



Jednota

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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

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Winners of the 2008 FCSU Christmas Coloring Contest Pages 16-18

Saints Cyril and Methodius and Slovakia

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

Slovaks have always associated their Christian heritage with Saints Cyril and Methodius, the apostles of the Slavs. Numerous churches bear the name of the two saints, including the church where my father was christened in Youngstown, Ohio, and the church where my father-in-law was baptized at in Windber, Pennsylvania. I have read that there are more Slovak churches with the names of these two saints than that of any other saints.

Why do Slovaks and the ancestors of Slovak immigrants share such a devotion to these two saints? More than any other missionaries, they were responsible for the conversion of the Slavic peoples to Christianity at a time when paganism was still widespread in Central and Eastern Europe. They did this through their prodigious missionary efforts and through their translation of the Holy Bible and other important ecclesiastical texts into the Slavonic language, which they literally devised and made into a literary language. For these reasons and to highlight their lives of holiness and devotion to the Lord, the former Pope John Paul II honored them with the title of patron saints of Europe in 1980. They are also considered the

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Accent on Activities

2009 Jednota International Bowling Tournament April 24-26, 2009

Plans for the 55th Annual Men's and 46th 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

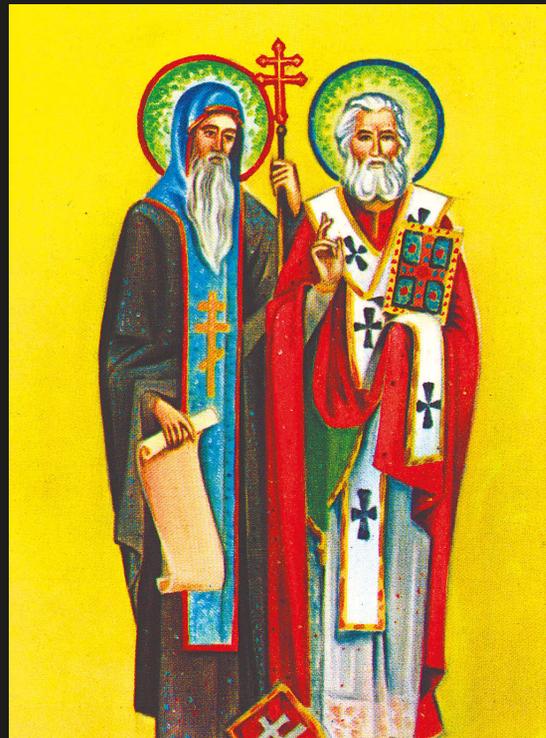
Bowlers who do not have a 2007-2008 sanctioned average, and who are bowling in a sanctioned league in 2008-2009, can receive a handicap provided that at least 21 games

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Feast of SS. Cyril and Methodius



FEBRUARY 14, 2009



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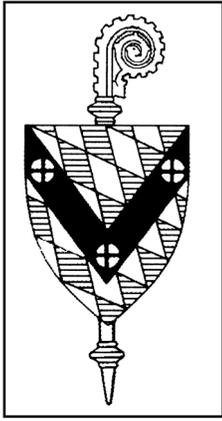


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FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Insights and Viewpoints



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

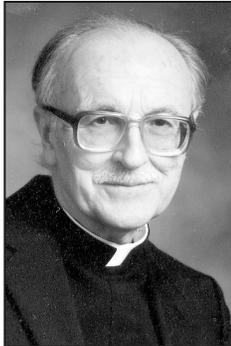
February 15, 2009

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 1:40-45

Gospel Summary

This passage continues the narrative of Jesus' mission immediately following his baptism in the Jordan and the call of the first disciples. As beloved Son and Messiah, his mission is to proclaim the good



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

news of the coming of God's kingdom. God's rule over all creation would bring to an end the domination of Satan, characterized by all forms of untruth, violence, sickness and death. That the power of God's rule is present in Jesus becomes evident to the amazement of the people by his teaching with authority, his healing and his casting out demons.

This Sunday's gospel tells us of Jesus' cure of a man afflicted with leprosy (a term referring to any repulsive skin disease). A leper comes to Jesus and begs to be cured. Moved with compassion, Jesus touches the "untouchable" and cures him. He then sends him to a priest so that he can be reinstated into the community.

After curing the leper, Jesus had admonished him not to publicize what had happened. Mark here anticipates a major theme he will develop more explicitly in his gospel: namely, that people, even Peter and the rest of his disciples, will misunderstand Jesus' mission. The theme reflects an aspect of Satan's attempt to entice Jesus to redefine his mission solely to the satisfaction of people's temporal needs, and thereby to become the messiah of his own earthly, political kingdom. The kingdom of Satan would remain essentially in tact had Jesus succumbed to that temptation. John's gospel also alludes to Jesus' concern about the mistaken notion people had of his mission: "Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone...you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled" (6:15-26).

Jesus, however, is faithful to his Father's will to the end. Filled with divine compassion, he responds to the temporal needs of people for healing and for food; but ultimately he wants to give the gift of eternal life with God, the only gift that will satisfy the restlessness and the hunger of the human heart.

Life Implications

Since the Church is the means by which Christ extends his mission for the sake of God's kingdom through history, healing will be an essential characteristic of its service. Christians, through the urging of Christ's compassion, must bring healing to the world's sickness, making possible medical care even for the "untouchables" of our own society. In the Catholic tradition, Christ's compassionate hand touches the sick in a special way through the sacrament of anointing. The Church like Christ will be tempted to reduce the meaning of God's kingdom to the relief of people's obvious and pressing temporal needs. Christ's compassion, however, continues to extend beyond these needs to the deepest human need for personal transformation through communion in eternal, divine life. We can see how Christ's compassionate hand touches the sick in both aspects in the prayers appointed for the administration

of the sacrament of anointing.

Like Jesus each of us will endure a trial of faith when beset by suffering and approaching death. Am I really God's beloved daughter? Am I really God's beloved son? Is it death that defines the meaning of human existence? The source of our hope is that we share Christ's own unconquerable hope through the gift of his Spirit. Jesus prayed to be delivered from suffering and death; nevertheless, as things worked out, he trusted in God's love through the experience of his suffering, abandonment, and dying. In our time of trial, as the Letter to the Hebrews tells, we must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. "For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb 12-2).

February 22, 2009

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 2:1-12

Gospel Summary

This Sunday's gospel passage recounts the story of Jesus' cure of a paralytic. We must not be distracted by the ingenious efforts of the paralytic's friends to lower him through the roof because they could not get through the crowd. After all, this story is about salvation, not engineering!

Jesus seems to have sought out paralytics because his miracles are so often for their benefit. This makes good sense when we realize that the miracles of Jesus were intended to show that he came to liberate and therefore people with "frozen" muscles were prime candidates for illustrating this.

The story also makes it clear that the real liberation brought by Jesus is spiritual and eternal, which is revealed when Jesus declares that the paralytic's sins are forgiven. This is the only liberation that we absolutely must have. Cure of a physical ailment is most desirable but it is only a temporary relief.

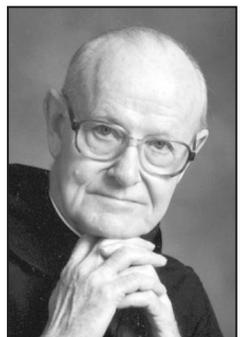
The scribes are shocked and scandalized to hear Jesus proclaim forgiveness of sins. Instead of rejoicing to hear that this wonderful power is now available, they choose to cling to their own narrow interpretation of religion. Human knowledge alone is ultimately pessimistic.

Life Implications

We are all in so many ways victims of paralysis in the sense that we find it very difficult to realize our potential. Low self-esteem, expressed usually in our fear of trying something new or of making a mistake, not only denies others the benefit of our gifts but also contributes to our own unhappiness. The only solution to this dilemma is our willingness to trust the goodness that God has put in our lives--a goodness that is revealed to us by the gift of faith.

This gift of faith is intended to do far more than merely help us accept the words of the creed. Its real purpose is to enable us to trust the goodness that comes to us from God, but also from loving persons and from the beauty of God's creation. Thus, faith enables us to see the often hidden goodness in life--a goodness that is sometimes hard to discern but which is always available to those who are looking for it. The effect of this experience of goodness is to liberate us and thus to enable us to let go of the evil and hurt that are also a part of every life.

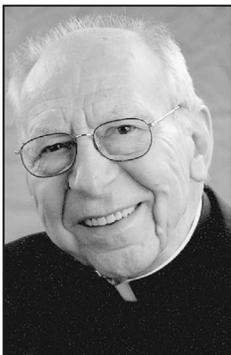
This power of faith in our lives is not something that we can discover by simply wishing for it. Like the paralytic in this story, we too need to count on friends who are usually more than willing to help us to meet Jesus and to hear those precious words: "Your sins are forgiven," and, "Rise, pick up your mat and walk." When this happens, we will gladly join others in declaring, "We have never seen anything like this."



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Paul, the Man- Part I



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

"As we have shared much in the suffering of Christ, so through Christ do we share abundantly in his consolation. If we are afflicted it is for your encouragement and salvation, and when we are consoled it is for your consolation, so that you may endure patiently the same sufferings we endure." (2 Corinthians 1:5-6) "He rescued us from that danger of death and will continue to do so. We have put our hope in him who will never cease to deliver us." (2 Corinthians 1:10)

What are these sufferings?

"His (Paul's) letters, they say, are severe and forceful, but when he is here in person he is unimpressive and his word makes no great impact." (2 Corinthians 10:10)

"...in order that I might not become conceited I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and keep me from getting proud. Three times I begged the Lord that this might leave me. He said to me, 'My grace is enough for you, for in weakness power reaches perfection.' And so I willingly boast of my weaknesses instead, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." (2 Corinthians 12: 7-9) This thorn (Gk- skolopsitay-sarkyah) is not a single thorn but a mass of thorns, something like a nettle or the skin of a hedgehog. It gave him no peace

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Saints Cyril and Methodius and Slovakia

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patron saints of learning and education, and patrons of the Slovak people.

While we associate the names of Cyril and Methodius with the Slavs, the two brothers were actually of Greek origin and members of the Eastern rite Church. During the ninth century, the Eastern Church still affiliated itself with Rome, for the East-West split did not occur until 1054. The two saints were born in Thessaloniki, a northern Greek city which often hosted Slavic peoples traveling from the Balkan region. Until the closing years of his life, Cyril was actually called Constantine (Konstantinos) and acquired the name Cyril (a Greek name meaning 'of the Lord') during a visit to the Papal Court in Rome.

Both brothers were the sons of Maria and Leon, a military officer in Thessaloniki. Due to the premature death of their father, their Uncle Theokostos served as a father figure and protector of the young boys. Theokostos held a position of influence in the Byzantine Empire because he headed the postal service and directed the diplomacy of the Empire. In addition, he helped further higher education and proved pivotal in founding the University of Magnaura. Theokostos brought his son Constantine to Constantinople, the splendid cosmopolitan capital of the Byzantine Empire. There the young man would pursue his studies. He later obtained a teaching position at the university. Theokostos also helped his other son Methodius become the top official of the Slavic administrative region within the Empire, which would include part of what is today Bulgaria.

The scholar Cyril became a noted theologian and linguist who mastered both the Hebrew and Arabic languages. The Empire called upon him to make an official visit to the Abbasid Caliph Al-Mutawakkil. Thus he began another career as a missionary and diplomat. He explained the theology principle of the Holy Trinity to Arab theologians and worked to improve the strained relations between the Muslims and the Byzantine Empire.

Drawing upon their diplomatic, administrative, and missionary skills, the Byzantine Emperor Michael III decided in 860 to dispatch both brothers on a mission to the Khazar Khan, in what is today Ukraine. At the time, the Eastern Church wished to offer an alternative to the spread of Judaism in that land. Although they failed to convince the Khagan to convert his people to Christianity, the two brothers learned from the experience what worked and what did not. They would have more success in the eventual conversion of almost Slavic peoples to Christianity.

Upon returning to Constantinople, Cyril became a university professor of Philosophy; the Church appointed Methodius the bishop of the Moni Polychroniou.

But their fate soon took them elsewhere. When in 862, Prince Rastislav of the Central European state of Great Moravia appealed to the Byzantine Empire for missionaries to teach Christianity in the Slavic language, the two brothers found their calling. Although the German bishop in Salzburg had originally tried to convert the Slavs, he met with little success. An appeal to Byzantium for Slavic speaking missionaries aided the conversion of Slovakia and other Central European regions, and it served the Slavic Prince Rastislav as a counterweight to the expansion of a growing German influence in the area.

The two brothers owed their success to a new alphabet they composed, which was known as Glagolitic. Based on the Greek alphabet, they created a Slavonic language which they used for translating manuscripts, the first Slavic Civic Code for Great Moravia, and the eventual translation of the Bible into a language which Slavic peoples could understand. Despite German opposition, the Pope approved of the missionaries work and endorsed the use of the Slavonic language for use in the Holy Liturgy. Along with Latin and Greek, Slavonic became the third language approved by the Holy See for use at Mass.

The modern day Cyrillic alphabet, which is used in Russia, Bulgaria, Ukraine, and among the Carpatho-Rusyns, owes its origins to the language which they codified. The tongue they devised, known Church Slavonic, is still in use in many Eastern Orthodox and Byzantine churches throughout the world.

The Eastern Orthodox Church celebrates the feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius on May 24. But the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the fraternal saints on February 14. In fact, the Apostles of the Slavs accomplished far more to advance the cause of Christianity than Saint Valentine who is more commonly associated with this date in the United States.

In Slovakia, Saints Cyril and Methodius Day was originally celebrated at another time, on March 9. However, Pope Pius IX altered the date to July 5, because it was thought to be the date of arrival of the two saints to their mission in Great Moravia.

July 5 remains a national holiday and holy day of obligation in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. The feast is also associated with the annual pilgrimage to Levoča, which annually attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors on the first Sunday in July. Twice Pope John Paul graced the shrine of Our Lady on Levoča Hill with his presence, and the tradition grew and thrived even during the days of communist oppression.

The Slovaks have embraced Saints Cyril and Methodius as their patrons, and we Slovak-Americans should pay special tribute to these special saints on February 14.



2009 Jednota International Bowling Tournament April 24-26, 2009

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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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, FEBRUARY 18	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18	MONDAY, MARCH 9

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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FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

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Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

Insights and Viewpoints

Reflections on Our Christianity

continued from page 2

"My physical condition was a challenge which you did not despise or brush aside in disgust. On the contrary, you took me to yourselves as an angel of God, even as if I had been Christ Jesus!" (Galatians 4:14)

"Paul was taken as far as Athens by his escort, who then returned with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible." (Acts 17:15)

"I had wanted to keep him (Onesimus) with me, that he might serve me in your place while I am in prison for the gospel." (Philemon 13)

In the Christian Apocrypha book, Acts of Paul and Thecla, "Titus had told him (Onesiphorus, his wife Lectra and children, Simmias and Zeno) what Paul looked like for hitherto he had not seen him in the flesh, but only in the spirit. And he went along the royal road which leads to Lystra, and stood there waiting for him, and looked at all who came, according to Titus' description. And he saw Paul coming, a man of small stature, with bald head and crooked legs, in a good state of body, with eyebrows meeting and nose somewhat hooked, full of friendliness, for now he appeared like a man, and now he had the face of an angel.

"And when Paul saw Onesiphorus he smiled and Onesiphorus said, 'Greeting, servant of the blessed God?' And he replied, 'Grace be with you and your house'."

(Apocrypha- books which do not appear in the Jewish Bible nor in the Catholic Bible. They are regarded as being of doubtful authenticity. Apocryphal books are numerous and include Creation Myths, Histories and Narratives, Wisdom Literature and Poetry, Gospels, Infancy Gospels, Acts, Apocalypses, Diverse Gnostic Texts, Manichaeism and Mandarin Gnostic Texts and Mystical Documents)

Other descriptions of Paul, by John Malalas, 6th century, the dialogue, Philopatrides, 10th century, and by Nicephorus Callistus, 14th century, agree basically with the description of Paul above.

These add that Paul had a gray beard, was bald in front, and built as if on a curve and slightly bent, was white-skinned with signs of premature aging.

There is a document that records the year of Paul's birth. He was born in Tarsus, a city with 9,000 years of history and the place where Cleopatra and Antony met. In the Acts of the Apostles, we read, "the witnesses meanwhile were piling their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul (Paul)." (Acts 7:58, Stoning of Stephen) This occurred in 36 A.D. Here, the Greek word for "young man" is "gay-ah-guy-us" and refers either to an adolescent not yet twenty or a man nearing forty years of age. There follows immediately afterwards in Acts 8:3, "Saul began to harass the church. He entered house after house, dragged men and women out and threw them into jail." He is here a person with authority and not likely an adolescent. Therefore, the conclusion that he was then between thirty and forty years of age. This would place his birth in the first years of the Christian era, between the years 1 and 5 A.D. Paul therefore was up to five years younger than Jesus Christ.

In Corinth, Paul went to visit with Aquila (Gk. "eagle") and his wife Priscilla (Gk. "ancient") attracted, perhaps, by their common trade, tent making. (Acts 18:1-3) Paul took up lodgings with them and Paul worked under Aquila as a tentmaker. Paul always referred to Priscilla as "Prisca."

On the Sabbath, Paul would lead discussions in which he persuaded Jews and Greeks to adopt Christianity.

As a "Tentmaker," was Paul the manufacturer of the product, the wholesaler, the retailer or the installer? (to be continued)



Two Recommend Sainthood for Father Joseph Murgas

Recently the Times Leader published a four-full page Special Feature entitled: "Father Joseph Murgas-Sacred Heart of Jesus Church North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania: Remembering One of Wilkes-Barre and Wyoming Valley's Most Illustrious Son." The article was written by special guest writer, Brother DePorres, a retired Maryknoll missionary, and financed by an anonymous donor. Both the donor and Brother DePorres are members of the Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation.

Brother DePorres presented a compelling review of the works and contributions of Father Joseph Murgas to this valley and the world. The article was based primarily on the earlier researched and published book by Stephen Palickar entitled: "Rev Joseph Murgas, Priest-Scientist". Since this book was written in 1950 and is very rare, few current historians are aware of its existence or where it can be located.

In the article, Brother DePorres recommends that because of the tremendous accomplishments of the life of Father Joseph Murgas, which includes the building of the beautiful and historic Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Wilkes-Barre, Father Murgas should be honored by the Scranton Diocese and this church should not be closed. Rather, Brother DePorres recommends the Ordinary of the Scranton Diocese begin the process "to raise Father Murgas to the altars of the Church" and maintain Sacred Heart as a "national shrine" to his sainthood.

By financing the publishing of the article, Ann Yevich, a second generation parishioner of Sacred Heart, staunchly supports the movement to make this church a "national shrine" and urges all interested people in Wyoming Valley to become involved.

The Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation honored Brother DePorres and the donor for their leadership in this movement at a special event on January 22, 2009. They received token gifts of appreciation from the Foundation.

Copies are available for \$5.00 which includes shipping and handling. Send your name, address, and fees to Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation, 770 Lantern Hill Road, Shavertown, Pa. 18707. Proceeds will be used by the Foundation to work for the saving of the church.



Philip R. Tuhy, Slovak Heritage Society Chair, is shown presenting a copy of the book, SLOVAK FOLK CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS to Bill Kelly of WVIA-TV, along with a check covering copies of the station's documentary, "The Extraordinary Journey-The Eastern Europeans of Northeastern Pennsylvania". Looking on at left is Greg Matkosky, WVIA-TV photographer, writer, director and one of the producers of the documentary, and at the right, William A. Zdancewicz, Society Public Relations Board Member.

Slovak Heritage Society Makes Book Presentation

The Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania marked its 25th anniversary with several presentations of the book, SLOVAK FOLK CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS to area schools and institutions.

The book originally written in Slovak by Martin and Rudolf Bosak, was translated into English and edited by the Slovak Heritage Society with the helpful assistance of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

The book was presented Bill Kelly, CEO of WVIA-TYV, along with a check covering copies of the station's documentary, "The Extraordinary Journey- The Eastern Europeans of Northeastern Pennsylvania". Mr. Kelly praised the detailed authenticity of the Slovak customs and traditions in the book and its close association with material content of the documentary film. Philip R. Tuhy, Society Chair, expressed thanks to the station for its preservation series on our Slovak heritage. The station reported that the documentary film was received by the highest viewer response when it was used for the kickoff of their campaign for support.

Copies of the Slovak Heritage book have been presented to area colleges and universities in northeastern Pennsylvania and recently to area community libraries.

Two printings of the book SLOVAK FOLK CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS were completed by the Society with limited copies still available. For more information contact the society's website: www.shsnepa.org.



Slovak Pre-Lenten Dance in Milwaukee

The Slovak League of America Assembly 20 invites you to the annual Fasiangy or Pre-Lenten Dance on Saturday, February 21, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3200 South 103rd Street, in Garfield. Delicious Slovak food and homemade baked goods will be available. The J.L.F. Band of Chicago will provide Slovak and modern music. Our every popular Tatra Dancers will entertain with a performance at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$4.50 in advance and \$5.00 at the door. For tickets and information please call Betty at 414/425-6137, Emily at 414/464-1063, or Anne at 414/462-3773.

Betty Valent

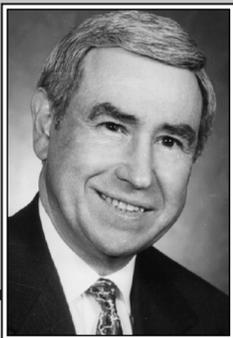
**If each member would sign up just one new member,
we could double our Society immediately
*THINK ABOUT IT!***

MONEY MANAGEMENT

& TAX TIPS

By **Joseph T. Senko**

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



Avoid Money Mishaps When Children Return to the Nest

Many college graduates are returning home for the first time in several years. Once upon a time, these graduates quickly moved on to their own digs, but today that trend is changing. Because of an uncertain economy, many young adults have decided to spend a few years at home until they have a stronger financial foundation. Others are seeking a way to minimize living expenses while they pay off hefty student loans, attend graduate school, or save for a down payment on a home.

The prospect of living with an adult child may fill some parents with delight, others with dread. In either case, it's important to be aware of the financial challenges that parents will face in this situation. Families that address these issues have a better chance of preserving harmony.

Talk It Over

Family members will have a lot of questions about how the new living arrangements will work, so discuss everyone's expectations in advance. For example, will the child be expected to pay rent? How much will he or she chip in for groceries and other expenses? If your child's initial income is very low, consider charging them a token percentage of that income or asking them to take on household responsibilities, such as shopping or yard work. That's a realistic way for your child to make a contribution despite limited funds.

There are other issues to consider beyond the economic ones. What chores will the child be responsible for? Can the child stay indefinitely or is there a time limit to the arrangement? Parents should discuss these and other issues with their children before they move in. You might even consider writing up an informal agreement that covers all of these details so there are no misunderstandings later.

Insurance Issues

Remember to consider health and auto insurance issues for your child when he or she moves in. For example, your child will likely be too old to be covered under your family health insurance plan. If he or she does not receive insurance through an employer, it's important to find the best plan for him or her, and decide who will pay the premiums. In addition, if your child will be driving your family car, your car insurance payments will probably go up. Find out what the increase will be and decide how that cost will be paid.

Target Your Support Wisely

Beyond providing a place to live, should parents offer their adult children financial support during this transition time in their lives? If you are able to help your child financially, the best idea is to agree to pay for items that represent an investment in their future. For example, helping them buy books for graduate school would be an investment, but paying for an expensive new car may not be. Parents want to help their children as much as possible, but the most valuable assistance will enable them to stand on their own feet financially.



God's Echo

By **Francis X. Markley OPL**

I ask God daily to become holy- His reply: DO IT!

Pray for the 'Souls in Purgatory'- they soon our friends in heaven.

Coming Events



February 17

-A meeting of the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church Rectory, Youngstown, Ohio.

March 15

-The Frank T. Holly Jr. District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 1653 West Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary
Kenneth A. Arendt

IMPORTANT NOTICE PRIVACY – PERSONAL FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

We obtain information about you from the following sources:

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

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

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

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

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



Annual Slovak Ball set for February 21 in New York Athletic Club

The Slovak-American Cultural Center (S-ACC) cordially invites you to attend the 17th Annual Slovak Ball on Saturday, February 21, 2009 at the New York Athletic Club, 180 Central Park South, New York City. Cocktails will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. Music will be provided by the Marek Soltis Orchestra. Tickets to this black-tie preferred event are \$160.00 per person and \$95.00 for students. Please, make checks payable to S-ACC (Slovak-American Cultural Center) and send to: Stano Krcmar, 33 Weasel Drift Road, West Patterson, NJ 07424. For more information call Matus Culen at 914/738-9115 or Gita Hlavinka at 201/242-0214.

At this Slovak Ball Honorary Consul of Pennsylvania Joseph Senko will be honored. His activities have been wide and varied. He was treasurer for Friends of Slovakia, a member of all Slovak fraternal societies, Slovak League of America, Slovak Catholic Federation, Chairman of Auditors of the First Catholic Slovak Union, and a regular contributor for the JEDNOTA newspaper. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Duquesne University and a Master of Science degree from Robert Morris University. He is married to Albina Senko, a native of Slovakia.

The Slovak Ball has become a well established traditional event attracting members of the Slovak-American community in the tri-state area and beyond. The proceeds of this event help make worthy contributions to American-Slovak cultural and educational activities. All this would not be possible without the generosity of our members and friends.

The Slovak-American Cultural Center invites the Slovak community to attend this event in great numbers and to join us in cultivating Slovak culture as well as personal friendships. With your help we can achieve considerable success in the future.

Rudolph L. Gregus

News From Slovakia

Poet Milan Rufus Dies in Slovakia

One of the greatest Slovak poets Milan Rufus died Sunday, January 11, 2009 in University Hospital in Bratislava at the age of 80. Rufus was one of the most outstanding personalities of Slovak poetry in the modern history of Slovakia.

For decades he had been dealing with the questions of truth and beauty. He wrote about worldly and divine love, inexhaustibly seeking humanity and truth. Rufus' poems are simple and intelligible verses, full of belief in God, humility, modesty and love of life and humanity. For Slovaks, Rufus represented a unique moral authority. His poetic works and essays, as well as his creations for children, are universally read in Slovakia.

Rufus' most successful work was 'Modlitbicky' (Little Prayers), but also his latest collections of poems 'Basen a Cas' (Poem and Time) and 'Vernost' (Fidelity).

Milan Rufus was born December 10, 1928 in Zavazna Poruba. He studied Slovak and history at the College of Philosophy at Comenius University in Bratislava, where between 1952-1989 he lectured on the history of Slovak and Czech literature. He also taught for two years (1971-1972) at university in Naples, Italy. Since 1990, when he retired, the poet lived with his family in Bratislava.

After having published his first poems in the late 1940s, Rufus published his first collection of poetry 'Az Dozieme' (When we Grow Mature) in 1956, and since then he has published an additional 20 collections.

An important field of Rufus' literary activities were his essays. In his book 'Clovek, Cas a Tvorba' (Human, Time and Creation) he reflects on the questions of poetry and its relation to truth, homeland and time.

His works have been translated into 15 languages.

Rufus became the first laureate of international Crane Summit Award for poetry 2008. With this award Rufus' poems will also be translated into Chinese. Since 1991 Rufus has been recommended for the Nobel Prize for poetry three times.

TASR

Outgoing U.S. Ambassador Obsitnik Draws up his family tree

Outgoing U.S. ambassador to Slovakia Vincent Obsitnik, who is leaving his post due to the change of the U.S. administration, has put together his family tree, which is 5 meters wide and 1 meter high, he told journalists in Bratislava recently.

Obsitnik, who was born in Slovakia, pledged to carry on the work on the family tree after he returns to the United States. He assumes that it will grow to 10 meters wide and 3 meters high.

The ambassador joked that he likes the pear brandy in Slovakia most of all. He added that in the 13 months that he has been U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia, he was especially fond of visiting eastern Slovakia, including the village of Moravany in which he was born in 1938, and the village of Adidovce, his father's birthplace. He was made an honorary citizen of Moravany, a title that he holds dear.

According to Obsitnik, apart from the branch in Adidovce, the Obsitnik family has another two branches- in Sena and Kosicka Nova Ves. Those two offshoots weren't aware of the Adidovce branch, so that ambassador decided to organize an introductory meeting last year.

Obsitnik, who was born in Slovakia but raised in the United States, said that he has always been interested in his Slovak roots. "My parents often talked about the old homeland. Of course, I asked them what the country looks like, who my relatives were. There is a saying: 'A man can't know where to go in the future unless he knows where he comes from'," he added.

TASR

Gasparovic Thanks Outgoing U.S. Ambassador Obsitnik

Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic met outgoing U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia Vincent Obsitnik recently for a farewell audience at the Presidential Palace in Bratislava.

At a short briefing with journalists, both officials expressed regret over the ambassador's departure after such a short tenure.

Gasparovic thanked the ambassador for the efforts and the work he has carried out in Slovakia's interests. In his opinion, Obsitnik during his short but successful tenure made a positive impact not only in the diplomatic field but also in cooperation between Slovak and U.S. businessmen.

Among Obsitnik's main successes Gasparovic pointed to the cancellation of the visa restrictions for Slovaks visiting the United States as of November 17, 2008.

The outgoing ambassador stated that he is glad that he had the chance to carry out a diplomatic mission in the country of his birth, and wished Slovakia a great deal of happiness in 2009 and the following years.

Obsitnik, 70, who took up his post in late 2007, had no previous diplomatic experience, and was the first U.S. ambassador of Slovak origin. He is leaving his diplomatic post due to the new U.S. American administration headed by Barack Obama, who was inaugurated as the new president on January 20.

TASR

Poll: 61 Percent of Slovaks Think Country is on Right Path

The number of Slovaks who think that their country is on the right path rose in 2008, with 61 percent approving of the country's direction and 32 percent expressing skepticism, according to a recent poll carried out by the Public Affairs Institute (IVO).

The poll, which was conducted in November on a sample of 1,301 adults, showed that the number of optimistic Slovaks has never been as high in the past ten years of IVO monitoring.

A significant number of university educated people (76 percent) were satisfied with Slovakia's prospects, along with many younger and middle-aged people.

In terms of political affiliation, the most optimistic respondents were supporters of the governing coalition Smer-SD (80 percent) and Slovak National Party (SNS-68 percent), followed by supporters of the opposition SDKU-DS (64 percent).

According to IVO program director Olga Gyarfasova, Slovakia's international status was viewed as the most positive element. "We think that the adoption of the euro in general has contributed to this, as well as the fact that the benefits of EU membership have been gradually appearing," she added.

People were most pessimistic when it came to healthcare, with 48 percent of the respondents claiming that the situation in this sector has worsened since 2006. Corruption and nepotism were also seen as a major problem (by 42 percent).

According to Gyarfasova's information, people view the state of Slovak-Hungarian relations according to their ethnicity. While only 19 percent of Slovaks think that conditions for ethnic Hungarians in Slovakia have worsened, 78 percent of ethnic Hungarians claim the opposite.

TASR

Gasparovic Wishes Obama Courage to Handle Problems

Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic in a letter wished the new chief U.S. executive Barack Obama courage in handling the problems he will face, as well as success in his efforts.

According to Gasparovic, great expectations among the American public, as well as citizens from many countries of the world, are connected with the new American president. "You assume the position in an uneasy economic and international political situation."

Both countries, noted the Slovak head of state, are bound together by a close partnership and alliance. Gasparovic emphasized that Slovakia regards the firm transatlantic relations as the basis of global security.

The Slovak president wished his U.S. counterpart health, endurance, and many successes in the demanding and responsible work for the benefit of the American people, as well as the stability, prosperity, and peace in the world.

TASR

New York Branch 45 to Hold Annual Fasiangy

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 45, will hold its annual Fasiangy Dance Party on Sunday, February 22, 2009, at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak Mass in St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, 411 East 66th Street, New York City. Admission is \$20.00 per person and that includes lunch, coffee, and Slovak style homemade cookies. There will be a raffle and a performance by the children from the Slovak school. Music will be provided by the well known Slovak band Kontakty. All are invited to attend.

Joseph Jurasi

Allentown Parish to Sponsor Tour of Slovakia

St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church is sponsoring a 13-day trip to Slovakia from July 6 to July 18, 2009. The cost of the trip is \$3,297 per person based on double occupancy. For a complete trip itinerary contact Ray Fernandez at 610/868-3817. A few openings remain.

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT-UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 15, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 1653 West Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. There will be a \$5.00 charge for those attending and members will be able to order off the menu. On the agenda will be the election of officers and the updating of accounts.

For more information call President James Marmol at 724/437-0892 or Secretary Barbara Holly at 724/438-0697.

Barbara Holly

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

REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT-YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold a meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church Rectory. On the agenda will be a discussion of activities for the year. All members are urged to attend.

Carla Terek, President



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)

MSGR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT-TORONTO, ONTARIO

The Msgr. Michael Shuba District and Branch 785 held their joint Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall in Mississauga, Ontario. Thirty seven members gathered for the luncheon in the church hall preceding the meeting.

The District held its meeting first. The annual reports were presented by President Mike Kapitan and Treasurer Milan Zoldak. Auditor Gus Kapsa reported that all figures were audited and were correct. The annual Slovak Catholic Family Picnic was held Sunday, July 27, 2008. The weather was great. Honored guests were Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt and his wife Theresa. Events of the day started with a Mass at noon followed by a Slovak home cooked meal and an afternoon of games, swimming and barbeque.

A request was made by Milos Mitro that the District and branch 785 continue with the tradition of purchasing a new suit for each of the two new priests, Father Jozef Vano and Father Eugen Rybansky. A motion was made by Jerry Siman and seconded by Joe Tomko to carry on this tradition.

Terry Tomko reported on her visits to Bernie Kadnar. Though his condition is weakening, Bernie, a long time member of Jednota and former publications editor for Branch 785, does still appreciate visits from friends.

The second meeting was for Branch 785. Annual reports were presented by Michael Kapitan, Treasurer Mike Dorich and Sports Director Joe Jursa. Auditor Jim Szabo reported that all figures were audited and correct. Since the sports director Joe Jursa was on vacation, Harry Romolok reviewed the Jednota bowling and golf tournaments held in the United States and the local Jednota golf tournament held in Toronto.

Regional Director Milos Mitro reviewed the events of the past year discussed at meetings of the Board of Directors. Among the issues discussed included location of the 2010 convention, property in Middletown, merger talks and a combined Jednota/Sokol golf tournament.

The following officers were elected for the Msgr. Michael Shuba District: Mike Kapitan, President; Milan Zaviski, Vice President; John Tokarsky, Treasurer; John Kapsa, Financial Secretary; Sharon Tomas, Recording Secretary; Gus Kapsa, Chairman of Auditors; and Jim Szabo, Helen von Friedl, Milos Mitro and Ed Forma, Auditors.

The following officers were elected for the Branch 785: Milan Zoldak, President; John Kapsa, Vice President; Mike Dorich, Treasurer; Joe Jursa, Sports Director; Mike Dobis, Financial Secretary; Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary; Jim Szabo, Chairman of Auditors; Jerry Siman, Public Relations; and Ed Forma, Stan Pella and Joe Tomko, Auditors.

Jerry Siman Milos Mitro administered the oath of office to newly elected officers Olga Dobis and John Tokarsky.



L-R Jerry Siman, FCSU Pension Board Trustee; Milos Mitor, Regional Director; Mike Kapitan, FCSU Supreme Court Member; and Milan Zoldak, President of Branch 785.

Officers of the Msgr. Michael Shuba District. L-R : Milos Mitro, John Kapsa, Sharon Tomas, Michael Kapitan, Gus Kapsa and John Tokarsky.



Officers of Branch 785. L-R: Mike Dorich, Harry Romoluk, John Kapsa, Milan Zoldak, Anne Mitro, Mike Dobis, Joe Tomko and Jerry Siman.



Top row L-R are Sharon Tomas, Josie Siman, Terry Tomko and Jenny Romoluk. Bottom row L-R are Olga Dobis, Irene Gorman, Marge Kapsa, Anne Mitro and Ruzena Kapitan.



Olga Dobis and John Tokarsky recite the oath of office given by Milos Mitro.

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Sister M. Elaine Gurkie, OSF

Sister M. Elaine (Margaret) Gurkie, 65, a member of the School Sisters of St. Francis, United States Province for 46 years, died after a short illness on January 13, 2009 at St. Mary Hospital in Passaic, New Jersey. Sister Elaine entered the community from Assumption BVM Parish in Jersey City, New Jersey in 1957 and professed her first vows in 1962 in Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel at Monocacy Manor, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Sister Elaine received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Holy Family College in Philadelphia and her MA in Education from Seton Hall University. Throughout her years of ministry, Sister Elaine served in the Diocese of Philadelphia, Allentown, Newark, Paterson, and Springfield. Her teaching assignments included SS. Cyril and Methodius School, Bethlehem; Blessed Virgin, Northampton, PA; SS. Cyril and Methodius, Clifton, NJ; St. Francis Academy, Bethlehem; St. Ignatius Loyola, West Lawn, PA; and St. Mary School in Closter, NJ. Sister served as principal at SS. Cyril and Methodius in Bethlehem from 1978-1984. Named as first director of St. Francis Day Care Center at Monocacy Manor in 1985, Sister Elaine ministered to the children and their families until 1993. Sister spent five years as Dean of Student Affairs at St. Joseph School in New Milford, NJ and four years as principal of St. Mary School in Wharton, NJ. Her parish work experience included St. Peter Church in Westfield, MA

and Holy Trinity Parish in Fort Lee, NJ From 2007 until her death, Sister Elaine resided at St. Andrew Convent in Clifton, NJ where she was involved in internal community service.

In addition to her ministry in parishes and schools, Sister Elaine generously shared her talents in service to her religious community. She served as the school supervisor for the province and was a member of the provincial council from 1986 to 1990.

Sister Elaine was the daughter of the late Edward Joseph Gurkie and Mary Julia Sivak. She was preceded in death by her sisters Helen Long and Mary LaChandro and is survived by her religious community, her aunt, Mary Sivak, nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews and cousins.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, Monocacy manor. Arrangements were made by the Cornell Funeral Home, Bethlehem. Memorial donations may be made to the School Sisters of St. Francis Retirement Fund, Mount Assisi Convent, 934 Forest Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15202.

Bernard G. Hudak Branch 796 Egypt, Pennsylvania

Bernard G. Hudak, 81, of Northampton, Pennsylvania, died Wednesday, December 17, 2008, in Lehigh Valley Hospital, Salisbury Township. Bernard and his wife, Antonette (Morrell) Hudak celebrat-



ed 60 years of marriage on July 6.

Mr. Hudak was born August 15, 1927 in Egypt, a son of the late Frank A. and Rosa (Machok) Hudak. He retired from the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, after many years. He was a member of Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, Northampton and very dedicated to the prayer groups at the parish. He was also a member of Men of Malvern and the Catholic War Veterans Post 454. He served in the Army. He served as secretary of Jednota Branch 796 for many years. Bernard was an avid Notre Dame Fighting Irish fan.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Gregory B. Hudak of Baltimore, Maryland; a daughter, Suzanne Fidler of Allentown, Pennsylvania; granddaughter, Jessica Fiddler; a brother, Thomas Hudak of Whitehall, Pennsylvania; and many nieces and nephews. Bernard was predeceased by a son Timothy Hudak.

Friends were received at the Reichel Funeral Home, Northampton. A Funeral Mass was celebrated in Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary Church on December 22 by his pastor, Rev. Straka, who is also a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union. Entombment was in the Parish Mausoleum, Northampton.

We the officers and members of Branch 796 ask the blessings of our Lord upon Brother Bernie and may his soul rest in peace. May God Bless his loving wife Antonette, his daughter Suzanne and his son Gregory. We wish to thank Bernie's family for his many years of service as secretary of Branch 796.

Bernard J. Madeja

Sister M. Amanda Bercik, S.C.N.

Sister M. Amanda Bercik, 93, a member of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky, died Tuesday, January 13, 2009, in the Vincentian Home, North Hills, Pittsburgh, PA. Sister was in the 79th year of her religious life.

Sister entered the Vincentian Sisters of Charity from St. Dominic Parish, Donora, PA on September 28, 1930. She spent her religious life in Domestic Services to her Sisters in Pittsburgh, Greensburg, Fonthill, Canada and Struthers, Ohio. Sister joined the Prayer Ministry Group at the Motherhouse in 1995

in which she participated until December 2007 when she was admitted to the Vincentian Home because of ill health.

Sister Amanda is survived by many devoted nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at St. Louise Convent, Pittsburgh. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered in the Chapel. Interment was in St. Louise Convent grounds.

Donations may be made to the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, 8200 McKnight Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

Sister M. Clarissa, SS.C.M.

Sister M. Clarissa (Mary C. Skala), 97, died at Emmanuel Center, Danville, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, January 10, 2009. She was born October 11, 1911 in Koppany, Slovakia, a daughter of Joseph and Clara (Tomancik) Skala. She became a naturalized citizen in 1925 in Binghamton, New York

She attended SS. Cyril and Methodius School and St. Patrick High School in Binghamton, and graduated from St. Cyril Academy, Danville. She received a B.S. in Education from Marywood University, Scranton, and a degree in Library Science from the Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina.

Sister entered the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius on September 12, 1931, was received on August 25, 1932, and professed the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience on August 27, 1934.

Sister Clarissa taught Grades 1-8 in parish schools in Connecticut, Indiana, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania and South Carolina. She also taught in parish Religious Education Programs. In her later years, she served as librarian at St. Joseph Memorial School in Hazleton, Pennsylvania.

In 1996 she retired to Maria Hall in Danville and later to Emmanuel Center.

The transferal rite and recitation of the Rosary took place on Thursday, January 15 at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Wake Service at 10:00 a.m. at Maria Hall. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Maria Hall by the Rev. Gerard Heintzelman, Rector of the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville.

Sister Clarissa is survived by a sister-in-law, Mrs. Albina Skala of Clearwater, Florida, and a nephew and nieces.

FROM THE SLOVAK KITCHEN

Čeregi (Fányky, Božie Milosti)

6 egg yolks- flour to make soft dough-
1 ounce vinegar- 1 ounce whiskey

Beat egg yolks until light. Add vinegar, then the whiskey and keep adding flour gradually until dough is soft. Roll out dough very thinly, cut in triangles and make a slit in center and pull one end through slit. Deep fry in Crisco until delicately brown. When done and drained, sprinkle with powdered sugar. This recipe should make a nice platter full of čeregi.

Čeregi

2 cups flour
1 teaspoon vanilla or
½ teaspoon baking powder
1 small glass of wine or liquor
Pinch of salt
2 eggs
1 tablespoon of butter

Add enough milk to make a soft dough. Roll out thin. Cut and fry in deep fat. When cool sprinkle with powdered sugar

Čeregi

2 cups flour
½ cup powdered sugar
2 eggs
¼ cup butter
4 egg yolks
3 tablespoons rum
½ teaspoon salt

Beat salt and eggs till thick and creamy. Beat in butter. Add sugar, flour, beat well. Roll dough thin, cut in strips 4 inches long, 1 inch wide and slit in center; push over end through center. Fry in hot fat; drain on absorbent paper. Sprinkle with powdered sugar

Cheese Cake

¾ pound shortening
1 teaspoon soda
1 ½ pounds of flour
1 lemon rind and juice
1 ½ cups sugar
1 cup milk (about)
1 egg and 1 yolk.

Mix like pie crust. Divide dough in half. Roll or pat for bottom crust and place dough in greased pan, then pour in cheese mixture and add top crust and bake at 350 until golden brown.

Filling:

2 pounds cottage cheese dry, add 1 cup sugar, 3 eggs, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, a half of a lemon grated. Mix well and spread over the bottom dough, then roll the top and put on and bake.

For black bottom add 4 tablespoons cocoa to dough.

Useful Websites

www.skonline.sk
www.travelguide.sk
kosice.region.sk
www.slovakia.org
www.vtaty.sk
www.tatry.net
www.hotel-net.sk
www.skonline.sk
www.kultura.sk
www.snm.sk
www.savba.sk
www.government.gov.sk
www.snd.sk
www.stv.sk
www.nbs.sk

Slovakia Travel Guide
Hotel and Spa Guide
Kosice-City Travel Guide
Bratislava-Information about the City
Useful Information about the High Tatras
Complete Information on Tatra Region
Tourist Accommodation
Slovakia On-Line (general information)
Slovak cultural calendar
Slovak National Museum
Slovak Academy of Sciences
Government of the Slovak Republic
Slovak National Theater
Slovak Television
National Bank of Slovakia

Realm of Slovak Genealogy



Ray Plutko

“A Few Kind Words of Motivation”

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

Simply said, the art of tracing one's ancestral history is a lonely and often-times disappointing pastime.

We have all been there. . . a lack of empathy and cooperation shown by relatives, the inability to pinpoint a Slovak village of origin, conflicting data gleaned from vital records, a computer hard-drive that “crashes” with months of information, or a genuine plea for help and no response forthcoming.

It goes without saying that the voids of our sleuthing vary dramatically but collectively, share a common need— more specifically, a strong motivation to continue the task at hand. This stimulus may present itself in the discovery of a revealing document, an unexpected telephone call that sheds a beacon of new light on your work, or a sheer humbleness that comes from reading a select article/passage.

Personally, I have drawn from one particular written reflection as a compelling incentive to continue my work. It rests nearby my computer to spark those “blank quiet moments” and it also accounts for a prominent page in the written chronicle of the Plutko Family line. The author is W.H. Zoschak (original source unknown):

'Ancestors'

What's in a name?
The talented poet asked.
Look deep – listen:
The pulse of our ancestors.
The heartbeat of nations past.
Land.
Language,
Faith.

Look into a name.
What do you see?
Letters only?
Look deeper.
See the people who lived that name.
Not letters – but flesh and blood.
Flesh to our flesh.
Blood to our blood.
Faith to our faith.
Ancestors.

You who bore my name,
Were your thoughts passed to me?
Do I dream your dreams?
The sun you saw I see.
The moon plays for us both.
Days are days.
Years are years.
But centuries separate us.

You who lived centuries ago with my name.
Did you see me then?
You have not left this earth!
You live in my name.
You live in me.
I give you earthly immortality.

My eyes see a different land.
My ears hear different sounds.
But we worship in unison.
The God of your youth.

My faith you have given me.
The God who watched over you watches over me.

Centuries collapse as faith unites.

Leave you, my ancestor?
I could never leave you without leaving myself.
I take pride in you.
The soil of your homeland rests in my heart.
Your native language is the melody of your dreams.

I look into your name,
And see myself.

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



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 1st, 2nd and 3rd 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

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 1, will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Cyril School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. A full business meeting will be held and activities for 2009 will be discussed. All members are invited to attend.

Mary Dubber, Secretary

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 89- MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Our Easter Duty Mass will be held on Sunday, March 29, 2009, at 9:00 p.m. in St. Margaret Mary Church, 3970 North 92nd Street, Milwaukee. Breakfast will be served immediately after the liturgy at 10:30 a.m. at The Grecian Inn. Breakfast is complimentary for members; guests will be charged \$12.00. Children under age 6 are free. Reservations must be made by March 22, 2009. Call Mike with the number attending at 414/445-5382, or send a check payable to Knights of St. Mary & Joseph Br. 89 to Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd St., Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 332P- DETROIT, MICHIGAN

There has been a merger between the St. Andrew Society, Branch 332P in Detroit, Michigan with the St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, Detroit. All members of Branch 332P will now hold membership in Branch 743.

This merger has taken place as of December 3, 2008. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact Joseph C. Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48314. Phone: 586/254-0225.

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 367- FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 367, will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. at Bogey's Restaurant and Sports Bar, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place at that time. All members are welcome to attend.

Jane Kish, Secretary

BRANCH 382- SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 1, 2009, at 12:00 noon in Holy Family Church Hall, Scranton, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be a discussion of future activities and the Annual Branch Report to the Home Office. Auditing of the books will also take place. Light refreshments will be served. All members are urged to attend.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 553- AKRON, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 553, will sponsor their annual Ash Wednesday Dinner on February 25, 2009, at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, Ohio. The meal will consist of halusky, pirohy, salad, and bread and butter. The meal will be served from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. and cost \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. Dinners to go will be available for an additional \$.50 per meal.

On Fridays the kitchen will be open for our varied fish dinners. Join us during Lent and support our lodge.

Linda M. Hanko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 682- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. George Society, Branch 682, will hold a meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. at Materials Research Laboratories, 290 North Bridge Street, Struthers, Ohio. This will be our audit meeting. A discussion of events for 2009 will also take place.

Andrew J. Hirt, President

BRANCH 731- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will celebrate the feast day of its patron on Sunday, March 29, 2009 at the 11:30 a.m. Mass in St. Matthias Church, Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Lunch will be served at the Father Snock Center following the liturgy. Door prizes will be given to many lucky individuals. The lunch is complimentary for members. There is a nominal cost for guests who wish to attend. Make your reservations by March 18, 2009 by calling Millie Leskovyansky at 330/782-3219 or Theresa Smrečanský at 330/629-9178.

James Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743- DETROIT, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sun-

day, March 22, 2009 with a Slovak Mass, for all living and deceased members, at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan. Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy. A Branch meeting will take place in room 118 at 1:00 p.m.

All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph Day and to enjoy fellowship with other members. Any member who has recently moved or requires branch services should contact the branch secretary Joseph C. Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087 or phone 586/254-0225.

Joseph C. Rimarcik, President/ Financial Secretary

BRANCH 831- TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Clement Society, Branch 831, will hold a very important meeting on Monday, February 23, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. at the Slovak American Club, 147 West 7th Avenue, Tarentum, Pennsylvania. The topic of the meeting will be the sale of the building and property. All regular members are urged to attend.

The officers of Branch 831 sworn in recently are: Matthew Kuniak, President; Mel Persun, Vice President; Kathleen Persun, Secretary; and Rose Kuniak, Treasurer.

Kathleen Persun, Secretary

BRANCH 836- CLEVELAND, OHIO

There has been a merger of the St. Benedict Society, Branch 836, in Cleveland, Ohio with the St. Andrew Svorad Society, Branch 24 in Cleveland. All members of Branch 836 will now hold membership in Branch 24. This merger has taken place as of January 23, 2009.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact David A. Lang, 19333 Van Aken Blvd. Apt. 212, Shaker Heights, OH 44122. Phone: 216/751-7010.

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 853- ELLSWORTH, PENNSYLVANIA

Monica Rodacy-Boone, president of the Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 853, is searching for current addresses of branch members. Within the past year the addresses of a few members have been listed as "unknown". If you are one of the following please contact Monica Rodacy-Boone, 351 Twin Oaks Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15243 or contact the Home Office at 1-800-JEDNOTA so that the records can be updated. If you know any of the following members, please talk to them and have them contact either of the above so that updates can be recorded.

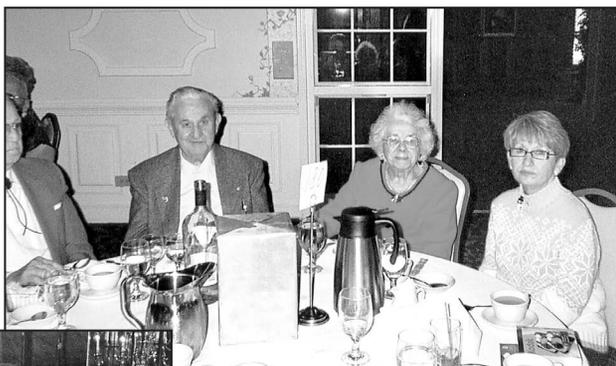
The lost members of Branch 853 are: Andrea Carrozza, Ann Carrozza, Joseph Carrozza, Jennifer Carrozza, Judith Goroncy, Michelle Gullatta, Christine Hudyka, George Kopsack, Bryan S. McManus, Antoinette Ranieri, James Turcheck, Jean Annette Turcheck, Eric B. Williams, Heather R. Williams, and Krystal L. Williams.

Officers of Branch 853 wish everyone a very prosperous 2009.

Monica Rodacy-Boone, President



**Joe, Bugel,
Theresa Bugel, and
Darlene Johnson
of Branch 313**



**Wendel Tylka and Ed
Uram of Branch 706**



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



**Robert Tapak Magruder
holds the wreath he won
as a raffle prize.**



Jednotars Participate in FCSLA Event in Chicago

Chicago area Jednota members were welcomed at a Christmas luncheon hosted by the Anna Hurban District of our sister fraternal, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. The event took place on December 6, 2008 at the Orland Chateau in suburban Orland Park, Illinois. After a social hour, the 362 attendees enjoyed a family style dinner, which was followed by a mega-affle in which dozens of prizes were awarded.

Robert Tapak Magruder



UR_space.jrs

Friends Events Sports Culture Trivia Activities



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February 2009

Culture Space



Fašiangy

Fašiangy is the final celebration before the fasting and graveness of Lent. Fašiangy evolved during Middle Ages and became a celebration of costumed parades, singing and dancing. This release of energy prepared people for the forty days of fasting which began on Ash Wednesday.

Fašiangy celebrations usually lasted from the Sunday before Lent until Tuesday midnight, but sometimes they extended well into Ash Wednesday morning. At midnight, marking the end of Fašiangy, a symbolic burial ceremony for the contrabass was performed, because music had to cease for Lent.

It may seem that Fašiangy was a time of fun and foolishness, but it served a purpose as village people and townsfolk could have fun and enjoy themselves before Lent.



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

Activity Space



Celebrate Elmo's Birthday on February 3 by coloring this picture!

R	W	S	E	S	R	O	H	C	K	H
I	A	N	C	B	A	B	O	L	S	T
V	G	F	H	J	U	L	A	B	E	S
E	O	G	A	F	D	W	K	Y	L	R
R	N	R	F	R	E	F	W	A	U	I
S	S	A	O	C	M	L	T	O	M	H
F	L	X	T	N	T	E	T	A	N	T
O	E	S	T	R	O	F	R	T	E	S
N	H	U	N	G	E	R	O	S	A	H
F	L	O	O	D	S	B	Z	K	H	C
Y	D	D	O	S	N	A	I	D	N	I

Celebrate Laura Ingalls Wilder's Birthday on February 7 by finding the hidden words!

- | | | |
|---------|---------|--------|
| BUFFALO | HEAT | RIVERS |
| CATTLE | HORSES | SNOW |
| COLD | HUNGER | SODDY |
| FARMERS | INDIANS | THIRST |
| FLOODS | MULES | WAGONS |
| FORTS | OXEN | WALK |

History Space



February



February is the second month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. It is the shortest month and the only month with fewer than 30 days. The month has 29 days in leap years, when the year number is divisible by four (except for years that are divisible by 100 and not by 400 in the Gregorian calendar). In common years, the month has 28 days.

February was named after the Latin term *februum*, which means *purification*, via the purification ritual *Februa* held on February 15 in the old Roman calendar. Februa was the Roman festival of purification, also commonly referred to as Lupercalia. The festival, which is basically one of Spring washing or cleaning (associated also with the raininess of this time of year) is old.

January and February were the last two months to be added to the Roman calendar, since the Romans originally considered winter a monthless period. They were added by Numa Pompilius about 700 BC. February remained the last month of the calendar year until the time of the decemvirs (c. 450 BC), when it became the second month.

Historical names for February include the Anglo-Saxon terms Solmonath (mud month) and Kale-monath (named for cabbage) as well as Charlemagne's designation Hornung. In Finnish, the month is called *helmikuu*, meaning "month of the pearl"; when snow melts on tree branches, it forms droplets, and as these freeze again, they are like pearls of ice.

February 31, with regard to the modern, revised Gregorian calendar, is an imaginary date. It is sometimes used for example purposes, to make it clear, regardless of context, that the information being presented is artificial and not real. February 30 is sometimes used in the same manner, although there are other calendars that legitimately use February 30.

February's birth flower is the violet and the primrose. Its birthstone is the amethyst.

FCSU LIFE



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WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SLOVAK CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Manor Oak Two, Suite 500 + 1910 Cochran Road + Pittsburgh, PA 15220
(412) 531-2990 or (888) SLOVAKS + Fax: (412) 531-4793

ENJOY A TOUCH OF SLOVAKIA

March 7 – Lenten Cooking Demonstration



WHEN: Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
WHERE: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Church
4027 Beechwood Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
PRICE: Free – Donations are appreciated

We have a cook from Slovakia who will demonstrate making bryndzove halusky. Recipes will be available. Afterward, all will enjoy homemade soup, halusky and dessert. Attendance is limited to 25. Call for reservations at (412) 531-2990.

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.

Sponsors:

First Catholic Slovak Union • First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association • Greek Catholic Union of the USA • Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union
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.

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- **Minimum face amount of \$5000**

Plan I - 2 payments, the initial premium is 60% of the single premium. *The balance must be repaid within one year from the issue date to avoid interest expense on the loan.* The balance of the premium can be paid in twelve equal monthly installments, or in one sum at the end of one year.

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.



**Act now!
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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 or email us at fcsu@aol.com

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- Including:**
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 - Child Care
 - Cobra Premium & Educational Expense
 - Home Invasion
 - Evacuation & Repatriation
 - Spouse or Domestic Partner Employment
 - Training Expense
 - Permanent Total Disability Benefit

Quarterly Premium Rates

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

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

Special Fraternal Benefit

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

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

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to apply online.**



Requests (based on order received)				
Event	Date	Time	Date	Time
TEAM				
DOUBLES & SINGLES				

Please Read Carefully
ENTRY BLANK
55th Annual Men's and 46th Annual Women's
International Jednota Handicap Tenpin
BOWLING TOURNAMENT
Sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union
Moral support certified by the United States Bowling Congress

Entry Fees

Prize Fee	\$6.85
Bowling Fee (3games).....	\$8.00
<u>Tournament Fee.....</u>	<u>\$4.15</u>
Total Each Event.....	\$19.00

Optional Events

All Events	\$2.00
Senior Singles Event (60+).....	\$5.00

2009 April 24-25-26
 Entries Close
 March 6, 2009

Mail Entry Fee Payable to:
 FCSU Activities

Mail to: Susan Ondrejco
 234 Ilion St.
 Pgh. PA 15207

Brunswick Zone-Belle Vernon Lanes
State Rte. 51 Belle Vernon, PA

Team Name: _____	Captain Name: _____	City Assoc. USBC _____
League: _____	Address: _____	Secretary: _____
City: _____	Phone: _____	Address: _____

All Events (X)	CORRECT TEAM LINEUP (Print or Type)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	USBC NO.	ADDRESS	CERT. NO. <i>MUST BE FILLED IN</i>	BRANCH NO.
	1.					
	2.					
	3.					
	4.					
Singles (X)	TWO-MAN EVENT (Print or Type Full Names)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	- Schedule -			
	1.		TEAM EVENT			
	2.		Friday, April 24.....6 PM & 9 PM			
	1.		Saturday, April 25.....9 AM (or as needed)			
	2.		DOUBLES AND SINGLES			
			Saturday and Sunday			
			April 25 & 26.....9 AM & 1 PM			

Substitutes on two-man teams **must** bowl in the position vacated by the original entrant as per USBC.

PLEASE NOTE ABOVE TIMES & DATES

BOWLER CAN BOWL ONLY ONCE IN EACH EVENT

BOWLING FEES AS WELL AS ENTRY MONEY MUST ACCOMPANY THIS BLANK

FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH COMPLETE INFORMATION

INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN AND MUST BE RESUBMITTED

SEE RULES 8-10 ON BACK REGARDING PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

SEE RULE 6 ON BACK REGARDING CALCULATION OF HANDICAP

BOWLING TOURNAMENT - PLEASE READ ALL RULES CAREFULLY

The Men's and Women's Annual International Jednota Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament is solely sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union, for the purpose of promoting fraternalism and good sportsmanship, and to generate nationwide interest in the Jednota. The Supreme Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union wish to extend to all Jednota members a cordial invitation to the Host City, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania, in this rapidly growing tournament.

1. The 55th Annual Men's and the 46th Annual Women's Jednota International Handicap Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held at Brunswick Zone-Belle Vernon Lanes, 4742 State Rte. 51 S., Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. The tournament will be held the weekend of April 24, 25 and 26, 2009.

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT MARCH 6, 2009.
 OPENING CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, APRIL 24, AT 5:30 PM.
 PLEASE NOTE: ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED IN COMPLETELY. ALL INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN FOR RESUBMISSION.

2. This Tournament is open to all Jednota male and female bonafide MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. All winners will be checked before any prize money is AWARDED.

3. All matters pertaining to this Tournament must have the sanction of the Director of Fraternal Activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union. The Tournament Officers will handle all matters pertaining to this Tournament.

4. U.S.B.C. Bowling Rules shall govern in all matters concerning the actual play on the lanes in this Tournament.

5. Only members with U.S.B.C. Membership Cards will be eligible for the U.S.B.C. special awards in this U.S.B.C. Certified Tournament. Bowlers without U.S.B.C. Membership Cards may purchase some from the Tournament Secretary at current local fees prior to actual participation in this Tournament.

5-A. CAPTAINS OF EACH TEAM ENTRY MUST ENTER HIS TEAMMATES' U.S.B.C. CERTIFICATION CARD NUMBERS AND VERIFY SAME AS LISTED IN PROPER AREA ON ENTRY FORM.
MEN AND WOMEN

6. MEN - The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 210 and the highest average of any U.S.B.C. League of at least 21 games from the 2007-2008 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2007-2008 season and with at least 21 games in the 2008-2009 season will use their current league average. This must be designated as such on ENTRY FORM BY HIS NAME and a league year-to-date statistics sheet must be presented to the Tournament Secretary at the Tournament. Bowlers with no established U.S.B.C. average will BOWL A 210 SCRATCH. SUMMER LEAGUE AVERAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

WOMEN- The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 180 and the highest season average of any U.S.B.C. League of at least 21 games from the 2007-2008 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2007-2008 season and with at least 21 games in the 2008-2009 season will use their current league average. This must be designated as such on ENTRY FORM BY HER NAME and a league year-to-date statistics sheet must be presented to the Tournament Secretary at the Tournament. Bowlers with no established U.S.B.C. will bowl 180 SCRATCH. SUMMER LEAGUE AVERAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

6-A. MEN AND WOMEN: Any contestants whose current average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2009, is TEN (10) PINS or more above his or her average from previous season, must use his or her current average and will indicate this on the ENTRY FORM AT TIME OF ENTRY.

6-B. Under no circumstances will handicap be increased after participant has bowled.

6-C. MEN AND WOMEN- Any unmarried grade or high school student who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) must have written consent of his/her parents or guardian in order to participate in U.S.B.C. Certified Tournament where cash or merchandise prizes are offered. Said written consent must be on a form approved by United States Bowling Congress and must be on file with Tournament Secretary at least one week before the bowler is eligible for tournament competition unless the student is accompanied by his/her parents, in which case the parental consent form may be filed up to the time the student starts to bowl. U.S.B.C. Rule NO. 13

7. In submitting this entry, THE CAPTAIN AND THE TEAM MEMBERS AGREE TO FORFEIT ALL RIGHTS TO PRIZE MONEY AS WELL AS THE TOTAL ENTRY FEES IN THE EVENT THAT ANY INFORMATION LISTED HEREIN SHOULD BE FOUND TO BE FALSE. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS IN AVER-

AGES MADE IN FILLING OUT THIS ENTRY FORM. NO REFUNDS OF TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE

8. PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR TEAM, DOUBLES, SINGLES, AND ALL EVENTS.

9. MEN - One prize will be paid for every seven (7) entries in each event, with the exception of All Events, which will pay one prize for every fifteen (15) entries. No duplicate prizes will be awarded and prize fees will be returned 100 percent.

10. WOMEN - One prize will be paid for every five (5) entries in each event with the exception of All Events, which will pay one prize for every fifteen (15) entries. No duplicate prizes will be awarded and the prize fees will be returned 100 percent.

11. All prize winners will be checked with the Jednota Home Office for verification of membership in good standing.

12. All prizes will be subject to the approval of the Director of Fraternal Activities and the Tournament Committee.

13. The original averages submitted on the Entry Blank cannot be changed prior to participation by anyone except the Team Captain, who must submit written proof thereof to the Tournament Secretary.

14. Any replacement of participants originally scheduled to bowl on team or doubles will take same position on team and doubles event.

15. All participants must report one half-hour before starting time and certification cards must be presented to the Tournament Secretary by same.

16. No bowler will be permitted to compete more than once in each event.

17. Prize fees, as stated on the front of this entry blank, must accompany this entry.

18. In the event that there should be a tie for first place, a Co-Champion will be declared and duplicate trophies will be awarded.

19. Errors in scoring or calculations must be presented to the Tournament Secretary within 48 hours after completion of play. Captains of Teams or Doubles Partners have the option to pick up duplicate score sheets upon completion of play.

20. MEN - A Bowler whose high league average is under 190 shall submit himself for re-rating and shall be re-rated before entering a classified or handicap tournament if one of the following applies:

(a) When his accumulated average is not less than 21 tournament games during the immediate preceding 12 month period exceeds his high league average by 10 or more pins, or

(b) When he has exceeded his high league average by 15 or more pins in each of five tournaments, i.e., 45 pins in a three game series, 60 pins in a four game series, etc. - based only on his high series in each of the five tournaments - during the immediately preceding 12 month period.

21. YOU ARE ONLY ALLOWED TWO (2) RE-RACKS PER GAME.

22. 319-a-3 It shall be each bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of his average in handicap or classified tournaments, whether originally submitted by the bowler, his team captain, or others. Failure to use the proper average shall disqualify score of submitted average if lower than actual average, thereby resulting in a lower classification or more handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the actual average. In case of teams of two or more bowlers, the average shall be combined to determine whether the correct total is higher or lower than the submitted total. Corrections in averages can be made up to the completion of the first game of a series, or within 48 hours after completion of a series if the tournament manager prior to the completion of the first game of the series has given written consent to the bowler authorizing such extension of time to correct his average.

319-D - Any entrant who has qualified for a prize of \$300 or more in any event of a tournament in the 12-month period prior to entry, must report actual score, position, and amount won to tournament management at time of entry for possible re-rating.

22. Refer to U.S.B.C. Rule 322 - Tardy Bowler will receive zero for each frame missed.

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT OFFICERS
 EX-OFFICIO TREASURER & FRATERNAL DIRECTOR SUSAN ONDREJCO
 TOURNAMENT SECRETARY JOE BURKHART



**55th Men's & 46th 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

**55th Annual Men's and 46th Annual Women's
Jednota International Bowling Tournament**

at the Brunswick Zone-Belle Vernon Lanes, Belle Vernon Lanes, Belle Vernon, PA

April 24, 25, 26 2009

Hosted by The St. Anton Padua Society, Branch 670 FCSU

Contract for Advertising in the Souvenir Program Book

Rate Schedule (Please Check Appropriate Box)

_____ Full Page	5"x 8"	\$100.00	REMIT PAYMENT WITH AD MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: MON VALLEY JEDNOTA
_____ Half Page	5" x 4"	\$50.00	
_____ Third Page	5"x2 2/3"	\$40.00	MAIL TO:
_____ Quarter Page	5" x 2"	\$25.00	LARRY A. HAEALEY 27 SMITH STREET CHARLEROI, PA 15022
_____ Patron		\$5.00	

As Per Copy Below In Consideration Thereof We are Enclosing
To Cover Cost Of The Ad

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Place ad below, or on reverse side, or attach
please supply camera ready art or logo you wish to have in ad

Deadline for Submitting Ad March 20, 2009

Tournament Chairman: Larry A. Healey
Phone: 724-483-4941

Bowling Tournament Banquet

Saturday, April 25, 2009

Ice Gardens - Belle Vernon

Buffet Dinner

Entertainment by

Accents Unlimited

DJ and Karaoke

RSVP Today

FCSU Members - \$20.00

Guests - \$35.00

Make Checks Payable to: FCSU ACTIVITIES

Mail checks & Reservation Forms to :
Deadline for Reservations - April 3, 2009

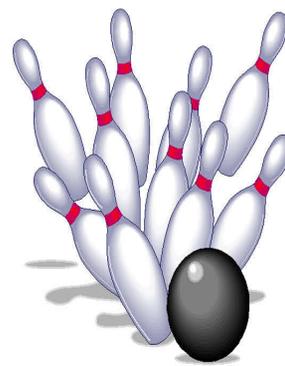
Susan Ondrejco
234 Ilion St.
Pgh. PA 15207

Tentative Itinerary

5:30 PM - Mass at the Ice Gardens, Belle Vernon

6:30 PM - Dinner

Dinner and Entertainment Included in Price
Tickets will be distributed at Brunswick Lanes Friday evening & Saturday morning.



*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

MUST INDICATE THAT YOU ARE WITH THE **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION**

2008 JEDNOTA CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST

REGION 1

..... Age Group 4-6

..... Age Group 7-9

Age Group 10-12



Lia Mercure
First Place
Seymour, CT



Michael Medvetz
Second Place
Carteret, NJ



Erich Diehl
Third Place
Long Valley, NJ



Patrick Monks
First Place
Trumbull, CT



Faith Jurasinski
Second Place
Seaville, NJ



Kayla Mercure
Third Place
Seymour, CT



Sarah Garris
First Place
Mattawan, NJ

REGION 1

..... Age Group 10-12

REGION 2

..... Age Group 4-6

..... Age Group 7-9



Bridget Monks
Second Place
Trumbull, CT



Adam Minarovich
Third Place
Bridgewater, NJ



Tora Lee Utrata
First Place
Leighton, PA



Leah Covaleski
Second Place
Elizabethtown, PA



Nicholas Koval
Third Place
New Freedom, PA



Kaitlyn Estright
First Place
Norristown, PA



Sarah Grega
Second Place
Hazelton, PA

REGION 2

Age Group 7-9

..... Age Group 10-12

REGION 3

..... Age Group 4-6



Amanda Covaleski
Third Place
Elizabethtown, PA



Alexander
Covaleski
First Place
Elizabethtown, PA



Caitlyn Stanya
Second Place
Levittown, PA



Joshua Ruszas
Third Place
Northampton, PA



Kathryn Behil
First Place
Swansboro, NC



JJ Davis
Second Place
Ramey, PA



Rebecca Cahterman
Third Place
Clearfield, PA

REGION 3

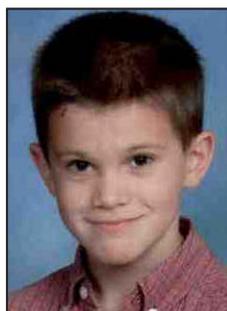
..... Age Group 7-9

..... Age Group 10-12

..... Age Group 4-6



Anna Catherman
First Place
Clearfield, PA



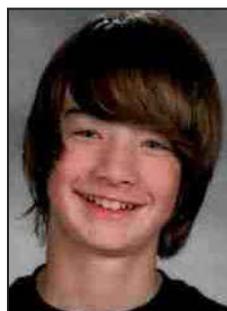
Charles Baker
Second Place
Danville, Pa



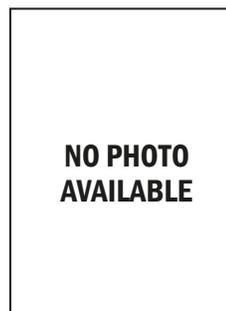
Catherine Baker
First Place
Danville, PA



Margaret Baker
Second Place
Danville, PA



Michael Beierle
Third Place
Hanover Twp, PA



Alex Walker
First Place
Latrobe, PA



Casey Elder
Second Place
Latrobe, PA

2008 JEDNOTA CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST

REGION 4

REGION 5

..... Age Group 7-9

..... Age Group 10-12

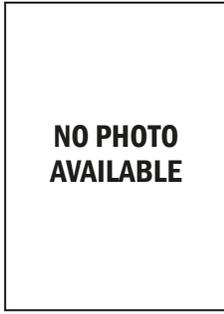
Age Group 4-6



Abbey Scekeres
First Place
Mt. Pleasant, PA



Ashley Kotlar
Second Place
Monongahela, PA



Nicholas Allen
Third Place
Mt. Nebo



Sara Bankovich
First Place
Elizabeth, PA



Jenna Bankovich
Second Place
Elizabeth, PA



Joel Scekeres
Third Place
Mt. Pleasant, PA



Julia Windsheimer
First Place
Pittsburgh, PA

REGION 5

..... Age Group 4-6

..... Age Group 7-9

..... Age Group 10-12



Andrew Wilhelm
Second Place
Amarillo, TX



Rachel Katekovich
Third Place
Aliquippa, PA



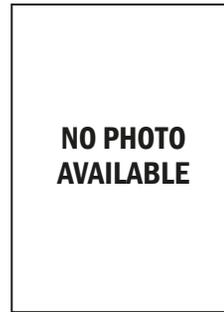
Anny Adams
First Place
Stahlstown, PA



Olivia Stroble
Second Place
Williamsport, PA



Daniel Shemon
Third Place
Imperial, PA



James Mullen
First Place
Springfield, VA



Eliza Dichiera
Second Place
Pittsburgh, PA

REGION 6

Age Group 10-12

..... Age Group 4-6

..... Age Group 7-9



Adam Ignasky
Third Place
McKeesport, PA



Melia Pachmayer
First Place
Mason, OH



Jakie Madal
Second Place
Parma, OH



Taylor Necko
Third Place
Marshallville, OH



Paul Spencer
First Place
Brunswick, OH



Ryan Kolesar
Second Place
Olmstead Twp, OH



Jason Yuknavich
Third Place
Brecksville, OH

REGION 6

REGION 7

..... Age Group 10-12

..... Age Group 4-6

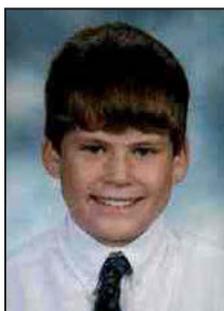
Age Group 7-9



Shelby Spencer
First Place
Brunswick, OH



Sara Janosik
Second Place
Grafton, OH



John Dzurec
First Place
Avon Lake, OH



Sarah Peter
First Place
Highland, IN



Grace Foley
Second Place
Chicago, IL



Paige Remenar
Third Place
Bannister, MI



Mary Fayta
First Place
S. Homewood, IL

2008 JEDNOTA CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST

REGION 7

..... Age Group 7-9



Aiden Jurcenko
Second Place
Chicago, IL



Julian Seida
Third Place
Dyer, IN



Logan Chismar
First Place
Streator, IL



Tyler Ringle
Second Place
Pontiac, IL



Owen Glogovsky
Thrid Place
Longmont, CO



Mayva Hergel
First Place
Toronto ON



Ethan Joiner
Second Place
Aurora, ON

REGION 8/9

..... Age Group 4-6

REGION 8/9

..... Age Group 4-6



Michael Dobis
Third Place
Etobicoke, ON



Jason Chadwick
First Place
Mississauga, ON



Ryan Cartwright
Second Place
Mississauga, ON



Victoria Hankewicz
First Place
Les Cedres, QC

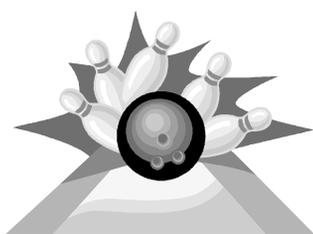


Rachel Chadwick
Second Place
Mississauga, ON

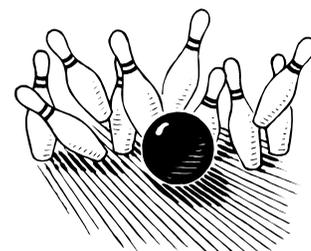


Liam Joiner
Thrid Place
Aurora, ON

..... Age Group 10-12



Accent on Activities



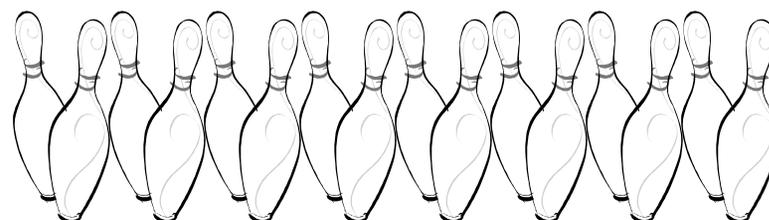
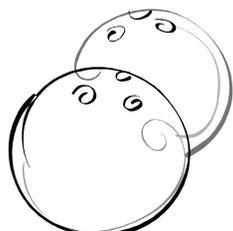
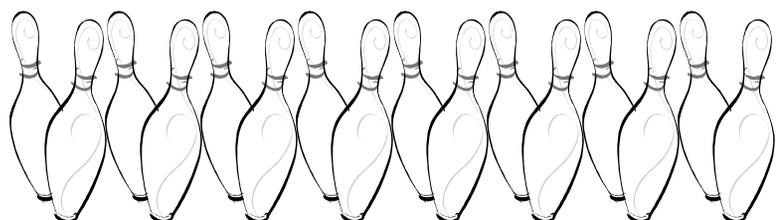
It's that time of year again! Our Annual Bowling Tournament will be held Friday, April 24, through Sunday, April 26, 2009. The Jednota sponsors the tournament Friday through Sunday and a banquet Saturday evening.

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.



Slovak Self-Taught

By Slavo Moravek

On the Street		
I am going to__	Idem do__	(idYem do)
It is about five minutes walk	Je to päť asi minút chôdze	(Ye to asi päťY minoot XWOdze)
Go two blocks	Chodíte dva bloky	(XodYtYe dva bloke)
Can you tell me where...is?	Môžete mi povedať kde je...?	(mWOzYtYe mi povedatY KdYe Ye)
It is downtown	to je dolu v meste	(to Ye dolu v mestYe0)
On the right	Na pravo	(na pravo)
On the left	Na ľavo	(na ľavo)
Straight ahead	Prосто vpred	(prосто vpred)
Does Mr. N. live here?	Tu býva pán N.?	(too beeva pÁN N.)
He moved away	Odsťahoval sa	(odstYahoval sa)
He left this place	Odišiel odtiaľto	(odishYel odt YYaY-to)
Have you the address?	Máte adresu?	(MÁtYe adresu)
Come with me	Podíte so mnou	(podYtYe so mnou)
I will show you where	Ukážem vám kde	(ukÁzYem vÁm kdYe)
Are you looking for somebody	Hľadáte niekoho?	(hlYadÁtYe neykoho)
He lives over there	On býva tamto	(on beeva tamto)
Ask the policeman	Spýtajte sa policajta	(speeta YtYe sa policajta)
He will tell you	On vám povie	(on vÁm povYe)
Which way do you go?	Kade ísť do__	(kadYee eestY do__)

31st Annual Slovak Catholic Federation SS Cyril & Methodius Appeal

When our ancestors came to these shores more than a century ago, they brought with them few monetary assets. However their most precious possession was their faith. The seeds were nurtured by the Slovak priests who came with the immigrant people and helped build our Slovak Catholic Fraternals, Religious Communities of men and women and nearly 300 Slovak Parishes. Today, in response to this legacy, the Slovak Catholic Federation will sponsor the **31st Annual SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal**. The Church in Slovakia has enjoyed a great renaissance since the fall of Communism in 1989. We in America and Canada take pride in the fact that the Slovak Catholic Fraternals, our Parishes and individuals of Slovak ancestry have responded generously to assist the Church in our ancestral homeland. The 2009 Annual Appeal begins during the month of February in Churches of Slovak Descent across The United States and Canada and will continue to the end of the year.

The 2008 Appeal collected \$53,777.80.

Since its inception, this Appeal has raised \$2,124,436.20.

Funds raised from the Appeal will aid the priest-graduate students at the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril & Methodius. These fine priests are being called upon to be the future leaders of the Diocesan Churches in Slovakia both as Vicars and Bishops, in addition to providing qualified instructors/professors for the seminaries that educate future priests. As well, funds benefit those Religious Communities both men and women which share a counterpart which belongs to the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Slovak Conference of Religious. These Communities being: Vincentian sisters of Charity (*Ruzomberok*); Dominican Sisters (*Dunajska Luzna*); School Sisters of St. Francis (*Zilina*); Daughters of St. Francis (*Bratislava-Prievoz*); Byzantine Catholic Sisters of St. Basil the Great (*Secove and Presov*), Franciscan Friars Minor (*Bratislava*), House of St. Benedict (*Bacurov*).

The Slovak Catholic Federation, founded in 1911, under the spiritual leadership of Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The purpose of the Slovak Catholic Federation is to federate individuals of Slovak origin under one banner; for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as National President is Rev. Philip Altavilla, V.E., Episcopal Vicar for the Northern Pastoral Region of the Diocese of Scranton. The Episcopal Moderator is the Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, D.D. Bishop of Altoona/Johnstown. The National First Vice President, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic, Pastor of the Church of the Epiphany, Sayre, and the Church of Saint Ann, Bentley Creek, PA. is the Coordinator for this Annual Appeal.

In our Church today, we are finding more and more individuals of Slovak descent/background do not attend traditionally founded Slovak Parishes, for a number of reasons. Because of this reality today, the monies raised for this Appeal come both from the collections taken in our Slovak Parishes as well as from individual donors.

Your tax deductible donation made out to the **Slovak Catholic Federation**, noting for the **Annual Appeal**, can be sent directly to the National Secretary/Treasurer of the Slovak Catholic Federation:

Dolores Evanko
173 Berner Avenue
Hazleton, PA 18201

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



Some scenes from the Christmas festivities in Linden

Linden Branch 746 Members Enjoy Holiday Party

Members of the St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, held a meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008 in Msgr. Komar Hall at Holy Family Church in Linden, New Jersey. A festive Christmas party was held following the business meeting. A good time was enjoyed by all.

„Bože, nauč nás rátať naše dni, aby sme nadobudli múdrosť srdca!“

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

predkov písmo, preložili zázračne celú Bibliu, poklad európskych národov, dosiahli neuveriteľne v Ríme potvrdenie staroslovienčiny ako štvrtého liturgického jazyka Cirkvi popri latinčine, gréčtine a hebrejčine, založili Vysokú školu s výučbou matematiky, hudby, filozofie a štúdia Písma, kde sa od roku 863 v Nitre a na iných miestach formovali nielen budúci kňazi, ale i vzdelaní laici.

Rastislav hneď na začiatku vybral na štúdium na tejto Vysoké škole 50 nadaných mladíkov, Koceľ neskôr 50 ďalších, každým rokom potom pribúdalo nových. Spolu vyrástlo za 20 rokov niekoľko sto vzdelancov.

Naši predkovia, ponorení dovedy v prítomnosti pohanstva, mali od tej chvíle možnosť dostať sa na úroveň najvyspelejších národov Európy.

Začalo sa tým u nás kolosálne dielo duchovného, kultúrneho, národného i štátotvorného pohybu nášho národa i ostatných slavianskych národov. Ako ktosi povedal, tu bola prekonaná nultá hodina našej intelektuálnej, kultúrnej a duchovnej nemoty.

Naši predkovia prehovorili. Veď do cyrilometodského diela bol zapojený aj náš vynikajúci muž Gorazd a s ním mnohí naši ďalší muži. Naši predkovia začali prijímať pravdu o živote, vyspelé kresťanstvo Carigradu a Ríma a spoznávať pravdivosť slov žalmu: „Hlbočina je človek a jeho srdce priepať.“

Konštantín-Filozof to vyjadril v mohutnej básni „Proglas“.

Príchod Konštantína a Metoda znamenal aj začiatok náročnej a zodpovednej úpravy právnych pomerov štátu a pevné životné a mravné normy spoločenstva. To všetko bolo vyjadrené právnickou knihou „Zákon sudný ľudem.“ Z právnických spisov sv. Metoda je známe aj tzv. „Napomenutie vládarom“, ktoré malo slúžiť zdravému organizovanému štátnemu životu našich predkov.

Cyrlometodská misia z roku 863 priniesla pre naše Slovensko okrem iného ešte jednu mimoriadnu udalosť. Pápež Ján VIII. bulou „Industriae tuae“, adresovanej „milovanému synovi Svätoplukovi, slávnemu kniežatu“, založil v júni roku 880 diecézu „sanctae ecclesie nitrensis – svätej cirkvi nitrianskej“. Bola to a je to prvá diecéza medzi slavianskymi národmi, založená takmer sto rokov pred Prahou, pred Ostrihomom i Krakowom.

Duchovné, kultúrne, náboženské i národné základy spoločenstva zostali u nás živé aj po páde Veľkej Moravy roku 907. Naši predkovia boli síce vojensky porazení, ale kultúrne sa stali aj oporou nového štátu od čias sv. Štefana v Uhorskom kráľovstve. Toto kráľovstvo prebralo od Veľkej Moravy mnohé prvky politického zriadenia, poriadky administratívy, života práce i náboženského života a cirkevného zriadenia. Svedčí o tom veľké percento terminológie v maďarčine – dvor – udvar, brázda – barázda, anjel – angyal.

Cyrlometodská tradícia pretrvávala potom na Slovensku po celé stáročia v piesňach, povestiach, no najmä v chrámoch a medzi vzdelancami. Národ žil – jazykom i vierou. Svedčia o tom záznamy v misáloch, v Kódexoch či záznamoch sviatkov sv. Cyrila a Metoda od čias okolo roku tisíc až do 17. storočia.

Potom od roku 1655, keď vyšiel spevník Cantus catholici, objavujú sa zmienky o cyrlometodskej tradícii čoraz viac a podstatnejšie, a to u katolíkov i evanjelikov až po bernolákovcov, Jána Hollého, kardinála Rudnaya, cez veľké hnutie štúrovcov, až po Moyzesa a Kuzmányho, Maticu slovenskú a SSV. V ďalších dejinách je v slovenskej kultúre priam záplava písomností o tejto téme až podnes.

Sme hrdí na pamiatky, ktoré nám objavujú z čias cyrilometodských i prvších naši archeológovia po celom Slovensku. Najmä na Devíne, v Nitre, na východnom Slovensku a najnovšie aj v Bojnjej. Sú to vzácne doklady, že naši predkovia tu žili a tvorili a že ich oživovalo kresťanstvo. Ale je tu aj iná, veľká a živá skutočnosť – je tu živé kresťanstvo, živé chrámy katolíckej i evanjelické, je tu živá Cirkev, je tu živá Nitrianska diecéza založená roku 880. V našich gréckokatolíckych i pravoslávnych chrámoch zaznievajú dodnes prastaré modlitby a spevy v staroslovienčine. To všetko živo preklenuje tisíc rokov našich dejín – Konštantín a Metod sú medzi nami stále živo prítomní svojím životom a dielom. Čo to pre nás znamená?

V žalme sa hovorí: Postojte na ceste! A zamyslite sa! Skúmajte staré chodníky. Hľadajte ďalšiu dobrú cestu a kráčajte po nej.

V cyrilometodskej tradícii máme vzácne dedičstvo kultúrneho, náboženského, národného, ba i štátneho obsahu. Máme dedičstvo, ktoré je potrebné ďalej zdravo rozvíjať. Vieme, v čom všetkom je to potrebné.

Máme na Slovensku dosť, až mnoho nedostatkov. Mnoho nám chýba do národnej zrelosti. Príslušníci iných národov si kladú ruku na srdce pri speve štátnej hymny a pri úklone pred štátnym znakom. U nás niektorí, a to nielen mladí ľudia, sa správajú ako národní bezdomovci – nevedia si ceniť ani národ, ani si nectia štátny znak, ani štátnu hymnu. Je to smutnejšia stránka nášho života v našej Slovenskej republike.

Nedostatkov a nerestí máme na Slovensku viac. Niektoré naše elektronické i printové masmédiá nielenže nebudujú život národa a štátu, lež ho skôr nahloďávajú a podkopávajú. Pri rozdielnych názoroch na niektoré problémy nevieme, čo je ľudský dialóg. Popri nedostatkoch máme našťastie aj veci povzbudzujúce a príkladné. Niektorí naši verejní činitelia, naši vedci, učители, umelci a spisovatelia sú v duchu cyrilometodskej tradície príkladom obetavého života pre dobro národa i oddanosti Slovenskej republike, ktorej sme sa po tvrdých stáročiach dožili. A sú tu aj iné dobré javy. Môže to naznačovať, že sviatok sv. Konštantína a Metoda neslávime plytko a naprázdno, ale ako ozajstný sviatok národa, celého Slovenska aj s jeho národnosťami, s ľudskou opravdivosťou a hĺbkou i radosťou ducha. Svätoplukove prúty akoby boli znova zviazané a tým pevné. Ak to vydrží, bude to

osožiť nám i našim vzťahom k Európe a k svetu.

Cyrlometodská tradícia vstúpila v priebehu stáročí do všetkých odvetví národného, náboženského a kultúrneho života Slovákov. Stala sa tradíciou národotvornou.

Bolo prirodzené, že Slovensko pri tvorbe svojej Slovenskej republiky do preambuly Ústavy, svojho najvyššieho zákona, zakotvilo cyrilometodský odkaz. Tým pripomíname sebe, Európe i svetu tisícročné korene nášho kultúrneho, duchovného a národného života, ba aj svoju dávnu štátnosť. To je výraz našej hrdosti. Má to význam pred Európou a svetom. A pre nás je to výzva.

Výzva pre našu generáciu. Zdravo rozvíjať národný život, jeho materiálne i duchovné hodnoty a tým vernosť kresťanským zásadám života, ktoré nás zachraňovali v celých dejinách. O toto všetko sa hodno usilovať a za toto všetko sa hodno i modliť slovami žalmu: „Bože, nauč nás rátať naše dni, aby sme nadobudli múdrosť srdca!“ (Mierne krátené - Red. JEDNOTA)

Kardinál Ján Chryzostom Korec
TK KBS

O fašiangoch na Slovensku už v predkresťanskom kontexte

Bratislava (TASR) - Fašiangy, začínajúce sa Tromi kráľmi a končiace sa Popolcovou alebo tzv. Škaredou stredou, poznáme z územia stredoeurópskeho priestoru, a najmä z nášho, ešte aj v predkresťanskom kontexte. Uviedla to etnologička Katarína Nádaská z Katedry etnológie a kultúrnej antropológie Filozofickej fakulty Univerzity Komenského. „Boli to rôzne obchôdzky slúžiace tomu, aby sa rôznymi magickými spôsobmi privolala jar. Po dlhej zime bolo predsa len pozitívne, aby postupne ustupovala,“ dodala. Toto obdobie poznali aj východní Slovania, u ktorých sa slávil v podobe „maslenice“. „Už názov hovorí o tom, že to bolo obdobie bohaté na kalorické jedlá, pretože pred pôstom sa bolo treba poriadne najesť,“ vysvetlila etnologička. Naši predkovia žili a stravovali sa veľmi striedmo, ale počas fašiangov bolo dovolené sa dobre prejesť. „Tradičné jedlá boli fánky, šišky, pampúchy, záviny a zabíjačkové špeciality,“ spresnila.

Iný nádych získali fašiangy po prijatí kresťanstva. „To, čo z nich ako fragment zostalo, boli obchôdzky v maskách. Dnes to berieme ako zábavu, ale v minulosti mali masky významný rituálny význam,“ vysvetlila Nádaská. Tie fašiangové boli najmä zvieracie a vyzerali strašidelne. Čím bola maska strašidelnejšia, tým mala väčšiu moc a ľudia verili, že démoni a zlí duchovia sa vyplašia a nebudú ich obťažovať. „Ešte doteraz máme regióny, kde sa tieto fašiangové sprievody konajú a ľudia sa v nich aj dnes preobliekajú za rôzne masky. Kedysi nesmel chýbať Turoň, medveď, vlk, dnes sa prezliekajú muži za ženy a naopak a v maskách sa vždy zvyrazňujú atribúty výzoru, charakteru alebo zlovykov opačného pohlavia,“ spresnila etnologička.

Slovo fašiang pochádza z nemeckého slova vast-schane, ktoré vo voľnom preklade znamená posledný nápoj. „Toto slovo symbolizovalo, že po ňom nastáva 40-dňový pôst pred Veľkou nocou, ktorý sa v minulosti bral veľmi vážne,“ dodala. Práve preto mali byť posledné fašiangové dni, „ostatky“, dňami bujarej zábavy. Z veľkomoravského obdobia je z nášho územia známy názov „mjasopust“.

Podľa dĺžky fašiangového obdobia sa hovorilo o dlhých a krátkych fašiangoch. „Žartovne sa hovorilo, že keď je krátky fašiang, vydajú sa aj škaredé dievčatá,“ s úsmevom konštatovala Nádaská a dodala, že cez fašiangy, v januári a februári, sa konalo aj najviac svadiieb. „V našom slovenskom prostredí to bolo dané aj roľníckou kultúrou. Hoci sa už gazdovia pripravovali na jarné práce, ešte nebolo veľa roboty, takže okrem priadok a páračiek bol čas aj na svadby. Trvali dlhšie ako dnes a bola to slávnosť nielen rodiny, ale celej dediny,“ upozornila. Fašiangové obchôdzky sprievodu dedinou mali rituálny priebeh. „Ich významom bolo dobrorečenie, dobrožičenie pre navštívený dom. Želalo sa, aby sa darilo po zdravotnej aj hospodárskej stránke,“ spresnila. V prvej polovici 20. storočia k maskám pribudol aj vojak so šablou a práve na túto šablú napichovali gazdiné potravinové podarúčky pre masky. Každá obec má svoje tradičné vinšovačky a masky na dvore domu nikdy nezabudli domácich vyzvítať. V sprievode nechýbal ani ľudový zabávač, ktorý zábave udával tempo. Fašiangové obchôdzky, zábavy a veselice vyvrcholovali poslednými tromi dňami, „ostatkami“, a fašiangy sa končili v utorok polnocou v noci pred Popolcovou stredou. „Zábava vrcholila na spoločnej veselici v krčme, kde sa z naturálií zozbieraných po celej dedine vystrojila hostina spojená s bujarou tancovačkou a o polnoci sa pochovávala basa. Na tomto krásnom obrade nechýbali účinkujúci prezlečení za kňaza, organistu, hrobára, basa na márach a babky-plačky,“ zosummarizovala etnologička. „Basa naša, basa milovaná. Po celý rok si nám vyhrávala do spevu do tanca a teraz prišla tvoja čierna hodina,“ lamentovalo sa a nariekalo. „Akt pochovania basy symbolizoval, že hudobné nástroje zmĺknu, zábavy sa končia, nastáva obdobie pôstu a ľudia sa majú ponoriť viac do seba,“ uzatvorila Nádaská.

V Nitre a na Devíne budú nakrúcať veľkofilm o sv. Cyrilovi a Metodovi

Bratislava (TASR) - V Nitre budú nakrúcať veľkofilm o sv. Cyrilovi a Metodovi. Primátora Nitry Jozefa Dvonča o tom informoval ordinár Ozbroyených síl (OS) a Ozbroyených zborov (OZ) SR Mons. František Rábek, ktorý je aj predseda rady Konferencie biskupov Slovenska pre vedu, vzdelanie a kultúru. Mons. Rábek uviedol dôvody vzniku projektu, keď v roku 2013 si pripomenieme a oslávime 1150. výročie od príchodu solúnskych vierozvestov sv. Cyrila a Metoda na územie Slovenska a film by mal byť príspevkom k tomuto výročiu. Dvonč zámer nakrúcať scény filmu na území Nitry privítal a vyjadril plnú podporu podľa možností, ktoré na to mesto bude mať.

Ján Oparty ako režisér a producent projektu ich informoval, že film má byť dvojdielny. Prvá časť bude mať duchovný charakter, druhá je plánovaná dobrodružnejšie. Filmový projekt je finančne náročný na herecké obsadenie aj na výrobu dobových kulís a kostýmov. Scenár k filmu by mal byť dokončený v tomto roku. Realizácia nakrúcania filmu od konca roku 2010 má trvať približne päť mesiacov, t.j. 80 až 90 filmovacích dní. Dva dvojhodinové diely by sa mali nakrúcať aj na Devíne. Počíta sa s vybudovaním originálnych kulís a dediny z čias Veľkej Moravy, ktoré by mali následne ostať trvalými turistickými atrakciami približujúcimi históriu nášho národa. Preto sa v Nitre hľadá vhodný priestor na vybudovanie dobovej dediny s výhľadom na Nitriansky hrad. Rokovanie s primátorom otvorilo možnosť ďalšej spolupráce a napredovania projektu, na ktorom bude participovať aj mesto Nitra.



Vianočné posedenie Spolku č. 746 IKSJ v Linden, NJ

V nedeľu 14. decembra 2008 členovia spolku sv. Jána Krstiteľa, č. 746 IKSJ sa zišli na schôdzi v Msgr. Komar Hall v kostole sv. Rodiny v Linden, New Jersey. Po schôdzi nasledovalo slávnostné vianočné posedenie. Nasledujúce snímky z vianočného podujatia sú svedectvom príjemnej nálady zúčastnených.



FOTO TASR - Lýdia Vojtáššáková

V lyžiarskom stredisku v Oravskej Lesnej zaviedol správca farnosti Miloslav Marušiak a kaplán Miloš Labaš sväté omše, ktoré budú bývať každú nedeľu o 13.30 h až do skončenia lyžiarskej sezóny. Konajú sa v kaplnke, ktorá stojí priamo pri vrcholovej stanici sedačkovej lanovky, čo lyžiari privítali. V rokoch 1739 až 1925 stál na tomto mieste prvý drevený lesňanský kostol. Na snímke lyžiari pred kaplnkou 25. januára 2009.



Pápež pochválil Facebook, ide na YouTube

VATIKÁN (TASR, AP)- Pápež Benedikt XVI. privítal v piatok 23. 1. 2009 ako "dar" nové technológie reagujúce na "bytosťnú túžbu" ľudí komunikovať. Povedal, že internetové stránky spoločenských sietí ako Facebook a MySpace môžu pomôcť rozvoju priateľstva a vzájomného pochopenia. Vo svojom posolstve pri príležitosti Svetového dňa spoločenských dorozumievacích prostriedkov však pápež súčasne varoval, že "posadnutosť" virtuálnymi spoločenskými kontaktmi môže izolovať ľudí od skutočných vzťahov a prehliadnuť digitálnu hranicu vylúčením tých, ktorí sa už ocitli na okraji spoločnosti. Vyzval tiež správcov sietí, aby zabezpečili, že ich obsah bude rešpektovať ľudskú dôstojnosť a "pôvab a intimitu ľudskej sexuality".

Predstavitelia vatikánskej televízie a spoločnosti Google oznámili, že Vatikán spúšťa vlastný kanál na YouTube, aby sa priblížil digitálnej generácii a mohol lepšie spravovať internetový imidž pápeža. Mons. Claudio Maria Celli, ktorý je predsedom Pápežskej rady pre masovokomunikačné prostriedky, povedal, že pápež to výslovne schválil. Uviedol, že Benedikt XVI. je "mužom dialógu" a chce sa venovať ľuďom, nech sú kdekoľvek. Vatikán má v úmysle aktualizovať stránku na YouTube denne, pričom jeho posolstvá tam budú dostupné po taliansky, nemecky, anglicky a španielsky.



Aj stredoškooláci zo SR absolvujú každoročne študijné pobyty v USA

Bratislava (TASR) - Približne 60 stredoškoolákov zo Slovenska ročne absolvuje 10-mesačné štúdium (jeden školský rok) v USA prostredníctvom neziskovej organizácie Americká kultúrna výmena - A.K.V. Slovakia. Študenti majú takto možnosť zdokonaľiť sa v anglickom jazyku a zároveň získať zaujímavé skúsenosti. Pri organizovaní pobytu a štúdia mladých ľudí zo Slovenska na niektorej strednej škole v Spojených štátoch amerických A.K.V. už tradične úzko spolupracuje s americkou neziskovou organizáciou A.I.S.E. (The American Intercultural Students Exchange). V súčinnosti s touto organizáciou zabezpečuje študentom ubytovanie a stravu zdarma v amerických rodinách vybraných na základe prísnych kritérií. Letenky, víza, prípravu na pobyt v USA a ďalšie náklady hradí študent.

Nezisková organizácia A.I.S.E. v USA pôsobí už viac ako 30 rokov a ročne umiestni na amerických stredných školách približne 3,500 študentov z desiatok krajín. Podmienkou prijatia na stredoškoolské štúdium v USA je vek 15 až 18 rokov, minimálne tri roky štúdia anglického jazyka, primerané zdravie a dobrý prospech. Za podobných podmienok A.K.V. Slovakia zabezpečuje aj štúdium stredoškoolákov v Kanade, Brazílii, Nemecku, Francúzsku a Španielsku.

Bližšie informácie záujemcom o stredoškoolské štúdium v zahraničí v školskom roku 2009/2010 poskytne organizácia Americká kultúrna výmena - A.K.V. Slovakia so sídlom na Pražskej ulici v Bratislave, alebo na webovej stránke www.aise-akv.sk.

Fašiangová zábava v Milwaukee, WI

Slovenská liga 20. zboru v Milwaukee srdečne pozýva nielen slovenskú verejnosť, ale aj členov Spolku č. 89 IKSJ v Milwaukee, aby sa prišli s nami spoločne zabaviť, na tradičnú fašiangovú zábavu, ktorá sa uskutoční v sobotu 21. februára o 6.00 hodine večer v hale The Knights of Columbus 3200 S. 103rd Street (103 & Oklahoma) v Greenfield, WI.

Do tanca bude hrať slovenská hudobná skupina z Chicaga. Tanečná skupina, Tatra Slovak Dancers z Milwaukee sa predstaví so svojim vystúpením o 7:30 hodine večer. Na podujatí si budú môcť hostia zakúpiť slovenské jedlá, zákusky a koláče. Vopred zakúpené vstupenky stoja \$4.50 a pri dverách \$5.00. O bližšie informácie volajte Betty Valent na tel. č. (414) 425-6137, alebo Emily Kosso (414) 464-1063.



Slovenský ples v New Yorku 21. februára 2009

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko (SACC) v New Yorku usporiada 17. slovenský ples v sobotu 21. februára 2009 v New York Athletic Club, 180 Central Park South (na rohu 59. ulice a 7. ave.) New York, N.Y.

Toto tradičné podujatie vie pritiahnúť slovensko-americkú verejnosť a záujemcov nielen z New Yorku, New Jersey a Connecticut, ale aj zo štátov Pensylvánia a Massachusetts. Z finančného zisku SACC poskytuje americké vysokoškolské štúdium slovenským študentom na Slovensku. Toto by nebolo možné bez štedrosti a porozumenia členov SACC-u a priateľov. Každý príspevok na tento cieľ je vítaný a neoceniteľný.

Na plesu bude poctený slovenský honorárny konzul za štát Pensylvánia Jozef Senko. Jeho činnosť je široká a rozličná. Bol pokladníkom organizácie Friends of Slovakia, predsedom dozorcov Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, člen všetkých slovenských fraternalistických organizácií, Slovenskej ligy, Združenia slovenských katolíkov a stály dopisovateľ do novín Jednota. V jeho rubrike Money Management and tax tips nájdeme mnohé rady a poučenia ohľadom daní. Na Duquesne University študoval business administration a dosiahol stupeň bachelor of Science a na Robert Morris University obdržal Master of Science degree in taxation. Je ženatý a jeho manželka Albina sa narodila na Slovensku.

Vstupné na ples je \$160.00 za osobu a \$95.00 pre študentov. Do tanca bude hrať Marek Soltis Orchestra. O 6. hodine bude koktail a o 7. hodine sa bude podávať hlavné jedlo. Výbor plesu sa postaral o hodnotné ceny do výhry, ktoré sa vylosujú počas večera.

Attire: black tie alebo večerný oblek. Rezervácie: Matúš Čulen (914) 738-9115 a Gitka Hlavinka (201) 242-0214. Šeky treba vystaviť na: SACC a poslať na túto adresu: SACC, % Stano Krčmár, 33 Weasel Drift Rd., West Paterson, N.J. 07424.

Usporiadatelia srdečne pozývajú slovensko-americkú pospolitosť a priateľov. Toto stretnutie je nielen zábavné a spoločenské, ale aj národno-kultúrnym príspevkom do pokladnice slovenských hodnôt.

Rudo L. Greguš



Fašiangová tanečná zábava v New York City

Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku vás srdečne pozýva na Fašiangovú tanečnú zábavu, ktorá sa uskutoční v nedeľu dňa 22. februára 2009 po svätej omši o 12:30 hodine v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 411 East 66th Street, New York City. Vstupné je \$20.00. V cene vstupenky je započítané hlavné jedlo, káva a koláč. V priebehu zábavy bude losovaná tombola a predstavia sa aj deti zo slovenskej školy. Zabávať Vás bude hudobná skupina Jozefa Jurášiho – Kontakty. Tešíme sa na Vašu účasť.

Jozef Juráši, predseda



Maratón čítania z listov sv. Pavla

Farnosť Všetkých svätých v Majcichove ako i Farnosť Najsvätejšej Trojice v Opoji oslávili sviatok Obrátenia sv. Pavla, 25. januára v jubilejnom Roku sv. Pavla 2009 spoločne vo Farskom kostole v Majcichove maratónom čítania všetkých listov sv. Pavla.

Päť a pol hodinové nedeľné popoludnie strávili veriaci oboch farností Trnavskej arcidiecézy čítaním a počúvaním bohatstva myšlienok Božieho slova, ktoré nám zaznieva z listov sv. Pavla.

Do akcie sa zapojili deti, mladí, ženy i muži, manželské páry, riaditeľka ZŠ Najsvätejšej Trojice v Opoji, ba i starostovia obcí Majcichov a Hoste. Po skončení čítania sa na fare konalo v bratskej atmosfére zaslúžené agapé.

Dr. Pavol Zemko

KARDINÁL KOREC 85-ROČNÝ

Slovensko má iba málo takých výrazných osobností ako je Jeho Eminencia Ján Chryzostom kardinál Korec. 22. januára sa dožil 85 rokov v plnej duševnej sile, ale so zdravím už iba primerom veku. Veď si aj čosi vytrpel za 12 rokov väzenia a ďalšie roky prenasledovania a ťažkej práci robotníka. Nikdy však neprepadol beznádeji.

Už v r. 1939 vstúpil v Ružomberku do Spoločnosti Ježišovej. Kňazom sa stal v r. 1950. Ako tajne vysvätený biskup od r. 1951 si vykonával v ťažkých podmienkach povolanie kňaza i biskupa až do pádu komunizmu. Svätý Otec Ján Pavol II. ho 6. februára 1990 vymenoval za nitrianskeho diecézneho biskupa a za kardinála bol vo Vatikáne slávnostne kreovaný 28. 6. 1991.

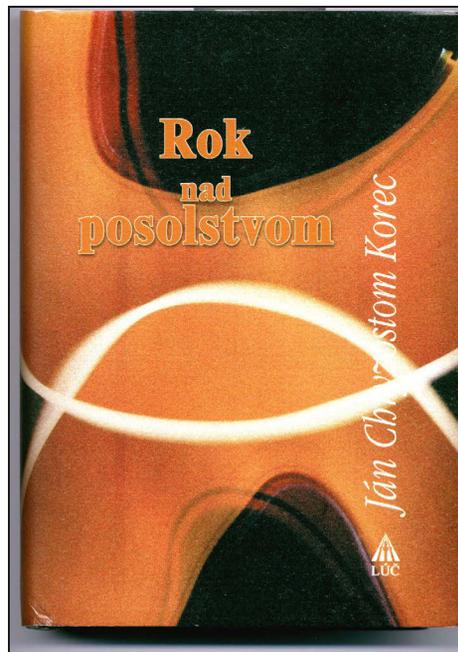
Otec kardinál je pre nás Slovákov osobitne významný aj ako autor veľkého množstva literárnych diel, ktorými sa nám prihovára, aby sme sa upevňovali vo svojej viere. Zaznamenal však aj svoje spomienky na roky prenasledovania Cirkvi. V tejto literatúre faktu napísal pre tých mladších, ktorí si nemôžu pamätať na udalosti tzv. barbarskej noci, čo všetko sa udialo so slovenskými rehoľníkmi v noci z 13. na 14. apríla 1950 a v nasledovných rokoch s celou Cirkvou. Dojímavým čítaním je trojzväzková kniha J. Ch. Korca *Slová pre život*. Listy matke i korešpondencia so štátnou byrokraciou, to sú kontrasty svedčiacie o viere, vytrvalosti i láske bez nenávisti. „Ako je možné, že sa ešte nevypredalo v USA anglické vydanie *The Night of the Barbarians*, ktoré vydali r. 2002 vo vydavateľstve Bolchazy-Carducci Publ.?", pýtal sa ma so sklamaním pri našom nedávnom stretnutí otec kardinál.

Kardinál Korec je autorom rozsiahlej knižnice vlastných diel. Pred pár dňami mu vyšla snáď už deväťdesiatá, viac než päťstostranová kniha, pod názvom *Rok nad posolstvom*, ktorú v Knižnici viery vydali vo vydavateľstve Lúč. Sú to nadčasové meditácie z osemdesiatych rokov, ktoré vyšli po prvý raz r. 1988 v Kanade. Je to vzácne dielo, ktorým kardinál obdaroval nás, práve teraz, pri príležitosti svojho životného jubilea. Ako sa mu poďakovať? Nuž, azda iba želaním, aby mu Pán Boh doprial zdravie a dal mu silu pokračovať v jeho diele.

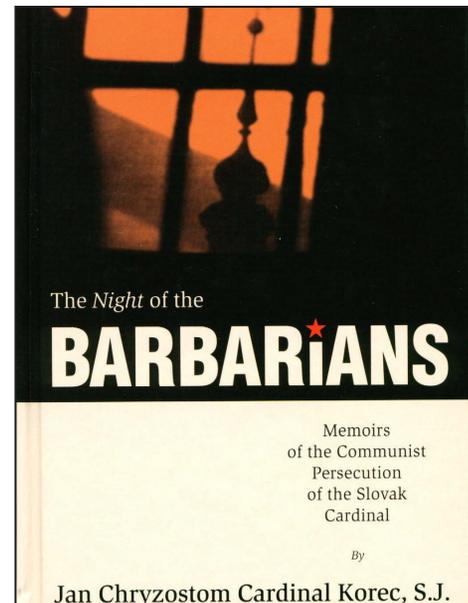
Ivan Reguli



Otec kardinál rád prijíma hostí z USA aj teraz, keď je na odpočinku. V októbri minulého roku prijal čestného predsedu Sila Dr. Ludovíta Pavla (uprostred), ktorého sprevádzali Ivan Reguli (vľavo) a Dr. Emil Vontorčík s Rev. Jánom Košiarom.



Najnovšie vydanie knihy Jána Ch. Korca *Rok nad posolstvom*



Na obálke amerického vydania *The Night of the Barbarians* je kríž na veži kostola. Zo svojej cely sa mohol väznený biskup iba pozeráť na chrám Boží. Aj takáto bola zlomyseľnosť jeho žalárnikov.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

V súvislosti s finančnou krízou sa šetriť rozhodli aj jednotlivé ministerstvá. Úsporné opatrenia sa nebudú týkať vo väčšine prípadov organizačnej štruktúry, ale budú sa týkať hlavne pracovných ciest, alebo výdavkov na školenia a kurzy pre zamestnancov. Napríklad ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny plánuje šetrenia orientovať predovšetkým na služobné cesty. Rovnakú cestu si zvolilo aj ministerstvo životného prostredia, ktoré ešte obmedzilo výdavky na školenia a kurzy pre zamestnancov. Podpredseda vlády Dušan Čaplovič sa zase v roku 2009 nezúčastní na žiadnych spoločenských podujatiach v zahraničí. Ministerstvo vnútra chce znížiť náklady na vlastnú réžiu najmä využívaním práce odsúdených. Iba ministerstvo obrany bude prepúšťať. Ku koncu januára 2009 opustí rezort obrany 1500 civilných zamestnancov.

Od leta Slovensko oslabí svoju pozíciu v Severoatlantickej aliancii na polovicu. Namiesto riadneho člena sa tak priblíži k štatútu pozorovateľa. O návrate 75 profesionálov z pôvodných 150, ktorí pôsobia vo veliteľských štruktúrach NATO, bude rozhodovať hodnosť - čím nižšia bez ohľadu na schopnosti, tým skôr príde domov. Slovensko tak obmedzí prísun mladých odborníkov vyškolených v aliancii. Na druhej strane bude krajina v štruktúrach NATO platiť starších dôstojníkov krátko pred dôchodkom. "Počet vojakov sa zníži o 50 percent k prvému augustu 2009 a finančná úspora bude 50 percent," povedal hovorca ministerstva obrany Vladimír Gemela.

O najlepšie ťažobné licencie prebieha boj. Na štyri najperspektívnejšie ložiská zemného plynu má totiž od roku 2002 a 2003 licencie Nafta Gbely. Od roku 2006 sa do tohto biznisu usiluje vstúpiť aj kanadská firma Euro-Geologic, zatiaľ sa jej však licencie na prieskum ťažobných ložísk na Záhorí a na východnom Slovensku získať nepodarilo. Konzultant firmy a bývalý minister hospodárstva Ján Holčík považuje za nespravodlivé, že licenciu má Nafta napriek tomu, že sa zaviazala investovať päťkrát menej ako oni. Generálny riaditeľ Nafty Gbely Martin Hollý však vysvetľuje, že firma má svoje know-how a výsledky, na ktoré môže nadviazať.

Nová regionálna letecká spoločnosť Danube Wings plánuje v tomto roku prepraviť okolo 300 tis. cestujúcich na pravidelných a nepravidelných linkách a uskutočniť približne 4 tisíc letov. Informoval o tom nedávno obchodný riaditeľ spoločnosti Danube Wings Arpád Agócs. Koncom marca tohto roku plánuje firma otvoriť pravidelné linky z Bratislavy do Popradu (5-krát týždenne), do Bazileja (4-krát týždenne) a do talianskej Bologne (2-krát týždenne).

Za prvé dva týždne roku 2009 prijala spravodajská jednotka finančnej polície 48 hlásení o podozrivých vkladoch. Pohyby na účtoch pritom nesledujú samotní policajti, ale takzvané povinné osoby, ktoré definuje zákon. Patria medzi ne najmä banky. Podozrivá môže byť pri jednorazovom vklade aj suma, napríklad 100,000 korún, v iných prípadoch nie sú podozrivé ani miliónové vklady. Počítačový program v bankách na základe nastavených kritérií vyčlení transakcie, ktoré by sa mohli považovať za nezvyčajné.

Strojárska spoločnosť PPS Group, najväčší zamestnávateľ v Detve, opäť prepúšťa. Z dôvodu finančnej krízy o prácu má prísť približne 300 zamestnancov. Pred dvoma mesiacmi pritom firma na Úrade práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny vo Zvolene oznámila prepustenie 100 pracovníkov. Informáciu o prepúšťaní priznala aj sama spoločnosť. Príčinou znižovania stavu ľudí je "extrémny pokles objednávok od stabilných zákazníkov", uviedol finančný riaditeľ spoločnosti. "Je potrebné prijať opatrenia, ktoré zabezpečia dlhodobú prijateľnosť podnikania a budúcnosť spoločnosti s jej sociálnymi úlohami," dodal.

Na úrovni miest a obcí urobíme všetko pre integráciu železničnej dopravy v rámci železničnej magistrály Paríž-Bratislava/Budapešť. Pre médiá to povedal predseda iniciatívy Magistrála pre Európu Heinz Fenrich. Bratislava je jej súčasťou od roku 2005. Fenrich, ktorý je primátorom mesta Karlsruhe, ďalej uviedol, že prepojenie Paríž-Bratislava/Budapešť má i politickú váhu. Hoci magistrála v medzinárodnom koridore TEN-T17 je schválená len do Bratislavy, v minulosti existoval Orient Express na trase Paríž-Budapešť. "Preto sme začali v našej iniciatíve živiť myšlienku postupného prepojenia až do Budapešti," uviedol Fenrich.

Dodávky zemného plynu smerujúce na Slovensko z Ruskej federácie cez Ukrajinu prúdia od 21. januára bez problémov. Informoval o tom po rokovaní vládneho kabinetu minister hospodárstva Ľubomír Jahnátek. Problematiku vlastníctva plynu v podzemných zásobníkoch plánuje vláda SR riešiť v novom zákone o štátnych rezervách. Dodávky ruského zemného plynu na Slovensko boli po takmer dvoch týždňoch obnovené v utorok 20. januára napoludnie, a to po tom, ako podpísali dohodu ruský Gazprom a ukrajinský Naftogaz. Ukrajinská premiérka Julia Tymošenková označila dohodu s Ruskom o obnovení dodávok plynu do Európy za "skutočné víťazstvo". Reagovala tak na kritiku prezidenta Ukrajiny Viktora Juščenka, ktorý dohodu o cenách za plyn označil za "prehru", pretože ceny, ktoré bude Rusko platiť za tranzit podľa neho nevyvažujú enormné zvýšenie ceny za ruský plyn.

Takmer 900 vystavovateľov sa predstavilo na 15. medzinárodnom veľtrhu cestovného ruchu ITF SlovakiaTour a 16. veľtrhu Danubius Gastro, ktoré otvorili pre

odbornú verejnosť vo štvrtok 22. januára na výstavisku Incheba Expo Bratislava. Okrem sprievodných výstav Poľovníctvo a oddych, Exposhop a Gastropack bude premiérovou uvedená výstava Wellness a Fitness.

Spoločnosť SE Bordnetze - Slovakia s.r.o. ruší prevádzku v Zlatých Moravciach. Zo 750 zamestnancov spoločnosti približne 300 dostane ponuku pracovať v prevádzke v Nitre, kam sa presunie výroba zo Zlatých Moraviec. Zvyšných 400 ľudí plánuje firma prepustiť. Prevádzka v Zlatých Moravciach by mala ukončiť svoju činnosť k 30. aprílu tohto roka. Dôvodom je prudké zníženie objednávok zo strany odberateľov. SE Bordnetze - Slovakia s.r.o. vznikla v Nitre v roku 1996 pod názvom Volkswagen Elektrické systémy s.r.o. ako dcérska spoločnosť firmy Volkswagen Bordnetze GmbH. Materská firma bola spoločným podnikom nemeckých koncernov Volkswagen a Siemens s rovnakým podielom. Nosným výrobným programom bola výroba káblových zväzkov pre osobné automobily. V roku 1999 firma rozšírila výrobné kapacity a otvorila novú výrobnú prevádzku v Zlatých Moravciach. Pôsobila v prenajatých priestoroch, ktoré patria mestu. V novembri 2006 bola firma Volkswagen Elektrické systémy s.r.o. premenovaná na SE Bordnetze - Slovakia s.r.o.

V poslednom hodnotení univerzít sveta sa medzi prvých 500 nedostala žiadna slovenská univerzita. Ivan Gašparovič upozornil, že ešte stále nemá väčšina slovenských vysokých škôl (VŠ) a univerzít takú vedecko-výskumnú základňu, aká sa žiada. Myslí si tiež, že sa ešte stále nepresadil taký model, ktorý by zaručil dostupnosť k vzdelaniu a zároveň by zvyšoval aj jeho kvalitu.

Košická hutnícka spoločnosť U. S. Steel pokračuje v úsporných opatreniach vo výrobe, ktorými reaguje na komplikovanú situáciu na trhu. Po dohode s odborovými organizáciami prijal manažment rozhodnutie, že zamestnanci budú mať jeden deň voľna v týždni so 60-% kompenzáciou mzdy. Tento nástroj pomôže zmysluplne znížiť náklady a minimalizovať dopady na rodiny zamestnancov. Nový pracovný režim umožní spoločnosti flexibilne sa prispôbiť požiadavkám zákazníkov.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Odchádzajúcemu veľvyslancovi USA Obsitníkovi udelili Zlatú plaketu

BRATISLAVA (TASR) - Minister zahraničných vecí SR Ján Kubiš udelil v pondelok 19. januára 2009 veľvyslancovi Spojených štátov amerických v SR Vincentovi Obsitníkovi Zlatú plaketu MZV SR za mimoriadny prínos k rozvoju a upevňovaniu priateľských vzťahov a dvojstrannej spolupráce medzi SR a USA. Informoval o tom hovorca MZV SR Ján Škoda.

"Minister vysoko ocenil osobnú angažovanosť veľvyslancu v úsilí o zaradenie SR do bezvízového programu USA a pri príprave návštevy prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča v USA," uviedol Škoda. Šéf slovenskej diplomacie prijal Vincenta Obsitníka pri príležitosti ukončenia diplomatickej misie.



FOTO - Dr. Emil Vontorčík

Pri príležitosti 85. narodenín kardinála Jána Chryzostoma Korca udelila Katolícka univerzita v Ružomberku jubilantovi čestný doktorát ako výraz uznania a vďaky za celoživotný zápas proti komunistickej totalite, za ľudské práva a slobodu vierovyznania, ako aj prejav uznania k jeho literárnej tvorbe. Rektor univerzity Tadeusz Zasempa udelil Jánovi Ch. Korcovi titul doctor honoris causa v aule kňazského seminára v starobylej Nitre, sídle prvého biskupstva v Strednej a Východnej Európe založeného bulou pápeža Jána VIII. v r. 880.

O. Stefan Furdík
Náš zakladateľ

„Bože, nauč nás rátať naše dni, aby sme nadobudli múdrosť srdca!“

Prihovor kardinála Korca na sviatok sv. Cyrila a Metoda

Čím bol a čím by mal byť pre nás každý opravdivý sviatok? Mal by byť prerušením práce, prerušením všednosti, chvíľou osvieženia ducha, ale aj stretnutím s niečím, čo neumiera. V našej kultúre bola od stáročí jedným z takýchto sviatkov nedeľa. Taký by mal byť i obsah sviatku sv. Cyrila a Metoda.

Sviatočný deň 5. júl (v USA 14. február) najväčších osobností našich dejín, je jediný sviatok, ktorý slávi naše Slovensko ako štát i veriaci ako cirkvi. Oba si ho ctia s rovnakou úctou pre jeho obsah, hĺbku i význam. Svedčia o tom slávnosti na mnohých miestach, v Nitre i na Devíne.

Dnes si ožívujeme korene nášho slovenského národného života v osobnostiach géniov a svätcov Konštantína a Metoda, ich diela a ich tradície, pretrvávajúcej stáročia. Keď prišli k nám roku 863 ako učitelia z Carihradu na prosbu nášho rozhladeného vladára Rastislava, cisár Michal III. mu po nich poslal posolstvo slovami: „Aby ste sa aj vy stali národom veľkým.“ – Dielo, určené pre stáročia, sa začalo. Konštantín a Metod vynášli pre staroslovenský jazyk našich



Sv. Cyril a Metod v Onkologickom ústave v Bratislave.

Pokračovanie na str. 20



Rezort diplomacie už vedie Miroslav Lajčák



Miroslav Lajčák

FOTO TASR

Bratislava (TASR) - Novým šéfom Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR sa stal diplomat Miroslav Lajčák. Do tejto funkcie ho 26. januára na základe návrhu premiéra Roberta Fica vymenoval prezident Ivan Gašparovič, ktorý z tohto postu zároveň odvolal Jána Kubiša. Kubiš nastúpi na pozíciu výkonného tajomníka Európskej hospodárskej komisie (EHK) OSN, do ktorej ho 19. decembra minulého roka vymenoval generálny tajomník OSN Pan Ki-mun. Prevzatie funkcie sa však

odložilo pre riešenie plynovej krízy. O dočasné zotrvanie na poste šéfa slovenskej diplomacie ho požiadal predseda vlády SR.

Lajčák pôsobí ako vysoký predstaviteľ medzinárodného spoločenstva a zvláštny vyslanec EÚ v Bosne a Hercegovine. Jeho rozhodnutie opustiť Bosnu viedlo k sérii debát o tom, kto ho nahradí a či sa jeho úrad pretransformuje do úradu osobitného vyslanca EÚ.

Nový minister zahraničných vecí sa po vymenovaní vráti na určitý čas do Sarajeva, kde bude Rada pre implementáciu mieru diskutovať o vymenovaní jeho nástupcu.

Bratislava hostila významnú bezpečnostnú konferenciu

BRATISLAVA (TASR) - Len niekoľko dní po inaugurácii nového amerického prezidenta Bratislava bola dejiskom významnej bezpečnostnej konferencie.

Štvrtý ročník konferencie GLOBSEC 29. januára sa niesol v znamení diskusie o zmenách, ktoré prinesie Obamova administratíva a výročný summit NATO v apríli, o vzťahoch s Ruskou federáciou a dosiaľ najväčšej európskej plynovej kríze. Prišli bývalí ministri zahraničných vecí Poľska a Ukrajiny, zástupca generálneho tajomníka NATO, aj významní odborníci na bezpečnosť zo Spojených štátov a Európy.

„Podujatie sa uskutočnilo v dynamickom období kríz a zmien, ktoré budú mať zásadný dopad na našu a európsku bezpečnosť,“ uviedol Rastislav Káčer, prezident Slovenskej atlantickej komisie (SAK), ktorá konferenciu organizovala. V apríli oslávi Severoatlantická aliancia na svojom summite 60. výročie vzniku, od ktorého sa očakávajú významné rozhodnutia pre budúcnosť globálnej bezpečnosti. V tomto roku si pripomenieme piate výročie vstupu SR do Európskej únie a NATO, čo je podľa organizátorov ideálny čas na zhodnotenie nášho doterajšieho medzinárodného pôsobenia a načrtnutie priorít na ďalšie obdobie.

SAK organizovalo konferenciu v spolupráci s Ministerstvom zahraničných vecí SR, Euroatlantickým centrom, Zastúpením Európskej komisie na Slovensku a German Marshall Fund of the United States. Od roku 2005 vytvára GLOBSEC priestor na stretnutia prominentných slovenských a zahraničných odborníkov a predstaviteľov z oblasti medzinárodných vzťahov a bezpečnosti, s cieľom diskutovať o riešeníach kľúčových transatlantických a globálnych bezpečnostných výziev.

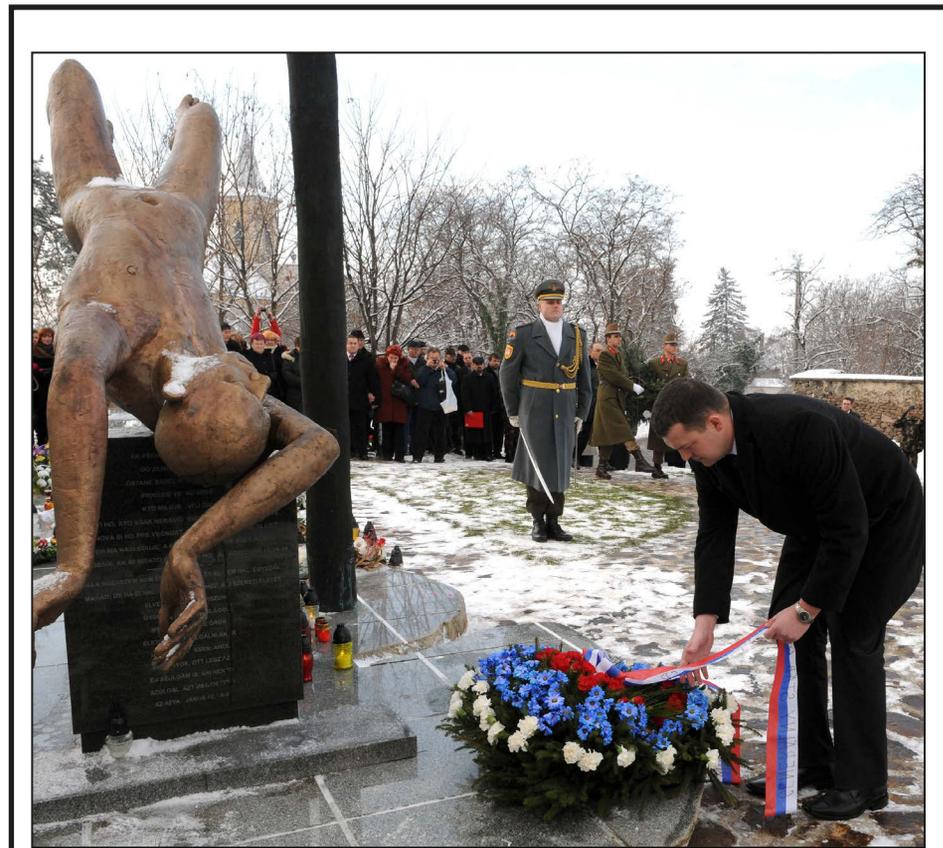


FOTO TASR - František Iván

V maďarskej obci Hejce si 19. januára 2009 pripomenuli a minútou ticha uctili pamiatku 42 profesionálnych vojakov, ktorí zahynuli pri leteckom nešťastí. V tento deň uplynuli tri roky, kedy sa stala najväčšia tragédia v histórii slovenského letectva. Pietnym aktom si túto nešťastnú udalosť z 19. januára 2006 pripomenuli minister obrany SR Jaroslav Baška, náčelník Generálneho štábu ozbrojených síl genpor. Ľubomír Bulík a rezortní predstavitelia MO SR a OS SR. Na snímke minister obrany SR Jaroslav Baška počas kladenia venca pri pamätníku.