



# Jednota

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Photo TASR Stefan Puskas

President Ivan Gasparovic of Slovakia with President George Bush in the Oval Office

## Gasparovic Visit Solidifies U.S. - Slovak Relations

By John Karch

With turmoil internationally and domestic problems internally throughout the globe, the words uttered by the Presidents and other officials of Slovakia and the United States

in describing their bilateral relations and of each other are something to behold and exemplified for other leaders and countries: significant milestone, extraordinary, at their level best, thanking each other for support, trustworthy partner.

At the February 2005 Bush-Putin Summit in Bratislava, the U.S. President on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February called on Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic at the Presidential Palace and their discussion included the U.S. visa issue.

On October 1 this year, the White House Press Office announced that "President Bush will welcome President Ivan Gasparovic of the Slovak Republic to the White

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## 122<sup>nd</sup> National Fraternal Congress Annual Meeting



During the National Fraternal Congress Meeting in Washington, D.C. on September 4-6, 2008 delegates were urged to visit Congressmen in their Congressional offices to address issues critical to fraternal insurance societies such as the First Catholic Slovak Union and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. Here Irene Drotleff, Secretary, Mary Ann Johaneck, President, Barbara Sekerak, Auditor, Steve Hudak, Auditor of the FCSLA, and Andrew Rajec, President of the FCSU meet on their way to visit Congressional Offices on Capitol Hill to inform Congressmen about their Fraternal Organizations and the positive roll they play in American life.

Andrew M. Rajec

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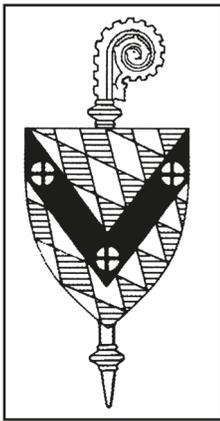


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# Insights and Viewpoints



## St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies Father Demetrius R. Dumm O.D.B., Chapmion P. Gavalier, O.D.B.

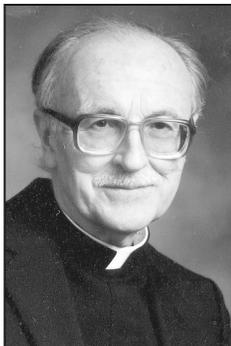
**November 9, 2008**

### Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

**John 2: 13-22**

#### Gospel Summary

In order to celebrate the annual festival of Passover, Jesus goes up to Jerusalem. After he enters the temple area, he drives out those who are selling oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers,



Champion P. Gavalier,  
O.S.B.

saying, "Stop making my Father's house a market place." When challenged to defend his outrageous action, Jesus replies, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." His hearers think he is speaking of the temple in Jerusalem, which had been under construction for fort-six years. Only after Jesus rose from death, did his disciples realize that he had spoken about the temple of his body.

#### Life Implications

The Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome symbolizes a crucial turning point in the long and remarkable history of the Catholic Church. The basilica was once a palace belonging to the Lateran family, dating back at least to the time of the persecution of Emperor Nero (A.D. 54-68). Emperor Constantine made a gift of the building to Pope Melchiade about the year 311. Before Constantine's rule, Christians were a persecuted sect struggling for survival within the hostile Roman Empire with its temples dedicated to the worship of many gods. The Lateran palace became the papal cathedral and the papal residence for over a thousand years, despite being ravaged by the Vandals, by fires, and by earthquakes. Our parish churches may rightfully look to this cathedral church of the Bishop of Rome as their mother church. Its feast of dedication also may remind us of our spiritual bond with our brothers and sisters in many countries where Christians may not worship in public and are persecuted as an outlawed sect.

In today's gospel Jesus refers to the temple in Jerusalem as "my Father's house." That the invisible God manifests his presence in visible signs recognizable by faith is at the heart of biblical revelation. The opening hymn of Genesis celebrates the creation of the entire universe as the construction of a beautiful temple in which God dwells and may be glorified. God continues the revelation of divine presence not only in the universe and in the events of history, but in human structures -- in the ark of the covenant leading the Jewish people through the wilderness, and in the temple Solomon built in Jerusalem.

In Jesus, revelation that God lives among us in visible signs reaches its climax. Jesus is the temple in which "the whole fullness of the deity dwells" (Col 2:9). The theme of the divine presence in the universe, in the events of history, in human structures, and in Jesus is extended as in a rich tapestry even further. Jesus identifies his body with the new temple promised in messianic times, and in turn his body is identified with the Church and with each individual member of the Church. "Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you" (1 Cor 3:16, also read Eph 2:19-22).

The Book of Revelation completes the theme of "temple and divine presence" to the fullest imaginable depth. In the end time of eternity, all earthly temples will be no more because God will be the temple. "I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb" (Rev 21:22). Now we are temples because God lives in us. Then, God will be the temple because we will live in him. Annie Dillard once remarked, "Home is the name of God." Because this is true, our faith can also help us have a new name for dying -- Going Home.

**November 16, 2008**

### Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Matthew 25: 14-30**

#### Gospel Summary

Jesus tells his disciples this parable: A man going on a journey calls his servants and entrusts his possessions to them. To one he gives five talents; to another, two; to a third, one -- each according to his ability. When the master returns, he discovers that the servant who was given five talents made five more; the one given two talents made two more. They are happy in receiving the master's praise for having used their abilities in a creative way. However, the servant who received one talent had hidden the talent out of fear, and now returns the talent to the master. The master calls him a wicked, lazy servant, and orders that he be thrown into the darkness outside.

#### Life Implications

Matthew in this passage is addressing the time of the church -- the time between Christ's going away and his return. He has already warned us about doing wicked, violent things during this time (Mt 24: 48-51), and also about foolishly ignoring the reality of Christ's return (Mt 25: 1-13). In this parable, the warning is about playing it safe by doing nothing, taking no risks out of fear. The master calls the servant who had buried his one talent a wicked servant, not because he had done something evil, but because he had done nothing to advance his master's interest.

A "talent" originally meant money; soon it received its metaphorical meaning, one's ability. One might also think of the talents entrusted to us as our life, which includes our abilities, our time on earth, and all the rest that life connotes. In his parable Jesus warns us, in this time before his return, that we must use the gift of life entrusted to us in a creative way to advance the interest of God's kingdom. Essentially this means the works of love, as the scene of the final judgment upon Christ's return makes clear (Mt 25: 31-46). Fear or laziness is unacceptable as an excuse for doing nothing.

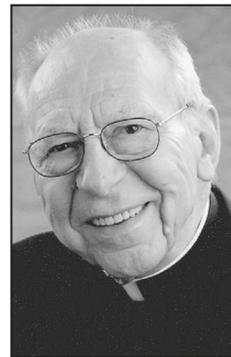
Perhaps we can extend the meaning of the parable a little further by thinking of the many ways that the life entrusted to us can be wasted, even without doing evil things. Thornton Wilder in his play *Our Town* shows us one of these ways. The point of the play is that because we live in illusions, we do not "find a value above all price for the smallest events in our daily life" (Wilder's quote).

Emily Webb is the main character of the play. Emily, who had died in childbirth, is permitted to return to Grover's Corners for only one day, to redo "the least important day" of her life. Now she is able with clear vision to pay attention to the smallest events of that very ordinary

*continued on page 4*

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

### Corinth-4



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Chapter 13 of First Corinthians is focused upon the gift of love and contains a passage that is a favorite of everyone who reads it, including the bride and groom who request it for their weddings.

"Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.

"Love never fails. Prophecies will cease, tongues will be silent, knowledge will pass away. Our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect. When the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child I used to talk like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. When I became a man I put childish ways aside. Now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. My knowledge is imperfect now; then I shall know even as I am known. There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love." (1Cor. 13:4-13)

Chapter 14 of First Corinthians is devoted to the gift of prophesy and separately, to the ability to speak in tongues.

#### Excerpts:

"If the bugle's sound is uncertain, who will get ready for battle? Similarly, if you do not utter intelligible speech because you are speaking in a tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will be talking to the air." (1 Cor. 14:8-9)

"Thank God, I speak in tongues more than any of you, but in the church I would rather say five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue." (1 Cor. 14:18-19)

"The gift of tongues is a sign, not for those who believe but for those who do not believe, while prophesy is not for those who are without faith but for those who have faith. If the uninitiated or unbelievers should come in when the whole church is assembled and everyone is

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## Our Lady of Sorrows



Seated is Rev. Gabriel F. Yablonsky. Standing L-R are Msgr. Anthony S. Spinosa, Rev. Carl G. Kish, Rev. Melvin E. Rusnak, Msgr. Cyril A. Adamko, Rev. George M. Franko, Bishop A. Edward Pevec, Rev. Daniel Cipar, Rev. William B. Kraynak, and Rev. David Shortt.

Our Lady of Sorrows, Patroness of Slovakia, was honored Sunday, September 14, 2008. To mark the occasion, over 250 pilgrims attended the 15<sup>th</sup> annual pilgrimage to Our Blessed Mother's Shrine in North Jackson, Ohio, sponsored by the Youngstown branch of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

## 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)

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**Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary**

# Reminder...

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10	MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

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

## Homilies

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day. Here are some of the things she says: "I can't look at everything hard enough . . . Let's look at one another . . . I didn't realize. So all that was going on and we never noticed . . . Good-bye to clocks ticking . . . And food and coffee. And new-ironed dresses and hot baths . . . and sleeping and waking up. Oh, earth, you're too wonderful for anybody to realize you . . . Do any human beings ever realize life while they live it -- every, every minute?" Thorton Wilder has another character respond: "The saints and poets, maybe -- they do some."

The prayer of our Eucharist today might be to ask again for the Spirit of Christ. In his Spirit we can be poets (able to see and to tell the wonder of ordinary things) and saints (able to respond with gratitude and love).



## Reflections on Our Christianity

*continued from page 2*

speaking in tongues, would they not say that you are out of your minds? But if an unbeliever or an uninitiated enters while all are uttering prophecy, he will be taken to task by all and called to account by all, and the secret of his heart will be laid bare. Falling prostrate, he will worship God crying out, 'God is truly among you'." (1 Cor. 14:22-25)

In verses 33-36 of chapter 14 of First Corinthians, Paul restricts women from speaking in the assembly. This passage is no longer observed in churches.

In chapter 15 of First Corinthians, Paul writes about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He writes in part, "Last of all he was seen by me, as one born out of the normal course. I am the least of the apostles; in fact, because I persecuted the church of God, I do not even deserve the name. But by God's favor I am what I am. This favor of his to me has not proved fruitless. Indeed, I have worked harder than all the others, not on my own but through the favor of God. In any case, whether it be I or they, this is what we preach and this is what you believed." (verses 8-11)

Continuing in chapter 15, he writes, "Not all of us shall fall asleep, but all of us are to be changed- in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trumpet. The trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. This corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, this mortal body with immortality." (1 Cor. 15:51-53)

The dead will rise on the last day with the same bodies they had on earth. However, these bodies will be remodeled and transfigured to the pattern of Jesus Christ. "So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown in the earth is subject to decay, what rises is incorruptible. What is sown is ignoble, what rises is glorious. Weakness is sown, strength rises up. A natural body is put down and a spiritual body comes up." (1 Cor. 15:42-44)

The resurrected bodies of the just will have these four properties or gifts.

Incapability/impossibility of suffering. Apocalypse/Revelation 21:4: "He shall wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, crying out or pain, for the former world has passed away." Luke 20:36 "They become like angels and are no longer liable to death."

The spiritualization of the body. The transfigured soul completely dominates the body. The soul becomes the essential form of the body.

The body obeys the soul with the greatest of ease and speed of movement. The body loses its earthy weight and is no longer subject to the law of gravity. An example of this is found in John's gospel, chapter 20:19: "On the evening of that first day of the week, even though the disciple had locked the doors of the place where they were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood before them." At Emmaus, "With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him; whereupon he vanished from their sight." (Luke 24:31)

The resurrected body of the just will be free from every deformity and filled with beauty and radiance. The overflowing of the beauty and radiance of the soul enters the body and makes it proportionally perfect. "...the saints will shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom." (Matthew 13:43)

However, the grade or degree of this transfiguration of the body will vary according to the degree of the beauty and radiance of the soul because this degree of the soul's radiance will be in proportion to its merits. Good, better and best will be evident in the resurrected body.

"Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, and act like men. In a word, be strong. Do everything with love." (1 Cor. 16:13-14)

"It is I, Paul, who send you this greeting in my own hand. If anyone does not love the Lord, let a curse be upon him. O Lord, come! The favor of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love to all of you in Christ Jesus." (1 Cor. 16:21-24)

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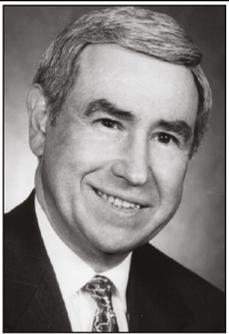
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**If each member would sign up just one new member,  
we could double our Society immediately**

**THINK ABOUT IT!**

# MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



**By Joseph T. Senko**

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

## Tax-Smart Retirement Planning

The days of company-supplied, defined-benefit pension plans are mostly gone. Today, employers are shifting the responsibility for retirement savings to the employee. That means workers must take an active role in planning- and saving- for retirement. The good news is that there are many tax-advantaged options that can enhance the growth and earnings of your retirement nest egg.

### The Reliable 401 (k)

Company-sponsored 401 (k) plans offer tax advantages and an easy way to automatically accumulate retirement money. In a 401 (k), you choose a percentage of your salary, up to an annual limit, that is set aside in an investment retirement account. Employees over age 49 may make additional catch-up contributions. You save money upfront because contributions are not taxed in the year they are earned, and you won't have to pay taxes on the earnings until distributions are made- a time when you'll likely be in a lower income tax bracket. You should inquire whether your plan permits Roth 401 (k) contributions. This is especially beneficial for those more than 20 years from retirement.

### Choose Wisely

Not all 401 (k) plans are alike, so carefully examine your investment options under the plan. Look for a reputable investment manager and fund choices that enable you to pick an investment that meets your risk tolerance and investment goals. Be sure to monitor the plan's performance to see if it's time to move into a different investment.

### Take Advantage of Employer Matching

Many employers will deposit a certain amount to your retirement plan based on your own contributions. For example, a company might match 50 percent of your contribution up to 6 percent of your salary deferral. The company match essentially amounts to a tax-free bonus, so it's worth contributing enough to qualify for the match.

### Open an IRA

The 401 (k) account is a great investment because of the employer match and the maximum contributions are typically higher than those of Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). If your employer does not provide for a 401 (k), consider opening an IRA. There are two basic choices:

**Traditional IRA-**Contributions are tax deductible, provided you receive compensation that is includable in income and you are not age 70 ½ or older during the tax year. Amounts earned are not taxed until distributions are made.

**Roth IRA-** The contributions are not deductible; however, the earnings and price appreciation generally are free from income tax when money is withdrawn from the account.

Your choice of an IRA will depend on your financial situations and what you expect your tax burden to be when you retire. No matter which you select, remember to consider a spousal IRA if you are married and filing a joint return. If only one spouse is employed, the other spouse is generally allowed to make an IRA contribution as well, which is a great opportunity to expand your family's tax-deferred retirement savings.

## Useful Websites

- |  |   |
|--|---|
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|--|---|

## From the Desk of the Vice President

Parma, Ohio Sales Seminar

The Membership and Marketing Committee held a sales seminar on Sunday, August 17, 2008, at St. Charles Catholic Church Parish Community Center in Parma, Ohio.

Recommenders from the Rev. Stephen Furdek District (District 10) were invited to attend. Among those present were National President Andrew M. Rajec, National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr., and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt.

The committee would like to thank District President Ken Minrovic and his officers for hosting the event. A big "Well Done" goes to Mike and Linda Kolesar for setting up the seminar and catering the food and refreshments.

The event started with a short district meeting followed by the seminar. The seminar was well received and centered on the society's insurance products, annuities, Home Office procedures and other topics relating to insurance.

The purpose of the seminar was to acquaint our recommenders with the society's products. If one is scheduled for your area, please attend.

**Until next time,  
Good Luck and God Bless!  
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.**

**National Vice President/Chairman, Membership and Marketing**

**National President Andrew Rajec leads the seminar. Sitting at the table are L-R Mary Kolesar, Linda Hanko and Piroška Merai.**



**L-R Linda Kolesar, Michael Kolesar and Mary Kolesar**



**Thomas Zuffa and George Findish of Branch 228 in Lorain, Ohio with Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt.**



**Joseph Lucas and Rich Vadovsky**



**Piroška Merai and Karen Davis**



**District 10 officers Secretary-Treasurer Linda Hanko and President Ken Minrovic**



# Trnava's 770<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum, FRSC

In the history of the Slovak nation as well as that of the Kingdom of Hungary, two Slovak cities have played a special historical role: Bratislava and Trnava. Both are situated in the western part of the country, at the crossroads of Central Europe, where Slovaks, Czechs, Hungarians, Austrians, Germans, Poles, Jews, Turks, and other nationalities have either crossed each other's path, mingled, worked together, or fought one another. Both cities have worn the crown of a capital, primarily during the Ottoman Turkish occupation of Hungary: Bratislava took over from Buda as the political and administrative capital of the kingdom from 1536 to 1830; Trnava took over from Esztergom (Ostrihom) as the ecclesiastical/episcopal capital from 1543 until the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Both housed universities, Bratislava, the Academia Istropolitana from 1465 to 1490, and Trnava, the University of Trnava from 1635 to 1777. In 1992, the University of Trnava was renewed, thereby re-establishing the city's link with its historical and academic past.

On 4 September 2008, this link with the past was renewed with the launching of a series of celebrations to mark a special anniversary, namely the granting to Trnava of the privileges of a free royal city by Hungarian King Bela IV in 1238. To understand the meaning and importance of such a grant, one has to remember that since AD 905, when the Great Moravian Empire was defeated by the Magyars, the Slovaks lived in the feudal Kingdom of Hungary. Feudalism refers to a medieval European political system composed of a set of reciprocal legal and military obligations among the warrior nobility, in this case the Magyars. The political and social structure of feudalism that arose from these obligations meant that society was organized on a pyramidal structure where each level gave rise to a hierarchy of rank and resulted in a predominantly static social structure in which every person knew and felt his/her place. Cities were the first to experience a break from the feudal system when lords and kings began to grant them the privileges of a free city, meaning that their citizens were no longer under feudal administration, but rather enjoyed their own administration and elected their own officials to whom they gave civic legislative power. The reasons for granting such privileges were usually of a political, economic, or strategic nature and these privileges were, on occasion, also revoked.

What makes this anniversary so special in 2008 is that Trnava was the first city on Slovak territory in the Kingdom of Hungary to achieve the status of a royal free city. Nitra followed in 1248 and Bratislava (then known as Prešporok) in 1291. The mounted parchment that designates Trnava as a royal free city is preserved today in the Historical Archives of Trnava as a national cultural document, but without the gold seal that had been affixed to it as it was stolen in 1683 by the soldiers of Imrich Tököly, leader of the fourth magnate rebellion against the Habsburgs in the Kingdom of Hungary. Part of the document was also torn away.

This grant made of Trnava a significant urban centre, which experienced the glories but also the vicissitudes of Central European and Hungarian history. Among the more significant events are the attacks and devastations of the Hussite armies in the fifteenth century; after the defeat at Moháč in 1526, the arrival of the Magyars, thereby making of Trnava a city populated by three nationalities, Slovak, German, and Magyar; the transformation of Trnava into a major cultural city in the sixteenth century with the creation of the University of Trnava by Peter Cardinal Pázmaň during whose tenure as primate of Hungary the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, the Franciscan church and monastery, and the church and monastery of the Poor Clares were built; the passage, if not the activities of such European scholars as archbishop Mikuláš Oláh who established a Jesuit seminary in Trnava, the Czech humanist Amos Komenský, Jan Sambucus, writer and publisher, and in the modern period, the composer of sacred music, Mikuláš Schneider-Trnavský. Today I would include among the outstanding personalities of Trnava Professor Jozef Šimončíč, a scholar and archivist who has spent his life there and who experienced all the ups and downs of Slovak history in the twentieth century. He is the author of a seminal work on the echoes of the French Revolution in Slovakia and also the author or editor of many publications on the history of Trnava and the University of Trnava. This kind, gentle, and erudite gentleman, although now in retirement, remains the director of the Institute of the History of the University of Trnava in the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Trnava. The authorities of Trnava recognized his contribution to the history of the city on 3 September 2008 by granting him an honorary citizenship. One can only hope that he will write his memoirs and share his many experiences as Trnava's archivist, especially during the Communist period.

The cultural programme to celebrate this anniversary included concerts, exhibitions, cultural events, a scholarly conference on the history of Trnava, a theatrical presentation on Trnava in the Ján Palárik Theatre (the first permanent theatre in Slovakia), and divine services in the Evangelical Church and a pontifical high mass in the Cathedral of St John the Baptist. Many events were celebrated in the



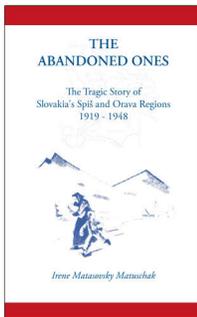
## "The Abandoned Ones: The Tragic Story of Slovakia's Spiš and Orava Regions, 1919-1948"

Are you looking for a holiday gift for someone whose grandparents came from Spiš or Orava? This hardcover book, with photos and reproductions of documents, would be welcomed by anyone with an interest in their Slovak roots or in the history of Slovakia.

The book was written by Irene Matasovsky Matuschak, the daughter of Joseph Matasovsky and the sister of Joseph Miloslav Matasovsky, two leaders who were active in working against the forced incorporation of Slovak villages into Poland after World War I and again after World War II. The book describes the efforts of Slovaks and Slovak-Americans during this time of border disputes between Slovakia and Poland in the Spiš and Orava regions.

Autographed copies of this book, published by Journeyman Press in Massachusetts, are available for \$35, including shipping and gift-wrapping if desired, directly from Irene Matuschak, 15 Connor Street, Uniontown, PA 15401. Make check payable to Irene Matuschak and indicate if gift-wrapping is desired.

Libraries, religious congregations, media organizations, schools or colleges may request a complimentary copy of the book by writing to Irene Matuschak.



L-R Professor Jozef Šimončíč, Mrs. Šimončíč and Professor Stanislav J. Kirschbaum

Trnava's Trinity Square and the John Palarik Theatre



historical parts of Trnava, namely Trinity Square, Kapitulska ulica, and Hlavná ulica, the pedestrian zone in the city. There were also concerts in the Church of St Nicholas whose spires are visible for miles as one approaches Trnava by road.

Trnava is also known as the "little Rome" for all the churches that are nested within the walls of the old city. As I have written in these pages, it is a pearl of a city, full of history that is not, however, without challenges today. In the interview Professor Šimončíč gave in September 2008 to "My, Trnavské noviny," the weekly paper of Trnava, he expressed the wish that Trnava remain what it was in the past, namely a university city that gives young people a home where they find culture, spiritual support, education, and also a city where people live happy lives. More need not be said ... except perhaps to wish Trnava many more anniversaries: "Ad multos annos!"



## Memorial Message – Anna (Micak) Janega

Slovak Canadian, Long-time supporter of Jednota, assisted at ceremony, Pier 21 Canada's Immigration Museum

Anna Micak was born in Budkovce, Slovakia on December 11, 1927. She was the daughter of George Micak and Susanna Ihnat. As a girl 'Annie' spent her early years in Montreal with her siblings John, Michael, Mary and Helen. An infant brother Josef, died at 9 months.

As a member of the Micak family, Annie was a lifelong supporter of Jednota.

Anna, also known as 'Ann' to the family, was a dedicated wife to Matthew Janega for 58 years. Living in Halifax and Dartmouth Nova Scotia, in eastern Canada, Anna's life was centered on her family and community. She was an accomplished seamstress and enterprising homemaker. Anna was Baba to her seven grandchildren and a network of friends and family across Canada and Slovakia. She was family historian and the chief cheerleader for the accomplishments of her children, their spouses and their children. Anna was an active member of St. Paul's Parish in Dartmouth for 47 years and a regular supporter of the local outreach center: Hope Cottage.

Together with Matt, Anna raised a loving family: son Paul Janega, daughters Ann Janega (Neville Gilfoy), Dartmouth; Janet Hayre (Doug), of Lower Sackville; Susan Janega-Baird (Danny), Moncton, NB; Lucy Janega (Dr. Jason Hitkari), Vancouver, BC; and grand-children Jamie and Peter Gilfoy; Scott, Matthew and Meghan Hayre; Charlie and Vincent Baird.

Anna is also survived by her brother Michael Micak (Anne) and sister Helen Corej (Joseph) of Montreal. She was predeceased by her brothers Josef and John Micak and sister Mary Ignacz.

In 2001 Anna Janega was honored to represent the Canadian Slovak community when she participated in the dedication of a Slovak memorial bench at **Pier 21, Canada's Immigration Museum** in Halifax, NS. Pier 21, considered to be Canada's Ellis Island, was the entry point for 1.5 million immigrants, war brides, displaced persons, evacuee children and Canadian military personnel who entered Canada between 1928 and 1971. Anna joined Canadian dignitaries as well as Rudolf Schuster, President of Slovakia in recognizing the many Slovaks who came to North America via the Port of Halifax.

Anna Janega was a warm and selfless person who extended Slovak hospitality and friendship to all who knew her. She died in peace in her home in Dartmouth Nova Scotia Canada on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007.

In loving memory from her family.



## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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**

### REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT-CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 2, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Slovak "J" Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, Ohio. The election officers for 2009 will be held at this meeting. Remember that in order to receive your stipend from the Home Office each branch must attend at least one meeting a year. Come and support your FCSU branch and the district.

Branch 553 will be sponsoring this meeting. To assist the Slovak "J" Club in preparing the buffet I request that you let me know the number of members from your branch who will be attending this meeting. To make reservations contact Linda M. Hanko at 1473 Ries St., Barberton, OH 44203, by Phone at 330/706-0151 or via email at lhanko@neo.rr.com.

**Linda M. Hanko, Secretary-Treasurer**

### MSGR. ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT-MONONGAHELA VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 9, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon in Donora, Pennsylvania. Members of the various branches in the District are urged to attend.

**Frances Tarquinio, Secretary**

### MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT-NEW YORK

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 9, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, 66<sup>th</sup> Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, a discussion of next year's program, and the election of officers for 2009. Other business will also be discussed. We urge all District branches to send their representatives to this meeting. All members of the FCSU are also welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served by the host, the St. Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716.

**Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary-Treasurer**

### REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT-ILLINOIS, INDIANA AND WISCONSIN

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District will hold its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Sunday, November 2, 2008, at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. A short period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments will begin at 1:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 2:00 p.m. All District branches are encouraged to send delegates. A delicious catered meal will be served. In order to ensure an adequate supply of food and beverages, please contact District President John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810 if you plan to attend.

**Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary**

### MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT-NEW JERSEY

The Msgr. John E. Rura District will hold its next Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, November 9, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Hall, 16 East Somerset Street, Raritan, New Jersey. Branch 290 will be the host. Branch secretaries are asked to call Joe Minarovich at 732/469-5256 by November 1 with the number of delegates who will be attending. Refreshments will be served.

**Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary**

### FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT-UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 9, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Meridian Point Apartments, 112 Confer Vista Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Representatives from the District branches are requested to attend.

**Barbara A. Holly, Secretary**

### PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT-LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Prince Pribina District will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 2, 2008 at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. A Slovak Mass will be celebrated for all deceased souls in the chapel at 3:00 p.m. The meeting will follow in the cafeteria. After the meeting, there will be a period of fraternal fellowship with coffee and donuts. On the agenda will be a financial report and a discussion of District fraternal activities and FCSU insurance products. All members are invited to attend. Branches in the area are requested to send representatives to the meeting.

**Rudolph Glogovsky, Regional Director**

## Coming Events

### November 2

A meeting of the Rev. Stephen Furdek District at 1:00 p.m. at the Slovak "J" Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, Ohio.

### November 2

A meeting of the Prince Pribina District at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass at 3:00 p.m. followed by the meeting.

### November 2

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District's Annual Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Forest, IL

### November 9

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

### November 9

Msgr. Stephen Krasula District's Annual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. in St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, 66<sup>th</sup> Street and First Avenue, New York City.

### November 9

The Msgr. John E. Rura District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Hall, 16 East Somerset Street, Raritan, New Jersey.

### November 9

A meeting of the Frank T. Holly Jr. District at 1:00 p.m. at the Meridian Point Apartments, 112 Confer Vista Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

### 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.

## 5.00%

## FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA

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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:

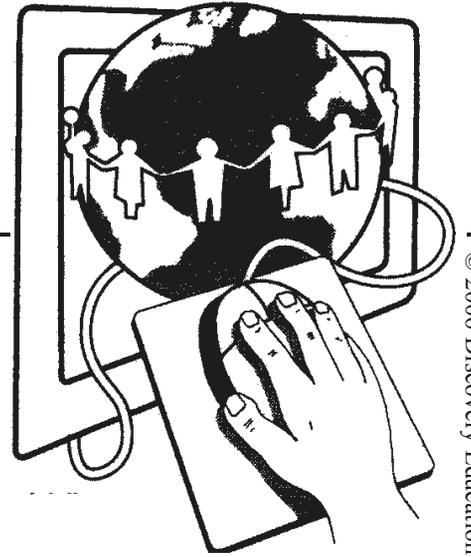
- The FCSU guarantees your deposits will accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- Your annuity continues to accumulate interest after you have stopped contributing and have begun to receive retirement income. The interest rate you receive on your annuity after settlement will never be less than 3.0%.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

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

**THINK ABOUT IT!**

Friends Events Sports Culture Trivia Activities

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Culture Space

October 2008

The Čachtice (chah-tee-tse) Castle is a castle ruin in Slovakia next to the village of Čachtice. It stands on a hill featuring rare plants, and has been declared a national nature reserve for this reason. The castle was a residence and later the prison of the Countess Alžbeta (Elizabeth Báthory: 1560-1614) who is alleged to have been the world's most prolific female serial killer. She spent most of her adult life at Čachtice Castle in what is now Slovakia. The Báthory family is famous for defending Hungary against the Ottoman Turks.



After her husband's death, she and four collaborators were accused of torturing and killing hundreds of girls and young women, with one witness attributing to them over 600 victims, though she was only convicted on 80 counts. In 1610, she was imprisoned in Čachtice Castle, where she remained bricked in a set of rooms until her death four years later. She was never formally tried in court.



The case has led to legendary accounts of the Countess bathing in the blood of virgins in order to retain her youth. These stories have led to comparisons with Vlad III the Impaler of Wallachia, on whom the fictional Count Dracula is partly based, and to modern nicknames of *the Blood Countess* and *Countess Dracula*.

Čachtice was built in the mid-13th century by Kazimir of the House of Hont-Pázmány as a sentry on the road to Moravia. Later, it belonged to Máté Csák, the Stibor family, and then to the famous *Bloody Lady* Elizabeth Báthory. Čachtice, its surrounding lands and villages, was a wedding gift from the Nádasdy family upon Elizabeth's marriage to Ferenc Nádasdy in 1575.

Trivia Space

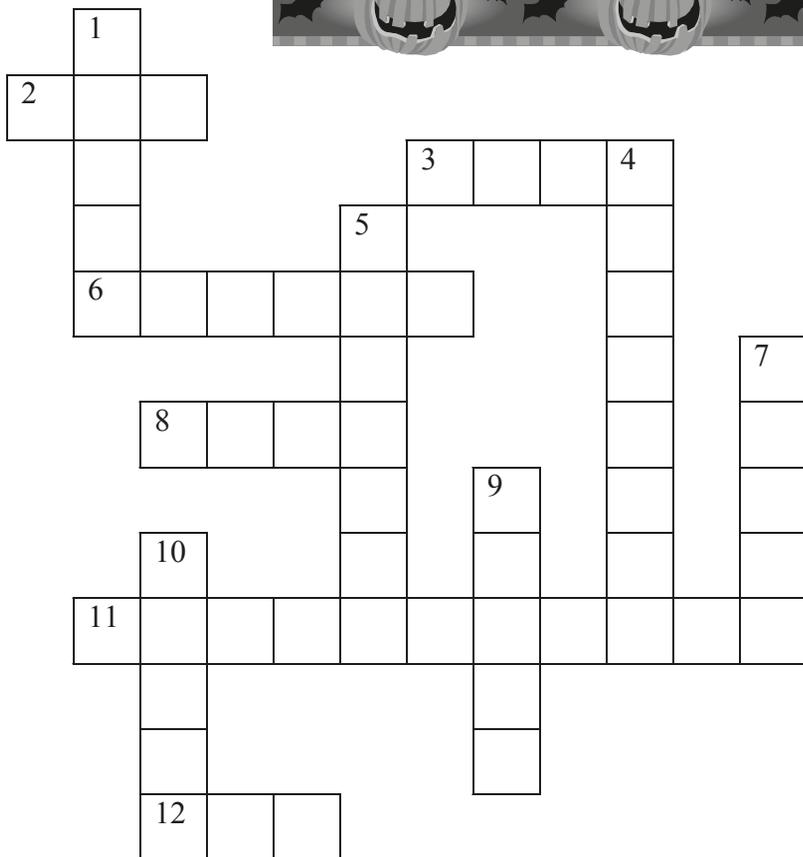
Orange and black are Halloween colors because orange is associated with the Fall harvest and black is associated with darkness and death.

Tootsie Rolls were the first wrapped penny candy in America.

Halloween is on October 31st, the last day of the Celtic calendar. It was originally a pagan holiday, honoring the dead. Halloween was referred to as All Hallows Eve and dates back to over 2000 years ago.



Challenge Space



- Across:
- How does a ghost cry? \_\_\_ Hoo!
  - Why didn't the skeleton cross the road? Because he had no \_\_\_.
  - What do you call a monster chasing a train full of people? \_\_\_.
  - What kind of music do mummies listen to?
  - What type of dog do vampires like best?
  - Who did the zombie invite to his party? Anybody he could \_\_\_ up.
- Down:
- What does a vampire fear most? \_\_\_ Decay.
  - What kind of key should you always take to a haunted house?
  - Why couldn't the mummy answer the phone? Because he was all \_\_\_ up.
  - What did the black cat call the mouse on roller skates? \_\_\_ on wheels.
  - What did the mommy ghost say to the baby ghost? Don't \_\_\_ until you're spoken to.
  - How do vampires get around on Halloween night? With \_\_\_ vessels.

# HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Send your ideas, letters etc. to: UR\_Space.jrs

234 Ilion St.  
Pgh., PA 15207  
sueo99@yahoo.com

Survival Expert's Answer to Desert Plane Crash (August 2008)

- 1 quart of water per person
- 1 top coat per person
- Flashlight (4 battery size)
- A cosmetic mirror
- Parachute (red and white)
- Jack Knife
- Plastic raincoat (large size)
- 0.45 caliber pistol (loaded)
- A pair of sunglasses per person
- Compress kit with gauze
- Magnetic compass
- Sectional air map of the area
- A book entitled, *Edible Animals of the Desert*
- 2 quarts of Vodka
- Bottle of salt tablets (1000)



Sept. 2008 Sudoku Answer

9	8	1	3	4	5	2	7	6
6	5	4	9	2	7	8	3	1
3	2	7	1	8	6	9	5	4
5	9	3	4	6	8	1	2	7
1	4	8	7	3	2	5	6	9
7	6	2	5	1	9	3	4	8
8	7	5	2	9	4	6	1	3
4	3	6	8	5	1	7	9	2
2	1	9	6	7	3	4	8	5

# News From Slovakia

## Slovakia to Provide Material Aid to Cuba and Haiti

Slovakia's Foreign Affairs Minister Jan Kubis has decided to allocate 1 million crowns from Slovak Aid's resources for humanitarian aid for Haiti, and the same amount of money for material humanitarian aid for Cuba, the ministry press department told Slovakia recently.

Both countries were hit recently by hurricane Ike, killing dozens of people and inflicting huge material damage.

The ministry will send the aid to Haiti through the Red Cross, while the material humanitarian aid for Cuba will be carried out in co-operation with Slovakia's Interior Ministry.

As for the material aid for Cuba (sleeping bags, blankets, emergency clothes, hygienic materials, and other items) will be sent by ship after the Cuban side has specified the quantity of individual groups of objects it's interested in.

TASR

## Eurowallet: 88 Days to Euro and Food Prices Staying Stable

Food prices in Slovakia 88 days before euro adoption are stable, Lubomir Drahovsky, an analyst of TERNO agency, focusing on market research, told Slovakia recently.

It is becoming clear that the businesses active in Slovakia have used the first half year of 2008 to set prices at a level which takes into consideration input costs for the whole year. Their strategy, Drahovsky pointed out, is proving to be good so far, because it has meant the current stable food prices.

Competition between the dominant retailers on the domestic market is even resulting in "price deflation in certain products compared to the beginning of this year," said Drahovsky.

This, however, is just a snapshot of the current situation in retail sector. If VAT is going to remain at its current 19 percent in 2009 food prices are going to approach those in the eurozone. Because of this, food prices can be expected to go up 8-10 percent, concluded Drahovsky.

TASR

## Government and KOZ Don't Know of Any Slovak Company Facing Bankruptcy

Neither the Slovak Government nor the Confederation of Trade Unions (KOZ) have any information that the global financial crisis is resulting in a crash of any Slovak company, said president of KOZ Miroslav Gazdik after a recent meeting with Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico.

Gazdik is informed that the automobile manufacturer Volkswagen Slovakia is considering mothballing its third shift, and PSA Peugeot Citroen is not launching new production but waiting to see how the crisis develops. "We don't have (negative) signals from sub-suppliers in the region," said Gazdik.

Prime Minister Robert Fico confirmed this by saying that the Government "doesn't have information about the crises dragging down any company to its knees."

TASR

## SOPK: Impact of Crisis not as Evident as Other EU Countries

The effects of the global financial crisis are not as evident in Slovakia as in other EU countries, according to Slovak Trade and Industry Chamber (SOPK) chairman Peter Mihok. However, the first negative impacts are starting to appear.

"The current financial crisis carries all the signs of a broader crisis, which will affect both production sectors and business because it's combined with the beginning of an economic recession in many countries," said Mihok. Slovakia, with its high degree of openness and being exceptionally tied in to international trade, is vulnerable.

A manufacturing decline has been registered mainly in the automotive industry, while a slight drop of production is also being seen in the construction, engineering and electrotechnical sectors. As Slovakia relies mostly on the automotive industry, the Government needs to start thinking about establishing a more diversified industry portfolio, said Mihok.

SOPK says that the bank sector seems to be stable in Slovakia, with Government ensur-

ing there is enough liquidity in this market. Mihok went on to praise the Government's decision to guarantee 100 percent of all deposits in banks.

"SOPK is prepared to discuss with the Slovak Government all further steps that are important to maintain Slovakia's positive economic development," said Mihok.

TASR

## Commercial Banks Welcome Government's Full Guarantee of Deposits

Slovakia's banking sector is safe and stable, representatives of the Government, central bank (NBS) and commercial banks agreed at a meeting recently.

Despite this, the Government plans to increase its guarantee of deposits to 100 percent in a pre-emptive move triggered by the global financial crisis. At the same time, banks will be funded in a more straightforward manner via NBS, and new lending products for small and medium-sized enterprises should emerge.

"The bank board will pass adequate measures for the easier refinancing of Slovakia's banks in the near future, in order to be able to provide its clients with services without any significant restrictions," said NBS governor Ivan Sramko.

According to Premier Robert Fico, Slovakia's banks enjoy good liquidity at the moment, and their parent banks aren't in any trouble.

"The parent banks don't need recapitalization, which is very important information. This means that there is no pressure from parent banks on their daughters in Slovakia," said Fico.

The representatives of Slovakia's banks welcome the Government's initiative to guarantee 100 percent of client deposits, which Fico said will be approved by Parliament as soon as possible, as the Coalition is in agreement on this.

"I'm convinced that it (a full guarantee of deposits) won't be needed, but it's a very important signal to the public," said Slovak Banking Association (SBA) President Regina Ovesny-Straka.

According to Fico, the global crisis will make itself felt in Slovakia via more expensive and less accessible credit, which could have a negative influence especially on small and medium-sized enterprises and effect economic growth.

"Therefore, a working group has emerged that should deal with preparations for a certain product that should be used by SMEs in the event of more expensive and less accessible credit," said the premier, who welcomed the initiative of the European Investment Bank (EIB) to support the sector to the tune of 30 billion euros.

TASR



## Slovaks Join in Celebrating Pittsburgh's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association will help celebrate Pittsburgh 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday, November 9, 2008, with a day of festivities and special programs from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Heinz History Center, 1212 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh.

Among the programs scheduled include an exhibit of 13 posters of famous Slovak Americans on loan from the Slovak National Library. The Hudobny Centrum, a chamber musical ensemble from Bratislava, will perform the works of Eugen Suchon. The original Pittsburgh Agreement will be back on display after its tour in Bratislava and Prague. A panel of experts will also be available to discuss the Slovak Visa Waiver Program which is about to become law. Refreshments are free and include a special birthday cake celebrating Pittsburgh's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. There will also be free tours of the museum and sports center.

Reservations are required for admission. To make reservations call Pam as soon as possible at 412/531-2990.

Pittsburgh has long been referred to as the "Mecca of the Slovaks in America." The city of Pittsburgh was the destination for tens of thousands of Slovak immigrants. As the center of the bituminous coal mining and steel industry, the city provided work for countless Slovak immigrants. The Slovak workers proved to be a valued work force with ability to work long hours and endure physical hardships.

By the early 1880s there was a sizable community of Slovaks in the city. Organizational life began to take shape. Two young immigrants from Slovakia Julius Wolfe and Janko Slovensky began the publication of the first Slovak newspaper. It was called the Bulletin and was first published in 1885. After 20 issues the paper folded. However, on October 21, 1886 they started another paper called Amerikansko-slovenske Noviny. It was a success and its circulation reached across the country to other Slovak communities.

Another early organizer Peter Rovnianek help found the first Slovak fraternal organization in the United States, the National Slovak Society in February 1890. In 1894 St. Elizabeth Slovak Catholic Church was founded. Soon other churches followed. And the rest is history. Slovak fraternal as well as civic and cultural societies have contributed to the growth and development of the city of Pittsburgh.

# FCSU LIFE



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# All Saints Day, and All Souls Day Customs in Slovakia

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

Slovaks have traditionally celebrated All Saints Day and All Souls Day as religious holidays. Until recently, Halloween was never practiced as here in the United States. In contrast to our secular celebration of Halloween, Slovaks have traditionally emphasized the spirituality of this time of year, and use the religious holy days to reconnect with their ancestors. Since the fall of communism, and mainly in some of the larger cities like Bratislava, some Slovaks have begun to incorporate some of the spooky and costume dressing customs that Americans are more familiar with.

Traditionally, Slovaks have considered All Saints Day, November 1, to be a sacred feast, and in keeping with the Catholic tradition dating from the seventh century, it is a Holy Day of Obligation. It is also a state holiday in the Slovak Republic. Practicing Catholic Slovaks attend Holy Mass and many also go to Mass again on November 2, All Souls Day, in order to pray for their deceased family members and friends.

When one travels through Slovakia at this time of year, the villages and towns glow with sparkling lights from the cemeteries on All Saints evening.<sup>1</sup> Slovaks honor their dead (*zosnulí*) with candles, wreaths, and/or flowers on this sacred night, and they literally light up the night. Young and old alike both pay honor to the deceased, and unlike many other European countries, such customs continue among all generations in Slovakia. Many Slovaks, even those who have moved to the cities, still place a high value on their religious and village traditions.<sup>1</sup>

### Origins

The custom of commemorating All Saints Day (*Sviatok všetkých svätých*) dates from the fourth century A.D., when Christians paid tribute to the Holy Martyrs who suffered death for their faith in Jesus Christ. Initially, the feast of All Saints occurred in May on the old Julian calendar, specifically on the first Sunday after Pentecost. Pope Gregory III (731-741) changed the Feast of All Saints Day to November 1, and began the tradition at a Mass celebrated in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. By the eighth and early ninth centuries, the feast had become widespread throughout the European Christian Church.<sup>2</sup>

The Feast of All Souls Day on November 2, called *Dušičky* in Slovak (pronounced Doo-sheetz-kee), began as a memorial to all deceased believers of the faith. The Medieval reformist French monastery of Cluny started the practice in 998 and it soon spread throughout much of Europe by the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The Church in Rome formally incorporated the day as an official Church Holy Day in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>3</sup>

### Grace for Faithful

According to Church tradition, those who attend Mass on All Souls Day and pray, reciting

the Nicene Creed, could receive special grace – a full indulgence from their sins. To fulfill the conditions for a plenary indulgence, one had to meet three pre-conditions:

- 1) Go to Confession either before or shortly after Mass.
- 2) Receive Holy Communion on All Souls Day or shortly afterwards.
- 3) Pray an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be, keeping in mind the Holy Father.

Thus for Slovak Catholics, All Saints and All Souls Day not only meant prayers for the deceased, but a chance to obtain forgiveness for one's sins and attain the promise of eternal paradise. Slovaks would often visit the cemetery and pray for the deceased loved ones not just on All Saints Day and All Souls Day, but every day, from November 1 until November 8. People symbolically placed food on their table for the deceased (*mŕtvi*), and placed moss (*rašelníky*), pine-branches (*vetvičky*), and pine-wreaths (*vence*) at the graves of the dead.<sup>4</sup>

### Contrasting Customs

When Slovaks visit the United States today, they are surprised at how we celebrate Halloween and the Holy Days. Americans tend to associate "Trick or Treat" (in Slovak, *trik alebo maškrtá?*) with this time of year.

When in the USA, Kristína Havasová of Slovakia was shocked to find that instead of solemnly praying for the dead, Americans turned the holiday into time to collect candy and celebrate autumn. We carve pumpkins (*vyrezávať tekvice*), decorate their homes and yards with witches, demons, zombies, vampires, bats, monsters, black cats, graveyards, and signs saying like "Happy Halloween" or "Trick or Treat." Havasová wrote, that "while Slovaks went to visit the dead in the cemeteries, the American dead came to visit the living."<sup>5</sup>

While All Saints and All Souls Days are Christian traditions, Halloween derives from pagan traditions from the ancient Celts of Ireland. Those customs of dressing in costumes came to the USA with Irish immigrants in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Since World War II, the gory side of Halloween has steadily gained more of a following, and since the 1960s, much of the fun dissipated when some morbid derelicts started putting razor blades in apples and terrorizing children.

In Slovakia, the religious side of the feasts still tends to predominate, especially in the villages and small towns. In larger cities like Bratislava, where many expatriates and foreigners reside, revelers celebrate Halloween at the pubs in a more secular fashion. Havasová wrote that in 2002, pub employees wore masks and encouraged customers to come in costumes. The bar (*krčma*) served spooky drinks, such as Bloody Marys, voodoo cocktails,

*continued on page 16*

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\$200,000	\$24	\$36
\$300,000	\$36	\$54
\$400,000	\$48	\$72
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# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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 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 a meeting on Sunday, November 9, 2008. All members are cordially invited to attend. A Mass will be offered at 8:30 a.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport. Following the Mass, members are asked to return to the lower level of the church where our regular meeting will be held. Refreshments will be served in the church following the liturgy.

At the meeting the John A. Zahor Scholarships will be awarded to the following: Stephen Dolan, Alia Elnahas, Jessica Johnson, Peter Kapitancek, Matthew Minese, Amanda Nelson and Jonathan Solek. The Andrew J. Imbro Grants will also be given at this time to the following: Stacy Andrejko, Dominic Berarduci and Sara Ann Pancurak. These funds are given to members for their college expenses in memory of John A. Zahor and Andrew J. Imbro in recognition of the many years they served Branch 19 and their deep interest in the young members.

The Annual Meeting will be held 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.

We hope our members will take advantage of these meetings and join us.

**Henry Zack, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 23- JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 23, will sponsor a Talent Show and Pizza Party on Sunday, November 9, 2008, at 3:00 p.m. at the Slovak Educational Society, 1239 Virginia Avenue, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. All members of Branch 23 are welcome with free admission. There will be a charge of \$5.00 for all nonmembers. Please come and show your talent, or simply come and enjoy in the festivities.

**Elaine Caprett**

## BRANCH 38-DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38, will hold its Annual Meeting on Friday, Decem-

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

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

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

## BRANCH 40- STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 26, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Cafeteria, Streator, Illinois. The presentation of scholarships will take place.

**Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary**

## 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 153- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 153, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 9, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at the home of President John Jurcenko, 7113 West Talcott Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. On the agenda will be the election of officers and a discussion of charitable donations. All members are cordially invited to attend. There will be a fraternal dinner after the meeting.

**Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial 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 monthly meeting for beneficial members on Thursday, November 6, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. in the upstairs social hall at the C.U. Club, 914 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, Pennsylvania. Nominations of officers for 2009 will take place at this meeting. The election of officers will take place on December 4, 2008. Please come to the meetings and let us have your ideas to make our Branch productive.

**Patricia Conner, Financial Secretary/  
Treasurer**

## BRANCH 259- STRUTHERS, OHIO

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

**Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 266- HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

**Richard Lazar, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 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 382- SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382, will hold its Annual Fall Meeting on Sunday, November 2, 2008, at 12:00 noon in Holy Family Church Hall, Scranton, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be officers' reports, correspondence, and a discussion of branch activities. A report on District activities will be given. The election of officers for 2009 will also take place. Refreshments will be served. All members are urged to attend.

**Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President**

## BRANCH 421- NANTY GLO, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

## BRANCH 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 587- ALQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 587, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, November 9, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at Alexander's Restaurant, 720 Merchant Street, Ambridge, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will be held. All members are welcome to attend. For reservations call 724/375-2287 by November 5, 2008.

**Edith Valo, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 670- DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of the St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the next meeting on Sunday, November 9, 2008, at 12:00 noon at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon in Donora, Pennsylvania. Members are urged to attend.

**Dorothy Petrus, President**

## BRANCH 682- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. George Society will hold a meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. at Materials Research Lab, 290 North Bridge Street, Struthers, Ohio. On the agenda will be the election of officers and a discussion of lodge activities for 2009.

The annual Christmas party and swearing in of officers will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at Materials Research Lab, Struthers, Ohio.

All members are invited to attend both meetings and the party.

**Andrew J. Hirt, President**

## BRANCH 731- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will have a Mass offered for our deceased members on Sunday, November 9, 2008, at 11:30 a.m. at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio.

Branch 731 will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. at Saint Matthias Church Rectory.

**James Bobby, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 743- STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Social Hall, 41233 Ryan

## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**

### BRANCH 796- EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 9, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in Holy Trinity Church Hall, Main Street, Whitehall (Egypt), Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place.

After the meeting, there will be a Social with Slovak food, ham, klobasy as well as other ethnic food. There will be music and singing. All members are invited to attend and enjoy an old fashion Slovak fest.

May Jesus and the Blessed Mother keep us under their care.

**Bernard G. Hudak**

### 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 officers. 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 855- PARMA, OHIO

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 855, will hold its Officers Meeting on Sunday, October 26, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of the president, Mary Kolesar. On the agenda will be a discussion regarding the branch Annual Meeting in December. The date and time of the Annual Meeting will be announced soon.

**Linda L. Kolesar, Secretary**

### BRANCH 855- PARMA, OHIO

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch

855, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 16, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at Carrie Cerino's Ristaurante, 8922 Ridge Road, North Royalton, Ohio. The election of officers will be held for the coming year of 2009. If you plan to attend this meeting, members must notify the Branch Secretary, Linda Kolesar at 440/886-0206 by November 10, 2008.

**Linda Kolesar, secretary-Treasurer**

### 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



## Slovak Self-Taught

By Slavo Moravek

How?	Ako?	(Ako)
What is new?	Čo nového?	(cho novÉho)
Where are you going?	Kam idete?	(kam idYeYe)
Is it good?	Je to dobré?	(Ye to dobrÉ)
Is it bad?	To je zlé?	(to Ye zlé)
Will you do it?	Urobíte to?	(urobeetYe to)
I promise it to you	Sľubujem vám to	(slYubuYem vÁm to)
I assure you	Uist'ujem vás	(uistYuYem vÁs)
It is all the same	To je všetko jedno	(to ye vshetko Yedno)
Everybody knows it	Každý to pozná	(kazYdee topoznÁ)
I must go	Musím ísť	(museem eestY)
Thank you	Ďakujem	(dYakuYem)
Thanks!	Vďaka!	(VdYaka)
Pardon me	Odpusťte	(odpusťYtYe)
Never mind!	To nič	(to nYich)
Good Morning	Dobré ráno	(dobré rÁno)
Good Day	Dobrý deň	(dobree dYenY)
Good Evening	Dobrý večer	(dobree vecher)
Good Night	Dobrá noc	(dobroo nots)
Good-bye!	S Bohom	(z bohom)
Mr. Black	Pán Black	(pÁn blÁk)
Mrs. White	Pani White	(panYi hwa Yt)
Miss Sweet	Slečna Sweet	(Slechna sweet)
Where is it?	Kde je to?	(kdYe Ye to)

## Annual St. Andrew Abbey Benefit Set for November 2

The annual St. Andrew Abbey Benefit will be held on Sunday, November 2, 2008 at the Church of the Assumption, 9183 Broadview Road, Broadview Heights, Ohio. Mass will be celebrated at 12:15 p.m. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, entertainment and Slovak auction will take place from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. We will be honoring Abbot Clement Zeleznik, O.S.B. on his retirement, and welcoming the new Abbot Christopher Schwartz, O.S.B. Catering will be provided by Tom's Country Place. Ticket prices begin at \$65.00 for an individual ticket. Additional sponsorships including a \$100.00 Honor a Monk level are available. If you need additional information, please contact Marie A. Golias at 216/228-8179 or Bill Andrews at 216/721-5300 x 252.

## Announcement

The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce that beginning in October we will be offering our Annuity and IRA contract holders the convenience of P.A.C.

P.A.C., or Preauthorized Charge Authorization, is a convenient way to ensure that contributions are made to your annuity or IRA account on a regular basis.

By completing and returning an Annuity and IRA Preauthorized Charge Authorization form, your contribution will be automatically transferred from your checking or savings account into your annuity or IRA. It's that simple!

If you are interested in taking advantage of this exciting new offer, please contact our office for a form or download one from our website, fcsu.com

**First Catholic Slovak Union**  
6611 Rockside Road  
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# Gasparovic Visit Solidifies U.S. - Slovak Relations

*continued from page 1*

House on October 9, 2008. A NATO ally, the Slovak Republic is contributing to Alliance efforts to help the people of Afghanistan secure their freedom and prosperity. The Slovak Republic has also been a strong voice in support of an open to full European integration for the countries of the Western Balkans and Europe's East. The President looks forward to discussing these and other global and regional issues with President Gasparovic."

With an official invitation from the U.S. President, the Slovak President visited Washington, D.C. and Pittsburgh during October 7-11. President Gasparovic and First Lady Silvia Gasparovicova came Tuesday, October 7, with an entourage, on a government plane landing at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. The delegation included Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Robert Kalinak, Minister of Culture Marek Madaric, Minister of Foreign Affairs Jan Kubis, other officials, and some dozen media personnel. [NOTE: The Minister came to sign the U.S.-Slovak anti-Crime Agreement which will be covered in an later issue of JEDNOTA.]

## The Program

The arrival Tuesday was in late afternoon, checking in for the overnight and informal dinner. Wednesday morning breakfast was with representatives of Jewish organizations. The signing of the U.S.-Slovak Agreement on "Enhancing Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Crime" by Minister Kalinak and Secretary Michael Chertoff at the Ronald Reagan Building was at 10:00 A.M. This was followed by the President's Wreath-laying ceremony at 11:00 at the Pentagon Memorial.

Lunch at the Washington Golf and Country Club was hosted by the Board of Directors of Friends of Slovakia. At 2:00 P.M. the President led a Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Iwo Jima War Memorial on which the flag-raisers, as JEDNOTA readers well know, include the late Sgt. Michael Strank. The day ended with a 6:00 P.M.

Reception at the Slovak Embassy in honor of the President Ivan Gasparovic and Mrs. Silvia Gasparovicova. The invitation came from Charge d'affaires a.i. and Mrs. Andrej Droba

In addition to the Slovak delegation and media, the attendees included U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia Vincent Obsitnik; Slovak Ambassador to the United Nations and shortly to the U.S. Peter Burian; first U.S. Ambassador to the Slovak Republic Theodore Russell; former Ambassador to Czecho-Slovakia Jay Niemczyk; former Slovak Defense Attache at the Embassy in Washington and now at the U.N., COL Miroslav Giertli; numerous Slovak Americans and non-Slovak friends. Upon arrival, the personable honorees made their way slowly through the throng, shaking hands, exchanging comments, until they reached the podium. Both thanked all present and reflected favorable comments about U.S.-Slovak relations and friendship. Drinks and food contributed to an enjoyable evening. The President obliged with picture-taking during the evening.

Thursday, the 9th of October, was the highlight of the President's visit to Washington. He was welcomed and had a discussion in the Oval Office of the White House with the U.S. President. President Gasparovic was accompanied by senior delegation members, the Slovak Embassy Charge, and Ambassadors Burian and Obsitnik. The refreshingly favorable remarks of both are briefly stated below.

## First Lady Laura conducted a tour of the White House for First Lady Silvia.

### President Bush

Following their discussion in the Oval Office, President George W. Bush made the following remarks, in part: "It is my honor to welcome the President of Slovakia to the Oval Office. Slovakia is an ally and friend of the United States. And in my time as President, I have come to admire this President....I assured him that the United States will take strong action in dealing with the current economic situation.

During my presidency I was pleased to support Slovakia's ascension into NATO. I was confident that Slovakia would be an excellent partner and ally in NATO, and history has proven me correct. And I thank the people of Slovakia for supporting the government's decision to deploy troops into Afghanistan to help that young democracy never to be a safe haven for terrorists, and to serve as an example of the transformative power of freedom.

Finally, we talked about the visa waiver. I told the President that Slovakia has made a lot of progress on visa waiver. And I expect that in mid-November there will be a positive decision for the people of your good country, Mr. President....And I congratulate you and your foreign ministry for working hard on this issue. And I'm glad to welcome you to the Oval Office."

### President Gasparovic

In response the Slovak President said (As translated.) in part: "Mr. President, allow me to start by thanking you for inviting me. This is an extraordinary day for me. And I believe it is also a satisfaction to the people of Slovakia for them to see that the United States has a favorable disposition towards our country, and that we have good relations. I believe that basically our relations, we are currently at our highest point.

It was during his presidency that President Bush supported Slovakia on his way to NATO, which, in turn, helped Slovakia to become a member of the European Union. These were two very important steps and decisions that allowed Slovakia to build its reputation as a credible country. And it is credibility that allows Slovakia to attract foreign investments into our country. Slovakia continues to be a prosperous country and a country that has and received credibility in foreign policy as well....

I was glad that in my capacity as the President of the Slovak Republic, I was able to reassure the President that Slovakia will continue to stand behind its commitments and its dedication to NATO, and that we will continue to be present in Afghanistan. Moreover, Slovakia will increase the number of troops deployed to Afghanistan by 100 percent....In closing, I want to say that I believe, Mr. President, our meeting today was a very strong message of the good relations that Slovakia has with the United States and vice versa." President Bush: "Thank You."

### Foreign Minister Kubis

During the President's visit to the nation's capital, Minister of Foreign Affairs Jan Kubis, no stranger to U.S. officials, had a "working" visit with Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England



Photo TASR Stefan Puskas

## President Ivan Gasparovic places a wreath at the Iwo Jima memorial.

and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. The discussions reflected regional issues, bilateral relations, and Afghanistan. Both sides expressed friendship and gratitude for their assistance.

### President in Pittsburgh

The President and his delegation left Andrews Air Force Base late Thursday afternoon. At 9:00 A.M. Friday, the 10<sup>th</sup>, the President met with Pittsburgh Mayor Luk Ravenstahl, then with U.S. Steel officials. The First Lady visited the Women's Center/Shelter. Lunch was hosted by US Steel officials. In the afternoon the President visited the University of Pittsburgh, then to the Heinz History Center. In the evening, a Reception was hosted by U.S. Steel and Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko.

### President's Discussions

Of his meeting with the Slovak President, Mayor Ravenstahl said "I was pleased to welcome the President of a country, expatriates of which have formed the strongest communities in Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania in all of the United States." He thanked President Gasparovic for the support provided by Slovakia in the fighting against terrorism, as well as for its participation in NATO's peace missions and operations. "This attitude is perceived very positively by Americans."

President Gasparovic responded: "For Slovaks, Pittsburgh also has a historical value. The Pittsburgh Agreement, which was the first step towards the creation of a common state of Czechs and Slovaks—Czechoslovakia, was signed here." According to the Mayor, Pittsburgh benefited immensely from the influx of thousands of Slovaks who started to arrive in the city a hundred years ago, and their work and culture had contributed greatly to its development.

The Slovak President also met with representatives of U.S. Steel Company in their headquarters located in Pittsburgh....The President said "I am very glad that I came to U.S. Steel as this company has strong ties to Slovakia." He emphasized that it was U.S. Steel which contributed greatly to the development of the Slovak economy and of metallurgy in particular. He pointed out: "Pittsburgh's history is closely linked with Slovaks and I am very happy that through U.S. Steel these close relations still exist even today." Vice President John Goodish of U.S. Steel said "It was Slovaks together with other immigrants from Europe who built the U.S. Steel plant in Pittsburgh. Vice President Dave Lohr appreciated that the U.S. Steel plant in Kosice achieves good economic results.

The Slovak President also visited one of the oldest universities in the USA—the University of Pittsburgh which was founded in 1787. At the University he expressed the belief that Slovakia has a lot to offer the USA, both in the area of science and education. In the opinion of Ivan Gasparovic, dynamically developing Slovakia needs educated people. Therefore he decided to visit a University in the city where the strongest community of expatriates in the USA has formed.

The President, First Lady, and the delegation left Pittsburgh for Slovakia the next morning. The consensus—perhaps unanimously—was that President Gasparovic's visit to Washington, D.C. and Pittsburgh was highly successful.



## 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**

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 & FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 2008

### HOME OFFICE • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

**Thursday, September 25, 2008**

**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 AUGUST MEETING MINUTES**

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the August, 2008 Executive Committee meeting. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Andrew Harcar 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. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Interest Rates for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2008 – effective October 1, 2008 thru December 31, 2008

The Treasurer led a discussion regarding annuity rates for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2008. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept the interest rates as follows:

- The annual yield on existing Flexible Premium Deferred Annuities & IRAs is 5.00% (4.879% APR)
- The annual yield on "Park 2 Annuity" is 4.25% (4.162% APR)
- The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash Interest" Option is 4.75% (4.641 APR)
- The annual yield for new Settlement Options is based on 4.50% (4.402% APR).

Motion carried.

**FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK**

The Executive Secretary reported that the Home Federal Bank of Cincinnati has all the information needed to process our application for membership. The application will be presented at their next Board meeting for approval. The Executive Secretary 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 led a discussion regarding the progress on the AD & D (Accidental Death & Dismemberment). With this new program, if a member or a new member (ages 30-65) is issued a minimum \$10,000 Whole Life, a 20-Pay Life, or a Single Premium Policy after August 1, 2008, the FCSU will include, as a Fraternal Benefit, a single \$25,000 Accidental Death Benefit at no additional charge for as long as a premium is being paid. (Single Premium Policies are eligible for the first 5 years).

Seminars

The Vice President updated the Executive Committee on the upcoming Sales Seminar on Sunday, October 12, 2008 offered to Branch Officers, District Officers and Recommenders in the Pittsburgh District, District 6. The seminar will be held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania.

The Vice President also stated that on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 he will attend a "Sign up night" hosted by Branch 162 (Jim Marmol, President) at St. Mary School social hall in Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

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

**2010 CONVENTION**

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee about the progress of Experiment, represented by Jim Harmon, an event planner, on finding a suitable convention site. The Executive Secretary instructed Mr. Harmon to inspect sites in Chicago, Las Vegas, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Francisco and upper New York as possible convention sites. The Executive Secretary will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

**JEDNOTA ESTATES**

The President led a discussion concerning the progress of the Committee he appointed for the study of the Jednota Estates in Middletown, PA. He also stated that there will be a joint meeting with the Board of Directors, the Jednota Estates Committee and the representatives of the potential developer from the Middletown, PA area. He stated that a full report will be given to the Board of Directors at its meeting September 25 & 26, 2008.

At this time the President asked the Executive Committee to adjourn and continue with the meeting at 9:00 A.M. on Friday morning, September 26, 2008.

At this time the President, the Executive Committee and the Jednota Estates Committee

met with the representatives of a development company from the Middletown area.

**Friday, September 26, 2008**

The President opened the Friday morning session and asked Andrew Harcar 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

Gary J. Matta, General Counsel, present at the invitation of the President

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT  
MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES**

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of August 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 August:

**Disbursements for the month of August 2008**

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$256,507.79
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 34,806.46
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.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

The President informed the Executive Committee that he would like to represent the FCSU at the conference in Slovakia organized by the Office of Slovaks living abroad on November 6-8, 2008. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to approve the President's representation in Slovakia. Motion carried.

The Vice President informed the Executive Committee that Joseph Rura, Branch 484K, set up a booth with FCSU products at the Slovak Festival in Homer, Pennsylvania.

The General Counsel read his report on our custodian, Merrill Lynch, and answered the Board's 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

### August 2008 Treasurer's Report Prepared by George F. Matta, National Treasurer

UBS						
A3/A	National City	5.25	12-15-16	73.15	10.10	250k
			Non Call			
SMITH BARNEY						
Aa2/AA-	Bank America	6.20	08-15-18	100.00	6.20	500K
			Non Call			
Aa3/A+	American Express	5.875	05-02-13	96.83	6.673	500K
			Non Call			
MERRILL LYNCH						
AAA/AAA	Toyota Motor CR	6.00	06-08-22	100.00	6.00	400K
			Callable 06-08-09			
AA-/AA3	HSBC	5.50	02-15-13	100.00	5.50	300K
			Non Call			
WACHOVIA SECURITIES						
A2/A	Suntrust Corp	5.80	06-15-14	89.723	8.049	300K
			Non Call			
AAA/AAA	Toyota Motor CR	6.00	06-08-22	100.00	6.00	300K
			Callable 06-08-09			
Aa2/A-	Fed Home Loan	5.875	03-21-11	97.91	6.77	500K
			Non Call			

# “PAS” Slovak Folk Ensemble

## Presents

### DROTÁR

### “THE TINKER”

“PAS” Slovak Folk Ensemble is proud to present a two hour Slovak Folk Concert “DROTÁR” “THE TINKER” on *Sunday* November 23, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in the Antonian Theatre of Carlow University in Oakland section of Pittsburgh, PA. The concert will consist of traditional songs, music and dances of Slovakia.

In colorful regional costumes of Slovakia “PAS” performs lively village dances from the Central Highlands, Det’va; to the explosive Gorale footwork of the mountainous Tatras; to the jumping and tossing dances of the West; as well as the graceful romantic movements of Eastern Slovakia. The spirit of this country comes alive through the singing of its songs.

The children’s ensemble will also be featured as they charm the audience with games, songs, and dances as only they can perform.

A special feature of the program will be the reenactment of a Tinker’s life. Legend says to celebrate the birth of Joseph II, tinkers gave Empress Maria Theresa a wire cradle so artfully crafted that, given one push, the cradle would rock forever. In gratitude, the Empress granted tinkers the right to travel freely throughout the empire. One of the most intriguing parts of the presentation is to see how a little wire heart ends up in

the castle. The audience will travel the country with the tinker to discover the beautiful traditions of Slovakia.

This year begins the thirty-fifth year celebrations of one of Pittsburgh’s premier ethnic groups, the Pittsburgh Area Slovaks (“PAS”) Folk Ensemble. They have been highlighted at festivals throughout the country including programs to various Slovak fraternals. PAS was the Slovak representative to the 1976 Eucharistic Congress; named an official Bicentennial representative in Philadelphia; the Pennsylvania state ethnic representative at the rededication of the Statue of Liberty July 4, 1986 and represented the Embassy of the Republic of Slovakia at the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington D.C. In the summer of 2009 “PAS” will represent Americans of Slovak descent at the Det’va Festival, *Podpolianske Slavnosti*.

For an evening of colorful costumes, spectacular dancing, appealing music and a treasure chest of memories join “PAS” in concert on Sunday November 23, 2008 for “DROTÁR” “THE TINKER”. This concert promises to be great family entertainment as the Slovak heritage is showcased in its finest form. Tickets are \$10 each, or \$5 for senior citizens or children 10 and under. Group rates for 20 + are available. For information and tickets call 412-373-3873. Proceeds will help sponsor the ensemble’s trip to Slovakia.



## All Saints Day, and All Souls Day Customs in Slovakia

*continued from page 13*

and *bosorkine prsia* (witch breasts). One bar it even staged a show of costumed women posing as eight dancing witches. Several other pubs held similar events on Halloween.

Slovak American Catholics should emphasize the spiritual side of these Holy Days. Halloween can be a fun treat for children, and the adults dressing them up, if done in the right spirit. But after the little witches and goblins have gone away, we need to kindle in our families the spiritual side of early November.

When I was in grade school at St. Edward in Youngstown, Ohio, we children all used to dress us in white sheets on All Saints Day. We were remembering that God meant for us to be saints, and live accordingly. The good nuns had us march around the block in prayer, and one could imagine what it was like to see this massive wave of hundreds of children parading. It was quite impressive and those religious memories remain in my thoughts every November 1.

Slovak Americans should try to attend Mass on All Saints Day, and to honor our deceased loved ones on All Souls Day. For many of those who have passed before us are the very ancestors who left their Slovak homeland and came to America in search of a better life. Recite some very special prayers for them, and ask those who are saints to pray for us.

Starting a new tradition with the old customs in mind could start a new trend in our families. Light candles for our ancestors, and remind our children and grandchildren of the spirituality we need to embrace, so that our faith becomes a living and growing tradition that will endure in an increasingly secular society.

(Endnotes)

1 Retrieved on October 16, 2007 from <http://www.catholicherald.com/articles/00articles/slovak.htm>

2 “1. november - Sviatok všetkých svätých,” retrieved October 23, 2007 at <http://www.hnusta.sk/1-november-sviatok-vsetkych-svatych>

3 “Sviatky: Slávnosť Všetkých svätých,” retrieved 23 October 23, 2007 at: <http://www.isidorus.net/sk/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=216>

4 Kristína Havasová, “Halloween ‘BOOOO’ or cemetery visits?” Slovak Spectator, 10/28/2002, retrieved at <http://www.slovak spectator.sk/clanok.asp?vyd=2002041&cl=10852>.

5 Ibid.



## Photo Exhibit in Pittsburgh

Point Park University and the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association invites you to view “Stiavnica”, a photo exhibit of Banska Stiavnica in Slovakia by Rastislav Misik. The exhibit is being held at Point Park University, 201 Wood Street, Pittsburgh and runs from October 15, 2008 to November 30, 2008. For more information call 412/531-2990 or 888/SLOVAKS.

### Lučina Slovak Folk Ensemble

### 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Tri-Concert

### Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Featuring:

Lučina Slovak Folk Ensemble

Lučinka Children’s Ensemble

Šarišan of Detroit, Michigan

Veselica of Chicago, Illinois

Music by: Veselica

Tickets: \$25

Includes full-course dinner, concert, and open dancing following the show.

Cash bar is available.

Pokrova Hall

6812 Broadview Rd. • Parma, OH 44134

Doors Open at 6:00 pm. Dinner served at 6:30.

Performance at 7:30

For Tickets call:

440-263-1573

216-524-7679

440-543-5197

North Royalton

Seven Hills

Chagrin

## Jednotárska zábava v Linden, New Jersey

Spolok sv. Jána Krstiteľa číslo 746 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, pri kostole sv. Rodiny v Linden New Jersey usporiada tanečnú zábavu v sobotu 22. novembra 2008 v Msgr. Komar Hall 2806 Parkway Ave, Linden N.J., na ktorú slovenskú verejnosť srdečne pozýva.

Večera sa bude podávať od 8.00 – do 9.00 hodiny, prosíme záujemcov aby prišli načas! Do tanca a na počúvanie bude hrať známa hudobná skupina KONTAKTY. Príďte medzi nás, usporiadatelia vám sľubujú príjemné pobavenie! Vstupné za osobu je \$25.00 dolárov, v čom je započítaná aj večera. O bližšie informácie a zakúpenie lístkov volajte na tieto telefónne čísla: Mary Karch: (732) 572 – 2331, Mary Tkach: (908) 862 – 2782.

Mary Karch



## USA rušia vízovú povinnosť pre Slovensko a ďalších šesť štátov

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

činnosti, čím Slovensko urobilo ďalší krok k zrušeniu vízovej povinnosti. Otvorenou otázkou zostáva už iba počet zamietnutých žiadostí Slovákov o víza. Ten musel klesnúť pod desaťpercentnú hranicu, aby SR splnila poslednú podmienku na ceste k bezvízovému styku.

Zrušením víz sa Slovensko dostane do kategórie štátov, u občanov ktorých sa už nebudú posudzovať riziká ekonomickej migrácie, ale bezpečnostné hľadisko. Žiadatelia o turistický pobyt najneskôr 72 hodín pred odletom vyplnia formulár, ktorý bude prístupný na internete. Elektronický systém pre autorizáciu cesty (ESTA) na jeho základe buď cestu odsúhlasí, alebo nie. Povolenie na vstup do USA by sa nemal udeliť iba vo výnimočných prípadoch, napríklad ak pôjde o ľudí, ktorí v minulosti nerespektovali americké zákony, napríklad prekročili povolenú dĺžku trvania pobytu. Občania SR môžu bez víz cestovať do 80 krajín sveta, naopak vstupné víza potrebujú získať pri ceste do vyše 110 štátov. Podľa prezidenta americkej Asociácie cestovného priemyslu (ITA) Rogera Dowa prispeje rozšírenie bezvízového programu k zvráteniu trendu výrazného poklesu cestovania do USA od teroristických útokov z 11. septembra 2001. V roku 2007 navštívilo USA napriek oslabeniu dolára o dva milióny menej ľudí ako v roku 2000.



## Za Andrejom Trojčákom

(\*1. agusta 1926, Malá Vieska, Slovakia

†28. mája 2008, Middletown, PA, USA)

Ked' zo sveta odíde, dobrý kamarát, srdce nás zabolí.  
Je len jeden liek „Modlitba“, ktorá veľký žiaľ zahojí.  
Na príkaz jeho Stvoriteľa, dohorela jeho svieca na zemi.  
Pán neba a zeme ho za všetko, večnou slávou odmení.  
Nie, to krásne, teplé slniečko mu už viac nesvieti.  
Aj tie jasné hviezdíčky, sa schovali kdesi za mraky.  
A ten malý, farebný vtáčik, pred ním viac nepreletí.  
Na pozdrav, mu nezakývajú, jeho dobre známi ľudia,  
ani štebotaví vtáci, ho skoro ráno viac nezobudia.  
Komu sa teraz do cesty postaví, poplašená srnka?  
A tá, čierna vrana, spokojne si na dvore, zobká zrnká.



Andrej Trojčák

Andrej odišiel tam, odkiaľ nie je už návratu.  
Kto sa bude zaň, ponáhľať do práce na Jednotu?  
Jednota mu bola blízka, ako jeho vlastná sestra.  
Pre Jednotu celý život žil, bola mu ako ruža pestrá.  
Nie, už neuvidí viac, svoju milovanú manželku „Aničku“,  
čo za 50 rokov a päť dní, mu každý deň chystala kavičku,  
dobrý obed, chutnú večeru, koláč, alebo syrovú kraflíčku.  
V kostole, v lavici ostane jeho obľúbené miesto prázdne,  
už viac nebude počuť Slovo Božie, modlitby, spev a kázne.  
Nepokľakne a nezapáli sviečku, pred sochou Panny Márie,  
neprinesie kyticu červených ruží, ani tie krásne biele ľalie.  
Poštár už nedoručí jeho pozdrav rodine, do Malej Viesky,  
Andrej nebude viac rúbať drevo a ukladať, malé triesky.  
Nebude počuť a tešiť sa z úspechov synovej skladby, hudby,  
ani nebude počuť kompliment nevesty, ako jeho žarty ľubi.  
Kto zaň pôjde na všetky konvencie JEDNOTY?  
Či nám nebude chýbať na ročných schôdzach okresu?  
Či mu nebeskí anjeli výsledok schôdze do neba prinesú?  
Vo všetkom mal jeho Stvoriteľ to posledné Božie slovo ...  
Dost' si sa narobil, pod' si teraz odpočinúť ...  
Nuž, milý náš Andrej, „Odpočívaj v pokoji“  
Nech Láska Božia, Ťa večnou, nebeskou láskou odmení.  
Nech večná blaženosť, je Ti odmenou v nebeskom chotári.  
To Ti praje: Anička, rodina, priatelia a všetci Jednotári.

Jozef Smák

## Prezident Gašparovič na päťdňovej oficiálnej návšteve USA

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

bola aj svetová finančná kríza, na margo ktorej americký partner ubezpečil slovenskú hlavu štátu, že USA podnikne „veľmi silné kroky“ k jej vyriešeniu. „Som rád, že Slovensko je dnes v pozícii, kedy ho táto kríza naplno nezasiahla,“ poznamenal Gašparovič s dôvetkom, že dokážeme likvidovať prípadné vzniknuté problémy.

Prezident sa tiež stretol s predstaviteľmi spoločnosti US Steel v Pittsburghu, s viceprezidentmi spoločnosti Johnom Goodishom a Crisom Navettom, ktorí v minulosti pôsobili v závode v Košiciach, ako aj s viceprezidentom Daveom Lohrom. Ako objasnil Goodish, v súvislosti s hospodárskou a finančnou krízou pocítila spoločnosť výrazný pokles tržieb, ktorý súvisí s poklesom produkcie automobilov na americkom trhu. Očakáva však, že v nasledujúcich mesiacoch sa objednávky na oceľ obnovia. Podotkol, že Steel sa stále viac orientuje aj na pracovný nábor odborných pracovníkov z radov slovenských vysokoškolákov študujúcich v odbore metalurgia.

Počas oficiálnej návštevy najvyššieho slovenského predstaviteľa privítal aj primátor Pittsburghu Luke Ravenstahl. Podľa neho bolo pre Pittsburgh veľkým prínosom, keď sem pred sto rokmi začali prúdiť tisíce Slovákov, ktorí svojou prácou i kultúrou prispeli k rozvoju mesta. Odhaduje sa, že v tomto americkom meste žije až do 150,000 tisíc príslušníkov slovenskej krajankej komunity.

Slovenská hlava štátu si tiež uctila pamiatku obetí teroristického útoku na americké ministerstvo obrany z 11. septembra 2001. Ivan Gašparovič je prvým zahraničným prezidentom, ktorý položil veniec k pamätníku pri Pentagóne. Prezident vzdal hold aj padlým príslušníkom námornej pechoty USA, ktorí zahynuli vo vojách od roku 1775, pri pamätníku vojenského námorníctva Iwo Jima. Slovenská delegácia sa tiež stretla s krajanmi na recepcii na Veľvyslanectve SR v USA.



## Britská kráľovná Alžbeta II. navštívila Slovensko

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

Po prehliadke historického centra Bratislavy sa kráľovský pár zúčastnil na slávnostnej recepcii podávanej veľvyslancom Spojeného kráľovstva v SR Michaelom Robertsom. Následne kráľovná absolvovala krátky obed s predsedom NR SR Pavlom Paškom a predsedom vlády Robertom Ficom. Prvý deň návštevy kráľovského páru v SR vyvrcholil oficiálnou štátnou večerou podávanou prezidentom Ivanom Gašparovičom s manželkou Silviou Gašparovičovou na počesť kráľovnej Alžbety II. a princa Philipa.

V piatok 24. októbra odcestovala britská panovníčka s manželom na východné Slovensko. Kráľovský pár navštívil mesto Vysoké Tatry v časti Starý Smokovec a turistické centrum Hrebienok. Zo slovenských veľhôr sa presunuli do mestskej časti Popradu a pamiatkovej rezervácie Spišská Sobota, kde si prezreli kostol Sv. Juraja s historickým oltárom Majstra Pavla.

V rámci separátneho programu sa vojvoda z Edinburghu zúčastnil na diskusii o klimatických zmenách organizovanej Britskou radou na Slovensku. Na záver pobytu v SR kráľovná Alžbeta II. spolu s princom Philipom zavítali na zimný štadión v Poprade, kde hodením buly symbolicky otvorili priateľský zápas medzi popradským hokejovým družstvom a tímom z britského Gilfordu.

## Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

### Členská schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princa Pribinu bude mať schôdzu v nedeľu 2. novembra 2008. Oslava začne o 15.00 hod. so slovenskou svätou omšou v kaplnke sv. Jána Bosku pri St. John Bosco School, 13640 S. Bellflower Bl. Bellflower, CA 90706. Pripomenieme si v modlitbách pamiatku Všetkých svätých a milovaných zosnulých. Po svätej omši sa bude konať schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu s následným posedením s priateľmi pri káve a šiškách. Prosíme všetky spolky aby na toto zasadnutie Okresu vyslali svojich zástupcov. Program schôdze bude zameraný na finančnú správu, aktivity Okresu ako aj informácie o produktoch poistenia Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty.

**Pavol Skubeň, predseda**

### Výročná schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasul'u IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že výročná členská schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasul'u Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 9. novembra 2008 o 1:00 hodine odpolednia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City.

Prosíme všetkých predsedov spolkov, aby poslali čo najviac delegátov. Srdečne uvítame aj nedelegátov. Program schôdze bude zameraný na prípravu plánu činnosti a prevedenie volieb nových úradníkov na budúce obdobie. Taktiež bude podaná finančná správa.

Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripravia členovia Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ v N.Y.C. Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

**Henrieta H. Daitová**  
tajomníčka a pokladníčka

## Slovák získal ocenenie Guvernér roka v strednej a východnej Európe

Bratislava/Washington (TASR) - Guvernér Národnej banky Slovenska (NBS) Ivan Šramko získal 11. októbra počas aktuálneho výročného zasadnutia Medzinárodného menového fondu (MMF) a Svetovej banky (SB) vo Washingtone ocenenie Guvernér centrálnej banky roka za strednú a východnú Európu. Udelil mu ju britský časopis Emerging Markets.

Šramko dostal podľa šéfredaktora Emerging Markets Taimura Ahmada toto ocenenie za úspešne zvládnutý proces príprav na zavedenie eura v SR, osobitne v oblasti plnenia príslušných maastrichtských kritérií - stability výmenného kurzu koruny v rámci ERM 2 a udržania cenovej stability v zložitých podmienkach charakterizovaných rýchlym rastom svetových cien surovín. Guvernér NBS má podľa zástupcov časopisu Emerging Markets výraznú osobnú zásluhu aj na tom, že európske inštitúcie vďaka dobrej komunikácii s NBS vyhodnotili makroekonomický vývoj na Slovensku, najmä relatívne nízku infláciu, ako stabilný a dlhodobý udržateľný.

Podobné ocenenie získal Šramko už dvakrát - v januári 2006 bol guvernér NBS vyhlásený za centrálnu bankára roka britským mesačníkom The Banker a v tom istom roku získal i ocenenie od Emerging Markets. V minulom roku udelil Emerging Markets toto ocenenie guvernérovi Tureckej centrálnej banky Durmusovi Yilmazovi. Nominácie na ocenenia predkladajú investori, bankári, ekonómovia, analytici a ďalší experti.



## Arcibiskup Ján Sokol oslávil svoju 75-tku omšou v katedrále

Trnava (TASR) – Arcibiskup Ján Sokol oslávil 11. októbra svoje životné jubileum 75 rokov slávnostnou omšou v Katedrále sv. Jána Krstiteľa v Trnave. Na bohoslužbe sa zúčastnil aj pápežský nuncius na Slovensku Józef Henryk Nowacki, duchovní a rehoľníci Trnavskej arcidiecézy i bývalej Bratislavsko-trnavskej arcidiecézy. Popri veriacich prišli do katedrály aj zástupcovia mesta a kraja a jubilanтова rodina.

Ján Sokol sa dožil 75-tich rokov vo štvrtok 9. októbra. V čele arcidiecézy je od roku 1989, kedy ho pápež Ján Pavol II. vymenoval za trnavského arcibiskupa a metropolitu rímskokatolíckej cirkvi Slovenska. Od roku 1995 do tohto roku a vzniku samostatnej Bratislavskej arcidiecézy bol arcibiskupom Bratislavsko-trnavskej arcidiecézy. V súčasnosti stojí v čele Trnavskej arcidiecézy, vzhľadom na jeho vek sa očakáva v blízkej dobe jeho odchod do ústrania. V zmysle Kódexu kánonického práva požiadal pápeža Benedikta XVI. o uvoľnenie z funkcie, nateraz sa očakáva pápežovo rozhodnutie vo veci.

Arcibiskup Sokol vo svojej kázni počas bohoslužby zhodnotil svoj život, počínajúc rozhodnutím stať sa kňazom. Hovoril o svojich študentských rokoch, prvých rokoch pastoračie i o svojich predchádzajúcich pôsobiskách. Uviedol, že hoci mnohé obdobia jeho života boli ťažké, nikdy sa nevzdal a na všetko sa snažil hľadieť s optimizmom, pretože ako povedal, Kristus bol vždy s ním. Posledným rokom, kedy čelí obvineniam zo spolupráce so štátnou bezpečnosťou a mediálnemu tlaku, nevenoval v kázni väčšiu pozornosť ako inému obdobiu svojho života. „Prišiel raz za mnou jeden novinár a daroval mi zlomený krížik, ktorý našiel na cintoríne, so slovami, že ho budem potrebovať, lebo prídu veľké útoky na mňa. Odvtedy ho mám na písacom stole a pozerajúc naň, vždy som našiel silu ísť ďalej,“ povedal arcibiskup Sokol.

Veriaci priniesli do katedrály arcibiskupovi symbolické darčeky a kvety, odznelo viacero pozdravov od kňazov, študentov teológie i veriacich. V nedeľu oslavy 75-tych arcibiskupa Sokola pokračovali slávnostným koncertom v sále Marianum, na ktorý pozval zástupcov predstaviteľov štátu, mesta, kraja a inštitúcií.



## Katarínska zábava v hale kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC

Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ a I. zbor Slovenskej ligy v NYC pozýva širokú slovensko-americkú verejnosť z blízka a okolia na tradičnú Katarínsku zábavu, ktorá sa uskutoční v sobotu 29. novembra 2008 o 7:00 hod. večer vo veľkej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v N.Y.C., 411 East, 66<sup>th</sup> Street. Do tancu bude hrať známa hudobno-spevácka skupina KONTAKTY. Vstupné je \$25.00 v čom je započítaná večera. Lístky na Katarínsku zábavu si môžete objednať u nasledovných osôb: Milan a Henrieta Dait tel.: (201) 641-8922; Jozef Bilik: (718) 463-2084; Mária Božeková (347) 612-1934.

## Dilematický problém Rómov na východnom Slovensku

(Prešov – Humenné) – Prierez verejnej mienky obyvateľov východoslovenského regiónu štatisticky udáva, že po stránke životnej existencie najlepšie sa majú rómski – cigánski obyvatelia. Nemusia a nechce sa im robiť. Štát sa im o všetko postará. Od domu postaveného zadarmo až po starosť o živobytie. Chodia vyobliekaní, vypasení s cigaretou v ústach, na autách, na ktoré vidiecky občan môže sa len so závišťou pozeráť. Z nič nerobenia sa plodia, detské prídavky mňajú na všeličo, rodia aj trinásťročné. Začína sa tu tradovať, že o niekoľko rokov pri tom trende cigánskej pôrodnosti a pri trende nízkej pôrodnosti bielych a masovosti vyvolaných potratov a ľahostajný prístup sociálnosocialistickej vlády, riešiť tento problém, budeme volať – Romovo. Nič proti tomu etniku a či rase, ale nie je to fair.

(Príspevok z listu zo Slovenska, priateľa Štefana Hrehu)



## Na krízu hypoték nadviažu ďalšie krízy

BRATISLAVA (TASR) - V rámci finančných turbulencií nadviaže na krízu hypoték kríza kreditných kariet a kríza spotrebných úverov, avizoval to Peter Staněk z Ekonomického ústavu SAV, ktorej pracovníci prezentovali publikáciu Vývoj a perspektívy svetovej ekonomiky 16. októbra na konferencii v Bratislave. Málokto si podľa neho uvedomuje, že napr. v USA sa na krytie nesplácaných hypoték používali kreditné karty. Na nákup tovaru, na ktorý občania nemali, použili kreditné karty a špeciálne spotrebné úvery. Upozornil aj na previazanosť bánk. Keďže v USA investičné banky nemali vlastný kapitál, začali si ho tam požičiavať od retailových bánk. Tie ho však nemali a požičiavali si od bánk v Európe. Výsledkom bolo prelievanie kapitálu do bánk v USA. Keď sa však prejavila americká bublina, vzniká otázka, ako sa peniaze vrátia do európskych bánk. Kým problémom v USA sú podľa jeho slov hypotekárne a problémové supprime pôžičky, v Európe ide o stratu likvidity, ktorá sa nenávratne preliala do USA. Aj preto musia európske vlády prijímať balíčky likvidity, ktorú dodajú vlastným bankám, dodal.

Kľúčovou otázkou je, aké kroky podniknú európske materské spoločnosti voči svojim dcérskeým spoločnostiam, ktoré získali veľmi lacno, a ktoré boli oddlžené národnými vládami. Tieto banky boli veľmi opatrné v úverovej expanzii, a preto "slovenské banky sú na tom relatívne slušne." Ak ako povinnosť štátu nastúpi preklenovací úver, posilní sa likvidita bánk v SR. "Ak sa podarí zadržať rozhodujúci podiel tejto likvidity na Slovensku, jeho banky zostanú naďalej silné a oproti materským spoločnostiam budú schopné poskytovať úvery," myslí si expert. Vzhľadom na to, že zadlženosť bola evidentná v USA aj v Európe, ukazuje sa, že finančná kríza je štartom krízy spotreby, vyhlásil. Ak ľudia znížia spotrebu, bude to znamenať pokles globálnej spotreby, čo si podľa neho vyžiada u vlád hľadať alternatívne riešenia.

Kde pocíti Slovensko krízu? Najviac bude podľa neho zasiahnutý automobilový priemysel. Podniky nebudú prepúšťať kmeňových, ale agentúrnych pracovníkov. Problém s uplatnením na trhu práce budú mať aj Slováci, ktorí vycestovali za prácou do cudziny a vracajú sa. Globálna kríza zasiahne aj stavebníctvo, niektoré firmy začínajú predávať developerské projekty. Následkom toho bude rast nezamestnanosti a obmedzenie platieb do poisťovních fondov. "Svet nie je ani v tretine rozvoja skutočnej krízy. Väčšina politikov, aj časť podnikateľov dúfajú, že stačia kozmetické úpravy ako sa z krízy dostať. "Ide o kvalitatívnu krízu, ktorá si vyžiada úplne nový prístup, a to od politikov... až po občanov," povedal.



## Plánované podujatia pri kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v N.Y.C.

1. Výročná okresná schôdza Msgr. Krasul'u v nedeľu 9. novembra 2008 o 1:00 hod. odpoľudnia.
2. Tradičná Katarínska zábava v sobotu večer 29. novembra 2008 o 7:00 hod. večer. Poriadajú spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 a I. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v meste New York.
3. Mikulášske odpoľudnie pre deti našich farníkov v nedeľu 7. decembra 2008 o 1:00 hod. odpoľudnia. Poriada Farská rada a Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 v meste New York.
4. Štedrovečerná večera – Vigília v nedeľu 14. decembra 2008 o 1:00 hod. odpoľudnia. Poriada Farská rada a Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 v meste New York.

## Krátke správy zo Slovenska

V novembri minulého roka (2007) vymenoval americký prezident George Bush za veľvyslanca na Slovensku Vincenta Obsitnika. Keďže nie je kariérom diplomatom, ale politickým veľvyslancom, čaká na výsledok novembrových prezidentských volieb. Ak vyhrá Barack Obama, možno bude musieť zo svojho postu odísť. O voľbách, o sebe a svojej rodine poskytol rozhovor denníku PLUS JEDEN DEŇ. „Myslím, že Slováci sú veľmi podobní Američanom. Tvrdo pracujú, cenia si svoje rodiny a sú priateľskí a otvorení. Slováci urobili úžasnú prácu, zmenili celú spoločnosť, vybudovali demokraciu so slobodným trhom“, pripomenul v rozhovore americký veľvyslanec. Vincent Obsitnik by bol rád, keby Slovensko a ľudia na Slovensku akceptovali a lepšie rozumeli americkej zahraničnej politike. „Americká politika je o šírení demokracie, slobody a pomoci ľuďom, ktorí pomoc potrebujú“, vysvetlil veľvyslanec.

**Generácia** ľudí narodených v 70. rokoch pôjde do penzie najskôr v 65 rokoch. A to aj napriek tomu, že premiér Robert Fico odmieta úvahy o predĺžení veku odchodu do dôchodku. Podľa vedcov, ktorí vládne vypracovali odbornú štúdiu o budúcnosti Slovenska, by sa malo do penzie odchádzať dokonca až v 67 rokoch. Dnes sa odchádza v 62 rokoch. Či sa dotkne predĺženie dôchodkového veku aj starších občanov, nie je jasné. Vedecká štúdia zatiaľ nehovorí o žiadnom konkrétnom dátume.

**Spoločnosť** Kia Motors Slovakia má smelé plány, chce postaviť fabriku za 6 miliárd. Ide o vybudovanie ďalšieho závodu v Tepličke nad Váhom na výrobu motorov. Rozhodnutie zo strany centrály spoločnosti Kia Motors Corporation by malo padnúť do konca roka. „Porovnávajú sa všetky faktory, ktoré ovplyvňujú efektívnosť investície,“ povedal hovorca spoločnosti Kia Motors Slovakia Dušan Dvořák. Podľa neho by súčasná ekonomická kríza nemala ovplyvniť prípadnú výstavbu motorárne. Nový závod by mal ročne vyrobiť 300,000 motorov. Investícia by tak vytvorila 400 pracovných miest priamo a ďalšie nepriamo.

**Reklamný spot** Slovensko - Rozprávková krajina, ktorý láka turistov na návštevu Slovenska, už vysiela aj americká spravodajská televízna stanica CNN. Doteraz ho bolo možné vidieť len na športovom kanáli Eurosport. Slovenská agentúra pre cestovný ruch za 149 odvysielaní spotu v CNN zaplatila 3.6 milióna SK (119,498.11 eura). Krásy Slovenska propaguje človek s najznámejším hlasom v Hollywoode Don LaFontaine, ktorý začiatkom septembra 2008 skončil v nemocnici v Los Angeles.

Na požiadanie klientov, ktorí dopyt po eurominciach prezentovali bankám a centrálnu banku, má Mincovňa v Kremnici vyraziť do 15. decembra tohto roka 500 miliónov kusov slovenských euromincí všetkých nominálov. „Zdá sa nám, že je to príliš veľa a preto neočakávam, že bude treba ďalšie euromince doraziť,“ uviedol guvernér Národnej banky Slovenska (NBS) Ivan Šramko. Ďalej pripomenul, že euromince začala mincovňa raziť 19. augusta tohto roka. Celková nominálna hodnota vyrazených euromincí je asi 5 miliárd SK, čo je 167 miliónov eur.

**Jeden** z najvýznamnejších podnikov na Záhorí, INA Skalica, ktorý vyrába a predáva zariadenia a materiály na výrobu valivých a ihlových ložísk, ale aj hotové ložiská a tiež zariadenie a príslušenstvo pre automobilový priemysel, sa pripravuje na možnosť, že svetová finančná kríza sa dotkne aj jeho výroby. Všetko sa však odráža od množstva objednávok pre zákazníkov. Momentálne zastavili prijímanie nových zamestnancov, povedal vedúci personálneho odboru skalického závodu Ján Križánek. Jediným spoločníkom skalickej firmy je nemecká spoločnosť Industrierwerk Schaeffler INA - Ingenieurdienst GmbH, so sídlom v Herzogenaurachu. INA Skalica v súčasnosti zamestnáva 3,480 pracovníkov a patrí do nemeckej skupiny INA-Schaeffler. Ide o jedného z najväčších svetových výrobcov valivých a kľzných ložísk, ale aj komponentov do spaľovacích motorov a ďalších presných výrobkov.

**Nemecké** firmy pôsobiace na Slovensku majú problém s nedostatkom kvalifikovanej pracovnej sily. Vyplyva to z prieskumu, ktorý uskutočnili Slovensko-nemecká obchodná a priemyselná komora (SNOPK) s firmou Kienbaum Consultants, a to tento rok v lete v 51 prevažne nemeckých firmách. V porovnaní s minulým rokom mzdy v skúmanom období vzrástli o vyše 9 % a nemeckí investori rátajú s ďalším rastom. Zamestnanci so zavedením eura očakávajú aj ďalšie zvyšovanie cien, a preto už dnes vyžadujú vyššie mzdy. Tento vývoj je nebezpečný, pretože zvyšuje riziko, že sa výrobné podniky presunú ďalej na východ. Štúdia tiež ukázala, že 65 % opýtaných firiem očakáva, že sa bude dopyt po kvalifikovaných pracovníkoch na západnom Slovensku zvyšovať aj naďalej.

Na ukončenie rekonštrukcie národnej kultúrnej pamiatky Národný dom v Martine chce vláda zo svojej rezervy poskytnúť 61 miliónov SK (2.02 milióna eur). Rekonštrukcia Národného domu v Martine sa začala v roku 2002 s predpokladanými nákladmi 50 miliónov SK (1.66 milióna eur). Vzhľadom na havarijný stav budovy postavené v roku 1889 sa náklady niekoľkonásobne navýšili, doteraz sa na opravy preinvestovalo 247 miliónov SK (8.2 milióna eur). Išlo o peniaze Žilinského samosprávneho kraja, Ministerstva financií SR, Ministerstva kultúry SR, Slovenského plynárenského priemyslu a darov z verejných zbierok. Budova bola v minulosti priestorom pre národné zhromaždenia - predchodcom súčasného parlamentu, strediskom pre zahraničné návštevy a kontakty - diplomatickým centrom. Vo svojich začiatkoch v podstate zohrávala funkciu národného divadla, kde pôsobili aj národná knižnica, národné múzeum a Turčianske kasíno. Žilinský samosprávny kraj požiadala o finančnú pomoc na dokončenie rekonštrukcie národnej kultúrnej pamiatky kvôli tomu, že predĺžovanie stavebných prác zvyšuje finančné nároky na stavbu a aj preto, že v roku 2009 Slovenské komorné divadlo v Martine oslávi 65. výročie svojho

vzniku.

**Nárast** výskytu rakoviny v populácii spôsobuje nezdravý životný štýl, zlé stravovanie, fajčenie, pitie alkoholu, nedostatok pohybu. V Slovenskej republike počet nových ochorení na rakovinu prekročil 24,000 prípadov ročne. Každých dva, tri až päť rokov stúpa nárast rakovinových ochorení, povedala prezidentka Ligy proti rakovine Slovenskej republiky (LPR SR) Eva Siracká s tým, že aj v súvislosti s predĺžením ľudského veku je veľa kandidátov na toto ochorenie vo vyšších vekových skupinách. Podľa nej detská onkológia registruje stále rovnaký počet - ročne približne 165 prípadov. V mladších vekových kategóriách nie je taký prudký nárast, skôr vo vyšších, kde sa prejavujú následky zlého životného štýlu. Narastá bohužiaľ, percento výskytu rakoviny pľúc u žien fajčiarok, ktoré fajčia viac ako kedysi. Keď sa spojí mužská a ženská populácia, tak na prvom mieste je rakovina hrubého čreva a konečníka, čo je dôsledok zlého spôsobu stravovania a nedostatku pohybu.

**Svetové centrum** hazardu a zábavy EuroVegas vyrastie na ploche 340 hektárov na rozhraní obcí Bezenye a Hegyeshalom v blízkosti Bratislavy. V prvej etape sa má postaviť 78 metrov vysoký hotel s 316 izbami, konferenčným centrom, kasínom, reštauráciami, barmi a klubmi. Táto časť má byť dokončená v roku 2010. V druhej etape bude vystavané ďalšie kasíno, golfové ihrisko a pretekársky okruh. Neskôr by mal pribudnúť zábavný park Experience City. Investori projektu, podľa internetovej stránky kisalfold.hu Hans Asamer a Alfred Superberger investovali od decembra 2007 do projektu 17 miliónov eur (512,142,000 SK). Celkové náklady sa majú vyšplhať na 700 miliónov eur (21,088,200,000 SK). Od projektu si veľa sľubujú aj Slováci žijúci v Rakve a v priľahlých obciach. Očakávajú najmä zlepšenie dopravnej infraštruktúry.

**TASR a slovenské časopisy**



## Prvého novembra slávime Sviatok Všetkých svätých

*Návštevy cintorínov, zapalovanie sviečok na hrobch blízkych, ich vyzdobenie kvetmi, spomienky na tých, ktorí už nie sú medzi živými, to všetko charakterizuje každoročne prvé novembrové dni.*

Katolícka cirkev 1. novembra slávi prikázaný sviatok Všetkých svätých, na ktorý 2. novembra nadväzuje deň Spomienky na všetkých verných zosnulých, ľudovo nazývaný DUŠIČKY. Veriaci si počas omši pripomínajú svätých, ktorí viedli pravý kresťanský život, žili a zomreli vo viere v Ježiša Krista. Spomínajú a modlia sa aj za tých, ktorí nemajú miesto v kalendári, neboli vyhlásení za svätých, ale žili čestným životom, konali dobro a vedeli sa obetovať pre iných.

Sviatok Všetkých svätých je pre kresťanov spojený s nádejou, ktorá spočíva vo viere, že život sa nekončí smrťou, vo viere vo vzkriesenie tela a večný život. Pobožnosti alebo omše za zosnulých sa v tento deň konajú aj na mnohých cintorínoch, v Bratislave napríklad v Slávičom údolí, Na Martinskom cintoríne, na cintorínoch v Ružinove a Prievoze.

Sviatok Všetkých svätých sa prvýkrát slávil v Ríme 13. mája 609, keď pápež Bonifác IV. prebral od cisára Fokasa pohanský chrám všetkých bohov, tzv. Pantheon a zasvätil ho Panne Márii a všetkým svätým. Neskôr pápež Gregor III. (731-744) preložil slávenie Všetkých svätých z 13. mája na 1. november, keď v Bazilike sv. Petra slávnostne posvätil kaplnku k úcte všetkých svätých.

Na sviatok Všetkých svätých nadväzuje deň Pamiatky všetkých verných zosnulých. V roku 998 opäť Odilo v benediktínskom kláštore Cluny zaviedol tradíciu 1. novembra večer vyzváňať a spievať žalmy za mŕtvych a na druhý deň slúžiť veľkú zádušnú omšu. Tento zvyk sa čoskoro rozšíril po celej západnej cirkvi. Na znak nesmrteľnosti duší a Božieho milosrdenstva sa na cintorínoch zapalujú sviečky.

Na Slovensku siaha úcta k mŕtvym až k našim praslovanským predkom. Podľa ich predstáv sa duše zomrelých naďalej zúčastňovali na udalostiach svojho rodu, ktorý si ich mal uctievať primeranými obradmi. Z oravskej doliny pochádzajú údaje, že sa na cintorínoch v noci z 1. na 2. novembra umiestňovali dokonca jedlá a nápoje pre „dušičky“ – ako pozornosť pre ne alebo ako pokrm pre chudobných a tých, čo sa za ne modlili.

(TASR, TK KBS)



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

# Jednota



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

Ročník 117

STREDA, 29. OKTÓBER, 2008

Číslo 5787

## USA rušia vízovú povinnosť pre Slovensko a ďalších šesť štátov

Washington (TASR) - Spojené štáty americké rušia vízovú povinnosť pre ďalších sedem štátov, vrátane Slovenska. Vyhlásil to 17. októbra americký prezident George W. Bush.

Zrušenie víz sa bude týkať aj troch pobaltských štátov Lotyšska, Litvy a Estónska, ako aj Českej republiky, Maďarska a Kórejskej republiky. Krajiny zaradia do bezvízového programu približne o mesiac. Občania z týchto štátov budú môcť stráviť na území USA bez víz maximálne 90 dní. Podľa šéfa Bieleho domu otvára zrušenie víz "novú kapitolu vzťahov" medzi Spojenými štátmi a ich siedmimi spojencami. Bush uviedol, že tieto krajiny súhlasili s výmenou informácií o bezpečnostných hrozbách pre USA, so zavedením biometrických pasov a používaním nového systému, ktorý umožňuje internetovú registráciu pred začiatkom cesty. "Je to svedectvo silných zväzkov priateľstva, ktoré spájajú naše národy," uviedol Bush v prejave v Ružovej záhrade Bieleho domu. "Lídri týchto krajín mi roky vysvetľovali, aké frustrujúce je pre ich občanov čakať v radoch, platiť vízové poplatky, aby mohli stráviť dovolenku, ísť na služobnú cestu, alebo navštíviť rodinu v USA." Pripomenul však, že bezpečnostné opatrenia týkajúce sa cestovania boli potrebné na ochranu bezpečnosti USA. Urobil tak v prítomnosti veľvyslancov týchto siedmich krajín, ako aj šiestich ďalších štátov, ktoré sa tiež uchádzajú o zrušenie víz. Po oznámení sa bezvízový program USA rozšíri na 34 krajín. Do programu by malo byť neskôr zaradené aj Bulharsko, Cyprus, Grécko, Malta, Poľsko a Rumunsko, čo podporil aj prezident Bush.

Skoré zrušenie vízovej povinnosti avizoval počas návštevy USA prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič. Po stretnutí s Georgeom W. Bushom uviedol, že Washington v polovici novembra zruší vízovú povinnosť pre Slovákov cestujúcich do USA za účelom turistického ruchu. Gašparovič v reakcii na Bushovo vyhlásenie uviedol: "Tak znamená to veľa. Možno sa zdá, že to nič nie je, ale každý, kto cestoval do Spojených štátov, vie, aké to boli doslova útrapy. Dneska to odpadá. Študenti, podnikatelia, obchodníci majú oveľa väčší priestor, väčšie možnosti dostať sa do USA v krátkom čase," reagoval.

Minister vnútra SR Robert Kaliňák podpísal nedávno vo Washingtone bilaterálnu zmluvu o zintenzívnení spolupráce pri predchádzaní a boji proti trestnej

Pokračovanie na str. 17



FOTO TASR – Pavel Neubauer

Na snímke zľava prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič, princ Philip a kráľovná Alžbeta II., v Prezidentskom paláci v Bratislave 23. októbra 2008.

## Britská kráľovná Alžbeta II. navštívila Slovensko

Bratislava (TASR) - Britská kráľovná Alžbeta II. s manželom princom Philipom, vojvodom z Edinburghu, pricestovali v dňoch 23. a 24. októbra 2008 na oficiálnu návštevu Slovenskej republiky. Štátna návšteva britskej panovníčky s manželom, počas ktorej ich sprevádzal minister zahraničných vecí Spojeného kráľovstva Veľkej Británie a Severného Írska David Miliband, sa uskutočnila na základe oficiálneho pozvania prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča v roku 2005.

Počas prvého dňa návštevy (23. októbra) sa kráľovná Alžbeta II. s princom Philipom stretli v Bratislave so všetkými tromi najvyššími ústavnými činiteľmi SR – prezidentom Ivanom Gašparovičom, predsedom parlamentu Pavlom Paškom a predsedom vlády Robertom Ficom. Po súkromnom rozhovore hláv štátov a ich manželských partnerov v Prezidentskom paláci sa kráľovský pár presunul na nádvorie Starej radnice, kde ho privítal primátor hlavného mesta SR Andrej Ďurkovský.

Pokračovanie na str. 17



## Prezident Gašparovič na päťdňovej oficiálnej návšteve USA

Bratislava (TASR) - Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič priletel 12. októbra z päťdňovej oficiálnej návštevy USA, ktorá sa konala na základe pozvania šéfa americkej exekutívy Georga W. Busha. Obaja najvyšší štátni predstavitelia sa stretli 9. októbra na spoločnom rokovaní v Bielom dome vo Washingtone, počas ktorého prezident Bush konštatoval, že pozitívne rozhodnutie ohľadne zrušenia vízovej povinnosti pre Slovákov cestujúcich do Spojených štátov možno očakávať v polovici novembra. Slovenská hlava štátu 11. októbra počas návštevy Pittsburghu pre médiá potvrdila, že naši občania pocestujú od budúceho mesiaca do tejto krajiny bez víz. "Prezident Bush povedal úplne jednoznačne po našom stretnutí, že v polovici budúceho mesiaca končí vízová povinnosť pre Slovákov," objasnil.

Obaja partneri rokovali aj o situácii v Afganistane, pričom George Bush ocenil slovenskú stranu za vyslanie vojakov do tejto krajiny. Slovenský prezident ho informoval, že účasť SR v Afganistane bude prebiehať podľa predstáv Severoatlantickej aliancie. Zároveň doplnil, že zvýšime počet svojich vojakov o 100 percent. V súčasnosti v krajine pôsobí 121 slovenských príslušníkov. Témou rozhovoru

Pokračovanie na str. 17



FOTO TASR/AP – Charles Dharapak

Washington - Americký prezident George W. Bush (uprostred) podáva ruku diplomatovi krajín, ktorým USA zrušili vízovú povinnosť, na TK v Ružovej záhrade Bieleho domu vo Washingtone 17. októbra 2008, druhý sprava chargé d'affaires veľvyslanectva SR vo Washingtone Andrej Droba a vpravo americká ministerka zahraničných vecí Condoleezza Riceová. Bush oznámil zrušenie vízovej povinnosti pre občanov ČR, Estónska, Maďarska, Lotyšska, Litvy, Slovenska a Južnej Kórey.