



Jednota

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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

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

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NUMBER 5810



FCSU Home Office staff at the display of Slovak kroj from the collection of Helene Cincebeaux (center, rear).

Genealogical Conference in Independence, Ohio

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 15-17, 2009, the Home Office of the First Catholic Slovak Union hosted an exhibit of primarily Slovak kroj (folk attire) with some items from Moravia. This was part of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) Conference taking place in Independence, Ohio.

The exhibit was assembled by Helen Cincebeaux who is widely known to many Slovak

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49TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

THE RENAISSANCE HOTEL
24 PUBLIC SQUARE
CLEVELAND, OHIO, 44113
PHONE: 216-696-5600; FAX: 216-696-0432

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2010 through WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2010

By direction of the Executive Committee and with the approval of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada, the 49th International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union will be held at

THE RENAISSANCE HOTEL, 24
PUBLIC SQUARE, CLEVELAND, OHIO,
44113.

All National Officers, Regional Directors, District Officers, Branch Officers, and Mem-

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Dear Branch and District Officers and Members:

This is the time of the year for annual Branch and District meetings. Thank you for your work and attendance.

As we all know 2010 is a Convention year. Some of the Branches and Districts already have had their meetings and many more will have them in December and January. I know you all take the election of Delegates as a serious matter and will act in the best interests of the Society.

Branches and Districts are the foundation of our Society. They are essential to not only maintain the Society's tax-free status, but also to reach out to our Members. They are also critical to servicing existing Members and attract new Members.



Andrew M. Rajec

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

ATTENTION ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS

The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2010 Scholarship Program.

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

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

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

The rules and requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants must have a minimum of \$1,000 of reserve insurance (JEP Policy, Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life) with F.C.S.U. for at least **four years prior to April 1st** of the year of graduation from high school; or an applicant must have \$5,000 or more of term insurance with the F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school. **All scholarship winners must maintain this insurance in force during their college years. Applicants must be insured prior to April 1, 2006 to be eligible under the rules of this period.**
2. Applicants must apply for grants in the Spring of their senior year of high school, between ages of 17 and 19.
3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term at a qualifying institution. Proof of college admission must be sent to the Home Office with the application.
4. Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application that can be obtained from a Branch Officer, the scholarship department of the F.C.S.U. or download an application from our web site (www.fcsu.com).
5. Applicants must submit a completed application to: **Scholarship Program, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131.**
6. Applications will be accepted only on the proper forms. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS (THOSE WHICH ARE RECEIVED NOT FULLY COMPLETED OR DO NOT HAVE ALL ATTACHMENTS) WILL BE INVALID AND WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.**
7. Winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee (an independent group of educators) according to their individual merit in categories of high school cumulative grade point averages, extracurricular activities, talents, achievements, initiative, communication skills, transcripts and S.A.T. and/or A.C.T. test scores.
8. Final award checks will be made payable to the winners upon submitting **a proof of college enrollment.**

Application forms can be obtained from a Branch Officer, the Home Office at 1-800-JEDNOTA, or can be downloaded from the website at www.fcsu.com.

Applications must be postmarked by **Midnight, February 28, 2010.**

All applications without the above stipulated postmark will be considered invalid.

Insights and Viewpoints



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

December 6, 2009
2nd Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:1-6

Gospel Summary

Luke's elaborate attempt to locate the arrival of John the Baptist in the context of secular history seems to be the answer to every historian's prayer. In fact, however, these references are very imprecise, and none more so than the apparently decisive

"fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar." The problem is that the Roman emperor Tiberius shared power with Augustus for two years and we do not know when Luke is beginning his count of the years of Tiberius' reign. One must wonder whether Luke is not perhaps smiling to himself as he teases historians in this way.

Be that as it may, there is no doubt that Luke is very much interested in history. But it is a history that includes God's intervention to bring final salvation from the human scourge of sin and death. This divine "taking charge" of history will be announced by John the Baptist and brought into being by Jesus. However, only those who are ready to embrace God's gracious purposes will participate in the final victory.

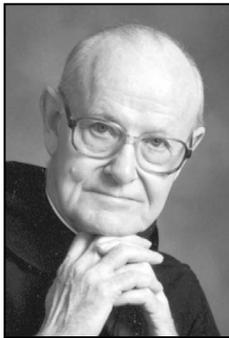
John's "baptism of repentance" is a ritual that signifies one's readiness to remove all obstacles to the coming of the Lord. Such obstacles would be, first and foremost, a prideful self-will that wishes to dictate where and how and when the Lord should come. "Making straight the way of Lord" is, therefore, a metaphor for personal conversion from prideful controlling tendencies to humble and grateful acceptance of God's sovereign rights in human life.

Life Implications

The most certain way to miss the promised "salvation of God" is to be too busy, too engrossed in one's work and too distracted to think about God or to prepare for his coming. It is true, of course, that Christ came some 2000 years ago. But that is no guarantee that we have welcomed him. For Christ continues to come to each generation of us humans and to challenge us to let his ideals govern our lives. In that sense, God is always coming and we are constantly being asked to welcome him.

This does not mean that we need to devote large amounts of time to welcoming Christ into our lives. It is more a matter of quality than of quantity. The ideal is set forth in the famous, "Hear, O Israel," of Deuteronomy 6:4. We are told there that we should never be totally unmindful of the reality and the presence of God in our lives. In time of explicit prayer, God is at center stage, as it were, while at other times he moves into the wings but never far from full consciousness on our part.

I like to think of this consciousness of God's presence as a "benign distraction" which, far from interfering with our work, actually helps us to focus more clearly on what we are doing. Moreover, it should not be surprising, when we think of God's love for us, that a smile should play occasionally across our faces, as is customary with those who are in love. Such



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

a benign distraction not only makes us more productive but it also gives us a deep sense of peace and security.

It is our recognition of the presence of God in our world, whether in the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, or in December 2009, that constitutes the true meaning of history for us.

December 13, 2009

Third Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:10-18

Gospel Summary

Immediately preceding this passage, Luke tells us that the word of God had come upon John the Baptist in the desert. John then began to proclaim the coming of the Lord: all flesh would at last see the salvation of God. John also proclaimed the necessity of turning from evil in repentance in order to prepare for the Lord's coming.

The crowds ask, "What should we do?" John replies that whoever has two cloaks or food should share with the person who has none. Tax collectors should not collect more than what is prescribed. Soldiers should not practice extortion or falsely accuse anyone, and they should be satisfied with their wages. The people are filled with expectation, wondering whether John might be the Messiah. John responds that one mightier than he will come, and will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. John warns that when the Messiah comes, he will gather the wheat into his barn, and burn the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Life Implications

We will celebrate with gratitude the Lord's coming among us in the past on Christmas. Advent, however, is a time to affirm our faith that the Lord's coming is also a present and future reality for which we must prepare. We too ask, "What should we do?" The ordinary-ness of John's reply to our question is surprising: share what you have with those who have nothing; do your job without cheating or telling lies; be satisfied with what you earn.

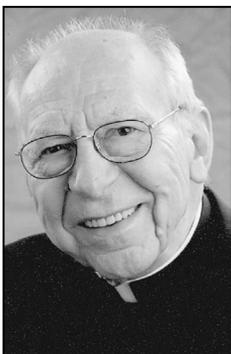
Someone asked Saint Philip Neri (who happened to be playing cards at the time) what he would do if he learned that his death was imminent. Philip Neri replied that he would continue playing cards. The best preparation for the Lord's coming at any moment is to be doing what we ought to be doing. In the words of the old Shaker hymn: "'Tis a gift to be simple, 'Tis a gift to be free, 'Tis a gift to come down where we ought to be."

There is also a surprising ordinary-ness about the Lord's coming -- the divine presence does not force itself upon us with bells and whistles. When Jesus did come as Messiah, most people did not recognize him because he did not meet their expectations. Would God allow the Messiah to be defeated and disgraced by dying on a cross like a criminal? Advent thus is also a season to ask for the grace to be freed from false expectations about the Lord's coming into our lives.

Perhaps the most ordinary and most surprising way of all that the Lord comes to us is in the reality of the Present Moment. Each moment becomes a sacrament of divine presence if we say in faith, "It is the Lord." It is thus possible to bless the Lord at all times because every moment without exception is a grace of divine, self-giving love to us. The Lord is with us even in those tragic moments beyond understanding that seem to be without meaning. Life either has no meaning at all, or has total meaning because the Lord is present in all its moments.

Saint Paul tells us the wonderful life-implications of trust in the Lord's presence at every moment in all the circumstance of our lives: "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks...Have no anxiety at all...Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (1 Thes 5:16-18 and Phil 4:6-7).

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

James-3

"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we shall go into such and such a town, spend a year there doing business, and make a profit' - you have no idea what your life will be like tomorrow. You are a puff of smoke that appears briefly and then disappears. Instead you should say, 'If the Lord wills it, we shall live to do this or that.' But now you are boasting in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, it is a sin." (James 4:13-17)

Keep in mind these words from the Book of Wisdom, 2:2-5

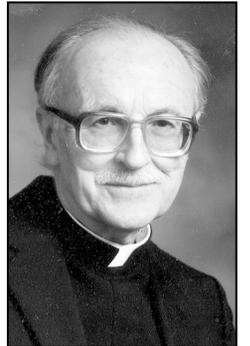
"For haphazard were we born, and hereafter we shall be as though we had not been; because the breath in our nostrils is a smoke and reason is a spark at the beating of our hearts, and when this is quenched, our body will be ashes and our spirit will be

poured abroad like unresisting air. Even our name will be forgotten in time, and no one will recall our deeds. So our life will pass away like the traces of a cloud, and will be dispersed like a mist pursued by the sun's rays and overpowered by its heat. For our lifetime is the passing of a shadow; and our dying cannot be deferred because it is fixed with a seal; and no one returns."

When the sun sets on our lives here, the dawn of our eternity begins. We have had no voice in our birth in time and every choice in our abode in eternity. Choose wisely!

"See how the Farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it re-

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Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

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From the Desk of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth Arendt:

ATTENTION BRANCH OFFICERS

This is a reminder of the requirements for receiving your branch stipend of \$4.00 per member which is due February 15, 2010. Please read the bylaw section 4.05 and 11.04 very carefully. It is very important that you follow all guidelines listed in order to qualify for the branch stipend. This bylaw will be strictly enforced and all requirements must be completed properly.

Please understand that a branch must have attended at least one (1) district meeting in two (2) out of the four (4) calendar years prior to the convention year, either in the calendar year 2006, 2007, 2008, or 2009, in order to be eligible to send a delegate to convention. (Bylaw Section 11.04 f)

The following are the requirements to complete in order to qualify for your branch stipend. Completing these requirements will qualify your branch to send delegates to the 2010 Convention which will be held in Cleveland, Ohio.

Bylaw Section 4.05 FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:

"By the end of February of each year, the Home Office shall pay each local branch \$4.00 per member, per year, not to exceed \$8,000.00, provided the local branch has fulfilled the following requirements:

(a) Published, announced and conducted two (2) semiannual meetings, one (1) of which shall be an annual meeting held for the election of officers. Meeting attendance sheets shall accompany the reports submitted to the Executive Secretary.

(b) Submitted an annual report to the Executive Secretary on a form provided, by February 15th of the following year.

(c) Submitted a financial report to the Executive Secretary on a form provided, by February 15th of the following year.

(d) Hosted, sponsored, promoted, or attended at least one (1) fraternal activity in the past year.

(e) Produced at least one (1) new contract in the previous calendar year. Branches with two hundred fifty (250) or more members must produce at least two (2) new contracts.

(f) Provided the Home Office, on a continuing basis, current addresses of members and completed change of beneficiary forms, death reports, and such other documents as required by the Home Office.

(g) Sent a branch representative to attend at least one (1) district meeting per calendar year. Those in attendance at the district meeting may vote to provide a branch with an excused absence.

1. Members attending a district meeting shall sign an attendance sheet evidencing their presence at the event. The district shall notify the Executive Secretary of those branches failing to meet this attendance requirement of article "g" above by no later than February 15th of the following year.

2. The Executive Secretary shall publish no later than March 31st of the following year in the Official Organ those branches failing to meet the requirement of section 4.05.

(h) Maintained good standing within its district by paying current fiscal year dues and any other dues that may be outstanding from previous years."

Bylaw Section 11.04 BRANCH REPRESENTATION AND DISTRICT REPRESENTATION:

(a) Every local branch having fifty (50) or more members and current good standing financially in its district (i.e., up to date with dues payments), may send at its own expense, one (1) of its members as a delegate to the Convention. Said delegate shall have the right to vote, but in no case, shall any delegate have more than one (1) vote. Local branches which have more than one hundred fifty (150) members are entitled to two (2) delegates and to one (1) additional delegate for each additional one hundred (100) members and so on, according to the number of their members on February 1st of the Convention year. Each District (Okres) shall be entitled to only one (1) district delegate.

(b) Any two (2) branches in the same district having less than fifty (50) members can combine if they total fifty (50) members or more. They can send one (1) delegate representing both branches at their own expense with one delegate vote.

(c) The delegate count shall be based on members as of February 1st in the Convention year. The maximum number of delegates per branch will be twenty (20).

(d) A local branch that has no delegate elected may request that a delegate already elected from another branch represent it. A delegate shall not represent more than two (2) branches, but has only one (1) vote. No National Officer shall represent any local branch.

(e) Notice of all meetings for the election of delegates to the next Convention shall be published at least twice in the Official Organ prior to the date of the next branch or district meeting.

(f) Any branch or district which fails to comply with article 4.05 in two (2) of the four (4) years preceding a Convention will not be permitted to send any delegates to that Convention, excluding Canada.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT WHY DO PEOPLE BUY INSURANCE?

According to the Life Insurance Marketing and Research Association (LIMRA), nearly half the life insurance policies sold were for family security needs after death; 14 percent for retirement; 13 percent for mortgage protection; 10 percent as savings and investments and 6 percent to meet children's' educational needs.

As statistics show, the primary reason to buy life insurance is to provide an income for your dependents. It is only natural you want to help the people you love. Still...many men and women do not have enough life insurance to maintain their family's current life style...if the breadwinner died. They are fortunate if they have enough for their immediate expenses, such as funeral costs; un-insured medical expenses and attorney fees.

Despite the many uses to which life insurance is put, it remains, like other forms of insurance, a means of protection from financial loss. The loss in the case of life insurance is the amount of income that the deceased would have produced, beyond that used for his personal needs, had he lived a normal life-span. It is to protect them that life insurance is written.

Life insurance isn't fun to buy...you can't eat it, drink it, wear it or decorate your house with it. People are reluctant to buy life insurance. It is the natural human tendency to avoid difficult decisions and postpone unpleasant duties. It makes you think about the day you are going to die. Dying is a certainty and there are no ifs/ands about it.

I have noticed that many young adults tend to let their policies lapse or, if there is cash

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"PARK FREE PLUS" ANNUITY

Effective August 1, 2009, FCSU Life is offering the "Park Free Plus" Annuity...

The new annuity plan that combines features from our most popular annuities...
The Park Annuity and the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity.

The "Park Free Plus" offers a first year interest rate of **4.1%**. This initial interest rate is guaranteed for the entire first year of the Annuity policy. At the first anniversary date of the policy, the **Annuitant has 15 calendar days to elect this option:**

**Withdraw the full value of the accumulated Annuity funds (principal plus interest)
WITHOUT INCURRING A SURRENDER CHARGE!**

*Note: If the funds are withdrawn prior to the first anniversary of the policy, a 6% surrender will be imposed on the funds withdrawn.**

2. If this option is not exercised, the Annuity will continue for an additional five years. The interest rate at that time will be based on the interest rate established by the Society on its Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity. This rate is published regularly in the official publication and on our website.

If the policy is continued, the Annuitant may withdraw up to 10% of the policies cash value at the beginning of each policy year, without incurring a surrender charge.*

If the Policy is continued, withdrawals that exceed 10% of the policy's cash value will incur a surrender charge of 5% in the second year and withdrawal charges will decrease by 1% each year until the end of the sixth year from the issue date*.

INITIAL DEPOSIT MAY BE AS LOW AS \$1,000!

Low Minimum Deposit. Initial deposit may be as low as \$1,000 for the "Park Free Plus" Annuity. Maximum deposit for this program is \$100,000.00. No additional deposits are permitted during the first year.

Flexible Deposits. Additional deposits of \$1,000 or more will be accepted at any time after the first year.

Maturity Options. At the end of the six year policy period; the Annuitant has these options:

- The policy can be continued. There will be no surrender charges on any withdrawals.* The interest rate will be based on FCSU Life's Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity interest rate.
- The policy can be converted to any Annuity product offered by FCSU Life at that time. The interest rate will be based on the then current declared interest rate on the selected policy.
- Taxes on all interest earned on the "Park Free Plus" Annuity and any subsequent policy selected, will be deferred until funds are withdrawn.

For additional information, contact your Branch officer or the Home Office.

* Early withdrawals may be subject to IRS penalties.

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence OH 44131-8013
1-800-JEDNOTA - Website: www.fcsu.com - E-mail: FCSU@aol.com

Insights and Viewpoints

Reflections on Our Christianity

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ceives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because of the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brothers, about one another, that you may not be judged." (James 5:7-9)

Anointing of the Sick- James 5:13-15 ("Extreme Unction")

"Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone in good spirits? He should sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should pray over him and anoint (him) with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven."

Comment of the Council of Trent, December 13, 1545-December 4, 1563. Eighteen years!

The Fourteenth Session, Chapter IX. On the Works of Satisfaction. On the Sacrament of Extreme Unction. Chapter II On the Effects of this Sacrament.

"...the prayer of faith shall save the sick man, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he be in sins they shall be forgiven him. For the thing here signified is the grace of the Holy Spirit, whose anointing cleanses away sins, if there be any still to be expiated, as also the remains of sins; and raises up and strengthens the soul of the sick person, by exciting in him a great confidence in the divine mercy; whereby the sick being supported bears more easily the inconveniences and pains of his sickness, and more readily resists the temptations of the devil who lies in wait for his heel; and at times bodily health, when expedient for the welfare of the soul."

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church, The Sacraments of Healing, Article Five, The Anointing of the Sick.

"...as soon as anyone of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived." (II, 1514)

Neither the patient nor those responsible for his/her care should wait until the moment of death, unless it was totally unexpected.

The Effects of the Celebration of This Sacrament (IV, 1520-1523)

1. "A particular gift of the Holy Spirit...a strengthening, peace and courage to overcome the difficulties that go with the condition of serious illness or the frailty of old age."

2. "The sick person receives the strength and the gift of uniting himself more closely to Christ's Passion...Suffering...acquires a new meaning; it becomes participation in the saving work of Jesus."

3. "...the Church intercedes for the benefit of the sick person..."

4. "This last anointing fortifies the end of our earthly life like a solid rampart for the final struggles entering the Father's house."

5. "My brothers, if anyone among you should stray from the truth and someone brings him back, he should know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins." (James 6:19-20)



49TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

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bers of the First Catholic Slovak Union are notified herewith that the Convention dates are: **Saturday, August 14, 2010 – Wednesday, August 18, 2010** so they may schedule their 2010 calendars accordingly.

All Officers and Members are directed to review Section 11.03 through Section 11.08 of our By-Laws to determine delegate eligibility and duties and Section 11.09 through 11.12 for the Convention business. Election of delegates to our 49th International Convention must be completed by May 17, 2010, ninety (90) days prior to the opening of the Convention (see Section 11.03c). However, to assure guaranteed hotel registration and room assignments, it is requested that all delegates to the 49th International Convention be elected as early as the annual meetings of the districts and branches in December 2009, or by **January 31, 2010** at the latest. **The final delegate count** shall be based on members as of February 1, 2010 (see Section 11.04c). Appointments to the various convention committees will begin as soon as delegate credentials are received and certified at our Home Office at 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, Ohio 44131.

The National Officers and Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union are looking forward to a cost effective and productive 49th International Convention. All potential delegates to this 49th International Convention are requested to study our existing By-Laws, ask questions of the National Officers and Members of the Board of Directors, and review the programs and financial statements (see our website (www.fcsu.com) for the Financial Statements for 2006, 2007 & 2008). Proposed By-Law change forms will be sent out to the Branches and Districts in September 2009 and are due back by January 31, 2010.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
National Secretary

WHY DO PEOPLE BUY INSURANCE?

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value, cash in the policy for a minor emergency. As a result, we encourage parents or grandparents to pay the life insurance premium until the young adult can handle the premium himself/herself and understand the value of the life insurance policy.

This bothers me because families with small children always need a lot of insurance. If a tragedy should strike the parents, the children could not support themselves. They should invest in permanent coverage when they are young and in good health. The rates are more affordable and there is always the chance you may get sick and become un-insurable. Speaking of un-insurable, your youngsters are guaranteed insurability in the Juvenile Enrichment Plan (JEP). During the term period, the insured member will earn a conversion credit of \$1.00/year, per \$1000.00 face amount towards the purchase of permanent insurance. It is a wonderful way to guarantee security for a slow as \$14.00 a year for a \$10,000.00 policy. Talk to your lodge officers for the particulars.

According to LIMRA International Consumer Survey 2007 estimates that more than 60 million adult Americans are inadequately insured and that 40 percent of adult Americans have no life insurance coverage whatsoever. How are we going to target those currently un-insured?

In coming to grips with the problem, the FCSU leadership needs all the help they can get. We will continue to share the information and ideas we develop. We need the input from local members. Please share your views and thoughts with us. We need to get serious about increasing productivity at the branch level.

To end the year on a positive note, I am asking each and every branch to organize their own mini-membership drive to sign at least four new branch members. It is a realistic goal that's easily attainable. Suggest they give their children or grandchildren an insurance policy for Christmas! What better gift to show your love.

We have many quality, competitive and affordable insurance products. Discuss them at your meetings. Let us all get involved with sales and help our Society grow.

The end of the year is fast approaching. Don't wait until the last minute to purchase your IRA. Our IRA's and Annuities are currently yielding an attractive 4.75 percent.

Annuities are an excellent long term investment. The rates are great. There is no load and the principal guarantee allows you to sleep at night. Invest in one today!

Until next time, Good Luck and God Bless!

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.

National Vice President

Chairman-Membership and Marketing Committee



Christmas Vilija Dinners in Ohio

Saint Andrew Svorad Abbey and the Slovak Radio Club will host their annual Vilija Christmas Eve Supper celebration on Sunday, December 6, 2009 at Benedictine High School in Cleveland, Ohio. Mass will be celebrated in the Abbey Church at 12:00 noon followed by the dinner in the Benedictine High School Dining Hall. Tickets are \$20 per person and must be purchased in advance. Tickets must be received by November 30. For information call 216/721-5300 ext.0.

The American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley will be hosting their annual Christmas Vilija Dinner on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. at the Father Snock Hall at St. Matthias Church, 2800 Shady Run Road, Youngstown, Ohio. In addition to the traditional dinner, there will be singing of carols led by the St. Matthias Church Choir and a talk by Dr. Sherry Linkon about her Steel Valley ethnic community project. Another special guest will be His Excellency, George Murray, Bishop of Youngstown. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and may be purchased by sending a check to Frank Bator, 7007 Clingan Rd. Unit 111, Poland, OH 44514.

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, DEC 9	MONDAY, NOV 30
WEDNESDAY, JAN 6	MONDAY, DEC 28
WEDNESDAY, JAN 20	MONDAY, JAN 11

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.

**Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:
Anthony Sutherland, Editor; editorjednota@yahoo.com
"JEDNOTA"
1001 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4835
FAX: (717) 944-3107**



L-R Barbara Heierman, Ann Minor, Joe Behil, Henry Behil, and Henry Pochily. In the second row are Theresa Chupka and Milan Brutvan.



At the grill are John Slovenkai and Laura Slovenkai.



L-R Marion Rubino, Elaine Pavidus, Norma Zavada, and Leonard Zavada.



L-R Joe Pollock and Arlo Meeker



L-R Henry Pochily, Joe Behil, Barbara Behil, and Mary Ann Pochily



L-R Margaret Chupka, Theresa Chupka, Mary Chupka and Marie Gryczko.

SS. Cyril and Methodius District Annual Picnic at McDade Park

The SS. Cyril and Methodius District held their Annual Summer Picnic on Sunday, September 20, 2009, at McDade Park in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

The day began at 10:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast sponsored by Branch 382 in Scranton and Branch 166 in Binghamton. A catered lunch featuring Slovak foods was served beginning at 12:45 p.m. Hamburgers and hot dogs were grilled to order throughout the afternoon. There were also snacks available throughout the day.

An event like this takes a lot of work. We thank everyone involved in making this year's picnic a success.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

ATTENTION:

BRANCH AND DISTRICT OFFICERS!!

It has been announced that the 49th Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union will be held at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel located at 24 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113, from August 14, 2010 through August 18, 2010.

Please refer to Section 11.04, Branch Representation and District (Okres) Representation when you elect your delegates to the convention. Special attention should be paid to 11.04(e), which states: "Notice of all meetings for the election of delegates to the next convention shall be published at least twice in the official organ prior to the date of the next branch or district meeting." Once the date for the meeting to elect delegates has been established, please send the notice to: Anthony Sutherland, Editor, Jednota Newspaper, 1001 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057, phone – (717) 944-0461; fax – (717) 944-3107.

When electing delegates, please refer to Bylaw Section 11.03, "Qualification of Delegates."

If you have any questions concerning the above, please do not hesitate to call me.

Thank you,
Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



Christmas Craft and Bake Sale

The Ethnic Craft Club of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church will be having its annual Christmas Craft/Bake Sale on Saturday, December 5, 2009, from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in the upstairs hall located at 201 East Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. The sale will feature decorations, wood crafted items, folk crafts, religious articles, parish cookbooks, imported items including CD's, candy, baked goods, and many other articles that would make fine Christmas gifts or holiday decorations. There is no admission fee. For information call 724.438-6027 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.



Dear Branch and District Officers and Members:

continued from page 1

The Home Office has the obligation to produce insurance and annuity products that are attractive and competitive in the marketplace. We constantly research our competition and I can assure you that our insurance products are very competitive and our annuity products are at the top of the charts, witness our 6-year and new Park Free Plus annuity rates. We have enhanced our *Jednota* newspaper with new items like the cross-word puzzles and color printing etc. We also are reaching almost all of our young Members by printing 10,000 more copies of the *Jednota*. These are just a few examples. We are always trying to do more.

However, we rely on our Members to spread the word to their family, relatives and friends. Our goal is: "Make every family a *Jednota* family".

While we rely on our Members to sell our Society and its products we are also selectively contracting independent insurance agents. We have contracted 23 to date.

The commissions we pay our Recommenders are the same we pay our regular contracting agents.

As I noted 2010 is a Convention Year. About this time we start hearing from some people who have not done anything, or very little, in the past few years for their own Branch, District or the Society in general, as to how they will transform the Society overnight.

I have heard rumors claiming that we are eliminating the *Jednota* newspaper. This is totally false. I have heard a rumor that I personally have received an offer from a Slovak millionaire to buy our property in Middletown, Pennsylvania. This is totally false.

Everything that has been done and is under consideration has been shared with the Board of Directors and Members.

If you hear a rumor or some claims about our Society that you question please call or e-mail or write to me. I will be happy to respond to any questions, concerns, rumors, etc. at any time.

We work for the benefit of our Members and do our best to protect and promote the *Jednota*. Have a great meeting and get in touch at any time.

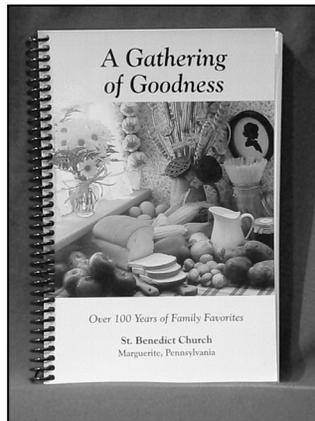
"Z Bohom"
God be with you.

Andrew M. Rajec
President



Book Corner

St. Benedict Church of Marguerite, PA is selling a parish cookbook featuring over 450 recipes. Included are recipes for appetizers, beverages, salads, soups, vegetables, main dishes, breads, desserts, canning and a special ethnic section with a description of the traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner and the Blessed Easter Basket, along with numerous ethnic recipes. The cookbooks can be purchased for \$13.00, which includes shipping and handling within the U.S. Orders can be sent to St. Benedict Church, 260 Bruno Road, Greensburg, PA 15601. Make checks payable to St. Benedict RAS. If you need additional information, please call Dolores Mehalic at 724-423-5813.



Slovak Dramatic Club to Celebrate Anniversary

The Slovak Dramatic Club will celebrate its 60th anniversary on Sunday, December 13, 2009, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Holy Spirit Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma, Ohio. All members are asked to attend and friends are welcome at \$20.00 per person. There will be dinner, an open bar and music provided by the accordion man Ralph Szubski. Reservations are limited so call today. Call Johanna Oros at 440/845-0282 or John Buydos at 440/843-2305.



Oplatky, etc.

The Christmas Season is fast approaching. Oplatky are available through Jankola Library. Other items, such as Slovak Christmas cards, books, tapes, and CD's may also be procured.

The oplatky, five per packet, for a donation of \$3.00, are thermo-sealed and securely packaged. Postage (all packages are sent by Priority Mail) is additional. Orders may be customized and packaged to meet specific needs.

For more information or to place an order, please contact Sister M. John Vianney, SS.C.M. or Sister M. Catherine Laboure, SS.C.M. at:

570-275-5606

Or write to:

Jankola Library
Villa Sacred Heart
Danville, PA 17821-1698

Coming Events



November 29

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

December 6

-The Msgr. Michael Shuba District's Annual Meeting at 4:30 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Mississauga, Ontario

December 6

-The George Onda District's annual Stedry Vecer at the Bishop Connare Center, Route 30, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Mass at 4:00 p.m. followed by the dinner.

December 13

-A special meeting of the George Onda District at 12:00 noon at the home of District Vice President George Sprock.

December 15

-A Meeting and Christmas party of the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District, at 6:00 p.m. at Marino's Restaurant, Mahoning Avenue, Austintown, Ohio. Prince Pribina District's Annual Meeting at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by Christmas party and meeting

January 3

-A special Meeting of the Msgr. Joseph Tiso District at 2:00 p.m. at the C.U. Club, 912 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, Pennsylvania.

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

First Catholic Slovak Union "Presidential Campaign" Insurance Incentives

For the 2010 convention we will have a year long presidential campaign. It will run from August 1, 2009 to the presidential banquet in August 2010.

Special Convention Prizes Drawings of \$4,450.00 Cash

For every two (2) new insurance policies signed, the proposer would receive a certificate which would state that he/she has signed two (2) new insurance policies and the duplicate of this certificate would be held at the Home Office for a drawing at the completion of the Presidential Campaign. The drawing for \$4,450.00 in cash prizes will be held during the convention. Prize money will be paid when the insurance premium is paid. Five prizes will be awarded. First prize will be \$1,500.00 – Second prize will be \$1,200.00 – Third prize will be \$1,000.00 – Fourth prize will be \$500.00 and Fifth prize will be \$250.00.

Each proposer can sign as many members as possible, but will receive one (1) certificate for each two (2) new insurance policies signed. Example: Two (2) insurance policies, one (1) certificate. Four (4) insurance policies, two (2) certificates.

Term as well as reserve policies are eligible for these grand prizes.

Our insurance products are very competitive. Let's get everybody involved in sales during this "Presidential Campaign". Your Executive Committee, Board of Directors and the Membership and Marketing Committee wishes you the best of luck in your endeavor to secure new membership.

First Catholic Slovak Union "Presidential Campaign" Annuity Incentives

For the 2010 convention, we will also have the same prizes for annuity procurements as we are having for new membership.

Special Convention Prizes Drawings of \$4,450.00 Cash

For every \$10,000.00 in Annuity/IRA's brought in during the period August 1, 2009 to the August 2010 convention, the recommender will receive a certificate which will state that he/she brought in \$10,000.00. The duplicate of this certificate would be held at the Home Office for a drawing at the completion of the presidential campaign. The drawing for the \$4,450.00 in cash prizes will be held during the convention. Five prizes will be awarded. First prize will be \$1,500.00 – Second prize will be \$1,200.00 – Third prize will be \$1,000.00 – Fourth prize will be \$500.00 and Fifth prize will be \$250.00.

Each annuity proposer can bring in as much money as possible, but will receive one (1) certificate for each \$10,000.00 in Annuity/IRA's. Example: Bring in \$10,000.00 one (1) certificate, bring in \$20,000.00 two (2) certificates, and bring in \$30,000.00 three (3) certificates.

So take this opportunity to earn some great prizes and get people to invest in our Annuity/IRA's. Remember... our high paying Annuity/IRA rates are second to none.

Good Luck and God Bless!

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
Membership and Marketing Chairman

DON'T BUY LIFE INSURANCE

UNTIL YOU CALL

1-800-533-6682

OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OFFICER

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.FCSU.COM

You'll find out about our products:

- *Ordinary Whole Life
- *20 Payment Life
- *Single Premium Whole Life
- *Juvenile Life with Savings Plan
- *Yearly Renewable Term
- *10 Year Level Term
- *20 Year Level Term
- *Term to age 25
- *Annuities



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

VETERANS DAY 2009

“THANKS FOR SERVING”

“...For my gallant associates in the field, who have so essentially contributed to the establishment of our independence and national glory, no rewards can be too great.”

-- George Washington

By John Karch

Amid domestic and international problems, rain and snow, Americans paused on November 11, to honor its veterans in a variety of ways—nationally and especially locally. As custom dictates, the President, on this rainy day in the nation's capital, made his pilgrimage to Arlington National Cemetery during Veterans Day observances. He laid a Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and declared the nation's gratitude “to our veterans, to the fallen and to their families.” Also, he visited Section 60 of the Cemetery which contains the graves of those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

President Obama

The President's remarks, following the Wreath laying ceremony, included the following: “...So while it is important and proper that we mark this day, it is far more important we spend all our days determined to keep the promises that we made to all who answer this country's call....That is my message to all veterans today....To all our wounded warriors, and to the families who laid a loved one to rest. America will not let you down. We will take care of our own. And to those who are serving in far-flung places today, when your tour ends, when you see our flag, when you touch our soil, you will be home in America that is forever for you just as you've been there for us. That is my promise—our nation's promise—to you.”

Local Activities

Prior to Veterans Day, the Arlington Diocesan weekly Catholic Herald detailed “veterans to be honored in Falls Church” on Veterans Day at 11 a.m. The St. James Church Bulletin had an item about the annual 8:30 a.m. Mass, to be followed by coffee and doughnuts. The Catholic War Veterans, in their uniforms, carried the U.S. and CWV flags, posting them on each side of the Altar. As on Memorial Day, Pastor Rev. Patrick L. Posey celebrated Mass. In his homily, Fr. Posey welcomed the CWVs, then commented on the importance of the Mass, raised questions about issues and fears, citing valor and giving their lives, to remember those who served. Imagine what the young men and women have gone through and what our loved ones are going through today. He asked those present to pray for those who served and to honor those who gave their lives. Following Mass, the CWVs and a goodly number of attendees, including two active duty military officers left for coffee, doughnuts and conversation.

The 45-minute Falls Church Ceremony, conducted in rain, was perhaps similar to communities around the country: The long-time Master of Ceremonies, Harry Shovlin, opened and guided the proceedings: Posting of Colors by American Legion Post 130; National Anthem by the City of Falls Church Concert Band and George Mason High School Chamber Singers; Invocation by Rev. Laurice Jones-Wilks; Welcoming Address by Mayor Robin Gardner; Remembrance for MIAs by Philip Brady, Legislative Assistant to U.S. Senator Jim Webb, and Tony Scerbo, Emeritus; Remarks by Chairman of the Greater Falls Church Veterans Council Marvin McFeaters; Keynote Address by Citizen Soldier Roger Neighborgall on Nine Days Behind German Lines; Presentation of Wreath in Memory of Departed Veterans by DAR Regent Patricia Hottel; Prayer for the Departed Veterans by Rev. Jones-Wilks; Taps; and Retiring of Colors.

Thanking the Veterans

The November 9 signed Executive Order, establishing the Council on Veterans Employment encourages federal agencies to recruit Veterans.

With war raging in Afghanistan, this writer found the comment by the Afghan Ambassador to the U.S. Said T. Jawad rewarding: “As we honor the bravest of souls this Veterans Day, I would like to express my unwavering gratitude and my sincerest thank you for their service....This Veterans Day, Afghans the world over join our American partners in keeping our hearts and minds with all the soldiers who have fallen and strive to reflect in our actions the gratitude that these heroes have profoundly earned.”

In its November 8-14 issue, the National Catholic Register published an article “We Will Never Forget, Ways to Say Thank You to Catholic War Veterans, by Joseph Pronechen. He cited suggestions from various people: placing flowers on their graves, providing rosaries, Bibles, and Catholic reading materials to the hospitals, writing notes of appreciation to hospitalized veterans, visits to nursing homes, invitations to a home-cooked meal, a day at the ball game, provide a handicap-accessible van for wheelchairs, pray for them, send items for personal use and care packages of goodies.

Of course, gifts by churches, individuals-- including children, groups, radio and TV personalities--military and civilian organizations, businesses, and others across the nation are numerous but even more are likely to be needed. We have faith and Americans are generous people.



Photo by Gary Mester

Posting of the Colors by American Legion Post 130 at Falls Church Veterans Memorial

News From Slovakia

No Flu Pandemic in Slovakia

Slovakia is well prepared for a possible flu pandemic, but the situation is stable and the number of registered flu cases doesn't exceed the norm, Health Minister Richard Rasi told TASR.

“We've devised pandemic plans and are able to secure 30,000 hospital beds if needed,” said Rasi. He added that 26 million facemasks and more than 600,000 anti-viral agents are available, while pharmacies are full of regular flu vaccines. “With respect to regular flu, I recommend that people should get inoculated. I did myself,” he claimed.

Ordinary flu is spreading in Ukraine, reaching the same number of cases as in past years, Rasi said. According to his information, 960,000 cases in Ukraine were registered as of Monday, November 9, with 155 fatalities. Experts from the World Health Organization stationed in the Ukraine have evaluated the situation as not abnormal in light of the current season, said Rasi.

TASR

Nearly Third of Households Have Felt impact of Crisis

Around 29 percent of households in Slovakia have been affected by the impact of the economic crisis, but they aren't planning to introduce significant changes in their spending habits, according to a recent survey.

Head of ING Zivotna Poistovna (Life Insurance Company) Dusan Quis told journalists that a mere 3 percent of Slovaks view themselves as well-informed about the economic malaise despite the amount of information available.

Around 89 percent of respondents said that they feel that they have good or at least some information concerning the crisis. Meanwhile 36 percent of those questioned view the current situation as worse than in 2008, with 2 percent of people expecting deterioration in their employment status in 2010. Just over half of the respondents see their situation in 2009 in the same light as last year.

TASR

Five Slovak Universities Featured on Spanish List

Even though no Slovak university is featured on the list of the 500 best universities around the world released by the Graduate School of Education at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, some are found to be in a list drawn up by the largest research institute in Spain, Education Minister Jan Mikolaj said recently.

“Such lists are being tailor-made to some extent for those who release them,” commented Mikolaj

TASR has learnt that the list of 100 best universities in Central and Eastern Europe, put together by Webometrics Lab, which comes under CSIC (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas, Ciencia e Investigaciin/Spanish National Research Council), features five Slovak universities: Comenius University in Bratislava, Technical University in Kosice, Slovak Technical University in Bratislava, Slovak Agricultural University in Nitra and Pavol Jozef Safarik University in Presov.

At the head of the list is Charles University in Prague, which is followed by Masaryk University in Brno and Lomonosov Moscow State University. The Czech Republic has 15 universities on the list, while Slovak universities- with Comenius University the best in 20th-also fell behind the top universities from other Visegrad Four countries. For example, Budapest University of Technology and Economics was in 5th place, and Warsaw University in 9th place.

The list of 100 best universities in Europe does not feature any Slovak university, however. Charles Universities in Prague was in 20th place, while Cambridge University came out on top.

TASR

Ministry will be Tough if Trencin University Found Guilty

The Education Ministry will be uncompromising if it is found that Alexander Dubcek University in Trencin acted unlawfully in awarding degrees, Education Minister Jan Mikolaj said recently.

“It appears that we'll have to inspect the entire faculty and not only the three students concerned,” said Mikolaj, declining to reveal the first results of an inspection that began on October 28. “I want the university to take up a stance as well...they should write down why they proceeded in that manner,” he added.

The minister doesn't think, however, that there's a need to change current legislation as the opposition Christian Democrats (KDH) are proposing. “The system has been well set, we'll use all the options that we have at our disposal.

The parliamentary committee for education called on the rector of the university Miroslav Mekar to clarify the issue, which involves the university allegedly awarding degrees under suspicious circumstances. The scandal surfaced earlier this week with reports that the daughter of a former vice-dean had been awarded a degree after only several months of study, and now it is alleged that this was not an isolated incident.

TASR

FCSU 2009 Christmas Coloring Contest

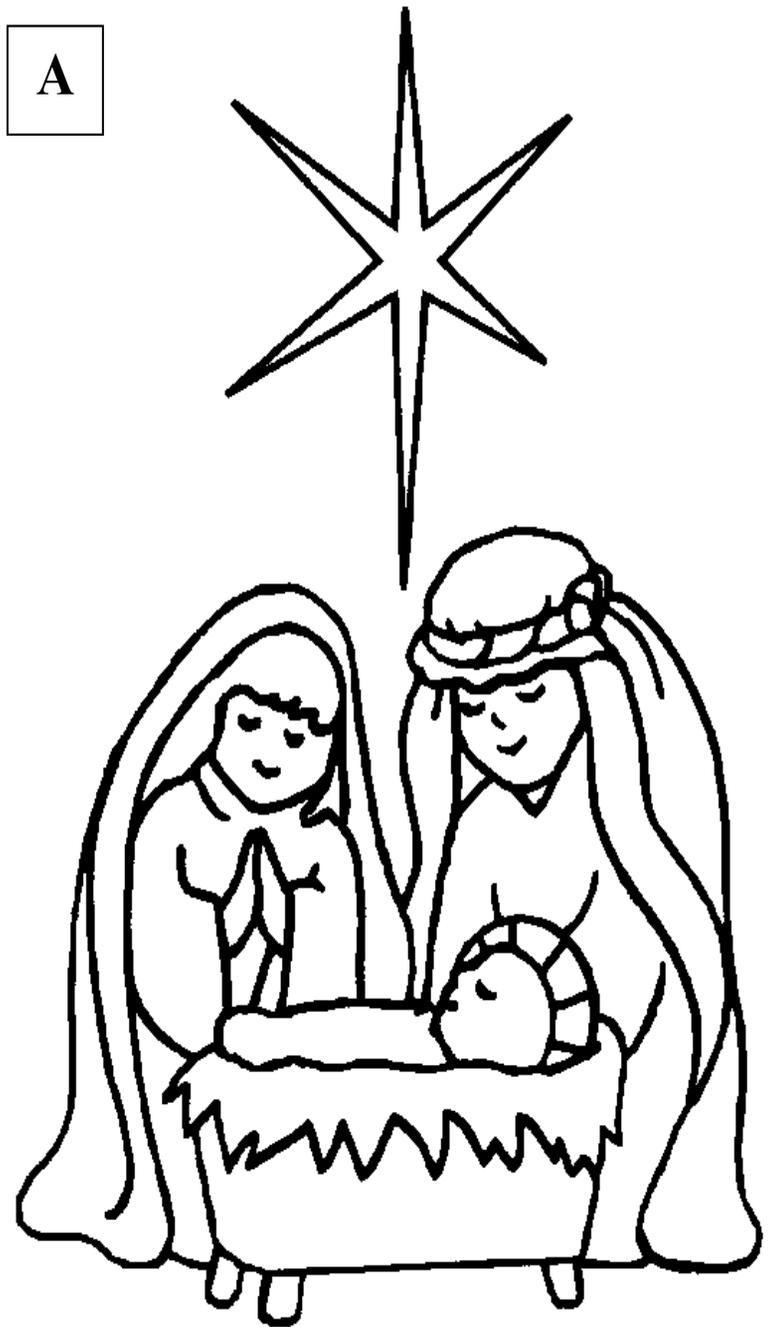
A

The Gift of God

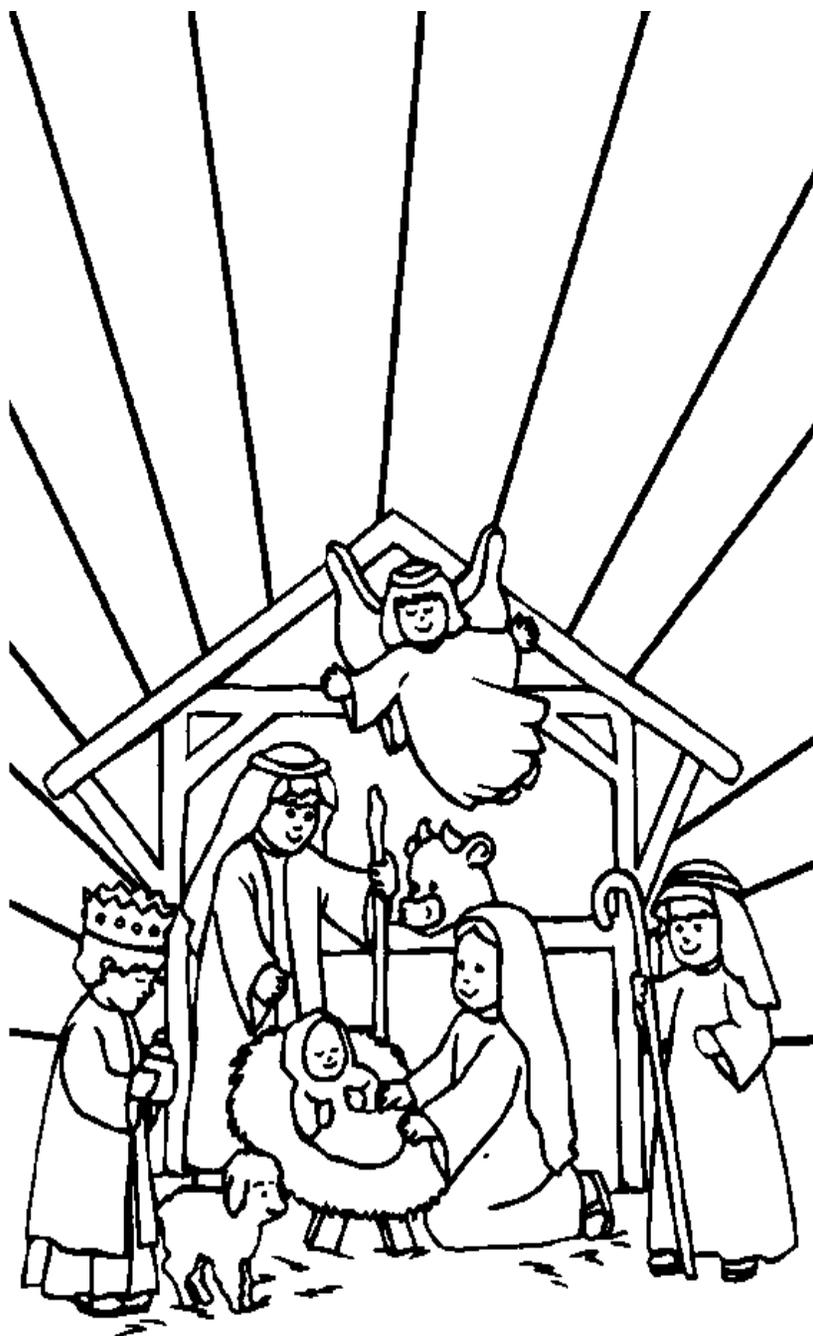
There was seen a radiance
Glowing one night
Near the little maiden Mary
In blue and white.

"Lilies are not fairer,
"Roses more red,
Than the Child she sings to slumber,"
An angel said.

So the shepherds ventured
Through the white cold,
And their eyes beheld the Infant,
An hour old.



B



Long they gazed and wondered,
Awkward in awe,
At the paramount perfection
Within their straw.

"Diamonds are but trifles!
"Rubies no gem!"
Cried the hearts that slaved for pittance
Near Bethlehem.

So it was forever,
After the night
When the little maiden Mary
Wore blue and white.

Christ's Nativity

C

Luke 2:1-7

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of the house and lineage of David), to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.



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

PRIZES

Winners in each age group will receive the following:

- 1st Place – Jednota fleece hooded sweatshirt and \$25.00**
- 2nd Place - Jednota fleece hooded sweatshirt and \$15.00**
- 3rd Place - Jednota fleece hooded sweatshirt and \$10.00**
- Honorable Mention - \$5 Gift Card**

RULES

1. Each age group is assigned a certain picture:
4 – 6 year olds – picture A
7 – 9 year olds – picture B
10 – 12 year olds – picture C
2. Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
3. Pictures are allowed to be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.
4. Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
5. Your child's completed entry form, colored picture, and a photo of your child must be postmarked by **December 31, 2009**.
6. Mail to:
 Susan Ondrejco
 Fraternal Activities Director
 234 Ilion St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Please submit this form with your child's entry by December 31, 2009

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Certificate Number: _____ Branch Number: _____

Regional Director: _____ Region: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Hoodie Size (circle) Child S M L XL Adult S M L

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

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2009

HOME OFFICE INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Vice President Andrew Harcar to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary – via telephone
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
 George F. Matta, Treasurer
 Henry G. Hassay, Regional Director, Region 6, by invitation of the President
 Gary J. Matta, General Counsel, by invitation of the President

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the September 2009 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

The Treasurer submitted a written monthly report which was reviewed by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer answered all questions of the Committee. The President led a review of our disclosure statements which are mandatory to be sent along with our annuity contracts. He stated that some parts of the disclosure statements for our new annuity products had to be amended in order to be in compliance with rules and regulations.

At this time Mr. Ed DePersis, our consultant from Bruce and DePersis, and Mr. Larry White from AQS, Asset Management, LLC., joined the meeting via teleconference. President Andrew Rajec asked for their input on current interest rates on our new annuity products, especially the Park Free Annuity. After extensive review the Executive Committee decided to keep the current annuity rate on our Park Free Annuity and keep the maximum deposit per contract at \$100,000.00.

AQS ASSET MANAGEMENT, LLC. REPORT

Mr. Larry White from AQS Asset Management, LLC., gave his report and presented to the Executive Committee the following agenda:

- Portfolio metrics and distribution
- Cash on hand and projections
- Transactions
- Credit Actions
- Portfolio Reinvestment vs. Projected Annual Yield
- Market Data

Current Markets
 Fed Fund Futures
 FOMC Calendar

- CIT Exposure, corporate actions, evaluation
- Prospective Credit Sells
- Commentary

Mr. White reviewed our CIT exposure and discussed what necessary steps we need to take at this time. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept the CIT tender pre-package plan. Motion carried.

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK OF CINCINNATI – VICTORY ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee which gave a complete update of the investments with Key Bank Corporation and reviewed all current transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

PORTFOLIO CUSTODIAN

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on our portfolio custodian. He stated everything is in order and working well.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES

The President updated the Executive Committee on his conversation with Larry Glugosh, Supreme President of Slovak Catholic Sokol, regarding the joint Golf Tournament held in August of this year. He stated that Mr. Glugosh was very pleased and got very good feedback from his members. The President further stated that he and Mr. Glugosh discussed the possibility of having a joint outing again in 2010. The President will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

2010 CONVENTION

Executive Secretary Arendt will be sending out letters to Branch Officers concerning the 2010 Convention. Each branch that is eligible to attend the convention will receive a

letter in the near future stating the estimated number of delegates it may send.

SALES AND MARKETING

The Vice President reviewed our sales production report in the different regions and answered all questions presented. The Vice President also reviewed the sales production report of our independent agents and answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Vice President stated that we will be introducing a possible bonus interest rate for the Eight-Year Annuity product, which the First Catholic Slovak Union will begin to market in November. He further stated that we are in process of getting more individual agents to sell our products and will continue in doing so in future.

JEDNOTA, INC. AND JEDNOTA PROPERTIES, INC.

The President updated the Executive Committee on his recent visit Vice President Harcar at the property in Middletown, PA. The President stated that they reviewed the performance of our maintenance personnel.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Executive Secretary stated the Home Office will continue to advertise our products through the monthly branch mailings and insert advertisements in the monthly billing as well as in the Jednota newspaper.

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

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

Disbursements for the month of September 2009:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$254,388.72
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 38,881.39
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

Requests were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The Vice President closed the meeting with prayer.

 Andrew M. Rajec
 President

 Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary



News from Branch 228

American Slovak Lanes

Singles Classic Bowling Tournament

The American Slovak Lanes Singles Classic Bowling Tournament is currently holding competition in its' 52nd year. First place prizes of \$4,000 in the handicap division and \$1,000 in the actual division offer a remarkably high payout for a \$46 entry fee. There are also several options available to all bowlers, male and female, for doubles, high games, seniors, and a separate category limited to women participants. Handicap is based upon 80% of 210 scratch and is limited to a high of 240 pins. Bowling 6 games across 12 lanes helps to keep a bowler in the competition in case they have a bad game because they will have five other games to help pick up the score. We do not allow local bowlers to participate during the last weekend to help keep the competition as fair as possible. A copy of the entry blank complete with rules and regulations can be downloaded from the website www.americanslovakclub.com along with the 2008 prize list. Send all entry blanks to Kathleen Trifiletti c/o, American Slovak Lanes, 2915 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Ohio 44055. For phone reservations, call collect to Slovak Lanes at (440) 244-1293 between 6:30 and 9:30 PM.



FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec and National Vice President Andrew Harcar Sr. at the CGSI Conference with Miss Czech/Slovak of Ohio Olivia Buydos, and Miss Teresa Mahoney, 1st Runner-up Miss Czech/Slovak U.S. Pageant 2009.



The exhibit of Slovak kroj

Genealogical Conference in Independence, Ohio

continued from page 1

groups. While Helene is not Slovak herself, she has travelled several dozen times to Slovakia and is known as a foremost expert regarding Slovak kroj and has an unbelievable personal collection.

Several hundred people, including members of our Society who had never been in the Office, came through our Home Office to view the display and hear her narration. It gave us an excellent opportunity to view Helen's collection and promote the Jednota.

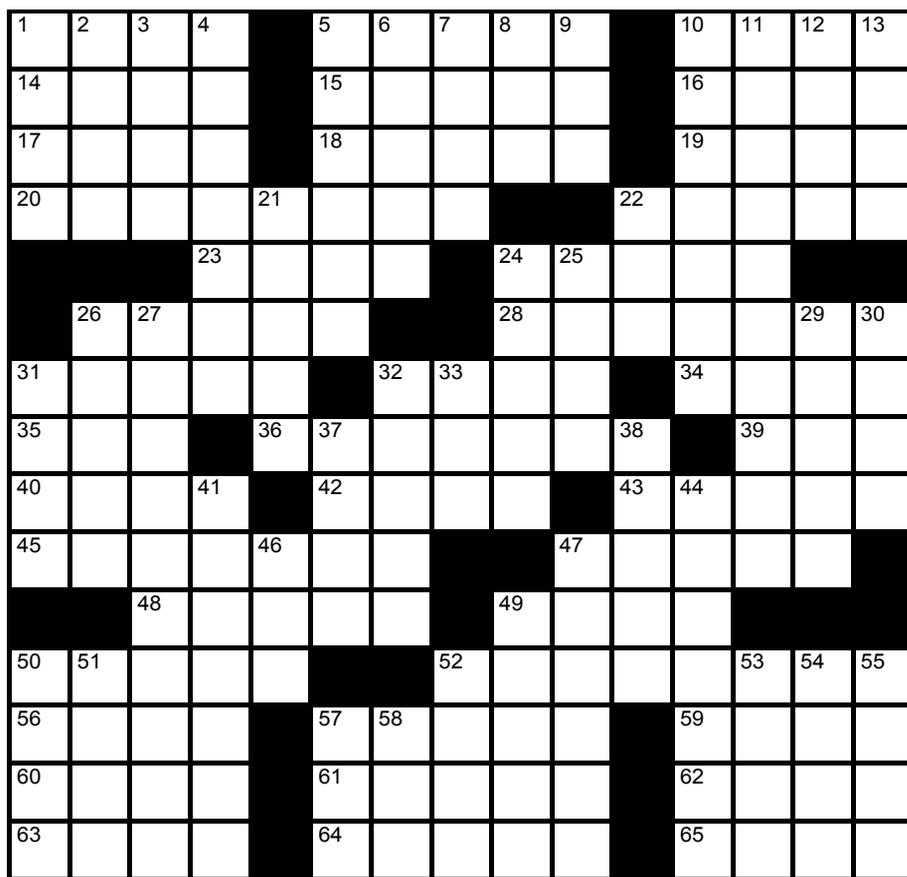
The FCSU Auditors happen to be in the Office in their regular course of duties so they also admired the display. It was a terrific few days.

This is the type of promotion and public relations that can benefit our Society and also gave us some ideas for our new museum at the Home Office.

It also gave us the opportunity to help the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius by letting them use part of our display table at the conference to promote the Jankola Library in Danville, Pennsylvania and their Slovak publications. Sisters M. John Vianney Vranak and Katherine attended the conference and offered their publications for purchase. Sister John Vianney sent us a very nice thank you letter for our cooperation.

Andrew M. Rajec, National President

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Elec. units
- 5 Gave up
- 10 Nail
- 14 Orca prey
- 15 Cheer up
- 16 Singer McEntire
- 17 Orient
- 18 Range
- 19 Foreboding
- 20 Crepes
- 22 Glide
- 23 Leg part
- 24 Daisylike flower
- 26 Piece of paper
- 28 Pickle
- 31 Strict
- 32 Hindu frock
- 34 Marquis de ____
- 35 Pastureland
- 36 Muscle
- 39 Sandwich inits.
- 40 Conjunctions
- 42 S shaped molding
- 43 Stories
- 45 Giant
- 47 Confronts
- 48 Cove
- 49 Pants measure
- 50 Beef cattle
- 52 Laurel & Hardy producer
- 56 Cheers
- 57 South Korean city
- 59 Gall
- 60 Poker term
- 61 Seed
- 62 Heb. calendar mc
- 63 Freshwater fish
- 64 Nobleman
- 65 Look after

Down

- 1 Memo inits., at times
- 2 Arizona city
- 3 Anguish
- 4 Malingerer
- 5 Final resting place, for some
- 6 Toastmaster
- 7 Couples
- 8 Second sight
- 9 Scottish river
- 10 Real estate purveyors
- 11 Extraordinary
- 12 Assist, usually illegally
- 13 Zealander
- 21 Concerning
- 22 ____ Anne de Beaupré
- 24 Concur
- 25 Transport
- 26 Office worker
- 27 Auto necessity
- 29 Stagnates
- 30 Fishing items
- 31 Dross
- 32 Visual perceptio
- 33 Hotshot
- 37 Memorization

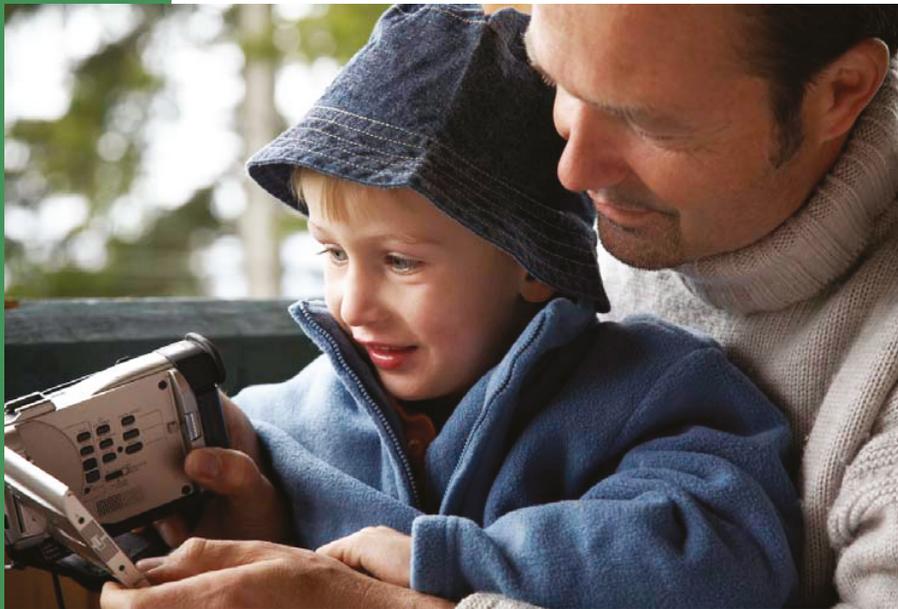
- 38 Before case or well
- 41 Pollen attractors
- 44 Circus performer
- 46 Than (Ger.)
- 47 Angel type
- 49 Sao ____, Brazil
- 50 Omani, for one
- 51 1934 Anna Sten movie
- 52 Time of day
- 53 Adjutant
- 54 Tribe or family
- 55 Animal group
- 57 Wail away
- 58 A Gabor sister

See Solution on Page 18

FCSU LIFE

**PROTECT
YOUR CHILDREN
FOR ONLY
\$14.00
YEARLY!**

This is not a misprint. Read on to find out how.



YOUR FAMILY COMES FIRST.

Your family is the center of your life. You would do anything for them. We are offering you this economical opportunity to guard your children and help them on their way to financial responsibility.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

The many benefits of insuring your children with JEP include:

- \$10,000 in term life insurance coverage to age 25, for children ages 0-21 — *for only \$14.00 a year.* (Contact the home office for larger amounts)
- Protection for your kids' future insurability by offering conversion at age 16 or older to a regular permanent policy — regardless of health (if policy has been in force for at least two years).
- Enrollees become eligible to apply for the Societies fraternal benefits at no additional cost.
- Annual premiums are eligible for scholarships

CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Yes. We want you to receive our free, no obligation information on JEP! Simply call us at 1-800-533-6682, and we'll send you information and applications for the program. We're confident after reviewing our literature that you'll find this one of the best values to help your children for years to come.



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CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OFFICER
OR THE HOME OFFICE AT 1-800-533-6682**

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
of the United States and Canada
6611 Rockside Road
Independence, OH 44131-2398



NEW FROM FCSU

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.

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Please contact the home office at 1-800-533-6682 for further information or go to our website at www.fcsu.com to download a payment form.

**We accept:
Visa,
Mastercard,
and Discover**

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.

FCSU LIFE

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR 2 or 3 YEAR PAYMENT PLAN ON A SINGLE PREMIUM LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

Enjoy all the advantages and convenience of Single Payment Life Insurance except the payments are made in installments. This enables you to purchase the larger face amount that you need and want, but avoids the necessity of paying the entire premium in one payment. The balance due premium will be a loan against the policy cash value.

- **Interest free loan**
- **Affordable way to get life insurance**
- **Minimum face amount \$10,000 male age 50; female age 55; thereafter \$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.



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

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

**FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY & IRA INTEREST RATES
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2009**

The annual yield on existing Flexible Premium Deferred Annuities & IRA's is 4.75% (4.641% APR)

The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash Interest" Option is 4.50% (4.402% APR)

The annual yield on a new "Park 2 Annuity" is 4.00% (3.922% APR)

The first year annual yield on a new "Park Free Plus Annuity" is 4.1% (4.018% APR)

The annual yield on new six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuities & IRA's is 4.25% (4.162%APR)

The annual yield for new Settlement Options is based on 4.25% (4.162% APR)

If you have any questions about our annuities or IRA's, please contact your local branch officer or the Home Office!

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

4.75%

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

Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity – Currently Earning 4.75% (4.641% 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)

**CONTACT THE HOME OFFICE OR YOUR LOCAL BRANCH FOR MORE INFORMATION.
YOU CAN ALSO VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT FCSU.COM**



**SIX YEAR
FIXED RATE
4.25%**
(4.162% apr)

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNOUNCING

**The FIXED RATE 6-YEAR* ANNUITY AND IRA
AVOID STOCK MARKET VOLATILITY**

EFFECTIVE 10/1/2009

4.25% (APR 4.162%)

***Interest rate Guaranteed for 6 years**

**SIX YEAR
FIXED RATE
4.25%**
(4.162% apr)

Our **FIXED RATE 6-YEAR** annuity offers you the following benefits:

- A much higher interest rate than other current low rates available
- Rate is guaranteed for 6 years. No interest rate fluctuation or changes
- The power of annuity tax deferral.
- A safe, secure and competitive investment for your retirement (IRA) funds
- Opportunity to lock-in a competitive rate for 6 years and avoid the turmoil of stock market volatility

The **FIXED RATE 6-YEAR** annuity has the following features and terms:

- Interest rate fixed for 6 years
- 10% penalty free annual withdrawal (based on contract cash value at the beginning of each year)
- 6-year withdrawal penalty period: 1st year-6%, thereafter reduces 1% each year for next 5 years. Bank withdrawal penalties are much higher
- Not applicable to any settlement option annuity funds, or interest only annuities
- Annuity withdrawal prior to age 59 ½, subject to Federal Excise Tax Penalty
- Minimum deposit \$5,000

COMPARE OUR **FIXED RATE 6-YEAR ANNUITY RATE** TO YOUR LOCAL BANK RATES

DON'T DELAY, ACT NOW!

Contact our Home Office or your local branch for more information!

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300
P.O. Box 318013
Independence, OH 44131-8013
Call 1-800 Jednota or 1-216-642-9406



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 1, will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. On the agenda will be the election of officers. Our annual Christmas Party will be held following the meeting. If you have any questions, please call 216/228-8179. All members are encouraged to attend.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 5P- EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 5P, will hold a meeting on Sunday afternoon, December 13, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Leonard J. Zavada, President, 141 Second Street, Wyoming, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the nominations and election of delegates to the National Convention and a discussion of future branch activities.

Leonard J. Zavada, President

BRANCH 6- STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 6, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at 1406 North Baker Street, Streator, Illinois. The election of officers for Branch 6 and the election of delegates to the 49th International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union will take place. We urge all eligible members to attend this meeting. Please call 815/672-1764 or 815/822-8851 before December 13 if you plan to attend.

Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 7- HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbane Street, Houtzdale, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place. All members are urged to attend.

Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 10- OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, will hold its Annual Meeting, Audit, and Election of Officers on Sunday, December 6, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Recording Secretary William A. Nalevanko, 405 North River Street, Olyphant, Pennsylvania. The Election of delegates to the 49th International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union, which will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, August 14-18, 2010, will also take place.

William A. Nalevanko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 24- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Andrew Svorad Society, Branch 24, will have their Branch and Christmas Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. at the Karlin Club, 5304 Fleet Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 24- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Andrew Svorad Society, Branch 24, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 17, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. at the Karlin Club, 5304 Fleet Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. On the agenda will be the election of Officers and 2010 Convention Delegates. Refreshments will be served. Veselé Vianoce!

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 35- BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael Society, Branch 35, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 5, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the residence of Secretary Joseph Yuros, 15 Sumner Avenue, Forest Hills, Pennsylvania. The agenda will include nominations of officers for 2010 and the election of delegates to the 49th International Convention.

Joseph Yuros, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 38- DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38, will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 2, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of the Secretary,

Florence Matta, 3409 Eisenhower Court, White Oak, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be officers' reports, a discussion of charitable donations, and future Branch and District activities. There will be Election of Officers and Delegates to the 49th FCSU Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, August 14-18, 2010. All members are welcomed.

Florence Matta, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 41- YONKERS, NEW YORK

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41, will hold its Annual Meeting on Friday, December 4, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Trinity and Walnut Streets, Yonkers, New York. Financial reports will be presented and suggestions will be discussed. The Election of Officers for Branch 41 and Delegates to the 49th International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union will take place. We urge all members to attend this meeting. Refreshments will be served.

Robert J. Lutz, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 45- NEW YORK CITY

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 10, 2010, at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. The agenda will include the election of delegates to the 49th International Convention in Cleveland. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 45- NEW YORK CITY

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 29, 2009, at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, and a discussion of events for the coming year. The election of officers will also take place. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 55- PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 55, will hold a Special Meeting on Sunday, January 31, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Vice President Steven J. Gerba, 188 DiMarco Drive, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the meeting will be to confirm the Delegates selected to serve for the 2010 National FCSU Convention at the Annual Meeting held November 15, 2009. Refreshments will be served. All members are cordially invited to attend. Please call the Vice President at 215/637-6530 or the President at 610/356-7956 for directions.

Josephine E. Gerba, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 75- SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 75, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. at the residence of the president and financial secretary, Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the presentation of fiscal year end reports and financial statements. The Auditors' report will be submitted and the nomination of officers for the coming year will take place. In addition, the election of two (2) delegates and one (1) Alternate Delegate to represent Branch 75 at the 49th Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio from Saturday, August 14, 2010 through Wednesday, August 18, 2010, will take place.

All members are requested to attend the semi-annual meeting.

Ronald M. Anderson, President & Financial Secretary

BRANCH 90- OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 90, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 5, 2009, 2:00 p.m. at the home of Michael P. Glin-sky, 129 Grant Street, Olyphant, Pennsylvania.

Barbara Sochovka, Secretary

BRANCH 112- MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 112, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at 86 Spring Street, Pottsville, Pennsylvania. The agenda will include election of delegates to the Convention and a discussion on ideas on how to enroll new members. Light refreshments will be served. Please call 570/544-6694 for directions.

Karen Engle Sterling

BRANCH 157- NORTH CATASAUQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Andrew Society, Branch 157, will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 29, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in the upstairs room at the Slovak Center, Catasauqua, Pennsylvania. The nomination of officers will take place and final plans for the Christmas Party will be made. There will also be a discussion of future activities.

The Christmas Party will be held on December 13, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at the Slovak Center. Call 610/264-0740 to sign up your child. Snow date will be December 20, 2009.

Gregory Harakal, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 157- NORTH CATASAUQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Andrew Society, Branch 157, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 12:00 noon in the upstairs room at the Slovak Center, Catasauqua, Pennsylvania. The election of officers and a discussion of future activities will be on the agenda. The Christmas Party will follow the meeting.

Best wishes from Branch 157 for a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Gregory Harakal, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162- UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room at K2 Engineering, Inc., 234 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. The election of branch officers and the selection of delegates to the National Convention are scheduled. Officers' reports, discussion of branch activities and the upcoming convention will be on the agenda. The meeting will be followed by a brunch at a local restaurant. All members and guests are invited to attend both the meeting and the brunch. For more information call Dolores at 724/ 437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 169P- JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 169P, will hold its Annual Meeting on Monday, December 28, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the Slivsky residence, 1510 Emmett Drive, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be branch reports, election of officers, and election of delegates to the 49th FCSU convention.

Call us for information on the safest and best investments offered by the FCSU.

Betty Slivsky, Secretary

BRANCHES 173 AND 232- GREATER WILKES-BARRE AREA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 173, and the Holy Trinity Society, Branch 232, will hold their Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at Norms, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The meeting will be for general business and the election of delegates to the 49th Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held in 2010 in Cleveland, Ohio.

We request that all members make an effort to attend. In any event, please contact Dorothy A. Ungvasky, at 15 Grove St., Mountain Top, PA 18707 or Phone 570/403-2067, if you plan to attend or do not plan to attend but wish to make any comments or suggestions for the betterment of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Dorothy A. Ungvasky, President

BRANCH 199- HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 199, will hold

its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Sophie Pipak. The Election of Officers will be held at that time. A good turnout is requested.

Sophie Pipak

BRANCH 200- FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 200, will hold its Monthly Meeting on Thursday, December 3, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the upstairs Social Hall of the C.U. Club, 910-912 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, Pennsylvania. The Election of Officers for 2010 will take place. All members are urged to attend.

The Election of Delegates to the 49th FCSU Convention will be held at the January 7, 2010 meeting.

We wish everyone a very Blessed Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Patricia Conner, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 228- LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist Society/Holy Trinity Society, Branch 228, will hold a meeting on Monday, December 21, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 30th Street and Broadway, Lorain, Ohio. This meeting will be a very important. In addition to our normal annual elections, we will be electing representatives for the 49th International Convention of the FCSU to be held August 14-18, 2010 in Cleveland, Ohio. We expect to be permitted to seat six (6) or possibly seven (7) representatives at the convention for our branch. We will also be voting for alternates to serve if a representative is unable to attend. We hope to have all representatives and alternates decided upon at this meeting so the certification process can begin as soon as possible. Representing a branch at the convention is a truly special experience as you help to decide the direction of the FCSU for the next four (4) years. Please contact any of the branch officers if you are interested and of course come to the meeting.

As a reminder, our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held unless needed as during convention time. All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the American Slovak Club. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaws review during the December meeting as is done each December. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. The terms of Ed Firment and Andrew Mihalik expire on December 31, 2009.

The Branch 228 Christmas Party will be held Tuesday, December 8, 2009, at the American Slovak Club. Cocktails will be served at 6:00 p.m. with dinner to begin at 6:30 p.m. Once again, please contact any of the branch officers with your intent to attend as reservations are a must. There is a lot of activity going on in both the FCSU and the Slovak Club so come and join in the fun. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update. See you at the Club! Happy Holidays for all.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 259- STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will have a Mass celebrated on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. in Holy Trinity Church, Struthers, Ohio. The Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members of the branch. Following the liturgy, the Annual Meeting will be held at the Bedford Trails Golf Course, Coitsville, Ohio. All members are welcome and are urged to attend this meeting. The 49th International Convention will also be on the agenda, along with the election of officers for the branch for the coming year.

Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260- CAMPBELL, OHIO

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 260, will hold their Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 13,

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

2009, at 1:30 p.m. in Msgr. Cyril Adamko Hall in St. Elizabeth Church. The Election of Officers for the coming year along with the Nominations for Delegates to the Convention will be held. Plans for 2010 will be discussed. Any changes to the Bylaws must be submitted by January 31, 2010. We urge members to attend and to participate in the discussions that relate to improving the Society as a whole.

Charles M. Terek, President

BRANCH 292- WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 292, will hold its Annual Meeting and Christmas Party on Sunday, December 20, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, Pennsylvania. All members are asked to attend.

We wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Edward T. Surkosky, F.I.C.

BRANCH 293- LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 293, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Katherine Drexel Church Social Hall, 124 East Abbott Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania. It should be noted that the election of delegates to the National Convention will take place at this time.

Anyone needing services or more insurance should contact: Robert J. Lakata, 527 East Bertsch St., Lansford, PA 18232, or leave a message at 570/645-4872.

Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 312- BAGGALEY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Nicholas Society, Branch 312, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 3, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. at 1121 Monastery Dive, Latrobe, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the election of officers and the election of delegates to the National Convention. All members of Branch 312 are urged to attend this meeting.

Micki Smolleck, Secretary

BRANCH 320- STOCKDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of the SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 320, invite all their members to attend the next meeting of the branch on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 12:00 noon at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. Since lunch will be prepared, please call Fran at 724/929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending. On the agenda will be the election of officers, a discussion of the upcoming convention, and the election of delegates to the 49th FCSU Convention. This convention will be held August 14 through August 18, 2010 at the Renaissance Cleveland, Hotel. Refer to Qualifications of Delegates in the Bylaws Section 11.03. Members of the various branches are urged to attend.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 327- POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 327, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2009, at 9:15 a.m. in Holy Trinity Church Social Hall, 370 South Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

Georgia Zeleznick, Secretary

BRANCH 367- FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 367, will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. at Bogeys Restaurant, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend. The election of officers and election of delegates for the convention will take place at this meeting.

Jane Kish, Secretary

BRANCH 372- BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 372, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the residence of Michael Hudak, 829 Cameron Avenue, Beaverdale,

Pennsylvania. The election of officers for the coming year will be on the agenda. All members are urged to attend.

Michael Hudak, President

BRANCH 410- UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 10, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. at Meloni's, 105 West Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2010 and the nomination and election of delegates to represent Branch 410 at the 49th FCSU Convention to be held in Cleveland, Ohio in August 2010. All members are encouraged to attend.

Geri Buchheit, Recording Secretary/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 421- NANTY GLO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 421, will hold a Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Lillian Stager, 124 Circle Drive, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

Lillian R. Stager, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 425- BARBERTON, OHIO

The St. Mark Society, Branch 425, will hold its Annual Lodge Meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in the afternoon at the Slovak Society of Barberton Club, 887 West Tuscarawas Avenue, Barberton, Ohio. The election of officers will take place at this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

Paul J. Slota, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 450- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold a meeting on Monday, December 7, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jozef Valencik, 13501 Park Drive, Brook Park, Ohio. We plan to elect delegates for the 2010 convention. All members are encouraged to attend.

Margaret Valencik, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 484- GRACETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 484, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in the Coral Site Hall of Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Coral, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be financial reports, election of officers for 2010, and election of delegates to the 49th Convention. All members are welcome.

Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 493- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493, will hold its Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, Election of Convention Delegates and Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, November 28, 2009, at Mabenka's Restaurant, 7844 South Cicero Avenue, Burbank, Illinois. The meeting will start at 2:00 p.m. followed by a delicious dinner. If you plan to attend, please call the financial secretary Robert Tapak Magruder at 773/505-0117 or 502/244-6643 by November 24. Members of other FCSU lodges who attend will pay via separate checks.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 567- ALLEN TOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 567, will have their Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church Social Hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend meeting and support us. The Bake sale of nut and poppy seed rolls was a success. The election and swearing in of officers will take place. The annual report will be given.

We wish everyone a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

Rosalie Favere

BRANCH 581- GARY, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 581, will hold its regular Luncheon-Meeting on

Sunday, December 6, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the Riverpoint Country Club, 8700 Country Club Road, Hobart, Indiana. On the agenda will be the election of officers and the election of a delegate to the convention. Future activities will also be discussed.

Ann Buczek, President

BRANCH 595- MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 595, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. in the Tatra Hall, Muskegon Heights, Michigan. On the agenda will be election of officers for 2010 and election of delegates (2) to the convention. The members are asked to please attend this meeting.

Louis A. Kollar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 644- MCKEES ROCKS, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 644, will hold its Semiannual and Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Michael R. Jablonsky, 1215 Foster Avenue, Apt. 305, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This may be the most important meeting of Branch 644. Your input at the meeting will decide if Branch 644 is to remain an active branch of the Jednota.

The officers of Branch 644 wish to extend a Blessed Christmas to all members and may the New Year bring you Good Health, Happiness and a Better Tomorrow.

Michael R. Jablonsky, President/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 682- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. George Society, Branch 682, will hold its annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 6, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at Material Research Lab, 290 North Bridge Street, Struthers, Ohio. A meeting will also be held. The convention will be discussed. The election of officers and convention delegates will also take place. All members are encouraged to attend.

Andrew J. Hirt, President

BRANCH 686- NORTH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 686, will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 29, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of the Financial Secretary, Rudolph D. Glogovsky, 12946 Bull Ridge Drive, Huntley, Illinois (Del Webb's Sun City), located just north off Route 47 of the I-90 Interstate Highway exit. All members are invited to attend. On the agenda will be a discussion of bylaws, reports from District meetings (Region 7), and FCSU annuity and insurance programs. Please call 847/659-1580 if you plan to attend.

Rudolph D. Glogovsky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 721- BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 721, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. in the St. Cyril's Church meeting room. All members are encouraged to attend.

Joseph Beno, Jr., Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will have a Mass celebrated for the deceased members on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 11:30 a.m. in St. Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio.

Following the liturgy, we will have a meeting at St. Matthias Church Rectory. The meeting will include the election of officers for 2010 and the election of delegates to the 49th International Convention.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 738- MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael Society, Branch 738, will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW Hall, Whitaker Way, Munhall, Pennsylvania. All members are welcome. The meeting will include the election of officers and the nomination of delegates to the next convention. We look forward to seeing you

there.

**Pat Guidish, Financial Secretary
Robert Kosko, Presiden**

BRANCH 743- STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be officers' reports, a 2009 financial report, approval of the 2010 budget, a discussion of branch activities and other business pertaining to the branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The election of branch officers will also take place. In addition, there will be the Nomination and Election of Delegates to the 49th Convention of the FCSU to be held in Cleveland, Ohio August 14-18, 2010.

Members are urged to attend the celebration of the Slovak Mass before the meeting at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan. The annual meeting will follow the Mass in the Church Social Hall. Please come and enjoy our annual Christmas meeting with your fellow branch members.

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

Joseph C. Rimarcik, President & Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746- LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 12:30 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of Msgr. Komar Hall at Holy Family Church in Linden, New Jersey. The agenda will include the election of officers for 2010 and the election of delegates to the 49th Convention. A holiday get-together will follow the meeting.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 780- SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 780, will hold a meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at 2280 Taft Street, Saginaw, Michigan. Branch officers for the coming year will be elected. For more information call 989/280-4916.

We wish all members and their families a Blessed Merry Christmas and a very Joyous New Year.

Cathy Karlsen, Secretar

BRANCH 784- MONTREAL QUEBEC

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 784, will hold their Traditional Christmas Dinner on Sunday, November 29, 2009 following the last Mass at the SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall. All members and their friends are cordially invited to attend.

Alice Dobrik, President

BRANCH 785- TORONTO, ONTARIO

The St. John Society, Branch 785, will hold a joint Annual Meeting with the Msgr. Michael Shuba District on Sunday, December 6, 2009, at 4:30 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Mississauga, Ontario. All members are encouraged to attend. The election of officers as well as election of delegates for the 2010 Convention in Cleveland will be conducted.

Milos Mitro, Regional Director

BRANCH 831- TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Clement Society, Branch 831, will hold a meeting for all members on Monday, December 14, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the club, 147 West 7th Avenue, Tarentum, Pennsylvania. The topic for discussion will be the sale of the club building and property at 147th 7th Avenue from the St. Clement Society to the Slovak American Club. Your input in this matter is of great importance.

Kathy Persun

BRANCH 844- LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch

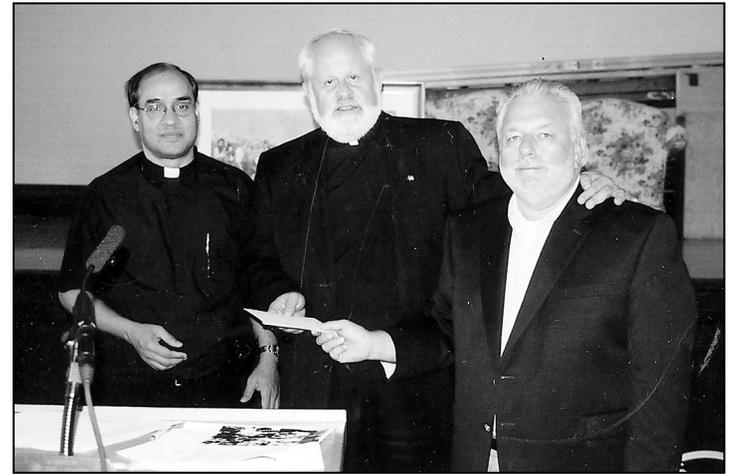
continued from page 16

Most Holy Trinity Parish in Yonkers Begins Centennial Year

Most Holy Trinity Parish in Yonkers, New York, officially inaugurated the centennial year observance of its parish church on Sunday, October 4 with a festive liturgy and brunch. The Sunday program began with the re-dedication of the church cornerstone at 10:00 a.m. by the Rev. Emil R. Tomaskovic, S.A., former Minister General of the Franciscans Friars of the Atonement of Graymoor, New York and a parish son. The rite recalled the original blessing of the cornerstone in October 1909. The centennial year observance will conclude on Saturday, October 2, 2010 when the Archbishop of New York, the Most Rev. Timothy Dolan will re-dedicate the church and celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving. A festive dinner will follow.

It was in October 1910 that the completed church was blessed and dedicated by the Most Rev. Thomas Cusack, Auxiliary Bishop of New York. A number of activities have been planned during the course of the centennial year by the Church Centennial Committee. The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41 of the First Catholic Slovak Union laid the foundation for the establishment of the parish in the early 1890s. The parish was incorporated in 1894 and dedicated its first church in 1895. With the growth of the Slovak community, the need for a larger church was evident and thus the present edifice was built and dedicated. In 1911, the old church was converted to house the parish school.

Parish Council President Edward Sabol presenting a gift to Father Emil Tomaskovic, which he immediately returned as a gift to the Church Centennial Committee in memory of his parents, the late John and Anna Tomaskovic.



Looking on is the pastor, Father George Oonnoony

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 15

844, will hold its Annual Slovak Christmas Mass on Sunday, December 20, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. A delicious authentic Slovak lunch will be served after the liturgy along with the presentation of gifts for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak spirit of Christmas.

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

We hope to see you all there. The officers of Branch 844 would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very special New Year.

Milan Konkol, Secretary

BRANCH 853- ELLSWORTH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 853, will hold its annual Spaghetti Dinner Christmas Party on Saturday, November 28, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. at Regos Restaurant, Charleroi, Pennsylvania. Due to seating, reservations are required. To make your reservation, please call 412/341-1577 and leave your name, phone number and number of adults and children attending. Since Santa always leaves a gift for the children, the age of the child is requested. There will be no cost to branch members attending. Non-branch members will be charged \$13 per person which will be payable at that time.

After the luncheon, the branch meeting will be held. At this meeting, all Convention business will be discussed. This includes the election of the branch delegate which will be held at this meeting along with the election of branch officers. Please bring your suggestions for Bylaw amendments to this meeting.

Branch 853 wishes all a Blessed Christmas Season.

Monica Rodacy Boone

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

Our Mother of Sorrows Society, Branch 856, will hold its Annual Meeting on Monday, December 7, 2009, at 12:00 noon in the home of Katherine Nowatkoski, 12127 Westwood Hills Drive,

Oak Hill, Virginia. On the agenda will be officers' reports, a discussion of branch activities, and a report on the District meeting. The election of officers will also take place. In addition, there will be the nomination and election of a delegate to the 49th FCSU Convention to be held in Cleveland, August 14-18, 2010.

Members are encouraged to attend this meeting and take an active part in their fraternal organization. For more information call Stephen Matula at 703/671-3013 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 703/860-1693.

Katherine Nowatkoski, Financial Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 855- PARMA, OHIO

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 855, will hold a meeting for the newly elected officers on Friday, December 11, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Mary Kolesar. We will be making plans for the 49th Convention in Cleveland, Ohio in August 2010.

Linda L. Kolesar, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 857- LEVITOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael Society, Branch 857, will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 9, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of the Financial Secretary Andy Herman, 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, Pennsylvania. We will be holding election of branch officers for 2010 as well as delegates for the 2010 Convention.

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

Damian D. Nasta, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 888- WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 888, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at 4649 Perth Road, West Palm Beach, Florida. On the agenda will be future branch activities, a treasurer's report and items of mutual interest to the membership. Contact David Rafaidus, president, at 561/776-0449 or jednota888@yahoo.com for directions and further information. All branch members are invited to attend.

David Rafaidus, President



(Photos by Daniel Tanzone)

Participants at the cornerstone blessing are L-R altar servers Stephanie and Matthew Zatkovic, Joseph Popovic, Edward Sabol, Father Emil Tomaskovic, Father George Oonnoony, Robert Lutz, John Fialkovic, and James G. Holodak.



Father Emil Tomaskovic and Father George Oonnoony begin the blessing rite. Also present are L-R the altar servers Stephanie and Matthew Zatkovic, Joseph Popovic of the Knights of Columbus Color Guard, and Parish Council President Edward Sabol.

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Please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office for applications
Visit our web site at FCSU.com

Address Changes?

Readers are reminded that all address changes for the JEDNOTA newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. If you have an address change, cancellation, or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Road, Independence, OH 44131-2398; Phone: 1/800-JEDNOTA (1/800-533-6682); Fax: 1/800-642-4310; or E-mail: FCSU@aol.com.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District held its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 11, 2009, at the Slovak Center in Catasauqua, Pennsylvania. Mass was not held for this meeting. A delicious meal was served and enjoyed by everyone.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Recording Secretary Loretta Dashner. The meeting was called to order by President Greg Harakal. Roll call was taken with eight officers and 24 delegates present. The count was approved and accepted on a motion by Ed Nasta and seconded by Monica Fabian.

The secretary read the minutes which were accepted and approved on motions by Monica Fabian and Bernadine Gerhard. All agreed. The treasurer read his report as well as the financial secretary's report. They were accepted and approved on a motion by Karen Sterling and Monica Fabian. The auditors audited the books and found them to be in good and proper order. They were accepted and approved on a motion by Josephine Gerba and Steve Gerba. All members agreed.

The election of officers took place. The following were elected: Greg Harakal, President; Helena Gaydos, Vice President; Damian Nasta, Financial Secretary; Edward Nasta, Treasurer, Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary; AnnaRose Payne, Fraternal Director, Bernadine Gerherd, Chairperson of Auditors; Gerald Fabian and Jerry Lloyd, Auditors; and Msgr. Thomas Derzack, Chaplain. The officers were sworn in by Andy Herman. Katherine Nowatkoski of Branch 856 was elected as the District delegate to the FCSU Convention in 2010.

The semiannual meeting will be held in Allentown on Sunday, March 14, 2010. Please note the date change.

On a motion by Monica Fabian and Christine Anderson the meeting was adjourned. Msgr. Thomas Derzack said the closing prayer. All sang "Hej Slovaci" and "God Bless America."

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT-CALIFORNIA

The Prince Pribina District will celebrate the Christmas season with a Slovak Mass on Sunday, December 20, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. at St. John Bosco Chapel at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Following the liturgy, the traditional Slovak dish "Kapustnica" will be served in the cafeteria, sponsored by the Vice Consul of the Slovak Republic in Los Angeles. Come and enjoy the festivities with Slovak music and Christmas Carols.

The Prince Pribina District and the St. Joseph Society, Branch 844, will hold their Annual Meeting at 5:30 p.m. The election of delegates to the 49th FCSU Convention will take place at this meeting.

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

Paul Skuben

GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT-WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District will hold a special meeting to elect the District Delegate to the 49th International Convention. This meeting will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 12:00 noon at the home of the District Vice President George Sprock. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT-YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold its next meeting and Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at Marino's Restaurant, Mahoning Avenue, Austintown, Pennsylvania. The party will follow a short meeting. Reservations can be made by calling Carlie Peshek at 330/779-3927, Nancy Scavina at 330/758-4536, or Paul Ritz at 330/744-2377.

Nominations for District Delegate to the Jednota Convention in 2010 will be accepted at this meeting on December 15. Reservations must be made in person.

Carlie Peshek, Presiden

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

The Msgr. Joseph Tiso District will hold a special meeting on Sunday, January 3, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. at the C.U. Club, 912 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, Pennsylvania. The primary purpose of this meeting will be to elect the District delegate to the 49th International Convention scheduled to take place in Cleveland in August 2010. We will also finalize District 11's proposals for Bylaw amendments or resolutions. Other business will be conducted as necessary. Representatives from all branches should call okres secretary Grace Charney at 724/763-1104 to confirm their attendance.

Grace M. Charney, Secretary

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT-PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Pittsburgh District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 29, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. Local Branch 628 will be the host. The Steelers do not play till the evening so that's not an excuse. The meeting will include officers' reports and discussion of FCSU national and district business, including the upcoming national convention in Cleveland, Ohio. Branch hosts for 2010 events will be selected. District officers for 2010 will be elected at this meeting. The Pittsburgh District delegate to the national convention will also be selected at this meeting.

A Family Christmas Party will be held following the meeting. The Pittsburgh Slovaks will be performing. Members are encouraged to bring their children and grandchildren. Please RSVP to Flo Matta at 412/466-7460 or George Matta at 412/672-5330.

Holy Trinity Church now has an outstanding new mural featuring Saints Cyril and Methodius with background scenes of the New World and Old Country. Take the time to visit when you come to the meeting.

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

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT-WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District will hold its annual Stedry Vecer on Sunday, December 6, 2009 at the Bishop Connare Center, Route 30 East, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The evening will begin with Mass at 4:00 p.m. in the chapel followed by our traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner. After dinner and the awarding of door prizes, the Pittsburgh Slovaks will entertain and the "Jaslickari" (Bethlehem Carolers) will make a visit. Please plan to attend and help us preserve this beautiful and festive custom. Tickets are \$16 for adults and \$11 for children 16 and younger. Reserve your tickets early (they are limited) by calling Florence Sprock at 724/423-4199 or Barbara Mizikar at 724/423-2616. Absolutely no reservations will be accepted after November 30.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

MSGR. MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT-

The Msgr. Michael Shuba District will hold a joint Annual Meeting with Branch 785 on Sunday, December 6, 2009, at 4:30 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Mississauga, Ontario. All members are encouraged to attend. The election of officers as well as election of delegates for the 2010 Convention in Cleveland will be conducted.

Milos Mitro, Regional Director



Joseph Behil of Branch 166 in Binghamton, New York, presented a check for \$100.00 on behalf of the SS. Cyril and Methodius District to Barbara Pero, President of the Slovak Catholic Cemetery Association in Binghamton. The donation will go towards the Preservation Fund of the Cemetery. The Slovak Catholic Cemetery was established in 1916, and remains in use by three area Slovak parishes in Broome County, SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, the Church of the Holy Trinity, and St. Joseph Church.

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Obituaries Announcements

**Anna M. Mitrik
Branch 512
Greensburg, Pennsylvania**

Anna M. Mitrik, 94, formerly of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, died Thursday, September 3, 2009, in Vincentian Home, Pittsburgh.

She was born September 23, 1914, in Trauger, Pennsylvania, a daughter of the late John and Mary (Uhrin) Placko. She was a member of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg and Jednota Branch 512.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John Mitrik, on May 25, 1987; four brothers, John, Stephen, Joseph and Michael Placko; and a son-in-law, Philip Nalepa

She is survived by three sons, John Mitrik Jr. and his wife, Helen, of Youngwood, Pennsylvania, Paul Mitrik and his wife, Connie, of Franklin, Tennessee, and Joseph Mitrik and his wife, Linda, of Brook Park, Ohio; two daughters, Mary Briercheck and her husband, George, of Rock Hill, South Carolina, and Carol Nalepa of Painted Post, New York; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at the Leo M. Bacha Funeral Home, Inc., Greensburg. A Funeral Mass was celebrated in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. Interment was in Greensburg Catholic Cemetery.

Friends were received at the Leo M. Bacha Funeral Home, Inc., Greensburg. A Funeral Mass was celebrated in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. Interment was in Greensburg Catholic Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Westmoreland County Food bank, 100 Devonshire Dr., Delmont, PA 15626 or to the charity of one's choice.

**Stephen Richard Wilhelm
Branch 853
Ellsworth, Pennsylvania**

Stephen Richard Wilhelm, 48, a member of Branch 853 in Ellsworth, Pennsylvania, died Thursday, July 30, 2009.

Stephen was born October 30, 1960, a son of the late Lavern Wilhelm and Veronica "Ronnie" Wilhelm. He graduated from Nazareth High School in 1979. He married Mary Jean Huseman on July 28, 1984. They were both longtime members of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Stephen greatly enjoyed volunteering with St. Mary's youth groups.

Stephen owned and operated Stoneridge Builders. He loved working with wood and was an incredible craftsman. Mostly, he enjoyed spending time with his family. He was a genuinely a good and unselfish man, and was the most wonderful husband and father anyone could ask for. He was our angel sent down from heaven and an instrument of God's peace.

Besides his father, he was preceded in death by a brother Robert and a sister-in-law, Lori Huseman.

Survivors include his wife; two daughters, Megan and Amy Wilhelm; two sons, Matthew and Jonathan Wilhelm; three sisters, Mary Beth Haschke and husband, Gene, and Dorothy Huseman and husband, David, all of Amarillo, and Theresa Mullen and husband, Michael, of Virginia; three brothers, Henry Wilhelm and wife, Lori, of Nazareth, Cecil Wilhelm of Hereford, and Damian Wilhelm and wife, Stacy, of Amarillo; his mother, Veronica "Ronnie" Wilhelm of Nazareth; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Louis and

Virginia Huseman of Nazareth; three sisters-in-law; five brothers-in-law; and many family members and friends.

Prayer services were held at St. Mary's Church at 7:30 p.m. on August 2. A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, August 3 with Msgr. Harold Waldow officiating. Burial was in Memory Gardens Cemetery. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the Schooler Funeral Home.

Marge Bertovich

**Mary Louise Smolen
Branch 857
Ellsworth, Pennsylvania**

Mary Louise Smolen, a member of Branch 857 in Ellsworth, Pennsylvania, died Thursday, August 27, 2009.

She was born in 1923 in Ontario Village, Pennsylvania, a daughter of the late Elizabeth and Joseph Dorko. She graduated from Bentleyville High School with high honors in the early 1940s. She passed the required civil service exam and was given a position with the Navy Department in Washington, D.C., where she was an active, dedicated employee until she reached retirement age. In 1970, she married widower Walter Smolen and gained two children, Ann and Andrew Smolen.

Following her retirement, Mrs. Smolen and her husband were able to more freely enjoy their love for travel. They roamed throughout the United States, spent winters in Florida and explored their family roots in Poland and Slovakia and visited noted shrines Fatima, Lourdes and the Vatican City.

Mary was noted for her extensive remembrance card ministry to an ever growing list of family and friends. On any notable occasion, once could count on her sending a lovely card expressing love and prayers and signed in her beautiful handwriting. Her family's wishes are that she rest in the peace of the Lord.

Surviving are her husband, Walter; a daughter, Anna; a son Andrew; a granddaughter, Kelly; four grandsons, Brandon, Brad, Brian and Patrick; three sisters, Marge Bertovich, Frances Goroncy and Veronica Wilhelm; and many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. John the Baptist Church by Msgr. Kazista. Mrs. Smolen was honored by having Commander Michael Mullen, U.S. Navy (husband of her niece, Theresa Wilhelm) in attendance. Commander M. Mullen served as lector at the Mass.

Marge Bertovich

Irene Matasovsky Matuschak

(September 14, 1911 - October 23, 2009)

Irene Matasovsky Matuschak, teacher, author, and cultural activist, died peacefully at her home in Uniontown, Pennsylvania on October 23, 2009 at the age of 98.

Born on September 14, 1911 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Anna Martin Matasovsky, and the wife of the late Honorable Joseph P. Matuschak, Sr.

In 2008, she authored and published the book, "The Abandoned Ones: The Tragic Story of Slovakia's Spis and Orava Regions, 1919-1948." The historical account, relying on previously unpublished original sources and documents, was favorably reviewed by researchers and scholars in the U.S. and abroad, eliciting a letter of congratulations

from Ivan Gasparovic, President of Slovakia, who called it "a rare and unique work."

As a member of a prominent Slovak-American family, she was a woman of many accomplishments and inspired leadership. At her death she was an Honorary Supreme Officer of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, a national fraternal organization of Slovak-Americans, having served more than 25 years as the organization's physical fitness director for women. She was also an honorary officer of Group 6 and president of the Uniontown assembly for that organization, and was named the 1988 national "Fraternalist of the Year" in recognition of outstanding volunteer service.

With her brother, Joseph M. Matasovsky, she produced and narrated a bilingual radio program, "Melodia: The Musical Voice of the People" on WCVI in Connellsville, Pennsylvania during the 1950s. This program featured folk and classical music by Slovak composers.

In her youth, she was a member of St. Matthew's Parish in Pittsburgh and attended the parish school. During an extended family visit to Slovakia in the 1920s, she studied at the Gymnasia in Spisska Nova Ves. Later she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education from the University of Pittsburgh, and pursued graduate studies at West Virginia University.

An athlete and physical education teacher for much of her life, she was invited to be a gymnastics judge at the 1948 Olympics in London. She was a gymnast and athlete with the Amateur Athletic Union, the Slovak Catholic Sokol, the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Swiss Turners, and the American Turners. She competed successfully in many gymnastic and athletic competitions and exhibitions.

She was a gifted choreographer, composing and teaching rhythmic compositions to thousands of women and girls across the country. She organized gymnastic meets and presented national exhibitions of rhythmic calisthenics and dance.

Locally, she taught physical education, gymnastics and dance at St. Mary's School, Mount St. Macrina Academy, and other private and public schools in Fayette County,

Pennsylvania.

Well known for her creativity and sense of drama, she organized holiday celebrations for the St. Mary's Parish Christian Mothers and the Catholic Daughters of America, as well as countless dinners and festivals focused on her Slovak heritage.

Generations of her students remember her insistence on precision and quality performance, which she exemplified in her own work. Those who knew her well remember her frequent question to them, "Are you living up to your potential?"

She was predeceased by her husband, the Honorable Joseph P. Matuschak, Sr., and by her son, Joseph P. Matuschak, Jr. She is survived by her children: Irene Matuschak Egan of Burlington, Massachusetts, George Marion Matuschak, M.D., of St. Louis, Missouri, and Mark Matuschak, Esq., of Marblehead, Massachusetts. Also six grandchildren: Christopher Joseph Egan, Esq., Hope Anne Egan, Esq., Andrew Martin Matuschak, Nicholas Noyes Matuschak, Alexander Joseph Matuschak, and Jennie Irene Matuschak. Also by nieces and nephews of the Novak, Piroch, Molinaro, Macko, Bussoletti, and Levin families.

The family will receive friends in the Stephen R. Haky Funeral Home, Inc., 603 N. Gallatin Ave., Ext., Uniontown, Pa. on Monday, October 26, 2009, from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m.; and on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 until 9:15 a.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 10:00 a.m. in Saint Mary (Nativity) Roman Catholic Church, 61 North Mt. Vernon Avenue, Uniontown, Pa., with Rev. Father Micah E. Kozoil as celebrant.

Interment will be held at Mount Macrina Cemetery, Uniontown, Pa.

The Parish Wake Service will be held on Monday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. The Saint Mary Confraternity of Christian Mothers will recite the Rosary at 3:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Sisters of St. Basil, Mount Saint Macrina, 500 West Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401.

Your personal written tributes and memories are welcomed and encouraged at www.hakyfuneralhome.com.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

A	M	P	S		C	E	D	E	D		B	R	A	D		
S	E	A	L		A	M	U	S	E		R	E	B	A		
A	S	I	A		S	C	O	P	E		O	M	E	N		
P	A	N	C	A	K	E	S				S	K	A	T	E	
				K	N	E	E			A	S	T	E	R		
		S	H	E	E	T				G	H	E	R	K	I	N
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				I	N	L	E	T			P	A	I	R		
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R	A	H	S			S	E	O	U	L		B	I	L	E	
A	N	T	E			O	V	U	L	E		A	D	A	R	
B	A	S	S			B	A	R	O	N		T	E	N	D	

YOUTH ROUND-UP



Danielle and Derek MacMath proudly display their awards.

On October 9, 2009, at the Hilton Casino Resort in Atlantic City, twins Derek and Danielle MacMath were awarded the New Jersey Fraternal Congress 2009 Youth Volunteer Award. Derek and Danielle were each presented with a \$500 check for a charity in addition to a second \$500 check for their personal use. Danielle chose to donate her check to Habitat for Humanity, an organization with which she is actively involved. Derek's check was donated to Venturing BSA, a division of Boy Scouts of America, of which he has been a member for twenty years.

Derek and Danielle are currently high school juniors and active volunteers in their community. Both have been members since birth of Branch 290 in Raritan, New Jersey, where their grandfather Joseph Minarovich serves as president. Danielle and Derek are honored to be the 2009 recipients of this award.

Jordan Pordash, of Parma, Ohio, won the regional championship in figure skating in Indiana. Jordan came in first place for both his short program and long program. All the top skaters in the region participated. Only the top four in each category get to go to the Nationals in December in Strongsville, Ohio. Jordan earned the title of Eastern Great Lakes Intermediate Men's Champion.

Jordan, 18, is a senior at Padua High School in Parma, Ohio. He belongs to the Honor Society. He is the son of Edward Pordash and Kelly Rae of Brunswick, Ohio and the grandson of Betty and Larry Hopp of Brunswick and Art and Dorothy Pordash of Brook Park, Ohio. He is the great-grandson of Eugene Wagner of Brooklyn, Ohio. He has two brothers, Jared and Justin. Jordan just lost his grandmother Dee Dee but she will be with him at the competition because she bought the new skates he will be wearing. Jordan, his father Edward and grandparents Art and Dorothy all belong to Branch 1 in Cleveland, Ohio.



Figure Skating Champion Jordan Pordash



New Edition of The Good Shepherd is off the Press

The 2009 edition of The Good Shepherd or *Dobry Pastier* has been published.

This year's edition is edited by Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M. of Danville, Pennsylvania. This year the volume is dedicated to His Eminence, Jozef Cardinal Tomko, retired Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, on the occasion of his 85th birthday and 30th anniversary of Episcopal ordination, and to the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius on the occasion of the congregation's centennial. This year's edition is replete with an array of interesting and informative articles in English and Slovak from a host of contributors on topics of interest to Americans and Canadians of Slovak ancestry. Included in the volume are articles by Paul Berish, Anna and Joseph Biros, Andrew R. Fabian, Rev. George M. Franko, Nadezda Halkova, Dr. Mikulas A. Halko, Dr. John Karch, Ivan Kralik, Joseph Neslusan, Virginia Parobek, Cecilia Novotny Rahl, Jozef Rydlo, Dr. M. Mark Stolarik, Daniel Tanzone, Sister Teresa Urda, SS.C.M., Sister M. John Vianney, SS.C.M., and Sister Deborah Marie, SS.C.M. among others.

This year's edition, which celebrates its 90th anniversary, is one of the best ever. The 269-page volume printed by Triangle Press of Harrisburg, PA belongs in the home of every American who treasures his or her Slovak heritage and faith. Cost of the volume is just \$15.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling. Make checks payable to Slovak Catholic Federation and send same to the national secretary, Dolores M. Evanko, 183 Berner Ave., Hazleton, PA 18201.

The *Good Shepherd* has been published by the Slovak Catholic Federation since 1919. Its first editor was Msgr. Stephen J. Krasula of New York City. The Slovak Catholic Federation will celebrate its centennial in 2011.

We again congratulate the Slovak Catholic Federation and Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus on this year's beautiful edition of The Good Shepherd which is a welcome edition to American Slovakianna.

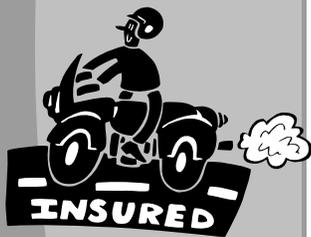
Daniel F. Tanzone

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Arcibiskup Ján Sokol na návšteve osady sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Montreale



V nedeľu dňa 16. augusta 2009 sa v osade sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Montreale o 10:30 hodine konala slávnostná svätá omša na počesť vzácneho hosťa zo Slovenska, arcibiskupa Jána Sokola. Za prítomnosti mnohých osadníkov a hostí mu počas omše asistovali hlavný duchovný kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda, František Krusinsky, ako aj miništranti Adam Buksar, Victor Lorencik, Patrick Kiselica. Za tým všetci prítomní sa zhromaždili v osadnej hale kostola, kde pri slávnostnom obede privítali pána arcibiskupa Sokola. Na snímke v prostriedku arcibiskup Ján Sokol v spoločnosti sprava hlavného duchovného Františka Krusinskeho a zľava miništrantov kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda.



Osadník

Na mnohé ideály Novembra sme zabudli

Bratislava (TASR) - Biskupi Slovenska sa v pastierskom liste k Týždňu Cirkvi pre mládež prihovorili najmä mladým ľuďom a odsúdili prehlbujúce sa sociálne rozdiely. V liste pri príležitosti "zamatovej revolúcie" biskupi konštatujú, že sa nepodarilo uskutočniť všetky novembrové ideály a na mnohé sa zabudlo. "Naučili sme sa o všeličom demokraticky rozhodovať, no zároveň sa slovo kompromis dostalo do nášho slovníka ako synonymum bezcharakterného obchodu: niečo za niečo," uvádzajú v liste a zároveň poukazujú na skutočnosť, že v našej spoločnosti sa vytvárajú sociálne rozdiely. "Sme svedkami toho, že v spoločnosti existuje dvojaký meter a zväčšujú sa sociálne rozdiely, vznikajú rovni a rovnejší. Keď obyčajný človek niečo pokazí alebo urobí zle, okamžite nasledujú tvrdé sankcie, i keď oprávnené, ale keď tak konajú 'iní' ľudia, keď niekto spreneverí milióny, často sa nevyvodí žiadne dôsledky," hovoria biskupi. Veriacich v liste upozorňujú na zvyšovanie tlaku na čestné spôsoby podnikania. "Zachovať sa čestne, nedať či nepriať úplatok, nepodľahnúť tlakom silných ekonomických záujmov môže znamenať neúspech i ohrozenie vlastných zamestnancov."

Biskupi sa osobitne obrátili na mladých ľudí: "Prevažná väčšina z vás už nemá takmer žiadnu osobnú skúsenosť s totalitou a neslobodou. Pozorne študujte a počúvajte, čo spôsobovala predchádzajúca doba a jej praktiky. Nedovoľte, aby sa niečo podobné zopakovalo!" Mladých zároveň vyzvali, aby boli tvoriví, angažovaní a budovali si pevný charakter. Informoval Jozef Kováčik, hovorca KBS.



Verejnosti prezentovali podmienky grantového programu MK SR k EHMK

Košice (TASR) - Takmer 1.62 milióna eur (48.8 milióna Sk) vyčlenili v budúcom roku na projekty programu Košice - Európske hlavné mesto kultúry (EHMK) 2013. Podmienky výzvy a spôsob zapojenia sa do grantovej schémy 5. novembra prezentovali verejnosti zástupcovia Ministerstva kultúry (MK) SR a členovia projektového tímu v košickom centre Kasárne-Kulturpark.

"Grantový program MK SR je významným a jedinečným finančným mechanizmom podpory projektov, ktoré vznikajú v rámci implementácie projektu Košice Interface 2013. Dnešná prezentácia a desiatky reprezentantov kultúrnych inštitúcií a nezávislých kultúrnych subjektov či jednotlivcov potvrdila vysoký záujem o túto formu podpory," uviedla manažérka pre program a dramaturgiu neziskovej organizácie Košice 2013 Romana Maliti.

Financovanie projektu Košice - EHMK 2013 schválila vláda SR 29. apríla tohto roku. Ako informovali na prezentácii, oprávnení žiadatelia okrem projektu doložia aj potvrdenie neziskovej organizácie Košice 2013 o tom, že ich projekt je v súlade s naplnením projektu Interface. Termín podania žiadostí o súlad s projektom je do 11. novembra a predkladať žiadosti o dotáciu na MK SR na rok 2010 je možné do 11. decembra 2009. Minimálna výška spolufinancovania je najmenej päť percent.

Procedúra a špitálske trampoty

Ak ste ešte nemali možnosť prežiť prípravu na colonoscopy, môžete len ľutovať, čo ste stratili. Pretože ani vysnívaná predstava sa nemôže prirovnať ku priebehu procedúry.

Postup procedúry začal u môjho rodinného lekára, ktorý mi pripomínal urobiť si stretnutie so špecialistom, ktorý prevedie colonoscopy. Po niekoľkých pripomienkach a radách som sa konečne rozhodol hľadať špecialistu, ktorý sa nasťahuje do mojich útrobov. Po krátkom čase našiel som špecialistu a dohodol deň na poradu.

Špecialista neurobil na mňa dobrý dojem. Bol to muž strednej postavy, asi okolo päťdesiat rokov, prísny vzhľad, chladný a nevládny. Uznal som, že keď sa človek celý deň preberá v ľudských útroboch, stratí dobrú vôľu a nie je mu do smiechu.

Asi za dva týždne po konzultácii s mojím expertom som dostal balík. V balíku som našiel deň mojej exkurzie, päť foriem vyplniť, pokyny čo robiť a čo nerobiť a recept. S receptom som išiel do lekárne. Dostal som krčah obsahujúci jeden galón akejsi soli, do ktorej som priliat vody až do vrchu. Túto zlomyselnú zlúčeninu som musel piť a ešte ma stála aj \$ 20,00. Nepamätám, žeby som kedy minul toľké peniaze za to, čo nechcem.

Deň pred procedúrou som sa musel postiť. Podľa nariadenia o 4. hodine po obede som začal piť 8 ancov zlúčeniny v desať minútových prestávkach. Bola to hrozná chuť. Po chvíli som už bežal do kúpelne, čo bolo účelom procedúry. Olympijský beh pokračoval celé tri hodiny - z kúpelne do kuchyne, zistiť čas a naliať 8 ancov zlúčeniny do pohára. Pri jednom posezení v kúpeľni počul som veľký hukot v blízkosti môjho domu. Zavolať som na manželku aby zistila čo sa to robí, lebo ja som sa z kúpelne nemohol pohnúť i keď by horel môj dom. Na šťastie to nebolo nič nebezpečného. Boli to hasiči na veľkom voze, ktorí po chvíli odišli s hrmotom a krikom tak ako prišli.

Po jednoduchom trýznení môj špecialista konštatoval, že som vykonal dobrý job a nikto by nenašiel v mojich útroboch ani len špendlík. Po týchto slovách uznania, aktuálna procedúra vyvrcholila. Čiastočne ma omámili drogami, tak že som necítil žiadnu bolesť a bol som schopný pozorovať špecialistu na TV ako odstraňoval polypy.

Po skončení procedúry ma previedli do vedľajšej miestnosti a uložili na lôžko aby som si odpočinul. Priniesli mi žemlu a hrnček kávy na posilnenie.

Vedľa mňa odpočíval starý tulák, ktorý asi na potulke nazbieral pestré oplzlosti a nimi častoval ošetrojúci personál. Kritizoval lekárov aby si hľadali lepšie zamestnanie, lebo to čo majú im nerobí dobré meno. Chválil sa, že on má čistejšie a obľúbené zamestnanie - hrá na bubny v chýrnej hudobnej kapele. Potom sa pustil do ošetrovateliek a hneval sa, prečo okolo neho poskakujú a sa mu prihovárajú. Ved' sú to staré vdovy. Usmial sa a hrdo poznamenal, že on má doma krásavicu, ktorá ledva čaká, kým sa on vráti ku nej. A nakoniec sa pustil do spevu. Mal veľmi piskľavý hlas. Pritiahol som sa bližšie k nemu a snažil som sa mu pomôcť aby sme trochu spev zharmonizovali. Pribehol celý personál, že čo sa to robí. Môj spoločník vysvetľoval, že to je jeho obľúbená pieseň. Naučil sa ju keď ho krstili. Hodili ho do vody a keď ho z vody vytiahli, začali mu spievať všetci Jehovovi svedkovia túto pieseň. Prosil o trpezlivosť, že už je v polovici piesne. Spev sme šťastlivo skončili. Urýchlene som sa pozbieral z lôžka, aby som čím skôr opustil miestnosť a zabudol na šibeničný humor.

Pri odchode mi ešte ošetrovatelky rozprávali, že toho bedára sa snažili napraviť kňazi piatých cirkví aj čierny Jehovov svedok. Vždy ich vypočul aj s nimi odriekal modlitby, aj sľúbil polepšenie. Len čo vytiahli päty, zabudol na sľuby a dal sa molestovať Pána Boha aby mu poslal butelku rumu hoci aj po čertovi. Neustále sa pýtal domov, hoci žiadného nemal. A predsa ho bude mať veľmi skoro. Pľúca, obličky i pečeň plné rakoviny ...

Rudo L. Greguš



Medzinárodná konferencia Katolíckych novín

Pri príležitosti 160. výročia založenia Katolíckych novín sa v aule RKCMBF UK v Bratislave uskutočnila 4. novembra medzinárodná vedecká konferencia "160 rokov sme vaším svetlom" o histórii a súčasnosti Katolíckych novín (KN). Podujatie, ktoré Katolícke noviny zorganizovali v spolupráci s RKCMBF UK v Bratislave a s podporou Rady KBS pre spoločenské komunikačné prostriedky, otvoril Vendelín Pleva, riaditeľ SSV, ktorý periodikum vydáva, potom, čo účastníkov podujatia na pôde fakulty privítal Marian Šuráb, dekan RKCMBF UK v Bratislave. V programe rozdelenom do štyroch blokov vystúpili odborníci zo Slovenska, z Česka, Nemecka, Ruska a Poľska.

Úvodnú prednášku na tému Komunikácia viery v postmodernej dobe predniesol šéfredaktor KN Ivan Šulík. Nad budúcnosťou printových médií v 21. storočí sa zamýšľal fundamentálny teológ z GTF PU v Prešove Andrej Slodička. Druhý blok prednášok bol venovaný novej histórii KN. Katolícke noviny v období Slovenského štátu a budovania socializmu zmapovali cirkevní historici Viliam Judák a Jozef Haľko. Bývalý šéfredaktor a publicista Marián Gavenda priblížil ostatných osem rokov prednáškou Katolícke noviny bez politickej nálepky. V treťom bloku Antoním Randa, šéfredaktor Katolíckeho týdeníka, hovoril o poslaní tohto - tiež jubilujúceho - českého periodika.

Bernhard Rude z Nemecka priblížil medzinárodnú spoluprácu v oblasti vzdelávania novinárov. Viktor Khrul z Moskovskej štátnej univerzity a Michael Drozd z Pápežskej univerzity Jána Pavla II. v Krakove predstavili situáciu katolíckych periodík a stav slobody slova v Rusku a Poľsku. Záverečný blok otvorila sociologička Zuzana Mészárosová-Lamplová analýzou čitateľských prieskumov KN. Bodkou za konferenciou bolo interview vedúcej vydania KN Martiny Grochálovej so súčasným a predchádzajúcim šéfredaktorom KN. V závere každého bloku prednášok mali prítomní možnosť položiť odborníkom otázky, čo viacerí spomedzi takmer osemdesiat účastníkov zakaždým využili aj na osobné svedectvá a postrehy.

TK KBS

Benediktíni potrebujú vašu pomoc na dokončenie Kláštora v Bacúrove



Drahí naši dobrodinci!

Vďaka požehnanému životu nášho zakladateľa, svätého Benedikta, vyrástlo dielo, ktoré malo veľký vplyv pri vytváraní kultúrnej, ekonomickej a hlavne duchovnej podoby západnej civilizácie. Stal sa otcom západného mnišstva, ochranca dobra a jeho rozkvetu. Odkaz tohto veľkého syna, patróna Európy, je veľmi aktuálny aj dnes.

Veľmi nás teší, ale i zaväzuje Vaša neustála priazeň a snaha obnoviť v našej krajine mnišsku tradíciu a napomôcť tak: k obnove a upevneniu duchovného života, k prehĺbeniu viery v našom národe, k zachovaniu a praktizovaniu skutočných kresťanských hodnôt, k vytvoreniu miesta ticha, modlitby a pravej rovnováhy v činnosti človeka. Z našich občasných informácií viete, že v tomto roku chceme dať kláštor do užívania. Momentálne sme takmer dokončili dlažbu v kostole. Uskutočňujú sa maliarske práce. V blízkej budúcnosti budú namontované všetky vnútorné dvere a dokončená bude biela sanita. Začali sa práce na protipožiarnej nádrži (nevyhnutnej ku kolaudácii) a tiež prvé práce na terénnych úpravách.

V ďalšej etape je potrebné: zariadiť kuchyňu a príručné sklady, zariadiť pracovňu a sušiareň, zabezpečiť zariadenie izieb (ciel) a ostatných miestností, zhotoviť lavice do kostola, vyriešiť liturgické zariadenie svätyne, vybudovať prístupové cesty, zatepliť kláštor a urobiť vonkajšie omietky, kúpiť záložný zdroj energie pre protipožiarny systém, kúpiť zvony ... Ešte veľa toho treba urobiť, aby mohla zaznieť na Sampore liturgická oslava Boha.

Preto k vám vysielame známu skratku „SOS“ ktorou prosia o pomoc tí, ktorí sú v núdzi. Aj naša situácia nie je jednoduchá. Na jednej strane sme vám nesmierne vďační, že sme hlavne vašou zásluhou už v takom pokročilom stave so stavbou kláštora. Na druhej strane sme nútení vyslať k vám prosiace „SOS“ z dôvodu čo najskoršieho dokončenia celého kláštora Premenenia Pána.

V tej chvíli, keď sa nám to podarí, čo pevne dúfame a veríme budeme môcť k vám vyslať znovu „SOS“, ale už s úplne iným významom. Vtedy bude táto skratka znamenať „SME OCHOTNÍ SLUŽIŤ“. Vtedy sa vám duchovnými dobrami a možnosťou byť v kláštore budeme snažiť odvdakať za vašu pomoc a priazeň.

List píšeme aj z ďalšieho vážneho dôvodu. Od 1. júla 2009 došlo k zmene čísla nášho účtu. Staré číslo už nepoužívajte!!! Nové číslo účtu je 4008561679/7500 platí už od začiatku júla 2009. Peňažné dary môžete posielat' na adresu St. Andrew Abbey, 10510 Buckeye Road, Cleveland, OH, 44104 – 3725. Adresa nového kláštora je: Dom sv. Benedikta, Bacúrov 28, 962 61 Dobrá Niva, Slovakia

Aby naša prosba našla odozvu naďalej vo vašich srdciach o to v modlitbách neustále prosíme a za všetkých vás sa vrúcne modlíme.

Vďační mníši



Americkí biskupi podporujú zdravotnícku reformu v krajine

USA (RV) – Americkí biskupi vyjadrili pozitívny postoj k najnovšiemu posunu v procese schvaľovania zdravotníckej reformy v Spojených štátoch. Predseda Konferencie biskupov USA, kardinál Francis George, ktorý je arcibiskupom Chicaga, sa vo svojom vyhlásení poďakoval členom Kongresu za to, že „docenili záväzok prezidenta Obama voči Kongresu a celému národu, aby sa reforma zdravotníctva nestala prostriedkom na rozšírenie abortov a na ich financovanie.“ Dodal, že konferencia biskupov bude aj naďalej pozorne sledovať celý proces schvaľovania, aby sa spomenutý zásadný postoj premietol aj do výslednej legislatívnej podoby.

Cirkev v Spojených štátoch uvítala najmä rozhodnutie Snemovne reprezentantov blokovat' využívanie štátnych prostriedkov určených na reformu zdravotníctva na dobrovoľné ukončenie tehotenstva. Požiadavka amerických biskupov ďalej hovorí aj o tom, aby nová legislatíva zabezpečila zdravotné poistenie pre všetkých, pričom biskupi vyslovili obavy o najchudobnejšie a okrajové skupiny obyvateľstva. Zákon práve schválený Kongresom bude teraz čakať schvaľovací proces v Senáte.

TK KBS

Záhadný – divný človek?! ...

Po našej ulici, šiel akýsi, záhadný, divný človek.
Mal, až po ramená pekné, dlhé, blond'ové vlasy.
Ľudia za ním pozerali, bo nemal topánky, bol bosý.

Keď pri chôdzi dvíhal nohu,
bolo tam vidieť, že má zakrvavenú ranu.
A zamieril k nášmu malému domu.
Chcel zaklopať na naše dvere...
Ale ja som ho predišiel, otvoril a povolal dnu.

Keď vkročil izbu osvietil akýsi nádherný jas...
On ma srdečne objal a povedal:
„Otče, požehnaj tomuto domu“!

Chcel som Ho po slovensky pohostiť,
ponúknuť krajec chleba,
Ale On iba požehnal a povedal, že príde zas.
A odišiel so slovami, že má ešte kus cesty po svete...
Zanechal za sebou, akýsi príjemný pokoj a krvavý znak.

Áno, bol to On, čo mu prebodli ruky a nohy, železné klnice
a to pre tie, špinavé, strieborné, „Judáške mince“!
Príď, Pane Ježišu, príď k nám, do nášho malého domu, zas
zaklop na naše srdcia, požehnaj domu tomuto a všetkých nás.

Jozef Smák

Medzi 500 najlepšími svetovými univerzitami ani jedna slovenská

Bratislava (TASR) - Ani v tomto roku sa žiadna slovenská univerzita neocitla medzi 500 najlepšími na svete. Do prestížneho zoznamu sa však opäť zapísala česká Univerzita Karlova v Prahe. Tá v rebríčku, ktorý je pre univerzity v SR stále nedostupný, predbehla aj Jagelonskú univerzitu a Varšavskú univerzitu v Poľsku a tiež dve maďarské - Univerzitu Loránda Eötvösa v Budapešti a Univerzitu v Szegede.

Najlepšie univerzity pre rok 2009 zverejnil Inštitút vysokoškolského vzdelávania pri Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Každý rok ich hodnotí podľa kritérií akademickej a výskumnej činnosti vrátane zamestnancov, ktorí získali Nobelove ceny, vedeckých ocenení, posudzujú sa vysoké hodnotenia výskumníkov, množstvo citácií a tiež článkov publikovaných v časopise Nature and Science.

Prvé tri priečky obsadili rovnako ako vlni americké univerzity - Harvard, Stanford a Berkeley. Najlepšou európskou univerzitou ostáva anglická Cambridge, ktorá sa umiestnila na štvrtom mieste. V prvej stovke najlepších univerzít skončilo celkom 32 európskych univerzít z Británie, Švajčiarska, Nemecka, Dánska, Holandska, Francúzska, Švédska a Ruska. Pražskú Karlovu univerzitu zaradili medzi školy na 201. až 302. priečke.

Sanghajský inštitút posudzuje viac ako 1,000 univerzít sveta, z toho 500 najlepších zverejňuje na www.arwu.org.

Minister školstva SR Ján Mikolaj nedávno priznal, že slovenské VŠ sú preplnené študentmi, čo nepriaznivo vplyva na ich kvalitu. Uviedol to krátko po tom, čo VŠ na žiadosť ministerstva a vlády prijali v tomto akademickom roku navyše zhruba 5,000 vysokoškolákov. Rezort chcel takto v čase hospodárskej krízy predísť tomu, aby skončili na úradoch práce. V SR pôsobí 20 verejných, desať súkromných a tri štátne slovenské vysoké školy. Komplexná akreditácia, ktorá už prebehla na časti škôl, zobrala pre nespĺnenie kritérií viacerým univerzitám status. Kritika na kvalitu slovenských VŠ sa znásobila aj po posledných odhaleniach na Trenčianskej univerzite Alexandra Dubčeka, ktorá mala udeliť diplomy za neprimerane krátke štúdium. Mikolaj po hĺbkovej kontrole pozastavil škole právo udeľovať bakalársky titul v študijnom odbore ľudské zdroje a personálny manažment a upozornil na viaceré závažné pochybenia.

Slovenské VŠ hodnotila už štyrikrát mimovládna Akademická rankingová a ratingová agentúra (ARRA). Vlni konstatovala, že VŠ v SR prevažne stagnujú. Vedecká produkcia na VŠ sa zlepšuje len nepatrne, pričom klesá záujem aj o doktorandské štúdium. V porovnaní s českými univerzitami obostojí len málo slovenských fakúlt. Popredné miesto medzi technickými fakultami zastáva podľa ARRA Fakulta chemickej a potravinárskej technológie Slovenskej technickej univerzity. Táto podľa vlnajšieho hodnotenia predstihuje o viac ako tretinu aj najlepšiu českú technickú fakultu v počte citácií na tvorivého pracovníka.



Pokračovanie zo str. 22

Dvadsať rokov po revolúcii si najlepšie vedú Slovinsko, Česko a SR

to veril za dve desaťročia v podstatnejšie zmeny. Napriek tomu sa to vo veľkej miere podarilo. Voľný trh, trhové ceny a rozsiahla privatizácia posunuli krajiny k obrovským úspechom. Motív čo najvyššieho zisku, akokoľvek to znie nesympaticky, či až vulgárne, vytvoril priestor miliónom talentovaných podnikateľov. Prišli zahraničné firmy, spočiatku pre lacnú pracovnú silu, neskôr pre vstup krajín do EÚ a priniesli so sebou nový manažment a technické know-how.

Pre mladých, pružných a ambiciózných bolo predchádzajúcich 20 rokov bonanzou. Pre neúspešných, starých, váhavých a nešikovných, naopak, mimoriadne ťažkých.

Z pohľadu jednotlivých krajín sa najlepšie so zmenami vysporiadali Slovinci a za nimi Česi a Slováci. Podľa odhadov Medzinárodného menového fondu (MMF) a Európskej banky pre obnovu a rozvoj (EBOR) sa tieto tri krajiny najviac priblížili k západoeurópskemu priemeru HDP na obyvateľa, pričom do priemeru zaradili okrem európskej pätnástky aj Cyprus, Island, Maltu, Nórsko a Švajčiarsko.

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Ročná schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ

Oznamujeme našim členom, že ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ v New Yorku bude v nedeľu 29. novembra 2009 o 12:30 hodine (po slovenskej svätej omši) v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 1st Avenue a 66th Street. Na programe budú podané správy úradníkov, finančné správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie. Za tým budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti na budúci rok. Úctivo Vás žiadame o účasť na tejto výročnej schôdzi.

Dakujem a s pozdravom

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

Výročná schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu a Spolku č. 844 IKSJ spojené s Vianočným posedením

Srdečne pozývame slovenskú verejnosť na Vianočnú svätú omšu, ktorá sa bude slúžiť v nedeľu 20. decembra 2009 o 11:00 hodine v St. John Bosco Chapel at St. Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, CA 90706. Prosíme všetkých tých, ktorí by mali záujem si vykonať vianočnú svätú spoveď, aby prišli skôr. Father Pestun bude spovedať od 9:00 hodine ráno. Po omši bude v školskej kafetérii, pod patronátom slovenského vicekonzula v Los Angeles, tradičná konzulárna slovenská kapustnica.

Tí, ktorí sa chcú zúčastniť iba pohostenia kapustnicou pri hudbe a priateľskom posedení, nech sa dostavia o 13:30 hodine na horeuvedenú adresu. Tiež prosíme naše šikovné slovenské ženy, aby priniesli ukážky svojho vianočného pečiva.

Výročná schôdza okresu Princa Pribinu a St. Joseph Branch 844 IKSJ sa bude konať o 17:30 hodine na ktorej si prítomní zvolia delegátov na 49. Konvenciu IKSJ. Tešíme sa na každého z vás a dovidenia.

Pavol Skubeň

Členská schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New York City

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku sa uskutoční v nedeľu 10. januára 2010 o 12:30 hodine, po slovenskej svätej omši, v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. Program schôdze bude zameraný na výber delegátov na 49. Konvenciu IKSJ, ktorá sa uskutoční v dňoch od 14. – 18. augusta 2010 v Clevelande. Láskaovo žiadame našich členov, aby sa na tejto schôdzi zúčastnili čo v najväčšom počte.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

Mikulášske odpoľudnie v New Yorku

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého, NYC a Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ srdečne pozývajú slovenskú verejnosť na Mikulášske odpoľudnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou, ktoré sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 6. decembra 2009 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia vo veľkej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East 66th Street v New York City. Prosíme rodičov, ktorých deti by mohli spestriť toto Mikulášske posedenie s básničkou, spevom alebo iným vystúpením, nech zavolajú vo večerných hodinách pani Henrietu na tel. číslo (201) 641-8922. Vstupné na toto podujatie je voľné ako aj občerstvenie bude zabezpečené.

Štedrovečerná večera – Vigília v New Yorku

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC a Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ pozýva slovenskú verejnosť na Štedrovečernú večeru – Vigíliu, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 20. decembra 2009 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia vo veľkej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East 66th Street, NYC. Vstupné je \$ 20.00 v čom je započítaná aj večera. Lístky na Vigíliu si môžete objednať na Farskom úrade Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na tel. čísle (212) 734-4613; Jozef Bilik (718) 463-2084; Henrieta Daitová (201) 6412-8922.

Dôvod na oslavu



Kristiana Konkol-Mroszkovski, vnučka Milana Konkola, tajomníka Spolku č. 844 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v Los Angeles, Kalifornia, reprezentovala Malibu High School, Real So Cal, vo futbale juniorov dievčat na Gothia Cup vo Švédsku, kde vyhrali turnaj, v ktorom celkovo v kvalifikáciách súťažilo 160 družstiev z celého sveta.

Kristiana bola najproduktívnejšou hráčkou, ktorá dala najviac gólov a obdržala trofej „Najlepší futbalový hráč“ – Best Soccer Player“.

Paul Skuben

Bernard Kadnár na večnosti

Dobre známy aktivista v slovensko-kanadskej komunite Bernard Kadnár dňa 23. septembra 2009 zomrel vo Cedarvale Terrace Nursing Home, Toronto Ontario veku 81 rokov.

Bernard Kadnár sa narodil na Slovensku v dedinke Hochtetno, 9. mája 1928. Poznali sme ho menom Bernie, alebo len Kadnár. Do Kanady sa prisťahoval v roku 1950 najprv do Halifax. Na ceste loďou sa spoznal s našim tiež dobre známym nebohým Michalom Dobišom, ktorý neskošie sa stal Oblastným riaditeľom 9. oblasti Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty. Po príchode do Kanady, kým sa natrvalo usadil v Toronte, Bernie najprv využil niekoľko pracovných príležitostí, v Ontario a v Montreole. V Toronte pracoval 34 rokov v Campbell Soup Company a v roku 1988 kvôli zdravotným ťažkostiam vo veku 60 rokov odišiel na dôchodok.



Bernard Kadnár

So svojou manželkou Mary Mesarkin sa zoznámil v spevokole Slovenského kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Toronte, kde bola jeho členkou. Zosobášeni boli 13. novembra 1954 Mons. Michalom Shubom v Slovenskom kostole sv. Cyrila a Metoda. Nebohý brat Bernie bol veľmi činný v mnohých slovenských organizáciách. Bol členom Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Slovenského Katolíckeho Sokola, Kanadskej Slovenskej Ligy. Taktiež zastával funkciu spravodajca v Spolku č. 785 IKSJ, počas ktorej napísal nespočetné množstvo článkov do časopisu Jednota a iných slovenských publikácií. Zúčastnil sa mnohých konvencií Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty a Kanadskej slovenskej ligy, ako aj rôznych slovenských podujatí, kde svojou priateľskou a zhovorčivou povahou si získal mnohých priateľov. Bernie vlastnil nespočetné množstvo kníh a poznámok z rôznych podujatí a výročí jednotlivých Slovákov z ktorých čerpal pre svoje príspevky do novin. Po zvrhnutí železnej opony v Európe navštívil spolu so svojou manželkou a s jednotármi Slovensko, kde mal príležitosť sa stretnúť aj so svojou rodinou a obzrieť si dedinku, z ktorej pochádzal.

Asi pred tromi rokmi veľmi vážne ochorel a musel sa podrobiť vážnym operáciám. Bol veľmi znechutený, že podlomené zdravie mu nedovoľuje naďalej pokračovať v práci prispievateľa. Posledných dva a pol roka svojho života strávil v opatrovateľskom dome.

Pohreb nebohého sa konal v kaplnke Turner & Porter Butler v Toronte a omša bola dňa 26. septembra 2009 obetovaná v Slovenskom kostole sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Mississauga a jeho pozostatky boli uložené v Sanctuary Park Cemetery. Zanecháva za sebou milovanú manželku Mary a jej celú rodinu.

Nech odpočíva v pokoji a nech mu je kanadská zem ľahká. Česť jeho pamiatke!

Jerry Siman



NBS vydá pamätnú dvojeurovú mincu

Bratislava (TASR) - Pamätnú dvojeurovú mincu s tematikou 20. výročia 17. novembra – Dňa boja za slobodu a demokraciu vydá do obehu v utorok 10. novembra Národná banka Slovenska (NBS). Vymieňať ich bude za platné eurové bankovky a mince, a to v limitovanom množstve maximálne 50 kusov na jedného záujemcu. Na národnej strane euromince je ako symbol slobody a demokracie vyobrazený štylizovaný zvon skomponovaný zo zväzku kľúčov. Autorom výtvarného návrhu národnej strany euromince je Pavol Károly a 1 milión kusov mincí vyrážila Mincovňa Kremnica, š.p.

Centrálna banka bude tieto pamätne mince vymieňať v pokladniciach svojho ústredia v Bratislave, ako aj v expozitúrach v Nových Zámkoch, Trenčíne, Banskej Bystrici, Žiline, Poprade, Košiciach a Bratislave, v čase ich pokladničných hodín.

Každá členská krajina eurozóny môže okrem obehových mincí vydávať aj zberateľské mince a pamätne mince v nominálnej hodnote 2 eurá (60.25 Sk). Pamätne mince sú zákonným platidlom vo všetkých krajinách eurozóny, kým zberateľské mince sú zákonným platidlom len na území členského štátu, ktorý ich vydal.

NBS vydala do obehu svoju prvú pamätnú dvojeurovú mincu v januári tohto roka, a to pri príležitosti 10. výročia vzniku Hospodárskej a menovej únie. Námet tejto pamätnej mince bol spoločný pre všetky krajiny eurozóny a vydali ju všetky jej členské krajiny.



Dvadsať rokov po revolúcii si najlepšie vedú Slovinsko, Česko a SR

Londýn (TASR) - Dvadsať rokov po revolúcii si najlepšie vedú Slovinsko, Česko a SR.

Obavy z hospodárskeho krachu a politického chaosu sa nenaplnili, 10 štátov vstúpilo do Európskej únie (EÚ) a o dva viac, spolu s Chorvátskom a Albánskom, do NATO. Úviedol to na svojej internetovej stránke britský hospodársky týždenník The Economist.

Na konci roku 1989 si mnohí predstavovali, že tento región bude utopený v chudobe ešte desiatky rokov. Iba šesťdesiatnici a starší si totiž pamätali, ako funguje trhová ekonomika. Manažmenty výhradne štátnych podnikov nemuseli riešiť, čo to je konkurencia, nemuseli bojovať o zákazníka. Po desiatkach rokov v takomto systéme len málok-

Pokračovanie na str. 21

Krátko správy zo Slovenska

• **Novým** veľvyslancom Stálej misie SR pri OSN v Ženeve sa stal niekoľkoročný diplomat a vyštudovaný veterinárny lekár Fedor Rosocha, ktorého 29. októbra vymenoval prezident Ivan Gašparovič. Z jeho rúk si prevzal poverovacie listiny aj nový veľvyslanec v Španielskom kráľovstve Ján Škoda, bývalý hovorca Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR, ktorý v minulosti pôsobil aj ako novinár. Podľa Gašparoviča Stála misia SR pri OSN ponúka priestor pre aktivity, ktoré sú žiaduce - či už v oblasti občianskoprávnej, alebo v oblasti odzbrojenia a v mnohých ďalších oblastiach. Novému veľvyslancom preto poprial dosť síl na to, aby Slovensko reprezentoval tak, ako si to zasluží. Ján Škoda prisľúbil, že bude presadzovať záujmy občanov, ako aj ekonomické a kultúrne záujmy SR. Chce zároveň napomáhať pri riešení súčasných ekonomických a sociálnych dôsledkov hospodárskej krízy.

• **Devízové príjmy** z príjazdového cestovného ruchu SR za 8 mesiacov tohto roka dosiahli sumu 1.129 miliardy eur (34.01 miliardy Sk), čo bol medziročný rast o 1.7 %. Devízové výdavky sa zvýšili o 13.5 % na 1.014 miliardy eur (30.55 miliardy Sk). Individuálna turistika sa podieľala na celkovom objeme devízových príjmov 97.1 %, organizovaná turistika 3.2 % a mimobankové zmenárne s podielom mínus 0.3 %. Záporná hodnota je prejavom toho, že prevládli platby za nákup peňažných prostriedkov v cudzej mene od mimobankových zmenárni nad inkasami. Celkové saldo sa tak dostalo do zápornej hodnoty. Výrazným vplyvom bolo zavedenie eura, ktoré prestalo byť cudzou menou, celkové inkasá a platby od mimobankových zmenárni obsahujú v tomto prípade iné cudzie meny ako euro. Najväčšia časť devízových výdavkov pripadla na individuálnu turistiku a tvorila 83.6 %, nasledovala organizovaná turistika s 10.7 % a zahraničné pracovné cesty s podielom 5.7 %. Saldo zahraničného cestovného ruchu bolo aktívne vo výške 114.3 milióna eur (3.44 miliardy Sk) a oproti minulému roku sa znížilo o 47.1 %. Informáciu na základe predbežných údajov Národnej banky Slovenska (NBS) nedávno zverejnilo Ministerstvo hospodárstva (MH) SR.

• **Od pádu** Berlínskeho múru a Železnej opony uplynulo už 20 rokov, väčšina obyvateľov východnej a strednej Európy sa však napriek tomu obáva pokračujúceho negatívneho vplyvu Ruska. Vyplýva to z medzinárodného prieskumu, ktorý 2. novembra zverejnil washingtonský inštitút Pew Research Center. Najsilnejšie obavy spojené s Ruskom existujú medzi obyvateľmi Poľska. Až 59 percent Poliakov označilo vplyv Moskvy za nepriaznivý, opačný názor zastáva len 18 percent respondentov. Ruský vplyv v regióne vníma s nevôľou 44 percent Čechov (kladne 24 percent), 42 percent Maďarov (kladne 15 percent), 41 percent bývalých východných Nemcov (kladne 40 percent) a 39 percent Litovčanov (kladne 22 percent). Názory Slovákov sú v tomto smere rovnomerne rozdelené: rovnako početná skupina respondentov (34 percent) považuje vplyv Ruska za pozitívny aj negatívny. Pozitívne nálady voči pôsobeniu Ruska naopak prevažujú len na Ukrajine (46 a 25 percent) a v Bulharsku (45 a 17 percent). Spomedzi piatich skúmaných krajín západnej Európy najsilnejšie obavy spojené s Ruskom prejavili Francúzi (60 percent). Prieskum sa uskutočnil v auguste a septembri tohto roku na vzorke 14,760 respondentov zo 14 európskych štátov prevažne z bývalého východného bloku.

• **Diaľnica D1** medzi Bratislavou a Trnavou je už kompletne sprezjednená v šiestich pruhoch. Komunikáciu tak môžu vodiči odteraz využívať v troch pruhoch v oboch smeroch. Toto rozšírenie diaľnice je len akousi nultou etapou, vyhlásil na slávnostnom otvorení, 12. novembra pri Senci premiér Robert Fico. V tejto súvislosti doplnil, že s ďalším rozširovaním komunikácie na osem pruhov by sa malo začať v roku 2012. Rozšírenie diaľnice D1 na šesť pruhov malo byť podľa pôvodného plánu hotové do polovice roka 2010. Národná diaľničná spoločnosť (NDS), ktorá cestu prerábala, však tento termín skrátila. Vzhľadom na výbornú prípravu, koordináciu a určite aj nasadenie firiem, ktoré realizovali túto stavbu, sa podarilo skrátiť termín dostavby prakticky o sedem či osem mesiacov. Znížili sa tiež predpokladané náklady. Pôvodne sa očakávali výdavky na úrovni približne 39.83 milióna eur (1.20 miliardy Sk), nakoniec však dosiahli necelých 33.19 milióna eur (1 miliarda Sk). Stavebné povolenie na rozširovanie komunikácie na osem pruhov by mala NDS získať koncom roka 2012 a následná úplná rekonštrukcia D1 by mala trvať približne 18 mesiacov.

• **Rektor** Univerzity Konštantína Filozofa v Nitre Libor Vozár udelil 11. novembra na slávnostnom zasadnutí Vedeckej rady Univerzity Konštantína Filozofa v Nitre (UKF) čestný titul doctor honoris causa významnému lingvistovi a kulturológovi Ianovi Hancockovi z Univerzity v Austine v americkom Texase a významnému kognitívnemu psychológovi a lingvistovi Enchovi Nedyalkovi Gerganovovi z Novej bulharskej univerzity v Sofii. Ian Hancock sa podieľal na vzniku rómskeho archívu a dokumentačného centra. Jeho práca zahŕňa predovšetkým oblasti ľudských práv a rómskeho jazyka a dejín. Počas mnohých rokov vyučoval všeobecnú lingvistiku, sociolingvistiku, anglickú lingvistiku, dejiny, dialektológiu a gramatiku. K najväčším úspechom patrí zaradenie rómskeho jazyka ako univerzitného predmetu na University of Texas v Austine. Encho Gerganov pôsobí ako emeritný profesor v oblasti kognitívnej psychológie, psycholingvistiky a experimentálnej psychológie na New Bulgarian University v Sofii. Je jedným zo zakladateľov Medzinárodnej letnej školy v kognitívnych vedách na New Bulgarian University v Sofii. Jeho výskumné aktivity a publikácie sú z oblasti hodnotenia procesu osvojovania si bulharského jazyka na vzorke študentov bulharských stredných škôl. Ďalšou výskumnou oblasťou sú slovné asociácie, sémantika a vzdelávanie detí z minoritných skupín.

• **Začať** lietať na novej linke Bratislava-Toronto plánuje na začiatku budúceho roku slovenská letecká spoločnosť Air Slovakia. Nová linka má byť primárne určená pre slovenskú, českú, maďarskú, rakúsku a poľskú komunitu žijúcu v Kanade a turistov smerujúcich z Rakúska a zo Slovenska do severoamerickej krajiny. Spoločnosť chce do Toronta lietať dvakrát týždenne strojom Boeing 757 s 30-minútovým medzipristátím v Keflavíku na Islande. Slovenské aerolinky budú konkurovať rakúskym Austrian Airlines, ktoré lietajú z Viedne trikrát do týždňa.

• **Na východ** mieri nová obrovská investícia. V Kechnezi získa prácu tritisíc ľudí, najmä vysokoškolačci. Tentoraz nepôjde o jednoduchú montáž, ale o výrobu na vedecko-výskumnej báze. Vysokoškolačci by tak mali obsadiť osem z desiatich nových pracovných miest. "Nebude to žiadna z automobiliek ani nikto zo subdodávateľov", vyhlásil starosta obce Kechnec Jozef Konkoly. V tejto súvislosti by malo ísť o investora z leteckého priemyslu. Starosta Kechneca bol nedávno v Japonsku, kde sa stretol so záujemcami o podnikanie v priemyselnom parku. Nové investičné projekty mieni Kechnec dotiahnuť koncom roka, za odkladom stojí podľa starostu obce opatrnosť investorov kvôli kríze.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Vysvätenie symbolického cintorína obetiam Roháčov



The blessing of a new symbolic cemetery in Rohace on November 8, 2009, for those who died in the mountains. On the tablet are the names of 88 victims.

FOTO TASR - Lýdia Vojtáššáková

Horskí záchranári a Zuberčania si 8. novembra 2009 otvorením symbolického cintorína pripomenuli obeť Roháčov. Pietne miesto s kaplnkou a dvoma vstupnými bránami vysvätil Ordinár ozbrojených síl a ozbrojených zložiek SR biskup František Rábek. Je situované nad Chatou Zverovka pri dome Horskej záchrannej služby. V areáli si budú môcť príbuzní obetí osadiť pamätné tabuľky. Na jednej bráne je už tabuľa s údajmi o 88 obetiach Roháčov, druhá brána je pripravená pre osobnosti horskej služby, turistiky a ochrany prírody.



Na Slovensku sa zvýši daň z alkoholu

Bratislava (TASR) - Podmienky distribúcie alkoholických nápojov na Slovensku sa od budúceho roka sprisnia. Od 1. marca sa tiež o takmer 15 % zvýši ich daňové zaťaženie. Vyplýva to z novely zákona o spotrebnej dani z liehu, ktorú nedávno podpísal prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič.

Obchodník predávajúci alkoholické nápoje na konečnú spotrebu ich bude môcť kupovať iba priamo u výrobcu alebo u registrovaných a licencovaných veľkopredajcov. Povolenie na distribúciu alkoholu získajú len tí, ktorí majú ročný obrat minimálne 100,000 eur (3.01 milióna Sk) či zamestnávajú v stálom pracovnom pomere viac ako 10 zamestnancov. Ministerstvo financií (MF) SR v zákone pôvodne uvažovalo aj so zavedením povinnosti používať špeciálne uzávery zabráňujúce dolievaniu alkoholu do fliaš. Tento zámer sa však stretol s odmietavými reakciami obchodníkov a špeciálne zátky tak napokon nebudú povinné. Cieľom týchto opatrení je pritom obmedziť čierny trh s alkoholickými nápojmi, ktorý by sa mohol podľa rezortu financií rozrástť práve v súvislosti so zvýšením spotrebnej dane z liehu.



TK KBS/ Štefan Belko

Kardinál Erdő spolu so spišským biskupom Františkom Tondrom a ostatnými kňazmi, slávil svätú omšu v latinskom jazyku v Katedrále sv. Martina v Spišskej Kapitule, nakoľko práve 11. novembra si Rímskokatolícka cirkev pripomína sviatok sv. Martina, patróna Spišskej diecézy.

Konferencia pri príležitosti 800. výročia Spišskej Kapituly a Spišského prepoštstva

V Spišskej Kapitule sa v stredu 11. 11. 2009 konala v aule Kňazského seminára medzinárodná vedecká konferencia pri príležitosti 800-tého výročia Spišskej Kapituly a Spišského prepoštstva, ktoré bolo predchodcom Spišského biskupstva. Jedným z prednášajúcich bol predseda Biskupskej konferencie Maďarska, kardinál Péter Erdő, ktorý je arcibiskupom arcidiecézy Budapešť - Ostrihom, do ktorej patrilo aj Spišské prepoštstvo a kardinál Erdő je priamym nástupcom ostrihomských arcibiskupov. Je zároveň aj cirkevným právnikom a historikom, preto predniesol prednášku s názvom Právne postavenie Spišského prepoštstva v Ostrihomskom arcibiskupstve.

Účastníkov zaujal aj tým, že poukázal na skoršie datovanie vzniku Spišského prepoštstva, keď uviedol, že v Ostrihome majú k dispozícii dokumenty, ktoré dokladujú, že už v roku 1198 bol pokus oddeliť časť desiatok pre spišského prepošta, čo svedčí o skoršej existencii Spišského prepoštstva. Okrem toho odzneli aj prednášky od významných odborníkov zo Slovenska i zo zahraničia, ktorí prispeli svojimi reláciami z oblasti histórie, archeológie, liturgického života z obdobia Spišského prepoštstva, ako aj najnovších architektonických výskumov súčasnej spišskej katedrály. Garant podujatia, historik Ľuboslav Hromják, hodnotí konferenciu ako veľmi dôležitú z hľadiska histórie, ale aj z iných oblastí.

TK KBS



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Ročník 118

STREDA, 25. NOVEMBER, 2009

Číslo 5810



FOTO TASR - Miroslav Košírer

Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič (uprostred) sa pri príležitosti štátneho sviatku – Dňa boja za slobodu a demokraciu zúčastnil na pietnej spomienke na Ružinovskom cintoríne v Bratislave 17. novembra 2009.

President Ivan Gasparovic leads the memorial services at Ruzinov Cemetery in Bratislava on November 17 on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution and fall of communism in Czechoslovakia.



Ideály slobody a demokracie musíme žiť, len tak majú zmysel

Bratislava (TASR) - Čakali sme vyše 40 rokov na deň, keď sa zrútilo predchádzajúce usporiadanie sveta a pominulo obdobie studenej vojny. Ak si však chceme uctiť všetky obete v kalendári, nemôžeme sa upínať iba na tento dátum v kalendári. Uviedol to 17. novembra prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič pri príležitosti štátneho sviatku Dňa boja za slobodu a demokraciu na Ružinovskom cintoríne v Bratislave.

Hlava štátu pri Pamätníku popraveným a umučeným politickým väzňom vyzdvihla zásluhy padlých politických väzňov a všetkých, na ktorých bolo páchané násilie. "Boj za slobodu a demokraciu bol zložitý, prebiehal v konfrontácii so štátnou mocou, politickými procesmi, hľadaním vnútorného nepriateľa, sledovaním a zavražďovaním občanov. Službu ku cti týmto ľuďom, ktorí tomuto vzdorovali a vynútili aj pre nás, aby sme mohli žiť v slobode," pripomenul Gašparovič.

Podľa jeho slov "ideály slobody a demokracie musíme predovšetkým žiť, osvojovať si ich a presadzovať v každom živote, pretože len v praktickom živote nadobúdajú svoj zmysel a svoju dôstojnosť," povedal prezident.

Pri pamätníku vystúpili aj arcibiskup Stanislav Zvolenský, podpredsedníčka SNS Anna Belousovová, predseda Európskej federácie politických väzňov Jure Knezović a predseda Zväzu protikomunistického odboja Arpád Tarnóczy. Všetci sa zhodli na tom, že formy politického, náboženského a triedneho útlaku, aké boli na našom území pred Nežnou revolúciou, sa už viac nemôžu opakovať.

Gala večer k výročiu Nežnej revolúcie vo Washingtone

Pri príležitosti osláv 20. výročia Nežnej revolúcie sa 18. novembra 2009 uskutočnil slávnostný galavečer pre cca 200 osobností politického a spoločenského života USA a SR. Gala večera, nad ktorou prevzal záštitu predseda vlády SR Robert Fico, bola poriadaná Veľvyslanectvom SR v USA a združením Priatelia Slovenska. Slávnostné podujatie sa konalo vo Washingtonskom golfovom klube za prítomnosti viacerých čestných hostí - ministra zahraničných vecí SR Miroslava Lajčáka, členov Snemovne reprezentantov Kongresu USA Josepha Sestaka a Johna Micu, predstaviteľov súčasnej i minulých vlád USA, popredných krajských a kultúrnych organizácií, podnikateľských subjektov, bývalých veľvyslancov SR v USA a veľvyslancov USA v SR, ako aj ďalších významných osobností. Cieľom podujatia bolo nielen si pripomenúť udalosti z novembra 1989 a zásadné politické a spoločenské zmeny, ktoré nasledovali, ale spoločne s americkými partnermi oceniť priateľstvo a blízke partnerské vzťahy medzi SR a USA.

Tlačový a komunikačný odbor Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR



V Hlavnom úrade Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa v dňoch od 15.-17. októbra 2009 konala výstava Slovenských folklórnych krojov z kolekcie známej folkloristky Helyny Baine-Cincebeaux. Výstava sa uskutočnila v spojení s Česko-Slovenskou kultúrnou a genealogickou konferenciou v Independence, Ohio. Pestrofarebnosť krojov, ktoré reprezentovali jednotlivé kraje Slovenska, obdivovalo niekoľko stoviek návštevníkov ako aj členov JEDNOTY, ktorí prišli podporiť toto kultúrne podujatie. Na snímke pri Piešťanskom kroji dozorcovia IKSJ zľava: Tomáš Bardár, Karen Hunka a Ján Leskovyansky.



Kardinál Tomko navštívil Taiwan ako vyslanec Svätého Otca

Vatikán (RV) - Kardinál Jozef Tomko 17. novembra pociestoval na Taiwan ako vyslanec Svätého Otca. Vatikánsky denník L'Osservatore Romano vo svojom vydaní publikoval list, ktorým Benedikt XVI. poveril kardinála Jozefa Tomka, emeritného prefekta Kongregácie pre evanjelizáciu národov ako svojho vyslanca, ktorý ho bude zastupovať počas jubilejných osláv na Taiwane.

Slovenský kardinál zastupoval Svätého Otca pri príležitosti 150. výročia evanjelizácie tejto ostrovnej krajiny. Hlavné oslavy sa konali v nedeľu 22. novembra v meste Taipei. Kardinála Tomka na ceste sprevádzali Mons. John-Baptist Tseng Chien-tsi, pomocný arcibiskup diecézy Hwaiien a páter Rubén Martínez z farnosti Baziliky Nepoškvrnenej Panny Márie vo Wanchine, z diecézy Kaohsiung.