



Jednota

THE UNION

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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

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

Volume 118

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

NUMBER 5806

Message from the President "ONCE UPON A TIME"

We are all familiar with this phrase starting with our childhood. For most of us our childhood is well past, however, from time to time, we all go back and remember, often fondly, those times. Our Society has had a long proud history with many times to fondly remember. Some remember the Orphanage on the Jednota Estates grounds in Middletown. Because of the age and poor condition of the building it was torn down in 1996, after a large part of the roof collapsed and the cost of repair was deemed prohibitive. You may remember that there was a "Save the Orphanage" drive to raise money from Members and others. Unfortunately that drive raised only about \$70,000 which was far less than the estimated \$1 million needed to rehab the building and



Andrew M. Rajec

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Domovina Dancers

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 Members 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

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Michigan District Celebrates Slovak Heritage

Members and friends of the Michigan District celebrated their Slovak heritage with a festive annual picnic at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish on Friday, Saturday and Sunday August 28-30, 2009 on the parish grounds in Sterling Heights, Michigan. The three-day affair was co-sponsored by the St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 and SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish.

Attendees enjoyed three days of fine ethnic food, superb entertainment, and games and activities for the children. Some of the fine food served included halusky, pirohy, klobasa, holubky, fasicrka and palacinky. There were performances by Sarisan, Junior Sarisan, Harmonia from Cleveland, and Domovina Dancers from Windsor, Ontario. The Tri-City Plus Band and The Varitones provided music for dancing. A highlight of the festival was a raffle with a grand prize of \$3,000. Among the many guests was His Excellency Archbishop Jan Sokol.

A great time was had by all

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Seminars Scheduled in Philipsburg and Windber

The First Catholic Slovak Union Membership and Marketing Committee will hold two seminars during the month of October. The following seminars have been finalized.

The first seminar will be held for the Jozef Cardinal Tomko District (District 13), on October 11, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at Bock's Dining and Tea Room, 429 North Centre Street, Philipsburg, Pennsylvania.

The second seminar will be for members of the Rev. John Martvon District (District 7), on October 25, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 604 Graham Avenue, Windber, Pennsylvania.

These seminars are available to all branch officers, district officers, and recommenders. Any member of the First Catholic Slovak Union interested in learning about and selling insurance and annuity products are urged to attend the seminars in your respective district.

If you plan to attend, please contact the Home Office at least 3 days before your scheduled seminar so we can get an attendance count.

Please form a car pool and attend the seminars that are scheduled in your area.

Until next time,

Good Luck and God Bless!

**Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.,
National Vice President &
Membership and Marketing Chairman**

Insights and Viewpoints



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

October 11, 2009

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 10:17-30

Gospel Summary:

In today's gospel passage, the rich young man who approaches Jesus asks the universally felt human question about the possibility of reaching a life beyond death. In other words, why do we humans have such a strong yearning for life and

are nonetheless created mortal? This young man is obviously very confident and he uses ingratiating language as he addresses Jesus. When Jesus replies that only God is good, he is simply stating a truism of the Jewish tradition.

Jesus then reminds this young man of the traditional teaching in the Ten Commandments about the kind of moral behavior that promises eternal life. The young man replies in effect: "Been there, done that!" Jesus in turn seems to be captivated by his self-confidence and tells him that there is indeed more to be done if he really is serious about eternal life.

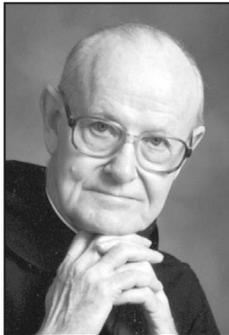
This more sublime ideal requires an unburdening of oneself in order to be free to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. This sobers up the rich young man immediately for he cannot imagine a life of security without possessions. Jesus then tells his disciples that reaching the kingdom of heaven will be hard for everyone, rich or poor, because attachment to possessions is not just a problem for the wealthy. The challenge therefore does not come from the size of one's bank account but rather from the degree of one's attention to God and of one's generosity in living the challenge presented by Jesus.

Life Implications:

When Jesus declares that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to be saved, he is using a strong metaphor to emphasize the difficulty of paying proper attention to God when one is encumbered by the attachments and distractions involved with possessions. It takes much time and effort to acquire possessions, and even more time to care for them, to protect them and to enjoy them. This fact establishes a kind of competition between one's attention to God and one's concern for the management of one's earthly affairs.

This matter receives much more attention in Luke's gospel. He came from Antioch and had personal experience of the extremes of wealth and poverty in that pagan city. The parable of the rich man and Lazarus (16:19ff) is a good example of his concern about the way in which possessions tend to blind a person to the lasting values in life. Nowhere in this parable is there any suggestion that the rich man had acquired his wealth immorally. He is condemned simply because his preoccupation with his possessions has blinded him to the fact that Lazarus was in his backyard begging for food.

The clear implication is that the amount of one's possessions is not nearly as dangerous as is the degree of one's attachment to them. To be liberated from the drugging influence of possessions is to be ready to put the needs of others before one's own comfort and convenience. It was St. Augustine who said that, from a Christian perspective, the surplus of the wealthy belongs to the poor. And surplus means all that is not required for a modest life style. I think he would apply that standard to wealthy nations also.



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

October 18, 2009

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 10:35-45

Gospel Summary

James and John ask that when Jesus enters his glory he would grant them positions of honor and power. Jesus responds that they do not understand the cost of what they are asking. When the ten hear about the ambitious request, they become indignant. Jesus then summons the twelve and reveals the meaning of the divine mission for the kingdom that he has come to fulfill. Those who are rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them and make their authority felt. Among his disciples, however, whoever wishes to be great will become a servant, and whoever wishes to be first will be the slave of all. Then follows perhaps the most radical and most revealing saying of Jesus about himself and about discipleship in the entire gospel: "For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

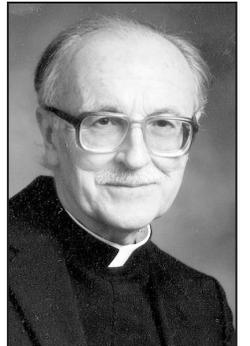
Life Implications

Peter, James and John are especially close to Jesus. They are with Jesus on the mountain of transfiguration and in the garden of Gethsemane. In these turning points of his life, Jesus sees clearly that his commitment to do his Father's will would entail suffering and death. Peter, James and John (representing all of us) do not see how the failure of suffering and death could have anything to do with God's plan. In this gospel James and John are more concerned with the success of having highest positions of honor and power in the kingdom. Shortly before, Jesus had called Peter a Satan because Peter rebuked him when he began to talk about the suffering and death he would soon undergo.

It is obvious why Mark immediately after the episode of this gospel tells us about the blind beggar, Bartimaeus. We are all blind when it comes to seeing what Jesus is talking about because his teaching is so contrary to our instinctively self-centered way of understanding the meaning of being the greatest and being first. When we hear the words of Jesus, we may even feel the instinct to ignore them as foolish and impractical in our world. We can only ask for the grace to recognize our blindness and to pray with the blind beggar: "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me...I want to see." Only when we see with the seeing of faith can we follow Jesus on the way to the glory God has prepared for him and for us.

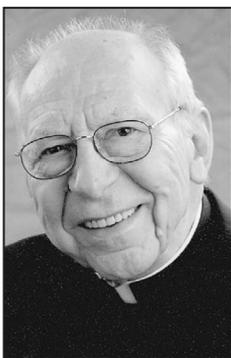
When we pray for the miracle of understanding the meaning of our lives in the way that Jesus understood the meaning of his life, we are seeking to know what it means to be "servant" in the unique, particularity of each of our lives. The beauty and completeness of God's kingdom will not be realized without the unique service of each disciple, regardless of how exalted or how lowly the service may be in the eyes of the world. What is essential to see is that the service Jesus invites us to do is the way of love.

To be servants in the way that Jesus was servant means to live in complete trust that God loves us in the way that God loved Jesus during his earthly life. Jesus was not servant out of servile fear of a tyrant Father, but as beloved Son, who in turn loved as he was loved. It is a free service of love, not of fear. When the Apostle Paul was cured of his blindness, he was able to say in a letter to the Christians of Ephesus: "Be imitators of God...and live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over as a sacrificial offering to God..." And to the Galatians he wrote: "I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me...You were called for freedom...do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather serve one another through love...But if you go on biting and devouring one another, beware that you are not consumed by one another."



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

Reflections on Our Christianity Msrgr. Edward V. Rosack



Msrgr. Edward V. Rosack

Freedom from God

There are movements in our country to free us from God. Prayer has been removed from public schools, the phrase "one nation under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance is challenged, the display of the Ten Commandments is being rejected, morality is being smothered, ethical standards of behavior are ignored, euthanasia, and the murdering of infants in the womb are being encouraged and so on.

Presuming that all of these things come to pass and we are finally free from God, what will life be like?

Life will have no meaning and no value. Murder will become even more commonplace than it is now. Those who are ruled to be without "quality of life" will be denied the life that is theirs, whether in the womb or in our neighborhood.

Those whose potential or actual lives conflict with our own will be cut off from our own because of their interference.

The body and its passions will know no bounds. Gratification alone will determine the boundaries, but only temporarily because these passions obey no limitations.

What we have and what others desire will be taken from us by force, fear, intimidation and

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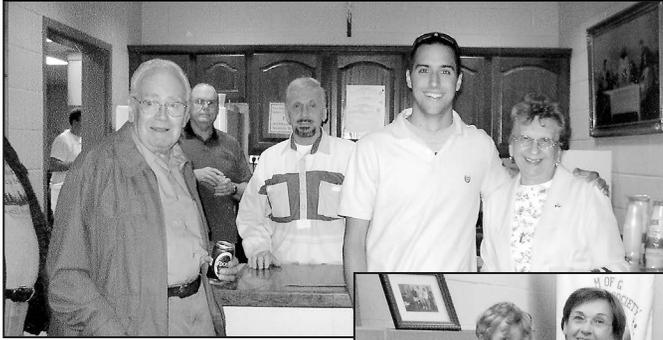
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Michigan District Celebrates Slovak Heritage

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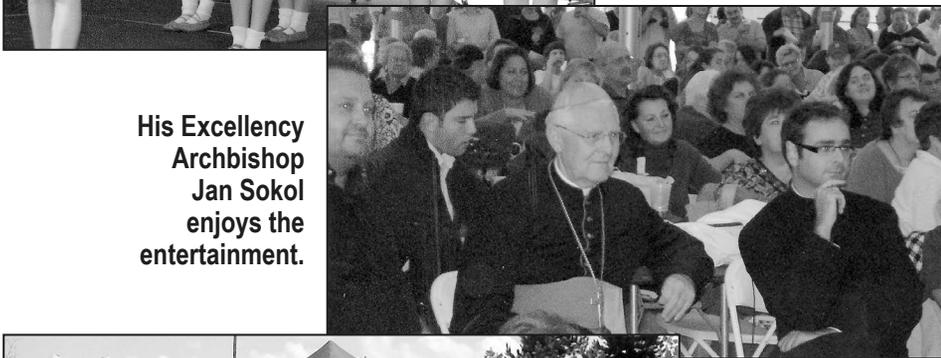
The Venglar family from Branch 743 at the refreshment stand



Visitors in the Slovak Heritage Room



Sarisian Slovak Folk Ensemble



His Excellency Archbishop Jan Sokol enjoys the entertainment.



Children's fun area



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

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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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - Editor - Jednota Newspaper

After 13 Years of service as Editor of the Jednota newspaper Dr. Anthony Sutherland, PhD., has decided to retire upon reaching his 65th birthday in October 2009. We thank him for his dedicated service and wish him the best in his retirement.

Because of his retirement, we are seeking applicants for the position of Editor, Jednota newspaper.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE POSITION OF EDITOR:

Edit the Jednota newspaper, currently 21 issues per year.

Generate and develop articles on fraternal activities and other articles of religious, historical, economic and social interest with specific emphasis on FCSU activities for members of both sexes and all ages.

Prepare for publication all communications from the Home Office and Branches.

Prepare for publication communications from individual members if they are proper for publication.

Rewrite and retype articles when necessary and correct all grammatical errors and misspellings found in articles and communication sent to the office for publication.

Answer correspondence received from readers and answer questions.

Be familiar with and be able to use Microsoft Windows XP and be generally computer literate.

Knowledge of the history and traditions of the First Catholic Slovak Union and the fraternal system is very helpful.

Ability to speak Slovak desirable, ability to read and write in Slovak helpful.

Position will be located at the Home Office, Cleveland, Ohio.

Salary – Open, Competitive Employee Benefit Package.

Starting date – September 2009.

"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 of the policy, the **Annuitant has 15 days to elect an option:**

1. 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. Continue the Annuity for an additional five years. The interest rate at that time will be based on the interest rate established by the Society on the regular 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. 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:

- (a) The policy can be continued to a new maturity date. There will be no surrender charges on any withdrawals.* The interest rate will be based on FCSU Life's regular Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity interest rate.
- (b) 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.
- (c) 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
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Insights and Viewpoints

Reflections on Our Christianity

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whatever other means the "takers" can employ.

Law enforcement officers will be afraid to enter some neighborhoods for fear of their own lives, as some already do.

Ethical standards will give way to greed, selfishness and a lust for power, leading to wholesale corruption, power grabbing and honors totally undeserved.

Those who believe in God will be persecuted because their lives cause the unbelievers to blush with shame and because they sting the consciences of the marauders who surround them.

Is this the freedom you want?

The signs of this "freedom" are already around you and you don't have much support. Some in authority, civil and religious, are either timid or corrupt, or seeking the approval of those very people who hold them in contempt.

What can we do?

Abraham interceded for Sodom. The Lord said he would spare Sodom and Gomorrah if there were fifty innocent people living there. Abraham got him down to ten. However, after Lot's experience with the townsmen who closed in on his house, the angels told Lot to take his family away because, "We are about to destroy this place, for the outcry reaching the Lord against those in the city is so great that he has sent us to destroy it." (Genesis 19:13)

The next morning, just as the sun was rising, "...the Lord rained down sulphurous fire upon Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:24). "As he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and the whole region of the Plain, he saw dense smoke over the land rising like fumes from a furnace." (Genesis 19:28)

Our country may not be down to ten, but the counting goes on.

Another city had a different experience.

Ninevah "was an enormously large city, it took three days to go through it." (Jonah 3:3) "This is the word of the Lord that came to Jonah, son of Amittai: "Set out for this great city of Ninevah, and preach against it; their wickedness has come up before me." (Jonah 1:1-2) Jonah said, in effect, "Not me!" and he fled to Joppa and booked passage on a boat going to Tarshish. You should know the story of the large fish that swallowed him and, after his prayer, "Then the Lord commanded the fish to spew Jonah upon the shore." (Jonah 2:11)

The second time the Lord told Jonah to "Set out for the great city of Ninevah, and announce to it the message that I will tell you." (Jonah 3:1-2)

Jonah went this time and announced in Ninevah, "Forty days more and Ninevah shall be destroyed." (Jonah 3:4)

When the king of Ninevah heard this, he "covered himself with sackcloth and sat in the ashes" (Jonah 3:6) and proclaimed fasting from food and water for everyone and all had to clothe themselves in sackcloth in repentance. When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out." (Jonah 3:10)

Repentance is required from those who are leading us to sulphurus fire. Unfortunately, they are hardly repentant; rather they are determined to tear us away from God.

We, in our faith, believe that we have a relationship with God, that his eyes look upon our hands folded in prayer, that he hears our prayerful voices. Do not diminish the power of prayer. It brings us to personal contact with our Divine Redeemer and Savior. He feels the beat of our hearts in adoration and worship of him. He feels the intensity and the repetition of our prayers.

Proverbs 15:8- "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is his delight."

Proverbs 15:29- "The Lord is far from the wicked, but the prayer of the just he hears."

Sirach 7:10- "Be not impatient in prayers" and they will pierce the clouds and rise to enter the Lord's heart.

We need to be the 50 down through the ten who stand fast with the Lord and beg him in repentance for our own sins and the sins of the wicked of Sodom, Gomorrah and Ninevah to hold back his mighty hand and melt the hearts, the minds and the wills of the wicked and turn them from blasphemy to adoration.

We must heed the teaching of our Lord, "...your light must shine before men so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly Father." (Matthew 5:16) Witness your faith in deeds done daily throughout the boundaries of your own lives so that those who within your boundaries will be warned and imitate you.

Useful Websites

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

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

FCSU Holds Sales Seminar in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois

The Membership and Marketing Committee held a Sales Seminar on Sunday, June 14, 2009, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Hilton Suites, 10 Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois.

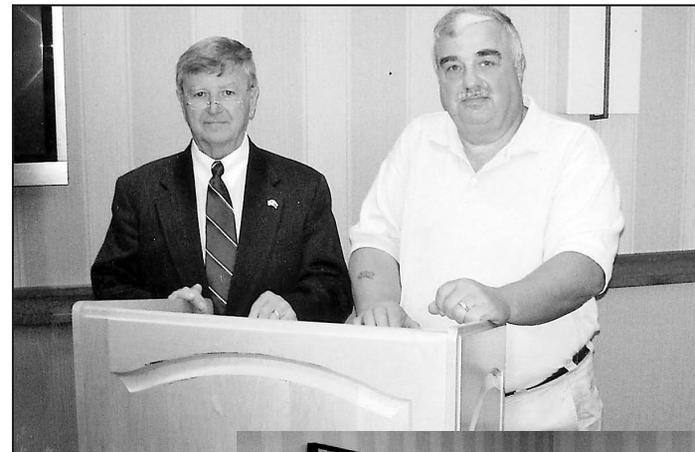
Recommenders from the Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District and the Michigan District were invited to attend. Among those present were National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt. Representing Region 7 was its Regional Director, Rudolph Glogovsky. Representing the Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District was its president, John Jurcenko.

This was the first seminar that was given by a power point presentation. The feedback by those present was very favorable. The seminar was well received and centered around FCSU's insurance and annuity portfolio. The purpose of the seminar was to acquaint our recommenders on the society's products.

Hope to see you at the next seminar in your area.

Until Next Time... Good Luck and God Bless.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President and Chairman, Membership & Marketing Committee



National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt presented the seminar



Participants at the first FCSU Sales Seminar in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois

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
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14
WEDNESDAY, OCT 28
WEDNESDAY, NOV 11

Copy Date
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5
MONDAY, OCT 19
MONDAY, NOV 2

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

Apostleship of Prayer

Intentions for October 2009

General Intention

Sunday Eucharist. That Sundays may be lived as the day on which Christians gather to celebrate the Risen Lord in the table of the Eucharist

When he speaks about the Eucharist, Pope Benedict XVI often tells the story of the Abitene martyrs.

It was a Sunday in 303 AD in the Tunisian village of Abitene. Forty-nine Christians gathered at the house of Octavius Felix to celebrate the Eucharist. They had gathered despite the edict of the Emperor Diocletian, who forbade such assemblies on pain of death.

The authorities caught the 49 and took them to Carthage. When asked why they had disobeyed the Emperor's orders, a certain Emeritus replied: "Sine dominico non possumus," that is, "Without Sunday we cannot live."

The word for Sunday, dominico, also means gift of the Lord, and Emeritus was playing on the double meaning. Sunday for them was bound up with receiving the gift of the Lord, the risen Christ, in the Eucharist.

"For these Christians," said the Holy Father, "Sunday Eucharist was not a commandment, but an inner necessity. Without him who sustains our lives, life is empty. To do without... would deprive life of its dignity and beauty."

The Abitene Christians were horribly tortured and martyred because they could not separate their faith from their Sunday practice. This was their gift, to live and gain eternal life through the Eucharist.

Gathering for Sunday Eucharist is no burden, though it is a commandment. The Catechism calls it the "foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church." But we gather so the Lord may give us his life, nourishing our entire being, body and soul. "How will we be able to live without him?" asked St. Ignatius of Antioch, another martyr of the early Church.

We pray this month that we all may rediscover how essential the Sunday Eucharist is to our lives. We pray that Christians throughout the world each week will flock to Mass with this awareness in their hearts: "Without Sunday we cannot live."

Reflection

How can you make the Sunday Eucharist central and essential to your own life?

Mission Intention

Spirit of Mission. That all the people of God, whom Christ has commanded to go and preach the Gospel to every creature, may diligently fulfill their missionary responsibility.

You and I may consider ourselves too young, too old, or too committed to be venturing into remote areas to preach the gospel. Surely others are better qualified for that kind of thing!

Maybe so, but hear what our Holy Father asks of us. "Let it not be forgotten that the first and priority contribution that we are called to offer to the missionary action of the Church is prayer."

Where did Pope Benedict get that idea? Jesus said, "The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest" (Luke 10:2).

The Pope suggests that every time we pray the Our Father we put an emphasis on "Thy Kingdom come," recalling that God's Kingdom comes by the missionary activity of the Church. In his Message for last year's World Mission Day, which will be celebrated this year on October 17, Pope Benedict appealed to every believer to create a "spiritual network of prayer" for evangelization.

Not coincidentally, the Pope spoke directly to the "sick and the suffering." He cited the "value of their mysterious and indispensable collaboration in the work of salvation." The Holy Father knows there is a special power in suffering if channeled into prayer for others.

How do you channel your suffering into prayer? The approach we favor is the morning offering. The Apostleship of Prayer began with the frustration of Jesuit seminarians who had to delay their dream of being missionaries. They learned to offer up their frustration, their studies, and their sacrifices- all for the missions. So each of us can offer our sufferings- as well as our joys- for the growth of God's Kingdom.

Offer yourself everyday for the success of the Church's mission on earth. Offer yourself that others near and far may come to know the great mercy of God. Are you struggling, hurting, and overwhelmed in your life? Give it all to God for the good of others, and you will find peace and joy in him.

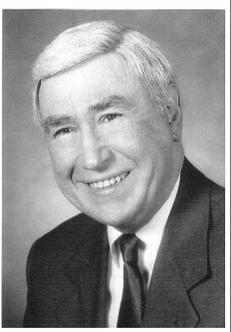
Reflection

How will you fulfill your responsibility to the missions this month?

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS

By Joseph T. Senko

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



Paying for a Child's College Education When You Failed to Save Enough

No matter what age the child, parents should begin planning now to meet the rising costs of a college education. This is especially critical, however, for parents whose children will be attending college in a year or two. Below are tips to make a college education a reality for your child, even when you haven't saved enough.

Select a College Like Any Other Purchasing Decision

Most people can't afford the most expensive house or the latest luxury sedan. Yet when it comes to their children's education, parents often feel only the very best will do. The truth is that there are plenty of excellent affordable schools out there- you just need to do your homework.

One option is to have your child attend a less expensive school, such as a community college, for two years, then transfer and earn a degree from his or her top-choice college. The key to making this strategy work is to plan ahead and make sure that the credits are transferable.

Use a Tuition Payment Plan

Which sounds more doable: an annual lump-sum payment of \$15,000, or 10 payments of \$1,500? Many schools have contracts with tuition management services that allow you to spread the annual cost of tuition over the year, making eight, 10 or 12 payments. These aren't considered loans, so you pay no interest, although there is typically a small annual enrollment fee. Check with the schools your child may be interested in attending to find out their tuition payment options.

Look for Money in the Form of Grants and Scholarships

Grants and scholarships are out there, but they aren't easy to find. Start by checking out individual college Web sites as well as associations related to your child's talents or career aspirations.

Don't overlook local sources. You may be able to acquire multiple small scholarships from local service organizations, such as the Lions Club. Community-based awards may be smaller, but they're also easier to win.

Some large companies provide scholarship funds to the children of employees. Check with your company's human resources department to see if your employer is one of them. Unions could be another source of scholarships as well as professional associations. For instance PICPA offers multiple-year scholarships for students majoring in accounting at Pennsylvania colleges and universities.

Another option is to use a reputable scholarship search site, such as FastWeb.com or CollegeBoard.com. Be wary of scholarship search engines that charge a fee. It may be a scam.

Look into Student and Parent Loans

The most common type of student loan is the Stafford loan, a federally guaranteed low-interest loan. For subsidized Stafford loans, which are awarded based on financial need, the federal government pays the accruing interest while the student is in school. For unsubsidized Stafford loans, accrued interest is paid by the borrower.

Parents may borrow up to the full cost of a student's education, minus financial aid, with a PLUS (Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students) loan. To qualify, the parent must meet the lender's eligibility requirements.

The Perkins student loan is awarded to students with exceptional financial need. Using a limited pool of federal funds, the school determines the awards, and may choose to divide limited resources among many eligible students.

How Not to Pay for College

Do not borrow against your house. A home equity loan could put your house at risk and will cost only slightly less than borrowing under the federal PLUS program. Also, do not borrow from retirement accounts to pay tuition. It is better to allow this money to grow, and take the student loan route instead.

Jednota Dinner Dance in Linden

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, is hosting its annual Jednota Dinner Dance on Saturday, November 21, 2009, at Msgr. Komar Hall at Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, New Jersey. Dinner will be served from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. followed by dancing. Music will be provided by the band Kontakty. Tickets are \$25.00 per person. There is a cash bar. For tickets and additional information call Mary Karch at 732/572-2331.

R eminder...

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

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

Father Joachim Pastirik, OSB Celebrates 40th Anniversary of Ordination

On Sunday afternoon, August 23, 2009, over 900 relatives, former students and friends of Benedictine Father Joachim Pastirik, OSB, gathered in historic SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Lakewood, Ohio to celebrate the popular Slovak priest's 40th ordination anniversary. Following the Mass, a jubilee dinner was held at Michaud's Party Center in Strongsville, Ohio.

Homilist for the anniversary Mass was fellow Benedictine Father Michael Brunovsky, OSB formation director of St. Andrew Abbey and academic dean of Benedictine High School in Cleveland. Father Michael highlighted Father Joachim's faithful support of Slovak cultural activities throughout his priesthood and the many lives touched by his kind and generous personality. Father Michael acknowledged the role of Father Joachim played in inspiring his own religious and priestly vocation. Hosting the liturgy was Father Jerome Duke, pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish. Music was provided by the parish choir under the direction of organist Robert Varga.

Father Joachim's twin brother John Pastirik provided music entertainment at the dinner reception as he accompanied his band on the accordion with a variety of polkas and contemporary numbers. The Lucina Slovak Folk Dancers also performed. Special guests introduced at the reception were Father Joachim's first cousins from Montreal, Canada: Adel Lashanik (with husband Michael) and Marge Schneider (with husband Edward). Marge is a vocalist who sang at Father Joachim's First Mass in 1969.

Shortly after Father Joachim was ordained a priest at St. Benedict's Church by Bishop William Cosgrave on June 7, 1969, he traveled to Slovakia, then under atheistic communism rule, to celebrate Masses in his parents' villages. This ability to find unique ways to live priestly ministry has characterized Father Joachim's life for the last 40 years. Whether he is solemnly chanting in his priestly vestments, or cracking jokes at a nursing home while dressed like Santa or the pope, Father Joe has brought the joy of Christ to many lives during the last four decades.

Born in Lakewood, Ohio with his twin John on December 9, 1941, Joseph Pastirik is the son of the John and Margaret (Bobovnick) Pastirik. He attended SS. Cyril and Methodius Elementary School and graduated from Benedictine High School with his brother in 1960. After two years of studies at St. John's University in Minnesota, Joseph entered the Benedictine Order at St. Andrew's Abbey in Cleveland and received the religious name of Joachim after the saintly father of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Coming Events

October 11

-The Rev. Stephen Furdek District's Annual Meeting at the Slovak Center, 5th and Grove Streets, Catasauqua, Pennsylvania.

October 18

-A meeting of the Frank T. Holly Jr. District at 1:00 p.m. at K2 Engineering, 234 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

October 20

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

October 25

-The Michigan District's Annual Meeting at St. Patrick's Ryan Church Hall, 4708 South Meridian Road, Merrill, Michigan. Dinner at 11:00 a.m. followed by the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

October 25

-The Msgr. Joseph Tiso District's Annual Meeting 2:00 p.m. at the C.U. Club, 912 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, Pennsylvania.

October 25

-The Rev. John Martvon District's Annual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Windber, Pennsylvania.

November 1

-The Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District's Annual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Priory, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois.

November 15

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

November 15

-The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District's Annual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, New York City

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

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“Stitched With Love”- Folk Dress Exhibit to Open in Cleveland

Treasures of Slovak Dress will be on display at the Home Office of the First Catholic Slovak Union, located at 6611 Rockside Road in Independence, Ohio. “Stitched With Love” will include more than 20 outfits which will be exhibited from Wednesday, October 14 through Saturday, October 17, 2009. The entire exhibit can be viewed on Wednesday, October 14 and Thursday, October 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Saturday, October 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A portion of the exhibit can be viewed on Friday, October 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The public is invited to attend this free exhibit to see the beautiful folk dress and marvel at the varied techniques involved in making it from embroidery and beading to felting, weaving, lace making and leather work.

The exhibit features kroj or folk dress from the Baine/Cincebeaux Collection of Slovak folk dress and is held in conjunction with the CGSI Cultural and Genealogical Conference being held at the same time at the nearby Holiday Inn Cleveland South in Independence.

You are invited to a special event on Friday October 16 at the Holiday Inn for the CGSI traditional Parade of Folk Dress with more than 40 participants. The event is open to the public at \$10.00 per person, payable at the door. The evening begins with a musical travelogue presented by Rudy Bachna and his chorus. It will be followed by the Parade of Folk Dress. Helene Cincebeaux will describe each outfit in the parade mentioning the village of origin and approximate date it was made and worn. There will be time to photograph at the end.

If you have questions please call Helene Cincebeaux at 585/342-9383 or email at hele-nezx@aol.com



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

The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce that it can now accept credit cards for Insurance premium payments.

*Annuity payments cannot be made with credit cards.

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- *Term to age 25
- *Annuities

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

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)

Steve Bacon

1916 – 2009

ENTREPRENEUR, LEADER, LOVER OF SLOVAKIA AND HIS SLOVAK HERITAGE

by

Bernadette J. Demechko

My brother, Steve Bacon, passed away on August 26, 2009, at Hospice House, Youngstown, Ohio, where he had been a patient one day. During his ten-month illness of three times a week dialysis treatments, he resided at home and was lovingly cared for by his wife Ghislaine (Gigi). Whenever I would visit Steve, there were always friends and relatives visiting him for he was alert and still full of ideas for all of us – especially work of Youngstown-Spisska Sister Cities (YSC) which he co-founded.

Steve was one of eleven children born to John Slanina and Mary Maslar Gresh.

My father came to the United States from Stvrtok, Slovakia, in 1906. He was twenty years old. He returned to Slovakia to marry his childhood sweetheart and they returned to start their new life in Youngstown, Ohio. My father was a hard worker – working daytime in the steel mill and evenings and Saturdays as a bricklayer (he had been a stone mason in Slovakia). He and his brother-in-law, Michael Gresh, built the ten buildings that still line Indianola Avenue in Lansingville (Slovak section of town). I live a block from Indianola so see his handiwork every time I drive through my neighborhood. They also built the eleven room brick home in which I still reside.

Of course, my brothers, Steve, John, and Joe were laborers for all this construction. They spent after-school hours carrying brick, lumber, and cement for the workers.

In 1930, with the start of the Depression, my father rented our house in town and bought a 190 acre dairy farm in North Jackson. My brothers work only increased with plowing, shocking wheat, milking cows, etc. By the time our father sold the farm in 1948, Steve and Joe knew they did not want to be farmers or laborers. They wanted to be the “bosses” of their own company. Using “start up” money from dad, they founded “Bacon Construction Company” and began pouring concrete driveways. They soon advanced to doing concrete work at gas stations. On one job, the owner of Poling Construction Company, which specialized in gas holding tanks and piping, saw the work ethic of my brothers and suggested the two companies “team up” to bid on gas station work. Poling and Bacon was formed. (When Mr. Poling died, his widow agreed to let Joe and Steve keep the name of “Poling”).

The company grew and grew. They would eventually do pipelines, gas storage holding tanks and fueling facilities in 19 states. The company was instrumental on such projects as the first automatic crude oil line, the first pipeline to carry coal and fueling facilities in airports at Fort Lauderdale, Palm Beach, and Orlando, Florida; Dallas-Forth Worth, Texas; Memphis, Tennessee; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Cleveland, Columbus, and Dayton, Ohio. Steve retired as president of the company in 1980 and the operation of the company was given to his sons.

Steve was always looking to expand his interests. He founded Evets (Steve spelled backwards) Electric Company; Bates Steel Bending Company; Subac Land Development Company, and co-founded Fonderlac Country Club and Eastern Ohio Conservation Club (a tract of land with man-made lake for fishing, swimming and boating and hatcheries in which to breed pheasants and wild turkeys that would be released into the wild.)

Spending so much time on the farm where he fished, hunted and trapped wild animals, he decided to build a cabin as far north in Canada as he could. He chose Val d'Or, Quebec, and a lake so remote that it could only be reached by seaplane. My husband spent 6 weeks one summer with Steve and some other men, building an A-frame cabin. All lumber and supplies were delivered by seaplane. Currently the cabin is accessible by a dirt road made by lumber companies.

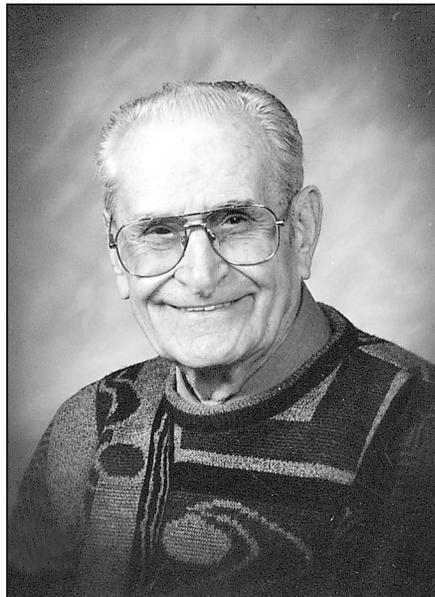
In 1962, Steve took two of his sons, Vince and Jim, to Slovakia to visit our relatives. His love of Slovakia and its heritage was instant and from 1962 to 2005 he made 32 trips to Slovakia.

His work with Slovakia began slowly. He brought our cousin to the United States for one summer in 1964. Our cousin made extra money working at Poling and Bacon. After that, a dozen other relatives came to the United States as guests of Steve. But he also helped others who were not relatives. In 1992, the SLUK dancers from Slovakia came to perform in Youngstown. One of the dancers asked Steve if he could sponsor him so he could raise some money. His dream was to have a School of Dance where the young people of Slovakia could learn the folk songs and dances of Slovakia, thereby perpetuating them for future generations. He spent one summer in Youngstown. He returned to help establish the Mock Slovak Wedding, held for tourists in Krakovany. He also established a School of Dance in Trenčin where he now has 100 students, ages 4 to 16. YSC tours to Slovakia always include a performance at his School followed by a lovely buffet.

Steve's dreams were bigger than just helping individuals. In 1990, after Communism fell, Steve and a group of Slovak fraternal leaders and businessmen felt they should help Slovakia in democratization. They decided Youngstown should adopt a sister city in Slovakia. Nova Ves was chosen for two reasons; the population of the two cities was similar and most of the Slovak Americans who settled in the Youngstown area were from Spis County.

After the mayors of the two cities agreed, a formal declaration was hand-carried by Steve to Nova Ves for official signatures there. The Mayor of Nova Ves said his first request would be to have teachers of English since the only languages taught in Slovak schools were Slovak and Russian. YSC was “off and running.” Soon a shipment of 12,500 textbooks, collected by Duquesne University Alumni Club, was delivered to the warehouses at Poling and Bacon and Steve made arrangements to have them crated and shipped to Slovakia. This was followed by computers and printers and, eventually, the major project, shipment of \$15,000,000 of used medical equipment. Most was obtained from closed Veterans' Hospitals in Ohio, some was obtained from Vincentian Sisters' Regency Hall Nursing Home; some from doctors who were retiring or updating their equipment. I came on board as Secretary for YSC in 1992 and I have two file drawers of documents regarding bills of lading, tax exempt papers, thank you letters, etc. that I have typed from 1992 until the present.

Steve also felt that Slovak Americans could be more apt to donate to YSC if they could see the needs of Slovakia. He organized the first YSC tour in 1992 and it was followed by 14 con-



secutive tours. Although the itinerary varied year by year, one stop was constant – a visit to the Spis area including Spis Castle, Marian Hill, Saint Jacob's Church in Levoca, and the Kapitula Seminary. A visit to Radnica (City Hall) was always included where the tourists are treated to a champagne breakfast, entertainment and a “goodie bag” filled with souvenirs of the area. In the foyer of the building are hung 6 Coat of Arms of the sister cities that have adopted Nova Ves. Ohio's Coat of Arm is among them. We used the State seal since YSC had no seal or Coat of Arms.

Upon his visits to Slovakia Steve would return laden with etched crystal, corn husk dolls, and Slovak Christmas ornaments. He would also have a local t-shirt company make up t-shirts and sweatshirts featuring designs of Spis Castle, Slovak dancers or other scenes of Slovakia. You would often see Steve and Gigi selling these items at Slovak festivals at Danville, Pennsylvania, Pitt University, etc. Selling these items was one way of raising funds for YSC. We soon developed a “restricted” list of Slovak supporters, businessmen, and professional people to whom I mail a request for funds every January. They have been most generous in supporting their ancestral homeland.

YSC has brought 4 folk song and dance groups to the Youngstown area where they performed at a local high school. Admission was always free and expenses were paid by a collection taken up during inter-

mission. We always prepared a “goodie” bag for these entertainers. I have always had cooperation in obtaining advertising items from the Slovak fraternal societies: First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, First Catholic Slovak Union, Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, Slovak Catholic Sokols, and National Slovak Society. These fraternal groups have also generously donated to YSC at their conventions and the years in between. Steve was active in FCSU Branch 731 and attending many of FCSU conventions; also holding office in the Branch.

YSC was responsible for establishing the first Rotary Club in Nova Ves. Working with International Rotary Society, YSC has brought 23 students from Slovakia to the United States or sent students from our country to Slovakia. We keep in touch with many of them and they make excellent chauffeurs and translators for our tourists.

When a ravaging wind blew through the Tatra Mountains and devastated much of the forestry, Steve asked me to send a letter to our donors telling them YSC would match the total of money donated by them. We received \$500 and we delivered \$1000 personally to the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Because Ambassador Rastislav Kacer was also a hunter, Steve and he became great friends. The Ambassador spent a week at Steve's camp where they went moose hunting.

When Senator George Voinovich had introduced a bill to Congress recommending Slovakia and other countries be given “favored nation” status regarding issuance of Visas, he contacted two representatives of each of the countries involved. Steve and I represented the Slovaks. After our first meeting, Steve and I sent letters and emails to various Slovak groups urging them to contact their congressmen to support this legislation. Several meetings followed as we received updates on the bill as it moved through various committees. We then attended a luncheon to celebrate its passage.

Youngstown Sister Cities' accomplishments are greater than even Steve could have dreamed. Our Board continues to work for Slovakia and to perpetuate our Slovak heritage. President Joseph Sedzmac was responsible for establishing the Nova Ves Rotary and is responsible for the high school student exchange program; Vice President Rick Salata gave a demonstration of home building when 20 visiting businessmen from Slovakia visited the United States seeking to learn about private ownership; Treasurer, Robert Petruska, has led a tour to Slovakia and is involved in the dance groups we bring to the area; Board Members have been contributing their time and talents to YSC. Jim Bench and his wife Kay have led many tours and currently are involved in buying (on sale) sports clothes and equipment for shipment to elementary schools in Eastern Slovakia. They also assisted Steve and Gigi at festivals selling Slovak items.

Loretta Ekoniak holds the position of President of the American Slovak Cultural Association. She has been attending Slovak classes at Pitt University during the summer to better learn the language. Her son has spent a month for two summers studying Slovak at Comenius College in Modra, Slovakia. Attorney David Engler is always available to assist us with any legal questions; Ron Garchar and Ray Novotny worked with Youngstown City Council to have 6 billboards placed on highways leading into the City of Youngstown. Each sign reads “Welcome to Youngstown, Sister City of Spisska Nova Ves, Slovakia.” In August Ron spent a month in Slovakia and soon will have some photos to post on our website. He visited current Mayor Jan Volny and presented him with a gift from Sister Cities. Brian Pertruska and his wife spent one year in Bratislava where he taught Mathematics and Science at the QSI International School. He and his wife Kara journeyed by train to represent YSC at the 740th Anniversary of Nova Ves.

My nephew, John Slanina, is our web-master (www.youngtownsistercities.com).

I, of course, am Secretary, major fund raiser, and responsible for publicity. A special Mass and memorial service was offered at Saint James Church in Dlhe Straze on August 31. It was attended by many relatives, friends and dignitaries from our Sister City. Steve's Mass of Christian Burial was held at Holy Family Church with Monsignor William Connell as celebrant.

At the mercy meal, Steve's son Vince announced that the menu had been selected by Steve weeks in advance of his death. He was busy planning an event even as he headed into eternity!

Steve is survived by his wife Ghislaine; son, Vince (Phyllis); son Jim (Carol); and daughter, Shirley (Bruno) Miletta; two sisters, Estelle Slanina Chizmar and Bernadette (Edward) Slanina Demechko, a cousin, Maria (Ivan) Hrubin, eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

It is said, “It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.” Steve was a candle whose sparks exploded into the sky and affected everyone whom they touched.

Bernie Demechko bdemechko@aol.com

Spitkovsky District Afternoon at the Ballpark

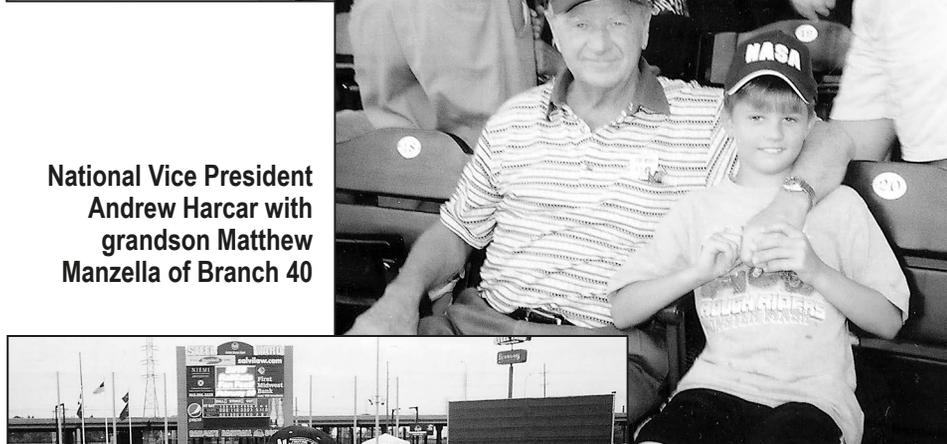
Twenty-six members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District took part in the district's 2nd annual Afternoon at the Ballpark on Sunday, August 16, 2009, at the U.S.S. Steelyard Ballpark in Gary, Indiana. The Gary SouthShore Railcats played the Winnipeg Goldeneyes minor league baseball team. Attendees enjoyed great seats along the first base line.

Thanks go to District 2 Fraternal Activities Director George Kelchak for arranging this fraternal outing, which brought together seniors, kids, and adults for Jednota fellowship. After the ballgame, several members of Branch 493 visited the Jackson 5 boyhood home in Gary.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary.



Members of Branch 706



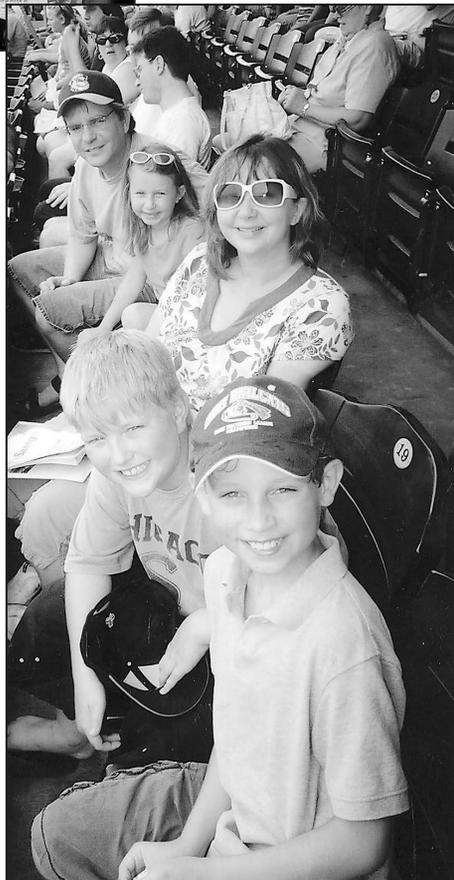
National Vice President Andrew Harcar with grandson Matthew Manzella of Branch 40



More members of Branch 493: Robert Tapak Magruder, Val Vesely, Pete Turner, Don Cummings and Bob Babb.



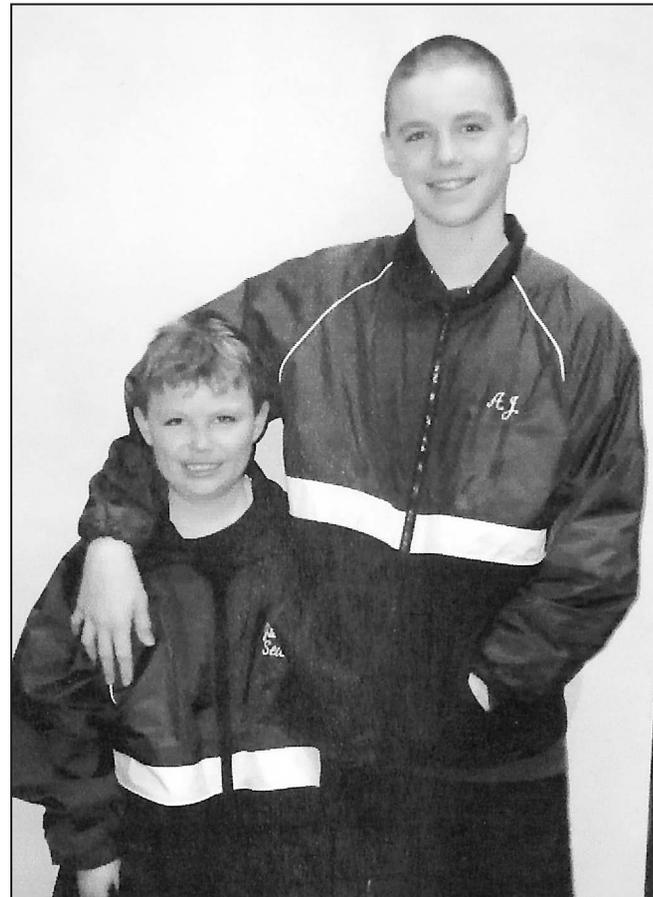
The contingent from Branch 581



The Peters of Branch 493

YOUTH ROUND-UP

A.J. Seida and Julian Seida, grandsons of Art and Barbara Fayta and members of Branch 706, participated in the Indiana State Championships Swim Meet held March 20-22, 2009 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Both boys are on the Lake Central Barracudas Swim Team and among 30 swimmers who qualified for the State Meet. A.J. has been in many State Swim Meets but this is the first time his younger brother Julian participated. We are very proud of our grandsons.



“Park 2 Annuity”— Now Paying 4.00%

Under the “Park 2 Annuity”, you make a one-time deposit of at least \$1,000.00 into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at a guaranteed rate for two years. Additional deposits are not allowed.

Features of the “Park 2 Annuity” include:

- The FCSU guarantees your initial interest rate for two years. After two years, your funds will continue to accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- The “Park 2 Annuity” can be converted to any of the FCSU Annuity Plans at any time.
- The “Park 2 Annuity” is not applicable to any settlement option or interest option.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Funds withdrawn during the first two years are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. The charge is 6% the first year and 5% the second year. You may, however, withdraw up to 10% of your ‘beginning of the year balance’ with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- 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.
- The minimum deposit is \$1,000.00.

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

Realm of Slovak Genealogy



Ray Plutko

“Conversations via Telephone Calls, Letters and Emails”

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

Keeping those Slovak genealogical lines of communication open. . . be it a personalized telephone call, the friendly postal carrier, or an ever-growing list of emails. Hopefully, one or more of the following “conversations” might be equally supportive in your research efforts.

Telephone Call: “I have two of my grandfather's official Slovak documents, each with a title at the top-center of the certificates. Can you help me with a translation of these titles?”

Response: These are the foundation documents that are key to successful genealogical research and you have two of the most prized certificates! *Rodny List* translates to Certificate of Birth and *Sobasny List* is a Certificate of Marriage. The third foundation piece is *Umrtny List*, a Certificate of Death. Collectively we refer to these three documents as the Vital Records.

Postal Carrier: “You often mention that the “old counties” are the best reference points when attempting to locate a village in Slovakia. Could you please create one master list of these counties as an easy guide?”

Response: There are 19 old counties that comprise this list and were often used by immigrants in referring to the region they emigrated from and not their village of residence. The old counties are Bratislava, Nitra, Rabska, Trencin, Tekov, Komarnan, Turiec, Hont, Ostrihom, Orava, Liptov, Zvolen, Novohrad, Spis, Gemer, Saris, Abov, Zemplin, and Uzska.

Email Account: “Do you know of any index listings of immigrant passenger arrivals for the Port of Baltimore, Maryland? I just discovered that one of my grandfathers arrived at this port and not at Ellis Island in New York as I had thought. Help!”

Response: At one time or another, a number of researchers such as yourself have fallen prey to the thought that all immigrants arrived only at Ellis Island. Baltimore was a prominent entry port for immigrants between the years 1892-1948 and the best repository for these

index listings in the www.ancestry.com web site. Additionally, the names found on the index are integrated with entry images of the actual passenger lists— a real plus.

Telephone Call: “This may sound like a crazy question, but is it possible to trace a person by their Social Security number?”

Response: Wow, that question wins this month's most unique inquiry prize. Now that I have my senses back in place, the answer is YES! If you stumble upon an individual's Social Security number, pay close attention only to the initial three digits. These three numbers corresponds with a state in which the card was issued. Thus, you can work your way back to a state where the individual once resided. As an example, if the initial three digits are in the number range of 159-211, the card was issued in Pennsylvania; 050-134 in New York; 268-302 in Ohio; 362-386 in Michigan; etc. (part of a uniform code for the United States). Now, how's that for a little detective work?

Postal Carrier: “I'm one of those off-beat persons doing research in Canada. Were there specific immigration ports/records available for Canada?”

Response: During the period when the majority of Slovaks immigrated to the United States, the ports of Quebec City, Halifax and Nova Scotia were the most common arrival points in Canada. Although I have never tested the system, my understanding is that passenger lists are accessible for these ports of entry by requesting the proper forms from: Public Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0N3.

Email Account: “I am searching for a particular obituary notice of a relative. I have his date of date, but I am unable to locate the notice. Is there another way I am overlooking?”

Response: When checking newspapers for obituary notices, start with the date of death and then continue searching forward for two months following the date of passing. Additionally, look for notices placed in newspapers in the wider geographical area of the place of death – including the small weekly throw-away paper – and locations where the deceased formerly lived.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In hopes of assisting with your family research, there is available a detailed historical summary and comprehensive map for any single village in Slovakia at \$5 plus \$1 postage per each village request. When ordering, further specify the county, if known, and/or the largest nearby town where located. Make check payable to Ray Plutko, 6862 Palmer Court, Chino, CA 91710-7343.)



Wedding Celebration



David Martin Rafaidus of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida and Miriam Potocky of Boca Raton, Florida were united in Holy Matrimony on August 9th, 2009, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

The bride is the daughter of the Vlastimila Potocky and the late Pavel Potocky of Denver, Colorado. She graduated from The University of Colorado at Denver and earned Master's and Doctorate degrees in social work from The University of Kansas. She is a professor at Florida International University in Miami, Florida and is also the author of mystery novels published under her pen name of Miriam Auerbach.

The groom is a son of George and Emilia Rafaidus of Macomb, Michigan. He graduated from Central Michigan University (Psychology) and earned a Master's Degree in Urban Planning from The

University of Michigan. He is a Senior Health Planner with Palm Beach County government. David is President of Branch 888 in West Palm Beach, Florida.

The wedding Mass was co-celebrated by Archbishop Jan Sokol (Slovakia) and the Rev. Benjamin Kosnac.

The couple honeymooned in New Mexico and reside in Florida.

50th Wedding Anniversary

Martin and Nancy Martonik

August 22nd, 1959 and 2009

Marty and Nancy Martonik marked their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, August 22, 2009. They are members of Saint Fidelis Parish in Meridian, Pennsylvania. The Rev Frances Lachner married them at Saint Alphonsus Church, Springdale, Pennsylvania. They celebrated their anniversary at St. Fidelis Parish in Meridian with a mass of celebration, celebrated by Fr. James Murphy. A reception followed at the home of their daughter and son-in law Maria and Paul Worst. They have a daughter and son-in law Maria and Paul Worst of Butler and 4 Grandchildren, John Paul, Christopher, Kimberly, and Julie Ann Worst. All family members are members of the First Catholic Slovak Union.



Nancy is the former Nancy Ann Heinick, daughter of Margaret and Paul Heinick. Nancy is a homemaker and former Christian Mother President and is active in the church activities sending greeting cards to the sick and homebound and is a Eucharistic Minister, Altar Society other ministries of the St. Fidelis Parish Community. She is also a member of the Red Hats and is a song leader.

Marty is the son of the late Martin and Marie Martonik Sr. Marty is retired from International Staple and Machine Company as a Tool and Die Maker. He enjoys reading and swimming and raising Gold Fish.

They are enjoying their retirement spending time with their grandchildren, exercising, and swimming at the Butler YMCA, photography, swimming and aerobic exercising, and gardening. Nancy, Marty and their family are all members of Branch 831 in Tarentum.

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.

PÁS at Detva – A Rousing Performance The Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble

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

After much anticipation for several years, and the big event finally happened! PÁS, the Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble, enjoyed the extraordinary opportunity to perform at the Detva Folk Festival. The Detva Festival ranks as one of the biggest gatherings of folk talent in all of Slovakia and it takes place each year during July at the amphitheater near the scenic Poľana mountain in central Slovakia.

PÁS presented a dazzling display of songs and dances that thrilled the huge audience of over 10,000 people.

PÁS was not the only folk troupe that performed. The Office for Slovaks Living Abroad (*Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí*) sponsored other folklore groups from France, the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Croatia, Bulgaria, Ukraine, and two from Serbia. All the groups gave several individual performances, and they combined to do a few dances together.

I can go on and on about how well PÁS performed, but the best way to appreciate the group is to see them in person. The next best way is to view some of the videos that I posted on YouTube, which can be easily viewed on the Video page of the PÁS website.

PÁS invites those interested in learning more or joining their group to visit its new website, which contains photos, information about future events, and much more. The URL of the website is:

www.pasfolkensemble.com/ - Click on the Videos tab to see PÁS perform.

For its outstanding quality, the PÁS video received a Shockwave NME Award for 2009. The award was listed for being among the best online folk videos by the NME Online Magazine.

www.nme.com/awards/video/search/detva

PÁS wishes to thank all those who generously contributed to making their trip to Slovakia possible. Anyone interested in continuing to support this well-deserved Slovak American folk group may send a check to help with their many expenses. If you wish to help in any way, please write or send your donations to:

PÁS FOLK ENSEMBLE
1254 Old Concord Road Monroeville, PA 15146 Tel. (412) 373-3873



Joseph Rimarcik Honored



Joseph Rimarcik, the oldest living supreme officer of the First Catholic Slovak Union, received this proclamation in his honor from the Slovak Institute.

Proclamation

Dear Joseph Rimarcik, Fraternalist and Slovak Patriot

Whereas: The Slovak Institute in Cleveland, Ohio, proclaims the day of March 24, 2009, as Joseph Rimarcik Day and urge all your Slovak friends and parishioners of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Detroit, Michigan, and the Slovak community in the United States to wish you health and happiness.

Whereas: For your lifelong dedication to freedom in Slovakia and your accomplishments as leaders of the Slovak community in Detroit we especially acknowledge your involvement and accomplishments in the Slovak League of America, the First Catholic Slovak Union and the National Slovak Society. We congratulate you on your day and we ask Slovak communities to join us.

Andrew F. Hudak
Director of the Slovak Institute
Cleveland, Ohio



The CSGI Conference Coming to Cleveland in October

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

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International will be hosting its 12th Genealogical/Cultural Conference at the Holiday Inn, Cleveland South, in the suburb of Independence. The events last from Wednesday, October 14 through Saturday October 17, with a Mass on Sunday morning celebrated with a priest from the Slovak Benedictine Abbey. Tours of prominent ethnic areas will also be available on Wednesday and Thursday.

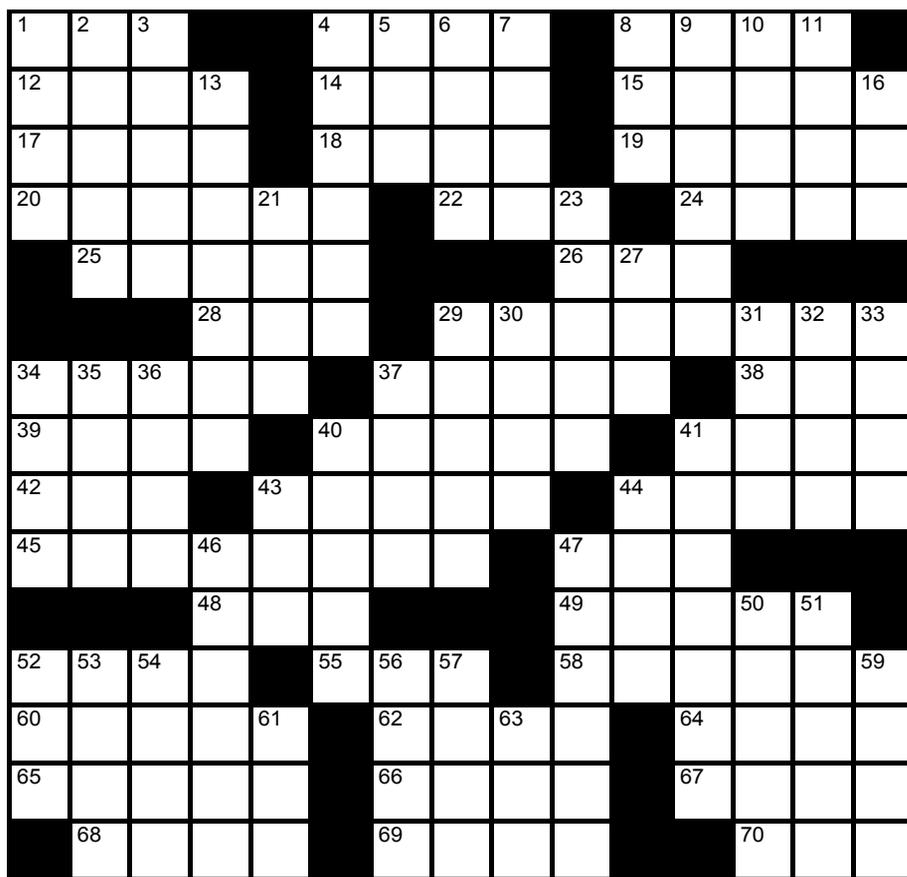
The First Catholic Slovak Union is one of the sponsors of this great cultural event.

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International is a Minnesota-based organization which promotes genealogical and cultural research for lands of the former Czechoslovakia; the topics center around the Czech, Slovak, Moravian, Bohemian, Carpatho-Rusyn, German-Bohemian, and German-Carpathian peoples. The conference is a unique event and an opportunity to listen to and meet specialists in the field of history, genealogy and culture of the region.

If interested, please contact the CSGI for more information at the website:

<http://www.cgsi.org/news.asp?intNewsID=168>

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Overhead railway
- 4 Bend
- 8 Haze
- 12 College military
- 14 Roofing material
- 15 John Jacob
- 17 *Thin Man* charac
- 18 Ushered journey
- 19 Identical copy
- 20 Essential food ite
- 22 Quagmire
- 24 Primates
- 25 Secret agents
- 26 Jog
- 28 Explosive (Abbr.)
- 29 Never used
- 34 Perspiration
- 37 Chassis
- 38 Poem
- 39 Testament
- 40 Pulls behind
- 41 Bench
- 42 Common contrac
- 43 Delete
- 44 Ship parts
- 45 Pickles
- 47 Wicked
- 48 Soft-finned fish
- 49 Use to advantage
- 52 Espouses
- 55 Cover
- 58 Correspondence
- 60 Author Jong
- 62 Unfeeling
- 64 Roof part
- 65 Dividend
- 66 Egypt. queen, familiarly
- 67 Toboggan
- 68 Hunt for
- 69 *M*A*S*H* actor

- 70 Time periods (Abbr.)

Down

- 1 Sea eagles
- 2 Pillages
- 3 Dress holder
- 4 Bear witness
- 5 Brazilian port
- 6 After country or book
- 7 Champion
- 8 Raincoat, for sho
- 9 Aruba, for examp
- 10 Discontinue
- 11 Chord
- 13 Cash
- 16 Thing, in law
- 21 Holy season
- 23 Metric weights
- 27 One (Fr.)
- 29 Band section
- 30 Intense anger
- 31 Yuletide
- 32 Dutch cheese
- 33 Dampens
- 34 Gulp
- 35 Accompanying
- 36 Other
- 37 *Nanny* actress Drescher
- 40 Dentist's tool
- 41 Tranquilizes

- 43 Piece out
- 44 Acquire
- 46 Save
- 47 Sly Stallone's *Rocky*
- 50 Mount Vesuvius location
- 51 Jimmy
- 52 Spider's work
- 53 God of love
- 54 Sup
- 56 Peruvian indian
- 57 Boring
- 59 Ohio team
- 61 Request
- 63 School type, for short

See Solution on Page 19

FCSU LIFE



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OR THE HOME OFFICE AT 1-800-533-6682**

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
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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.



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Contact your local branch officer or call the home office at 1-800-533-6682 for further details. Visit us on the web at www.fcsu.com or email us at fcsu@aol.com

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

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

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

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

The annual yield on a new six year Fixed Rate Annuity & IRA is 4.25% (4.162% APR)

The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash Interest" Option is 4.50% (4.402% 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 the Home Office by calling 1-800-533-6682, or your Local Branch Officer.

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**

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNOUNCING

AVOID STOCK MARKET VOLATILITY

The FIXED RATE 6-YEAR* ANNUITY AND IRA

EFFECTIVE 4/1/2009

4.25% (APR 4.162%)

*Interest rate Guaranteed for 6 years



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!

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- Including:**
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 - Cobra Premium & Educational Expense
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 - Spouse or Domestic Partner Employment
 - Training Expense
 - Permanent Total Disability Benefit

Quarterly Premium Rates

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

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

Special Fraternal Benefit

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

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

UR_space.jrs

Friends Events Sports Culture Trivia Activities



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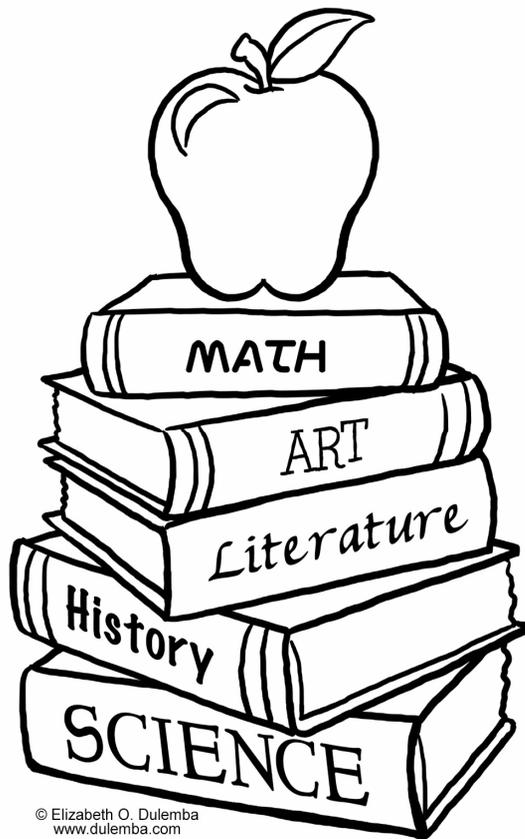
September 2009

Trivia Space



Each month has a flower that symbolizes the month of somebody's birth.

September's flower is the forget-me-not and is a symbol of enduring love. It is one of the flowers seen quite often repeated in Slovak embroideries and other folk art. Legend has it that as a pair of young lovers strolled beside the Danube River, the maid saw a cluster of lovely blossoms on the opposite bank. To please her, the young man plunged into the river, swam across and retrieved the blooms. On his return, however, a sudden undercurrent bore him away. As he was swept out to sea, he threw the bouquet of blossoms to his beloved calling "Forget-me-not!" With such a romantic beginning, it's understandable that this delicate flower has come to signify love and remembrance in the language of flowers.



© Elizabeth O. Dulemba
www.dulemba.com

Activity Space

WORD LADDER

In word ladders, you change one word into another. At each step along the way, change just one letter to make a new word (clues are given at each step). At the end, you have the final word.

corn	
	A bark used to close bottles
	Meat from a pig
	To regain energy
	Trim and stylish
	Nuisance
	Relaxation
	Corroded iron
	Fine particles
	Just before sunset
husk	

Culture Space

Andrej Hlinka (September 27, 1864 - August 16, 1938) was a Slovak politician, Catholic priest, and one of the most important Slovak public activists in Czechoslovakia before the Second World War. Hlinka graduated in theology from Spišská Kapitula and was ordained priest in 1889.



He was a strong defendant of Catholic beliefs and was against all secularizing movements that the Kingdom of Hungary tried to accomplish. This was also the opinion of the Hungarian *Katolikus Néppárt* (Catholic People's Party), led by Count Zichy, so Hlinka became an activist of this party. Since the party ignored Slovak demands, Hlinka left and with František Škyčák, founded the Slovak People's Party in 1913. Hlinka became the party chairman and remained in this position for the rest of his life.

His political activities met with disapproval from the church, which suspended him as a priest. He was also imprisoned by the Hungarian government, which attempted to magyarize non-Magyar societies. Hlinka supported the idea that the Slovaks should split from the Kingdom of Hungary.

In 1918, Hlinka became a member of the Slovak National Council and also signed the *Martin declaration*, which supported a political union with the Czech nation.

After the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic, Hlinka's Slovak People's Party wanted self-government of Slovakia within Czechoslovakia on the basis of the *Pittsburgh Agreement* between American Czechs and Slovaks and Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk. Masaryk, Czechoslovakia's first President, and his successor Edvard Benes claimed that the treaty was a fabrication and resisted Hlinka's demands.

Only when Czechoslovakia had to give up their predominantly German-speaking border regions to Nazi Germany and Benes resigned, was Slovakia granted autonomy on October 6, 1938, less than two months after Hlinka's death.

District 12 of the FCSU is named after this Slovak leader.

Unscramble the School Words

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. nep | 6. cckol |
| 2. lobge | 7. ppear |
| 3. yocrna | 8. licnep |
| 4. leesa | 9. lurer |
| 5. strapel | 10. orsssic |



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

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 11, 2009, at the Slovak Center, 5th and Grove Streets, Catasauqua, Pennsylvania. The time for the meeting has not yet been set. The information will be on the credential forms which will be sent out shortly to all branch secretaries along with the minutes from the previous meeting.

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

THE MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT

Will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 15, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at St. John Nepomucene Church Parish Hall, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, a discussion of activities for next year, and the election of officers for 2010 and election of



News from Lorain

Clam Bake

The American Slovak Club, located on 2915 Broadway in Lorain, Ohio, is ringing in the autumn with a Clam Bake by Pogie on Saturday, October 10, 2009. Dinners will be served between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20.00. Additional clams may be purchased for \$7.00 per dozen with purchase of a regular dinner ticket. Tickets are available in the club-room. Following the clam bake, there will be the DJ-Karaoke, De-Ja-Vu from 8:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Members and guests are welcome. Call the Club at 440/245-5146 with any questions.

Annual Chicken Paprikash Dinner

The United Slovak Societies of Lorain will have its annual chicken paprikash dinner on Sunday, October 11, 2009, at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, Ohio. Dinners will be served from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children under age 12. Each adult dinner will have two (2) pieces of chicken, one light and one dark, along with dumplings and gravy, two (2) stuffed cabbage rolls, salad, bread and butter, dessert and coffee. A cash bar will be available. The band Harmonia with Josef Janis will provide music during the dinner. Harmonia is a multi-cultural group of master musicians who perform traditional folk music of Eastern Europe on authentic folk instruments. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Club at 440/245-5146 or Don at 440/937-6088. A limited amount of tickets will be sold at the door but it is advised that you get your tickets early. Please purchase your tickets or make your reservations by phone as early as possible. Carry outs will also be available.



Message from the President

continued from page 1

deal with issues such as the extensive asbestos problem, the roof, plumbing, heating, etc.

After the closing of the Printery building in Middletown in 2001, most of the artifacts in the Museum and Archives which were located in the building were relocated to the Jankola Library at Danville, PA under the care of the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius. The remainder was made available at a public sale to interested Members.

Unfortunately, very little was kept for display at our Home Office in Cleveland. Recently, I had the opportunity to visit the National Slovak Society Museum outside Pittsburgh. I was very impressed with their exhibit.

It prompted me to ask why we cannot have a display at the Home Office? We own the building and we certainly can make the room.

Therefore, I am asking all of our Branches and Members to consider either donating or lending items for display in our new Museum at the Home Office.

We would be especially interested in items such as Slovak "kroj" or handcrafts as well as other historical items. I would also like to have the old banners representing the Branch as the Members marched into Church for Mass, and also Branch badges etc.

Many of these items unfortunately have been destroyed, but I'm sure some still exist in someone's attic or basement. It would be a shame to lose this history.

Please give me a call at 1-800-Jednota (533-6682) at the Home Office or e-mail to : president@fcsu.com if you or someone you know has any of these items.

Dakujem, Thank you.
Andrew M. Rajec
President

delegates to the 49th Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. We urge all District branches to send their representatives to this meeting. All members of the FCSU are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served by host branch, the St. Matthew Society, Branch 45.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary-Treasurer

JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO DISTRICT-HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Jozef Cardinal Tomko District will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 11, 2009 at the Bocks Tea Room, 429 North Center Street, Philipsburg, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place. The meeting will follow a presentation by FCSU Marketing Committee on insurance annuity products which starts at 2:00 p.m. Please call Rosemary Deliman at 814/342-5592 if you are able to attend.

Rosemary Deliman, Secretary

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

The Rev. John Martvon District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 25, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Windber, Pennsylvania. Holy Mass will be offered earlier in the day at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. The meeting will be held in conjunction with a Sales Seminar by the FCSU Marketing Committee. Also on the agenda will be the election of district officers and the election of a district delegate to the 49th Convention to be held in Cleveland, Ohio. All delegates are reminded of Article 4.05 of the by-laws relating to being a convention delegate and receiving the yearly refund for the branch. Let's have a great turnout and learn more about the exciting products in our portfolio.

Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary

REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT-YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold a meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church Rectory. On the agenda will be discussions of the upcoming convention, the meeting with the Akron Cleveland District, and a casino bus trip.

Carla Peshek, President

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

The Msgr. Josef Tiso District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 25, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the C.U. Club, 912 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, Pennsylvania. Delegates from all branches should call District (Okres) Secretary Grace Charney at 724/763-1104 to confirm their attendance.

Grace M. Charney, Secretary

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

Msgr. Joseph Tiso District has arranged transportation for a group outing to the University of Pittsburgh annual Slovak Day at the Cathedral of Learning in Oakland on Sunday, November 1, 2009. For details or to sign up for the event, contact Grace at 724/763-1104 or at the District (Okres) meeting on October 25.

Grace M. Charney, Secretary

MICHIGAN DISTRICT-MICHIGAN

The Michigan District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 25, 2009, at St. Patrick's Ryan Church Hall, 4708 South Meridian Road (M30), Merrill, Michigan. The traditional Thanksgiving Dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. The business meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. Please notify Victor Jiomkowski at 313/930-0801 by October 18, 2009 with the number of delegates who will be attending from your branch.

Since this is the annual meeting, the election of officers will be on the agenda along with a discussion of the convention in Cleveland next year. One District Delegate will also be elected to represent our Michigan District at the convention.

Our District President Victor Jiomkowski encourages all branches to be represented. We hope to see many new faces at the meeting.

Anna Magusin, Secretary

FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT-UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 18, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at K2 Engineering Co., 234 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. District branches are encouraged to send representatives to the meeting. District activities, the convention and insurance programs will be discussed.

Barbara Ann Holly, Secretary

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

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District will hold its Annual Meeting, Election of Officers and Election of Convention Delegates on Sunday, November 1, 2009, at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Priory, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. We will enjoy a short period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. Attendees will enjoy a delicious catered meal. All branches are asked to send delegates. Individual Jednota members who wish to learn more about becoming active in District 2 are also welcome to attend. If you plan to attend, please call District President John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810, so enough food and beverage can be ordered for the meeting.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT-NEW JERSEY

The Msgr. John E. Rura District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, November 15, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church Hall, 16 East Somerset Street, Raritan, New Jersey. Branch 290 will be the host. Branch secretaries are asked to call Joe Minarovich at 732/469-5256 by November 1 with the number of delegates who will be attending. Refreshments will be served.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE JUNE QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2009 • HOME OFFICE INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

Saturday, June 20, 2009 – meeting via conference call

OPEN MEETING

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

ROLL CALL

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

Andrew M. Rajec, National President;
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary;
George F. Matta, National Treasurer;

and the following members were present over the phone:

Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain;
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President;
Karen M. Hunka, Chairman of Auditors;
Susan M. Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director;
Gary J. Matta, General Counsel;
Joseph F. Minarovich, Regional Director, Region 1 – absent, excused;
Damian Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2;
Carl Ungvarsky, Regional Director, Region 3;
George Sprock, Regional Director, Region 4;
Regis P. Brekosky, Regional Director, Region 5;
Henry Hassay, Regional Director, Region 6;
Rudolph Glogovsky, Regional Director, Region 7;
Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Regions 8 & 9.

READING OF THE CALL

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MARCH 13 & 14, 2009

A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by George Sprock to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

AQS – ASSET MANAGEMENT, LLC. REPORT

Larry White from AQS joined the Board of Directors meeting via telephone and presented the following agenda:

- Portfolio metrics and distribution
- Transactions
- Portfolio Reinvestment vs. Projected Annual Yield
- Projected Portfolio Cash Flows
- Market Data
- Fed Fund Futures/FOMC
- Market Levels
- 10 year trend
- Reinvestment Strategy Analysis
- Commentary

When Mr. White completed his presentation, he answered the questions of the Board of Directors.

Mr. White recommended changing the limit of the portfolio book value of bonds of foreign issuers from three percent to ten percent or less as provided by statute. A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by George Sprock to accept Mr. White's recommendation. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA

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

A motion was made by Fr. Thomas Nasta and seconded by George Sprock to accept the agenda and allow the President to change the order of the agenda.

Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Estates

The President presented an update on the progress of the Leasing Agreement of the Printery building in Middletown, PA. He stated that we solicited bids with a local landscaping company to do the landscaping work around the building. He also stated that he is soliciting bids to do the repairs and fix-up to make the building more presentable which will help to attract a potential lessee.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2009

Executive Secretary's Report

Kenneth A. Arendt presented the Financial Report for the first quarter of 2009 and answered the Board Members' questions. He stated that his report would be published in our Jednota newspaper.

Key Bank Investments

The Executive Secretary updated the Board of Directors on the Society's investments with Key Bank. He stated that our rate of return exceeded our expectations. The Executive Secretary also

reported on the activity we have with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati and answered the Board's questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

The Vice President reviewed the Production Report by Districts for the first quarter of 2009 and the production to the date and answered the Board's questions.

Seminars

The Vice President reported on seminars we had so far this year and stated that he is still planning to set dates for more seminars thru the end of 2009.

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

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

New Annuity Products

The Vice President reported that we will offer two new Annuity products, one of which will be offered as of August 1, 2009 and the other will be in effect as of October 1, 2009. He stated that a notice will be sent to our Branch officers thru our Branch mailing and to Recommenders. It will also be advertised on our website and ads will be placed in our Jednota newspaper.

The Vice President further updated the Board of Directors on the upcoming Membership Meet which will take place from November 14 – 21, 2009.

He stated that a notice will be sent to all recommenders, advertised in the Jednota newspaper and on our website.

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL

General Counsel Gary Matta updated the Board of Directors on the Leasing Agreement between Jednota Properties, Inc. and ACS State and Local Solutions, Inc. He will update the Board once more information becomes available.

DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

Susan Ondrejco updated the Board of Directors on the Bowling Tournament which was held at Brunswick Lanes, Belle Vernon, PA on April 24-26, 2009. She stated that there 180 bowlers and that 50 attended the banquet. The Fraternal Director also updated the Board on upcoming joint Golf tournament with the Slovak Catholic Sokol to be held on August 14 – 16, 2009 at the Clarion Oaks Golf Course, Clarion, PA. She stated that we will be using the same golf packages as the Slovak Catholic Sokol used in the past. She also stated that she will send a notice to all golfers from our previous tournaments and she will put an ad on our website and advertise in the Jednota newspaper.

CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS REPORT

Chairman of Auditors, Karen Hunka, presented her report and answered the Board's questions. The Chairman stated that the Internal Auditors conducted a thorough audit of the first quarter of 2009 and found that everything was in order.

SUBSIDIARIES REPORT

Regis Brekosky, President of Jednota Properties, Inc., presented his report and answered questions. He updated the Board on the ongoing negotiations on the renewal of a lease of one-half of Building # 2 with ACS. He will give a further update at the September 2009 Board of Directors Meeting.

George Matta, President of the Jednota, Inc., stated there will be a joint meeting of Jednota, Inc. and Jednota Properties, Inc. on July 18 or 25, 2009. He will update the Board of Directors on their joint meeting.

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

2010 CONVENTION

The President stated that he sent a letter on May 29, 2009 to the Board of Directors with the recommendation of the Executive Committee to hold the 49th Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU at the Renaissance Hotel, 24 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio, 44113. He asked the Board to reply with their approval or disapproval by June 5, 2009. The President stated that he received no objections from the Board of Directors and that he will proceed with signing the contract with the Renaissance Hotel and beginning working on the Convention with the Executive Secretary.

MISCELLANEOUS

The President read a letter from the Soccer League of the Lower Swatara Township asking the FCSU for an extension till fall of 2010 for use of our property for soccer field in Middletown, PA. It was decided by the Executive Committee to grant an extension to the Soccer League till fall 2010.

The President stated that a letter with his and the Executive Secretary's recommendation was sent to all Regional Directors regarding potential Branch mergers. He asked for their review and input.

The President stated that we received a letter from Anthony Sutherland, Ph.D., Editor of the Jednota newspaper, about his retirement in October 2009. The President stated that we will be seeking applicants for the position of Editor. He stated that he will prepare an ad for the Jednota newspaper outlining the requirements and responsibilities for the position of Editor and requesting applications.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

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

ADJOURN

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Henry Hassay and

seconded by Damian Nasta to adjourn. Motion carried. Father Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2009 HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

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

ROLL CALL

Members Attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
George F. Matta, Treasurer – absent & excused
Rudolph Glogovsky, Regional Director, Region 7 – by invitation of the President

ACCEPTANCE OF THE JULY MEETING MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

The Treasurer sent a written monthly report which was reviewed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on our investments with Key Bank Corporation and reviewed the current transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati. The Executive Secretary then answered the questions of the Executive Committee.

AQS ASSET MANAGEMENT, LLC. REPORT

Larry White from AQS joined the Executive Committee meeting via telephone and presented the Investment Portfolio Briefing for the month thru WebEx.

His agenda included:

- Portfolio metrics and distribution
- Cash on hand and projections
- Transactions
 - o Called/Matured
 - o Buys
 - o Sells
- Credit Actions
- Projected Portfolio Cash Flows
- Portfolio Reinvestment vs. Projected Annual Yield
- Market Data
- Fed Fund Futures
- Market Levels
 - Reinvestment Strategy Analysis
 - Whole Life Analysis
 - CIT Exposure
 - Commentary.

When Mr. White completed his presentation, he answered the questions of the Executive Committee.

ANNUITIES

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the Park Free Plus Annuity which became effective as of August 1, 2009 and on the Eight Year Flexible Premium Annuity which will be in effect as of October 1, 2009. The Executive Secretary further stated that a detailed description of both annuities will be sent to the Board of Directors, to Branch officers thru branch mailings, placed on our website, and published in the Jednota newspaper.

PORTFOLIO CUSTODIAN

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

COMBINED FRATERNAL ACTIVITY WITH SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL

The President updated the Executive Committee on the progress of the joint Golf tournament with the Slovak Catholic Sokol which will take place August 14 – 16, 2009 at the Clarion Oaks Golf Course, Clarion, PA. He stated that we are also planning to have a joint Bowling tournament in 2010. Our Fraternal Activities Director is working on the many issues. The President will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

2010 CONVENTION

The President stated that all the contracts have been signed with the Renaissance Hotel, 24 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio, 44113 where the 49th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held from Saturday, August 14, 2010 – Wednesday, August 18, 2010.

He stated that he and Ken Arendt are in process of preparing for the Convention. The President further stated that he contacted Tom Ivanec, honorary director of the Lucina folk ensemble in Cleveland to coordinate the Slovak dance groups for the 2010 Convention. The president will update the Executive Committee regarding the Convention as soon as more information becomes available. The

theme of the Convention will be "Return to our Roots".

SALES AND MARKETING

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

The commission on the Twenty Year Renewable Term Policy will be paid same as on the Ten Year Renewable Term Policy.

The Vice President led a discussion regarding Recommender and agent commission. The following commission will be paid to both Recommenders and agents on all term policies sold:

1 st year of the policy	- 60%
2 nd year	- 5%
3 rd year	- 5%

The Vice President led a discussion regarding Single Premium JEP Policies not being eligible for the FCSU Scholarship program. Currently the members who take out the single premium JEP policy are not eligible to apply for an FCSU Scholarship. The Vice President stated that he will review the policy and report to the Executive Committee.

The Vice President updated the Executive Committee on the 2009 Membership Meet.

The Vice President also updated the Executive Committee on the dates of the upcoming sale seminars. He stated that he will develop a presidential sales campaign that will start on August 1, 2009 and continue until end of July 2010. The Vice President also stated that he will start advertising the campaign in the Jednota newspaper and information will be mailed to Branches thru monthly Branch mailings. The Vice President will update the Executive Committee on the upcoming marketing events.

JEDNOTA, INC. & JEDNOTA PROPERTIES, INC.

George Matta, President of Jednota, Inc., updated the Executive Committee on its joint meeting with Jednota Properties, Inc., which took place on July 25, 2009 in Pittsburgh at the direction of the President of the FCSU. George Matta stated that there was a discussion on paying a dividend or paying down the mortgage. The Executive Committee will be informed as soon as a decision is made.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

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

Disbursements for the month of July 2009	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$93,434.24
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$62,767.81
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ - 0 -
Trust Fund	\$ - 0 -

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

MISCELLANEOUS

The President read a letter from the Soccer League of Lower Swatara Township asking the FCSU for an extension until the fall of 2010 for the usage of part of our property in Middletown, PA as soccer fields. The Executive Committee decided to grant an extension to the Soccer League until fall 2010.

Regional Director Rudolph Glogovsky presented his idea on a marketing seminar for a Homeowner Association in his area and will discuss the available dates with Vice President Andrew Harcar.

The President and Ken Arendt led a discussion regarding the September Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting, which will be held in Pittsburgh on Friday, September 11, 2009 and Saturday, September 12, 2009.

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

Stefan Banic Memorial and Skydiving Competition

By John Karch

The Chairman of the Stefan Banic Parachute Foundation is grateful that on July 25 SKYDIVE DALLAS once again hosted the Stefan Banic Skydiving Competition. Not only he but the Board of Directors, including this writer, its Secretary, are thankful to Dr. Lee and Carol Schlichtemeier, the owners and Board members from the beginning, for their generosity.

As usual for the Stefan Banic events, the competitors came from across the nation to Dallas to honor the contribution of Stefan Banic (1870-1941), the Slovak American inventor, whose 1914 first official U.S. patent was donated to the then U.S. Army Air Corps. According to the Commemorative Booklet of the BANIC DIAMOND JUBILEE, "America Owes Stefan Banic a Debt of Gratitude."

This year's competition was sanctioned as open class—a 4-way star and no contact on exit. The jump was from 13,500 feet and each team made four different formations in free fall. Also, each team had to complete three jumps. Easily said! Nine teams were fighting for the beautiful Stefan Banic trophy. Prizes were awarded to teams finishing first, second and third.

Observing all this excitement were many non-jumping supporters. After the competition there was a Casino Night and the celebration of Stefan Banic. Under plans is a Stefan Banic Memorial for 2010 that will be held, again, at SKYDIVE DALLAS in August. American Slovaks and non-Slovaks are welcome to attend.

Earlier, on July 13th, at the U.S. Parachute Association (USPA) Board of Directors meeting in Dallas, President Jay Stokes was honored with the Stefan Banic Gold Medal.

The September issue of PARACHUTIST reported that "The Stefan Banic Foundation was established to recognize those who 'have made significant contributions and/or achievements towards the betterment of the sport of skydiving.' Stokes was honored with the Gold Medal in recognition of the wide range of contributions he's made to the world of parachuting during his 35 years in the sport.

Stokes made his first jump in 1974 and has been active as both a military and civilian skydiver and instructor. Stokes has also set several Guinness World Records for most jumps in



Photo by Mike Turoff.

USPA President Jay Stokes receives the Stefan Banic Gold Medal from award founder Slavo Mulik @ and Carol Schlichtemeier.

a day, in order to raise awareness and funds for causes such as the Special Olympics and Special Operations Warrior Foundation. Presenting the Award was the founder and chairman of the Banic Foundation, Slavo Mulik, and Carol Schlichtemeier."



My Point of View

The 1944 uprising

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum

On 29 August, Slovakia celebrated one of five official state holidays. It refers to the anniversary of the start of the 1944 uprising, officially designated as the "Slovak National Uprising." There are many Slovaks, at home and abroad, who are very uncomfortable with the fact this date was legislated as a holiday. It was passed by the Slovak National Council (SNC) on 29 September 1992 and signed by then Prime Minister Vladimír Mečiar and the President of the SNC, Ivan Gašparovič. The text of the law reads (in translation): "Aware of the meaning of the Slovak National Uprising in which the Slovak nation on 29 August took up arms against a totalitarian regime, oppression, racism, fascism, the suppression of human and civic rights, and, ignoring the sacrifices, expressed its desire to live in freedom, and identifying with the message of the entire antifascist opposition, the Slovak National Council has voted the following law." This laconic text picks up language used by the previous Communist regime, but, in its brevity, also eschews any true understanding of what actually happened in the late summer and fall of 1944 in Slovakia.

For those interested in this event and who read Slovak there is an "embarras de richesses," that is to say there is a number of publications on the uprising that far outweighs in pages and words anything else published on Slovak history. And even if the previous Communist regime at first trivialized and then glorified this event, it nevertheless promoted a historiography that is fascinating only because of the twists and turns that its historians had to take to fit the party line. It may be voluminous as a result, but this historiography is anything but objective scholarship. Non-Communist publications that offer another perspective on the uprising in the Slovak language are few and far between; in fact, none could be published in Slovakia during the Communist period. In Western publications, the situation is even more dire. It is these circumstances, which heavily favoured a Communist perspective on the uprising that allowed, and possibly encouraged, Slovak political leaders to pass this law in 1992.

It is not my purpose in these pages to write my opinion or evaluation of this event. Interested parties are invited to read the chapter devoted to it in my history of Slovakia. Others may wish to consult the recent article published in Slovak by Svätoslav Mathé, "Reality, mýty a legendy o SNP (K 65. výročiu významnej dejinnej udalosti)" in *Slovenské národné noviny*, nos. 28/2009 and 29-30/2009, of 21 and 28 July 2009. The author discusses many questions around the meaning and importance of the uprising in a very interesting and superbly adroit way.

I wish, nevertheless, to ask the question whether this event ought to be celebrated as an official state holiday. I do so from the perspective of querying what events deserve to be celebrated officially by a country. The answer depends on so many factors that it is a challenge to determine worth and importance. Certainly the "birth" of a country is universally acknowledged as a significant event worth celebrating, for example 1 July in Canada, 4 July in the USA, and 1 January in Slovakia, currently

defined as the "Day of the creation of the Slovak Republic - *Deň vzniku Slovenskej republiky*." In many countries, dates connected with major events, like Bastille Day on 14 July in France or Memorial Day in the USA on the last Monday in May, are also celebrated. As far as Slovakia is concerned, it has three other state holidays, one to honour SS Cyril and Methodius on 5 July, one the Constitution of the Slovak Republic on 1 September, and one the Struggle for freedom and democracy on 17 November. It is interesting to note that there are, in addition, 10 days that are declared "days of work rest - *dni pracovného pokoja*," which are also state holidays. All but two are religious holy days and include Our Lady of Sorrows (15 September) in addition to those linked to Easter and Christmas. They underline the importance of Christianity, especially Catholicism, in Slovakia. Finally, Slovakia has 17 "days of remembrance - *pamätné dni*" that are not state holidays, but which commemorate, among others, the struggle for human rights (25 March), the remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust and racial oppression (9 September), the tragedy of „ernova (27 October), and the birth of Ľudovít Štúr (29 October). It is interesting to note that a day had been set aside for Milan Rastislav Štefánik (4 May) but was withdrawn in November 1996. Clearly, in 2009, Slovak citizens are offered a series of days, which may or may not be statutory holidays, which may or may not have official celebrations, on which to remember their history, specific events, and personalities that are deemed to have been important in that history. When taken together, such days make up a portrait of the values of that country at a given point in time.

To the current political elite in Slovakia and probably to a good number of Slovak citizens, the 1944 uprising deserves its day. I have written in these pages that 14 March also deserves to be recognized officially. As it turns out, these are two events that have yet to be studied and presented objectively, especially in Slovakia. This should be a priority. When that comes to pass, there may be another perspective that will help determine whether each should or should not be officially recognized as a state holiday. Until then, having a day off from work at the end of August, immediately followed by another one on 1 September, makes for a rather civilized way to celebrate, over those few days, the end of summer. I think we can all agree that this is certainly worth doing.

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

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 3- MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 3, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 11, 2009, at 11:30 a.m. in Father Dargay Memorial Hall at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. On the agenda will be officers' reports, a discussion of activities for 2010, the election of delegates to the National Convention, and the election of branch officers. Lunch will be served after the meeting.

Joseph Matlon, President

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 96- CARROLLTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 96, will hold its next regular meeting on Sunday, October 4, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Stella Papson, 138 Sunset Road, Carrolltown, Pennsylvania.

Stella Papson, President

BRANCH 153- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 153, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 7, 2009, at 12:00 noon at the home of the president, John Jurcenko. On the agenda will be officers' reports, the election of officers and a discussion of charitable donations. We will also elect delegates to the 49th FCSU International Convention to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, August 14-18, 2010.

All members are invited to attend our annual meeting. There will be a fraternal luncheon after the meeting.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 166- BINGHAMTON, CAPITAL AREA, PEEKSKILL, POUGHKEEPSIE AND SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, October 25, 2009, at 1:15 p.m. at the Old Country Buffet, at the Town Square Mall, Vestal, New York. The agenda will consist of Branch business and a discussion of new products and the Convention to be held in August 2010. Members are encouraged to attend. Please call Sue Gabriel at 607/729-8034 or Arlo Meeker at 607/775-4896 by October 20, 2009.

We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 290- RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 290, will hold a meeting on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. Please try to attend. Call Joe after 6:00 p.m. at 732/469-5256 for the location of the meeting.

Joseph F. Minarovich, Regional Director

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 367- FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA-

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 367, will hold a meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. at Bogeys Restaurant and Sports Bar, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. All members are encouraged to attend.

Jane Kish, Secretary

BRANCH 401- EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 401, will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 11, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. at King's Restaurant, Hyde Park Road, Leechburg, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be a discussion of the next convention in 2010, any new resolutions, convention delegates and new branch officers. All members are invited to attend.

Rose Froncek, Secretary

BRANCH 450- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold a meeting on Saturday, October 10, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jozef Valencik, 13501 Park Drive, Brook Park, Ohio.

Margaret Valencik, 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. All members are encouraged to attend.

Andrew J. Hirt, President

BRANCH 706- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 706, will hold its Fall Meeting on Friday, October 16, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. at the home of the president, Shirley M. Uram, 13861 South 86th Avenue, Orland Park, Illinois. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2010 and a discussion on membership as well as activities for the coming year. All members are invited to attend. If you plan to attend, please call Mrs. Uram at 708/349-9049.

Shirley M. Uram, President

BRANCH 716- NEW YORK CITY

The St. Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 8, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, election of officers for 2010, election of delegates for 49th Convention in Cleveland, and a discussion of plans for the coming year. All members are urged to attend. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Henrieta H. Daitova, 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 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, October 4, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. in the upstairs meeting room of Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, Linden, New Jersey. On the agenda will be the completion of the plans for the November Dinner Dance and a discussion of the Christmas party and other events for next year. Refreshments will be served.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 746- LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will host its annual Jednota Dinner Dance on Saturday, November 21, 2009, at Msgr. Komar Hall at Holy Family Church in Linden, New Jersey. Dinner will be served from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Music will be provided by the popular band Kontakty. There will be a cash bar. Tickets are \$25.00 per person. For tickets and additional information, please call Mary Karch at 732/572-2331.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 764- WARREN, OHIO

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 764, will sponsor a Continental Breakfast on Sunday, October 11, 2009, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Social Hall, Warren, Ohio. A branch meeting will be held after the breakfast. All members are welcome and urged to attend.

Joanne Odom, Secretary

BRANCH 796- EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 8, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in Holy Trinity Church Hall, Main Street, Egypt, Pennsylvania. A social with Slovak food will be held after the meeting. All members are cordially invited to attend and have a good time. The election of officers, promoting of new members and the selecting of delegates will be on the agenda. God bless all.

Jerry Lloyd, Recording Secretary

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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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.

Divadlo Aréna ponúkne priame prenosy z Metropolitnej opery v New Yorku

Bratislava (TASR) - Ako prvá a zatiaľ jediná inštitúcia na Slovensku začne v novej divadelnej sezóne 2009/2010 prinášať operné predstavenia z Metropolitnej opery v New Yorku formou priamych prenosov Divadlo Aréna. Na tlačovej konferencii 17. septembra o tom informoval riaditeľ Divadla Aréna Juraj Kukura. "Prvým priamym prenosom bude 10. októbra Pucciniho opera Tosca," dodal. Počas sezóny uvedie divadlo deväť priamych prenosov. Ako jediný slovenský interpret v priamych prenosoch z Metropolitnej opery sa v Aïde predstaví sólista Štefan Kocán.

Licencor pre strednú a východnú Európu Martin Cikánek v súvislosti s priamymi prenosmi vysvetlil, že v New Yorku ide o predstavenia, ktoré sa v Metropolitnej opere začínajú o 13. h, vďaka časovému posunu sa teda na Slovensku môžu predstavenia v priamom prenose konať o siedmej večer. Prenosy Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD kombinujú operné umenie s najmodernejšími technológiami. Oko kamery sa počas predstavenia dostane oveľa bližšie k daniu na javisku ako oko diváka. "Funguje to vďaka tomu, že kamery sa viac zameriavajú na detail, obraz je kvalitný, vo vysokom rozlíšení," vysvetlil Cikánek. Predstavenia sú v pôvodnom jazyku, v Divadle Aréna budú k dispozícii titulky s českým prekladom.

Projekt priamych prenosov z Metropolitnej opery sa začal v decembri 2006 v 60 sálach na severoamerickom kontinente. O tri roky neskôr sa vysielali už v 850 sálach v 30 krajinách.



Zrýchlenie reforiem posilní ekonomiku EÚ po kríze

Paríž (TASR) - Európa promptne zareagovala na najhoršiu recesiu v povojnovej histórii, ale teraz stojí pred ňou ďalšia vážna úloha: dohodnúť sa na ukončení záchranných balíčkov a naštartovať reformy. Uviedla to 21. septembra vo svojej štúdií Organizácia pre hospodársku spoluprácu a rozvoj (OECD). Podľa OECD sa už objavili signály, že niektoré štáty sa dostanú z recesie skôr, ako sa očakávalo. Teraz je potrebné dať pozor na to, aby mimoriadne záchranné balíčky neohrozili jednotný trh, preto ich vlády musia skončiť hneď ako sa ukáže, že oživovanie ich ekonomiky je trvalé.

OECD odhaduje, že objem výroby v 27 členských krajinách Európskej únie klesne tento rok o 4 %. Finančná kríza a najhoršia globálna recesia za 50 rokov uštedrili vážnu ranu európskej ekonomike. Balíčky stimulov však už pomohli stabilizovať finančné trhy na starom kontinente a hospodárstvo ako celok. Jednotlivé vlády poskytli európskej ekonomike spolu 200 miliárd eur (6.025 bilióna Sk) na boj s krízou, a to buď vo forme daňových úľav, finančných bonusov či štátnych garancií. OECD však pripomína, že šlo o politické opatrenia na podporu ekonomiky v čase krízy. Teraz však EÚ musí byť pripravená ukončiť niektoré formy pomoci v opodstatnených prípadoch, keď sa ukáže, že dané odvetvia sa už určite zotavujú z krízy. OECD však nešpecifikovala o aké kroky by malo ísť. Odporučila len úni, aby pokračovala v budovaní jednotného trhu, liberalizácii trhu s energiami, posilnila svoje výskumné a inovačné kapacity a podporila väčšiu konkurenciu vo finančnom ako aj v poštovom a telekomunikačnom sektore. Informovali o tom agentúry Reuters a AP.



Splnomocnenec pre euro končí, jeho zavedenie považuje za úspech SR

Bratislava (TASR) - Post splnomocnenca vlády pre zavedenie eura v SR, ktorý od februára 2007 zastával Igor Barát, na konci septembra zanikne. Vlastnú prácu vo funkcii splnomocnenca Barát hodnotí nechce, samotný proces zavedenia spoločnej európskej meny na Slovensku však považuje za úspešný a bezproblémový. "Čo sa týka procesu, ktorý som koordinoval, ten hodnotím ako skutočne veľmi dobre zvládnutý, hladký, bezproblémový, ktorý nikomu nespôsobil žiadne problémy. Slovensko bolo aj európskymi inštitúciami hodnotené ako naozaj učebnicový príklad dobrého zvládnutia procesu prechodu na novú menu," zhodnotil Barát. Jeho vlastnú prácu by už mali podľa neho hodnotiť občania a jeho nadriadení, premiér či minister financií.

V súvislosti so vstupom do eurozóny, ktorej 16. a na dlhší čas zrejme aj posledným členom sa stalo Slovensko 1. januára tohto roka, vyzdvihol Barát predovšetkým dve veci. Tou prvou je skutočnosť, že sa potvrdilo opakované uisťovanie verejnosti, že zavedenie eura neznamená automatické nárast cien. "Druhá vec je osobnejšia - že som mohol byť pri takomto historickom procese, ktorý sa týkal celej krajiny, každého jedného občana, ktorý z hľadiska svojho rozsahu a dosahu asi nemal v histórii Slovenska obdobu a že som mal to šťastie tento proces koordinovať," priblížil.

Poplatky pre vstup do USA sú zavádzaním skrytých víz

Bratislava (TASR) - Schválenie desaťdolarových poplatkov pre návštevníkov Spojených štátov, spadajúcich pod bezvízový program, označila slovenská diplomacia za nešťastný krok a zavádzanie "skrytých víz". Slovenské ministerstvo zahraničných vecí tak reagovalo na krok amerického Senátu, ktorý v stredu odsúhlasil spoplatnenie online cestovnej registrácie ESTA, potrebnej pred vstupom do USA. V prípade schválenia predmetného zákona v Snemovni reprezentantov a podpísania prezidentom, sa cestovné poplatky budú vzťahovať aj na slovenských občanov. Výnos z platieb je určený na podporu cestovného ruchu v USA. Slovenská diplomacia pritom pripomína možnosť zavedenia podobných krokov voči americkým občanom zo strany Európskej únie.

"Členské štáty EÚ teraz zvažujú celý rad možných protiopatrení, v tejto fáze budú problém otvárať na všetkých fórach s americkými partnermi a v prípade, že USA budú na spoplatnení vstupu do krajiny trvať, nevylučujeme rovnaký prístup zo strany EÚ voči americkým občanom cestujúcim do členských krajín únie," uviedol Stano.

Občania z väčšiny európskych krajín vrátane Slovenska môžu do USA cestovať bez víz. Spojené štáty však od nich vyžadujú, aby sa online registrovali najmenej 72 hodín pred cestou a cestovné povolenie v systéme ESTA si obnovili každé dva roky. Nový zákon by od nich vyžadoval zaplatenie poplatku pri takejto registrácii.

Udeľovanie pobytu cudzincom sa má od nového roka zmeniť

Bratislava (TASR) - Udeľovanie pobytov cudzincom zrejme čakajú od 1. januára 2010 viaceré zmeny. Počíta s tým návrh novely zákona o pobyte cudzincov z dielne ministerstva vnútra, ktorým sa bude v utorok 22. septembra zaoberať Legislatívna rada vlády. Ak právna norma prejde v navrhovanej podobe vládou aj Národnou radou SR, určité kategórie cudzincov nebudú musieť mať prechodný pobyt na účel zamestnania do 90 dní od vstupu na územie SR. Títo cudzinci budú môcť začať pracovať hneď po vstupe na Slovensko, ak budú mať vydané príslušné pracovné povolenia. Pôjde o osoby vyslané na Slovensko svojím zamestnávateľom na krátky čas, resp. pracovníkov strategických investorov. Doterajšia právna úprava totiž podľa rezortu spôsobuje problémy pri zabezpečovaní plynulosti výroby v strategických prevádzkach.

Študenti prijatí na štúdium na dobu dlhšiu ako 90 dní budú môcť začať študovať ihneď po legálnom vstupe na územie SR. V súčasnosti musia čakať na udelenie povolenia na pobyt. Zároveň o prechodný pobyt v SR už budú môcť žiadať všetci študenti prijatí na štúdium na slovenskej škole. Túto možnosť majú zatiaľ len študenti v rámci programov vlády SR alebo Európskeho hospodárskeho priestoru. Zamestnávateľom má pribudnúť povinnosť oznamovať policajnému útvaru skončenie pracovnoprávneho vzťahu s cudzincom, a to do troch pracovných dní. "V praxi sú totiž prípady, keď cudzinec neoznámí, že sa mu končil pracovnoprávny vzťah, a tým aj účel pobytu - a to je dôvod na zrušenie povolenia na pobyt," argumentuje MV.

Kvôli kontrole osôb priletajúcich alebo odlietajúcich mimo schengenský priestor majú pribudnúť povinnosti pre prevádzkovateľov letísk, čo je v súlade s Kódexom schengenských hraníc. Tieto pravidlá doteraz neboli v zákone explicitne upravené. Pri prekročení vonkajších hraníc sa všetky osoby musia podrobiť minimálnej kontrole na zistenie totožnosti, príslušníci tretích krajín dôkladnej kontrole. Prevádzkovatelia letísk budú povinní oznámiť policii prilet aj odlet lietadla z tretej krajiny. Ak na letisku nie je zriadený policajný útvar, bude potrebné ohlásiť to 24 hodín pred priletom alebo odletom. Odlet lietadla do tretej krajiny bez hraničnej kontroly posádky a pasažierov nebude možné povoliť.

Od budúceho roka sa tiež počíta s predĺžením doby udeleného tolerovaného pobytu obetiam obchodu s ľuďmi zo súčasných 40 na 90 dní. Zmena nadväzuje na Národný program boja proti obchodovaniu s ľuďmi na roky 2008-2010. Dôvodom na vyhostenie bude pritom aj predloženie cudzích, falošných alebo pozmenených dokladov pri kontrole cudzinca. Tým, ktorí predložia takýto doklad pri hraničnej kontrole, teda ešte pred vstupom na územie SR, má byť uložený zákaz vstupu na územie SR až na päť rokov. Návrh novely tiež zavádza možnosť zrušiť zákaz vstupu administratívne vyhostenému cudzincovi v prípade ak preukáže, že opustil územie SR v lehote určenej policajným útvarom. Informovala o tom Natália Hattalová z Komunikačného odboru Ministerstva vnútra SR.

Parlamentné voľby na Slovensku by vyhral Smer-SD

Bratislava (TASR) - Najsilnejšou politickou stranou na Slovensku ostáva aj naďalej Smer-SD, ktorému by v parlamentných voľbách odovzdalo svoj hlas 45.1 percenta voličov. Druhé miesto by obsadila SDKÚ-DS, ktorá by získala 16-percentnú podporu. Brány parlamentu by prekročila aj SNS, podporu jej deklarovalo 10.6 percenta občanov. Vyplyva to z prieskumu volebných preferencií, ktorý realizovala Agentúra MEDIAN SK od 3. augusta do 30. augusta.

Pre KDH by sa rozhodlo 9.5 percenta opýtaných. Nasleduje ĽS-HZDS so 7.2-percentnou podporou voličov. Pelotón parlamentných strán uzatvára SMK, vo voľbách by ju podporilo 6.6 percenta občanov. Ak by sa výsledky prieskumu potvrdili aj v skutočných voľbách, nárok na príspevok na činnosť zo štátneho rozpočtu by mala strana Most-Híd, ktorej by svoj hlas odovzdali tri percentá voličov. Podpora žiadnej ďalšej strany ani hnutia by nepresiahla jedno percento.

Na voľbách do Národnej rady SR by sa nezúčastnilo 31.2 percenta opýtaných, 9.3 percenta sa vyjadrilo, že sa skôr nezúčastní a 4.1 percenta sa ešte nerozhodlo, či pôjde voliť. K volebným urnám by určite pristúpilo 28 percent respondentov a ďalších 27.3 percenta občanov by sa na voľbách skôr zúčastnilo. Terénny zber dát prebiehal náhodným kvótnym výberom. Respondenti tvoria reprezentatívnu vzorku populácie SR podľa údajov Štatistického úradu SR. Na prieskume sa zúčastnilo 1,155 respondentov vo veku 18 až 79 rokov. Do výsledkov sú zahrnutí oprávnení voliči, ktorí nevylúčili svoju účasť na voľbách a vedia, koho budú voliť.



Slovenskí stredoškooláci vo svete zabojovali, doniesli 43 medailí

Bratislava (TASR) - O šikovnosti slovenských stredoškoolákov svedčia tri zlaté, 14 strieborných a 26 bronzových medailí z medzinárodných predmetových olympiád a súťaží získaných tento rok. Zlato z fyziky vybojoval až dvakrát gymnazista Eugen Hruška z Hlohovca na olympiádach usporiadaných v Mexiku a Južnej Kórei. Okrem toho si priniesol striebro z Rakúska a dve bronzové medaily zo Španielska a z Číny. Z najcennejšieho kovu sa tento rok tešila aj Mária Stratilová z košického Gymnázia na Poštovej. Tá zabojovala na Medzinárodnej olympiáde environmentálnych projektov v tureckom Istanbule.

"Najúspešnejšie si počínali slovenskí zástupcovia na Medzinárodnej olympiáde mladých vedcov v Južnej Kórei (december 2008), kde v konkurencii 253 súťažiacich z 53 krajín získali jednu zlatú, dve strieborné a tri bronzové medaily," konštatuje ministerstvo školstva. Tromfy v podobe medailí dosiahli mladí slovenskí vedci aj Azerbajdžane, Rumunsku, Bulharsku, Nemecku, Anglicku či v Japonsku.

Sopranistka Mária Porubčinová zvíťazila v medzinárodnej súťaži

Drážďany (TASR) - Slovenská sopranistka Mária Porubčinová (30) zvíťazila v medzinárodnej speváckej súťaži Competizione dell'Opera 2009, ktorej dejiskom bola v nedeľu 6. septembra slávna Semperova opera v Drážďanoch. Za prvé miesto získala aj finančnú odmenu 10,000 eur, informovala o tom agentúra DPA s odvolaním sa na organizátorov podujatia. Ako vyplýva z údajov na webovej stránke podujatia, Mária Porubčinová si navyše odnáša z dejiska súťaže i cenu divákov, ktorú venuje Nadácia Waltera a Charlotte Hannelovcov.

Do súťaže sa prihlásilo okolo 600 mladých umelcov z celej planéty. Vysoká interpretačná úroveň primála porotu, aby finále rozšírila z obvyklých 10 na 12 účastníkov. V ňom mala Kórejská republika päťnásobné a Ruská federácia štvornásobné zastúpenie. Popri ocenennej Slovenke patrili zvyšné miesta medzi finalistami sólistom z Čile a Uruguaja. Za absolventkou štúdia spevu na VŠMU v Bratislave u prof. Zlatice Livorovej sa umiestnila čílska sopranistka Paulína Gonzales Melgarejo (26) na druhom a juhokórejská sopranistka Youn Jeong Lee (29) na treťom mieste. Osobitá cena Nadácie Oscara a Very Ritterovcov patrí ruskej sopranistke Jevgeniji Sotnikovovej (25). Všetky laureátky sa navyše môžu tešiť na šance na angažmány na popredných operných scénach.

Mária Porubčinová, ktorá má za sebou aj majstrovské kurzy u takých osobností opernej scény, ako napríklad Magdaléna Hajossová, či Peter Dvorský, získala v minulosti na Medzinárodnej speváckej súťaži Mikuláša Schneidera-Trnavského cenu za najlepšiu interpretáciu diel slovenského autora, prebojovala sa však aj do semifinále súťaží vo Viedni alebo v Padove. V roku 2005 debutovala v Janáčkovej opere v Brne ako Rusalka v rovnomennej opere Antonína Dvořáka. V sezóne 2007-2008 stvárnila v Štátnej opere v Banskej Bystrici postavu Múdrej ženy Carla Orffia a Pucciniho Sestru Angeliku, s ktorou sa predstavila aj na doskách Slovenského národného divadla. V Opere SND následne naštudovala postavu Katreny v Jakubiskovej inscenácii Suchoňovej Krútnavy. Ako koncertná umelkyňa sa predstavila v Českej republike, Poľsku, Rakúsku, ale aj v Taliansku, či USA.

Slabý dolár pomáha slovenskému zahraničnému obchodu

Bratislava (TASR) - Vývoj kurzu dolára oproti euru je v ostatných dňoch v znamení výrazného posilnenia euromeny až na hranicu 1.46 USD/EUR. Slabý dolár ovplyvňuje aj finančné toky v slovenskej ekonomike. "Praktický význam to má predovšetkým v oblasti obchodovania s ropou a plynom, pretože tam platíme dolármi. Mohli by byť pre nás lacnejšie," konštatoval ekonóm Pavol Kárász.

Ďalšie oslabenie dolára by podľa Kárásza mohlo znamenať pokles cien výrobkov dovezených z dolárových oblastí, ako je USA či ázijské krajiny. "Môžu sa znížiť napríklad ceny niektorých automobilov či elektroniky," spresnil Kárász. Slabý dolár tak ovplyvňuje aj zahraničný obchod. Kým väčšina slovenského exportu smeruje do krajín eurozóny, suroviny, investičné celky i rôzne strojárské komponenty nakupujeme v dolároch. Lacnejšie dovozy podľa Kárásza prispievajú k tomu, že obchodná bilancia SR je zatiaľ v tomto roku v čiernych číslach. Podľa údajov Štatistického úradu SR za prvých sedem mesiacov tohto roka dosiahol zahraničný obchod prebytok v objeme 245.4 milióna eur (7.39 miliardy Sk).

Naopak, oslabený dolár zvýhodní len malú časť slovenských firiem, ktoré obchodujú v dolárovej oblasti, kde sa ich export stáva viac cenovo konkurencie schopný. Slabý dolár je však dobrou správou pre tých, ktorí si nechali dovolenku na záver letnej sezóny. "Kúpyschopnosť slovenských turistov sa poklesom kurzu dolára zvyšuje v ázijských krajinách alebo v oblasti Severnej Ameriky, kde sa z hľadiska zahraničných mien používa dolár," dodal na záver Kárász.



Prijatie rómskych stredoškôľakov na slovenskom veľvyslanectve vo Washingtone

V rámci vzdelávacieho programu „Projekt budúcich mladých lídrov“ pre talentovanú rómsku mládež sa dňa 9. septembra 2009 na pôde slovenského veľvyslanectva vo Washingtone uskutočnilo stretnutie so slovenskými účastníkmi programu. Tento projekt poskytol dvanásťčlennej skupine vybraných slovenských stredoškôľakov rómskeho pôvodu výnimočnú príležitosť spoznávať a rozvíjať svoje schopnosti budúcich lídrov.

Cieľom špecializovaného študijného pobytu organizovaného Inštitútom Orbis a americkou vzdelávacou organizáciou Critical Mass Leadership Education v Denveri bolo pomôcť týmto perspektívnym reprezentantom rómskej mládeže zo Slovenska, ale aj Maďarska a Českej republiky osvojiť si zručnosti potrebné na to, aby sa stali osobnosťami, dôstojnými advokátmi a hodnotnými členmi svojich komunít.

V obsažnej a zaujímavej diskusii za účasti veľvyslancu SR v USA Petra Buriana sa účastníci stretnutia dotkli širokého spektra otázok, vrátane postavenia rómskeho obyvateľstva na Slovensku a pohľadu rómskej mládeže na aktuálne problémy vo vzťahu s väčšinovým obyvateľstvom s dôrazom na riziká extrémizmu v spoločnosti. Stretnutie bolo obohatené ukázkami vlastnej písanej umeleckej tvorby niektorých účastníkov programu.

Tlačový a komunikačný odbor Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR



Slovenské knižnice navštevuje čoraz viac ľudí cez internet

Zvolen (TASR) - Celoslovenský seminár užívateľov knižnično-informačného systému (IS) Clavius, ktorý používa takmer 150 knižníc na Slovensku, sa nedávno konal v Krajskej knižnici Ľudovíta Štúra vo Zvolene. Informovala o tom pracovníčka knižnice Priska Joščáková. Z analýz vyplynulo, že o online knižnično-informačné služby je zo strany verejnosti veľký záujem. Spôsobil to aj rozvoj internetových pripojení v domácnostiach. Používateľ v domácom prostredí môže vstupovať cez internet do rôznych knižníc a vyhľadávať, rezervovať a predlžovať výpožičnú lehotu dokumentov bez toho, aby fyzicky knižnicu navštívil. Do knižničných systémov postupne pribúdajú aj ponuky služieb, ktoré neobsahujú len odborný popis knihy, ale diela, ktoré majú vyriešené autorské práva, si čitatelia môžu prečítať prostredníctvom internetu.

Najväčšou výhodou IS Clavius je preberanie kompatibilných spracovaných záznamov o dokumentoch aj z iných knižníc, čím sa ušetrí čas vynaložený na odborné spracovanie jednotlivých dokumentov. Systém v súlade požiadavky čitateľa vygeneruje aj knižné novinky, to znamená, že čitateľ zistí, čo knižnica do svojich fondov za ním vybrané obdobie zakúpila. V slovenských knižniciach sa v súčasnosti využíva niekoľko knihovníckych systémov, ktoré racionalizujú knižnično-informačné činnosti a umožňujú sprístupnenie ich informačného bohatstva na internete – online.

Čitatelia majú prostredníctvom nich možnosť vidieť cez internet, ktorá knižnica má aké dokumenty k dispozícii, môžu si pozrieť výpožičnú lehotu - dokedy majú dokumenty vypožičané a v prípade, že ich potrebujú dlhšie, môžu si ich výpožičku cez internet predĺžiť. V prípade, že je hľadaný dokument vypožičaný, môžu si ho rezervovať v zmysle svojich časových potrieb.

Cieľom dvojdnového seminára bolo okrem iného zintenzívniť využívanie spoločných dostupných systémov v plnom rozsahu a skvalitniť fungovanie systému v zmysle požiadaviek knižníc, ale najmä používateľov knižnično-informačných služieb.

Unikátny organ zrekonštruovali s finančnou podporou karpatských Nemcov

Tužina (TASR) - Celoobernou slávnosťou aj za účasti slovenského premiéra Roberta Fica v polovici septembra v Tužine v Prievidzskom okrese oslávili vysviacku zrekonštruovaného organu v kostole sv. Jakuba. Na rekonštrukciu unikátneho diela majstra Samuela Wagnera z roku 1855 prispel Karpatsko-nemecký spolok, Ministerstvo kultúry SR a tamjší farský úrad. "Reštauračné práce v hodnote 78,000 eur (2.35 milióna Sk) urobil Ján Valovič zo Serede pod odborným dohľadom Mariána Alojza Majera z VŠMU. Ide o najväčší Wagnerov organ a už bol na hranici použiteľnosti. Reštauračné práce trvali od roku 2007 a dnes ide o jeden z najväčších historických unikátov Hornej Nitry," povedal rímskokatolícky kňaz z Tužiny Štefan Machaj. Premiér Fico v krátkom príhovore ocenil spolunažívanie slovenskej majoroty s tamojšou nemeckou národnostnou menšinou, zdôraznil význam zachovania dedičstva našich predkov a vyslovil vďaka Karpatsko-nemeckému spolku za prínos pri záchrane kultúrnych pamiatok nielen v Tužine, ale na celom Slovensku.

"Obec Tužina založili v polovici minulého tisícročia nemeckí osadníci. Pred druhou svetovou vojnou mala viac ako 3,000 obyvateľov. Po vojne a po roku 1968 nastal masívny odlev nemeckého obyvateľstva a dnes máme asi 1,250 obyvateľov. Podstatné je, že s vystávanými nemeckými obyvateľmi a ich potomkami udržujeme už roky čulé priateľské styky a práve oni sa nemalou mierou pričínili o záchranu historických pamiatok v obci," povedal starosta Tužiny Ján Sloboda s tým, že v priebehu niekoľkých rokov prispeli karpatskí Nemci na rekonštrukciu Mariánskeho stĺpa, kostola sv. Jakuba a organu sumou takmer 600,000 eur (18 miliónov Sk).

Kukan a Šťastný sú v popredných funkciách medziparlamentných delegácií

Bratislava/Štrasburg (TASR) - Podpredseda SDKÚ-DS a poslanec Európskeho parlamentu Eduard Kukan bol 17. septembra v Štrasburgu zvolený za predsedu Delegácie pre vzťahy s Albánskom, Bosnou a Hercegovinou, Čiernou Horou, Srbskom, a Kosovom. Informovala o tom Tlačová služba SDKÚ-DS.

Medziparlamentná delegácia zodpovedá za vzťahy medzi Európskym parlamentom a menovanými krajinami. Delegácia sa podieľa na posudzovaní ich pripravenosti na prístupové rokovania s Európskou úniou a hrá dôležitú úlohu pri formovaní pozícií Európskeho parlamentu voči krajinám zastúpeným v delegácii. Eduard Kukan prevzal predsednícky post v delegácii po Doris Packovej, členke Európskeho parlamentu za CDU z Nemecka.

Tlačová služba SDKÚ-DS tiež informovala, že jej ďalší europoslanec Peter Šťastný bol v Štrasburgu zvolený za podpredsedu Spoločného parlamentného zhromaždenia AKT-EÚ: Afrika, Karibik, Tichomorje – Európska únia.

Spoločné parlamentné zhromaždenie AKT-EÚ je pôdou, na ktorej sa stretávajú zástupcovia Európskeho parlamentu s kolegami zo 78 krajín Afriky, Karibiku a Tichomorja. Zohráva dôležitú úlohu v podporovaní ľudských práv, demokracie a vlády zákona v krajinách, ktoré sú jeho členmi.

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Výročná členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v nedeľu dňa 8. novembra 2009, o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia sa uskutoční výročná členská schôdza v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City.

Program schôdze bude zameraný na prípravu plánu činnosti na budúce obdobie; voľbu úradníkov na rok 2009; voľbu delegátov na 49. Konvenciu IKSJ, ktorá sa uskutoční v Clevelande, Ohio ako aj podanie finančnej správy. Vyzývame všetkých členov aby sa tejto výročnej schôdze zúčastnili. Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie.

Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta Daitová, tajomníčka

Výročná členská schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasulu IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že výročná členská schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasulu, č. 16 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 15. novembra 2009 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City.

Prosíme predsedov všetkých spolkov, ktoré patria do nášho Okresu, aby láskavo poslali čo najviac delegátov. Upozorňujeme, že aj nedelegáti sú vítaní. Program schôdze bude zameraný na prípravu plánu činnosti na budúce obdobie, finančnú správu, voľbu úradníkov a taktiež voľby delegátov na 49. konvenciu IKSJ v Clevelande, Ohio. Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripravia členovia Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ.

Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta Daitová, tajomníčka

Plánované podujatia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v N.Y.C.

• Oberačková zábava v nedeľu dňa 25. októbra 2009 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia. Usporiadateľom je Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

• Výročná členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ v nedeľu dňa 8. novembra 2009 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia.

• Výročná členská schôdza Msgr. Krasulu č. 16 IKSJ v nedeľu dňa 15. novembra 2009 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia.

• Mikulášske odpoľudnie pre deti našich farníkov v nedeľu dňa 6. decembra 2009 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia. Usporiadateľom je Farská rada a Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ.

• Štedrovečerná večera – Vigília v nedeľu dňa 20. decembra 2009 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia. Usporiadateľom je Farská rada a Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ.



Oberačková zábava v New York City

Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty úctivo pozýva slovenskú verejnosť na Oberačkovú zábavu, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 25. októbra 2009 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia vo Veľkej sále Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East 66th Street v N.Y.C. Do tanca a na počúvanie budú hrať hudobná skupina Kontakty. Vstupné za osobu je \$25.00 v čom je započítaný aj obed. Lístky na zábavu si môžete objednať u nasledovných osôb: Jozef Bilik (718) 463-2084; Henrieta Daitová (201) 841-8922; Mária Božeková (347) 612-1934.



Turisti do USA budú zrejme platiť 10-dolárový poplatok

WASHINGTON (TASR) - Senát Spojených štátov schválil v stredu 9. septembra zavedenie 10-dolárových cestovných poplatkov pre zahraničných turistov. Výnos z poplatkov je určený na podporu cestovného ruchu v USA. Informovala o tom 10. septembra tlačová agentúra AP. Legislatívu senátori podporili v pomere 79:19, o podobnom návrhu má v budúcnosti hlasovať aj Snemovňa reprezentantov. V prípade konečného schválenia a podpísania zákona prezidentom sa poplatky budú vzťahovať aj na slovenských občanov, cestujúcich do USA.

Občania z väčšiny európskych krajín, vrátane Slovenska, môžu do USA cestovať bez víz. Spojené štáty však od nich vyžadujú, aby sa online registrovali najmenej 72 hodín pred cestou a cestovné povolenie si obnovili každé dva roky. Nový zákon by od nich vyžadoval zaplatenie poplatku pri takejto registrácii. Peniaze z poplatkov majú byť použité na kampaň propagujúcu cestovanie, vrátane informovania návštevníkov o vstupných procedúrach do USA. Opatrenie má podporu amerického turistického priemyslu. Za prijatie zákona o cestovnom ruchu vystupovali v Senáte zákonodarcovia zo štátov, ktoré závisia od turizmu, ako je Florida či Nevada. Hlavným stúpencom návrhu bol demokratický senátor Byron Dorgan z agrárneho štátu Severná Dakota.

Európska únia zavedenie poplatkov ostro kritizovala a pohrozila, že pri ich zavedení prijme protiopatrenia voči americkým turistom. "Zavedenie takehoto poplatku by mohlo znamenať krok späť v našom spoločnom úsilí o uľahčenie transatlantickej mobility," konštatoval hovorca komisára EÚ pre slobodu, spravodlivosť a bezpečnosť Michele Cercone. Avizoval pritom, že by si to vyžiadalo aj nové zhodnotenie Európskej komisie s cieľom zistiť, či sa tento poplatok spolu s online registráciou rovná vízam, alebo nie.

Manželia Maťašovci oslávili 61. výročie manželstva

Manželia Michael a Anna Maťaš, toho času žijúci na Slovensku, sa 1. júla 2009 dožili 61. výročia svojho manželstva. Obaja sú 40. ročnými členmi spolku č. 746 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty.



Anna a Michael Maťaš

Drahí naši jubilanti, rodičia, starí rodičia a prarodičia

V deň krásneho Vášho sviatku s láskou si na Vás spomína celá rodina.

*Tak, ako slnko každý deň vychádza, nech Vás šťastie, zdravie,
pokoj a Božie požehnanie po celý život sprevádza.*

Nech sa Vám dni šťastia množia, nech Vás chráni ruka Božia.

Dvíhame oči nad oblohu, vznášame vrúcne prosby k Bohu,

aby po ďalšie Vaše roky s istotou viedol Vaše kroky.

Nech Vás vždy jeho milosť chráni, nech splní každé z Vašich prianí.

Veľa Božej milosti Vám prajú

dcéry s rodinami

Manželia Birošovci aktívni i na Slovensku

Pokračovanie zo str. 23

Okrem besied sa členovia spolku v prvom rade starajú o dedičstvo po Jozefovi Murgašovi, zháňajú materiály, ktoré sa viažu k jeho osobe, životu a práci. „Organizujeme však aj kurz varenia slovenských jedál, na ktorom sa všetci veľmi radi zúčastňujeme, lebo čo si navaríme a upečieme, to si aj zjeme,“ smeje sa Anna Birošová. Doplní, že chodia pomáhať aj rehoľným sestrám do Danville, kde je veľká knižnica a kde sa zhromažďujú nielen knihy, ale aj krojované bábiky či veci z krištáľu, ktoré si potomkovia Slovákov žijúci v Amerike priniesli z návštev Slovenska. „Ak ich tretia-štvrtá generácia nepotrebuje alebo si ich nechce nechať, sme veľmi radi, keď veci pošlú do Danville. Neboli by sme totiž radi, keby sa tieto veci dostali do smetí. V Danville, ktorý je od Wilkes Barre vzdialený asi hodinu cesty autom, sa nachádza kláštor a krásna Bazilika svätých Cyrila a Metoda, ktorá tohto roku slávi sto rokov. V kláštore bolo kedysi 150 slovenských sestier, väčšinou učiteľky. Za čias Jozefa Murgaša učili v škole slovenské deti.“

Členovia spolku pripravujú každý rok aj slovenskú krížovú cestu. „Vždy je to v inom slovenskom kostole, tento rok to bolo práve v Kostole Božského Srdca Ježišovho. Na sviatok sv. Mikuláša, Veľkú noc a Vianoce sa oblečieme do krojov a spolu s rehoľnými sestrami v Danville si zaspievame napríklad koledy. Aj týmto spôsobom zachováme tradície. Náš spevácky zbor chodí spievať na svadby, krstiny, pohreby,“ vyratáva Anna Birošová.

Skanzen s baňou

Jozef Biroš upozorňuje, že neďaleko Wilkes Barre je i skanzen so zachovanou baňou. Pri prehliadkach možno vidieť, v akých ťažkých podmienkach tam ľudia pracovali. „Vedľa je rad drevených domov, kde si možno predstaviť, ako bývali a žili. Keď niektorý z baníkov zahynul pri banskom nešťastí, dali ho na voz, na ktorom ho dovezli manželke. Vdova aj s deťmi sa musela vo veľmi krátkom čase z domu vysťahovať. Preto sa ľudia združovali, aby si pomáhali, aby mohli zabezpečiť vdovu so srotami. Tak vznikla aj Slovenská katolícka jednota či rôzne poistenia. Majitelia baní si totiž väčšmi než baníkov vážili kone. Keď náhodou baník zomrel, mohli ho hneď nahradiť ďalším človekom, ktorý čakal na prácu.“

Krátké správy zo Slovenska

• **Bilaterálna** spolupráca a plán politických kontaktov vrátane návštevy ruského prezidenta Dmitrija Medvedeva v Bratislave boli v Moskve témou nedávnych rozhovorov ministra zahraničných vecí SR Miroslava Lajčáka s jeho ruským kolegom Sergejom Lavrovom. Hovorca slovenského rezortu diplomacie Peter Stano povedal, že návšteva ruského prezidenta je plánovaná na apríl 2010, pri príležitosti 65. výročia oslobodenia Bratislavy na sklonku druhej svetovej vojny.

• **Okresný** súd Bratislava 1 začal konkurzné konanie a vyhlásil konkurz na majetok leteckej spoločnosti SkyEurope Airlines, a.s. Informoval o tom hovorca Krajského súdu v Bratislave Pavol Adamčiak. Súd rozhodol o začatí konkurzu po tom, ako 4. septembra zastavil reštrukturalizačné konanie SkyEurope. Taktiež vyzval veriteľov, aby prihlásili svoje pohľadávky v lehote 45 dní od vyhlásenia konkurzu. Dôvodom rozhodnutia súdu je fakt, že finančná a obchodná situácia dlžníka sa zmenila tak, že nemožno odôvodnene predpokladať úspešné skončenie reštrukturalizácie. Nízkonákladová letecká spoločnosť SkyEurope zrušila začiatkom septembra všetky lety a vyhlásila bankrot. Následne jej Ministerstvo dopravy, pôšt a telekomunikácií (MDPT) SR odobralo licenciu. Dôvodom bola neschopnosť prepravcu zabezpečiť svojim klientom bezpečnú leteckú prepravu.

• **Slovenská** republika je sedemnásť najčistejšia krajina na svete. Aspoň podľa rebríčka 140 krajín, ktorý zostavili prestížne americké univerzity Yale a Columbia. Zvíťazilo Švajčiarsko. V prvej desiatke je ďalších päť krajín Európy vrátane Nórska či Rakúska. Hodnotenie - tzv. index EPI - je rozdelené do 25 oblastí súvisiacich s ochranou životného prostredia: Od kvality ovzdušia a vody cez rozmanitosť rastlinných a živočíšnych druhov až po používania pesticídov.

• **Národnostné** menšiny žijúce na Slovensku, s výnimkou maďarskej, novelu zákona o štátnom jazyku za problém nepovažujú. Zástupcovia viacerých z nich k nej už niekoľkokrát vyjadrili podporné stanovisko. Stalo sa tak či už na zasadnutí Rady vlády SR pre národnostné menšiny a etnické skupiny alebo na stretnutí s prezidentom SR Ivanom Gašparovičom. Zhodujú sa v tom, že vynovená legislatívna úprava nenarušuje jazykové práva osôb patriacich k národnostným menšinám v SR, ale naopak, rozširuje možnosti používania menšinových jazykov. Zároveň nepredstavuje žiadnu prekážku rozvoja ich identity.

• **Vláda** začiatkom septembra odsúhlasila nákup vakcín proti novému vírusu chrípky typu A(H1N1). Slovensko bude v tomto smere vychádzať z odporúčania Svetovej zdravotníckej organizácie a zabezpečí vakcíny pre 20 percent populácie, teda milión ľudí. Kabinet zároveň schválil zámer rozpracovania možnosti vytvorenia vakcinačného pavilónu, tak aby sa Slovensko stalo v takýchto prípadoch sebestačnou krajinou. Reálnym problémom je, že ešte žiadne vakcíny prítomné na trhu nie sú, stále prebiehajú iba klinické skúšania. Očakáva sa, že vakcína by mala byť na trhu koncom roka.

• **Priestory** nového akvaparku AquaRelax v druhej polovici septembra v Dolnom Kubíne predstavili verejnosti počas Dňa otvorených dverí. Podľa Maroša Badáňa, konateľa spoločnosti Aqua Kubín, s.r.o., Dolný Kubín, ktorá zabezpečuje výstavbu a prevádzku akvaparku, schválili poslanci mestského zastupiteľstva rozpočet vo výške 7.3 milióna eur (220 miliónov Sk). Akvapark, ktorý otvorí v októbri, vznikol rekonštrukciou technologicky aj morálne zastaranej plavárne. Vodu v akvaparku s kapacitou vyše 500 návštevníkov budú zohrievať z troch zdrojov.

• **Unikátny** nálež 2,920 zlatých mincí z roku 1935 z Košíc, známy ako Košický zlatý poklad, 16. septembra sprístupnili širokej verejnosti v Prahe. Výstava 13 kilogramov mincí obrovskej historickej hodnoty, nad ktorou prevzali záštitu premiéri ČR a SR Jan Fischer a Robert Fico, je prvým veľkým podujatím v novej budove pražského Národného múzea, známej skôr ako bývalý federálny parlament a neskôr sídlo rozhlasovej stanice Slobodná Európa. Zlatý poklad sa našiel pred 74 rokmi pri rekonštrukcii domu na Hlavnej ulici v Košiciach, kde v minulosti sídlila Spišská komora. Mince, spolu s tromi vzácnymi medailami a dvojmetrovou renesančnou reťazou, boli uložené v medenej schránke niekedy po roku 1679. Zlaté mince pochádzajú z Uhorska, Čiech, Sedmohradska, holandských provincií, z územia dnešného Nemecka a Rakúska, ale aj z Poľska, Talianska, Dánska, Švédska a Anglicka. Košický poklad je jedným z najvýznamnejších nálezov mincí v rámci celej Európy. Jedinečná výstava v novej budove Národného múzea v Prahe potrvá do 10. januára 2010.

• **Pendolino** - super rýchly a moderný vlak s nadštandardnými službami, ktorý spája Slovensko s Prahou, od decembra prestane na tejto trati premávať. Podľa českých železníc nebol tento vlak dostatočne na tejto trati vyťažovaný, preto ho chcú využiť na inej trase. Vlak s názvom Slovenská strela bude nahradený vlakom nižšej kvality označovaným ako EuroCity rýchlik.

• **Zlaté** padáky pre šéfov štátnych podnikov sú na Slovensku pravidlom a umožňujú ich manažérske zmluvy. Týka sa to aj odvolaného šéfa Vodohospodárskej výstavby Romana Straku, napriek tomu, že uzavrel viacero nevýhodných zmlúv pre štát. Keďže nebude ďalej pôsobiť v podniku, zmluva mu podľa zákona umožňuje vyplatiť odstupné vo výške šiestich plátov. Odišiel tak s odstupným vo výške 40,000 eur (1.2 milióna Sk). To je trikrát viac ako odstupné odvolaného ministra.

• **O** veľmi zaujímavý nález je bohatšie Gemersko-malohontské múzeum v Rimavskej Sobote po tom, ako náhodný chodec v blízkosti obce Bretka našiel bronzový poklad, pozostávajúci z dvoch náramkov a troch ihliel. Podľa archeológa Alexandra Botoša ide o objekty zhotovené pred 1200-1300 rokmi. Vedľa pokladu nenašiel spomenutý expert nijaký sprievodný nález a tak predpokladá, že náramky a ihly vo vzdialenosti asi sto metrov od Bretky, na chodníku vedúcom cez riedky les, niekto ukryl. Nálezy sú v dobrom stave a nebudú si vyžadovať vážnejšie reštaurovanie. Návštevníci rimavskosobotského regionálneho múzea si ich pravdepodobne budú môcť pozrieť už v rámci budúcoročnej dočasnej výstavy archeologických predmetov.

• **Internetový** obchod na Slovensku získal ďalší rozmer. Od augusta začal na internete pôsobiť prvý supermarket, ktorý ponúka aj predaj potravín. "Od septembra minulého roku sme začali prevádzku v Prahe a od augusta ponúkame rovnakú službu aj na Slovensku," povedal Mario Bertuccio, majiteľ spoločnosti Liberty SK Group. Po úspechu v Českej republike a vstupe na slovenský trh plánuje spoločnosť expandovať aj do ostatných štátov. Najväčší internetový predajca na Slovensku neplánuje rozšíriť svoju ponuku o sortiment potravín.

• **Nové** pravidelné linky pripravuje od 25. októbra Letisko v Poprade. S Bruselom spojí

mesto linka každý štvrtok. Lietať sa bude aj do Varšavy a rokuje sa tiež o spojení do Kyjeva, informovala nedávno riaditeľka medzinárodného Letiska Poprad - Tatry, a. s., Ivana Herkeľová. Podľa nej záujem o tieto spojenia pociťovali už dlhodo. Belgický Brusel je totiž sídlom Európskej komisie. Často je preto považovaný aj za hlavné mesto Európy a cestuje tam veľa Slovákov za prácou, podnikaním, ale aj zážitkami a spoznávaním. Spoločnosť Danube Wings, ktorá na tejto trase poletí, bude pristávať na hlavnom Bruselskom letisku Zaventem. Tri spoje týždenne poletia aj do hlavného mesta Poľska Varšavy. Ideálne sú nielen pre obchodných cestujúcich, nákupy, ale aj na spoznávanie mesta. Aktuálne sa rokuje aj o spojení do Kyjeva už počas zimnej sezóny. Tieto linky budú zároveň prínosom pre región i z druhej strany, pretože do Tatier prinesú turistov z Belgicka či Poľska. Medzinárodné Letisko Poprad - Tatry zažíva v tomto období napriek celosvetovému útlmu v leteckom priemysle expanziu, keďže letecké spoločnosti pociťujú výhody jeho polohy. Nachádza sa v nadmorskej výške 718 metrov a je najvyššie položeným letiskom svojho druhu v strednej Európe. Okrem pripravovaných destinácií Brusel a Varšava je pravidelnými linkami spojené s Bratislavou, Bolognou.

TASR a slovenské časopisy



Manželia Birošovci aktívni i na Slovensku

(Dobre známi pracovníci v našej slovensko-americkej komunite manželia Birošovci, toho času na Slovensku, si nedávno zasadli so Zuzanou Artimovou na interview, ktoré bolo uverejnené v Katolíckych novinách KN 33/2009 zo dňa 13. augusta 2009 a ktoré čitateľom JEDNOTY tu prinášame. -Red.)

Vo Wilkes Barre si váži odkaz Jozefa Murgaša aj mládež

Manželia Anna (69) a Jozef Birošovci (82) sa zosobášili v Kostole Božského Srdca Ježišovho vo Wilkes Barre. Na tom by nebolo nič zvláštne, keby tam kedysi nepôsobil slovenský kňaz a svetoznámy vynálezca Jozef Murgaš. Manželia Birošovci sú členmi Spolku slovenského dedičstva vo Wilkes Barre, ktorý chce počas piatich rokov digitalizovať všetok dostupný materiál o osobnosti Jozefa Murgaša.



FOTO: Katolícke noviny

Anna a Jozef Biroš.

Manželia Birošovci sú v týchto dňoch na Slovensku. Do Tajova prišli ako delegáti Spolku slovenského dedičstva na konferenciu, ktorá sa konala pri príležitosti 80. výročia úmrtia Jozefa Murgaša. „Medzi Tajovom a Wilkes Barre bol telemost, vďaka ktorému sa mohli všetci delegáti konferencie spojiť s americkou stranou, teda s celým Spolkom slovenského dedičstva, ktorý vedie profesor histórie Philip Tuhý. Všetci sa zaujímali najmä o zatváranie kostolov v USA. Vo Wilkes Barre je jedenásť slovenských kostolov, niektoré sú už dlhšie zatvorené, ako napríklad Kostol Panny Márie Ružencovej. Farnosť Božského Srdca Ježišovho, kde pôsobil Jozef Murgaš, je dnes spojená s ďalšími tromi kostolmi. Bolí nás to, že biskup Scrantonskej diecézy Joseph Martino rozhodol o zatvorení Kostola Božského Srdca Ježišovho v roku 2010. Teraz sa tam slávi iba jedna svätá omša za týždeň. Kostol neslúži iba slovenskej menšine, ale aj ľuďom, ktorí nie sú pôvodom Slováci,“ hovorí Anna Birošová.

Opatrujú Murgašov podpis

Jozef Biroš sa môže pochváliť tým, že ho pokrstil Jozef Murgaš. Birošovci opatrujú aj vlastnoručný podpis Jozefa Murgaša. „Otec môjho manžela kúpil v roku 1922 za sto dolárov miesto asi na dvanásť hrobov na cintoríne. Podpis Jozefa Murgaša je práve na tejto listine,“ vysvetľuje Anna Birošová.

Napriek tomu, že od úmrtia Jozefa Murgaša uplynulo osem desaťročí, jeho odkaz vo Wilkes Barre stále žije. „Všetky generácie si ho vážia ako človeka, ktorý Slovákom veľmi pomohol. Keď prišiel prvý raz do Wilkes Barre, zistil, že americké deti sa vysmievali slovenským zato, že nevedeli po anglicky. Začal chodiť z domu do domu a presviedčal rodičov, aby dali deti do škôlky. Tam sa mali začať učiť po anglicky, aby po nástupe do školy boli rovnocenné americkým deťom. Postavil aj školu, ktorá je, žiaľ, už pár rokov zatvorená, ale budova dodnes stojí. Obyvatelia Wilkes Barre si pripomínajú nielen výročie jeho narodenia a úmrtia, ale starajú sa aj o múzeum, kde sú uložené veci z jeho pozostalosti. Študenti si ctia jeho pamiatku aj tak, že sa stretávajú v rádiotelegrafickom krúžku. V Spojených štátoch, najmä vo Wilkes Barre, si osobu Jozefa Murgaša veľmi cenia, aj mládež. Keby sme sa opýtali mladých na Slovensku, kto bol Jozef Murgaš, možno by ani nevedeli odpovedať.“

Spolok slovenského dedičstva

Podľa slov manželov Birošovcov aj v súčasnosti žijú v okolí Wilkes Barre potomkovia Slovákov, ktorí si udržiavajú slovenský jazyk. „Spolok slovenského dedičstva má v programe aj učiť slovenčinu. Zo Slovenska posielame do Ameriky knihy a časopisy. Tam ich ľudia veľmi radi čítajú,“ tvrdia manželia.

Spolok slovenského dedičstva založila pred vyše štvrtstoročím Trude Check Tuhy, ktorá v roku 2006 zomrela. Jeho členovia pri príležitosti 80. výročia úmrtia Jozefa Murgaša položili vence na cintoríne, ktorý je od Wilkes Barre vzdialený 15 kilometrov a vybudoval ho Jozef Murgaš. „Cintorín je veľmi veľký a na náhrobkoch sú samé slovenské mená,“ hovorí svrne Birošová. Dodávajú, že človek, ktorý by sa chcel stať členom spolku, by mal mať slovenský pôvod a mal by byť katolíkom.

Pokračovanie na str. 22



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Ročník 118

STREDA, 30. SEPTEMBER, 2009

Číslo 5806

Súbor Šarišan na spoločnom turné po Anglicku



Na snímke súbor Šarišan v Anglicku.

FOTO: Lauren Wietchy

Známy Slovenský folklórny súbor Šarišan zo Sterling Heights, Michigan spolu so sesterskou skupinou Šarišan z Prešova toho roku v letnom období absolvoval dvojtýždňové turné po Anglicku. Ich temperamentné vystúpenia ľudových tancov z rôznych regiónov Slovenska im priniesli nemalé ovácie vďačného obecnstva. Súbor z Michiganu vo svojej vyše 35-ročnej histórii reprezentuje slovenskú kultúru na pódioch v zahraničí i na rôznych kultúrnych podujatiach, festivaloch, benefičných a charitatívnych akciách v Spojených štátoch amerických.



Slovensko privíta stretnutie ministrov obrany členských krajín NATO

Bratislava (TASR) - Ministri obrany členských krajín NATO sa 22. a 23. októbra 2009 po prvý raz neformálne stretnú na Slovensku. Miestom stretnutia, ktorému bude predsedáť generálny tajomník NATO Anders Fogh Rasmussen, bude výstavisko Incheba Expo v Bratislave. Hostiteľom účastníkov neformálneho dvojdňového stretnutia bude minister obrany SR Jaroslav Baška.

Ako informoval hovorca rezortu obrany Vladimír Gemela, neformálne rokovania, ktoré sa konajú dvakrát ročne, majú za úlohu prezentovať NATO v členských krajinách a jednotlivé členské krajiny v rámci NATO. "Tieto rokovania, využívané na neformálnu a otvorenú diskusiu ministrov obrany členských krajín NATO, predchádzajú formálnym rokovaniam, ktoré prebiehajú v Bruseli a zameriavajú sa na prijímanie rozhodnutí a oficiálnych deklarácií," vysvetlil. Zároveň poznamenal, že Slovensko predpokladá v októbri účasť okolo 800 delegátov a stovky predstaviteľov médií.

Sprievodnými podujatiami neformálneho stretnutia bude konferencia organizovaná Slovenskou atlantickou komisiou Nové výzvy - lepšie spôsobilosti, ktorá sa bude konať 21. - 22. októbra v historickej budove Národnej rady SR na Župnom námestí. Ďalej výstava Slováci v operáciách NATO, ktorá sa uskutoční od 20. do 29. októbra vo Výstavnej sále Univerzitnej knižnice na Michalskej ulici v Bratislave. "Výstava Ministerstva obrany SR dokumentuje plnenie úloh slovenských vojakov v zahraničných operáciách Aliancie vrátane prípravy pred vyslaním a spoluprácu so spojeneckými jednotkami aj domácim obyvateľstvom. Päťdesiat fotografií doplní premietanie dokumentárnych filmov z ich nasadenia. Kurátorom výstavy je Pavol Vítko, šéfredaktor vojenského časopisu Obrana," priblížil Gemela. Posledným sprievodným podujatím je výstava NATO Multimedia, ktorá sa uskutoční v átriu Univerzitnej knižnice na Ventúrskej ulici v Bratislave od 20. októbra do 3. novembra. "Podčiarkuje zodpovednú úlohu Severoatlantickej aliancie pri obrane pred existujúcimi a možnými bezpečnostnými hrozbami. Využíva pritažlivú zmes interaktívneho videa, fotografií a tlačových médií. Pripravilo ju oddelenie verejnej diplomacie NATO," uviedol Gemela.

Minister Lajčák vystúpil na Valnom zhromaždení OSN

Bratislava (TASR) - Minister zahraničných vecí SR Miroslav Lajčák sa vo Washingtone nedávno zúčastnil na sérii rokovaní s osobnosťami americkej zahraničnej politiky. V pondelok 21. septembra sa stretol s poradcom viceprezidenta Joe Bidena pre otázky národnej bezpečnosti Antonyom Blinkenom a s bývalým poradcom prezidenta USA pre národnú bezpečnosť Zbigniewom Brzezinskim. Vo Washingtone sa Lajčák zúčastnil aj na okrúhlym stole o Bosne a Hercegovine, kde sa s predstaviteľmi administratívy USA a vplyvných zahranično-politických inštitútov podielil o svoje skúsenosti z pôsobenia v tejto krajine ako vysoký predstaviteľ medzinárodného spoločenstva.

V utorok mal sériu rokovaní v New Yorku, kde ho čakali dvojstranné stretnutia s ministrami zahraničných vecí viacerých krajín a napokon vystúpenie na Valnom zhromaždení OSN.

Svoju návštevu USA ukončil v utorok 22. septembra vystúpením na Valnom zhromaždení OSN v New Yorku. Informoval o tom hovorca rezortu Peter Stano.



Národná púť do Baziliky Sedembolestnej Panny Márie v Šaštíne

Šaštín (TASR) - "Bulvár zatemňuje duševný zrak." Povedal to 15. septembra v kázni počas svätej omše pútnikom národnej púte do Baziliky Sedembolestnej Panny Márie v Šaštíne predseda Konferencie biskupov Slovenska František Tondra. "Bulvár nám zatemňuje duševný zrak a my už nedokážeme rozmýšľať. Prijímame všetko bez toho, aby sme o tom uvažovali, či je to dobré alebo zlé," povedal Tondra, podľa ktorého ľudia strácajú pojem medzi dobrom a zlom a sami si určujú, čo je dobré a čo je zlé. "Človek nemôže byť tvorcom pravdy, ale jej objaviteľom," prízvukoval Tondra. Zároveň dodal, že duševný zrak najviac zatemňuje pornografia, ktorou je svet zaplavený. Na hlavnej svätej omši, ktorá v utorok 15. septembra slávnostne ukončila šaštínsku púť sa okrem stoviek ľudí zúčastnil aj prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič, exprezident Michal Kováč a niektorí poslanci Národnej rady SR.

Bazilika Sedembolestnej Panny Márie v Šaštíne - Strážach je počas sviatku Sedembolestnej Panny Márie najnavštevovanejším miestom na Slovensku. Podľa povesti sa v roku 1564 manželke zemepána Imricha Czobora Angelike Bakičovej pri modlitbe v ťažkej životnej situácii zjavila Sedembolestná Matka Božia. Za vyslyšanie svojej modlitby sľúbila Bakičová dať postaviť na mieste zjavenia sochu, čo aj v tom istom roku uskutočnila. Drevenú sošku známu ako Šaštínska Pieta vyhotovil neznámy autor. Miesto začali navštevovať veriaci z blízkeho a neskôr i širokého okolia. Dekrét ostrihomského arcibiskupa Esterházyho z roku 1732 potvrdil verejné uctievanie sochy Sedembolestnej Panny Márie, čím pútnické miesto v Šaštíne oficiálne cirkev uznala.



FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer

Snímka zo svätej omše pred Bazilikou Sedembolestnej Panny Márie 15. septembra 2009 v Šaštíne. Bazilika Sedembolestnej Panny Márie v Šaštíne - Strážach je počas sviatku Sedembolestnej Panny Márie najnavštevovanejším miestom na Slovensku.

Scene from outside the Basilica of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Mother in Šaštín where a Mass was celebrated on September 15, 2009. The Basilica of the Seven Sorrows in Šaštín-Straz is the most visited place in Slovakia on the Feast of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Mother.