



# Jednota

THE UNION

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Fr. Stephen Furedek  
Our Founder

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

Volume 118

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NUMBER 5797

## Easter Message from the President

The March 18, 2009 issue of the Jednota had a front page article about the closing of Sacred Heart Church in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, as well as several more Slovak Churches in the Scranton Diocese.

Unfortunately, this announcement is not the first and probably not the last of these closings of Churches, originally founded by Slovak immigrants, many of them sponsored by Jednota Branches. In early March, 2009 the Archdiocese of Cleveland announced the closing or merging of 52 parishes including three of the remaining Slovak Churches in the City of Cleveland and those in Akron and Barberton, leaving only Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Lakewood, Ohio, to survive.



Andrew M. Rajec

Many people, including myself, are saddened by these developments and want to stop and reverse these changes. However, there are reasons for these closings, some of which we can blame on ourselves.

The Catholic Church relies on its members, mothers and fathers, to provide sons for the

*continued on page 3*



## President's Annual Report for the Year 2008

Presented on Friday, March 13, 2009

Fellow Officers, Members of the Board of Directors and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada.

I do not need to state the obvious, 2008 was a tough year for the United States economy as well as the world economy in general. The September 2008 melt-down and bankruptcy (the largest in U.S. history) of Lehman Brothers, after the refusal of the Bush Administration to support it, triggered a severe credit crisis and resulting stock market crash that many experts say is the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression of 1929, eighty years ago.

The subsequent U.S. Government bail-outs of AIG, Citi Group, GM, Chrysler and others with so-called TARP money have not brought confidence and calm to the financial markets. The subsequent, recently enacted "economic stimulus package" passed by Congress on an almost totally partisan vote has as of yet had little, if any, impact. We all hope for the best, but only time will tell.

The First Catholic Slovak Union has been impacted by these economic events. We

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*The National Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union wish all our Members and their Families a Blessed and Joyous Easter*

## Easter Message from our Chaplain

Dear Friends,

The Gospels of Mark and Matthew mention in their telling of the first Easter morning that the women who came to the tomb were greeted by a special messenger who said to them, "Do not be afraid."

For too many people today, being afraid is all they know. They live in fear and with fear each and every day.

Some live in neighborhoods where crime and acts of violence take place on a regular basis and they themselves fear they may be the next victim.

The discovery of salmonella in some peanut butter is the most recent case of causing fear in people over the safety of their food.

The current economic downturn is exposing another set of fears. There is the fear of not having enough money to pay down student loans and the mortgage. There is the fear of losing one's job. Many are afraid to come down with an illness because health care costs, including insurance, are beyond their means.

Fear is our emotional response to imagining the worst possible thing that could happen to us. But the last time anyone looked, fear is not a fruit or gift of the Holy Spirit. Fear is not a virtue. Hope is.

Our celebration of Easter renews and strengthens our hope. Jesus, raised from the dead, brings us hope that we may share in his ultimate victory over sin and death. Through His Resurrection we can live with hope that God is always with us, even in the most trying of times.

To be consumed with fear in one's life is to live without hope. To be consumed with hope in one's life is to live with confidence of having placed our present and future in the hands of God.

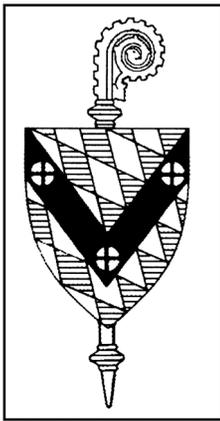
Fraternally,



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta  
National Chaplain

# Insights and Viewpoints



## St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies Father Campion P. Gavaler; Father Demetrius R. Dumm O.D.B.

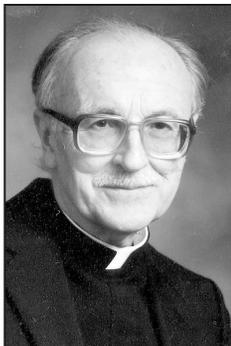
**April 12, 2009**

**Easter Sunday**

**John 20:1-9**

### Gospel Summary

John's gospel ends as it began, with the question: where does Jesus dwell? Immediately after his baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan, Jesus noticed two of the Baptist's disciples following him. He said to



Campion P. Gavaler,  
O.S.B.

them, "What are you looking for?" They replied, "Rabbi where are you dwelling?" Jesus said to them, "Come, and you will see" (1:38-39). Now at the end after his death and burial, Mary of Magdala goes to the tomb while it is still dark to visit this final earthly dwelling place of Jesus. Seeing that the tomb is empty, she finds Simon Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved, and says to them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."

Peter and the other disciple run to the tomb. Peter enters the tomb first and sees the burial cloths there, and the "cloth that had covered the head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place." The other disciple follows Peter into the tomb; he sees and believes. John adds that they did not yet understand the Scriptures that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

### Life Implications

The climax of the Easter gospel and the essence of its implications for us lie in the statement "he saw and believed." Coming to believe in the Risen Lord is the purpose and the point of the entire gospel: "Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name" (20:30-31). John wants us to identify with the two disciples of John the Baptist who ask Jesus, "Where are you dwelling?" He also wants us to identify with the "beloved disciple" who runs to see where Jesus is so that we, like him, will see and come to believe. The end of John's gospel begins our encounter with the Risen Lord.

The "sign" that leads the beloved disciple to believe is the cloth that had covered the head of Jesus. John is the only evangelist who mentions this cloth so we know it is significant in his narrative. The disciple upon seeing it immediately connects its meaning with the head cloth that Moses put aside when he ascended to speak face to face with God (Ex 34:33-35). Now the beloved disciple realizes with an intuitive leap of faith that Jesus, the new Moses, has ascended to be face to face with God in glory. Jesus no longer dwells in a tomb; he is alive and has gone to dwell with the Father as he had promised. In the following episodes John then relates how the community of disciples comes to believe that Jesus has also kept his promise to return to be with them through the Spirit (14:3-18). It is now possible through faith to dwell where Jesus dwells, in God.

Was the head cloth that the beloved disciple saw proof that Jesus rose from the dead and had ascended to the Father in glory? Of course not. However, for him it was a sign like the

other signs of the gospel that could lead to belief. A sign that leads to faith or to a deeper faith in the Risen Lord is unique for each of us: the head cloth led the beloved disciple to believe, but not Peter. For one of us, it may be hearing the gospel or homily on Easter Sunday. For another it may be the experience of seeing a spring flower or listening to Mahler's "Resurrection Symphony." What is needed on our part is unconditional commitment and openness in seeking truth: "Whoever lives the truth comes to the light..." (Jn 3:21).

Each of us is called to believe and to become a beloved disciple. Each of us is called to dwell where Jesus dwells and to have life in his name. For this gift of God's love we are grateful, and in this faith we can celebrate Easter with hope and joy.

**April 23, 2009**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**John 20:19-31**

### Gospel Summary

The first thing that we notice in today's gospel is the amazing effect of that the presence and words of Jesus have on his confused and frightened disciples. He finds them in hiding, completely immobilized by the terrible realization of the death of their beloved leader. He addresses them cheerfully with the standard greeting: "Peace." Under normal circumstances, this simply means that one wishes another well. But it means far more than that when spoken by the risen Lord. The disciples feel that the world is out of control. Jesus assures them that such is not the case. In fact, he is there to offer them the gift of deep and unshakable confidence. In spite of dire appearances, all is well.

The reason that all is well is because Jesus now offers them the Spirit. This Holy Spirit has the ability to enter the deepest recesses of their being and to make Jesus more truly present to them than he ever was when they knew him in the flesh. Jesus offers the same Spirit to us also and this Spirit can make Jesus wonderfully present to us. For it is this same Spirit who convinces us of the love of God for us...and, to the extent that we know that, we have nothing to fear.

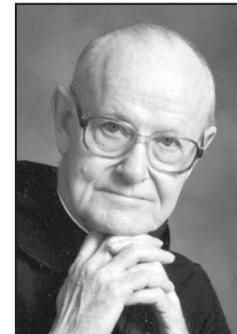
We recall how God took his good spirit from King Saul and gave it to King David (1 Sam 16:13-14). The consequence was dramatic. Saul would slip deeper and deeper into darkness and despair, while David seemed to lead a charmed life in spite of sins and tragedies. In fact, he became the model of the Messiah and has been a favorite subject for sculptors and painters ever since.

Thomas was not there to receive the Spirit and so he could not trust the good news that the other disciples shared with him. However, when he met Jesus later, everything changed and he allowed Jesus to become thenceforth the center of his life. The witness of others is always important, but nothing can replace a personal encounter with the Lord.

### Life Implications

One need not look far in our world today for attitudes of cynicism and distrust. We should avoid becoming gullible or naïve, of course, but we must at all cost learn how to trust. The risen Lord offers us his Spirit and, if we open our hearts to that best of all gifts, we will be able to trust when it is proper to do so.

Most of all, we will trust God's promises, which tell us, in essence, that we can share in the life of Jesus if we dare to be kind and thoughtful and loving in a world that is too often thoughtless and cruel. We really cannot be trusting without the help of God, but with that help we can avoid the terrible pessimism of Saul and acquire the positive, hopeful spirit of David.



Demetrius R. Dumm  
O.S.B.

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29	MONDAY, APRIL 20
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13	MONDAY, MAY 4
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27	MONDAY, MAY 18

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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## For the Good of the Household

By Bishop Joseph Adamec

### Does Life No Longer Have Value?

We may have more than the economy about which to worry about. As believing Christians, we know from our reading salvation history that it does matter to the Lord how a nation behaves.

In one of our civil communities, it appears that a judge approved an abortion for someone up on drug charges. This caused a concern on the part of a good many officials, -if not the approval itself then, certainly, the provision of money to have it done. Apparently, the judge believed that destroying the life of the child would help the mother in her recovery. I am saddened and distressed to see the life of an unborn human treated so casually.

Our president has approved federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. This is another sign that our nation is taking yet another step toward the devaluation of human life in American society. If human life is so dispensable in its early stages (and in some states, in its latter stages with the legalization of assisted suicide), where will it end?

Stem cells are emerging as a possible cure for a number of illnesses. Research into this promising health remedy is important. Perhaps, federal monies should be used to support it. The issue for the Catholic Church is not the research but the source of those particular stem cells.

Up to now, no human being has ever been cured of a disease using embryonic stem cells. Adult stem cells have, on the other hand, already cured thousands. Adult stem cells are part of the natural repair mechanisms of an adult body. Such stem cells are obtained from adults, and even from embryonic material other than the actual embryo. They can be taken from umbilical cords, the placenta, amniotic fluid, adult tissues and organs, bone marrow, fat from liposuction, regions of the nose, and even from cadavers. No life is lost. But if the embryo is used, it is destroyed in the process. It is the deliberate killing of a human life.

I do not know why there is such a preference for embryonic stem cells. Perhaps, they are easier to obtain. However, taking the easy way out has never been a virtue of science. Setting aside our moral compass will never serve as a virtue of our nation, either.

Our nation was founded on the dignity of the human person. Treating life as dispensable, places us on an evermore-slippery slope that does not bode well and cannot end in anything but failure as a God-fearing nation.

We have become a throwaway society where anything is dispensable for the sake of convenience. That is why we are faced with mountains of garbage, as we look for places to put it. I do not claim to be an economist, - but perhaps, our propensity for dispensability is the root of our economic situation, as well.

There is something deeply disturbing about fertilizing human eggs and creating human life for the sole purpose of experimentation. A human embryo (regardless of its size) is a human being. Each of us was once an embryo. Human life was not meant to be dispensable at whim. That is not what the Creator intended. (Consult the sacred scriptures of any religion.) It is not what our Founding Fathers intended. (Consult the foundational documents of our nation.) The whole idea of producing human beings for no other purpose than for our use should be abhorrent to all of us.



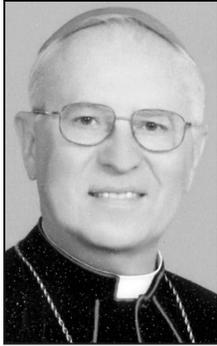
### From the Desk of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt

Soon we will reach the end of our Lenten journey and it will be time to celebrate the Easter Season. As the glad news resounds "Christ Is Risen"! The fanfare of joy and confidence is heralded by Christians around the world.

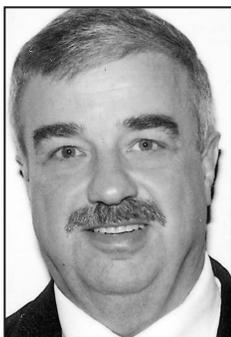
Just as spring awakens the earth and stirs it to activity, Easter awakens the soul of man and gives him the desire to share his inner spiritual joy with others.

Once again on Easter morning, the miracle of His resurrection brings joy and inspiration, as we gather together in the house of the Lord, with our families and friends to worship, to rejoice, and to give thanks for His gift of everlasting life.

On behalf of my wife, Theresa, our children and myself, we wish you a Blessed Happy Easter.



Bishop Joseph Adamec



Kenneth A. Arendt

## President's Easter Message

*continued from page 1*

priesthood. For many reasons including materialism, decline of Catholic education and yes, sexual abuse, far fewer young men have been going into the priesthood.

Let's be honest, many, but not all, of these Church closings are due to lack of attendance and lack of finances. We can't complain if we don't support the local Slovak Church. How often do we find that the parishioners have moved to the suburbs or other parts of town and come to the Slovak parish only for "special events", i.e. marriage, baptism or branch meetings. How can that church survive? How many of our children or grandchildren support the old Slovak parish? Far too few.

In those cases where the Slovak Churches are viable and alive I support and urge you to petition your Bishops, and I ask the Bishops to hear your petition and make fair and sensible decisions. I ask the Bishops to be understanding and not close churches unless necessary. As long as a church is financially viable and a priest is willing to serve, leave it open. I liken it to a human death. Catholics are opposed to so called "mercy killing". Let death be natural as God intended. Likewise, let the death of these churches be natural. Serve the people until they no longer attend or support that church.

I might be old-fashion but I'm not blind or dumb. The Slovak community and culture in the United States and Canada has changed and continues to change. We can't live in the past, but at the same time we can and should honor the past and preserve and maintain the best of our Slovak heritage.

Part of that culture and heritage and what has, against all odds, preserved a language and a culture for over at least one-thousand years of persecution and foreign dominance, is perseverance and old-fashioned stubbornness.

Imagine, how could people, who until relatively recent times, were mostly poor and uneducated or under-educated (Anton Bernolak codified the first Slovak language standard in 1787), maintain their language and customs, even though it varied some from region to region and village to village, come to the United States and Canada and build, out of almost nothing, through their sacrifices, magnificent memorials to their faith and culture, these many Catholic, Byzantine and Lutheran churches. Ironic as it may seem, their new-found freedom in America appears to be leading to a slow disappearance of that culture. A common bond, forged by hardships and persecution in the "Old Country", that lasted hundreds of years and many generations is slowly disappearing in only about 100 years or several generations in America.

How does all of this relate to an Easter message? Easter celebrates the resurrection of Christ the Savior. It celebrates His rising. I look forward to a new chapter for the First Catholic Slovak Union based on a foundation laid by our ancestors. This new chapter addresses the financial and fraternal needs of our current and potential members in our modern world. To do so, we need your support and cooperation. Even in this changing world our foundation is strong.

I also again call out to our other Slovak brother and sister fraternalists, the descendants of these ancestors, to join together to form a stronger bond and community. In numbers there is strength.

Best wishes to your family from my family and me.

Happy Easter, Christ is Risen, Let Us Rejoice and be Glad!

Pan Jezis Kristus vstal z mrtvych, Radujme sa!

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

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**FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION  
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

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

# Insights and Viewpoints

## Homily - 2nd Sunday of Easter

*continued from page 2*

This positive spirit is found everywhere in the Psalms, which have been attributed to David, not because he wrote more than a few of them, but because the authors of these beautiful prayers were all people like David.

A special gift of the Spirit is the confidence and freedom that allows us to forgive others. Life is just too short for holding grudges or for nursing old injuries. And when we let go of these burdens we will enter more and more into the joy and generosity of the Spirit. In this way, we will not only be free to face the future with courage but we will also become much more pleasant fellow travelers for those who are making the journey with us.



## President's Annual Report for the Year 2008

*continued from page 1*

were holders of Lehman Brothers bonds and preferred stocks, one half bought in 2004 and 2005, the rest in June 2007 and March 2008, Ford Motor and Ford Credit bonds, bought from 1990 thru 2003 and General Motors and GMAC bonds bought in from 2000 thru 2004.

Primarily because of these bonds the Society had a net realized capital loss of \$1,162,863.00 in 2008. In addition the Society has had to show on its books a net unrealized capital loss of \$6,772,727.00 in 2008.

On the positive side the society continued its recent record of net gains from operations in the amount of \$1,427,520.00 for the year 2008. Total gross income actually increased by over \$2.3 million.

The net result of all these transactions resulted in a decline of \$4,052,623.00 in surplus. The surplus at 12/31/2008 still stood at a very strong \$9,059,592.00.

What has the FCSU done to meet these unprecedented financial times? First, in late 2007 we saw an emerging problem regarding the sub-prime loan situation. We immediately scanned our portfolio for risks and determined not to invest new money into bonds that had a sub-prime mortgage exposure. In addition, during late 2007 and through 2008 we placed much of our new money into U.S. government backed agency bonds. These provided safety and a very competitive rate of return. In addition we kept a large cash position to enable flexibility.

However, after September 2008 the credit markets tightened dramatically and the stock and bond markets reflected the financial crisis. Virtually all fraternal and commercial insurance companies have experienced the same or worse results. Your own investment portfolio I am sure has been impacted.

For the past 15 + years our investment portfolio under the direction of our Treasurer has provided an interest yield as good as or better than most fraternal societies and competitive with most investment managers. The Society's investment strategy had been to "buy and hold" for the long term. The Society also had, and continues to have, an investment policy that calls for investments only in top-graded bonds with very little common stock exposure. Remember that fraternal societies like the First Catholic Slovak Union are restricted by the State Insurance Departments as to where they can invest their funds, with valid reasons.

However, the world changed in 2008. The preservation of capital became as or more important than investment yield. It turned out that the bond ratings from bond rating firms like Standard and Poor's, Moody's and Fitch could not be necessarily trusted. I became convinced that we did not have the resources to adequately research and make fully informed decisions on our investment portfolio. In addition, the Society had been for many years using retail brokers in its security purchases.

At the December 13, 2008 Board of Directors Meeting I recommended to the Board that the Society contact several investment management companies to review and analyze our investment portfolio. With their approval, I, with the other Executive Committee members, interviewed, in person, at our offices, five investment management firms. They ranged from a New York based international firm to smaller firms located across the country.

I called a special meeting of the Board of Directors for December 30, 2008 at which time the Board heard a presentation and analysis from one of the investment firms (not the one we ultimately chose for our account). Based on this in-depth meeting the Board authorized myself and the Executive Committee to contract with an asset manager. After extensive analysis, negotiation and final review of the contract by our General Counsel, the Society contracted with AQS Management as our investment manager effective January 19, 2009.

I am happy to say that the results thus far have been very satisfactory. I anticipate that these actions will benefit the Society and enable us to better address the financial issues in the economy and continue to provide the safest investments and best yields to our Members. The ultimate investment decisions are made by the Society Management together with AQS based on their expert analysis research and recommendations.

The March 13 & 14, 2009 Annual Board of Directors Meeting will be one of the most intense and hopefully fruitful in a number of years.

In addition to financial issues we will be discussing potential Society consolidations and

joint ventures with other Slovak fraternal societies, as well as the, still outstanding, unsolicited proposal regarding our Middletown property, and of course, the upcoming 2010 Convention, as well as other issues.

We are proud to announce that the First Catholic Slovak Union and the Slovak Catholic Sokol will be having a joint golf outing in August 2009. This will be in place of separate outings by each Fraternal. This is a historic event that we hope shows that Slovak Fraternal societies can work together and hopefully build stronger relationships that in the near future will result in benefits for all Members.

We have made some important strides during the past year in improving both the quality and circulation of our Jednota newspaper (do you like the color?). We had some success in contracting with additional independent insurance agents to market our products as well as developing new products and markets. These will be detailed by our Vice President Mr. Harcar. While our actual insurance and annuity sales increased during 2008 the overall decline in membership must and is being addressed.

I and our Executive Committee have made an effort to meet more members and potential at Branch and District meetings, picnics, festivals and other social and spiritual events from New York to Chicago and many places in-between. Unfortunately, I have been preoccupied with 2008 financial events which prevented me attending even more events. Hopefully, 2009 will enable me to meet more of you.

The foundation of the Society is YOU, our Members, and especially our Branch and District Officers and Recommenders. YOU are the lifeblood of the Society. I thank you all for your past efforts and encourage you to continue your good work and encourage more of our young Members to get active. Remember the Jednota. It will thrive only as long as its Members support it. I would also like to thank our Officers and Board Members for their work and support.

We have the greatest Slovak Society in the world, we will continue to prove it. I hope to meet more of you personally in the coming year.

You are welcome to call me at 1-800-Jednota or e-mail at [President@fcsu.com](mailto:President@fcsu.com) or fax at 216-642-4310.

Thank you. Ďakujem.

**Andrew M. Rajec**  
President

## Coming Events



### April 5

- A meeting of the Prince Pribina District at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by the Meeting.

### April 5

-The Pittsburgh District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania.

### April 19

-The George Onda District's Semiannual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at St. Florian Parish School Hall, United, Pennsylvania.

### April 26

-The Rev. John Martvon District's Semiannual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. in St. Stephen's Church Hall, Chestnut Street and 4th Avenue, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

### April 26

-A Meeting of the SS. Cyril and Methodius District at 1:00 p.m. in Holy Family Church Hall, Gibson Street and North Washington Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

### May 3

-The Msgr. John E. Rura District's Semiannual Meeting at 11:00 a.m. in the upstairs room of Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, New Jersey.

### May 3

-A meeting of the Rev. Stephen Furdek District at 1:00 p.m. at St. Charles Parish Activity Room, 5891 Ridge Road, Parma, Ohio.

### May 3

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

### May 3

-The Michigan District's Semiannual Meeting at the Tatra Hall, 2636 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Sherman Boulevard, Muskegon Heights, Michigan. Dinner at 12:00 noon followed by the Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

### June 7

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

# ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

## MARCH 13 & 14, 2009, HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

### Welcome Privitanie

#### Welcome to the 2009 Annual meeting.

This is the third annual meeting I will chair and also the third some of you are attending. The financial tsunami the United States of America and the World are experiencing surrounds and influences our deliberations at this meeting.

I am confident the Jednota will survive and emerge stronger as we work together and combine our talents for the good of the Society.

Throughout the last year we have again lost a good number of our local Branch Officers

who have dedicated their efforts, in many cases a near life time, to the Church and our Society. In their memory and in the memory of all deceased Members let us observe a moment of silence.

Our Mass on Saturday will be dedicated to the memory of all our deceased Members.

May our deliberations be conducted with respect for each other and with an eye toward the future. Let's imagine that our founder, Father Furdek, is silently sitting at this table observing our actions. Let's give him a reason to be proud.

Again Welcome.

**Andrew M. Rajec**  
President

## MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2008 HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

Saturday, December 13, 2008 – meeting via conference call

#### OPEN MEETING

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. and asked Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer.

#### ROLL CALL

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present at the Home Office:

Andrew M. Rajec, National President;  
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary;  
George F. Matta, National Treasurer;  
and then the members present over the phone:  
Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain;  
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President;  
Karen M. Hunka, Chairman of Auditors;  
Susan M. Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director;  
Gary J. Matta, General Counsel;  
Joseph F. Minarovich, Regional Director, Region 1;  
Damian Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2;  
Carl Ungvarsky, Regional Director, Region 3;  
George Sprock, Regional Director, Region 4;  
Regis P. Brekosky, Regional Director, Region 5;  
Henry Hassay, Regional Director, Region 6;  
Rudolph Glogovsky, Regional Director, Region 7;  
Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Regions 8 & 9.

#### READING OF THE CALL

The Executive Secretary then read the Call to the December Quarterly Meeting.

#### ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SEPTEMBER 25 & 26, 2008

A motion was made by Joseph Minarovich and seconded by Carl Ungvarsky to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

#### PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA

The President presented the agenda for the December Meeting and asked for its acceptance.

A motion was made by George Sprock and seconded by Milos Mitro to accept the agenda and allow the President to change the order of the agenda.

Motion carried.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

##### Branches

The President updated the Board of Directors on the status of Branch mergers. He stated that the Home Office is doing a study on active and inactive Branches. We are in process of contacting each Branch regarding its status, whether or not it wishes to merge and, if yes, into which other Branch. Once this study is completed, the President and the Executive Secretary will work with the officers interested in merging their Branches.

##### Estates

The President presented an update on the progress of the Leasing Agreement. He stated that the Leasing Agreement has been extended for another six months. He further informed the Board of Directors that there are some interested parties in leasing our building. He will update the Board as more information becomes available.

The President presented an update on the appraisal of the Middletown property. He

stated that he had a teleconference call with the Appraisal Firm whom he gave more information regarding the property. The Industrial Appraisal Company representative stated that the appraisal will be done in 2 weeks (by the end of December).

##### Newspaper

The President informed the Board of Directors about the status of our Jednota newspaper. He stated that we are using color on some pages of the Jednota which enhances its appearance. The President further stated that we are still printing about twenty four thousand issues and he feels that by sending Jednota to each member's household, we are able to improve the communication with our Members.

#### Interest Rates for the 1st quarter of 2009

The President said the Executive Committee decided to keep the interest rates for the 1st quarter of 2009 the same as in the 4th quarter of 2008.

Interest Rates for the 1st quarter of 2009 – effective January 1, 2009 thru March 31, 2009:

- The annual yield on existing Flexible Premium Deferred Annuities & IRAs is 5.00% (4.879% APR).

The annual yield on new six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuities & IRAs is 4.50% (4.402% 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).

#### FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2008

##### Executive Secretary's Report

Kenneth A. Arendt presented the Financial Report for the third quarter of 2008 and answered the Board Members' questions. He stated that his report would be published in our Jednota newspaper.

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the proposed Budget for 2009 and answered the Board's questions. A motion was made by Rudolph Glogovsky and seconded by Carl Ungvarsky to accept the proposed 2009 Budget and the Executive Secretary's report as presented. Motion carried.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer George F. Matta presented his report and answered the Board's questions. He led a discussion regarding the review of our stock portfolio.

The President led a discussion about engaging an outside asset management firm to analyze our investment portfolio and present a report to the Board of Directors as soon as possible. There was unanimous approval by the Board of Directors for such engagement. A motion was made by Carl Ungvarsky and seconded by Damian Nasta to accept the Treasurer's report together with the engagement. Motion carried.

#### Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

The Executive Secretary informed the Board of Directors that we are members of the Federal Home Loan Bank.

The President asked Treasurer George Matta to analyze how we may utilize our membership with FHLB.

#### MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

The Vice President reviewed the Production Report by Districts for the third quarter of 2008 and the production to the date and answered the Board's questions.

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# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

*continued from page 5*

## Seminars

The Vice President stated that he is in process of setting up the dates for seminars in 2009.

The Vice President also stated that he will work closely with the Executive Secretary on improving the seminar by having Power Point presentations and by careful selection of materials presented at the seminars. He stated that these new tools should make his presentations more efficient.

The Vice President also stated that he will continue with ads in the Jednota newspaper.

## Independent Agents

The Vice President also led a discussion regarding independent agents. He stated that we are using Agent Media for advertising for independent agents in two states: Ohio and Florida.

The President stated that we are in process of hiring an in-house agent. His main duties will be: contact and work with independent agents, update Branch Officers with our new products, and send out questionnaires to Branch Officers asking them about help they need with their Branches and how the Home Office can assist them with their operation, etc. The information the in-house agent puts together will be used to assist Branch mergers. A motion was made by Joseph Minarovich, seconded by Rudolph Glogovsky, to accept the Vice President's report. Motion carried.

## DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

Susan Ondrejco read her report to the Board of Directors and answered their questions. She updated the Board about the Christmas Coloring Contest and the Bowling Tournament to be held at Brunswick Lanes, Belle Vernon, PA on April 24-26, 2009. She further informed the Board about the progress on a joint venture with the Slovak Catholic Sokol for 2009. Susan Ondrejco stated that after discussions with Ed Moeller, the Fraternal Director of Slovak Catholic Sokol, they agreed to suggest holding a joint Golf Tournament on August 1 and 2, 2009 at the Lima Country Club in New York, NY. The President stated that after speaking to Sokol's Supreme President, Larry Glugosh, and their Supreme Secretary, Steve Pogorelec, this site is not acceptable and they should look for a more central site. The President asked the Fraternal Activities Directors of both Societies to continue exploring other sites and make a report as soon as possible.

Susan Ondrejco stated there will be several packages available to participants of the Golf Tournament.

She informed the Board that she is in process of having a photo contest for members ages 12-18. She will update the Board with more details.

A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Regis Brekosky to accept the Fraternal Activities Director's report. Motion carried.

## CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS REPORT

Chairman of Auditors, Karen Hunka, presented her report and answered the Board's questions. The Chairman stated that the Internal Auditors conducted a thorough audit of

the third quarter of 2008 and found that everything was in order. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by George Matta to accept the Chairman of Auditors' report. Motion carried.

## PRESENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Executive Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Executive Committee Meetings. He stated that in accordance with the Bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Executive Committee meets monthly and whenever else it is necessary to take care of the business of the Society.

Investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the regulations adopted by the Board of Directors. All investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee.

### Scholarship Committee

The Executive Secretary presented the Scholarship Report and answered the Board's questions. He will keep the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee informed.

## SUBSIDIARIES REPORT

Jednota Properties, Inc. Regis Brekosky, President of Jednota Properties, Inc., presented his report and answered questions. The President of the Jednota Properties stated that he is negotiating the renewal of a lease of one-half of Building # 2. He will update the Board of Directors at the March 2009 Annual Board of Directors Meeting.

The reports of Jednota, Inc., and Jednota Properties, Inc., are informational in nature.

## 2010 CONVENTION

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the progress of the event planner who is still gathering information for our convention in 2010. The Executive Secretary stated that he is in progress of setting up the inspection sites. He will update the Board of Directors with his progress.

## PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Damian Nasta to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion carried.

## ADJOURN

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Damian Nasta to adjourn. Motion carried. Father Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

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

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

# MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL DECEMBER 30, 2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2008 HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

President Andrew Rajec called the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union to order at 1:00 P.M. and asked Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer. The President stated that this meeting concerns the Financial Events and referred to "Financial Condition," his letter dated December 26, 2008 and sent to the Board of Directors.

## ROLL CALL

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present at the Home Office:

Andrew M. Rajec, National President;  
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary;  
George F. Matta, National Treasurer;  
and then the members present over the phone:  
Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain;  
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President;  
Karen M. Hunka, Chairman of Auditors;  
Susan M. Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director;  
Gary J. Matta, General Counsel;  
Joseph F. Minarovich, Regional Director, Region 1;  
Damian Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2;  
Carl Ungvarsky, Regional Director, Region 3;  
George Sprock, Regional Director, Region 4;  
Regis P. Brekosky, Regional Director, Region 5;  
Henry Hassay, Regional Director, Region 6;  
Rudolph Glogovsky, Regional Director, Region 7;  
Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Regions 8 & 9;  
Ed DePersis, Actuary - by invitation of the President

President Rajec began with the review of five asset managers whom we contacted and asked for their professional examination of our investment portfolio and for their recommendations on how to manage our portfolio. He stated that the Board of Directors received a package with proposals from the four asset managers who provided written responses for review prior to the December 30, 2008 teleconference meeting. The President further stated that the purpose of the earlier teleconference call with AAM, Asset Allocation and Management Company, was to hear their presentation.

The reason for this special meeting is to review the proposals of all four asset managers and hear the opinions of the Board of Directors. The President asked each member of the Board of Directors to give his or her input on the review of our portfolio. There was broad participation.

President Rajec requested the Board's approval for the Executive Committee, once it reviews all the information, to choose and contract with one asset manager to aid the Executive Committee with the FCSU's investments. Upon Vice President Harcar's motion, each Board Member was asked individually for his or her opinion and approval. Approval was unanimous.

The President further led a discussion regarding our portfolio custodian. He stated that Ken Arendt spent several hours interviewing potential custodians and presented the Executive Committee with a proposal, from Key Bank. After reviewing the Key Bank proposal the Executive Secretary recommended that we change our custodianship from Merrill Lynch to Key Bank.

A motion was made by Rudolph Glogovsky and seconded by George Sprock to transfer the custodianship from Merrill Lynch to Key Bank. Motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn the special meeting.

Rev. Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

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

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

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2009, HOME OFFICE INDEPENDCE, OHIO

### OPEN

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

### ROLL CALL

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

### ACCEPTANCE OF THE JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

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

### TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

The Treasurer presented a written report. The Treasurer led a discussion reviewing the monthly report from our asset manager, AQS Asset Management, LLC.

The President stated that we interviewed five asset management companies and that we presented the proposals of four asset managers to the Board of Directors for their review. A decision was made by the Executive Committee and approved by the Board of Directors to hire AQS, Asset Management, LLC, from Austin, Texas. The President further stated that AQS was hired effective January 19, 2009 with specific guidelines set by the FCSU's Executive Committee in accordance with the State of Ohio Law.

### FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK

The President discussed our membership with Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati. He stated that Victory Asset Management, a subsidiary of Key Bank, our new custodian, will have a presentation at the March, 2009 Annual Board of Directors Meeting how we may utilize our membership and present a scenario as to how we may invest funds available thru the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

The President stated that our outside auditors from Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP, will conduct a complete audit of the transfer of our investment portfolio from Merrill Lynch to Key Bank and make a report to the Board at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting on March 13, 2009.

### SALES AND MARKETING

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

The Vice President stated that an in-house agent was hired. He further stated that the in-house agent has been in contact with Branches and is investigating potential mergers with the Branch Officers. He is also gathering information about how the Home Office can aid them. He is also in contact with independent agents and offering his assistance to them with initiating sales, etc.

The Vice President further stated that he contacted Ed DePersis, our actuary, regarding potential new insurance products and the status of getting licensed in all states. The Vice President will update the members of the Executive Committee as soon as more information becomes available.

The Vice President stated that he has contacted Districts 1, 2, 3, 7, 11 & 12 for possible seminars in 2009. Once the dates are set, he will update the Executive Committee.

The Vice President stated that we will continue with our advertisements in the Jednota newspaper and on our website. He stated that a special insert advertising our products will be sent to approximately five thousand potential insureds thru an association located in the Chicago area. The mailing of this special ad will start in March of 2009 and will target a certain group of people belonging to that association.

The Vice President asked the Executive Secretary a question regarding our JEP policy. If once a JEP policy matures, can another option can be added to the member's existing

choices? The Executive Secretary explained that along with the double amount offered, the face value of the original policy amount also can be offered.

The Vice President further reported on recruiting independent agents. We are presently advertising in Florida and Ohio. He stated that we responded and sent sales kits and all necessary documentation to those who responded to our ads. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt, seconded by George Matta, to accept the Vice President's report. Motion carried.

### COMBINATION OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES

The President updated the Executive Committee on the progress of the joint Golf Tournament with Slovak Catholic Sokol in 2009. He informed the Executive Committee that the dates and site for the joint outing have been set as follows: August 14 thru 16, 2009 at the Clarion Oaks and Hi-Level Golf Resorts, Clarion, PA. Once our Director of Fraternal Activities receives the information with golfing package options, we will make it available on our website and advertise in the Jednota newspaper.

### 2010 CONVENTION

The Executive Secretary stated that we are finalizing our planned site inspections for our 2010 Convention. Once the inspections are completed, the President will update the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

#### MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

#### Disbursements for the month of January 2009

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$147,034.93
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 35,951.92
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ - 0 -
Trust Fund	\$ 689.00

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.

The Executive Secretary informed the Executive Committee that he is in the process of gathering information regarding possible benefit offers to members of the First Catholic Slovak Union from outside vendors, i.e., Medicare Supplement, Long Term Care & Dental Care.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the survey for the 2009 Membership Meet. Once the survey is completed, the Executive Secretary will make a complete report.

#### 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

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARCH 13-14, 2009

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

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

The Society enjoyed a net gain from operations and before capital losses of \$1,427,520 (-25.59%). The Society's 2008 gain was the fourteenth consecutive profitable operating year and was consistent with the five year average of \$1,648,577. The total asset value decreased a modest 1.3% (\$2,573,810) despite \$1,162,863 of realized capital losses and \$6,772,727 of unrealized capital losses.

The decrease in surplus was due to the Capital losses resulting primarily from the bankruptcy rating and resulting write-down in value of Lehman Brothers, Ford Motor Company, General Motors and GMAC Bonds. The loss in value on these bonds was somewhat offset by the profits from operations and the release of over \$2,200,000 of Asset Valuation Re-

serves.

The realized capital losses resulted from the permanent losses taken on Lehman Brothers Bonds (\$564,530) and preferred stocks (\$600,000). The Bond Unrealized losses were Ford Motor - \$1,115,786; General Motors - \$1,615,171; GMAC - \$1,214,397; Lehman Brothers - \$1,137,000 and misc. - \$297,774. In addition, a GMAC Preferred Stock had an unrealized loss of \$104,800. Additional unrealized losses were reflected in the Annual Statement Schedule BA, Surplus Notes of \$936,761 and Common Stock \$351,032. Of course the Ford Motor, General Motors and GMAC Bonds are not in actual bankruptcy and are current as to interest.

Total life premium income showed a slight increase and annuity premiums increased

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# REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARCH 13-14, 2009

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54.8%, overall premium income increased 40.9%. Investment income decreased a very minor .01% despite the low interest rates currently available and the economic turmoil. Overall, total income for the year increased 12.9%, topping the 7.7% increase in 2007.

Our 2008 premium income is broken down as follows:

Life Insurance	\$ 1,465,268
Annuities	<u>6,560,316</u>
Total	\$ 8,025,584

Investment income for 2008 is broken down as follows.

**Investment Income for 2008:**

Government Bonds	\$ 1,993,414
Bonds	9,212,536
Preferred Stock	562,699
Common Stock	51,132
Common Stock Affiliates	170,000
Mortgage Loans	158,392
Real Estate	304,445
Certificate Loans	44,351
Short-Term Investments	383,442
Other Investment Assets	167,075
Write-ins for Investment Income	<u>(428,038)</u>
Total Investment Income	\$12,619,448

**Investment Expenses:**

Depreciation on Real Estate and Other Investment Expenses (Investment Taxes, License Fees, etc.)	\$ 565,584
Net Investment Income	\$12,053,864

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

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Assets	\$186,464,507	\$195,540,901	\$197,310,824	\$203,610,335	\$201,036,525
Prem. Income	11,507,748	7,596,237	4,725,837	5,693,973	8,025,584
Invest. Income	11,479,736	11,764,645	11,746,690	12,064,200	12,053,864
Net Gain	2,068,565	1,342,404	1,489,106	1,915,292	1,427,520

Bonds constitute 79.7% (-6.5%) of the Society's assets, and have an average maturity of 13.52 years. The FCSU enjoys excellent bond quality, with 91.1% (+2.2%) of the bonds in the two highest NAIC rating classes. The total value of non-investment grade bonds decreased by over \$5,000,000. Preferred Stocks now make up 4.3% (-1.2%) of invested assets. Common Stocks are 0.6% in an effort to diversify the portfolio and increase investment return. Other assets consist of mortgages (1.1%); real estate (1.4%); and all others (12.9%). The Society owns \$1,512,791 of surplus notes which are listed on the Annual Statement Schedule BA and shown as Other Invested Assets on the Asset page. The Society's net investment rate of return was 6.29%, which is slightly lower than the five-year average of 6.36%, but excellent in the current market.

The Society emphasizes Bonds and Preferred Stocks (84.8%) as its main investments, but due to the unsettled economic conditions and the large number of late year calls on the Government Agency Bonds the Society had \$23,237,354 (11.7%) of cash on hand at year end.

The most significant increase in liabilities was: life policy reserves increased 1.4%; annuity reserves increased 2.5% and Funds held as trustee 26.4%. Liability decreases were in the AVR 90.3% and IMR 29.2%. Average lapse ratio remains at a very favorable 2.1% over five years. The Society has no Foreign Investments payable in foreign currency. The Foreign Exchange Reserve was decreased to \$10,000 (-\$40,000).

Surplus decreased 30.9% from its 2007 high of \$13,112,264. Surplus is 5.6% higher than it was five years ago.

The AVR decreased by \$2,202,503 and reflects only mortgage and real estate reserves. The decrease in AVR was also detailed earlier in this report. The IMR decreased 29.2% and now stands at \$2,639,478.

The combination of surplus, AVR and IMR total \$11,934,408, and decrease of 38% over the same items in 2007. This amount represents stable funds available for member safety.

The items which provide liquidity are \$23,237,354 of cash/short term funds, \$1,205,686 of Common Stock, over \$6,200,000 of bonds maturing in less than one year, \$8,000,000 of premium income and over \$12,000,000 of investment income. Expected outgo for benefit payments, commissions, dividends and expenses is about \$15,300,000. The Society has more than adequate liquidity as reflected by the \$5,000,000 of cash from operations in 2008.

The Risk Based Surplus calculations indicate that total adjusted surplus is \$9,494,931, which is above actual surplus. This does not include the IMR. The total for 50% of the calculated RBS was \$3,441,972 (after RBC Cash Flow Scenario testing which did not require an adjustment entry), which is substantially lower than actual surplus. The Society's RBS ratio of 276 is safely above regulatory action levels.

The Society has only one IRIS Ratio outside the NAIC designated ranges. The loss in Surplus of -31% exceeded the NAIC maximum negative range of -10%.

Total member benefits were 32% higher. Total life benefits were 12% higher; annuity benefits increased by 39%. Annuity reserves were level reflecting the increase in premium income and increase in annuity benefits. Commissions were 12% lower reflecting home office generated premium income; operation expenses were a modest 10.3% higher, led by General Expenses, which were 11.5% and taxes were 2.3% higher. Management continues to control expenses. Dividends to members were 14% lower. The Society enjoyed a gain from operations for the fourteenth year in a row.

Bond and Preferred Stock capital losses both realized and unrealized were reviewed earlier in this Report.

Our 2008 financial statements, quarterly and year-end were compiled and completed on a timely basis and filed with the various states in which we are licensed to do business. We are continually in contact with the regulatory agencies of the various states regarding their requirements, which are constantly changing. We are in compliance with all of the states' and NAIC accounting regulations.

In 2008 we had a loss in membership (death claims, cash withdrawals, expels, etc.) of 1,152 members compared to a loss of 1,057 in 2007. We had a decrease in the number of life insurance certificates of 1,269 in 2008 compared to a loss of 1,356 in 2007.

The Society recorded an increase of \$1,932,000 for insurance in force. This represents stable growth. Insurance in force has increased 2.1% since 2004.

As of December 31, 2008, the Society had 3,872 annuity certificates. As of December 31, 2008, annuitant membership totals 1,261 annuitant members (this total does not reflect members who have both insurance and annuity contracts). The total cash value of our annuity accounts for 2008 was \$102,402,227 compared to \$99,873,695 in 2007. Our annuity products continue to be the bright spot in our portfolio, bringing in over \$70,000,000 in the last six years alone. This represents great confidence in our Society and its continued growth.

The First Catholic Slovak Union's insurance and annuity portfolio contains many products, which suit all insurance and annuity needs. The Membership and Marketing Committee, along with our actuarial firm, Bruce and Bruce Company, and our Financial Consulting Firm, Bruce and DePersis, continues to explore avenues to improve and enhance our existing products (premium costs, etc.) and develop new products for our members. We have expanded our marketing advertisements in our Jednota newspaper and in our mailings to our members.

In 2008 we continued to offer training seminars to our branches and districts. These seminars are designed to educate our branch officers, district officers and recommenders not only about our existing products but also our new products and ways to present them. We believe these seminars will help stimulate the growth of our Society, develop motivation and strengthen the relationship between the home office, our branches and recommenders. Our goal is to keep the lines of communication open among our branches, districts, recommenders and the home office. We encourage our district officers, branch officers and recommenders to personally discuss their thoughts and ideas with us.

We are further expanding our search for new independent insurance agents to sell our products. The agents that have signed contracts with our Society are eager and very interested in making our products available to their clients. They have been especially enthusiastic about our Juvenile Enrichment Plan.

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

We continue to use, direct mail as a means of contacting our branches and our members, giving them information about our existing and new products. Direct mail is a necessary tool in marketing our products as we can reach a vast majority of our members in a short time. Our official organ, *Jednota*, is also a very useful vehicle for advertising our products. In 2008 we met our goal of sending the newspaper to every household to better inform our members about our products.

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

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

We have the capability of sending and receiving information from our members through our e-mail address, [fcsu@aol.com](mailto:fcsu@aol.com). We encourage our members and officers to use e-mail when corresponding with the home office. In 2008 our annual statement was filed electronically with the NAIC. We have been filing electronically financial and various reports required by the states in which we are licensed.

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

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

In 2008 our internal auditors and outside auditors, Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, conducted their audits for the period ending December 31, 2008. Their audits consisted of a complete review of our quarterly and year-end financial statements and our home office operations. As a result of these audits our Society received an excellent review.

During 2008, we continued merging inactive branches with active branches. This process will continue through 2009. This is an ongoing problem for our home office since many of our branch officers are unable to continue to service the members in their branches and not only is it difficult to find replacements for them within their branches, but it is also difficult to find other branches to merge them

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# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 3- MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 3, and the St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 226, will have a Palm Sunday Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, April 5, 2009, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 1315 Second Street N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota. The 9:00 a.m. Mass will be for the living and deceased members. A breakfast with fellowship will take place in Father Dargay Hall after the liturgy.

**Joseph Matlon, Publicity Chairman**

## BRANCH 7- HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin Street, Houtzdale, Pennsylvania. All members are invited to attend.

**Marie Sedlak, Recording secretary**

## BRANCH 45- NEW YORK CITY

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2009, at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66<sup>th</sup> Street and First Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

**Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 89- MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Knights of St. Mary and St. Joseph Society, Branch 89, will sponsor an outing on Sunday, April 26, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. to see the Titanic Exhibition at the Milwaukee Public Museum. This is a timed event so please be there at 12:30 p.m. so we can go in as a group at 1:00 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets must be purchased 2 weeks in advance for groups. Please call President Michael Novak at 414/445-5382 by April 10 to reserve your spot. The lodge will pay for members; guests will pay \$20.00 each. Make checks payable to: Knights of St. Mary & Joseph Branch 89 and mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93<sup>rd</sup> St., Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Members are reminded that our Easter Duty Mass will be on March 29 at 9:00 a.m. at St. Margaret Mary Church. Breakfast will follow immediately at the Grecian Inn, 14375 W. Capital Dr., Brookfield, WI.

**Michael Novak, President**

## BRANCH 166- BINGHAMTON, CAPITAL AREA, PEEK- SKILL, POUGHKEEPSIE, AND SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Semiannual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, May 3, 2009, at 1:15 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 14 St. Cyril Avenue, Binghamton, New York. On the agenda will be a discussion of the District meeting and branch business. Members are encouraged to attend. Please call Sue Gabriel at 607/729-8034 or Arlo Meeker at 607/775-4896. Hope to see you at the meeting.

**Arlo Meeker, President**

## BRANCH 290- RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 290, will hold a meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. Please try to attend.

Call Joe at 732/469-5256 for the location of the meeting.

**Joseph F. Minarovich, President**

## BRANCH 372- LLOYDELL, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 372, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Michael Hudak, 829 Cameron Avenue, Beaverdale, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend.

**Michael Hudak, President**

## BRANCH 380- CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Ignatius Society, Branch 380, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Margaret Graytok, 236 West Pike Street, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania.

**Margaret Graytok.**

## BRANCH 410 UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. at Meloni's, 105 W. Main Street, Uniontown. The agenda includes discussion of branch activities for 2009. All members are invited to attend.

**Geri Buchheit, Recording/Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 553- AKRON, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 553, will hold a lodge meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, Ohio. Please take an active roll in your lodge and attend the meeting.

The branch would like to thank all the volunteers and members who supported our Annual Ash Wednesday meal on February 25, 2009 at the Slovak J Club. Your participation made the event a huge success.

**Linda M. Hanko, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 633- FLINT, MICHIGAN

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 633, will hold its first meeting of 2009 on Saturday, April 18, at 1:00 p.m. at the Old Country Buffet, Courtland Center, Burton, Michigan. All members are invited to attend. Your presence is required for the future of our lodge.

**Eva Craine, Secretary**

## BRANCH 706- SOUTH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 706, will hold its first meeting of 2009 on Friday, April 24, 2009 at the home of Vice President Barbara Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, Indiana. If you plan to attend, please call Barbara at 219/864-8251 at least one week before the scheduled meeting so arrangements for refreshments can be made. This meeting will start at 3:00 p.m. sharp. On the agenda will be a discussion of insurance sales, the 2009 picnic, new business and the Audit for the year 2008.

If you know of any member who has moved or changed phone numbers please contact us so we can update the member's file.

**Art Fayta, Treasurer**

## BRANCH 743- STERLING HEIGHTS/DETROIT, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, is sponsoring a Detroit Tiger Baseball Game outing on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at 7:05 p.m. against the Baltimore Orioles. Members will be in section 213 (upper deck-1<sup>st</sup> base side). This is also a Tiger promotion night, and the first 10,000 fans get a Tiger 2009 All-Star poster. The individual price for each ticket is \$15.00, however your cost will be only \$8.00. We have initially ordered only 40 tickets for this promotion. Therefore, there is a limit of 4 tickets per household. The deadline for ordering tickets is June 18. All purchases up to 40 tickets will be honored. If we do not sell all the tickets we will contact all ticket purchasers after June 18 affording them the opportunity to increase their purchase. However, there will be no refunds after June 18. Tickets will be mailed to you the first week in July. Send your check payable to FCSU-Branch 743 before June 18 to: Joseph C. Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087. Be sure to include your phone number and email address when ordering. Go Tigers!

**Joseph C. Rimarcik, President**

## BRANCH 746- LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, May 3, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. in the upstairs meeting room of Msgr. Komar Hall at Holy Family Church, Linden, New Jersey. The agenda will include planning for the summer picnic, as well as finalizing plans for the Sep-

tember bus trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The district meeting will follow at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be served after the District meeting.

**Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary**

## BRANCH 764- WARREN, OHIO

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 764, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. at 379-E Quarry Lane, N.E., Warren, Ohio. At the meeting we will make final preparations for the continental breakfast which our branch will sponsor on April 26, 2009 in our church hall after the 9:30 a.m. Mass. All members are welcome to attend the meeting and our breakfast.

**Joanne Odom, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 844- LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 844, will hold its Annual Slovak Easter Mass on Sunday, April 5, 2009, at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. A delicious, authentic Slovak lunch will be served after the liturgy along with an Easter egg hunt for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak spirit of Easter.

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

We hope to see you all there. We wish everyone a very special and safe Easter holiday.

**Milan Konkol, Secretary**

### 5.00%

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Toronto Parish celebrates Jubilee

By: Stefan Slovak Jr.

After three quarters of a century of serving the spiritual needs of the Slovak community in the Greater Toronto Area, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Roman Catholic Parish in Mississauga cordially invites you to attend the diamond jubilee of its foundation. On Sunday April 19, 2009, the largest Slovak parish in the world outside of Slovakia will be celebrating 75 years of faith, family and fellowship. Solemn high mass will be celebrated by His Grace, Thomas Collins, the Archbishop of Toronto at 10:30 am, and will be followed by a luncheon at 1 pm at the Capital Banquet Centre in Mississauga.

The very life of Sts. Cyril and Methodius parish has been at the heart of the Slovak community in Toronto since its foundation in 1934. After the hard work and efforts of the fledgling Slovak community in Toronto, The First Catholic Slovak Union was able to arrange for Msgr. Michael Shuba to come to Toronto to be the first pastor. This was a long process that ultimately resulted in the Monsignor taking a 36-year leave of absence from his post in Fairport Harbour, Ohio. Upon arriving he helped organize the community and lead them in their spiritual lives.

It soon became apparent that there would be a need for the Slovaks to build their own church, as they had been celebrating mass at St. Mary's Parish for and St. Stanislaus before that for a number of years. After raising the appropriate funds, and finding an affordable piece of land (thanks largely to the negotiating skills of Msgr. Shuba), the Slovaks broke ground on their first church at Claremont and Robinson. It was then on Sunday November 9, 1941, that His Eminence James Cardinal McGuigan, Archbishop of Toronto blessed the new church and rectory.

In the coming years, the parish would flourish under the pastoral care of Msgr. Shuba who organized a number of social clubs within the parish. In 1968, the parish received a huge influx of new parishioners who had fled Czechoslovakia as a result of the Warsaw Pact's invasion of the country. It was a year later that Msgr. Shuba took ill and the pastoral duties of the parish were handed over to Fr. John Moravsky SJ, who would now lead the parish. Msgr. Shuba retired to the Slovak Jesuit House in Galt where he would regain his health and live for a number of years.

By the early 1980s it became clear that due to the new waves of immigration, the parishioners had shifted towards the west end of Toronto and into Mississauga. In 1993, the parish under the guidance of then pastor Fr. Vincent Danco SJ took on the bold task of moving the parish to Mississauga. It was there that a new church would be built to service the spiritual needs of the Slovak community. After holding masses in St. Jude Catholic School for nearly two years, the parishioners celebrated their first mass in the new church at Christmas Midnight Mass on December 24, 1995. On May 12, 1996, the church was formally consecrated by the then Archbishop Aloysius Ambrozic, former Archbishop of Toronto.

The parish would continue to thrive in Mississauga, and in 1999 after decades of service, the Jesuit fathers departed the parish. It was then put under the care of Fr. Miroslav Vercimak a newly ordained priest from the Redemptorist Mater Missionary Seminary, from the Archdiocese of Warsaw Poland, and he would go on to become one of the parishes longest serving pastors, serving the community for nearly nine years. In May of 2008, Fr. Jozef Vano was named as pastor having been transferred from Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Hamilton and incarnated into the Archdiocese of Toronto.

It is said that diamonds are forever, and on this the diamond anniversary of our parish, we look to the future in hope and prayer that our parish will not only thrive for another 75 years, but forever. On April, 19 Fr. Vano, along with his associate Fr. Eugen Rybansky and all of the parishioners of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, cordially invite you to be a part of a once in a lifetime celebration.

For tickets to the luncheon, please contact the Parish Office at 905-712-1200 or Anne Mitro at 905-279-8154. Tickets are \$50 per person and \$25 for children 12 and under and MUST be paid for by April 1, 2009.



## Scholarships Available for Study in Slovakia

The Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic has announced the 2009 Government Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Program provides for University study in the Slovak Republic in Slovak language (both Undergraduate and Graduate), including one year preparatory language training at Comenius University in Bratislava.

The Government Scholarship program is specifically intended to provide University education opportunities for Slovaks living abroad. As a result of that, Slovak organizations in the United States have a unique opportunity to influence candidate selection because the Ministry of Education requires any candidate to be endorsed by the local Slovak organization.

Candidates may select any study program of their interest at any accredited university in Slovakia. Please be advised that medical sciences, dentistry and pharmacy are not recommended in 2009 by the Ministry of Education.

Candidates must submit their applications to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic by May 30, 2009. Applications received after May 30, 2009 will not be accepted. Candidate may also apply individually-directly to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs-OKUD, Hlboka cesta 2, 833 36 Bratislava. The Slovak Embassy is willing to provide assistance in submitting applications, however, be advised that the deadline to submit applications at the Embassy is May 1, 2009. The Slovak Embassy is located at 3523 International Court, NW, Washington, DC 20008. For more information contact Michal Pavuk, First Secretary at 202/361-8315 or at Michal.pavuk@mzv.sk.



SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Mississauga, Ontario.

## District II Easter Coloring Contest



## HEY KIDS....

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II of the First Catholic Slovak Union is sponsoring an Easter Coloring Contest for all boys and girls from ages 4 through 12 who are members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District. Color the picture and you could win. Prizes will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places for age groups 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. All entries will receive a "Certificate" for participating.

Send in your coloring page and on the back side of the picture please print your name, age, address, Branch number and include a picture of yourself, and return by April 10, 2009. Pictures of the winners will be printed in the JEDNOTA newspaper after Easter. Our lodge members will judge the entries at our District II meeting on May 3, 2009.

Mail your entries to: Mrs. Barbara Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, IN 46311.

Good luck to all!

Barbara Fayta, Chairperson  
Easter Coloring Contest

# REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARCH 13-14, 2009

*continued from page 8*

with. We are in the process of hiring an individual to work closely with our branches and independent agents and to provide support, information and generally to be available and answer questions.

The year 2008 was the tenth year that our branches had to meet the requirements set forth by the 46<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> Convention to qualify for the branch stipend. We encourage our branch officers that if they are unable to perform their duties and cannot find anyone in their branches to take over their duties, to call the home office. We will try to merge them with an active branch. For those branches that do not wish to merge, the home office can offer you guidelines as to how you can meet the requirements and receive the stipend. Throughout 2008 the requirements for the financial obligations (bylaw section 4.05) has been mailed to all branch officers as a reminder of the expectations for each branch.

The FCSU has an outstanding scholarship program, which is available to our members who meet the requirements. Members may contact the home office for information concerning the scholarship program. We continue to award 75 one-time scholarships each year to the highest ranking applicants.

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

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

As I have stated in the past, the economic success of our Society hinges on four factors: the effective sale and promoting of our insurance and annuity products to increase premium income; the effective management of our investment portfolio to increase our investment income; continuing to control our operating expenses; and also investigate new ways to attract new members. New members are vital to our growth.

As your Executive Secretary, I represent the FCSU on the Board of Directors of the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Slovak League. I have attended and represented the Society at fraternal functions not only within our FCSU but also other fraternal societies. I represent the society at various branch and district meetings throughout the year. Each year I attend the National Fraternal Congress of America's Annual Meeting. I also attend many seminars, including the Bruce and Bruce Seminars,

which are always very informative regarding current insurance trends and pending state and NAIC regulations that might affect the FCSU.

My family and I appreciate your trust and support as your Executive Secretary and I will continue to work and do my very best for our society. As we begin a new year and work toward a stronger society we need to respect each other and at all times to address all issues with honesty and integrity. We are the First Catholic Slovak Union and I pray that our Society continues to grow. We have outstanding products with competitive rates and we all need to be involved in reaching new members and promote our society.

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

Respectfully submitted,

**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
Executive Secretary



## SLOVAK EASTER CARDS

Slovak Easter cards are available at \$5.00 per packet of eight through Jankola Library. Postage and handling @ \$2.50 is additional. Orders may be placed by phone, e-mail, or letter. Checks should be issued to JANKOLA LIBRARY.

Thank you!

Sister M. John Vianney, SS.C.M. Director

Jankola Library  
Villa Sacred Heart  
Danville, PA 17821-1698

jankolalib@jlink.ne

570-275-5606



## Yonkers Church Schedules Easter Food Blessing

The Most Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Yonkers, New York has scheduled the traditional Blessing of Easter Foods on Holy Saturday, April 11, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. followed by the Sacrament of Penance. There will be a second Easter Food Blessing at 2:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and meet our newly installed pastor, Rev. George Oonnoony. For further information, call 914/963-0720 Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



### 55<sup>th</sup> Men's & 46<sup>th</sup> Women's International Bowling Tournament

Tentative Schedule

**Friday, April 24, 2009**

4:30 PM ..... Registration  
Brunswick Lanes  
4742 State Rte. 51S  
Belle Vernon, PA

4:30 – 6 PM ..... Hospitality Reception  
Brunswick Lanes

5:45 PM ..... Opening Ceremonies  
6 PM – 11:30 PM ..... Team Events

7:30 – 9 PM ..... Hospitality Reception  
Brunswick Lanes

**Saturday, April 25, 2009**

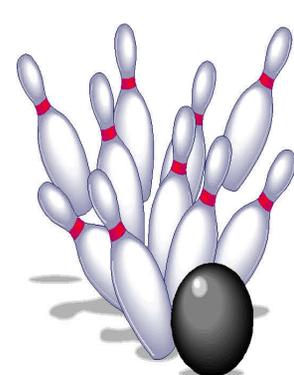
9 AM – 3 PM ..... Doubles and Singles Events  
Brunswick Lanes

5:30 PM ..... Mass

6:30 PM ..... Tournament Banquet

**Sunday, April 26, 2009**

9 AM – 3 PM ..... Doubles and Singles Events  
Brunswick Lanes



### Hotel Information for Bowling Tournament April 24, 25, 26, 2009

**Tournament Headquarters:** 30 rooms blocked

Comfort Inn - Belle Vernon  
4300 State Route 51 South  
BELLE VERNON, PA 15012

**TO MAKE RESERVATIONS:**  
**You must indicate that you are with**  
**THE FCSU**

Phone: 724-929-3177      Rate: 74.99 + tax - 1 Queen Bed  
89.99 + tax - 2 Queen Beds

Reservation cutoff date is February 23, 2009

OTHER AREA ACCOMODATIONS:  
HAMPTON INN      1525 BROAD AVE. EXT. BELLE VERNON      (724) 929-8100  
\*\*20 Rooms blocked at \$105.00/night + tax \*\*  
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**ENJOY A TOUCH OF SLOVAKIA**

**February 24-April 14 – Slovak Language Lessons**

WHEN: Tuesday evenings from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
WHERE: Mt. Lebanon Public Library  
16 Castle Shannon Boulevard  
Pittsburgh, PA 15228  
PRICE: Free – Reservations needed, please call (412) 531-2990



The new format will feature vocabulary building and basic conversation by Bozena Hilko.

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National Slovak Society • Slovak Catholic Sokol • Slovak Savings Bank • Sokol USA • Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Association

**SPECIAL REMINDER**

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

**FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:**

The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce that it can now accept credit cards for Insurance premium payments.  
\*Annuity payments cannot be made with credit cards.

**NEW FROM FCSU**

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**Plan II - 3 payments**, the initial premium is 40% of the single premium. *The balance must be repaid within two years from the issue date to avoid interest expense on the loan.* The balance of the premium can be paid in twenty-four equal monthly installments; or in two additional payments, 30% at the end of one year and 30% at the end of two years from the issue date.

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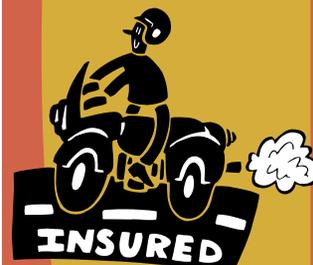
Contact your local branch officer or call the home office at 1-800-533-6682 for further details.  
Visit us on the web at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com) or email us at [fcsu@aol.com](mailto:fcsu@aol.com)

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**Quarterly Premium Rates**

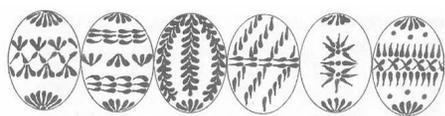
Principal Sum	Single	Family
\$100,000	\$12	\$18
\$200,000	\$24	\$36
\$300,000	\$36	\$54
\$400,000	\$48	\$72
\$500,000	\$60	\$90

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

**Special Fraternal Benefit**

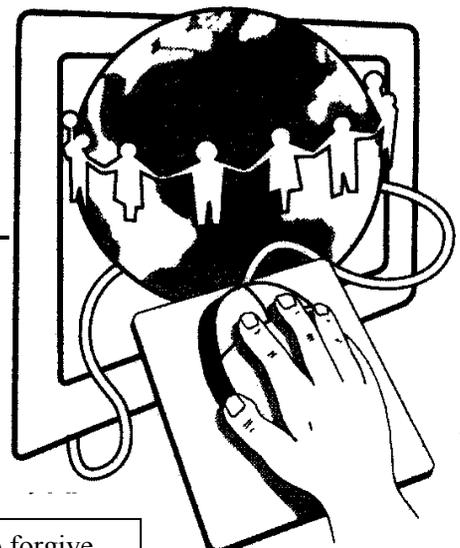
If a member or a new member (ages 30-65) is issued a minimum \$10,000 Whole Life, a 20-Pay Life, or a \*Single Premium Policy, issued after August 1, 2008, FCSU will include, as a Fraternal Benefit, a single \$25,000 \*\*AD&D Benefit at no additional charge for as long as a premium is being paid. Contact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

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



# UR\_space.jrs

Friends Events Sports Culture Trivia Activities Holidays



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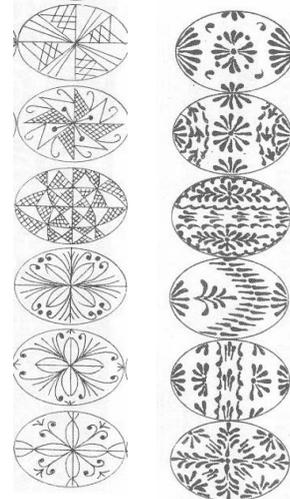
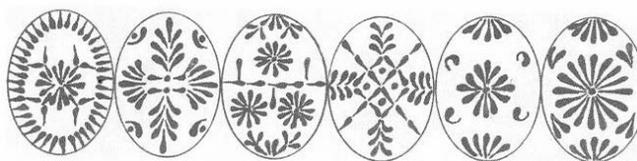
## Holiday Space

April 2009

*Prajem vám veselu Veľku noc!  
(I wish you a happy Easter!)*

This month's ur\_space.jrs will be devoted to some of the many Slovak Easter customs.

For Christians, Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, who died to forgive the sins of humankind. Before Jesus' time on Earth, eggs had long served as a symbol of new life and were used in spring festivals by many different cultures. Due to their connection to new life, eggs remained a symbol of Easter for many Christians. Even Christian legends about coloring eggs developed. One legend says that an egg merchant, Simon of Cyrene, put down his basket of eggs in order to carry Jesus' cross. When he went back for his basket, all the eggs were colored. Another story suggests that eggs were originally dyed red to represent Jesus' blood.



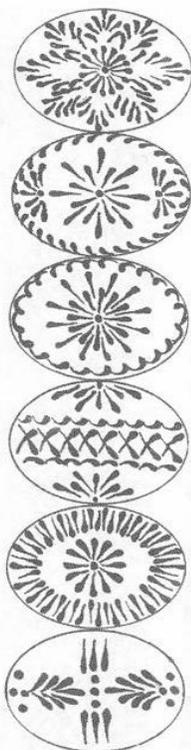
## Palm Sunday ~ Kvetná Nedel'a

Palm Sunday is the sixth and final Sunday in Lent and it marks the beginning of Holy Week. For Catholics, it is a day to commemorate Jesus as he entered into Jerusalem. His path was decorated with palm branches, which is a symbol of victory. Because true palm or olive branches were not available to Slovaks, the custom is to bless blossoming branches of other trees, including evergreens, boxwood, and pussy willow branches. These are symbolic of life, hope, and victory.

After returning home from church on Palm Sunday, people put the blessed branches behind pictures or behind holy pictures, statues, and crucifixes in the home. In the past, trees and plants were considered to be mediators between the souls of the dead and those of the living and, at the same time, places where souls dwelled. These early peoples believed that the branches of certain trees possessed supernatural powers, warding off evil spirits and protecting homes, farms, and pasture lands from harm.

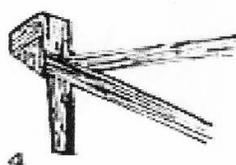
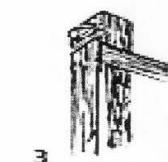
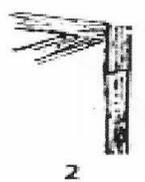
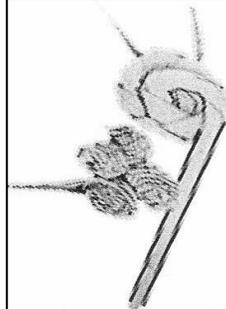
Once Slovaks emigrated to America, palm weaving became a tradition for the new immigrants. Palm weaving is a folk art form that consists of taking palms and weaving, folding, and braiding them to create various designs. These patterns originally resembled pussy willow buds, since pussy willow branches were blessed in Slovakia. Shapes are only limited by the creativity of the individual. Try making the palm rose that is shown to the right.

## Activity Space



## Craft Space

### CIRCULAR FOLDED ROSE



You need 2 tapered leaves of equal length connected at the bottom.

The rose will have a center only if the palm leaf is tapered and becomes smaller as you fold.

The width of the palm can be up to 1/2" at the base.

Step 1- Beginning at about 2" from the base, fold one leaf back, slanting 45° to the left and fold the other leaf back, again at a 45° angle under it

Step 2- Fold the first under again continuing in a counterclockwise motion, bringing the "rose" as it is now appearing, over the front of the stem

STEP 3 -Since the palm is tapered, the rose begins to become smaller as you continue. When you feel you have a nice rose, secure the center with a pin or inserting the ends into the weave.

You can either trim the ends, or let ends spin off.

The center of the rose can be decorated with sequins, a tiny ribbon, or just a knot.

It does not need to be decorated if done well. Roses look nice alone or in a bouquet of roses.

A palm rose bouquet is welcome as a gift to the person who has everything money can buy!

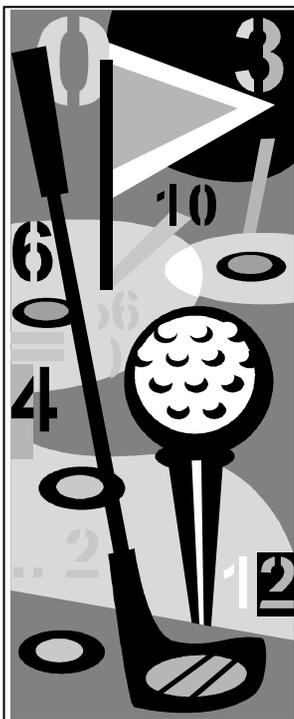
Roses can also be made into a circle with tape or by stapling; they can be placed next to each other on a cardboard cross. Tiny roses can be made into corsages. Give a corsage or bouquet of blest roses to a family who has lost a loved one. Make the number of roses you place in the bouquet significant. Perhaps you can have 7 roses for the years of a child's life.



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



# Accent on Activities



## 2009 International Golf Tournament

April 2009

We are proud to announce that the First Catholic Slovak Union and the Slovak Catholic Sokol will be having a joint Golf Tournament this year. The Golf Tournament will take place August 14 - 16, 2009, at the Clarion Oaks and Hi-Level Golf Courses in Clarion, PA.

**NEW THIS YEAR** The tournament prices are based on a package price that has been negotiated with the Clarion Oaks and Hi-Level Golf Courses. In addition to golfing in the Tournament Saturday and Sunday, a practice round on Friday, hotel accommodations, and the banquet ticket is included in the price. Several package options are available, including a package for guests who accompany you to the Tournament. More details will be available on the registration forms.

You can expect to see your registration forms in the mail in May.

This is a historic event that we hope shows that Slovak Fraternalists can work together and build stronger relationships that will result in benefits for all members. Come and be a part of history at this year's Golf Tournament!

## CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS, AGES 12 - 18!

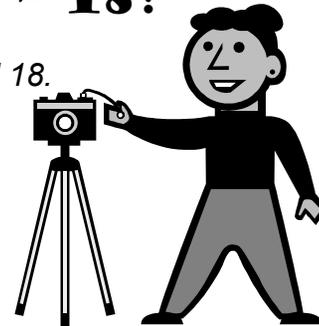
Get your cameras ready! We are starting a photography contest for those members between the ages of 12 and 18.

Submit your photo in one of the following categories:

People  
Nature or Environment  
Travel or Destinations  
FCSU Fraternal Activity

Mail your entry to:

Susan Ondrejco  
Photo Contest  
234 Ilion St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15207  
postmarked by October 1, 2009.



Judging will be done by an outside professional and all photos will be returned.

For each category, the following prizes will be awarded.

\$50 – First Place  
\$30 – Second Place  
\$20 – Third Place

An Overall Winner will be awarded \$100

### Rules:

1. The photos have to be taken by the member submitting it (no computer generated photos, other than digital ones).
2. One Entry per Category
3. Any size photo up to 8" x 10", unmounted, in black and white or color is permitted. (No touched up or computer enhanced photos permitted.)
4. Name, address, Branch number, age, and where the picture was taken should be submitted on a **separate sheet of paper**. DO NOT MARK BACK OF PICTURE

It's that time of year again! Our Annual Bowling Tournament will be held Friday, April 24, through Sunday, April 26, 2009. The *Jednota* sponsors the tournament Friday through Sunday and a banquet Saturday evening.

This year we are looking for bowling lane sponsors:

Lane Sponsor: \$25 – a sign will be placed on the lane with your Branch, District, or Region name.

If you are interested in being a lane sponsor, please send the wording for your sign and your check payable to "FCSU Activities" to:

Susan Ondrejco  
234 Ilion St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

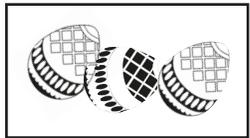
The deadline for sponsoring a lane is April 10, 2009.



## Blessing of Easter Foods is a Rich Tradition

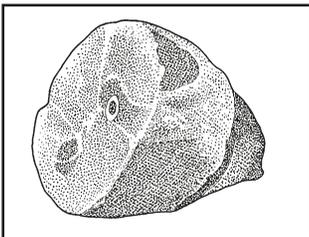
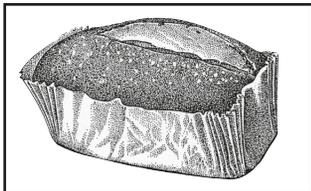
When our Slovak ancestors arrived in this country, they brought with them many beautiful and meaningful traditions. Among the most popular of these was the age old tradition of blessing Easter food.

After a Lent of strict fast and abstinence, specially prepared foods to be eaten on Easter morning would help the family celebrate the great feast of Jesus' Resurrection. The foods prepared in advance, were placed in a basket, covered with a special hand crocheted cloth and taken to the church to be blessed by the priest on Holy Saturday. The cloth often had an Easter emblem or the Easter words, "Christ is Risen" crocheted on it. Each of these foods had a special significance.



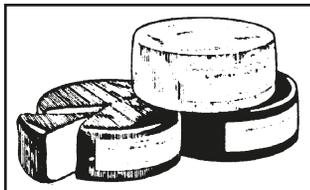
**EGGS**-Brightly decorated eggs are a symbol of New Life, the life Jesus gave by rising from the dead.

**PASCHA**-This is a sweet, rich, yeast bread. It is usually a round loaf baked till it has a golden brown crust. Sometimes a cross of dough is placed on top circled by a plait. This symbolizes the crown of thorns encircling the cross. Other breads to be blessed are nut and poppy seed rolls, known as "kolac" and "makovniki."



**KLOBASA and HAM**-After a Lent of fasting, this meat is well roasted or cooked to be used as the main dish. It symbolizes the great joy of Easter and to Slovaks this dish of meat is a sign of abundance. Some people may prefer lamb or veal.

**CHEESE**-The Easter cheese is known as "syrek" and has a rather bland, but sweet taste. It is indicative of the moderation Christians should have in all things. Cream cheese may also be used.

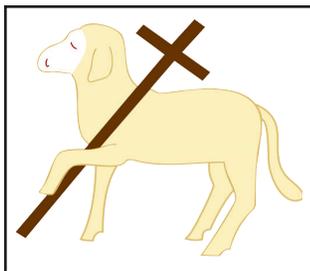


**HORSERADISH**-This is a tall plant with a white, hot tasting root. This root is ground and mixed with ground beets, a mixture then called "chren." The taste of chren is to remind us of how bitter life would be without Jesus, and also of the bitter drink given to Jesus on the cross.



**BUTTER**-This favorite dairy product was shaped into the figure of a lamb because Jesus is the Lamb of God.

**SALT**-Salt is also blessed because salt was used to preserve food and this symbolizes the fact that Jesus preserves us to eternal life.



Many Slovak and Slavic churches today in the United States and Canada continue to observe this custom of blessing Easter foods.

## YOUTH ROUND-UP

Terrence J. ("T.J.") Root of Greentown, Pennsylvania, was selected as the January 2009 Good Citizen of the Month at Wallenpaupack Area South Elementary School in Newfoundland, PA, where he is a Sixth Grade student.

Terrence has been honest, helpful and kind to other students. He is respectful and loyal to his country, its flag, his school, and its property, has set a good example for other students, has been a good leader and excellent student, and has represented the school as good people in the community.

He is a member of the school's Junior Buckhorn Football Team; the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Biddy Basketball Team, and is currently with the All-Star Basketball Travel League. He also plays the clarinet in the school's newly formed Cadet Band. He is an avid Giants and NASCAR fan.

Terrence and his family are members of Branch 240P in Taylor, PA. He is the son of Terrence J. and Barbara A. Kavulich Root of Greentown.



Terrence J. Root,  
"Good Citizen of the  
Month"



Jack Logan Shelton

Jack Logan Shelton is the newest member of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago. Jack was born Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2008, in Swedish Covenant Hospital, Chicago. He lives with his parents Adam Shelton and Raquel Cano. Jack's mom and five of his aunts and uncles are also members of Branch 493.

## Accent on Activities 2009 Jednota International Bowling Tournament April 24-26, 2009

Plans for the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Men's and 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Jednota International Bowling Tournament are well underway. The Tournament will be held the weekend of April 24-26, 2009, at the Brunswick Zone-Belle Vernon Lanes in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 670, will be the host. Registration forms can be found in this issue of the JEDNOTA paper.

The Team Event will be held Friday evening and Saturday morning. Doubles and Singles events will be held Saturday and Sunday. You can bowl as much or as little as you want by participating in as many events (Teams, Doubles, and Singles) you would like.

### New This Year

Bowlers who do not have a 2007-2008 sanctioned average, and who are bowling in a sanctioned league in 2008-2009, can receive a handicap provided that at least 21 games have been played in this season and a league year-to-date statistics sheet is provided to the Tournament Secretary at the Tournament. While the International Bowling Tournament is a USBC certified Tournament, you can still participate in the Tournament. To be eligible for USBC prizes, you can become a USBC member at the Tournament.

The Saturday night banquet will feature Karaoke and music for listening and dancing pleasure. Start practicing your favorite songs!

Even if your Branch, District, or Region does not send participants to the Tournament, you can still show your support of fraternal activities by placing an ad in the program book or by sponsoring a lane at the bowling alleys. (Information on sponsoring a lane can be found inside the JEDNOTA paper page 18.)

Make some new friends or renew old acquaintances this year at the 2009 International Bowling Tournament in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. Hope to see you there!

Susan Ondrejco  
Director of Fraternal Activities

## Reminder...

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

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## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Msgr. John E. Rura District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, May 3, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. in the upstairs meeting room of Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue in Linden, New Jersey. Branch 746 will be the host. Branch secretaries are asked to call Mary Kapitan at 732/225-2658 with the number of members who will be attending. On the agenda will be the election of officers. Please join us. Lunch will be served following the meeting.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

### MSGR. JOSEPH TISO DISTRICT-ALLEGHENY-KISKI VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Msgr. Joseph Tiso District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the CU Club, 912 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, Pennsylvania. In order to prepare light refreshments, all branches are asked to identify the representatives-members who will attend to Grace Charney at 724/763-1104 by Saturday, April 24.

Grace Charney, Secretary

### MSGR. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT-BEDFORD, BLAIR, CAMBRIA, INDIANA AND SOMERSET COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA

The Msgr. John Martvon District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. in St. Stephen Church Hall, Chestnut Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, (Cambria City), Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The St. Joseph Society, Branch 23, will host the meeting. Holy Mass will be offered earlier in the day for the living and deceased members of the District. On the agenda will be a financial report and a discussion of activities and other fraternal business. All branches are urged to send representatives to this meeting. All branches are reminded of the requirement to have a delegate from their lodge attend one meeting in the calendar year. Member branches that have not paid their dues may do so at this meeting. All FCSU members are also welcome to attend. The snow is gone, spring is in the air, and it is a good time to drive to Johnstown.

Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary  
Elaine Capretti, Recording Secretary, Br. 23

### REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT-OHIO

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold a meeting on Sunday, May 3, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Charles Parish Activity Room, 5891 Ridge Road, Parma, Ohio. Please contact Secretary Linda Hanko via email at [lhanko@neo.rr.com](mailto:lhanko@neo.rr.com); by phone at 330/706-0151; or via mail at 1473 Ries St., Barberton, OH 44203, and let her know the number of members from each branch who plan to attend.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Linda M. Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

### SS. CYRIL AND METHIDIUS DISTRICT-LACKAWANNA & LUZERNE COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA AND BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

The SS. Cyril and Methodius District will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in Holy Family Church Hall, Gibson Street and North Washington Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be a discussion of fraternal activities, the annual Summer Picnic, and District dues. Regional Director Carl Ungvarsky will also give a report. Refreshments will be served. All branches are urged to send delegates to the meeting. Please contact District President Michael J. Slovenkai at 570/498-8150 to confirm your Branch's representatives.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai

### MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT-NEW YORK

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, June 7, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at Most Holy Trinity Church Parish Hall, Yonkers, New York. On the agenda will be a financial report and a discussion of activities and other business. We urge all District branches to send representatives to this meeting. All members of the FCSU are also welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served by host Branch 41, Yonkers, New York.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary-Treasurer

### GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT-WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at Saint Florian Parish School Hall, United, Pennsylvania. Representatives from each of our branches are expected to attend. Refreshments will be served. We are looking forward to a great turnout.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

### PITTSBURGH DISTRICT-PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Pittsburgh District would like to announce its plans for 2009.

The Semiannual Meeting will be held Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009, at Holy Trinity Church Hall, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. Branch 276 will be the host. The meeting will conclude with a light luncheon and an Easter Egg Hunt. Watch for more details in our next announcement. Donations for door prizes are encouraged.

Branch 60 will host the Father's Day Brunch on Sunday, June 21, 2009, at St. Barnabas in Swissvale. Branch 2 will handle the ad booklet.

The Annual Meeting is planned for Sunday, November 29, 2009 at Holy Trinity in West Mifflin. Branch 628 will be the host.

The officers of the Pittsburgh District would like to welcome Karianne Barnes as the new District vice president. We also wish all FCSU members a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

### PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT-LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Prince Pribina District will hold a meeting on Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009 at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. A Slovak Mass will be celebrated in the chapel at 11:00 a.m. followed by the meeting in the cafeteria. After the meeting, there will be a period of fraternal fellowship and a Slovak gourmet lunch with desert and refreshments will be served. Children will also enjoy a traditional East Egg Hunt. All members are invited to attend. District branches are encouraged to send representatives to the meeting. On the agenda will be a discussion of District activities and a discussion of insurance programs.

Paul Skuben, President

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

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, May 3, 2009, at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. A period of refreshments and fraternal fellowship will begin at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will start promptly at 2:00 p.m. All branches are requested to send delegates and all Jednota members are welcome to attend. Attendees will enjoy a delicious dinner. If you plan to attend, please call District 2 Spiritual Advisor Dorothy Jurcenko at 773/763-0810 to let her know so adequate food and beverages will be available.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

### MICHIGAN DISTRICT-MICHIGAN

The Michigan District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, May 3, 2009, at the Tatra Hall, 2636 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Sherman Boulevard, Muskegon Heights, Michigan. Our day will begin with dinner at 12:00 noon followed by the business meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Branch 595 is hosting this meeting. Please call Lou Kollar by April 25, 2009 at 231/755-3314 with the number of delegates who will attend from each branch.

Spring should be here by then so let's make it a good turnout. Remember, Branches must attend these meeting in order to qualify for the Branch compensation from the Home Office.

Anna Magusin, Secretary

### PITTSBURGH DISTRICT-PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Pittsburgh District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009 at Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. The meeting will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. Local Branch 276 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.

A Family Easter Egg Hunt will be included with the meeting. This is a new event for the district and members are encouraged to bring their children and grandchildren. Please call Florence Matta at 412/466-7460 or George Matta at 412/672-5330.

Please 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 Easter Season.

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

## REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### Raymond S. Palinkas Branch 199 Hostetter, Pennsylvania



Raymond S. Palinkas, 81, of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, died March 2, 2009, in Excelsa Health Latrobe Hospital.

He was born February 29, 1928, in Marguerite, Pennsylvania, a son of the late Stephen L. and Anna (Chervak) Palinkas. He was a member of St. Vincent Basilica, Latrobe, and had been retired from Vulcan Mold & Iron Co. with 45 years of service. He was also a World War II veteran, having served in the Army. Raymond was a loving husband and father.

Raymond was a member of American Legion Post 515, Disabled American Veterans, as well as St. Joseph Club, FOE 01188 and Frontier Club, all in Latrobe. He had also worked at Adelphoi Village for 11 years.

Raymond was preceded in death by five

sisters, Mary Toth, Ann Sofranko, Margaret Palinkas, Helen Widmer and Betty Rohaly; and two brothers, John and Stephen Palinkas.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Vern (Rady) Palinkas of Latrobe; two daughters, Chantel A. Flynn of Latrobe, and Coleen A. Imbrogno and husband, Paul, of Latrobe; two sisters, Irene Pudlish and husband, Joseph, of Parma, Ohio, and Vern Miscovich and husband, Robert, of Greensburg; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at the John J. Lopatich Funeral Home, Latrobe. Military services were held in the funeral home by American Legion Post 515 and VFW Post 3414. A Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Vincent Basilica. Interment was in St. Vincent Cemetery.

Sophie Pipak

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Members of the Fasiangy Dance Party. L-R are Joseph Jurasi, Rev. Martin Svitan, Maria Jurasi, Jozef Korcak, Anna Korcak, Rev. Stefan Chanas, Antonia Krajkovic, Zelmira Beckova-Kuchrovc, Anton Kucharovic, Emil Pavelek, Jozef Jurasi, and Maria Zakovic.

Rev. Stefan Chanas opens the festivities with a prayer. Looking on are Joseph and Maria Jurasi.



The Limboracik ensemble perform a Cigansky Dance.

Door prizes were given out by Jozef Jurasi, Maria Zakovic and Jan Zeman.



Scenes from the Fasiangy Party



## New York Branch 45 Hosts Fasiangy Dance Party

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 45 hosted its annual Fasiangy Dance Party on Sunday, February 22, 2009, at St. John Nepomucene Parish Social Hall in New York City. A great turnout of Jednota members and their guests from the New York metropolitan area enjoyed an afternoon which featured a wonderful lunch of traditional Slovak culinary specialties. Music for dancing and listening was provided by the popular Joseph Jurasi Orchestra- Kontakty. In addition, after the prayers recited by Father Stefan Chanas, children from the Slovak School in Bohemian Hall-Astoria, Queens, performed four folklore dances. The children's group, known as Limboracik, was directed by former Limbora members Janette and Martina.

I wish to thank all the members and guests of the St. Matthew Society who assisted in making this year's pre-Lenten celebration a huge success. We hope to see all our members and friends at our next celebration.

Joseph Jurasi



Officers of the St. Clement Society, Branch 40. L-R are National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Richard Manzella, Esq., Vice President; Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary/Treasurer; Timothy Graves, Recording Secretary; Msgr. Thomas Badovsky, Chaplain; Richard Tutoky, Auditor; Margie Pavlick, Auditor; and Michael Pavlick, Auditor.

## Streator Branch Elects New Officers

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, held its Annual Meeting on December 14, 2008, at Chippers Grill in Streator, Illinois. A financial report and officers' reports were presented and discussions were held on future activities. Also on the agenda was the election of new officers. The following were elected to serve in 2009: William Liptak, President; Richard Manzella Esq., Vice President; Timothy Graves, Recording Secretary; Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary/Treasurer; Margie Pavlick, Richard Tutoky, and Michael Pavlick, Auditors; and Msgr. Thomas Badovsky, Chaplain.

We wish all the new officers much success in 2009.



## St. Valentine's Dinner Dance in Windsor, Ontario

The annual St. Valentine's Day Dinner-Dance, sponsored by the Windsor Slovak Rozmarin Dancers was held February 14, 2009, in the St. Cyril Slovak Center. For many years, this event has attracted guests from both the Windsor and Detroit Slovak communities. The St. Valentine theme of "Hearts and Flowers" was nicely displayed at the event.

Officers of Jednota Branch 789 were present to personally thank the Rozmarin Dancers for their efforts during the past 30 years to promote Slovak folklore not only in the local community but also in cities across Canada, United States and Slovakia. Youngsters of Slovak origin from age 4 through 14 have been encouraged by their parents and grandparents to participate in a tradition which manifests an important segment of Slovak culture.

Branch 789 has been a benefactor of the Windsor Slovak Rozmarin Dancers for many years. At this year's St. Valentine's Dinner Dance, officers of Branch 789 made another donation to show their Slovak and fraternal gratitude.

Hopefully, this article will inspire all parents of Slovak extraction in Canada and the United States to enroll their children and grandchildren into Slovak folklore groups in their area. The work of these young people not only honors Slovak heritage of our forefathers but also adds to the mosaic of the multi-cultural nations in which we live.

Congratulations to the Windsor Slovak Rozmarin Dancers!

Mary Boldizar Jacko, President, Br. 789



Mary Boldizar Jacko (right) presents a donation to Vera Potocek, President of the Slovak Rozmarin Dancers



## Kraslice: Slovak Colored Eggs

By Dr. Edward A. Tuleya

Easter is the most important holy season. The beautifully decorated Slovak eggs, "kraslice" (called "pisanky" in eastern Slovakia) are synonymous with the observance of Easter.

Even before Christianity, the egg symbolized life; and the painting of eggs expressed what was a joyful event, a reawakening, the coming of spring. Since then spring has continued to be a joyous time in the Christian community, a reawakening of life with the Resurrection of Christ.

Decorations on the egg may be either scratched, painted, etched with acid, or the egg may be given a distinctive color. When the scratching technique is employed, the egg, covered with a wax or lacquer is scratched using a stylus, or a sharp razor point, to create geometric designs, plants, animals, flowers, or a crucifix. Some prefer to use a fine paint brush dipped in natural dyes to decorate their eggs.

Some eggs are pierced at each end with a pin and the contents are blown out, making the egg as fragile as a piece of fine porcelain, but long lasting if given proper care.

In the later 1940s, I met a Slovak man coming from the village of Gerlach on his way to the Tatra hotels where he hoped to sell his basketful of colorful "kraslice" to the rich tourists. His hands were stained up to his wrists, indicating his use of natural dyes. The beautiful eggs marked him as a master of his craft.

Among the highlanders or "horniaci," there is a greater variety of exciting and emotional designs on the eggs than found among the people living among the low lands (geometric designs and circular motifs). It could be an expression of their joy for having made it through the harsh winters and where the soil is poor in contrast to the people living in the fertile low lands. With the "kraslice" we see the greatest variety of harmonious ornamentation that can be found only in Slovak national costumes.

### Publication Schedule for 2009

Issue Date	Deadline
January 7	December 23,
January 21	January 12
February 4	January 26
February 18	February 9
March 4	February 23
March 18	March 9
April 1	March 23
April 29	April 20
May 13	May 4
May 27	May 18
June 10	June 1
July 8	June 29
August 5	July 27
September 2	August 24
September 16	September 7
September 30	September 21
October 14	October 5
October 28	October 19
November 11	November 2
November 25	November 16
December 9	November 30

There will be no issues on: April 15, June 24, July 22, August 19, and December 23

## OUR FAVORITE EASTER RECIPES

### Easter Breads

**Basic Sweet Dough**  
2 1/3-3 cups flour divided  
1/3 cup sugar  
1 package active dry yeast  
3/4 teaspoon salt  
1/3 cup each milk and water  
1/4 cup butter, cut in chunks  
1 egg at room temperature

In a large mixer bowl mix well 1 cup flour, sugar, yeast and salt; set aside. Heat milk water and butter until liquids are very warm (120-130); butter need not melt. Gradually beat into flour mixture. Beat at medium speed 2 minutes, scraping bowl occasionally. Add egg and 2 cups flour. (add special spices, fruits and nuts at this point). Beat at high speed, scraping bowl occasionally, 2 minutes or until dough is thick and smooth. Stir in enough remaining flour to make a soft dough. Turn out on lightly floured surface. Knead 5 to 8 minutes or until dough is smooth and elastic. Shape in smooth ball; place in greased bowl; turn to grease top.

Cover; let rise in warm, draft-free place 1 to 1 1/4 hours or until doubled. Punch down, knead lightly; cover; let rest 5 to 10 minutes. Shape as desired on baking sheet. Cover; let rise until doubled. Bake in preheated 350 oven about 15 minutes for small breads (12 per piece dough) or about 35 minutes per single loaf. Makes 12 servings.

### Apricot Bread

3 cups sifted all-purpose flour  
4 tablespoons baking flour  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/3 cup white sugar  
1/4 cup butter  
1 cup (8 oz.) very finely chopped dried apricots  
2 eggs  
1 cup milk  
1 teaspoon grated lemon rind

Sift together flour, baking powder, salt and sugar. Cut in butter until mixture is fine. Stir in apricots. Beat together eggs, milk and lemon rind until just blended. Add to dry ingredients. Stir until well mixed. Pour into greased and floured loaf pan. Makes 1 large or 2 small. Bake in 350 oven for 1 hour or until tests done. Turn out on rack. Best when sliced and served on day after baking.

### Slovak Fanky (Cheregi)

4 egg yolks  
1 whole egg  
4 tablespoons sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
Pinch of salt  
Flour

Beat egg yolks until creamy. Add whole egg and beat again adding sugar and salt. Add enough flour to make a sticky dough. (A tablespoon of rich cream may be added). Roll out very thin; cut in diamond shape. Make a slit in the center of each.

Fry in hot oil until brown, turning immediately after being placed in oil. Do not over fry. Drain on paper toweling. Dust with powdered sugar. Note: Adding too much flour will take away the crispness.

### Paska (Easter Bread)

1/2 cup butter  
1 cup scalded milk  
1 tablespoon salt  
3/4 cup sugar  
1 cake yeast (large)  
4 eggs, well beaten  
5 cups flour (approx.)  
1/2 cup seedless raisins (color optional)

Add shortening to hot milk, then salt and sugar. Dissolve and cool to lukewarm. Add crumbled yeast; stir in eggs; add flour and raisins, and knead well (about 20 minutes) until smooth and elastic. Dough should be lighter than for bread. Let rise until double in bulk. Punch down and let rise again. After it has risen for the second time, put dough on board and let rest for 10 minutes. Form into round loaf to fit a 2 quart greased casserole or pan. Let rise for about 45 minutes, or until double in size. Top can be decorated with a

cross made of strips of dough, braided and each end of braid pressed firmly into dough. Bake about 45 minutes at 350.

### Babka (Easter Coffee Cake)

1 tablespoon dry yeast  
1/4 cup warm water (105-115)  
1 stick unsalted butter, melted  
1/2 cup sugar  
4 egg yolks  
3 1/2 to 4 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 teaspoon rum  
3/4 cup warm milk (105-115)  
Fine dry bread crumbs  
Confectioner's sugar

Dissolve yeast in warm water. Set aside for 5 minutes. Cream butter and sugar in mixing bowl. Add egg yolks, 1 1/2 cups flour, and mix thoroughly. Add yeast mixture, salt, vanilla, and rum. Add milk and enough remaining flour to form a soft dough. Knead on lightly floured surface until smooth- about 10 minutes. Place dough in greased bowl, turning to coat top. Cover, let rise in warm place until double, about 1 hour.

Punch down dough. Generously grease 10 inch bundt pan. Lightly coat pan with bread crumbs. Put dough into prepared pan. Cover, let rise in a warm place until double, about 45 minutes. Bake in a preheated 350 oven 45 minutes or until done. Cool in pan on wire rack 10 minutes. Then remove from pan. Cool on rack. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar before serving.

### Nut or Poppy Seed Roll

6 cups flour  
1 cup shortening  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 large can evaporated milk  
3 egg yolks  
1 tablespoon vanilla  
1 cake yeast  
1/4 cup lukewarm water

#### Nut Filling:

1 pound walnuts, ground  
1/4 cup milk  
2 tablespoons butter, melted  
1 cup sugar

#### Poppy Seed Filling:

1 pound poppy seed, ground  
1 cup sugar  
Juice of 1/4 lemon or 1 tablespoon  
lemon extract

3 tablespoons shortening  
1 cup milk

Mix flour, shortening, salt and sugar as for pie crust. Combine milk, egg yolks and vanilla and add to first mixture. Add also the yeast which has been dissolved in warm water. Work together a few minutes until dough forms into a ball. Set aside for 2 1/2 hours to rise. Divide dough into four pieces and roll out on slightly floured board. The dough should be about 1/4 inch thick. Spread with desired filling and roll. Bake immediately at 350 for 50 minutes.

Filling: Combine all ingredients for nut filling. For poppy seed filling, combine ingredients and cook for 5 minutes.

### Roshky

6 cups flour 1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 1/2 cups sugar  
1 pound shortening  
1/2 pound butter  
1/2 pint sour cream  
1 yeast cake  
6 eggs beaten

#### Filling

1 pound nuts, ground  
3 small apples, grated  
1 cup sugar  
3 egg whites, stiffly beaten  
1 teaspoon vanilla

Sift flour, salt and sugar. Cut in shortening. Add sour cream and eggs. Soften yeast in a little cream and add to first mixture. Put in refrigerator over-night. Divide dough into 4 parts. Roll out 1/4 inch thick, cut in 2-inch squares. Place 1 teaspoon filling on each square, roll and shape into crescents. Bake 12 to 15 minutes at 400.

## Hymnus Vzkriesenému

Nech z výšin neba radosť znie,  
nech jasá more, plesá zem:  
Ukrižovaný z mŕtvych vstal  
a smrteľníkom život dal.

Vracia sa milostivý čas,  
deň spásy zjavuje sa zas;  
v ňom Baránkovou krvou svet  
obmytý skvie sa ako kvet.

Tá smrť, tá láska zranená  
vín odpustenie znamená;  
zmučený silu nestratil  
a premožený zvíťazil.

V tom máme nádej; veríme,  
že s Kristom k sláve prideme,  
aj my budeme vzkriesení  
a vlastniť život blažený.

A preto všetci, čo sme tu,  
obetu čistú, presvätú  
nábožne slávme, slávnostne,  
veď všetko dobro plynie z nej.

Ježišu, ty buď naveky  
nám veľkonočnou radosťou,  
pridruž nás k svojmu víťazstvu  
znovuzrodených milosťou.

Tebe buď sláva, Ježišu,  
ktorý si slávne z mŕtvych vstal;  
Otcovi, Duchu Svätému  
nech večne zuní pieseň chvál.

(Z Liturgie hodín Veľkej noci)

## Výzva na akvizíciu

Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí sa opätovne obracia na krajanské spolky, organizácie, slovenské farnosti, dokumentačné strediská, redakcie i na jednotlivcov s výzvou na ďalšiu spoluprácu pri záchrane dokumentov, archíválií a písomností spolkov, zbierok a písomných pozostalostí osobností Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí. Pokiaľ máte informácie o písomnostiach, ktorých vlastníci ich z rôznych príčin nemôžu ďalej zhromažďovať a odborné spracovávať, formou daru alebo kúpy by sme ich radi získali na Slovensko. V prípade Vašej ponuky budeme s Vami konzultovať ďalšie záležitosti súvisiace s akvizíciou a usmerníme Vás, ktorej inštitúcii na Slovensku by bolo vhodné (podľa obsahu) dokumentačné materiály ponúknuť, aby bola zabezpečená ich ochrana a po odbornom spracovaní využitie na študijné a publikačné účely.

Sme presvedčení, že naša výzva nájde odozvu u našich krajanov, ktorí vedia oceniť toto vzácne hmotné kultúrne dedičstvo a prispievajú k tomu, aby sa nevytratilo z pamäti národa.

Kontaktná adresa: Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, Radlinského 13, 817 80 Bratislava 15, Slovenská republika. Tel.: 00 421 2/57 20 05 11; Fax: 00 421 2/57 20 05 55; E-mail: [uszz@uszz.gov.sk](mailto:uszz@uszz.gov.sk)



## Slávnostný večer na počesť kardinála Jozefa Tomka

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Organizátori večera pripravili jubilantovi netradičný darček v podobe prednášky historika profesora Richarda Marsinu z Trnavskej univerzity, ktorý sa zamerával na tému Cyrilo-metodská misia v slovenských dejinách. Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič v príhovore poďakoval kardinálovi Tomkovi za všetko, čo urobil pre Slovensko aj počas svojich početných misijných ciest. Pripomenul jeho návštevy na Slovensku i jeho pamätné vystúpenie v NR SR v roku 1991 a zaželal mu veľa zdravia a síl do ďalších rokov. Kardinálovi Tomkovi zablahoževal aj primátor Bratislavy Andrej Ďurkovský, ktorý mu odovzdal striebornú mincu, pripomínajúcu výročie prvej písomnej zmienky o Bratislave. Bratislavský arcibiskup Stanislav Zvolenský v mene bratislavskej arcidiecézy zablahoževal jubilantovi a odovzdal mu ikonu svätých Cyrila a Metoda.

Na záver slávnosti kardinál Tomko poďakoval všetkým za blahoželania, slová uznania a darčeky. Podelil sa s prítomnými o niektoré zážitky zo svojho života a z početných misijných ciest po svete. Slávnostnú atmosféru večera umocnilo účinkovanie členov komorného zboru Konzervatória v Bratislave pod vedením dirigenta Dušana Billa.

## Veľká noc - najvýznamnejší kresťanský sviatok

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

lobodení z Egypta previedol Boh ľud na čele s Mojžišom cez Červené more, ktoré rozdelil a vysušil. Tu niektorí hľadajú pôvod tradičného židovského názvu pre Veľkú noc: pásach – prechod. Iní slovo pásach vysvetľujú ako obídenie, vyhnutie sa, a vzťahujú ho na anjela smrti, ktorý obchádzal domy potreté krvou. Obídenie aj prechod predstavujú veľké Božie skutky, ktoré urobil počas jednej noci pre svoj ľud, a preto každú spomienku na tento deň Izraeliti nazvali Veľkou nocou.

Symbolika prechodu z otroctva do slobody sa preniesla aj do kresťanstva ako prechod z hriechu do života v Božej milosti, ktorý zabezpečil Ježiš Kristus svojou smrťou a zmŕtvychvstaním. Udalosti spojené s jeho ukrižovaním a vzkriesením sa odohrali práve počas pásachu, a preto sa židovská Veľká noc kryje aj časovo. Nie však úplne, v prvokresťanských spoločenstvách existovali nezhody o dátume slávenia. Niektoré prvokresťanské spoločenstvá tento sviatok slávil spolu so Židmi 14. deň mesiaca nisan, iné na prvú nedeľu po 14. nisan. Zo spisov cirkevneho otca sv. Ambróza sa dozvedáme, že Cirkev sa na tom nedokázala dohodnúť. Spor sa snažil riešiť už v polovici 2. storočia pápež Anicent a neskôr pápež Viktor II., ale ukončil ho až prvý Nicejský snem v roku 325, ktorý nariadil, že Veľká noc sa má sláviť v nedeľu po prvom jarnom splne mesiaca, čo môže pripadnúť na jednu z nedeľ od 22. marca do 25. apríla. Podľa týchto pravidiel sa určuje termín Veľkej noci dodnes. Termín sviatkov Veľkej noci je teda pohyblivý a je závislý od lunárneho cyklu.

Medzitým v roku 525 požiadal pápež Ján I. mních Dionýza Exigua o radu v tejto záležitosti. Ten vytvoril tabuľku slávenia Veľkej noci pre nasledujúce desaťročia. Jej prijatím bol „veľkonočný spor“ ukončený. Až do reformy kalendára pápežom Gregorom v roku 1582 existoval jeden termín Veľkej noci pre celú Cirkev. Keďže východná cirkev reformu kalendára neprijala, slávi Veľkú noc odvtedy spoločne s katolíkmi a evanjelikmi len občas. V modernej dobe už boli viaceré pokusy stanoviť Veľkonočnú nedeľu na jednu konkrétnu nedeľu. V roku 1897 sa v tejto veci obrátili na pápeža astronómia, v roku 1931 aj Spoločenstvo národov. Druhý vatikánsky koncil sa tiež zaoberal záležitosťou. Vo vyhlásení z roku 1963 sa ohlasuje ochota stanoviť Veľkú noc na určitú nedeľu v gregoriánskom kalendári – ak s tým budú súhlasiť všetci, aj oddelené východné cirkvi. Pápež Pavol VI. sa potom chopil iniciatívy a navrhol od roku 1977 – keď sa všetky termíny Veľkej noci časovo zhodovali – stanoviť Veľkú noc na druhú nedeľu v mesiaci apríl. Takmer všetky biskupské konferencie s tým súhlasili, za predpokladu súhlasu východných cirkví. Ekumenický patriarchát v Carihrade však signalizoval „závažný pastoračný problém“, ktorý treba dlhšiu dobu skúmať. Definitívne „nie“ prišlo v roku 1982 od kláštorného spoločenstva na vrchu Athos. Naposledy sa táto otázka vynorila pri veľkom miléniovom stretnutí všetkých hláv pravoslávnych cirkví v decembri 2000 v Carihrade.

Vo Veľkom týždni Rímskokatolícka cirkev slávi tajomstvá spásy, ktoré uskutočnil Kristus v posledných dňoch svojho života. Veľký týždeň sa začína Kvetnou nedeľou, čiže Nedeľou utrpenia Pána, v ktorej sa spája predzvesť kráľovského triumfu Ježiša Krista so zvesťou o jeho umučení. Večernou omšou na pamiatku Pánovej večere sa začína Veľkonočné trojdnie, ktoré pokračuje cez Veľký piatok utrpenia a smrti Pána a cez Bielu sobotu, vrcholí Veľkonočnou vigíliou a uzatvára sa večerami Nedele Pánovho zmŕtvychvstania.

Obrady Veľkého týždňa, ktorých začiatky siahajú 4. storočia, prešli v nasledujúcich storočiach mnohými zmenami. Naposledy boli zjednodušené a liturgicky prispôbené súčasným požiadavkám v r. 1951 a 1969.

TK KBS



## Porada honorárnych konzulov SR v USA

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

vo Washingtone bola aj príprava viacerých kultúrno-spoločenských podujatí s dôrazom na dôstojné pripomenutie si 20. výročia Nežnej revolúcie na jeseň tohto roku. Zdôraznená bola aj dôležitosť spolupráce honorárnych konzulátov s krajan-skými organizáciami a spolkami, vrátane užšej interakcie s neziskovým združením Friends of Slovakia pôsobiacim vo Washingtone.

V nadväznosti na nedávne uvoľnenie vízovej povinnosti pre občanov SR pri turistických cestách do USA riaditeľ pre bezvízový program amerického Ministerstva pre vnútornú bezpečnosť Marc Frey predstavil honorárnym konzulom fungovanie programu elektronickej predcestovnej autorizácie (ESTA) v praxi a odpovedal na mnohé otázky spojené s bezvízovým cestovaním občanov SR do USA.

**Tlačový a komunikačný odbor Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR**

# Veľkonočná

Od korbáča kus koláča  
od koláča krasličku  
za parfúmu flaštičku  
chlapcom dajú hubičku  
krásne panny sťa malinky  
spievajúce ako pinky.

A potom do tretice  
domácej slivovice  
flašu a či holbu piva  
lejú mladým od Trenčína  
vyšibané dievčiny  
z mesta krásy Žiliny.

A v Šariši o závody  
hádzú dievčatá do vody  
zmočia sukňu aj rubáš  
potom pijú oldomáš.

Mladuchy zas džbány vína  
by nebolo mužom zima  
aj zbojnícku z barana  
s požehnaním farára  
pijú – jedia do rána.

Babky dedkom pripaľujú  
páleného vareného  
na kozube pri peci  
kde hus gága vo vreci.

Potom skončí oblievačka  
aj preveselá šibačka  
na ktorú sa tešil Ferko  
(vyšibal si snubné pierko)  
jeho mama – babička  
aj snúbenka Anička.

Také majú doma zvyky  
za brehami Ameriky  
radosť z Veľkej noci – dní  
o ne sme tu v Amerike ukrátení.

Jožo Lúčan Hajnušovský

## Pozvánka

*na výstavu slovenského hudobného skladateľa Eugena Suchoňa z príležitosti stého výročia jeho nedožitých narodenín. Výstava zahŕňa jeho život a jeho tvorbu.*

Podujatie organizuje vnuk E. Suchoňa Richard Stilicha za spolupráce: The Society of Arts and Sciences, New York, Slovak American Cultural Center, New York, Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association, Consulate General of the Slovak Republic, New York, Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the UN and Slovak House Foundation, Toronto.

Výstava sa uskutoční v piatok 17. apríla 2009 o 7:00 hodine večer v Bohemian National Hall 321 Východná 73. ulica tretie poschodie v New Yorku. Program výstavy spestria: koncertná klaviristka Kristina Kiss a spevák Radoslav Lesay. Vstup na túto exhibíciu E. Suchoňa je voľný. Po programe bude menšie osvieženie. Kto sa nemôže zúčastniť výstavy 17. apríla 2009, môže si výstavu prehliadnúť do 28. apríla; pondelok – piatok: 12:00 – 5:00 hod. po obede. Vstup voľný. Výstava bude prevedená vo viacerých mestách v Amerike a v Kanade.

Eugen Suchoň sa narodil 25. septembra 1908 v Pezinku na Slovensku. Napísal operu Krútnava v 6. obrazoch. Doteraz je to najznámejšie dielo slovenského hudobného skladateľa E. Suchoňa. Vznikla v rokoch 1941 – 1949. K prvému prevedeniu došlo v decembri 1949 v Národnom divadle v Bratislave.

Opera Krútnava mala už na premiére mimoriadny úspech. V rokoch 1949 -1961 došlo v samotnej Bratislave k vyše 150 reprízam a dielo bolo s veľkým úspechom predvedené na deviatich operných scénach v Česko – Slovensku, Rakúsku, Maďarsku, Rumunsku, Poľsku, Rusku. Vďaka nebohému predsedovi Svetového kongresu Slovákov, Štefanovi Romanovi, Krútnava mala úspech aj v Amerike v meste Lansing, Michigan. Za operu Krútnava získal skladateľ Eugen Suchoň štátnu cenu I. stupňa.

Rudo L. Greguš



## Americkí veriaci podporujú aj Slovensko

Časť výťažku zbierky, ktorú nedávno zorganizovali v USA z iniciatívy Konferencie biskupov USA na podporu Cirkvi v strednej a východnej Európe, poputuje aj na Slovensko. Zbierky sa konajú pravidelne od roku 1990. Americkí veriaci nimi vydávajú svedectvo spolupatričnosti s univerzálnou Cirkvou. Peniazmi sa podporujú konkrétne projekty, ktoré posudzuje zodpovedná komisia Konferencie biskupov USA. Na Slovensku sa podľa slov tajomníka KBS Cyrila Jančíšina peniaze využívajú na pastoračné účely, obnovu kňazských seminárov, kostolov, sociálnych a pastoračných centier, na kúpu informačno-technologického vybavenia a na podporu štipendií.

–TK KBS–



Na snímke hlavní usporiadatelia Krížovej cesty. V prvom rade zľava: Joseph Kowatch, Anna Hudock, Magdalen Benish, Rev. John Albosta, Bernadette Yencha, Elaine Palischak, Anna Biroš. V druhom rade zľava: Michael Drevitch, Betty Pirnick, Philip Tuhy, Catherine Makuch, Anthony Palischak, Mary Chupka a Jozef Biroš.

## Pobožnosť Krížovej cesty vo Wilkes-Barre, Pa

Spolok slovenského dedičstva v Pensylvánii usporiadal v nedeľu 15. marca 2009 v kostole Božského srdca Ježišovho vo Wilkes-Barre, PA pobožnosť Krížovej cesty. Zúčastnilo sa jej približne 200 ľudí. Na tento kostol sa viaže historická udalosť, ktorá preslávila nielen Slovensko, ale aj Spojené štáty americké. Slovensko tým, že kňaz, vynálezca bezdrôtovej telegrafie, otec Murgaš, rodák z Tajova, osobne namaloval obrazy v tomto kostole a všetky svoje prostriedky venoval na jeho výstavbu, aby mohol slúžiť na oslavu Boha. Každého z nás viaže k nejakému chrámu aj niečo osobné. Unás to bolo uzavretie manželstva s Jozefom v kostole Božského Srdca Ježišovho. Z tohto dôvodu nás zarmucuje ako aj ostatných farníkov myšlienka na jeho zánik. Koľkú ťažkú obeť a námahu museli vynaložiť naši slovenskí predkovia na výstavbu tohto diela a dnes ako ľahko ho dokážeme zničiť? Biskup Scrantonskej diecézy vo východnej Pensylvánii Joseph Martino vo svojom vyhlásení vyslovil ľútosť nad danou okolnosťou, ktorá sa dotýka bolestne mnohých farníkov. Svoj krok odôvodňoval hospodárskymi argumentami a znižujúcim sa počtom farníkov. Mnoho účastníkov pravdepodobne prišlo do kostola na túto pobožnosť Krížovej cesty s podobnými pocitmi možno poslednýkrát, ale sa nevzdávajú myšlienky na jeho záchranu. Na záver je hodno vysloviť vďaka Spolku slovenského dedičstva, ktorý je každoročne organizátorom podujatia.

Anna a Jozef Biroš

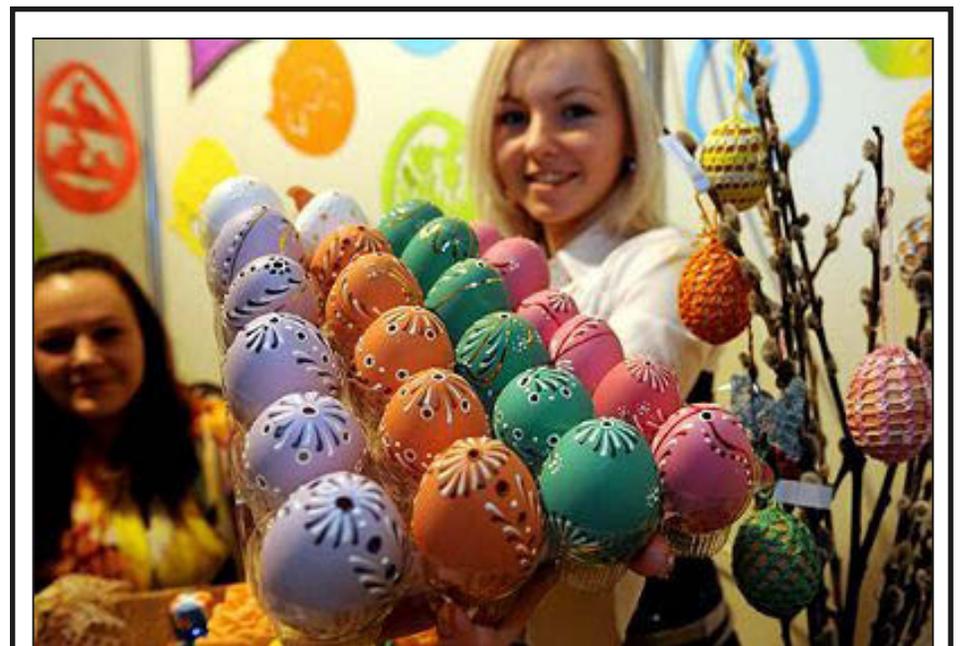


FOTO TASR - František Iván

Na 14. ročníku Veľtrhov študentských spoločností v Košiciach 24. marca 2009 si zmeralo sily 150 stredoškolských študentov z 28 stredných škôl rôzneho typu a zamerania z celého Slovenska. Podujatie zorganizovala vzdelávacia nezisková organizácia Junior Achievement Slovensko a je vyvrcholením práce študentských spoločností v rámci vzdelávacieho programu Aplikovaná ekonómia. Pre študentov je to jedinečná možnosť prezentovať výsledky svojej niekoľkomesačnej práce, doterajšiu podnikateľskú činnosť, výrobky, poskytované služby, prístupy k riadeniu firmy, zvolené marketingové stratégie aj finančné hospodárenie. Na snímke študentka Strednej odbornej školy v Trebišove prezentuje veľkonočné vajčka.

## Úspešný Slovenský ples v New Yorku

V sobotu 21. februára sa konal v New York Athletic Club v New York City 17. ples Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska (SAKS). Slovenský ples bol aj tohto roku významnou spoločenskou udalosťou v najväčšom meste Ameriky. Uskutočnil sa posledný fašiangový víkend, čo pridalo k veselej nálade.

Ples sa začal bohatou recepciou o 6:00 hodine večer, na ktorej sa znova stretli a mali si možnosť pohovoriť Slováci z New Yorku a susediacich štátov New Jersey a Connecticut. Niekoľko hostí prišlo aj zo vzdialenejších štátov.

O 7:00 hodine nasledovala večera, počas ktorej hrala hudobná skupina Mareka Šoltisa. Pred večerou privítala prítomných predsedníčka SAKS Bernharda Fabrici. Ples bol oficiálne otvorený tradičným valčíkom a tanečná plocha bola čoskoro zaplnená.

V ďalšom programe boli predstavení viacerí prominentní hostia, medzi ktorými bol veľvyslanec SR vo Washingtone Peter Burian s manželkou Ninou, podpredseda SDKÚ a exminister zahraničných vecí SR Eduard Kukan s manželkou Zdenkou, gen. tajomníčka Slovenskej ligy Nina Holá a jej manžel, člen Výkonného výboru SLvA Ján Holý, rozhlavosový hlásateľ Greg Whiteside a honorárny konzul SR pre Pensylvániu Jozef T. Senko.

Predsedníčka SAKS Bernharda Fabrici predniesla krátke ocenenie celoživotnej práce Jozefa T. Senku, ktorý dnes patrí medzi najvýznamnejších aktivistov v slovenskej Amerike. Odovzdala mu pamätný dekrét a pamiatkový darček.

Vo svojom príhovore Jozef Senko ocenil prácu slovenských združení, akým je SAKS a hovoril o potrebe zintenzívniť prácu za udržanie slovenského národného povedomia v Amerike, k čomu prispievajú aj turistické a iné výpravy na Slovensko, aké organizuje už mnoho rokov on a iné skupiny.

Program večera úspešne konferovali Sabína Sabadošová a Matúš Čulen. Bol to ďalší úspešný reprezentačný slovenský ples v New Yorku. Za jeho usporiadanie si Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko zaslúži vďaka a pochvalu od slovenskej verejnosti.

SKS



Zľava predsedníčka SAKS, Bernharda Fabrici počas odovzdávania ocenenia Jozefovi Senkovi za jeho všestrannú národnú činnosť.

## Veľkonočná hrudka

### Recept

Podľa obyčaje z veľkonočných požehnaných jedál musí ochutnať každý člen domácnosti. Jedlá sa pripravujú niekoľko hodín (vajčička uvarené natvrdo) či dni (údené mäso a klobása) pred požehnaním. Pokiaľ ide o hrudku – syrek, musí sa robiť takisto s predstihom. Niektorí majú rád hrudku na sladko, iní na slano, ďalší s hrozičkami. Základná masa pozostáva z litra mlieka, 10 – 15 vajec (pravdaže, každý si môže veľkosť hrudky a množstvo spotrebovaných surovín ľubovoľne upraviť), pridá sa cukor a štipka soli (tiež podľa chuti). Všetko spolu rozmiešame a varíme na miernom ohni až do zhutnutia. Hustú kašovitú masu vylejeme do vopred pripravenej gázy alebo čistej kuchynskej utierky. Vyformujeme hrudku. Gázu zviažeme nad hrudkou špagátom. Zavesíme na suché a chladné miesto a necháme stuhnúť. Pod chladnú hrudku treba podložiť hrniec, prípadne inú nádobu na odkvapkávajúcu srvátku. Asi po ôsmich až dvanástich hodinách odstránime z hrudky gázu a hotové jedlo položíme na tanier alebo do misy, aby sme nepoškodili pekný guľovitý (vajcovitý) tvar.



## Jarná zábava v Linden New Jersey

Slovenské kultúrne stredisko usporiada tanečnú zábavu v sobotu dňa 18. apríla 2009 v Msgr. Komar Hall 2806 Parkway Ave, (Tremley Point) v Linden, New Jersey. Večera sa bude podávať od 8:00 do 9:00 hodine večer. Prosíme návštevníkov, aby prišli na toto podujatie načas. Vstupné za osobu je \$25.00 spolu s večerou. O bar bude tiež postarané. Pozývame slovenskú verejnosť a všetkých priaznivcov dobrej hudby aby sa prišli medzi nás zabaviť. Do tanca a na počúvanie bude hrať hudobná skupina „Kontakty“. O rezervácie a zakúpenie lístkov volajte na tieto telefónne čísla: Ján Dračulin – (908) 541-0372; Mary Karch – (732) 572-2331.

Za Slovenské kultúrne stredisko

Mary Karch



FOTO TASR – Tomáš Halász

Prezidentskí protikandidáti, úradujúci prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič (vpravo) a poslankyňa Iveta Radičová (vľavo), sa stretli 22. marca 2009 po zverejnení výsledkov prvého kola volieb v diskusnej relácii Slovenskej televízie „O 5 minút 12“ v Bratislave.

## Výsledky prvého kola prezidentských volieb 2009

Do druhého kola prezidentských volieb postupuje Ivan Gašparovič so ziskom 876,061 hlasov, čo predstavuje 46.7 percenta a Iveta Radičová, ktorú podporilo 713,735 voličov, čo je 38.05 percenta. Volebná účasť dosiahla 43.63 percent. Platných hlasovacích lístkov bolo 1,875,629. Vyplýva to z oficiálnych výsledkov, ktoré 21. marca 2009 v Bratislava zverejnila Ústredná volebná komisia. Na nepostupových priečkach skončili František Mikloško, ktorý získal 101,573 hlasov (5.41 percenta), Zuzane Martinákovéj odovzdalo svoj hlas 96,035 ľudí (5.12 percenta), Milana Melníka volilo 45,985 občanov (2.45 percenta). Dagmara Bollová si získala priazeň 21,378 voličov (1.13 percenta) a za Milana Sidora hlasovalo 20,862 ľudí (1.11 percenta). V prvom kole nebol za prezidenta zvolený žiadny kandidát, pretože ani jeden z uchádzačov o najvyššiu ústavnú funkciu nezískal nadpolovičnú väčšinu hlasov zúčastnených voličov. Druhé kolo voľby hlavy štátu sa uskutoční 4. apríla, víťazom sa stane kandidát s vyšším počtom hlasov. V prvom kole volieb bolo v zoznamoch zapísaných 4,339,331 oprávnených voličov.

TASR

## Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

### Členská schôdza Okresu

#### Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princa Pribinu bude mať svoju členskú schôdzu na Kvetnú nedeľu 5. apríla 2009. Oslava začne slovenskou svätou omšou o 11:00 hodine doobeda v kaplnke sv. Jána Boscu pri St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, CA 90706. Po svätej omši sa bude podávať chutný obed so zákuskom a občerstvením. Deti sa už tradične budú zabávať hľadaním veľkonočných vajčiek.

Členská schôdza bude pokračovať v jedálni. Na programe je plán činnosti a informácie o poistení cestou Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty. Na toto posedenie srdečne pozývame všetky spolky v okolí.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda

### Členská schôdza spolku

#### sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že členská schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New Yorku sa uskutoční v nedeľu 19. apríla 2009 po slovenskej svätej omši o 12:30 hodine popoludní v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskaivo žiadame našich členov, aby sa tejto schôdze zúčastnili v hojnom počte.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

### Polročná členská schôdza Okresu

#### Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že polročná členská schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu, Spolok č. 16 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 7. júna 2009 o 1:00 odpoľudnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola Najsvätejšej Trojici v Yonkers, N.Y.

Prosíme predsedov všetkých spolkov, ktoré patria do nášho Okresu, aby láskavo poslali čo najviac delegátov. Upozorňujeme, že aj nedelegáti sú vítaní.

Program schôdzy bude zameraný na prípravu plánu činnosti na budúce obdobie a taktiež finančná správa. Po schôdzy sa bude podávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripravia členovia Spolku č. 41 v Yonkers, N.Y.

Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta Daitová, tajomníčka

# Veľká noc na slovenskej dedine pred sto rokmi

Veľkonočné sviatky sú spojené s mnohými zvykmi a tradíciami. Mnohé z nich vychádzali z povier a prirodzenej symboliky a takými zostali. Iné sa preniesli do kresťanskej tradície a v procese inkulturácie sa stali súčasťou náboženských obrádov. Na otázky o zvykoch a tradíciách na slovenskej dedine pred sto rokmi odpovedá Katarína Nádaska, z Katedry etnológie a kultúrnej antropológie Filozofickej fakulty Univerzity Komenského.

**Ktoré zvyky boli späté s Kvetnou nedeľou a požehnávaním bahniatok?**

Keďže bahniatka boli požehnané, stali sa sväteninou a ľudia verili, že ochránia celý príbytok pred zlými duchmi, bleskom a podobne. Požehnané vetvičky bahniatok sa zvykli zapichnúť aj do poľa, aby bolo chránené. Púčiky bahniatok sa aj jedli — ide o zvyk z konca 19. storočia. Požehnané bahniatka sa zapili vodou — mali pôsobiť ako ochrana proti chorobám hrdla, zimnici, prípadne sa nimi potierali oči, ktoré mali chrániť pred chorobami zraku. Tým, že bahniatko bolo sväteninou, zaobchádzalo sa s ním s patričnou úctou. Požehnané bahniatka sa nikdy nevyhadzovali, mohli sa iba spáliť.

**Dnes sú rapkáče namiesto zvonov už vzácnosťou. S čím súvisela táto obychaj?**

S Veľkým, respektíve Svätým týždňom, keď sa zväzovali zvonov. V kostoloch utíchla organová hudba. Namiesto hlaholu zvonov sa rozhrmotali rapkáče, klopačky, klepadlá. V minulosti bol na celom Slovensku, najmä na Záhorí, rozšírený zvyk, že chlapci chodievali z jedného konca dediny na druhý a rapkali, čím oznamovali začiatok posvätného ticha, ktoré trvalo až do Bielej soboty. Rapkáče symbolizovali údajne aj hluk, ktorý sprevádzal ukrižovanie Krista.

**Aké obyčaje sa dodržiavali na Zelený štvrtok?**

Veľmi rozšíreným zvykom bolo, že dievčatá sa skoro ráno pred východom slnka chodili česať pod vrbu s dlhými previsnutými konármi, aby mali bujné vlasy. Rozprávali sa pri tom riekanky ako: Vrba, vrba zelená, daj mi vlasy na dva pásy. Znakom slobodnej dievky boli totiž kedysi krásne dlhé vlasy, po svadbe už mladá žena nemohla vyjsť na ulicu prostovlasá, musela mať čepiec.

Ďalším archaickým zvykom bolo, že chlapci nasypali dievčatám do izby mravce, niekedy až do postele, nie však, aby im urobili zle, ale preto, lebo mravec symbolizoval šťastie, usilovnosť a pracovitosť. Takto malo byť aj dievča obdarené šťastím a pracovitosťou.

V tento deň sa tiež pripisovali niektorým bylínkam liečivé vlastnosti. Pred východom slnka sa zbierala medovka a plúcnik, ktoré sa na Veľký piatok pridávali do jedla aj kravám, aby nad nimi nemali moc bosorky, aby kravy dobre dojili a neochoreli.

**Čo sa sadilo v tento deň?**

Obdobie zviazaných zvonov bolo podľa zvykov vhodné na výsadbu niektorých plodín. Sadili sa hrach, bôb, mak, lebo sa verilo, že tieto plodiny sa dobre zaviažu a bude dobrá úroda.

**Prečo sa na Zelený štvrtok ľudia navzájom obdarovávali?**

V minulosti bol na Zelený štvrtok rozšírený zvyk, ktorý dnes už zanikol, posielat' si navzájom darčeky alebo drobné pôstne jedlá. Volalo sa to dary Zeleného štvrtka. Táto obychaj bola rozšírená najmä na západnom Slovensku a na hranici Slovenska s Moravou. V tento deň boli obdarovávaní aj učitelia praktickými, naturálnymi darmi, obec alebo mesto im posielalo dary vo forme pokrmov alebo jahňacinu či kozľacinu na Veľkú noc. Učitelia boli totiž v tom čase — pred sto rokmi — nemajetní, patrili medzi chudobných ľudí. Takto si vlastne prilepšili a spestrili jedálniček.

**Hloh vraj v tomto čase plače. Prečo?**

Podľa ľudového podania bola trňová koruna Ježiša Krista upletená z hlohu, preto v noci zo Zeleného štvrtka na Veľký piatok vraj počuť v prírode nariekanie hlohu, ktorý plače, že bol takto zneužitý. Hloh ako liečivá rastlina sa chodil zbierať práve počas tejto noci. Využíval sa špeciálne na liečenie epilepsie, ktorá bola v minulosti vážnou chorobou.

**Veľký piatok bol vraj plný zvykov.**

Jedným zo zvykov na tento deň bolo ešte pred východom slnka umyť sa v studenej tečúcej vode, teda v potoku. Ľuďom, ktorí nevládali prísť k potoku sami, priniesli vodu v hrnčeku, aby sa mohli aspoň symbolicky umyť. Verilo sa, že tento úkon utuží zdravie. Dievčatá to robili, aby opekneli, oči sa umývali, aby boli celý rok bez karpín. Verilo sa, že na Veľký piatok pred východom slnka má voda liečivé účinky, že sa tak zabezpečí zdravie pre celú rodinu. K vode sa privádzal aj dobytok, alebo sa domáce zvieratá aspoň poškľakali vodou. Dobytok bol totiž v minulosti pre ľudí veľmi dôležitý. Okrem toho sa tejto vode pripisovala moc, že ochráni ľudí pred kožnými chorobami, napríklad pred svrabom. Hovorili sa pri tom riekanky, napríklad: *Teč, vodička čistá, od Pána Krista, ty umývaš drevo a kamene, umy aj mňa, hriješne stvorenie.*

**Prečo sa na Veľký piatok nevykonávali ťažké roboty?**

Na Veľký piatok platil zákaz — nesmela sa hýbať zem, čiže sa nemohlo pracovať na poli. Súviselo to s úctou k umučeniu Ježiša Krista. Nesmeli sa vykonávať nijaké ťažké roboty, ani domáce práce, nezametalo sa, nesmelo sa prať. Všetky tieto príkazy a zákazy vychádzali z toho, že Veľký piatok ako deň umučenia Ježiša Krista sa považoval za sviatok, takže sa už v domácnostiach nemalo nič robiť.

Veľkému piatku sa v ľudovej viere pripisovala všeobecne veľká moc. Nesmelo sa vtedy z domu nič požičať. Ľudia si vtedy totiž veľmi často požičiavali veci — pracovné nástroje a potraviny, boli odkázaní jeden na druhého. Na Veľký piatok však panoval aj v tomto smere prísny zákaz. Verilo sa, že sa tým môže preniesť zlo do domu.

Známe sú povesti, že v noci na Veľký piatok sa zem otvára a vydáva svoje poklady, ktoré však môže nájsť iba statočný človek čistého srdca.

**Na Bielu sobotu sa už mohlo pracovať?**

Aj počas tohto dňa stále trvalo obdobie zviazaných zvonov. Kým na Veľký piatok sa nerobilo nič, na Bielu sobotu sa dopoludnie mohlo využiť na poľnohospodárske práce. Tí, čo nestihli zasieť mak, bôb a hrach, tak mohli urobiť teraz. No aj keď to bolo dovolené, ľudia väčšinou ani na Bielu sobotu nepracovali.

Ďalším obyčajom bolo, že dopoludnia ľudia nabrali za hrst' kyslej kapusty a hodili ju pod strom. Tým sa naznačovalo, že sa skončil čas jedenia kyslej kapusty, pretože kyslá kapusta bola hlavnou zložkou stravy počas celej zimy. Bol to znak toho, že čoskoro bude už aj čerstvá zelenina.

**Z akého dôvodu sa údená šunka konzumuje s chrenom?**

Chren v ľudovom ponímaní symbolizoval spomienku na horké umučenie Ježiša Krista, ktorému na kríži rímski vojaci ponúkali napiť sa zmiešanej žlče s octom.

**Pražnica vraj bola kedysi sviatočným jedlom?**

Tradičným veľkonočným jedlom sú vajička. Viaz sa k nim tradícia ako k symbolu nového života a plodnosti ešte z predkresťanského obdobia. Vajcia sa v minulosti jedli uvarené natvrdo alebo vo forme obradového jedla — ako čistá praženica alebo praženica, do ktorej sa pridávali mladé žihľavové lístky. Okrem nej bolo známe vaječné jedlo menom žolta hrudka či syrek — vajcia sa zmiešali s mliekom, táto zmes sa uvarila, vyliata na čistý kus látky, vyformovala sa do tvaru hrudky a nechala sa stuhnúť.

Ďalším z veľkonočných jedál, ktoré sa jedávalo najmä na západnom Slovensku, baba alebo stratené kura — išlo o jedlo z vaječ, údeného mäsa a žemle. Z týchto surovín sa vypracovala masa a tá sa nechala zapieť.

**Čo sa pieklo, keďže sa nepiekli zákusky tak, ako ich poznáme dnes?**

Voľakedy sa nepiekli zákusky, ale koláče, záviný plnené makom, tvarohom, orechmi. Na Záhorí a na západnom Slovensku boli známe koláče nazývané calty z piškótového cesta, podávali sa ku káve a k čaju. Zvykom bolo piecť štrúdle — čerešňové s makom, tvarohové s hrozičkami, jabĺčkami alebo s čerešňami. Piekli sa najmä v mestách.

Piekli sa aj takzvané zavináky — rožky plnené makom alebo orechmi — veľké ako dnešné makovníky, menším sa hovorilo podkovičky. Pripravovali sa aj bábovky, len sa im hovorilo baba.

Napríklad k bohato prestretému veľkonočnému stolu vo Vajnorochoch sa piekli posúchy z kysnutého cesta, navrch sa na ne naukladala slanina a údené mäso a takto pripravené posúchy sa dali zapieť.

**Prečo sa dievčatá tešili, že budú obliate a vyšibané na Veľkonočný pondelok?**

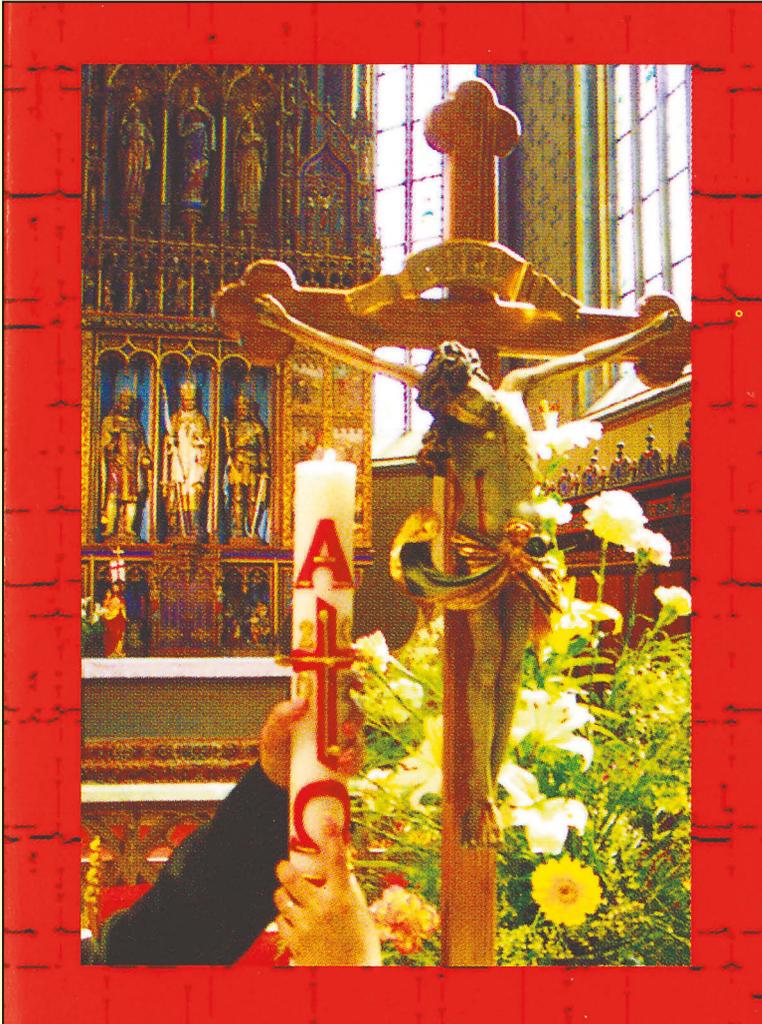
V minulosti nešlo o fyzické ublíženie, symbolika bola v tom, že šibáky boli vyrobené z čerstvého vrbového prútia a dotyk tohto prútia s pokožkou dievčaťa mal dodať dievčaťu silu, preniesť naň jar, aby bolo plné života. V minulosti dievčatá chceli byť vyšibané a obliate, lebo sa hovorilo, že ktorá nebude vyšibaná, oprašivie, chytí sa jej nejaká choroba. Súčasťou šibačky boli aj riekanky, napríklad: *Šibi ryby masné ryby, dávaj vajcia do korbáča, keď nedáš, vyšľahám ťa. Alebo: Šibem, šibem túto hlavu, aby nebolela, tento chrbát, aby dobre noše vláčil, tieto ruky, aby dávali mužovi peniaze, túto papuľku, aby nepapuľovala a tieto nohy, aby dobre bežali.* To je taká žartovná riekanka, noše sa spomínajú preto, lebo dievčatá museli robiť ťažké práce, pomáhali aj na poli. Každý mládenec mal svoju riekanku, aj si ju sám skladal. Dievčatá sa mládencom, ktorí ich chodili šibať a polievať, veľmi tešili. Bola by veľká hanba, keby nejaké dievča zostalo nepoliate alebo nevyšibané. Každá dievčina, ktorá bola vyšibaná, priviazala mládencom na korbáč stužku, takže do večera boli šibáky krásne vyzdobené. Čo sa týkalo výslužiek, peniaze a čokoládové vajička sa vtedy nedávali. Dávali sa naturálne a starším mládencom za pohárik vypiť a zajesť z koláča. Odmeny boli symbolické. V niektorých lokalitách sa dávali mládencom vajička, klobásy alebo slanina. Chlapci to však neskonzovali, na večer si v krčme alebo v obecnom dome spravili zábavu a pozvali na ňu aj dievčatá a spoločne výslužku zjedli.

Aj v súčasnosti je zvykom požehnávanie pokrmov v košíkoch. V košíkoch boli koláče, chlieb, šunka, klobásy, maslo, tvaroh, vajička, soľ. Tieto jedlá sa po požehnaní stávali sväteninou. Časť týchto jedál sa potom dala aj dobytku, napríklad soľou sa symbolicky posolil pokrm pre zvieratá, prípadne dostali kúsok chleba, aby sa im dobre darilo. Škrupiny z vaječ a odrobinky z chleba sa primiešali do osiva, ktoré sa na jar zasialo, alebo sa zoralo do prvej brázd, aby sa požehnanie prenieslo aj na zem. Požehnané jedlo sa muselo skonzoovať tak, aby z neho nič nevyšlo nazmar, jedli sa aj omrvinky, lebo keby sa tak nestalo, bola by ohrozená úroda, napríklad krupobitím. Čo sa neskonzovalo, to sa hodilo do pece a spálilo.



O. Štefan Furdek  
Náš zakladateľ

## Velká noc 2009



*Nech Vám slávenie tajomstiev Kristovho utrpenia, smrti a vzkriesenia priniesie hojnosť milosti podnetov a sil premieňať radosti i bolesti každodenného života na oslávený život s Kristom.*

## Velká noc - najvýznamnejší kresťanský sviatok

Velká noc je najstarším a najvýznamnejším sviatkom kresťanského cirkevného roka, počas ktorého si kresťania pripomínajú umučenie, smrť a vzkriesenie Ježiša Krista. Slávi sa na prvú jarnú nedeľu po splne mesiaca. Nadväzuje na židovské veľkonočné sviatky – paschu, ktoré sa slávia od 14. do 21. dňa v mesiaci nisan (naš marec až apríl) na pamiatku oslobodenia Izraelského národa z egyptského otroctva.

### Pôvod názvu a dátumu sviatkov Velkej noci

Vysvetlenie pôvodu názvu „veľká“ treba hľadať v časoch židovského otroctva v starovekom Egypte. Faraón nebol ochotný prepustiť svojich izraelských otrokov, a preto Boh trestal krajinu desiatimi ranami. Až po poslednej z nich, keď zomreli všetky prvorozené egyptské deti, faraón prepustil zotročený ľud. Židov, ktorí pomazali veraje svojich dverí krvou baránka, sa táto pohroma netýkala a anjel smrti ich obišiel. Baránok je preto symbolom Ježiša Krista, ktorého krv nás všetkých zachránila od večného zatratenia. Ako sa ďalej uvádza v Biblii, po vys-

Pokračovanie na str. 20

## Porada honorárnych konzulov SR v USA

Z iniciatívy slovenského veľvyslanectva vo Washingtone sa v dňoch 19.- 20. marca 2009 na jeho pôde uskutočnila porada honorárnych konzulov SR pôsobiacich v Spojených štátoch amerických. Cieľom porady, na ktorej sa zúčastnili aj zástupcovia Generálnych konzulátov SR v New Yorku a Los Angeles a vedúca obchodno-ekonomického oddelenia Ministerstva hospodárstva SR v New Yorku, bolo identifikovať najefektívnejšie mechanizmy spolupráce a pôsobenia všetkých subjektov zastupujúcich Slovensko na území USA pri jeho jednotnej podpore a propagácii.

Porada bola zameraná prioritne na prezentáciu investičných podmienok a príležitostí v SR a diskusiu o možnostiach podpory ďalšieho rozvoja ekonomickej spolupráce medzi SR a USA. Hostami tejto časti stretnutia bola riaditeľka pre Strednú Európu Ministerstva obchodu USA Cherie Rusnaková a generálny riaditeľ Sekcie pre stratégie Ministerstva hospodárstva SR Vojtech Ferencz. Honorárnym konzulom predstavili priority v oblasti ekonomickej diplomacie a dohodnuté boli viaceré formy spolupráce pri presadzovaní tejto prioritnej súčasti slovenskej zahraničnej politiky. S cieľom podnietiť väčší záujem občanov USA o cestovanie do SR boli honorárnym konzulom SR v USA prezentované možnosti a rôzne formy turistiky, ktoré Slovensko ponúka.

Súčasťou stretnutia našich honorárnych konzulov v USA na pôde Veľvyslanectva

Pokračovanie na str. 20



Foto: TK KBS/ Peter Zimen

Vo štvrtok dňa 19. marca 2009 sa v Zrkadlovej sieni bratislavského Primaciálneho paláca uskutočnil slávnostný večer na počesť jubilujúceho kardinála Jozefa Tomka, ktorý si nedávno pripomenul svoje 85. narodeniny. Na snímke prezident Slovenskej republiky Ivan Gašparovič počas blahoželanania tomuto vzácnemu cirkevnému hodnostárovi.

## Slávnostný večer na počesť kardinála Jozefa Tomka

Bratislava (TASR) - Pri príležitosti životného jubilea Jeho Eminencie kardinála Jozefa Tomka uskutočnil sa 19. marca v Zrkadlovej sieni Primaciálneho paláca v Bratislave slávnostný večer. Jubilant si okrem 85. narodenín pripomenul aj 60. výročie kňazstva a tento rok uplynie takisto 30 rokov od jeho biskupskej vysviacky. Významnému cirkevnému hodnostárovi prišli zablahoželať prezident republiky Ivan Gašparovič s manželkou a so sprievodom, eurokomisár Ján Figel', poslanci Národnej rady (NR) SR, početní predstavitelia cirkevného, kultúrneho, vedeckého a spoločenského života. Prítomný bol aj apoštolský nuncius v SR Mário Giordana a ďalší predstavitelia diplomatických misií v SR a iní hostia.

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