaefer.

Joe worked as the steward for the Tarentum Elks Lodge No. 644 for more than 20 years. He also was a member there going through the district chairs, and was a former district deputy. He was also a former Grand Exalted Ruler for three years and Elk of the Year and served as chairman of the Home Service program for 10 years.

A great sports fan, Joe was a longtime season ticket holder for both Pirates and Steelers games. He loved to vacation in Las Vegas. He was a member of the euchre team at the Elks and initiated Wednesday Elks bingo, at which he called the bingo numbers.

Joe is survived by his mother, with whom he lived; one brother, Gary (Linda) of Freeport; two nieces, Jessica and Jacqueline; and his beloved friend, Diane Fuellner of Lower Burrell. He was preceded in death by a brother, Ronald.

Friends were received at the Duster Fu-

neral Home, Tarentum. A blessing service was held in the funeral home by the Rev. Aaron J. Kriss of Holy Martyrs Church. A Tarentum Elks service was also held in the funeral home. Entombment was in Mt. Airy Mausoleum.

Kathleen M. Persun

### Mary J. Fajbik

Branch 831

Tarentum, Pennsylvania

Mary A. Fajbik, 86, of Tarentum, Pennsylvania, died Thursday, June 5, 2008, at Applewood Personal Care Home, Brackenridge, where she was a resident for 15 months. She was born June 13, 1921, in Tarentum, a daughter of the late George and Barbara Motosicky. She was a lifelong resident of Tarentum and a homemaker.

Mary was a member of Holy Martyrs Parish, Tarentum, Jednota Branch 831, Holy Rosary Society and former member of St. Clement Church, Tarentum. She graduated from Tarentum High School in 1939. She enjoyed Bingo, her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and her flower garden.

Mary is survived by a son, John G. Fajbik of Lower Burrell; a daughter, Barbara (David) Torrence of Tarentum; grandchildren, Jennifer (Jeremy) Shughart of Ashburn, Virginia, Bethany Torrence of Tarentum, and Justin and Melissa Fajbik of Lower Burrell; two great-grandsons, Cody and Gavin Shughart of Ashburn; and a sister, Anna Janetka of Tarentum. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Paul R. Fajbik, who died in 2003; and sister, Stella Baughman, who died in 1995.

Friends were received at the Duster Funeral Home, Tarentum. A blessing service was held in the funeral home followed by a Christian Funeral Mass in Holy Martyrs Church, with Rev. Aaron J. Kriss, her pastor, as celebrant. Burial was in Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, Frazer Township.

Kathleen M. Persun

## SLOVAKIA ADMITTED TO VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

by Joseph T. Senko, Slovak Honorary Consul

Effective November 17, 2008, Slovaks traveling to the United States will no longer need a visa under certain conditions. Slovaks will be allowed to travel to the U.S. for 90 days or less, for business or pleasure (but not work or study) without a visa.

To be eligible under the new Visa Waiver Program, you must fulfill several requirements. First of all, you must have a biometric Slovak passport. All Slovak passports issued after January 15, 2008 are now biometric. Secondly, you must fill out an ESTRA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) application on-line.

Go to the ESTA website at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> and complete the simple, on-line application in English. A traveler must provide name, birth date, passport details, and travel plans. A friend, relative or travel agent may file an application for someone else. A Slovak-language ESTA form will be introduced as soon as possible. Applications may be submitted at any time before travel; however, Department of Homeland Security recommends that applications be submitted no less than 72 hours in advance. In most cases, travelers will receive a response within seconds. Responses will be one of the following three:

- 1. Authorization Approved:** Travel is authorized, no further paperwork necessary.
- 2. Authorization Pending:** Check the ESTA website for a final response within 72 hours.
- 3. Travel Not Authorized:** Traveler must obtain a visa at the U.S. Embassy before traveling to the U.S.

An approved ESTA is not a visa. Individuals who possess a valid visa will still be able to travel to the U.S. on the visa for the purpose for which it was issued. Individuals traveling on a valid visa will not be required to apply for an ESTA. ESTA is valid for up to two years or until the traveler's passport expires, whichever comes first, and is

valid for multiple entries into the U.S. For future trips or changes, applicants can easily update addresses or itineraries through the ESTA website. An approved ESTA is not a guarantee of admissibility to the U.S. at a port of entry. Border control officers make the final decision at the border.

The Visa Waiver Program cannot be used by those who plan to study, work or remain more than 90 days in the United States. Also, it cannot be used by people who have previously been refused a visa, or arrested (even if the arrest did not result in a criminal conviction); those with criminal records; those with certain serious communicable illnesses; those who have been refused admission into, or have been deported from the United States; and those who have previously overstayed on the Visa Waiver Program, even by only one day. Such travelers must apply for visas at the U.S. Embassy.

## Annual Christmas Concert in Yonkers on December 7

The Most Holy Trinity Choir will present its 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Concert, "A Great and Mighty Wonder" with choirs and orchestra on Sunday, December 7, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in Most Holy Trinity Church, Walnut Street and Trinity Plaza, Yonkers, New York.

The annual Christmas Dinner will follow at the Polish Community Center, Waverly Street in Yonkers. A free will offering for the concert is \$10.00. Tickets for the concert and dinner are \$35.00. For further information, call 914/963-0720 Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

# News From Slovakia

## Slovak Foreign Ministry Congratulates Obama on Election Victory

The Slovak Foreign Ministry congratulated the future president of the United States, Barack Obama on his election victory.

The ministry is confident that the newly-elected president will promote solutions to such global challenges as the current financial crisis, terrorism, energy security, global warming, famine and poverty. Slovakia as a member of the European Union and NATO is ready to cooperate in this respect.

With the new president taking office, the ministry is confident that transatlantic relations, which for Slovakia are the keystone of its security, will receive a dramatic impetus for further development arising from the strategic nature of a transatlantic partnership based on shared principles and values.

The ministry voices its firm belief that the incoming U.S. administration will follow up relations with Slovakia and move them forward on the back of such successes as Slovakia fulfilling its integration efforts and the abolition of the visa obligation for Slovaks travelling to the United States.

TASR

## Government Prepares Package against Financial Crisis

Social partners and other representatives of political and economic life in Slovakia, including President Ivan Gasparovic, Prime Minister Robert Fico, and Parliamentary Chairman Pavol Paska agreed on some 30 measures that should minimize the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on Slovakia's economy.

"There is agreement of social partners, as well as other important players within the economic, social and political system that the measures can contribute to minimizing the risks of the financial crisis which has also hit Slovakia," Fico said.

According to the premier, the expenses connected with the proposed measures are covered. "I don't expect us to open up the budget." For instance, the Economic Ministry was given in the proposal of next year's budget more than 1 billion crowns of extra money for investment stimuli. The projects of public-private partnerships (PPP), through which a great extent of road infrastructure should be built, shouldn't be affected.

To reach an agreement it was necessary to hear different views from those involved. "It includes an agreement that trade unions cannot push for unrealistic growth in wages under these circumstances. On the other hand, as for the sustainability of economic growth, employers should embrace measures that won't automatically result in lay-offs," said the premier.

Paska said that the Slovak Parliament too, will contribute to reacting quickly to the global crisis. "We are ready to adjust legislation according to the needs of our economic and social parameters. Any urgent decisions that will lead to the security of our citizens will be aimed at preserving employment, as well as the social and economic prosperity of Slovakia," emphasized Paska.

The working plan of the government package of measures to tackle the impact of the global crisis were published by the Economic Ministry. The measures that are being prepared concern, for instance, a thorough and comprehensive drawing of EU funds at the budgeted level, the preparation of PPP projects, and an alternative plan for financing motorways. Also entailed will be keeping a tight rein on public expenditures with an eye toward enabling loans to small and medium-sized companies, job creation and the support of domestic entrepreneurs.

TASR

## Travel Agencies Expect Rise in Tourism to U.S.

The cancellation of the visa requirement for Slovaks traveling to the United States as of November 17 opens a large range of tourism options, Travel Agencies Association general secretary Ivan Schwartz told Slovakia recently.

While in 2007, 192 Slovaks traveled to the United States as part of organized tourism, the association expects the figure to increase significantly in the near future.

"I expect the interest in trips to rise compared to past years, and our countrymen won't travel only to Florida, but to other attractive destinations as well," said Schwarz.

On the other hand, the number of Americans who visited Slovakia using the services of travel agencies in the past year was significantly higher- as many as 7,157. These statistics also include, however, those visitors who entered Slovakia only on ships via the Danube River from Vienna, noted Schwarz.

In late October, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced in Bratislava that the U.S. is to end the visa requirement for seven countries on November 17- Slovakia, Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Hungary and South Korea. Work and student visas will still be necessary, however, as the visa-free regime concerns only tourists and those on official trips.

TASR

## New Book on Slovak-French Relations

A new bilingual book called Slovakia-France/Slovaque-France by Claude Balaz and Daniel Compagnon will soon appear in the shops, Balaz said at a press conference recently.

"We've been trying to supplement knowledge about relations between the two countries, as we think that the public isn't sufficiently informed about this issue," said Balaz, adding that this is a pity, because relations have always been good and history has often brought the two nations together.

One of the chapters deals with Slovak migration to France. Balaz estimates that approximately 15,000 people with Slovak roots are living in France.

The author emphasized that France, after Germany, is the second most important investor in Slovakia. French companies have invested more than 5 million euros in Slovakia since 2000, and there are now around 300 branches of French companies registered in Slovakia.

"This isn't only about economic cooperation, but also about cooperation in culture, education, sports and tourism," said Balaz.

TASR



## Uniontown Parish to Hold Christmas Craft and Bake Sale

The Ethnic Craft Club of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church will be having its annual Christmas Craft and Bake Sale on Saturday, December 6, from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 7, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the upstairs school hall, 201 East Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. The sale will feature decorations, wood crafted items, folk crafts, religious articles, parish cookbooks, imported items, homemade candy, baked goods (long rolls, bread, cookies, etc.), and many other articles that would make fine Christmas gifts or holiday decorations. There is no admission fee. For information call 724/438-6027 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

*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.**

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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 6- STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The Stephen Society, Branch 6, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at Chipper's Grill, Streator, Illinois. The branch will hold elections of officers for 2009 at this meeting. Any member in good standing must attend this meeting in order to be considered for an officer's position. All members are encouraged to attend. If you plan to attend please call 815/672-1764 or 815/672-3836

Officers of Branch 6 attended the District meeting on November 2 in Oak Forest, Illinois. The branch makes monetary contributions to the District 2 Christmas Tree Fund. More members of Branch 6 are encouraged to attend the next District meeting on May 3, 2009.

**Paul Chismar, Secretary**

## 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 10- OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, will hold its Annual Meeting, Audit, and Election of Officers on Sunday, November 30, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Recording Secretary William A. Nalevanko, 405 North River Street, Olyphant, Pennsylvania.

**William A. Nalevanko,  
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 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 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 45- NEW YORK CITY

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, report on activities during the past year, and a discussion of events for the upcoming year. The election of officers will also take place. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

**Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 55- PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 55, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 30, 2008, immediately after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, 319 Brown Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Officers will be elected and regular business will be conducted. Refreshments will be served. All members are cordially invited to attend. For directions, please call the President at 610/356-7956.

**Josephine E. Gerba, Secretary-Treasurer**

## BRANCH 55- PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 55, will hold a Social Meeting and Annual Vilija on Sunday, December 7, 2008 at St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene Church, 319 Brown Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A Slovak Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Immediately after the liturgy, a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner will be served in the Church Hall. Please call the president at 610/356-7956 for ticket information and directions.

**Josephine E. Gerba, Secretary-Treasurer**

## BRANCH 60- MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 60, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 30, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of President Ann Wargovich, 58 Lilmont Avenue, Swissvale, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be officers' reports, the election

of officers and a discussion of branch activities. All members are urged to attend.

The officers of Branch 60 wish our members Blessed and Happy Holidays.

**Margaret M. Perla, Secretary**

## BRANCH 75- SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 75, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 10:30 a.m. at the residence of President and Financial Secretary Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, Pennsylvania. The fiscal end of the year reports and financial statements will be presented. The auditors' report will also be submitted and the nomination and election of officers for the coming year will take place. All members are requested to attend this semiannual meeting.

**Ronald M. Anderson, President  
& 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 90- OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 90, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Michael P. Glinsky, 129 Grant Street, Olyphant, Pennsylvania.

**Barbara Sochovka, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 112- MAHANOEY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 112, will hold a Meeting and Christmas Party on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at 86 Spring Street, Pottsville, Pennsylvania. Please call 570/544-6694 for directions.

Happy Holidays.

**Karen Engle Sterling**

## 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, November 30, 2008, in the upstairs room at the Slovak Center, Catasauqua, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place. There will also be a discussion of upcoming events.

**Gregory 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 169P- JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael's Society, Branch 169P, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Monday, December 1, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Joseph Slivosky, 1510 Emmett Drive, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

**Betty Slivosky, 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 200- FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 200, will hold its Annual Meeting for beneficial members on Thursday, December 4, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. in the upstairs social hall at the C.U. Club, 914 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will be held. Please come to the meeting and make our branch productive.

On behalf of the members and other officers I wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

**Patricia Conner, Financial Secretary/  
Treasurer**

## 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 ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 254- PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wenceslaus Society, Branch 254, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at DeBlasio's Restaurant in the Virginia Manor Shops on Greentree Road. On the agenda will be a discussion of branch activities and the election of officers. All members are invited to attend. Lunch will be provided for all attendees.

**Albina Senko, Financial 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 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 260- CAMPBELL, OHIO

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 260, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at Msgr. Cyril Adamko Hall at St. Elizabeth Church. On the agenda will be the election of officers and a discussion of activities for 2009. Members are urged to attend and take part in the discussions. Your input is always welcomed.

**Charles M. Terek, President**

## 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 276- MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 276, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 30, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in Holy Trinity School Hall, Seventh Street, McKeesport, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be officers' reports and the election of officers for the coming year. Refreshments will be served. All members are invited to attend.

The officers wish all the members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary**

## 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, 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.

**George Zeleznick, Secretary**

## BRANCH 367- FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 367, will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at Bogey's Restaurant and Sports Bar in Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

**Jane Kish, 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 410- UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 4, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at Meloni's. On the agenda will be the election of officers. All members are invited to attend.

**Geri Buchheit, Recording Secretary/Financial 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-Treasure**

## BRANCH 425- BARBERTON, OHIO

The St. Mark's Society, Branch 425, will hold its Annual Lodge Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Slovak Society of Barberton Club, 887 West Tuscarawas Avenue, Barberton, Ohio. All members are welcome to attend.

**Paul J. Slota, Financial Secretary**

## 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 493-  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493, will hold its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Saturday, November 29, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at Mabenka's Restaurant, 7844 South Cicero Avenue, Burbank, Illinois. After the meeting, members will enjoy a delicious diner. All members are encouraged to attend. If you plan to attend, please call Robert Tapak Magruder at 502/244-6643 or 773/505-0117 by November 23, 2008.

The members of Branch 493 would like to acknowledge and congratulate three members who recently received their 50-Year Jednota Membership Pins: Joan Marie Churin, Leonard Dudas and James J. Letrich.

**Robert Tapak Magruder,  
Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 553- AKRON, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 553, will hold its Annual Vilija Celebration on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, Ohio. This is a great opportunity to share with your family the traditional Slovak Christmas meal. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. Children 16 and younger are free. To make your reservations and purchase your tickets, call the Slovak J Club at 330/773-4978.

Branch 553 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 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 644- MCKEES ROCKS, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 644, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. at the home of Michael R. Jablonsky, 1215 Foster Avenue, Apt. 305, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The future of Branch 644 will be discussed. Each member is being asked to obtain new members for the branch. The Jednota portfolio offers many types of insurance products for you, your family and grandchildren. Why not

*continued on page 16*

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# Gasparovic Visits Pittsburgh

By Joseph Senko

Ivan Gasparovic, President of Slovakia, was invited to the White House on Thursday, October 9, 2008. After meeting with President Bush, Mr. & Mrs. Gasparovic came to Pittsburgh along with Marek Madaric, Minister of Culture, and Robert Kalinak, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. Also accompanying them were ten persons from Slovak media. Also accompanying them were seven members of the Slovak Embassy from Washington, D.C. The entourage including protocol and security numbered over 50 people.

Upon arrival on Thursday evening, they were hosted at a dinner by Honorary Consul Joe Senko and his wife, Albina. On Friday, the program arranged by Joe Senko, began with a meeting with Luke Ravenstahl, Mayor of Pittsburgh and his staff, followed by a meeting at the national headquarters of U.S. Steel Corp. The meeting included all of the former presidents of U.S. Steel Kosice – John Goodish, Chris Navetta and Dave Lohr, as well as other key executives. During the meeting at U.S. Steel, Mrs. Gasparovicova visited a Women's Shelter in Pittsburgh. She was escorted to the facility by Albina Senko. The first lady, who has a foundation in Slovakia, gathered information to start a similar shelter back home. Before lunch, Mr. Gasparovic and his staff went to the Mellon Arena where they watched the Pittsburgh Penguins hockey team practicing. The President, who is an avid hockey fan, was presented a Penguin jersey autographed by Miroslav Satan who is from Slovakia.

After lunch, the President and his group visited the University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning where they met with Chancellor Mark Nordenberg. The meeting included a discussion about the possibility of a joint program with Slovak universities. While at the university, the President also visited the Czechoslovak room, one of 27 nationality classrooms at the university. From there, the President took a tour of the Heinz History Center conducted by museum President Andrew Masich.

The day concluded with a reception at the LeMont Restaurant overlooking the city. Approximately, 150 people attended the festive event. The world famous Duquesne University Tamburitzans provided the entertainment. The President and his entourage were very impressed with the energetic and professional dancers.

On Saturday morning, the President and his group flew back to Slovak directly from Pittsburgh.



President Ivan Gasparovic with the Tamburitzans

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\$200,000	\$24	\$36
\$300,000	\$36	\$54
\$400,000	\$48	\$72
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# *FCSU 2008 Christmas Coloring Contest*

A

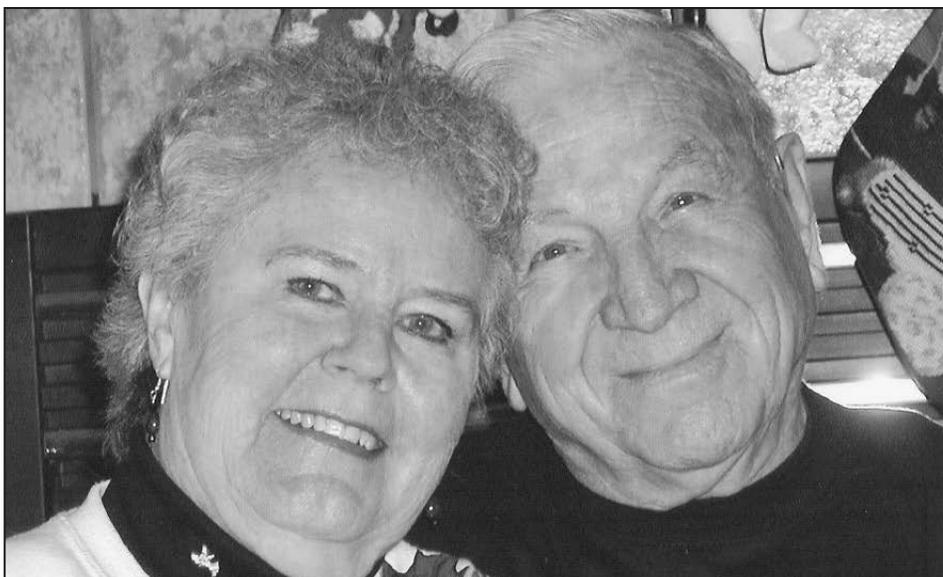
Ring the bells of Christmas morn,  
Tell the world a king is born;  
He, the Saviour promised long,  
Come and hail Him with a song.  
Wake your harps, ye angels bright;  
Sing aloud, ye hosts of light;  
Sing, as on that holy night, Glory in the Highest!



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!



John and Larene Liptak

## **John and Larene Liptak Celebrate their Diamond Jubilee**

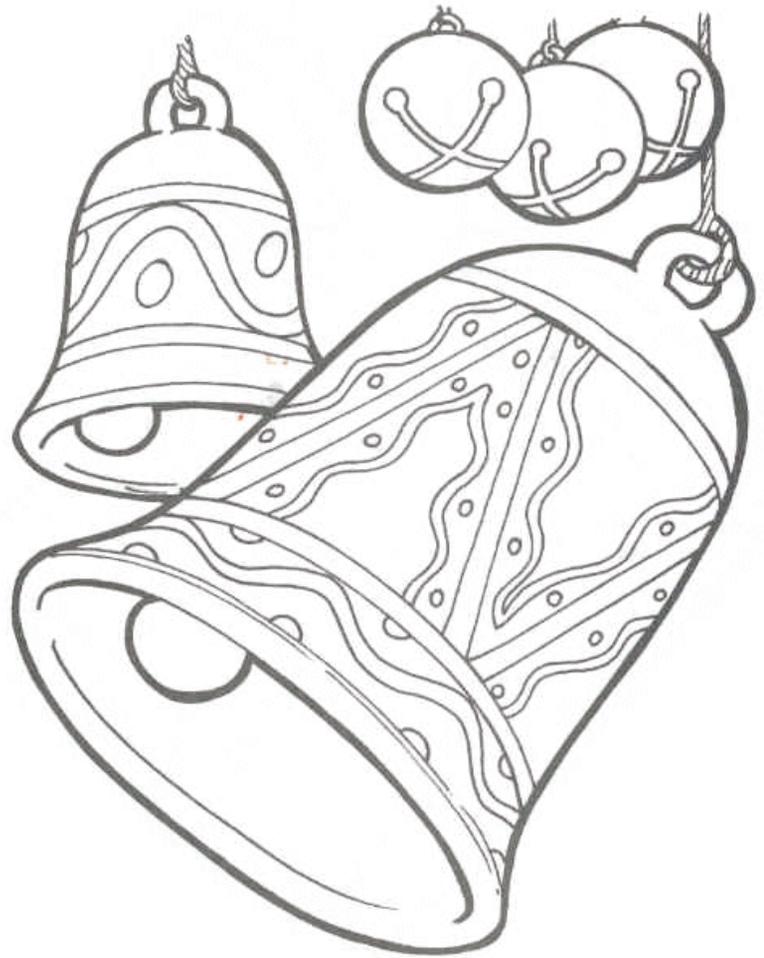
John and Larene Liptak of Pueblo, CO., celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary recently with a dinner and reception at the La Renaissance Restaurant hosted by their children.

John and Larene were married on November 6, 1948 at St. Anthony's Slovak Catholic Church in Pueblo. Their children are John Brian (Connie) Liptak of Carol Stream, IL., Becky (Leonard) Kanonik of Larkspur, CO., and Greg (Dianne) Liptak of Pueblo, CO. They have one Grandchild, Carolina Liptak, of Chicago, IL.

John retired from the grocery business in 1983. Larene retired from Parkview Hospital Accounting Dept. in 1985.

John 87, is a life long member of Branch 24 in Cleveland, OH.

# FCSU 2008 Christmas Coloring Contest



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: \_\_\_\_\_

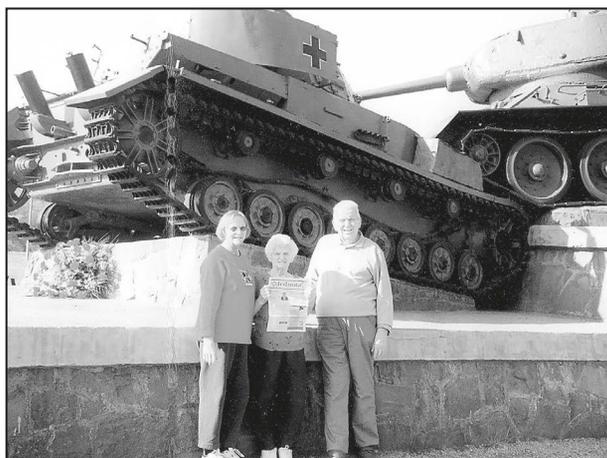
Region 1 (New York, New Jersey, and New England States)	Joseph Minarovich
Region 2 (Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Washington D.C.)	Damian D. Nasta
Region 3 (Central Pennsylvania and SS. Cyril & Methodius District)	Carl Ungvarsky
Region 4 (West of Harrisburg, West Virginia, and Florida)	George Sprock
Region 5 (Western Pennsylvania, Johnstown, and Pittsburgh)	Regis Brekosky
Region 6 (State of Ohio)	Henry Hassay
Region 7 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Points West)	Rudolph Glugovsky
Regions 8 and 9 (Canada)	Milos Mitro



## Annual Vilija in Cleveland

The monks of St. Andrew Abbey and the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club invite you to their annual Vilija or Christmas Eve Supper on Sunday, December 7, 2008. Mass will be celebrated at 12:00 noon followed by the dinner in Benedictine High School Dining Hall. Entertainment will be provided by Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble and the Slovenske Mamichky Singers.

Tickets are \$20.00 per person and are by advance sales only. No tickets will be sold at the door. Please send a self addressed stamped envelope with your check or money order made out to Saint Andrew Abbey-Vilija to St. Andrew Abbey, 2900 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Cleveland, OH 44104. If you have any questions please call 216/721-5300 ext. 0.



Fran, Martha and Emerick Kravec of Charleroi, Pennsylvania, recently took the Jednota newspaper to Dukla, Slovakia. The two tanks, one German and the other Russian, collided at this place during a World War II battle. The tanks were left in place and are now a World War II memorial site. Jozef Macus, a cousin of Fran Kravec, took the photo.

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

*continued from page 11*

insure your grandchildren under the JEP Program for \$10,000 at \$14.00 per year?

The financial statement will be open for review and other branch business will be discussed. The election of officers for the year 2009 will also take place. This is an opportunity for you to become an officer and help retain Branch 644 as an active branch.

**Michael R. Jablonsky, President**

## 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 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 738- MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael's Society, Branch 738, will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at the Munhall-Whitaker VFW Home, located on Whitaker Way, Munhall, Pennsylvania. The nomination and election of officers will take place at this meeting. We will also discuss fraternal activities for the year 2009, as well as other lodge business. Of utmost importance, we will conduct a discussion on insurance sales. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.

**Robert Kosko, President**

**Regis P. Brekosky, FIC, Financial 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 Slovak 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**

## BRANCHES 784 AND 810- MONTREAL, QUEBEC

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 784, and the St. Martin Society, Branch 810, along with the Prince Rastislav District will hold their traditional Christmas Dinner on Sunday, November 30, 2008, following the last Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall, Montreal, Quebec. All members and their friends are cordially invited to attend. For reservations please call Alice Dobrik at 514/684-0832 by November 20th.

**Alice Dobrik, Financial Secretary**

## 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 831- TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Clement Society, Branch 831, will hold its next regular 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 will take place at this meeting.

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

**Kathleen M. Persun, Secretary**

## 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 853- ELLSWORTH, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of the Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 853, invite all members to its Annual Meeting on Monday, December 1, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. at Rego's Restaurant, Charleroi, Pennsylvania. As in past years, this meeting will be a spaghetti luncheon celebrating the joy and blessing of Christmas. On the agenda will be a discussion of general business and the election of of-

ficers. There will be no cost for members. The cost for nonmembers attending will be \$13.00 and will be collected that day. Please reserve your spot at the luncheon by leaving a message with the number of people attending with Monica Rodacy at 412/220-7722 by November 23.

The officers of Branch 853 wish all the members a Blessed Christmas and a most Prosperous New Year.

**Monica Rodacy**

## 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**



# Slovak Self-Taught

**By Slavo Moravek**

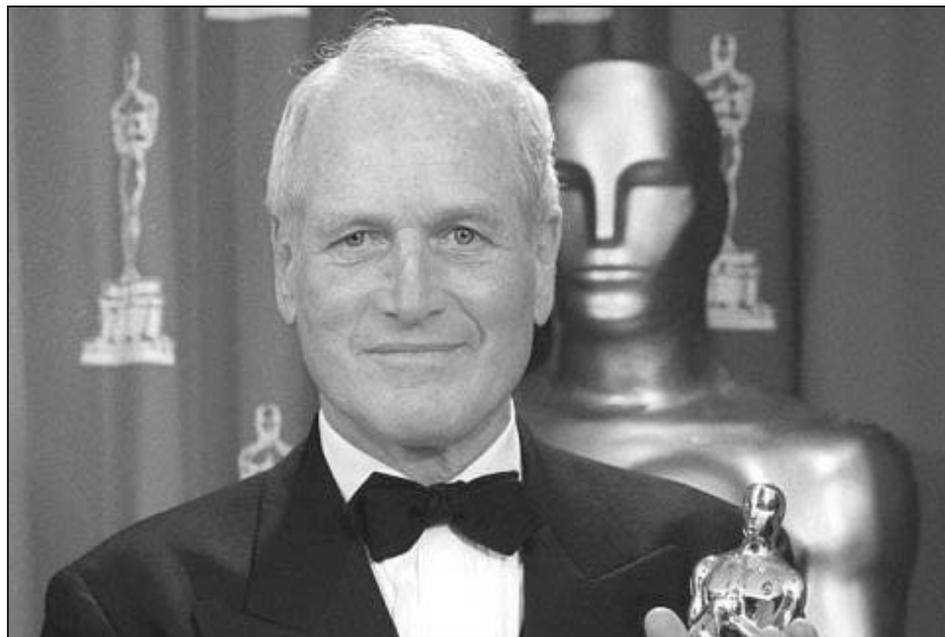
What time is it?	Koľko je hodín?	(kolYko Ye hodYeen)
It is twelve o'clock	Je dvanásť hodín	(Ye dvanÁsty hodYeen)
It is half past twelve	Je pol jednej	(Ye pol YedneY)
It is two o'clock	Sú dve hodiny	(soo dve hodYini)
It is a quarter to three	Je tri štvrté na tretiu	Ye tri shtvrtYe na tretYYu)
All day	Celý deň	(tselee dYenY)
All night	Celú noc	(tseloo nots)
Last evening	Včera večer	(vchera vecher)
Not long ago	Pred nedávnom	(pred nYedÁvnom)
About an hour ago	Asi pred hodinu	(asi pred hodYinou)
Today	Dnes	(dnYes)
Tomorrow	Zajtra	(zaYtra)
Until morning	Do rána	(do rÁna)
Until midnight	Do polnoci	(do polnotsi)
During the night	V noci	(v notsi)
In the morning	Ráno	(rÁno)
At noon	Na poludnie	(na poludnYYe)
All the time	Celý čas	(tselee chas)
Yesterday	Včera	(vchera)
One year	Rok	(rok)
Immediately	Hneď	(HNyEDy)
It is fifteen after one	Je pätnásť po jednej	(Ye pätnÁsty po YedneY)
It is a quarter after one	Je štvrt' na druhú	(Ye shtvrtY na druhoo)
At half past one	O pol druhej	(o pol druheY)

# Relatives of Late Film Star Paul Newman Still Live in Humenne

The renowned Hollywood star and director Paul Newman died Friday, September 27, 2008 at age 83, succumbing to cancer. This announcement was made on September 7 by the spokesman for the film legend Jeff Sanderson. Paul Newman held various awards including an Oscar, Golden Globe, Emmy, and from the Cannes Film Festival. His acting career dates back to his school-boy days. Upon graduating from high school he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force but was rejected for colorblindness. He achieved stardom in his second film "Somebody up there Likes Me" (1956) in which he played the role of boxer Rocky Graziano. In the drama "Long Hot Summer" (1958) he played the lead role of arsonist Ben Quick and made the acquaintance of his future wife Joanne Woodward. Unforgettable indeed were other films of his such as "Exodus", "Sweet Bird of Youth", "Hombre", and "Cool Hand Luke". The 83 year-old actor was diagnosed with cancer at the beginning of this year. According to news reports he was given only a few weeks to live. After treatment in New York he returned home to, in his own words, to spend the last days of his life with his Joanne Woodward and his immediate family.

Speculation that Paul Newman had Slovak roots surfaced as early as 1990 when the star confided to newsmen during Vaclav Havel's visit to New York that he had forebears in Czechoslovakia. His mother Teresa was born in the eastern Slovak town of Humenne. "Paul Newman's grandmother was named Maria Hocmanova. She married a man named Michael Fecko and from their union was born Teresa" (Newman's mother) disclosed Anna Sedlarova, first cousin of Teresa, who still resides in Humenne. After the death of both her mother and grandmother, at age 8 years of age, Teresa left to join her father in Cleveland, Ohio, where he had gone for work some years previously. After a first failed marriage she married Arthur Samuel Newman. "She had high praise for the latter, who was a very good person," recalls Ms. Sedlarova.

At the end of World War II packages from Paul's mother began arriving, plus letters. She sent about 20 packages to the Sedlar family with food, clothing and linens. One package contained a military uniform with the American emblem on a sleeve, which they have saved to the present day. Additionally, Anna Sedlarova has saved several photographs of the interior of Newman's home with the personal signature of Paul's mother on the back of each. Teresa took the death of her husband very badly and for some years correspondence between the relatives broke off. However, in the 1960's the actor's cousin, twice removed, Brigita Sedlarova came across a portrait of Paul Newman in the magazine Film a Divadlo



Paul Newman

Photo Credit TASR

(Film and Theater). "It reminded me a lot of my older brother. I then recalled that we had at home some letters signed by Teresa Newman, and the matter just wouldn't rest," she explained. "It was a rather bold thought, but I began to wonder if Paul wasn't actually related to us." Brigita wrote a letter to America and soon received a personal reply from Newman. "He wrote that he was glad to discover relatives in Czechoslovakia and wished to extend greetings to everybody," she revealed. He was also considerate enough to include his mother's address in Cleveland, thus confirming speculation about their family relationship. But in spite of repeated invitations from his relatives Newman never visited Slovakia.

Translated by Joseph J. Palus, Jr, Johnstown, PA

## New Benedictine Abbot is Blessed and Begins Administration

On Sunday, November 2, 2008, nearly 300 friends and benefactors of the Slovak Benedictine Monks of Saint Andrew Abbey in Cleveland gathered for the annual Abbey Benefit at Assumption Parish Family Center in Broadview Heights, Ohio. The focus of this year's event was honoring retiring Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB and welcoming newly-elected Abbot Christopher Schwartz, OSB.

In early spring of 2008, Abbot Clement announced his retirement for health reasons. He had been elected in 2001 to succeed Abbot Roger Gries, OSB who had been named auxiliary bishop of Cleveland earlier that year. Abbot Clement continues to reside at the abbey and is involved in limited public ministry. In early October, he and his sister, Sister Mary Jonathan Zeleznik, SND, traveled to Slovakia to tour religious and cultural sights.

On August 29, 2008, before a full congregation at Assumption Parish Church, Cleveland Bishop Richard Lennon conferred the ancient ritual of the Blessing of an Abbot upon Abbot Christopher who had been elected by the members of the monastic chapter on June 10, 2008.



(L-R) Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB (1), Abbot Christoph and Bishop Roger Gries, OSB represent the history of St. A 1981 to present

Participating in the Mass of Blessing were retired Cleveland Bishop Anthony Pilla, retired auxiliary Bishop Edward Pevec, current auxiliary Bishop Roger Gries, OSB (who served as fourth abbot of St. Andrew Abbey from 1981-2001), Bishop John Kudrick, Eparch of the Byzantine Diocese of Parma, Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB, Abbot Timothy Kelly, OSB, abbot-president of the American-Cassinense Congregation Of Benedictine monasteries, and Benedictine abbots from Pennsylvania, Illinois, Kansas, Oklahoma, and North Carolina.

In his homily, Bishop Lennon explained how the Church provides a ritual for the blessing of a newly-elected abbot as a sign of the monastery's role as part of the local church. During the ritual that followed the Liturgy of the Word, Bishop Lennon examined the new abbot with five questions, invited the congregation to prayer with the Litany of the Saints, invoked a prayer of blessing, presented the abbot with the Rule of St. Benedict, and conferred upon him the ring, miter, and crozier, signs of the abbot's canonical jurisdiction within the abbey, though he remains a priest and is not a bishop.

After the blessing, those in attendance joined Abbot Christopher and the monks of the abbey at a reception in the Assumption Family Center.

Abbot Christopher, 62, is the son of the late Frank and Gertrude Schwartz of Parma, Ohio. He entered the Benedictine order and professed his first vows as a monk of St. Andrew Abbey in 1973. He was ordained a priest the following year. From 1974-1991 He was assigned to the faculty of Benedictine High School where he was a popular history teacher and served as school chaplain. From 1991-2004, he was assigned as pastor of Assumption Parish in Broadview Heights, Ohio. He moved to Incarnate Word Academy and Convent in Parma Heights, Ohio and served as chaplain from 2004-2006.

Before leaving the International Congress of Benedictine Abbots in Rome in September, Abbot Christopher named Fr. Gary Hoover, OSB as prior of the abbey and Fr. Albert Marflak, OSB as subprior or third superior. These monks are responsible for directing the affairs of the abbey during times when the abbot is absent from the monastery.

Saint Andrew Abbey has 31 monks and is located on the southeast side of Cleveland, Ohio. The abbey sponsors Benedictine High School, a college preparatory school with a current enrollment of 410 young men. The monastic community also staffs Assumption Parish and provides pastoral ministry on weekends to various parishes in the Cleveland diocese. The abbey also houses the Slovak Institute which includes an extensive library of Slovak language books and cultural artifacts. The Cleveland monastery also maintains a supportive relationship with the Benedictine Monks in Bacurov, Slovakia as they continue to increase in numbers and complete work on their new monastery in the village of Sampor.

# Significant Jubilee Celebration for Andrew F. Hudak Jr.

"If my work ignited a passion in someone for the sacred cause of my nation, then I lived for something", these fitting words and their true depth are precisely capturing the meaning of a life-long striving and committed work of Ignac Gessay. They are on the headstone of this great patriot that also signed the Pittsburgh Agreement. This significant organizer of national and cultural events of American Slovaks left for eternity in the year when our jubilant was born. And so one finished his journey on this earth and the other one, as if given the torch to carry and continue in the struggle for the sacred cause of their nation. Considering this, especially understanding the Slovak identity, an opinion of my native Drahošlav Machala, caught my attention when he

stated in *Literary Magazine LM* (Issue 21-22): "it was typical that especially people from Eastern Slovakia had a low awareness of their Slovak identity. Since they mostly didn't know who they were, where their roots were from, neither where they belonged...". Maybe on a general level it can be supported, but further he mentions more positive examples of educated and patriotic Slovaks from Eastern Slovakia. However, it is interesting that to a certain extent contrary to this claim, some of the most committed and patriotic national and cultural workers emerged from Slovak immigrants and later also political immigrants. Their roots were reaching Zemplin, Spis, Sarris – Stefan B. Roman, Cardinal Jozef Tomko, Stefan Blasko, Michal Bosak, Milan S. Durica, Michal Lacko, Jan Elias, Fr. Fuga, Bishop An-

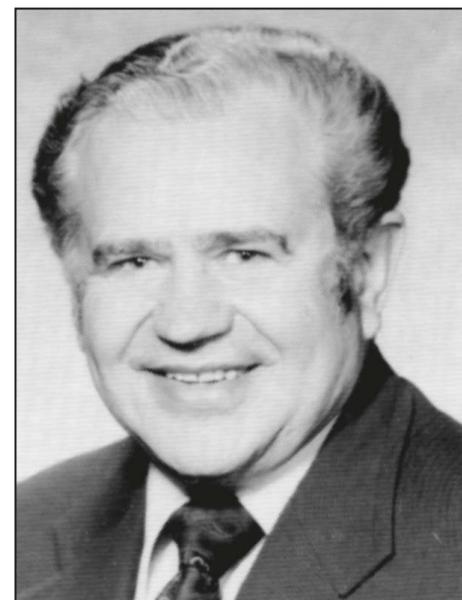
drej Grutka, Filip A. Hrobak, (his parents were from Spis). Jan J. Lach (his parents were from Spis), Ed Tuleya, Stefan Reistetter, Michal Rusnak, Gorazd Zvonicky, Ed Behuncik, Mikulas Sprinc, Ludo Pavlo.

This group of national and cultural patriots, natives from Eastern Slovakia, could be joined by tens of others, unfortunately, in Slovakia, less known personalities that were carrying the torch of Slovak identity such as: journalists, community workers, presidents of the various clubs and the Slovak League of America. One of them is also our jubilant, Andrew F. Hudak, Jr. On the eve of the start of the totalitarian regime, as a 19 year old, he leaves for the United States to join his father. First steps on American soil brought a lot of challenges such as learning English, a new job, getting used to a new and not always a friendly environment. Strong will and commitment helped him overcome all of the obstacles. Since his arrival in Cleveland, he was an active member of the Slovak cultural, national and political life. The Slovak League of America, the Slovak World Congress, the First Slovak Catholic Jednota, and other organizations created an opportunity for him to work "in his native field". Later, also as a founder and owner of a travel agency, he focused on getting Slovakia closer to Slovak natives in the US and also for their later generations, so they could revive their own roots.

When the Slovak Gardens in Florida, the home for the Slovak Nationals founded by K. Belohlavek, was in a crisis; A. F. Hudak, Jr., took it over as the president. He turned it into a prosperous social, cultural and national institution, where the great meetings of Slovak countrymen were held every March. The newspaper, *The Floridian Slovak*, that was edited by A. F. Hudak, Jr., became a greatly engaged tribune for many Slovak countrymen. On the soil of the Slovak Gardens, he established and systematically developed a Slovak library and a museum of Slovak folklore costumes.

In 1991, he wrote and published a book in English entitled *Slovaks in Florida*. There he sheds light on history and the current life of Slovaks in Florida. He described his life experience and work in various organizations as well as his national and political activities in the book called *Journies Through My Life* (1995).

Cleveland in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the city with the largest concentration of Slovaks in the United States (around



Andrew F. Hudak Jr.

70,000) and one of the centers of Slovak national and cultural activities (Cleveland Agreement, the seat of Slovak Clubs and Organizations, the fight against placing L. Kossuth's statue on the main square, etc.). Today, the Slovak identity is mostly represented by the Slovak Institute in Cleveland whose director is Andrew F. Hudak.

In this position as well, our jubilant did a lot of great work, mainly in organizing the rich archive materials and books. This precious wealth of documents capturing the history of nearly one third of our nation is being preserved for future generations. Furthermore, on the soil of the United States, we are currently experiencing the absence of committed national and cultural patriots and that is why A. Hudak is seriously thinking about the future of these written publications. It is necessary to fulfill the idea of creating a scientific center for the study of history and the life of Slovaks in the world at one of the Slovak Universities. Also from this point of view, A. Hudak is a very unique and significant figure amongst the current personalities representing American Slovaks.

We wish him a lot of health and strength for the coming years so that he could plow many more rows on the national field with our countrymen in the United States. Ad multos annos.

Dr. Frantisek Bielik  
(A.F.H. Jr., born August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1928, in Kecerovce, near Kosice, in Slovakia)

Translation by Jana Madar, requested by Joe Hornack – October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008

## FROM THE SLOVAK KITCHEN

### Almond Sticks (Parížské tyčinky)

2 egg yolks	1 cup confectioner's sugar
1 egg white	1 cup finely ground almonds

On a board sprinkled with confectioner's sugar work all ingredients together and knead into a stiff paste. If eggs are large increase the amount of almonds and sugar. Roll in a strip 6 inches wide and ¼ inch thick. Spread with lemon icing, cut narrow sticks-1/2 inch wide and bake at 275 for about 45 minutes. The icing must stay white.

### Walnut Sticks (Orechové tyčinky)

1 egg white	1 cup grated walnuts
1 cup confectioner's sugar	¼ cup dry bread crumbs

Proceed as in above recipe.

### Poppy Seed Coffee Cake (Maková bábovka)

3 cups flour	¾ cup warm milk
¼ cup sugar	1 teaspoon salt
¼ cup butter, softened	½ teaspoon mace or vanilla
2 eggs	1 package dry yeast raised

Beat eggs, with sugar, add creamed butter, salt, milk and 1 cup flour. Beat again. Add raised yeast, mix well. On floured board stir in the rest of flour, kneading the dough until smooth and does not stick to the board. Roll in a rectangular piece, ½ inch thick. Spread with poppy seed filling, roll up and put in a well greased fluted cake form. Let rise until double in bulk. Bake at 350 for about 45 minutes.

### Gypsy Squares (Cigánské rezy)

1 ½ cup flour	3 egg yolks
½ cup butter	Pinch of baking powder
2 tablespoons sugar	½ cup tart jelly

Cream butter, add yolks and sugar, beat well. Mix flour with powder, add butter mixture and work into a rather stiff dough. Roll out ½ inch thick, bake on a greased sheet at 400 for 10 minutes. Remove from oven, spread with jelly and cover with filling. Continue baking at 300 for 25 more minutes

Filling	2 heaping tablespoons cocoa,
3 egg whites	sifted
1 cup confectioner's sugar	½ teaspoon cinnamon
½ cup chopped hazel nuts	

Beat egg whites until stiff, add sugar, continue beating until very thick. Fold in rest of ingredients carefully.

## SIL Director speaks before "Committee For Slovaks Living Abroad", (USZZ)

by Joseph J. Hornack

On Sunday, October 26, 2008 the director of the Slovak Institute and Reference Library boarded a plane to Slovakia. A person would have a difficult time saying how many trips this would be for Andrew F. Hudak, but it would be many. His career in travel and tourism, primarily with Slovakia, will also be recognized during this visit. None however would have as much bearing on future sharing of stored American based information still valuable to scholars in the Slovak Republic as this trip he takes after just observing his eightieth birthday.

Responding to this latest invitation to speak in Bratislava before USZZ, a funds granting body of the Slovak government, is yet another opportunity to offer information on what is available outside the homeland.

All this happens just after the United States Government announces, as reported last week, that Slovakia is one of seven countries effective 13 November 2008 granted **visa-free status** and that after that date visitors from Slovakia would be welcomed with just a valid passport, as is the case already with citizens of 27 other allied nations.

# From the Desk of the Vice President

## West Mifflin Seminar

The Membership and Marketing Committee held a Sales Seminar on Sunday, October 12, 2008 at Holy Trinity Church Hall in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania.

Recommenders from the Pittsburgh District (District 6) were invited to attend. Among those present were National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Treasurer George F. Matta, Regional Director Regis Brekosky and General Counsel Gary J. Matta.

The event began with a prayer by Reverend Joseph Grosko. The Seminar was well received and centered on the Society's insurance and annuity products and other topics relating to insurance. Lunch and refreshments were served.

The Committee would like to thank District President George Matta II and his officers for hosting the event.

The purpose of the Seminar was to acquaint our recommenders with the Society's Products. If a Seminar is scheduled in your area, please attend.

Until next time,

**Good Luck and God Bless  
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.,  
National Vice President/Chairman,  
Marketing and Membership**



**L-R Regional  
Director Regis  
Brekosky,  
Barbara  
Brekosky and  
Albina Senko**



**District President  
George Matta II and  
National Treasurer  
George Matta**



**Participants at the  
West Mifflin seminar**



**District President  
George Matta II and  
Florence Matta**



## From the Office of the Vice President Seminars

Would you like to see your branch increase membership? If so.. it is imperative that every branch have recommenders to sell our insurance and annuity products.

In order to qualify for your branch's \$4.00 per member stipend for 2009 you must meet certain requirements- one of them being- produce at least one (1) new contract in the previous year. Branches with two hundred fifty (250) or more members must produce at least two (2) new contracts.

It's not hard to do. Our insurance and annuity portfolio is great and our commissions are just as good. All we need are members to sign up their families, friends, neighbors, church, and club members. You also have a perfect source for insurance...your current client file, which is your branch membership roster.

Right now the vast majority of branch members have an orphan policy. By that we mean, after the member bought an insurance policy, they never heard from the branch recommender again.

Your branch roster is a valuable source. You have to service your members. Your member's personal circumstances are changing all the time. So, too, are his or her insurance needs.

If you are unsure about insurance premiums or our annuity plans and you would like me to give an informal seminar at one of your annual or semiannual branch or district meetings—call the Home Office at 1/800-533-6682, and give Karen your name, branch number, phone number and the best time of the day to return your call. After that, we can decide on a date and place to hold the training session.

Our society has high quality, competitive and affordable insurance products as well as attractive rates on our IRA/Annuities, but very few members know how to sell them. This is the reason the Membership and Marketing Committee is having seminars. We have to educate ourselves by attending them. The knowledge we gain will become a practical sales tool. The more we know about our products, the more confident and the more effective we'll become as proposers.

*Hope to see you at the next seminar.  
Until then,*

**Good Luck and God Bless  
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.  
National Vice President/Chairman,  
Membership and Marketing Committee**

## Trnavský Dóm sv. Mikuláša vyhlásil pápež za Baziliku minor

Trnava (TASR) – Vyhlásenie Dómu sv. Mikuláša v Trnave za Baziliku minor oznámil 9. novembra pastierskym listom arcibiskup Ján Sokol veriacim Trnavskej arcidiecézy. Titul chrámu udelil pápež Benedikt XVI. zhruba tri mesiace po tom, ako dóm vyhlásil za nové mariánske pútnické miesto arcidiecézy. V dome sa nachádza zázračný slziaci obraz Panny Márie, ktorý pred 300 rokmi ochránil Trnavu pred morovou epidémiou. Pastiersky list arcibiskupa Sokola čítali počas bohoslužieb vo všetkých kostoloch arcidiecézy.

„O udelenie titulu Bazilika minor som Svätého Otca Benedikta XVI. prosil listom v deň svojich 75. narodenín 9. októbra,“ uviedol arcibiskup Sokol. Odporúčanie pripojila i Konferencia biskupov Slovenska. Trnavská bazilika minor je v poradí desiatou na Slovensku po Levoči, Bardejove, Šaštíne či Giraltovciach. Status týchto kostolov umožňuje bližšiu spätosť s cirkvou a pápežom. Postavenie baziliky minor umožňuje používať pápežský znak skrížených kľúčov na zástavách chrámov, chrámovom náradí a pečiatke. Na vyjadrenie užšieho spojenia baziliky s Vatikánom sa v Trnave odteraz budú sláviť viaceré výročné omše-okrem iných aj na výročie zvolenia pápeža.

„Trnava rozdelením bývalej Bratislavsko-trnavskej arcidiecézy prišla o pútnické miesto v Šaštíne,“ povedal arcibiskup Ján Sokol. Preto bol za nové pútnické miesto vybraný chrám, kde je uložený zázračný obraz Panny Márie. Tú si veriaci najintenzívnejšie uctievali počas Trnavskej novény-deväťdňovej bohoslužby na počesť svätice a zázraku. Novéna sa v tomto roku konala od 13. do 21. novembra už ako arcidiecézna púť. Uskutočnilo sa počas nej do päťdesiat omší, z nich dve v maďarskom jazyku a jedna polnočná omša.

Dóm sv. Mikuláša postavili v gotickom slohu v rokoch 1380 až 1411. Slziaci obraz Panny Márie je umiestnený v pristavenej barokovej kaplnke, odkiaľ ho vynášajú k hlavnému oltáru iba počas konania novény. V uplynulých troch rokoch sa konal intenzívny historický a archeologický prieskum dómu, ktorý priniesol nové poznatky. V lete 2008 boli pri jeho základoch nájdené zostatky predchodcu-románskej kaplnky sv. Michala, ktoré posunuli datovanie osídlenia lokality. Generálnou opravou prešli tiež obe veže kostola. Vo štvrtok 6. novembra boli slávnostne po päťmesačnej rekonštrukcii vrátené do južnej veže dva zvony sv. Barbora a sv. Štefan.



## Modlitba k patrónovi Internetu je cirkevne schválená

Na žiadosť bohoslovcov Kňazského seminára sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Bratislave udelil 30. septembra 2008 bratislavský arcibiskup - metropolita Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský cirkevne schválenie na modlitbu pre použitím internetu. Žiadosť podali na arcibiskupský úrad bohoslovcov, ktorí majú v seminári na starosť výpočtovú techniku. Takýmto spôsobom sme chceli prispieť k šíreniu úcty sv. Izidora, ktorý je patrónom Internetu.

Dekrét o schválení je k nahliadnutiu na internetovej stránke [www.adsum.sk](http://www.adsum.sk) časopisu bohoslovcov kňazského seminára sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Bratislave, kde je možné získať aj viac informácií o sv. Izidorovi. Ďakujeme otcovi arcibiskupovi za schválenie tejto modlitby a povzbudzujeme všetkých k jej šíreniu. TK KBS informoval Ján Vido.

Text modlitby znie nasledovne:

### Modlitba pred pripojením sa k internetu

*Všemohúci večný Bože,  
ktorý si nás stvoril na Svoj obraz  
a nariadil si nám, aby sme všetko dobré, pravdivé a krásne  
hládali predovšetkým v božskej osobe Tvojho jednorodeného Syna,  
nášho Pána Ježiša Krista,  
prosíme Ťa, daj, aby sme, na orodovanie svätého Izidora, biskupa a učiteľa,  
na cestách internetom viedli naše ruky a oči k tomu, čo je milé  
Tebe a každého človeka, ktorého stretneme, prijímali s láskou a trpezlivosťou.  
Skrze Krista nášho Pána. Amen.*

## Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

### Ročná schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša číslo č. 45 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým našim členom, že ročná schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša číslo 45. Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New Yorku sa bude konať v nedeľu 7. decembra 2008 o 12:30 hodine (po slovenskej svätej omši) v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue 66<sup>th</sup> Street. V plánovanom programe podajú úradníci svoje správy ako aj finančnú správu, zhodnotia činnosť za uplynulé obdobie. Za tým budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie. Úctivo žiadame o hojnú účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdzi.

Maria Jurasi, pokladníčka

## TRI EPIGRAMY

### Sprostí o sprostých

Pourážal pomýlený krajan Slovákov  
presne, ako mu zhora rozkázali:  
Slováci, to nič, len stádo sprostákov!  
Ej, krajan, že sme sprostí to nás nebolí,  
len to, že nám to sprostý hovorí.

### Malá čiarka

Malá čiarka veľkú moc dostala”  
obesiť, či nie obesiť – človeka mala  
pre nedbalosť cisárového pisára.  
- Obesiť, nie na slobodu poslať!  
- Obesiť nie, na slobodu poslať!  
Zajojkala, kde by sa postaviť mala,  
aby človeka i pisára za pána mala!?

### O pravde

Koľko je nás, toľko rozumov –  
všetci pravdu chceme mať.  
Pravda jedna - Šalamún nežije,  
Bože môj, ako sa na nej podelíme?

Štefan Hreha  
(Zo zbierky Hrst' epigramov)

## Obraz Svätej Rodiny sa stal námetom pre novú poštovú známku

Bratislava (TASR) - Obraz Svätej Rodiny od neznámeho antverpského maliara polovice 16. storočia sa stal námetom pre poštovú známku, ktorú v polovici novembra vydala Slovenská pošta. Jej grafickú predlohu spracovala Radmila Hanečková podľa obrazu, ktorý sa v súčasnosti nachádza v Slovenskej národnej galérii (SNG). Zároveň, v súvislosti s blížiacimi sa vianočnými sviatkami, Slovenská pošta vydáva aj pohľadnicu s rovnakým motívom.

Pamiatky nizozemského a flámskeho maliarstva 16. storočia, ktoré sa nachádzajú v slovenských múzeách a galériách, boli v minulosti veľmi oceňované najmä sofistickovanými zberateľmi z radov miestnych priemyselníkov. Obraz Svätej Rodiny SNG zakúpila v roku 1958 z košického súkromného majetku. Maľba pravdepodobne pochádza z dielne menej významného antverpského maliara, ktorý sa inšpiroval prácami iného antverpského umelca Quentina Massysa.



## Svätomartinské tradície si pripomenuli žehnaním mladého vína

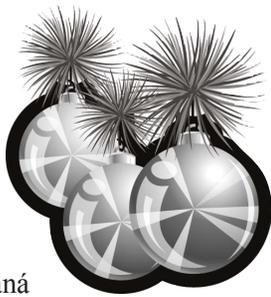
Bratislava (TASR) - Tohtoročné oživenie svätomartinskej tradície v Bratislave malo novú kompozíciu. Pribudol sprievod v centre hlavného mesta, kultúrny program sa 8. novembra konal v novom priestore na Rudnayovom námestí. Svätomartinské dni v Bratislave 2008 naplno oživilo tradíciu, ktorá bola v minulosti v meste na deň svätého Martina v znamení hodov a jarmokov. Celé podujatie teraz mesto rozdelilo do niekoľkých segmentov. Duchovný program sa konal pod názvom Svätomartinské triduum v Katedrále svätého Martina. Spoločenská časť programu pozostávala z tradičného požehnanie mladého vína v kaplnke sv. Juraja v Primaciálnom paláci. Súčasťou podujatia je aj víkendový jarmok s tradičnými remeselnými výrobkami. V stánkovej ponuke nechýbajú pečené husi, kačice, lokše a zabíjačkové špeciality, čo nadväzuje na tradíciu bratislavských kačacích a husacích hodov.

Počas štyroch dní centrum Bratislavy žilo svätomartinskou atmosférou, ktorou nadväzuje na Deň svätého Martina, jedného z patrónov Bratislavy. Tento deň sa oddáva v meste spájal so slávením hodov, jarmokmi a v súvislosti s vinohradníctvom a vínom samotným sa k nemu viazali i zaujímavé právne a spoločenské úkony. V tento deň malo mesto vyhradené právo čapovať víno vo svojich pivniciach aj napriek tomu, že to bol tzv. Bannzeit (zavedený v 16. storočí), čiže čas, kedy mali ostatní bratislavskí vinohradníci výčap vína zakázaný. Čapovalo sa v podjazde Starej radnice, v pivnici vo františkánskom kláštore a v tzv. "apoštolskej pivnici", ktorá sa nachádzala v Zelenom dome. A práve do tejto vinárne chodieval každoročne na sviatok sv. Martina richtár s radnými páni a ostatnými predstaviteľmi mesta ochutnávať mladé víno.

## Štedrovečerná vigília v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku a Spolok sv. Štefana číslo 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty srdečne pozýva slovenskú verejnosť na Štedrovečernú večeru – Vigíliu, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 14. decembra 2008 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia vo veľkej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East 66th Street v New York City.

Vstupné na toto podujatie je \$ 20.00 v čom je započítaná aj večera. Lístky na Štedrovečernú večeru - Vigíliu si môžete objednať na Farskom úrade Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, telefón: (212) 734-4613; Jozef Bilík: (718) 463-2084; Henrieta Daitová: (201) 6412-8922. Tešíme sa na Vašu účasť.



## Docentka Ciulisová z Ústavu dejín umenia SAV prednášala v New Yorku

New York/Bratislava (TASR) - Docentka Ingrid Ciulisová z Ústavu dejín umenia Slovenskej akadémie vied (SAV) prednášala v uplynulých dňoch v galerijnej inštitúcii The Frick Collection v New Yorku. Ústrednou témou jej vystúpenia boli dvaja významní zberatelia spojení so Slovenskom - gróf Ján Pálffy a barón Karl Kuffner.

Americká verejnosť, ale i prestížna americká galerijná inštitúcia The Frick Collection tak mali možnosť po prvý raz sa oboznámiť s touto málo preskúmanou kapitolou dejín umeleckého zberateľstva na Slovensku. Prednáška vzbudila veľký záujem v amerických odborných kruhoch, keďže významné diela svetového umenia, pôvodne v zbierkach oboch spomínaných zberateľov, sú dnes súčasťou renomovaných amerických galérií a múzeí.

Ciulisová je v súčasnosti v New Yorku na štipendijnom pobyte v rámci Centra pre dejiny zberateľstva v Amerike (Center for the History of Collecting in America - CHOCA). Tento pobyt je súčasťou jej dlhodobého výskumného projektu podporovaného grantovou agentúrou Ministerstva školstva SR a SAV - VEGA. Projekt je zameraný na dejiny umeleckého zberateľstva na území Slovenska, informoval nedávno tlačový odbor SAV v Bratislave.

## ◆◆◆ Konferencia o genealógii a heraldike na Slovensku

Martin (TASR) – Priblížiť obdobia kontinuity a diskontinuity vo vývoji genealógie, heraldiky, erbov, pečatí a iných symbolov používaných v minulosti na Slovensku, bolo cieľom dvojdňovej odbornej konferencie, ktorá sa konala v polovici novembra v priestoroch Slovenského národného literárneho múzea v Martine.

Podujatie pripravila Slovenská genealogicko-heraldická spoločnosť (SGHS) v spolupráci so Slovenskou národnou knižnicou v Martine a katedrou archívnictva a pomocných vied historických Filozofickej fakulty Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave. Odborníci sa na konferencii podrobne zaoberali najnovšími výskumami rodopisov niektorých šľachtických rodov, ako boli napríklad Thurzovci, Appelovci, ale aj rodinnou kontinuitou Slovákov v kráľovských službách. Účastníci si vypočuli prednášky o symbolike arcibiskupskej šľachty, meštianstva, erboch na architektonických pamiatkach, ale tiež o vývoji cirkevnej heraldiky či stoličných pečatí na Slovensku. Oboznámili sa aj s výsledkami a skúsenosťami z niekoľkých ročníkov žiackej súťaže na tému Putovanie za predkami, v ktorých sa deti snažili odhaľovať svoje korene a začali sa vážnejšie zaoberať genealógiou.

Súčasťou programu bolo aj valné zhromaždenie SGHS, na ktorom delegáti hodnotili činnosť za posledné dva roky, diskutovali o aktuálnom dianí v oblasti genealógie a heraldiky na Slovensku i v zahraničí a zvolili si aj nový výbor. Zároveň slávnostne uviedli do života aj dve nové publikácie z produkcie SGHS. Prvú - Medzi mlynskými kameňmi napísal Zdenko Ďuriška a venoval sa v nej dejinám rodu Makovickovcov. Autorom druhej knihy Diplomatarium Sancto Adalbertinum je Vladimír Rábik a obsahuje výsledky výskumu stredovekých listín v Literárnom archíve Spolku svätého Vojtecha.

## Martinove proroctvá

*Ani kone na slávnej Veľkej pardubickej nedokážu v tradícii ani sledovanosti konkurovať legendárnemu tátošikovi oslávenca - Martina (11. 11.). Celé generácie s napätím sledujú, na akom koni prifujazdí. Biely (sneh) veští dlhú, no nevelmi krutú zimu, ale aj s fujavicami, sivý (hmly) striedanie zimných oteplení a ochladení, plavý (jasné nebo a slnko) nabáda k opatrnosti, zima môže byť veľmi mrazivá, hnedý (teplo, pod mrakom) má zapriahnuté na miernu zimu.*

*Napriek farbe koňa príde citelne chladno na Slovensku často akurát okolo 11. 11. Vraví sa: Na svätého Martina, pravá zima začína. Alebo: Na svätého Martina, drž sa synku komína, zohreje len perina. Na Martina s mocí, vtrhne zima v noci. Je to i termín, kedy medveď v minulosti zvykol obliekať pyžamo - a predkovia mali pre toto obdobie aj označenie - martinské chladná.*

*Oslávenec je aj vládny, dedovské pravdy upokojujú: Martinov sneh a ľad budú zaraz vodou, Martinova biela perina dlho neleží. Ako prvý pranosticky dovidí i na vianočné počasie: Ak hus na Martina chodí po ľade, na Vianoce sa prejde po blate.*

*Na Martina je tiež i dnes vo vinárskych oblastiach prvá koštovka nového vína, aby milovníci moku overili, či platí: Na svätého Martina - iskra do vína.*

## Mikulášske odpoľudnie v kostole sv. J. Nepomuckého v NYC

*...Viete deti čo sa deje?  
Sv. Mikuláš sa z rohu na Vás smeje,  
už za krátko k Vám zavíta  
za odmenu si Vašu lásku vypýta ...*

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City, Spolok sv. Štefana číslo 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty pozýva slovenskú verejnosť z blízka i okolia na Mikulášske odpoľudnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou, ktoré sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 7. decembra 2008 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia vo veľkej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street, New York City. Vstupné je voľné a občerstvenie bude zabezpečené.

Prosíme rodičov, ktorých deti by mohli spestriť naše Mikulášske posedenie básničkou, spevom, alebo iným vystúpením, nech sa prihlásia vo večerných hodinách u pani Henriety na tel. čísle: (201) 6412-8922.

## Ukončenie roku biskupa Jána Vojtaššáka

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

voru vyjadril vďačnosť Pánu Bohu za dar veľkého biskupa, akým bol otec biskup Ján Vojtaššák.

Na sv. omši koncebrovali kňazi pôsobiaci na Spišskej Kapitule, predstavení Kňazského seminára biskupa Jána Vojtaššáka, kňazi z dekanátu Spišské Podhradie. Prítomní boli seminaristi, rehoľné sestry, veriaci z dekanátu Spišské Podhradie a celej diecézy. Po svätej omši sa všetci pri hrobe biskupa Jána Vojtaššáka pomodlili desiatok sv. ruženca a modlitbu za jeho blahorečenie. Potom sa konalo spomienkové pásmo o biskupovi Jánovi.

Ján Vojtaššák sa narodil 14. novembra 1877 v Zákamennom na Orave ako siedme z jedenástich detí. Študoval na gymnáziu v Trstenej a Ružomberku a od roku 1895 študoval teológiu v seminári v Spišskej Kapitule. Kňazskú vysviacku prijal 1. júla 1901. Ako kňaz pôsobil na mnohých miestach, neskôr sa stal riaditeľom Biskupského úradu. Biskupskú vysviacku prijal 13. februára 1921 v Nitre. Aj keď bol Ján Vojtaššák 44 rokov spišským biskupom, diecézu spravoval iba 29 rokov, kvôli vtedajšiemu politickému režimu. 15. januára 1951 bol v Bratislave vo vykonštruovanom procese odsúdený na 24 rokov ťažkého väzenia. Vo väzení bol až do amnestie 5. októbra 1963. Po nej žil krátko v Oravskej Lesnej a neskôr v Senohrabochoch pri Prahe. Zomrel vo vyhnanstve v Řičanoch pri Prahe. V roku 1990 bol rehabilitovaný zrušením rozsudku v plnom rozsahu.

Svätý Otec, v blahej pamäti Ján Pavol II. pri bohoslužbách na Mariánskej hore v Levoči o biskupovi Jánovi Vojtaššákovi povedal: „Starší z vás si zaiste pamätajú na úctyhodnú postavu biskupa Jána Vojtaššáka a bratia gréckokatolíci na postavu biskupa Pavla Gojdiča. Obidvaja boli uväznení v žalári na základe pseudoprocsov. Dnes si zasluhujú, aby sa konal cirkevný proces ich blahorečenia, pretože vydali svedectvo o vernej službe Cirkvi na Slovensku.“ (Janáč, P.: Mučeník bez vylitia krvi.)

## Na Slovensku klesá počet sobášov a mierne stúpa počet rozvodov

Bratislava (TASR) - Na Slovensku sa do konca júna tohto roku rozhodlo vstúpiť do manželstva 11,797 párov a rozviedlo sa 6,716 manželstiev. "Napriek tomu, že počet sobášov klesá, počet rozvodov mierne rastie," uviedol sociológ Karol Pastor. Podľa publikácie Ohrozená rodina na Slovensku sa dlhodobý klesajúci trend sobášnosti začal prehlbovať od roku 1995, pričom neskôr sa zastavil a do roku 2004 začal počet sobášov naopak stúpať. Rast sobášnosti, ktorý začal v roku 2001, sa zastavil v roku 2005.

"Sobášnosť je stále nízka, najnižšia bola v roku 2001 a odvtedy to mierne stúplo," vysvetlil Pastor. Poznamenal, že na vývoj situácie vplýva aj to, že deti nevychováva škola a rodičia, ale televízia, médiá a internet. Dôvodov vidí Pastor viacero, patria sem napríklad zmeny v spoločnosti, životného štýlu, ekonomické faktory či to, že sa z ľudí stávajú individualisti. Pokles sobášnosti spôsobil aj ich odklad do vyššieho veku, ako aj uprednostňovanie alternatívnych spôsobov spolužitia. Ako upozornil Pastor, tým, že dvojice spolu žijú v spoločnej domácnosti už pred svadbou, sa vystavujú väčšiemu riziku rozvodu po vstupe do manželstva. Riziko rozvodu tiež stúpa s nižším vekom pri vstupe do manželstva. Podotkol, že na pokles sobášnosti vplýva aj pokles religiozity, ktorý je na Slovensku badateľný.

Ako vyplýva z údajov Štatistického úradu SR, v roku 2006 sa na Slovensku rozviedlo 12,716 manželstiev, pričom priemerný vek ich trvania bol 14.66 roka. Jedno a viac detí vzišlo z 8,474 ukončených spolužití. Takmer dvakrát častejšie podali návrh na ukončenie manželstva ženy. Najväčšia rozvodovosť bola na západe krajiny, naopak najnižšia na východnom Slovensku. Medzi najčastejšie uvádzané dôvody rozpadu partnerského zväzku patrila rozdielnosť pováh, názorov a záujmov, s výrazným rozdielom nasledoval alkoholizmus a nevera. Najčastejšie sa rozvádzali osoby s ukončeným stredoškolským vzdelaním s maturitou.



## Slovensko čakajú do roku 2010 reformy za 74 miliárd Sk

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

budú podporovať profesijne orientované vysokoškolské študijné programy na bakalárskej úrovni a pomaturitné štúdium. "Začne sa teda uplatňovať ponuka študijných programov, ktoré nebudú absolventov pripravovať na vyšší stupeň vzdelávania, ale prioritne na výkon povolania," prognózujú autori v materiáli. Navyše neoddeliteľnou súčasťou tohto študijného programu má byť povinná prax v príslušnom odbore.

Na margo oblasti zamestnanosti sa v národnom programe uvádza, že nosným pilierom riešenia politiky zamestnanosti je vytvorenie národného systému flexibility (ide napr. o schopnosť prispôsobovania zručnosti a vedomostí pracovnej sily meniacim sa potrebám hospodárstva). Začleňovanie dlhodobý znevýhodnených uchádzačov o zamestnanie, evidovaných na úradoch práce viac ako 24 mesiacov, má riešiť tzv. Národný projekt. Ten zavedie do praxe nový nástroj - príspevok na podporu zamestnávania znevýhodnených uchádzačov o zamestnanie.

Problematika klimatických zmien a energetiky sa opiera o úlohu, podľa ktorej má SR do roku 2020 dosiahnuť 14-percentný podiel obnoviteľných zdrojov energie na jej konečnej spotrebe. "Vláda si uvedomuje naliehavosť transformácie svojej ekonomiky na nízko-uhlíkovú a energeticky menej náročnú, a preto vytvorenie komplexnej národnej stratégie vníma ako jednu z hlavných výziev v rámci svojich strednodobých cieľov," informuje materiál.



## V Bratislave trojdňová konferencia zahraničných Slovákov

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

vyučovanie slovenčiny nielen na školách s celoročnou pôsobnosťou, ale aj na víkendových učebných kurzoch. Žiadajú od nás pomoc v poskytovaní pomôcok pri vyučovaní slovenčiny, počnúc knihami až po audiovizuálne programy," povedala Prívarová.

Slováci žijúci v zahraničí dostali vlnu od štátu prostredníctvom grantového systému Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí 36 miliónov Sk (1.2 milióna eur). Celková požadovaná suma v rámci 739 predložených žiadostí však dosahovala 177.3 milióna Sk (5.9 milióna eur). Podávanie žiadostí má pritom od roku 2002 (výnimkou je rok 2005) stúpajúcu tendenciu, v prvom grantovom kole v roku 2008 ich zaevidovali 546 v požadovanej výške 83.4 milióna Sk (2.8 milióna eur).

Podujatie zorganizoval v dňoch 6. až 8. novembra Úrad Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí pod záštitou predsedu vlády SR Roberta Fica.

## Modlitba k Panne Márii

Nepoškvrnená 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 vrúčne prosby a bude nám bezpečným útočiskom pred hriechom, ktorý robí našu dušu odpornou Bohu a otrokyňou Bohu a otrokyňou pekla. Vypočuj ó vyvolená Božia úpenlivé vzdychy verných sŕdc, ktoré sa vznášajú k Tebe v tomto roku. Schýľ sa nad naše bolavé rany, premeň srdcia zlých, osuš slzy utrpených a utláčaných. Vyhas hnevy, zošľachti drsné obyčaje a stráž kvet čistoty mládeže. Chráň svätú Cirkev a dopraj, aby všetci ľudia pocítili prítiažlivú silu Kresťanskej dobroty, nad ktorou nech zažiarí slnko všeobecného a úprimného pokoja a mieru. Amen.

## Vianočné posedenie v Kalifornii

Vedenie Okresu Princa Pribinu v Bellflower, Kalifornia srdečne pozýva verejnosť na slovenskú svätú omšu a oslavu sv. Mikuláša v nedeľu 21. decembra 2008 o 11:00 hodine v St. Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, CA 90706.

Po liturgii bude pre prítomných, v priateľskom prostredí kafetérie pri slovenskej hudbe a vianočných koledách, pripravené vianočné pohostenie. Zavíta medzi nás aj sv. Mikuláš, ktorý rozdá deťom darčeky. Úradníci Okresu Princa Pribinu želajú všetkým radostné a požehnané Vianoce. Dovidenia v Bellflower.

Paul Skuben



Na obrázku záber zo zádušnej svätej omše, obetovanej za prvého prezidenta Dr. Jozefa Tisu, s hlavným celebrantom diecéznym biskupom Viliamom Judákom (v strede), a koncelebrantmi svätej omše, 13. októbra 2008 v katedrále sv. Emeráma v Nitre.

## Na Nitrianskom hrade odpočíva Dr. Jozef Tiso

Dejiny sa dajú prekrúcať - ale samotné sa nefalšujú nikdy" - bolo heslom nášho vynikajúceho matičiara Jozefa Cigera - Hronského, a to si aj ja dovoľm uviesť v tomto príhovore na objasnenie skutočnosti, ktorá sa odohrala a súčasne aj zapísala do našich novodobých dejín, z ktorých ju nikto a nič nemôže vymazať!

Išlo o ďalšie ohnisko v reťazi nášho národného diania a to v deň 13. októbra 2008 - keď na vrchole staroslávnej Nitry - na mieste počiatku nášho jestvovania, slovenský národ „modlitbou zaklopal na dvere svojich dejín“. A teraz v jednoduchej udalosti vložil ostatky nášho prvého prezidenta Dr. Jozefa Tisu na mieste, o ktorom zlatými písmenami vyjadril svoj obdiv náš milý básnik Rudolf Dilong, medziiným takto: „Obuv vyzujte, miesto sväté je. Malá rotunda objala hory, doliny i kvety našej zeme.“ Zeme, po ktorej kráčali naši nedosažitelní svätý Cyril a svätý Metod - zanechajúc nám ich nehynúcu cyrilo-metodskú tradíciu, ktorá nás šťastlivo viedla po stáročia v časoch víťazných i menej priaznivých, a ktorá nemohla byť viditeľnejšou ako ona bola potvrdená celým životom nášho drahého vodcu a bojovníka za slovenské práva Dr. Jozefa Tisu, ktorý tu v slovenskej hrudi bude odpočívať s modlitbami nás všetkých roduverných Slovákov.

Prekrásna udalosť začala zádušnou svätou omšou v katedrále sv. Emeráma, ráno v spomenutý deň, za prítomnosti úzkeho kruhu jeho oddaných obdivovateľov. A stalo sa tak preto, aby sa predišlo možným výtržnostiam z radu neprajníkov, ktorí ešte s nízkou zaostalosťou, či zameranosťou rôzneho druhu, pokúšajú sa i dnes podávať históriu tak, aby ona vyhovovala strane a nie ako sa ona udiala.

Medzi vzácnymi hosťami bol prítomný aj doživotný čestný predseda slovenskej ligy v Amerike Dr. Ľudovít Pavlo, najobávanejší pracovník očistenia mena Dr. Jozefa Tisu a odhalenia jeho pozostatkov.

Som úprimne hrdý, že mi bola daná nezabudnuteľná možnosť zdieľať s ostatnými prítomnými uloženie pozostatkov Dr. Jozefa Tisu, na mieste pre náš národ naozaj svätom.

Ivan S. Králik  
podpredsa Slovenskej ligy v USA

# Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Prvý Honorárny konzulát Slovenskej republiky v Chorvátsku otvorili 30. októbra za účasti slovenského prezidenta Ivana Gašparoviča v srdci Dalmácie, v Splite. Slováci ho až dodnes nemali aj napriek tomu, že Chorvátsko patrí medzi vyhľadávané turistické destinácie. Honorárnym konzulom sa stal chorvátsky podnikateľ v oblasti vinohradníctva Antun Plančić. Konzulát by mal okrem riešenia prípadných problémov prehľbovať vzájomné vzťahy oboch krajín, ale aj skvalitniť služby pre občanov SR. Ročne navštívi Split okolo 100,000 slovenských turistov.

**Embraco** Slovakia v Spišskej Novej Vsi ukončí pracovný pomer do konca roka s 310 zamestnancami. Dôvodom pokračujúceho prepúšťania je rušenie už potvrdených objednávok v dôsledku celosvetovej finančnej krízy. Spoločnosť, ktorá vyrába kompresory a kondenzačné jednotky pre komerčné a domáce chladenie, ohlásila už v polovici októbra, že neobnoví zmluvy so 142 zamestnancami a nevyhla sa ani ďalšiemu prepúšťaniu. Embraco Slovakia je súčasťou celosvetovej korporácie so sídlom v brazílskom Joinville. Až 95 % produkcie vyváža do krajín západnej Európy a Severnej Ameriky. Naďalej je najväčším zamestnávateľom na Spiši, prácu poskytuje 1,900 ľuďom.

**Vklady** občanov, neziskových organizácií a menších firiem v bankách budú garantované štátom v plnej výške bez akejkoľvek spoluúčasti. Vyplýva to z novely zákona o ochrane vkladov, ktorú 4. novembra podpísal prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič. Novela je účinná odo dňa jej vyhlásenia. Doteraz boli vklady v bankách chránené do výšky 20,000 eur (602,520 Sk) s 10-% spoluúčasťou vkladateľa. Vláda považuje neobmedzenú garanciu vkladov za preventívne opatrenie, ktoré by malo upokojiť slovenských občanov v čase celosvetovej finančnej krízy. Opozícia zvýšenie ochrany vkladov tiež podporuje, nie všetci jej predstavitelia však považovali za potrebné úplne odstrániť hornú hranicu. Navrhovali pritom napríklad maximálnu garantovanú sumu 100,000 eur (3.01 milióna Sk).

**Slovenský** polárnik Peter Valušiak začal v sobotu 1. novembra svoj 120-dňový pochod naprieč Antarktídou. Ak sa mu to podarí, pôjde doteraz o najdlhší peší prechod cez tento kontinent bez cudzej pomoci. Po týždni strávenom na juhu Afriky ho zásobovacie lietadlo IL-76 prepravilo 12 km od ruskej základne Novolazarevská a bez toho, aby sa zastavil na základni, sa hneď vybral na svoju trasu, ktorá meria vzdušnou čiarou približne 3,800 km. V prvý deň s plne naloženými saňami a batohom s celkovou hmotnosťou 200 kg prešiel 15 km.

**Banskobystrická** pletiariska firma Slovenka pre dlhodobu nepriaznivý vývoj v textilnom priemysle v Európe, zapríčinený najmä dovozom lacných čínskych výrobkov, ruší časť nerentabilnej výroby. Vo farbiarni a na ňu nadväzujúcich činnostiach tak vo februári 2009 príde o prácu takmer 150 ľudí. Snažia sa robiť všetko pre to, aby zachovali prácu pre zostávajúcich 200 zamestnancov, väčšinou žien, ktoré šijú vrchné a spodné dámske, pánske a detské ošatenie z bavlny a zmesových materiálov, čo tvorí hlavnú produkciu Slovenky. Banskobystrická textilka, na ktorú vyhlásil Krajský súd v Banskej Bystrici konkurz v roku 2005, bola významným zamestnávateľom v meste pod Urpínom. Ešte v roku 2003 v nej pracovalo viac ako 800, o 3 roky neskôr už len vyše 400 ľudí.

**Jesenné** spočítavanie kamzíčej zveri sa začalo 5. novembra na slovenskej i poľskej strane Tatranského národného parku (TANAP). Do terénu sa vydali dvojčlenné hliadky, ktoré počas dvoch dní monitorovali jednotlivé lokality a zaznamenávali počty kamzíkov. Na spočítavani sa podieľali pracovníci Štátnych lesov TANAPu, Správy TANAPu a ich poľskí kolegovia. Vlni počas jesenného spočítavania zaregistrovali na území Tatier 532 kamzíkov, z toho 67 mláďat. Pravidelný monitoring kamzíčej populácie sa začal pred viac ako polstoročím. Výsledky pomáhajú sledovať vývoj tohto vzácneho živočíšneho druhu a prijímať opatrenia na jeho záchranu. Najväčší pokles počtu kamzíkov zaznamenali v TANAPe koncom 90. rokov minulého storočia, kedy evidovali menej ako 200 zvierat. Naopak, najpočetnejšie štáda sa pásli na tatranských svahoch v rokoch 1964 až 1965, kedy napočítali takmer tisíc jedincov.

**Obrovský** prílev študentov, znižovanie kvality vzdelania, nesúlad medzi potrebami trhu, korupcia, nedostatok renomovaných pedagógov - to všetko vedie slovenské školy ku kolapsu. Taký je záver štúdie súkromného analytického inštitútu European Public Policy Partnership o stave univerzitného vzdelávania na Slovensku. Riešením by malo byť odpojenie verejných škôl od štátneho rozpočtu a spolpatnenie denného štúdia. Podpredseda Slovenskej rektorskej komisie František Gahér v súčasnosti nevidí dôvod na celoplošné spolpatnenie vysokoškolského štúdia. „Vláda zabezpečuje právo každého občana na bezplatné prvé vysokoškolské štúdium“, pripomenula hovorkyňa rezortu školstva Dana Španková.

**Kúpeľné** impérium v Piešťanoch budovala rodina ich zakladateľa Alexandra Wintera päťdesiat rokov. V roku 1940 všetok majetok znárodnil štát a neskôr komunisti. Podnikateľ Winter zomrel v chudobe s mesačným dôchodkom 250 korún. Dokonca mu zakazovali navštevovať kúpele a „mohol prejsť len do polovice Kolonádového mosta“, opísala koniec jeho života vnučka Kristína Stankovská. Jediné peniaze, ktoré musel komunistický režim rodine vyplatiť, boli súčasťou odškodného emigrantom z roku 1948. Bola to podmienka USA pri navrátení zlatého pokladu Československu v roku 1975. Vnučka zakladateľa žije len z penzie a privyrába si výučbou cudzích jazykov.

**Slovenskí** vojaci sa pred nástupom do Afganistanu zúčastnili na vojenskom cvičení v Nemecku v dňoch 17. až 21. novembra. V Spoločnom mnohonárodnom centre pripravenosti v Grafenwöhre preverili do 60 príslušníkov Vojenskej polície v úlo-

hách strážnej služby, ochrany a obrany objektov s výzbrojou i vykonávania fyzickej kontroly osôb a techniky pri vstupe do strážených objektov. Cvičenie bolo súčasťou prípravy vyslania strážnej jednotky zloženej z príslušníkov Vojenskej polície na vykonávanie strážnej služby na leteckej základni Kandahár od 1. decembra 2008.

Na rekonštrukciu sídla Slovenskej filharmónie by malo ísť asi 785 miliónov korún (26.057 milióna eur) bez DPH, teda 934.15 miliónov Sk s DPH (31.009 milióna eur). Predbežné oznámenie na obstarávanie stavebných prác uverejnilo Ministerstvo kultúry (MK) SR v úradnom vestníku Európskej únie. „Ide o predpokladanú hodnotu zákazky. V tejto sume sú zahrnuté rozpočtové náklady vrátane rezervy pre stavebnú a technologickú časť stavby v cenovej úrovni prvého kvartálu tohto roka,“ priblížil hovorca ministerstva Jozef Bednár.

**Stúpajúce** množstvo áut na zemplínskych cestách, ale aj avizovaná realizácia významného projektu Vtáčie údolie, ktorý okrem iného zvýši návštevnosť na Hornom Zemplíne, vyžadujú neodkladné riešenie absentujúcej infraštruktúry. Keďže si viaceré samosprávy uvedomujú, že diaľnic sa Zemplínčania tak skoro nedočkajú, snažili sa o sfunkčnenie malého letiska v Kamenici nad Cirochou neďaleko Humenného. Mesto Humenné preto založilo spoločne s obcou združenie a požiadalo príslušný krajský úrad (KÚ) o odkúpenie letiska, aby sa tak stalo majetkom spomínaných obcí. „Žiaľ KÚ sa odvoláva na uznesenie, ktoré bolo prijaté ešte za Dzurindovej vlády, o nepredaji štátneho majetku a neprivatizovaní a keďže odvtedy toto uznesenie nebolo zrušené, KÚ má obmedzené možnosti na konanie, takže aj iniciatíva a snaha nás, aby sa letisko sfunkčnilo, ostáva na mŕtvom bode,“ uviedol primátor Humenného Vladimír Kostilník. Dodal, že potreba takéhoto letiska je reálna už v súčasnosti. V rámci Humenného je rozšírený priemysel.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

## V roku 2007 navštívilo USA 192 Slovákov

Bratislava (TASR) - Zrušením vízovej povinnosti do Spojených štátov amerických sa pre Slovákov od 17. novembra otvára široká paleta turistických možností. Zatiaľ čo v roku 2007 podľa štatistik Asociácie cestovných kancelárií a cestovných agentúr navštívilo USA v rámci organizovaného cestovného ruchu 192 Slovákov, cestovné kancelárie (CK) očakávajú v najbližšom období o zájazdy do krajiny väčší záujem.

Ani v predchádzajúcich rokoch počet Slovákov, ktorí navštívili USA prostredníctvom CK, nebol oveľa vyšší. V roku 2006 to bolo 201 Slovákov, 2005 - 279, 2004 - 102, 2003 - 261. Mierny nárast ukazuje rok 2002 (543) a 2001 (591). Počet občanov SR, ktorí USA navštívili, je však podstatne vyšší, ako uvádza štatistika, pretože tá nezahŕňa napríklad študentov na študijnom programe work&travel, pracovníkov na služobných cestách ani individuálnych turistov. Z pohľadu opačnej strany počet Američanov, ktorí navštívili Slovensko v rámci organizovaných zájazdov bol vyšší - v roku 2007 to bolo 7,157. Táto štatistika môže byť mierne zavádzajúca, keďže zachytáva aj návštevníkov, ktorí navštívili SR len na krátky čas, napríklad v rámci plavby po Dunaji.

Zrušením víz sa Slovensko dostalo do kategórie štátov, u občanov ktorých sa už neposudzujú riziká ekonomickej migrácie, ale bezpečnostné hľadisko. Slovenskí občania pri žiadosti o víza do USA musia na internete vyplniť americký dotazník ESTA a mali by vlastniť novší typ cestovného pasu s biometrickými údajmi - čipom a digitálnou fotografiou. Elektronický systém pre autorizáciu cesty (ESTA) na jeho základe buď cestu odsúhlasí, alebo nie. Povolenie platí dva roky, pričom jeden nepretržitý pobyt nesmie presiahnuť tri mesiace. Ak záujemca o vycestovanie nemá biometrický cestovný pas, bude musieť požiadať o udelenie turistických víz spôsobom, ako to bolo do zrušenia vízovej povinnosti.

### Košice majú stredovekú gotickú kaplnku s podlahovým kúrením

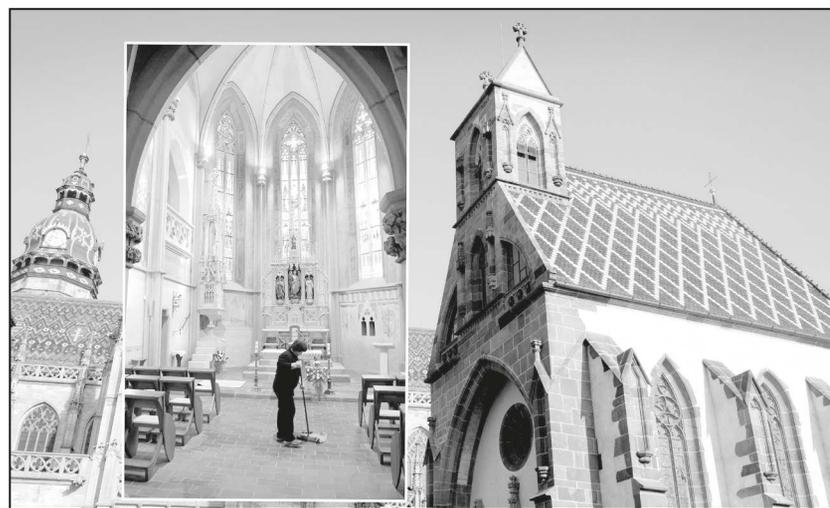


FOTO TASR - František Iván

Kaplnka svätého Michala v Košiciach je pravdepodobne jedinou stredovekou gotickou kaplnkou na Slovensku s podlahovým kúrením. Možno aj vďaka tomu sa po rekonštrukcii stala obľúbeným miestom konania krstov, sobášov, koncertov a svätých omší. Rekonštrukcia, ktorá trvala desať rokov, si vyžiadala investíciu okolo 50 miliónov Sk (1,659,696 eur). Kaplnku sprístupnili verejnosti koncom roku 2006. Kaplnku začali stavať pravdepodobne v prvej polovici 14. storočia ako doplnok farského kostola - Dómu sv. Alžbety. Slúžila ako cintorínska kaplnka uprostred cintorína vo vnútri mesta. Kaplnka je zasvätená svätému Michalovi, sprievodcovi duší na druhý svet.



## V Bratislave trojdňová konferencia zahraničných Slovákov

Bratislava (TASR) - Slávnostným galavečerom pod záštitou prezidenta Slovenskej republiky Ivana Gašparoviča v historickej budove Slovenského národného divadla v Bratislave 7. novembra vyvrcholilo trojdňové sympóziu zahraničných Slovákov.

V programe Slovensko ďakuje vystúpili poprední protagonisti domácej kultúrnej obce. Medzi hosťami boli aj veľvyslanci a vedúci zastupiteľských úradov z 23 krajín, ktoré prijali občanov SR v emigračných vlnách najmä v rokoch 1918, 1948 a 1968 a pomohli im vytvoriť podmienky na ich ďalší plnohodnotný život v zahraničí. Galavečer bol aktom vyjadrenia vďaky SR týmto krajinám.

Stála konferencia Slovenská republika a Slováci žijúci v zahraničí sa stala dlhoročnou platformou slovensko – slovenského dialógu. Tento rok je poctená najvyšším počtom zúčastnených krajín, ktoré prijali pozvanie. Prítomní boli delegáti z 25 krajín celého sveta, uviedla pred slávnostným vyvrcholením trojdňovej konferencie predsedníčka Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí Vilma Prívarová.

Osnovnou témou tohtoročnej konferencie je slovenčina v slovenskom zahraničí. "Preto, lebo si myslíme, že slovenčina je hlavným atribútom identity národa. Slovenským jazykom sa každá naša národnostná menšina identifikuje v prostredí, v ktorom žije. Spolu s kultúrou pôsobí ako tmel k zachovávaniu dedičstva tradícií našich krajanov. Aby sa komunita Slovákov v zahraničí udržala v súčasnom globalizačnom prostredí, potrebuje slovenčinu. Tento moment zdôraznili takmer všetci účastníci konferencie vo svojich diskusných referátoch ako kľúčový prvok pri udržaní národného povedomia," dodala Prívarová.

Témami konferencie boli formy výučby slovenského jazyka v jednotlivých krajinách, komunikácia v slovenskom jazyku v rodinnom, spoločenskom a cirkevnom živote, slovenský jazyk v krajských tlačných a elektronických médiách a ich vplyv na udržiavanie národného povedomia. "Na konferencii sme sa dozvedeli o dôležitých potrebách komunit zahraničných Slovákov, ktoré sú nevyhnutné pre

Pokračovanie na str. 22

## Ukončenie roku biskupa Jána Vojtaššáka

V piatok 14. novembra 2008 si Spišská diecéza pripomenula 131. výročie od narodenia Božieho sluhu biskupa Jána Vojtaššáka a zároveň sa uskutočnilo ukončenie roku Jána Vojtaššáka, ktorý trval od 14. 11. 2007 do 14. 11. 2008. Pri tejto významnej príležitosti celebrol v katedrálnom chráme sv. Martina v Spišskej Kapitule svätú omšu spišský pomocný biskup Andrej Imrich. Vo svojom príhovore priblížil veriacim osobu biskupa Jána Vojtaššáka na politickom a historickom pozadí doby, v ktorej žil. Spomenul hrdinskú odvahu Božieho sluhu vzoprieť sa politickej moci, keď okrem iného povedal: „Biskup Ján je v tom veľký, že nepodľahol komunizmu a jeho politike. Nezlakol sa vyhrážok, ktorými mu hrozili, že ho zničia a už vôbec sa nedal kúpiť „sladkými rečami“ o moci za cenu zrad. A v tom nám je veľmi veľkým príkladom. Lebo my sme dnes často „predajní“, dáme sa kúpiť dokonca obyčajnou lichôtou.“ V závere prího-



Biskup Ján Vojtaššák

Pokračovanie na str. 21



## Slovensko čakajú do roku 2010 reformy za 74 miliárd Sk

Bratislava (TASR) - Zvýšenie kvality vzdelávania, zníženie dlhodobej nezamestnanosti či odstraňovanie bariér v záujme efektívnejšieho využívania podnikateľského potenciálu sú hlavnými výzvami slovenskej ekonomiky. Vyplýva to z návrhu Národného programu reforiem na roky 2008 až 2010 z dielne podpredsedu vlády Dušana Čaploviča a ministra financií Jána Počiatka (obaja Smer-SD), ktorý 4. novembra odobrili poslanci Národnej rady SR. Autori programu zároveň počítajú s tým, že opatrenia uvedené v materiáli si vyžadujú zo štátneho rozpočtu do roku 2010 asi 74 miliárd Sk (2.46 miliardy eur).

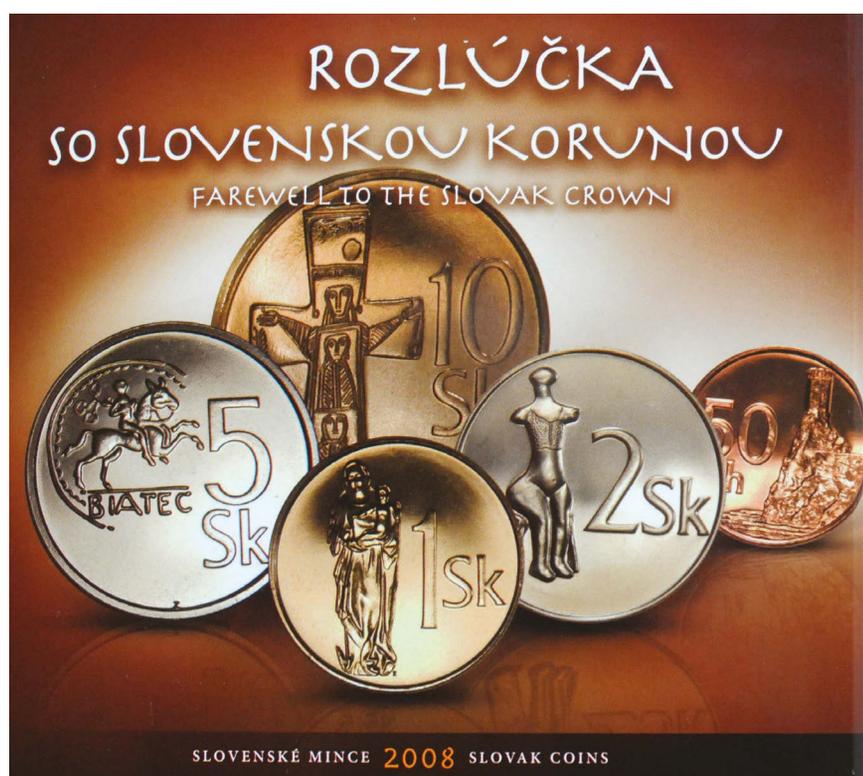
Tažiskom dokumentu sú opatrenia v piatich oblastiach - výskum, vývoj a inovácie, vzdelávanie, zamestnanosť, podnikateľské prostredie a klimatické zmeny a energetika. "Opatrenia sú koncipované s cieľom vytvoriť predpoklady pre rýchly a v dlhodobom horizonte udržateľný ekonomický rast, zvýšiť sociálnu mobilitu, posilniť sociálnu súdržnosť... a zmierniť dopady demografického vývoja," deklarujú autori.

V rámci výskumu, vývoja a inovácií sa plánuje pre úspešné fungovanie vedomostnej spoločnosti obnoviť vedomostný trojuholník založený na intenzívnej spolupráci organizácií výskumu a vývoja, univerzít a podnikateľského sektora. "Výzvou na riešenie v oblasti slovenskej vedy a výskumu sú aj nesprávne nastavené motivácie v systéme," uvádza sa v programe.

Slovenský vzdelávací systém má podľa autorov mnohé pozitívne stránky, "ich rozvoj však nie je zatiaľ podporovaný primeranou výškou výdavkov z verejných financií. Ich úroveň totiž nedosahuje priemer krajín EÚ". Napriek tomu v rámci vzdelávania ostáva najväčšou výzvou kvalita. V opatreniach zameraných na informatizáciu školstva či zavádzanie inovatívnych študijných materiálov a pomôcok sa má prikrčiť k vybudovaniu adekvátnej komunikačnej a informačnej infraštruktúry. Novým zákonom o vysokých školách sa majú zase zabezpečiť pružnejšie formy riadenia vysokých škôl.

Vo sfére vzdelávania sa tiež počíta so zavedením opatrenia, podľa ktorého sa

Pokračovanie na str. 22



SLOVENSKE Mince 2008 SLOVAK COINS

FOTO TASR - Jozef Ďurník

Mincovňa Kremnica š. p. vydala rozlúčkovú sadu mincí slovenskej koruny v rokoch 1993-2008 17. novembra 2008. Na snímke averz obalu kazety.