



Jednota

THE UNION

USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



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

Volumne 119

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2010

NUMBER 5821

Pranostiky – Weather Lore, or Slovak Folklore about the Weather

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

One of the rich traditions of Slovakia is that of *pranostiky*, or weather lore. Each month, Slovak calendar have sayings that accompany almost every day. They usually consist of a short sentence or phrase which forecasts the weather based on conditions on that day of the month. This is somewhat similar to the popular *Poor Richard's Almanac* which Benjamin Franklin published with great success during American colonial times. So weather lore is not unique to Slovakia, but Slovaks developed a special knack for sayings which identifies with their culture and familiar surroundings.

In the past, weather was very important to Slovak peasants, for in an agricultural society, their livelihood revolved around favorable conditions, or the ability to predict bad weather as well. While some weather lore has some basis in scientific fact, *pranostiky* are useful for seeing the world through the eyes of our ancestors and appreciating the beauty of the expressions and their historical and religious values as well, for most days are identified with a particular saint. They are a window to the past and the soul of Slovaks.

Here are few *pranostiky* which were commonly used during the month of May.

May 1 -- *Ak na prvého mája večer prší, bude celý rok pekne.*

If it rains on the 1st of May the weather will be nice all year.

Na Jakuba, Filipa zelená sa každá lipa.

On St. James' and St. Philip's Day every linden tree is green.

Dážď na prvého mája – úrodný rok. -- Rain on the first of May – a fruitful year.

May 4 -- May 4th is the feast day of St. Florian, who lived in the 4th century A.D., and is a patron saint of Central Europe, and Poland in particular.

Svätý Florián úrodu nám chráň. St. Florian, protect our crops.

Svätý Florián si ešte môže nasadiť snehový klobúk. - St. Florian can still don a hat of snow.

May 7 – *Ak na Stanislava padá dážď, bude na jeseň prázdny sud.*

If it rains on St. Stanislaus Day, there will be an empty barrel in the autumn.

May 12 – *Dážď na Pankráca osožný je poliam, ale škodný viniciam.*

Rain on St. Pancras Day is helpful to the fields, but harms the vineyards.

Gazda čaká na prejdenie troch zmrzliakov. The farmer waits for the passing of three frosts.

May 13 -- *Pred Servácom niet leta, po Serváci niet mrazu.*

Before St. Servatius day there is no summer, and after St. Seratius day there is no frost.

May 15 -- *Žofia – ľadová žena.* St. Sophie – an icy lady.

Žofia víno vypija a dobré ľany dáva. St.



Slovak folklore often centers around weather conditions, as these are very important for an agricultural society like Slovakia.

Sophie will drink up wine and give good flax.

Traja ľadoví muži a Žofia je ich kuchárka. Three ice men and St. Sophie is their cook!
Svätá Žofia stromy rozvíja. The trees bloom on St. Sophie's Day.

May 19 -- *Ak mrzne na Gertrúdu, bude mrznúť celý mesiac.*

If there is frost on St. Gertrude day, there will be frost the whole month.

Gertrúda je už záhradníčkou. St. Gertrude has already been gardening.

(Also May 19)

Do Petra /Peter Celestín, pápež/ neni tepla, a po Petre už je po teple.

Until St. Peter Celestine, the pope's, day, it is not warm, and after St. Peter Celestine's day, it is indeed warm.

May 23 – *Keď sa na Želmíry včely začnú rojiť, dobrá ovca sa už môže dojiť.*

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May is the month in the Catholic Church for devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. This practice started in the late 18th century among the Jesuits; and, by the time of Pope Pius IX's declaration of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854, the practice had become universal.

~ Prayer to Mary ~

Remember, O most loving Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone
who fled to your protection,
implored your help,
or sought your intercession was left unaided.
Inspired with this confidence, we turn to you,
O Virgin of virgins, our Mother.
To you we come, before you we stand,
sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
do not despise our petitions,
but in your mercy hear us and answer us.
Amen



Insights and Viewpoints



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

May 9, 2010

Sixth Sunday of Easter

John 14:23-29

Gospel Summary

When Jesus says, in today's gospel, "Whoever loves me will keep my word," he wishes to remind us that, though it is easy to say that we love him, it is far more difficult to obey him by offering our love to our fellow humans. Such concern for others

will be the indispensable proof of our authentic love of Jesus, for to love Jesus means ultimately to commit oneself to imitate his unconditional love of others.

This challenge is very difficult, and may even seem impossible at times, but our feeble efforts will be strengthened by the love of the Father--the same divine Father whose love is revealed in Jesus. And when we allow that divine love to flow through us, we will discover that both Jesus and the Father will make their dwelling with us in an ineffable mystical communion. Nothing could be more desirable.

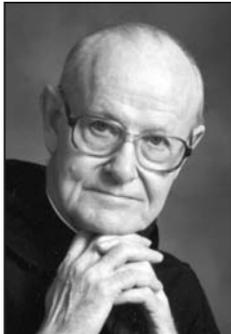
Jesus promises to send us the Advocate, which is the special name John gives to the Holy Spirit. An advocate is one who stands with another to take away that person's fear and sense of aloneness or inadequacy. This divine Advocate will thus dwell deep within us and will continue the work of Jesus by drawing out all the implications of his teaching.

Life Implications

John's gospel is full of reminders that Jesus has come among us to reveal the true nature of God as one who cherishes his love far more than his power. It is for that reason that Jesus is called the Word of God, for he reveals what is hidden in God just as our words make known our hidden thoughts.

When we accept in faith the testimony of Jesus about the love of God for us, we are liberated from the need to worry excessively about ourselves and are thus enabled to become more and more aware of others and more ready to share our love with them. When this happens, we are drawn into that powerful flow of life and love which courses between the Father and Jesus. In this sense, we can understand how the Father and Jesus will "make their dwelling" with us. When this happens, we discover for the first time the real meaning of our lives, for we will then become what our creator has always intended us to be.

The Advocate/Spirit is given to us, therefore, as one who stands at our side, in bright days and dark, to help us understand the reality of this love of God that Jesus offers to us. As we do so, we will become ever more united with Jesus who has revealed the Father's love and who wishes to lead us back to the source of that love. It will be only then that we will begin to understand the meaning of coming home.



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

May 16, 2010

Seventh Sunday of Easter

John 17:20-26

Gospel Summary

This Sunday's gospel passage contains part of the prayer Jesus addressed to his Father following his Last Supper discourse with its promise of the Holy Spirit. Jesus prays for his disciples and for all who will believe in him through their words. The depth and poetic beauty of Jesus' prayer defies making an adequate prose summary. Principal elements of the prayer are listed here merely as an aid to memory for the reader -- communion in the life of Father and Son, desire that the world come to believe in him, desire that all may see his eternal glory, desire that the Father's love be in all who believe.

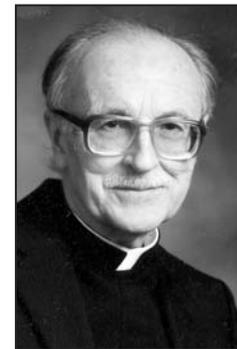
Life Implications

We usually associate the presence of the Spirit that Jesus gave to his disciples after the resurrection with the audacity with which they preached the gospel (the *parresia* of Acts 4:13,29,31). The first reading of today's liturgy from the Acts of the Apostles alludes to that understanding in recounting the story of Stephen ("filled with the holy Spirit") who was enabled to follow Jesus with courage even to death in his martyrdom. Our gospel passage perhaps is even a more striking illustration of the belief that Jesus shares his Spirit with the church.

What could be more audacious than to express in words the intimate communion of Jesus with his Father in prayer as today's gospel passage does? The church today continues to pray with the Spirit of Jesus, particularly in its Eucharistic liturgy. The Spirit also guides each of us in our unique, individual prayer so that we may become more aware that Jesus lives and prays in us. And the Spirit enables us to live in the awareness that the Father loves us with the same love that he loves Jesus. (Raymond E. Brown in his commentary on the fourth gospel calls this last implication of Jesus' prayer "breathtaking.")

The prayer of Jesus is not past tense: as Risen Lord Jesus prays in the eternal now with the same desire of love, and invites us to pray with him in company with all the angels and saints. This is the truth that the second reading of today's liturgy from the Book of Revelation calls to our attention. And this is the truth Saint Augustine taught newly baptized Christians in his Easter Sunday sermon of the year 415. In the Eucharistic liturgy we already now are participants with the Risen Lord in the liturgy of heaven. "You are urged to lift up your hearts. That is only right for the members of Christ. If the head had not gone ahead before, the members would never follow. So our head is in heaven. That is why, after the words "Lift up your hearts," you reply, "We have lifted them up to the Lord."

Jesus continues to pray that all may be one just as the Father and he are one in order that the world may come to believe. In Jesus' mind, the unity and love among his followers will draw all people to believe in him. The separation and hostility among Christians surely is a scandal in the strictest sense -- an obstacle to belief. "See how they attack one another" seems so often to have replaced the saying of pagans about Christians in the ancient world, "See how they love one another." We might recall that at the Last Supper Jesus was aware that he would soon become the innocent victim of violence. Nevertheless, Jesus refused to save himself by responding to violence with "sacred" violence, however justified that response might appear. He experienced God as loving; therefore, he could not be anything else. He knew that even "sacred" violence results only in deeper separation and deeper hostility. It cannot transform the human heart. Only the Father's love in Jesus and in us can work that supreme miracle.



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

10th CONSULAR TOUR TO COVER SLOVAKIA'S UNESCO SITES

Joe Senko, the Slovak Honorary Consul for Pennsylvania, has just completed the details for his 10th tour to Slovakia. Over 250 people have accompanied Joe on his previous tours. This year's tour will concentrate on the UNESCO Heritage Sites throughout Slovakia.

UNESCO was established by the United Nations in 1945, to protect the most valuable natural and cultural objects of our planet. There are 812 located in 137 countries. Seven are located in Slovakia.

The tour will begin on August 25, 2010, with a flight from Pittsburgh to Vienna via Washington, D.C. and return to Pittsburgh on September 4. The UNESCO heritage sites included in the tour are: Banska Stiavnica; Bardejov; Vlkolinec; Levoca; Spisska Kapitula; Spis Castle; Holy Spirit Church in Zehra; Domica Cave; and Gombasecka Cave.

The tour will also include visits to Bratislava, the Tatras, Kosice and a rafting trip on the Dunajec River. All accommodations will include first class hotels as well as breakfast and dinner each day. Transportation will be provided on an air conditioned bus with an English speaking guide. All entrance fees are included. Not included are travel insurance and gratuities. The cost per person is \$3,375 (double occupancy).

For a detailed itinerary, contact Joe Senko at Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220; or e-mail jtsenko@aol.com; or call 412-956-6000.

JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Bi-Weekly Issued 26 Times Annually

Publisher and Proprietor

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION of the United States of America and Canada

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

Independence OH 44131-2398

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES: UNITED STATES - \$25.00 All other countries -- \$30.00

PRINTED AT: SUSQUEHANNA PRINTING, 1 East Main Street, Ephrata, PA 17522

Telephone: 216/642-9406 Fax: 216/642-4310

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398

Periodical Postage paid at Cleveland, OH 44131 and additional mailing offices

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

Apostleship of Prayer

May 2010

GENERAL INTENTION

Human Trafficking. *That the shameful and monstrous trafficking in human beings, which sadly involves millions of women and children, may stop.*

The world's poor are easy prey for those who wish to profit from the slave market. Many in rich countries like our own purchase women and children to exploit. Slaves are raped, tortured, put to hard labor, and even forced to have babies who are also sold as slaves. The Pope asks us to hear the cries of the millions and pray for an end of this shameful and monstrous trafficking in human beings.

The problem is especially difficult because those who are enslaved sometimes cannot or do not understand that they are victims. Desperate because of poverty, war or disaster, they seek to escape the hardship and danger of their circumstances. They are fooled by promises of adoption, marriage, and employment. Once sold, they are typically isolated, afraid, ashamed, unable to speak the language of their captors, and ignorant of the laws and social services that would rescue them and allow them to live in freedom.

As many as 17,000 people are trafficked into the U.S. each year from Asia, Central and South America, and Eastern Europe. The U.S. State Department reports that they are exploited for prostitution, pornography, domestic servitude, sweatshop labor, and migrant agricultural work.

In the book, *The Sacred Bath: An American Teen's Story of Modern Day Slavery*, Theresa Flores tells how at 15 she was drugged, raped, and tortured for two years in an upper-class suburb in Detroit. After 20 years of silence, she began telling her story to help others. Now a licensed social worker, she works at Gracehaven, a safe home in Dublin, Ohio, for girls under 18 who have been sexually exploited.

How can we help end human trafficking? Let's pray, offering ourselves to God each day this month on behalf of the victims. Praying for the Pope's intention helps us be aware of the enormity of the problem of human trafficking – awareness we can share with those around us.

Reflection

How can you make others compassionately aware of human trafficking?

Scripture

Luke 4: 16 – 19 Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went ... into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives"

MISSION INTENTION

Priests, Religious, and Committed Lay People. That priests, religious women and men, and lay people involved in apostolic work may understand how to bring missionary enthusiasm to the communities they serve.

The Holy Father often asks us to pray for a missionary spirit to pervade the entire Church. But this month we are praying specifically for those priests, religious men and women, and lay ministers who are actively involved in apostolic work; that they bring a missionary enthusiasm to their service.

At the Ascension Jesus told his disciples that when they received the Holy Spirit they would receive the power to be witnesses to him to the very ends of the earth. And they did.

We need to that power now – all of us. Have you ever heard some good news that you couldn't wait to tell someone else? You couldn't keep it to yourself.

That's the way it's supposed to be with all of us who have received new life in baptism, especially those who have been called to serve Church ministries. Church workers are to be so inspired by the Holy Spirit that they, like the first disciples after Pentecost, cannot keep the Good News to themselves. From a very small beginning, the Gospel has spread to the ends of the earth. And from your parish, it can spread across your city or county, your state and the nation.

Sunday, May 16, is the 44th World Communications Day, and for it Pope Benedict has written a beautiful message, "Priests and Pastoral Ministry in a Digital World: New Media at the Service of the Word." The digital world too is part of the new frontier of the missions. It is where pastoral workers – ordained, religious, and lay – must be involved in spreading the word. We pray they may do so with the enthusiasm of the Holy Spirit.

Reflection

Do you know someone who ministers to others with "missionary enthusiasm"? Pray specifically that the power of the Holy Spirit may grow in that person.

Scripture

Acts 1:8 You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.



Slovaks throughout the country, including this typical Tatra village, have developed a knack for sayings that identify with their culture and surroundings.

Pranostiky – Weather Lore, or Slovak Folklore about the Weather

continued from page 1

When the bees begin to swarm Želmíra Day, good sheep can no be milked.

May 25 -- *Urban krásny, vyjasnený, hojným vínom nás odmeni.*

If it is nice on St. Urban's Day, there will be an abundance of wine.

Dokiaľ Urban z pece nezlezie, nebude teplo.

Until St. Urban gets out of the stove, there will be no warming.

These are just a sampling of some of the many pranostiky for the month of May, when spring is longing to burst forth and sweep away the winter for good. They remain an integral part of Slovak folk culture and many Slovaks still remember that there is great wisdom in these traditional folk sayings.

Here are a few sources for further perusal.

Sources

Kalendárne pranostiky, (accessed 3 May 2010). <http://pranostiky.host.sk/pranostiky.htm#m%E1j>

Calendar.sk (accessed 3 May 2010). <http://calendar.zoznam.sk/may-01en.php>

Slovak Heritage Society of Northeast PA, "Weather Lore," *Folktale, Legends, and Stories* (accessed 3 May 2010). <http://www.shsnepa.org/>

❖❖❖ ANNUAL SPRING MEETING IN MAY

The 10th annual WPSCA Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 23, beginning at 2 p.m. at the Czechoslovak nationality room in the University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning. This year's speaker is Professor Martin Votruba who will speak on the legend of Juraj Janosik, the Slovak Robin Hood, a story that is part of the Slovak culture.

Martin Votruba, Ph.D., is director of the Slovak Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh. The public is invited.

Following the business meeting there will be a social hour in Room 1228. Refreshments will be served.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Stephanie Raha, Editor-in-chief, The Christophers

A Few Memorable Words

Do you remember what the commencement speaker said at your graduation? Or, more recently perhaps, at the graduation of your son or daughter – or even grandkids? Few of us do. Sometimes, it's even hard to remember who the speakers were.

Still, May is the traditional month for college commencements and thousands upon thousands of young people and their families will hear famous, successful people offering graduates all sorts of advice for their careers and for life in general. These suggestions are sincere and well-meant and may even be uplifting and useful, but that doesn't make them memorable.

But there are always wonderful exceptions: meaningful words delivered by the right person at the right time. I'd like to share two of them with you.

The first was offered by Dr. Seuss himself, Theodore Geisel, the popular children's writer. When he was offered an honorary degree from Lake Forest College in Illinois, in 1977, he made it clear that he was deeply honored to accept, but that he would not speak. The college president and others pressed him, by he continued to refuse. When commencement day came and the honorary degree had been conferred, Geisel reached into his academic gown and pulled out this poem which he read to his enthusiastic audience:

"My uncle ordered popovers / from the restaurant's bill of fare. / And, when they were served, / he regarded them / with a penetrating stare. / Then he spoke great Words of Wisdom / as he sat there on that chair: / "To eat these things," / said my uncle, / "you must exercise great care. / You may swallow down what's solid / BUT / you must spit out the air!"
"And / as you partake of the world's bill of fare, / that's darned good advice to follow. / Do a lot of spitting out the hot air. / And be careful what you swallow."

A second memorable address came from Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and world renowned peace and human rights activist, who gave a commencement talk at Brandeis University in Massachusetts in 2000. He reminded the graduates that the people who earn our greatest admiration are not those who are merely wealthy or powerful; they are those who give the best of themselves for others. Archbishop Tutu mentioned such heroes as Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the Dalai Lama, and Nelson Mandela.

He concluded with this tale: "You know the story of the farmer who in his back yard had chickens, including one that was a little odd looking, but it behaved like a chicken, it pecked like the other chickens. Then someone who was knowledgeable came along and said to the farmer, 'Hey, that's no chicken. Give it to me, please.'

"And this man took this strange looking chicken and climbed the mountain and waited until sunrise. And then he turned this strange looking chicken towards the sun and said, 'Eagle, fly, eagle.' And it shook itself, spread out its pinions, and lifted off and soared and soared and flew away into the distance.

"And God says to all of us, 'You are no chicken; you are an eagle. Fly, eagle, fly.' And God wants us to shake ourselves, spread our pinions, and then lift off and soar and rise toward the confident and the good and the beautiful. Rise towards the compassionate and the gentle and the caring. Rise to become what God intends us to be – eagles, not chickens."

So there you have it, two memorable pieces of advice: Don't swallow everything you're told. And don't be chicken – just stretch your wings and soar.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, *YOUR CAREER COUNTS*, write: *The Christophers*, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org



Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Picnic

The Cleveland Slovak Radio Club invites everyone to the St. Sava Picnic Grounds at 2151 West Wallings Road (between Broadview Rd. and State Rd.) Broadview Heights, Ohio on Sunday, June 20, 2010 from 12:00 Noon to 8:00 P.M. for their Annual Slovak Picnic. There will be homemade Slovak food and pastries and music provided by John Pastirik. Admission is \$4.00 per person at the gate. For more information call: (440) 885-1994.

Reminder...

All English and Slovak articles should be sent directly to the editor Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. The email address for articles is fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com. Articles may also be sent by Fax at 216/642-4310. Teresa Ivanec can be reached by phone at 216/642-9406 or 1/800-533-6682.

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37th Slovak Day 2010

Sunday, June 20, 2010

Salvatorian Shrine

5755 Pennsylvania Street

Merrillville, Indiana

Chairperson: Rev. John Kalicky

General Chairpersons: Carl & Betty Yurechko

10:30AM

HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine

Main Celebrant: Rev. Gregory Holicky

1:00PM

Sarišan Dancers – Sterling Heights, Michigan

1:30PM

Raffle drawing

2:00 – 5:00PM

Music & dancing – Gene Mikrut Orchestra

- Buy or sell (6) "cash raffle" tickets for \$10
- Ethnic foods available for purchase after Mass
- Cash bar open after Mass until closing time

For more call:

Carl & Betty Yurcechko – (219) 795-1518



William Liptak (L), top Annuity Agent for the FCSU, was recently presented with a token appreciation of his outstanding performance by national Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. (R)

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, MAY 26
WEDNESDAY, JUN 9
WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

Copy Date
MONDAY, MAY 17
MONDAY, MAY 28
MONDAY, JUNE 28

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:
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First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398
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Easter Coloring Contest Results



Rev John J. Spitkovsky District II For Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin



The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II has announced the winners of the 2010 Easter Coloring Contest. There were 28 entries. Prizes were awarded for first, second, third, and Honorable Mention for ages 4 – 6, 7 – 9, and 10 – 12. We wish to thank all of our young branch members of District II for their participation and creative drawings. The winning entries were chosen by the members attending the District II meeting on April 11, 2010.

Our District II Winners:

Ages 4 – 6: 1st Place Rachel Rossman, 2nd Place Emma Jill Graves, 3rd Place Riley McAllister
 Ages 7 – 9: 1st Place Julian Seida, 2nd Place Grace Foley, 3rd Place Jennifer Manzella
 Ages 10 – 12: 1st Place Mary Fayta, 2nd Place Casey Hunter

Honorable Mention:

Ages 4 – 6: Evan Jurcenko, Marijayne Hochgraber, Sharon McAlliser, Aras Basu, Ayden Fayta, and Regina Turner
 Ages 7 – 9: Aiden Jurcenko, Joseph Hawes, Natalie Vaughn, and Jonathan Fayta

Ages 4-6



1st PLACE
Rachel Rossman



2nd PLACE
Emma Jill Graves



3rd PLACE
Riley McAllister

Ages 7-9



1st PLACE
Justin Seida



2nd PLACE
Grace Foley



3rd PLACE
Jennifer Manzella

Ages 10-12



1st PLACE
Mary Fayta



2nd PLACE
Casey Hunter

Congratulations to all!

Barbara Fayta, Chairperson, Easter Coloring Contest

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2010

RENAISSANCE HOTEL, CLEVELAND, OHIO

OPEN

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.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
 Damian D. Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2, by invitation of the President
 Gary J. Matta, General Counsel, by invitation of the President

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Secretary presented the Minutes of the February 2010 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

The Treasurer submitted a written monthly report which was reviewed by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer answered all questions of the Committee.

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK OF CINCINNATI – VICTORY ASSET MANAGEMENT

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

PORTFOLIO CUSTODIAN

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

SALES AND MARKETING

The Vice President reviewed our sales production report in different Regions and answered all questions presented. The Vice President also reviewed the sales production report of our independent agents, noting that we are continuing to add agents, and answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Vice President led a discussion regarding the commission on our 8-year annuity product. A decision will be made as more information becomes available.

The Vice President further stated that he is in process of setting up District and Branch seminars and is urging the Regional Directors and District Presidents to contact him as soon as possible if they would like to have a sales seminar within their respective Region or District.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Executive Secretary stated the Home Office will advertise our products not only through the monthly branch mailings and advertisements in the monthly billing and in the Jednota newspaper, but will continue to explore new ways of advertising our products.

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

Disbursements for the month of February 2010:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 210,374.97
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 43,533.14
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Damian Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2, asked the President if the Executive Committee can review his report on the realignment of Districts and Branches before our 49th Convention. The President stated that the Executive Committee will review his report in the near future.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

Requests were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

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

Vice President closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



Congratulations



Riley!

Riley Frances Rura, daughter of Shamrock and James Rura of Coral, Pennsylvania, made her First Holy Communion, April 11, 2010, in Our Lady of Assumption Parish Church, Coral Site. She is the granddaughter of Lois and Joseph Rura, and she and her entire family are members of Branch 484.

Joseph E. Rura

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- *Annuities



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

Report of Jednota Properties, Inc. President Regis Brekosky to the Executive Committee and Board Members on March 20, 2010

Quite a bit of my time is taken up by being President of Jednota Properties, Inc. In addition, I perform the duties of building manager of Building #2, 1000 Rosedale Avenue. At the present time, we are waiting for brokers from CIR and Jones Lang LaSalle to complete lease and return to Properties, Inc. It has been over a year since these brokers have started to work on this lease.

The Board Members of Jednota Properties, Inc. are:

Regis P. Brekosky, President
Joseph Bielecki, Secretary
Joseph Minarovich, Vice President
Joseph Senko, Treasurer
Carl Ungvarsky, Member

Our accounting fees to McKeever Varga and Senko have been paid and are up to date. They are handled on a triple net basis.

All utilities have been paid and up to date.
Building manager fees are current.

Taxes are up to date. Some are paid quarterly through PNC Bank, some directly to the PA Department of Revenue, Ohio Dept. of Tax. School taxes to Middletown. Total taxes paid in this last quarter was \$49,727.79.

Insurance Protection

Insurance protection for Building #2 for 2010 is \$11,999.00. Inspection of inside fire protection is \$175.00 per quarter.

Brokers Fee

CIR was paid \$13,925.52 for tenant ACS for last year.

Interest Payments

Mortgage payments to FCSU for Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar amounted to \$87,686.72.

Roof Insurance

Insurance policy from Centimark for inspections and cleaning of drains and damage by

storms to HVAC units amounted to \$1,206.72 this quarter.

Snow Removal

Paid Misty Meadows, Inc. \$1,207.50 for removing ice and snow from roof of Building #2. The recent snowfall put stress on the roof. Outside help was needed as soon as possible to relieve this stress on roof girders.

HVAC Repairs & Replacement

USAir reported that one of their air conditioners – heat pump units was not working. Engi-nuity LLC was called and inspected the unit. They found the compressor was at fault and submitted two bids for the job:

Bid No 1. Replace air compressor with associated work amounted to \$2,300.00.

Bid No 2. Install new A/C – Heat Pump Unit with associated work amounted to \$8,520.00.

It was decided to replace the compressor at the \$2,300.00 bid. Work was completed the first week in March, 2010.

Building #2 – ACS

In February, we were informed by ACS that the floor in their area which was repaired approximately six years ago was again cracking due to movement of the subflooring.

We called Mid-State who last did this work to come in for a re-inspection of the cracked area. We asked for a proposal of the scope of work. We did not put this job out for bids or proposals because Mid-State erected the building and did the last repairs on the cracked floors. Mid-State had core samples drilled six years ago, had structural engineers perform sightings on the interior pillars, etc.

Mid-State has knowledge that would cost us extra money if someone not familiar with the building would come in to do the work.

Proposal for scope of work was received from Mid-State on February 24, 2010. The cost of the repairs will be \$17,316.00.



Annual Summer Festival in Danville

For the thirty-eighth consecutive year the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius are hosting their annual Summer Festival in Danville. This annual event has been a time for former students, family members, present and former employees, business associates and a variety of friends to renew acquaintances and be introduced to new friends.

Those who have come year after year appreciate the peace-filled, friendly atmosphere. It just seems to them that "everyone belongs here."

Indeed, there is something for everyone at the Danville Summer Festival held on the beautiful grounds of Villa Sacred Heart, the home of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius since 1919. Former students, now parents or grandparents come to tell the Sisters about their families; classmates and former neighbors meet to update, wherever you turn someone begins a sentence with: "Remember when...?" Even those who come for the first time are bound to meet someone. Invariably some new friends are made and some new business deals are cut.

Indeed, there is something for everyone at the Sisters Summer Festival in Danville. Of course, the food is something to satisfy everyone's tastes: Ethnic foods, hot dogs, hamburgers, waffles with ice cream and strawberries, and freshly squeezed lemonade are among the most popular items.

The Flea Market has become one of the most popular in the area and has received accolades for its attractive, orderly arrangements. Religious articles, handcrafted items, books and articles from and about Slovakia are available. Home made bread, baked by the Sisters, will also be available.

Games abound. Eventually, everyone is bound to win something.

Join us once again and invite friends who have never been in Danville to "Come and see" what the Sisters have accomplished with God's help and the generosity of their benefactors.

The 2010 Festival will be held

• Saturday, July 10

• 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• Eucharistic Liturgy (for Sunday) at 5:30 p.m.

ALL are welcome! Invite your friends. Have a great day!

Joe Mitrik Celebrates 35 Years with the FCSU

FCSU Senior Accountant Joe Mitrik achieved a milestone this past April, when he celebrated his 35th year of employment. As impressive as that is, Joe's association with the Society goes back even further. He became a member at the tender age of two months, and grew up attending FCSU functions. Joe was born and raised in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and went to Conventions and membership meets with his parents, John and Anna Mitrik. John immigrated to the United States from Margecany, Slovakia, a village northwest of Kosice, and served as the Financial Secretary for Branch 512 for many years. Joe assisted as a Junior Branch Elder for a number of years, as well.

After obtaining a degree in Financial Administration from St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, Joe was hired by (then) FCSU Executive Secretary Stephen F. Ungvarsky and moved to Cleveland to take the job at the FCSU Home Office, where he has been a key component of the Accounting Department ever since. Joe and his wife Linda reside in the Cleveland area with their son, Christopher.

The FCSU Officers and Members of the Board of Directors extend their most sincere congratulations to Joe on his 35th Anniversary with the Society, and thank him for his years of excellent service to the Society.



Congratulations Joe!!

Susan Kalcik & Slovak Heritage Association of the Laurel Highlands Awarded in April

Susan Kalcik and The Slovak Heritage Association of the Laurel Highlands (SHALH) which she helped found, were awarded one of the three inaugural Heritage Preservation Awards presented by the Johnstown Area Heritage Association (JAHA) at a dinner held Saturday, April 10, 2010, at the Frank J. Pasquerilla Conference Center in Johnstown, PA.

The other awardees were Dr. Claudia Jones for her work with the African American community of Johnstown and the late Rep. John Murtha for his outstanding achievements advocating for many initiatives related to the area's history and heritage along with the National Park Service, which operates such sites as the Johnstown Flood National Memorial and the Flight 93 National Memorial. The awardees also received congratulatory proclamations from the Senate of Pennsylvania.

Kalcik was instrumental in founding SHALH with a series of programs on Slovak traditions developed at Johnstown's BottleWorks Ethnic Arts Center. SHALH has produced countless public presentations of lectures, re-enactments, celebrations, children's programs, exhibitions, trips to Slovak events, as well as a bi-monthly newsletter on Slovak culture which Kalcik and her husband, Nick Bocher, produce. Kalcik was also selected for work on other regional heritage programs such as America's Industrial Heritage Project, the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor Project, the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese archives and library, and for her publications and professional papers on Slovak culture. She is currently writing a book on Slovaks in Pennsylvania.



Susan Kalcik



Help the Benedictine Tradition Ring Out In Slovakia

An important historical event has happened in the early months of this year – namely, the return of the Benedictines in Slovakia after the fall of communism. With God's help, we have built a new monastery, The Transfiguration of the Lord, in the village of Sampor in Banská Bystrica.

Since construction started on the monastery in 2006 through its dedication in December 2009, the Benedictine community has developed through the global support of our friends and sponsors. Income for the nine monks, as well as four in formation, have come from resources within Slovakia. These are in the form of mostly modest but innumerable gifts of our simple and good people. They also include donations from various organizations in Slovakia as well as aboard. Despite economic and political

challenges, the Slovak nation still has great feeling for the support of spiritual projects. They expect to deepen the spiritual life of their country, still warring with the legacy of communism in the minds of many people.

Generous donations, of course, inherently include American Slovaks. That is why we are reaching out to the Slovak American communities before the May 24th sanctification of the church and monastery. We are seeking help with the church interior fittings, specifically the bells.

The three bells we are hoping to obtain have preliminary quotes of: \$28,600.00 (small); \$34,065.00 (middle); and \$39,515.00 (large).

We live in great hope that the sound of prayer and work of Slovak Benedictines will be heard by the time of the dedication. We

remain in the belief that your generosity can be added to the unworldly donors who are interested in developing and preserving a healthy Christian tradition in Slovakia.

The grateful Benedictines of Bacúrov.

**Fr. Jozef Brodňanský, Project Coordinator,
Benedictine Slovak Foundation**

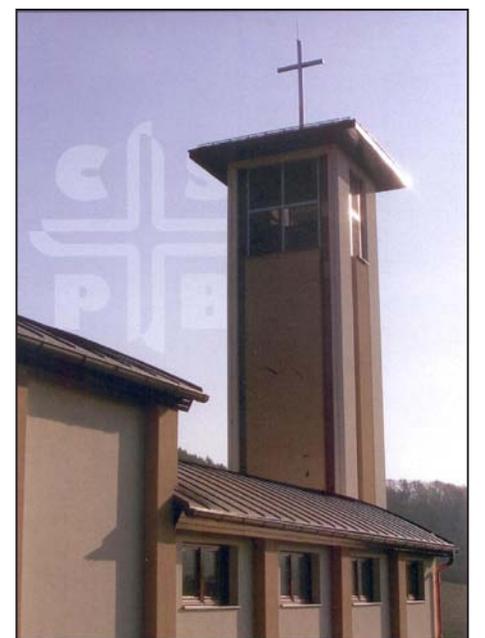
Donation in support of the new Benedictine monastery in Slovakia can be made payable and sent to:

St. Andrew Abbey, 10510 Buckeye Road,
Cleveland, OH, 44104 – 3725

Contact information for the new monastery is:

Address:
Dom sv. Benedikta, Bacurov 28.,
962 61 Dobra Niva,
Slovakia

Website:
www.benediktini.sk



Transfiguration of the Lord in the village
Sampor in Banská, Bystrica, Slovakia



Lorain United Slovak Societies Making Scholarships Available

The United Slovak Societies of the American Slovak Club, Lorain, Ohio is proud to make \$500 scholarships available to qualifying members of the St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 of Lorain, Ohio. The applicant must be a graduating high school senior who will enter a college or professional school in the fall of 2010. Additional qualifications must include membership in the FCSU for the past five (5) consecutive years, achievement of a 3.5 out of 4.0 grade point average and the application must be signed by the principal or guidance counselor of the graduate's high school. Applications and rules can be requested by contacting the: American Slovak Club, Attn: Scholarship Chairperson, 2915 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Ohio 44055. You may also contact Tom Zuffa at (440) 282-2966. Applications need to be returned by May 31, 2010.

This is an excellent opportunity to receive financial aid to help fund your education and we hope to see our members take advantage of it.

Thomas B. Zuffa
Recording Secretary

St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228



"Park 2 Annuity" 3.75% (3.682% apr)
Rate Effective May 1, 2010

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 or visit our web site at FCSU.com

A Look Back At the Last FCSU Convention Held In Cleveland

The FCSU Convention in Cleveland, Then & Now

As many of you know by now, delegates to the 49th International Convention in Cleveland, Ohio will have the opportunity to enjoy a baseball game in Cleveland's sleek modern Progressive Field. But did you know that baseball has a long and honored history with our Society?

It's true. In fact, the last time the Convention was held in Cleveland – in 1934 – some 20,000 fans showed up at Cleveland Municipal Stadium to watch a baseball game – not between two major league ball clubs but between two rival Jednota baseball teams. At that time, the Society was sponsoring Jednota baseball teams that were divided into ten senior leagues, two junior leagues, and a number of independent teams affiliated with the Jednota Society.

The first championship series was held in 1932. There was so much enthusiasm for the sport that it was decided to hold playoffs. These quickly became the highlight of the Jednota baseball season, a much-anticipated event that determined the Jednota national championship. The amount of enthusiasm of jednota members during the games actually rivaled that of major league baseball, drawing, in some cases such as at the 1934 Convention, thousands of people.

Eager delegates watched the Jednota championship in its final game between Central City, Pennsylvania and Catasauqua, Pennsylvania, in Cleveland's Municipal Stadium. Catasauqua won, 8 – 5. It was during the 1934 Convention, as well, that the Committee of Athletics proposed that a national trophy be awarded to the champions of the matchup.

Play ball, indeed!

- Based on information from the Century of Fraternalism, First Catholic Slovak Union, 1980 - 1990.



Delegates to the 1934 Convention in Cleveland enjoy a baseball game – not between pro teams, however. These games were comprised of Jednota members and played for the Jednota National Championship, an honored trophy bestowed at the 1934 Convention, as well.



49th Convention Site Offers Historical Significance for Our Society

There's a
WELCOME
waiting for you at
Hotel CLEVELAND

Hotel Cleveland is a friendly place. You will find here comfortable luxury, modern appointments, moderate rates. Rooms for one are from \$2.50, and for two from \$4.

Then, too, Hotel Cleveland is the city's most convenient Hotel. It is at the very heart of everything you'll want to see in Cleveland. It is directly connected to the Union Passenger Terminal. It faces the Public Square where all principal



motor routes converge, and the 2,000-car Terminal Garage can be reached without going out of doors.

You'll like Hotel Cleveland. We're glad you are coming, and we'll do everything we can to make your visit a happy one.

Three restaurants, including popular priced Coffee Shop. Breakfasts from 25c., lunch from 50c., dinner from 75c.



HOTEL CLEVELAND
Cleveland

The history of the RENAISSANCE HOTEL, site of the 49th International Convention, also carries with it historical significance for the FCSU. The hotel for the August 2010 Convention is actually the same site as the last FCSU Convention held in Cleveland, from September 2 - 8, 1934. Then it was called Hotel Cleveland, a 1,000-room facility that was revitalized a decade earlier as part of a greater plan to modernize the Public Square area including having a tunnel dug underneath the building that today connects the property to the Terminal Tower.

- Based on information from The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History, posted on a site maintained by Case Western Reserve University.

Insights and Viewpoints

Faith Guides Newlyweds to Trace Family Roots & Travel to Slovakia

The story of how I met my wife Kelly is a tale unto itself; however, it relates to this story in that I believe divine intervention drew us together. So when it came time to decide where to go for our honeymoon, the logical choice was to follow the faith which connected us. We would trace family roots and travel to a shared heritage.

My namesake is of Czech origin. I knew that, 100 years ago, my Dad's lineage traveled to America, through Ellis Island, from a tiny area in southeast Moravia close to the Slovak border. Kelly's great grandmother also came through Ellis Island from Western Slovakia. The two areas are about 60 miles apart. However, the information provided from those immigrant records is all we knew about our ancestors before leaving for America. The only other bit of information we had came from Kelly's great aunt (Teta), who gave us a name and email of a descendant that we may be able to get into contact with once we landed in Prague and were settled.

To be honest, I don't know what, if any expectations, we had for this trip. At best, I was hoping to take a tour of the towns that our ancestors came from. There were no promises the contact would be available, as no one in the immediate family had talked with her, not even Teta, who gave us our contact's information. What followed though, seemed to be Heaven sent, as well.

After spending a few days enjoying the Golden City, Kelly decided to email our contact. We were worried the email would not be convincing, as it's not everyday that you receive an email from strangers claiming to be long lost family from across the Atlantic Ocean. To our contact's credit though, we received a positive response and in English!

Her name is Zuzana, who as it turns out, was also relying on her faith, including a dream about her late Grandpa and Grandma. She hadn't dreamt of them since their passing and it was wonderful to see them again. Her Grandpa was a brother to Kelly's Great Grandmother.

She asked if we would like to meet her in Prague, as she worked close by. We met briefly in a hotel conference room. Kelly and Zuzana exchanged family and contact information, as well as, the amazing circumstances that brought us together. As she was only on break from work, we said our goodbyes. We received an email later that night in our hotel room from Zuzana, inviting us to the village in Slovakia where her family still lives. She had bought bus tickets for us and was eagerly awaiting our decision. Although, only having the most limited use of the language, Kelly and I could not turn down that opportunity, not only for us, but for family back home that were anticipating the stories that we would bring back.

We arrived at night, to a location just outside of Trenčín. Zuzana was waiting for us, along with her niece, to drive us the rest of the way to Velké Uhersce. By that time it was late and her parents had made accommodations for us. She told us to get a good rest, as we'd be meeting family in the morning.

We woke up to sunlight at 5:00 in the morning, birds chirping and a village loudspeaker announcing upcoming events. We went to the morning Catholic Mass with Zuzana and her family, and afterwards visited my wife's family graves in the cemetery that surrounds the church. My wife was then shown the house that her Great grandmother was born and lived in.

After this, we were invited to lunch. However, our lunch was really planned to be a wedding reception. We were welcomed in traditional Kroj and partook in dipping bread in salt. After being presented gifts which included a card signed by all in attendance, we ate lunch, followed by dancing and singing songs. Before we knew it, time had flown by and dinner was being served.

It was an indescribable experience to enjoy a day with family we never had contact with before. My one regret is Kelly and I didn't speak Slovak fluently, however, joy is a universal language and we were very thankful Zuzana could translate for us and relay our kindest thanks to the family that were there, for a day that we will never forget.

The next morning, the time came to say goodbye to our truly gracious hosts. It was tough, we didn't want to leave, but we knew it would not be the last time we saw each other. We toasted to Zuzana's Dad Peter, for it was his birthday and then, Zuzana's mother Maria gave us an assignment to take back with us. She wanted us to keep our family connected and to reach out to those that we've lost contact with. We made a promise to do so.

Zuzana's brother Pavol offered to drive us to my ancestral villages, as it would be on the way back to Prague, then we would take a train back the rest of the way. In the village of Vnorovy, we were able to find a lone birth certificate belonging to my great grandfather in a dusty volume sized book, and a distant relative who invited us to his home, which also happened to be the house my great grandfather, was born.

Without Zuzana and Pavol, we would have never been able to find a way to my ancestral villages, let alone, gather all those experiences. Her family was also extremely gracious to people that came to their home as total strangers and with no announcement. For that we are truly blessed and thankful. After saying our goodbyes to Zuzana, we returned home with many stories to tell.

Now two years later, we await Zuzana's arrival this fall to our home in Michigan and hope that we can bring as much joy to her, as she and her family brought us on our honeymoon. And we've tried to honor our promise to Maria to reconnect with family we've lost touch with; with the help of technology, we have opened the lines of communication across an ocean that had been lost for some time.

-Michael Konecny
Branch 721



Kelly, second from right, reunited with her Slovak family (L-R): Pavol, Peter, Maria and Zuzana



Mike and Kelly (seated, center) surrounded by newly discovered family members who hosted a wedding reception for them in a village outside Trenčín.

Two More Families Looking To Reconnect

The Ellos from Štiavnik near Zilina, Slovakia is looking for family members – the Ellos (originally Illo), who came from Slovakia, might live in Chicago at present. They have been in the USA since the 1920's. They are Mr. John Ello (born in 1903) and his wife Mary. They had a son William (born about 1944) and a daughter Lenka (born about 1948). Mr. John Ello went to the USA with his brother Vendelín. They had one more brother Steve/ Stephan who stayed in Slovakia. Vendelin was married but didn't have any children. The last information we have about the Ello family is from 1965. They lived on 2418 Lawndale Ave., Chicago 23, Illinois at that time.

If you have any information about the Ellos from Chicago please contact beata.jirankova@hotmail.com.

The Luhový family is looking for descendants of Blažej Dvorský, now deceased. He came to the U.S. around the year 1910 when he was about twenty years old and lived in Elizabeth, New Jersey. He had a wife Maria, daughter Anne and sons Joseph, William, John, Stephen and George. His first wife Maria died in 1957. Blažej Dvorský died on the 27th of January probably in 1965 when he was 75 years old. He was from Slovakia from the city of Púchov and the village Horné Kočkovce.

If anyone can help with this search, please write to sisa4151@azet.sk.

(NOTE: if you have information about either of these families, but don't have access to e mail, please write Helene Cincebeaux, 151 Colebrook Dr, Rochester NY 14617 or call 585 342-9383.)

SPRING AND SUMMER CLOTHING SALE

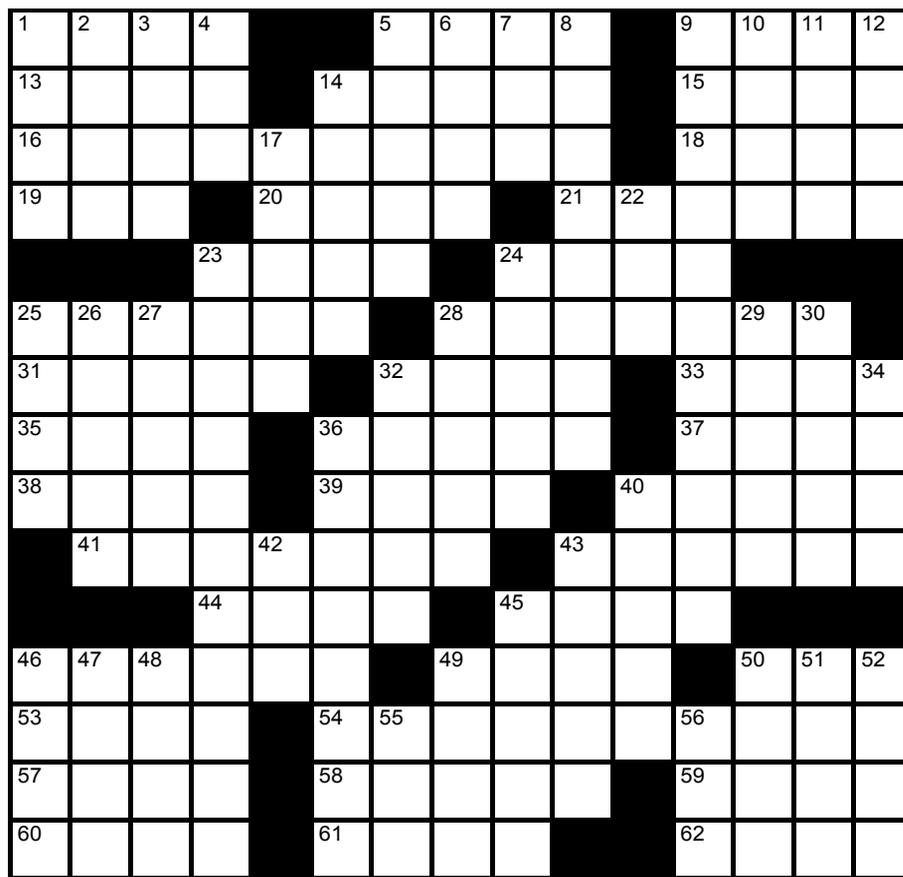
(NEW AND "GENTLY USED" CLOTHING FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN)

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2010 (9am TO 5pm)
SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2010 (10am TO 5pm)

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 TRINITY PLAZA AND WALNUT STREET
 YONKERS, NEW YORK

Any questions, contact Christine Slattery at 914-512-0414
 (e-mail: slattamy@optonline)

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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Reminder...

All English and Slovak articles should be sent directly to the editor Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. The email address for articles is fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com. Articles may also be sent by Fax at 216/642-4310. Teresa Ivanec can be reached by phone at 216/642-9406 or 1/800-533-6682.

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 Home Office, 6611 Rockside Rd., Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA; fax at 216/642-4310 E-mail: FCSU@aol.com

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY & IRA

INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2010

Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA's with the "Cash Interest" Option	4.40% (4.306% apr)
Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	4.15% (4.066% apr)
Single deposit of \$10,000.00 or more—1st yr guarantee	5.60% (5.449% apr)
Single deposit of less than \$10,000.00—1st yr guarantee	4.65% (4.545% apr)
New "Park 2 Annuity"	3.75% (3.682% apr)
New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA—1st yr guarantee	3.50% (3.440% apr)
New six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	4.00% (3.922% apr)
New Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	3.90% (3.826% apr)

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

Across

- 1 Tritons
- 5 Thwart
- 9 Bear dipper
- 13 Burn plant
- 14 Figure out
- 15 Gimme a Break star, Carter
- 16 Inexorable
- 18 Cripple
- 19 Boy
- 20 Singer Guthrie
- 21 Garments
- 23 Remain
- 24 Bench
- 25 Porter
- 28 More threadbare
- 31 Utopian
- 32 Tree trunk
- 33 Morose
- 35 TV cop Peter ____
- 36 Levered
- 37 Dog food name
- 38 Vitriolic
- 39 Injure
- 40 Make tea
- 41 Flow out
- 43 Panoramas
- 44 Forfeiture
- 45 Footless
- 46 Not outdoors
- 49 Ger. title of respect
- 50 Pride
- 53 Hotel name
- 54 Started
- 57 Downwind
- 58 Not fired up
- 59 Unit of length
- 60 Information
- 61 New Mexico city
- 62 Shade trees

Down

- 1 Nobleman
- 2 Chigger
- 3 Recounted
- 4 Envision
- 5 Indiscretion
- 6 Bread spread
- 7 Sickbed items (Abbr.)
- 8 Weakened
- 9 Consummate
- 10 Bring up
- 11 Incision
- 12 Charity
- 14 Dress holder
- 17 Of birth
- 22 Crone
- 23 Shocks and disgusts
- 24 Bay State city
- 25 Latvian port city
- 26 Draw out
- 27 Fabric
- 28 Watered-silk
- 29 Exorcist actress Burstyn
- 30 Pakistani monetary unit
- 32 Rascals
- 34 Cleaning implements
- 36 Terminate gradually
- 40 Contempt
- 42 Sign of assent
- 43 Spar
- 45 Auspices
- 46 Persia
- 47 Egypt. river
- 48 Goulash
- 49 Hawaii town
- 50 And others (Latir)
- 51 Microbe
- 52 Likelihood
- 55 Genetic material (Abbr.)
- 56 Affirmative

See Solution on Page 18

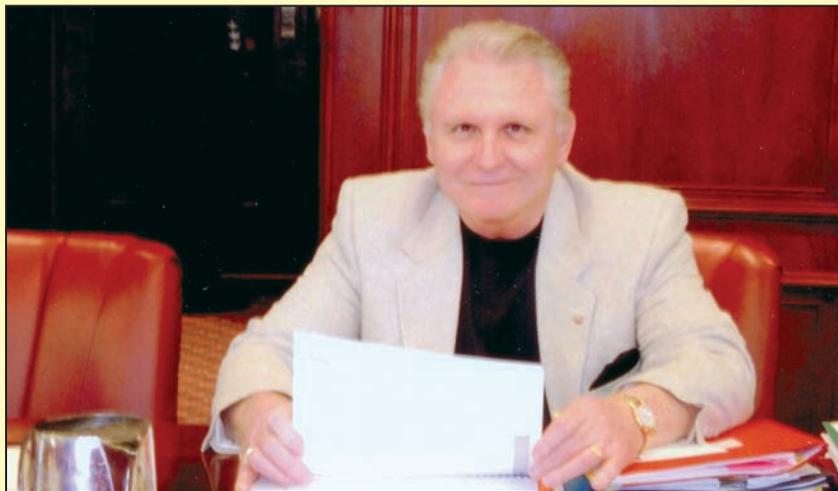
FCSU Holds Annual Board

The Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union held their annual meeting on Saturday March 20, 2010 and Sunday March 21, 2010 at the Renaissance Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio – the site of the National Convention in August.

President Andrew Rajec presented his annual report on the status of the Society. Reports were also given by National Chaplain, Rev. Thomas Nasta; National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.; Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt; National Treasurer George Matta; Fraternal Activities Director Susan Ondrejco; General Counsel Gary Matta; and others. An actuarial report was given by Edward DePersis of Bruce and Depersis. An auditor's report by Edward Mertz of Hosack, Spect, Muetzel and Wood. Larry White gave an assets manager's report to the Board.

Members are encouraged to read the various reports and minutes from this important meeting, as they appear in this issue and in the last several issues of the Jednota, and take an interest in the Society.

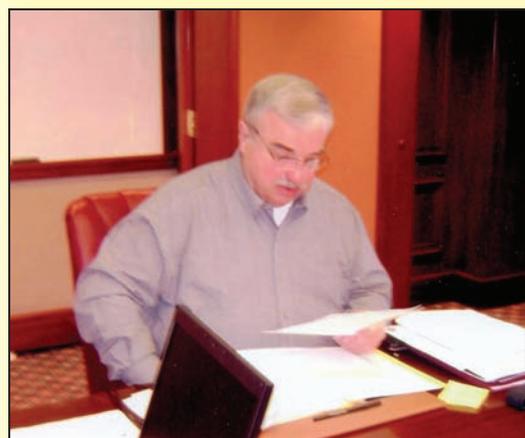
-Submitted by National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar



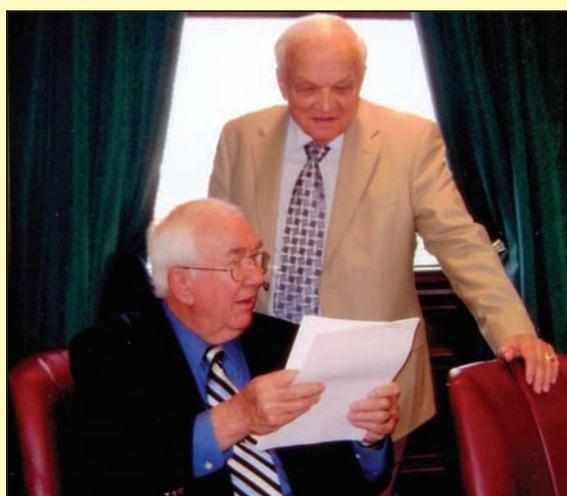
National President Andrew M. Rajec gives his annual report to the Board.



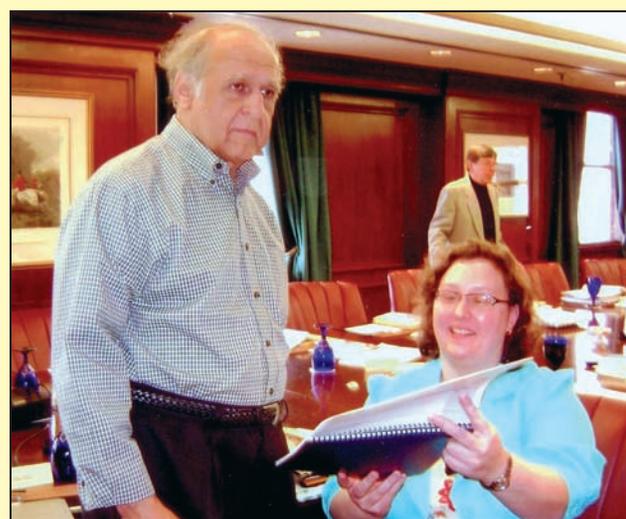
Fraternal Activities Director Susan Ondrejco



Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt presents reports of the Executive, Pension and Scholarship Committees to the Board.



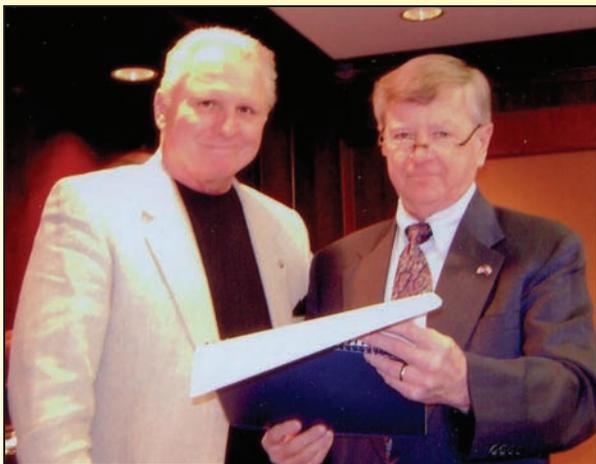
National Treasurer George F. Matta (standing) goes over his annual report with Regional Director Regis Brekosky (seated).



Regional Director Carl Ungvarsky (standing) goes over reports with Fraternal Activities Director Susan Ondrejco.



Mrs. Harcar



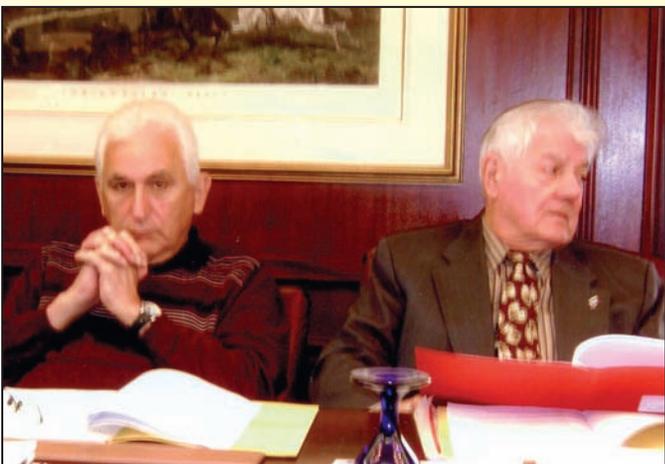
L – R, National President Andrew M. Rajec goes over the marketing report with National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.



Regional Director Rudolph Glogovsky.



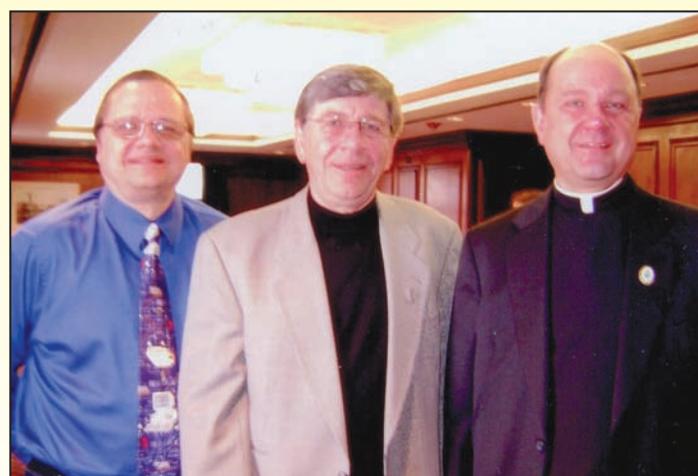
L – R, Holding Company Members James Marmol, Joseph Bilecki, Joseph Senko.



L – R, Regional Director Henry Hassay, Regional Director Joseph Minarovich.



General Counsel Gary Matta updates the Board on legal matters.



L – R, Regional Director Damian Nasta, Regional Director Milos Mitro, National Chaplain Rev. Thomas A. Nasta.

Board Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio



Activities Director Susan Ondrejco and National Treasurer George F. Matta



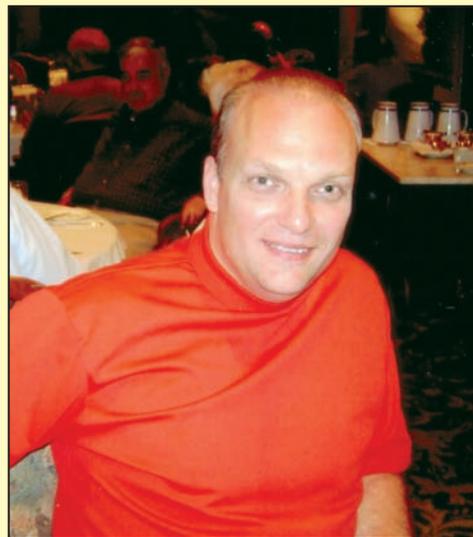
National Treasurer George F. Matta and Mrs. Matta



Mrs. Rajec and National President Andrew M. Rajec



National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr and Mrs. Harcar



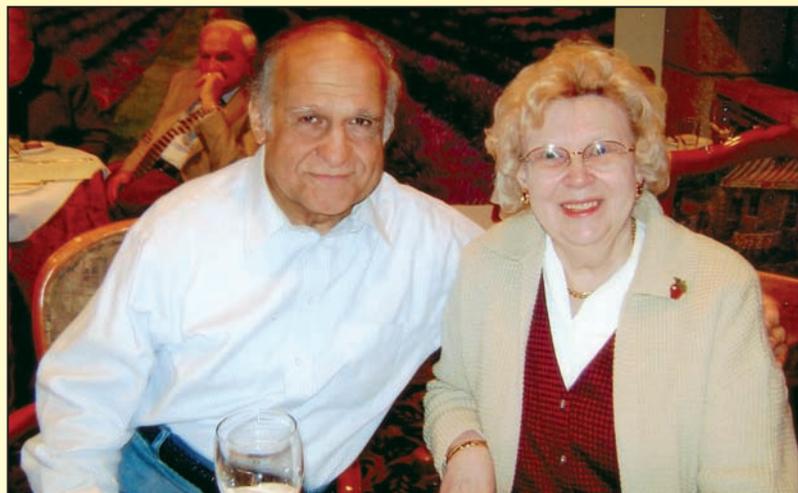
General Counsel Gary Matta



National Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt and Mrs. Arendt



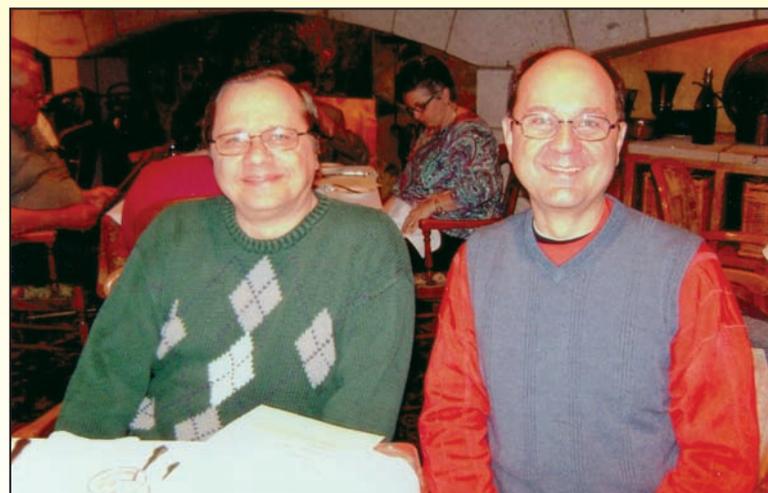
Regional Director Regis Brekosky and Mrs. Brekosky



Regional Director Carl Ungvarsky and Mrs. Ungvarsky



Regional Director Milos Mitro and Mrs. Mitro



L - R, Regional Director Damian Nasta and National Chaplain Fr. Tom Nasta

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 18K – KULPMONT, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 018K Kulpmont, PA and Branch 075K Shamokin, PA. All members of Branch 018K will now hold membership in Branch 075K. This merger has taken place as of April 14, 2010. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Ronald M. Anderson, 8 S. Shamokin Street, Shamokin, PA 17872-6028, (570) 648-7012. We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 60 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 60 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, May 16, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of President Ann Wargovich, 58 Lilmont Avenue, Swissvale, PA. On the agenda will be officer's reports, discussion of branch activities and the upcoming convention. All Members are urged to attend.

Margaret M. Perla, Secretary

BRANCH 61K – BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

There has been a merger between Branch 061K Baltimore, MD and Branch 856K Herndon, DC. All members of Branch 061K will now hold membership in Branch 856K. This merger has taken place as of April 08, 2010. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Katherine Nowatkoski, 12127 Westwood Hills Dr, Oak Hill, VA 20171-1512, (703) 860-1693.

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BR 127P – WEST LEISENRING, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 127P Trf To 162k 4/2, PA and Branch 162K Uniontown, PA.

All members of Branch 127P will now hold membership in Branch 162K. This merger has taken place as of April 26, 2010. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Dolores Marmol, 45 Barbara Ln, Uniontown, PA 15401, (724) 437-4983. We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St. Stephen Society, Branch 153, will hold its mid-year meeting on Saturday, June 19, 2010, at 12:00 Noon at the home of President John Jurcenko, 7113 West Talcott Ave., Chicago. All members are invited to attend. There will be a fraternal luncheon following the meeting.

Please remember in your prayers the following members who have passed on to their eternal rest:

Lillian Laketek
Mary Murawski
Emily Sergey
Jane Churak
Sophie Klotnia
Shirley Novak
Anthony Fabianich

Dorothy Jurecenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, June 20, 2010, at 9:00AM at K2 Engineering Conference Room, 234 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, PA.

Branch activities will be discussed, officers' reports will be given, and developments regarding the upcoming National Convention in Cleveland, OH will be covered. All members of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting. Fathers and one guest will be treated to breakfast at Denny's Restaurant following the meeting. Reservations and any inquiries should be directed to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 176 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 176, will hold its Semi-annual Meeting on Sunday June 20, 2010, at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall, St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, NYC.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 will hold their next meeting on Monday, May 17, 2010 at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during the December meeting as is done each December. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. Anyone interested in running for branch office and / or ASC board representative should contact the branch officers and attend the December meeting. The 49th International Convention of the FCSU is being held this year so there is a tremendous amount of activity occurring. This will be one of the primary topics of discussion at our branch meeting. It is a great time for our younger members to attend the branch meetings to discover the issues and help us map out the future of our organization. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update. See you at the Club!

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 233 – BROCKPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. George Society, Branch 233, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, May 16, 2010, at 2PM at the residence of Irene Halko, 5119 R 219 (by the Brockport Post Office) in Brockport, PA 15823.

Irene Halko

BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the Branch's next meeting on Sunday, June 13, 2010, at noon, at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. Since lunch will be prepared, please call Fran at (724) 929-9788 and let her know if you are attending.

Mary Anne Higgenbotham, President

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the St. Joseph the Protector Society, Branch #484 will be held June 11, 2010 at the home of Joseph E. Rura, 43 Rugh Road, Coral, Pa. beginning at 2:00 PM. All members are welcome.

Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 565K – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 565K Donora, PA and Branch 670K Donora, PA. All members of Branch 565K will now hold mem-

bership in Branch 670K. This merger has taken place as of January 21, 2010. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Dorothy J Petrus, 545 Castner Ave, Donora, PA 15033-1814, (724) 379-5881.

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 577K – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 577K Johnstown, PA and Branch 023K Johnstown, PA.

All members of Branch 577K will now hold membership in Branch 023K. This merger has taken place as of January 26, 2010. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Janet Mical, 445 Tioga St, Johnstown, PA 15905, (814) 536-7952.

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

Branch 595 has monthly breakfast on the fourth Sunday of every month through May. Breakfast features 11 hot items, coffee, milk, juices and a sweets table to top off the meal. The cost is \$6.50 for adults and \$3.25 for children, and is offered from 8:30 a.m. until noon. It is "all you can eat," and the best breakfast in town!

The polka parties are held the first Sunday of each month (except Easter) through May. There is a free will offering at the door and food and beverages for purchase. Please join us for these events! We are located at the corner of Sixth St. and Sherman Blvd., in Muskegon Hts. For more information call: 231-733-7525.

**Donna Stone,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, June 27, 2010, at noon, at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 682 – BOARDMAN, OHIO

A Branch meeting for #682 will be held on Thursday, June 24, 2010 at MRL in Struthers, at 7:30PM. The agenda will be discussion on the upcoming Convention.

Andrew J. Hirt

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its Semi-annual Meeting on Sunday, June 20, 2010, at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall, St. John Nepocumene Church, 411 East 66th Street, NYC.

On the agenda will be a financial report and discussion of activities. All members are urged to attend this meeting.

**Fraternally,
Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary**

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

On May 16, 2010, at 12:30 pm, Saint Joseph Branch 731 members will meet at Saint Matthias Church Rectory, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio.

The meeting will include discussion and finalizing plans for the 49th Convention.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 769 – ENDWELL, NEW YORK

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 769, will hold its semi-annual meeting on May 14, 2010 at the residence of Henry J. Pochily, 2809 Smith Drive, Endwell, NY. All members are encouraged to attend.

The meeting agenda will cover election of delegates for the forthcoming Jednota 2010 Convention to be held in Cleveland, OH, on August 14 – 18, 2010, as well as other items of concern to the membership.

President Henry J. Pochily

BR 826K – MCCLELLANTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 826K Mcclellandtown, PA and Branch 162K Uniontown, PA. All members of Branch 826K will now hold membership in Branch 162K. This merger has taken place as of April 26, 2010. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Dolores Marmol, 45 Barbara Ln, Uniontown, PA 15401, (724) 437-4983. We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 835 – RICHEYVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 835K Richeyville, PA and Branch 367K Fairchance, PA.

All members of Branch 835K will now hold membership in Branch 367K. This merger has taken place as of April 09, 2010. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Audrey J. Balazik, 316 Shady Side Rd., Uniontown, PA 15401-6706, (724) 438-3887.

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold their Annual Slovak Father's Day Mass on Sunday, June 20, 2010, at St. John Bosco High School, located on 13640 Bellflower Blvd in Bellflower. Mass will begin promptly at 11:00 AM. A delicious lunch will be served after the Mass. Bring your family and friends and come join us in celebrating Father's Day.

Also, following the festivities, Branch 844 members will hold a meeting to review officer reports and discuss various branch activities.

We hope to see you all there and would like to wish everyone a very special and safe Father's Day.

Milan Konkol, Secretary

BRANCH 844 - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

You are invited to attend a joint meeting of St. Joseph Branch 844 and the Prince Pribina District and Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will take place in the building of the Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Suite "A", Fullerton, CA 92870. On the agenda will be the elections of delegates for 49th Convention of FCSU.

Paul Skuben

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Semi-Annual meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA will be held on Wednesday June 9, 2010. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, PA.

The officers of Branch 857 send their greet-

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

ings to all delegates to the FCSU Convention in Cleveland OH in August.

Damian D. Nasta, Recording Secretary



BRANCH 764 - WARREN, Ohio

Sts Cyril & Methodius, Branch 764 will be hosting a free Continental breakfast. All members of St. Cyril & Methodius Church and Christ Our King Church are welcome on June 6 after the 9:30 am Mass. The breakfast will be held at St. Cyril & Methodius Church Hall, Laird Avenue, Warren, OH.



Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary



Branch 24 – Cleveland, Ohio

Members of the St. Andrew Svorad Society, Branch 24, are invited to the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club on Sunday, June 20, 2010 and the Slovak American Zemplin Club Picnics on Sunday, July 18, 2010. Both will be held from 12:00 Noon to 8:00 PM at the St. Sava Picnic Grounds at 2151 West Wallings Road (between Broadview Rd. and State Rd.) in Broadview Heights, Ohio.

Why not attend and meet some of your fellow branch members? There will be plenty of homemade Slovak food, music and dancing.

Bob Kopco, President



Obrázok by Dusan Grecner is just one of the contemporary graphics on display by appointment at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, DC.



The Embassy of the Slovak Republic presents CONTEMPORARY GRAPHICS AND SCULPTURES BY DUSAN GRECNER AND ZDENO MAYERCAK

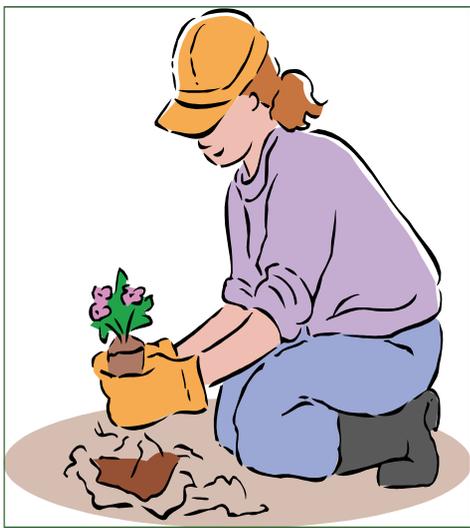
Embassy of the Slovak Republic
3523 International Court, NW, Washington, DC 20008

The Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, DC has the honor of inviting you to the exhibition of "Contemporary Graphics and Sculptures by Dusan Grecner and Zdeno Mayercak."

More than 20 graphics and sculptures created by these two excellent contemporary Slovak artists – who had presented their work all over the world (Finland, Italy, Turkey, France, Greece, Spain, Japan, Canada, and India) and are the recipients of various international awards – will be available for public viewing. Their exceptional artistic work will be exhibited from April 23 through June 2010, on the premises of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic 3523 International Court, NW, Washington, DC.

Viewings are by appointment only. To schedule a viewing or for more information, contact: 202-237 1054 ext. 200; or email: emb_washington@mzv.sk
Media contact: Terezia Sajgalikova 202-237 1054 ext. 223

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

All English and Slovak articles should be sent directly to the new editor Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. The new E-Mail Address for the articles will be fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com. Articles may also be sent by Fax at 216/642-4310. Teresa Ivanec can be reached by phone at 216/642-9406 or 1/800-533-6682.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE REVEREND STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – EASTERN PA, MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON, DC

The Reverend Stephen Furdek District of Eastern Pa., Maryland and Washington, D.C. held their semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 14, 2010 at St. John the Baptist Church Hall in Allentown, Pa. Mass was held at 11:00 AM and was followed by a delicious meal which was enjoyed by everyone.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30PM. by Pres. Greg Harakal and was opened with a prayer by the FCSU National Chaplin, the Rev. Thomas Nasta.

Roll call was taken with nine officers and twenty-six delegates present. The count was approved and accepted on a motion by Helen Fiala and Jerry Fabian.

The minutes were read by the secretary and were approved by all. The financial reports were distributed and reviewed by all. Auditors found the books to be in good and proper order. A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial statement.

Regional Director Damian Nasta spoke about the National Convention and how branches must abide with the bylaws. There was a discussion on this issue.

The election of our District Delegate for the National Convention took place. Katherine Nowatkoski, Branch 856, was elected as the District Delegate to the FCSU Convention to be held in August, 2010.

The annual meeting will be held October 10, 2010 at St. John the Baptist Church Hall, Allentown, PA.

A motion was made and the meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Msgr. Thomas Derzack.

Refreshments were then served.

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 20 PRINCE RASTISLAV DISTRICT - MONTREAL

The Prince Rastislav District will hold its semi-annual meeting on June 6, 2010 in the Parish Hall of SS Cyril and Methodius following the High Mass. Branches are encouraged to send representatives. District and branch activities will be up for discussion.

Alexander S. Dobrik, President



District 6 – Pittsburgh District

The Pittsburgh District of the FCSU will hold its annual Fathers' Day Brunch on Sunday, June 20, at 11AM at Holy Trinity parish church hall in West Mifflin, PA. We are planning a family interactive event, so let's all be ready for a good time. You are also welcome at Sunday Mass at Holy Trinity which starts at 9:30 AM.

Branch 628 will host the event while Branch 2 will handle the program booklet. A notice regarding reservations, fees and deadlines will be sent to each branch. Please let them know who will be attending as soon as possible. The rates for the program ads have been revised: full page \$75, half page \$40, and quarter page \$20.

There will also be a very short business meeting to discuss items concerning this year's upcoming convention and future 2010 events for the Pittsburgh District

We are looking forward to seeing everyone on Fathers' Day.

Fraternally,
Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary
Pittsburgh District



SLOVAK PICNIC IN CLEVELAND, OHIO

Sunday, July 18, 2010

The American Slovak Zemplin Club will hold its annual picnic on Sunday, July 18, 2010. The picnic will be held at the ST. SAVA PICNIC GROVE, 2151 Wallings Road (between State and Broadview Roads) in Broadview Heights.

Festivities begin at 12 noon and continue until 8:00PM. Traditional Slovak specialties as well as American favorites will be featured throughout the day. Home-baked pastries/kolace will be available for sale. Music for dancing and listening pleasure will be provided by the popular Johnny Pastirik Band. The popular Slovak beer Zlaty Bazant also will be available. There will be 50/50 raffle boards and other activities to please everyone.

The committee cordially invites all Jednotars and Jednotarky. We are looking forward to seeing you. Come with your family and friends. Help us preserve our Slovak culture and heritage. For additional information, call (440) 885-5702.

Fraternally yours,
George Carny, President



DISTRICT 16 MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT - NEW YORK

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District #16 will hold its Semi-annual Meeting on Sunday June 6, 2010 at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall, Most Holy Trinity Church, Yonkers, NY.

On the agenda will be a financial report and a discussion of activities and other business.

We urge all District Branches to send their representatives to this meeting. All members of the FCSU – not just delegates – are welcome.

Refreshments will be served by Branch 41, Yonkers, NY, after the meeting.

Henrieta H. Davitova, Secretary-Treasurer

FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT – DISTRICT 9 - UNIONTOWN PENNSYLVANIA

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 6, 2010 at 1PM in the meeting room of the Hampton Inn at 698 W. Main St in Uniontown.

Branch officers, guests, and delegates to the convention are requested to attend this meeting. Discussion will be regarding the 49th FCSU International Convention in Cleveland, OH. Vice President Andrew Harcar will be the guest speaker and will be providing a Power Point presentation. A light lunch will be served.

Reservations need to be made by contacting President Marmol at 724-437-0892 or Secretary Holly at 724-438-0697 by Wednesday, June 2, 2010.

Barbara Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 - REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT - YOUNGSTOWN OHIO

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold its next meeting Tuesday April 20, 2010. 7:00 PM at the St. Matthias church rectory. On the agenda will be discussions concerning the convention and summer activities. All Branches are urged to attend.

Carla Peshek, President

DISTRICT 15 - PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT

You are invited to attend a joint meeting of the Prince Pribina District and St. Joseph Branch 844, FCSU, Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will take place in the building of the Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Suite "A", Fullerton, CA 92870. On the agenda will be the elections of delegates for 49th Convention of FCSU.

Paul Skuben

GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT – WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District will hold a special meeting on Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 7:00PM at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church, 4261 Route 981, P.O. Box 187, United, PA 15689. We will meet in the Formation Room. On the agenda: election of the district delegate to the FCSU Convention in August.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

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

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Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

The First Catholic Slovak Union has a Mass said for each of our deceased members at St. Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio.



Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
001K	Marie Kroupa	166K	Ian M Florence	293K	Michael S Bazik	514K	Eleanor T Cerrc
002K	Veronica Valerie Mahich	166K	Anna Zubalik	293K	Anne Lajoie 10/30/2009	553K	Robert J Gergosky
003P	Helen T Bedoya	169P	Marjorie C Staicer	293K	Bernard J MCGonigle	580K	Helen Marie Mack
005P	Michael M Zapko	181K	Frank M Bonar	294K	George S Elko	615K	Alvin A Kopas
006K	Doris J Sedlock	181K	William J Smail	315K	James R Nieding	615K	Anna-maria Bordas Wheeker
010K	Mary Nalevanko	189K	Anna Muffie	324K	Chester Mogelesky	633K	Katherine Helen Karrer
010K	Jr George T Palickar	200K	Andrew James Morandini	401K	John G Daniska	667K	Martin Penridge
016P	Cyril A Bielek	228K	Michael Buri	410K	Augustine J Yurik	670K	Joseph J Piktel Jr
023K	Mary Podlucky Vogatsky	228K	Richard Zwolinski	419K	Frank S Marko	682K	Thomas J Voytko
038K	William L Gaydos	240P	Thomas E Mack	480K	Joseph Kunak	731K	Robert P Popovich
045K	John E Julio	254K	Peter J Gavel	484K	Feno F Busi	731K	Madonna Sedzmac
055K	Charles V Minarcik	259K	Virginia R Cifra	484K	Ruth C Geletka	738K	John Palo
055K	Rose Marie Myers	260K	Veronica A Frketich	484K	Helen V Kiral	746K	Joseph Evans
075K	Alma Fitzpatrick	260K	Mary E Nerone	484K	Michael P Voytek	746K	Edward Mojzis
086K	John J Leshko Jr	266K	Andrew Vendel	505K	Elizabeth V Marchak	746K	Dorothy Wallis
102K	George J Bertothy	278K	Jean M Yednock	512K	Ruth Ann Frank	756K	Anna Klco
114K	Mary J Miernicki	290K	Frances M Kozel	512K	Verna Marcinko	796K	Jerome A Bankos Sr
164K	Elizabeth L Reedy	292K	Margaret Gdula	512K	Lawrence M Sikora	831K	Helen L Malinsky
						855K	Edward Matus

* Processed in the month of April 2010

Obituaries

Andrew J. Sanetrek Branch 260 Campbell, Ohio

Andrew J. Sanetrek, 86, passed away April 17, 2010 at Hospice House. Andy was born November 29, 1923, in Campbell, OH, the son of Stephen and Maria (Stas) Sanetrek, and was a lifetime area resident.

He served in the US Navy from 1943 to 1946 as a Seaman First Class, where he received the Asiatic-Pacific Medal. He as a member of St. Elizabeth Church in Campbell and Jednota Branch 260. He was an avid golfer and bowler and shot a hole-in- one at the Hubbard Golf Course.

He retired in 1985 from Republic/LTV Steel Company after 38 years of service, and was a starter at the MillCreek Golf Course for 13 years.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, the former Dorothy J. Clark-Kukla whom he married in 1977; two daughters Cheryl (Raymond) Sadler of Youngstown and Susan (Steve) Puhalla of Poland; one son Gary (Sandie) Kukla of Denver; three grandchildren, William Sadler, Derek Sanetrek, and Jennifer Lutzi; and a sister, Dorothy Geewax of Cleveland.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Joseph Sanetrek; and three sisters, Mary Mihalko, Katherine "Kitty" DeAngelis, and Anne Barry. A private family interment was held. Wasko Funeral Home handled arrangements.

The officers of St. Matthews Branch 260 offer their deepest sympathy to the family of Andrew J. Sanetrek. May he rest in peace.

Charles M. Terek

Helen Macko Branch 580 West Mifflin, Pennsylvania

Helen Marie Macko, 87, of Level Green, formerly of Duquesne, died on Sat., Apr. 17, 2010. She was the wife of the late John A. Macko; mother of Jack Macko, Kathleen Kaloski, Lawrence Macko, and Denise Holmes; grand- mother of 11; great-grandmother of 3; and sister of William Shedolske, Margaret Staszak, & Ann Novak and she was

predeceased by several brothers and sisters. Friends and family were received at the JOHN M. DOBRINICK FUNERAL HOME INC., 702 7th St. (Rt. 130) Trafford. Funeral mass was Tues. in Holy Trinity Church, West Mifflin. Interment followed in the church cemetery.

The officers of Branch 580 wish to express their sympathy to Jack, Kathleen, Lawrence, and Denise, and their families.

Virginia Jasek

Sister M. Raymund, SS.C.M., 96

Sister M. Raymund (Catherine Horvath) died on April 26, 2010, at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pennsylvania. The daughter of August and Ludmila (Sudora) Horvath, she was born on January 21, 1914, in New York City.

Sister Raymund attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in New York City and graduated from St. Cyril Academy in Danville, Pennsylvania. She then attended LaVerne College in New York City and later received a B.A. from Marywood University, Scranton, Pennsylvania. She also studied at Fairfield University, the Catholic University of America and Notre Dame.

On January 6, 1933, Sister entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. She was received as a novice on August 21 of that year. Her first profession of vows was on August 22, 1935.

Sister Raymund taught in elementary school, business and junior and senior high school. She held school administrative positions in Connecticut, Indiana, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Sister Raymund served on the Leadership Team of the congregation from 1964 -1970. In 1980, she was elected General Superior, a post she held until 1988. She was then missioned to Villa St. Cyril, Highland Park, Illinois, where she provided pastoral care for the residents and their families.

Sister Raymund had two special assignments, the first in 1946-1949 in New York City. Under the auspices of the Catholic War Relief, she had secretarial and placement duties in conjunction with Refugees and Displaced Persons. The second was in January 1990 when she volunteered to go to Trnava, Slo-

vakia, to advise in school management at the Ursuline Academy of St. Angela Merici. She also taught English as a Second Language to the Sisters and the students there. Franciscan and Jesuit scholastics also benefited from her expertise in English.

After her return from Slovakia, Sister took up residence at Maria Hall and later at Maria Joseph Manor and Emmanuel Center.

Sister Raymund was a member of the Conference of Slovak Religious, the Slovak World Congress and the Slovak Catholic Federation. At one time she served on the Federation's Executive Board.

The transferal and recitation of the Rosary took place on Wednesday, April 28, at 9 a.m. at Maria Hall followed by the Wake Service at 11:15 a.m., also at Maria Hall. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 1:30 p.m. in the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius. The main celebrant was the Reverend Gerard Heintzelman. The following were concelebrants: the Reverend Dominic Azagbor, O.P., the Reverend Albert Oldfield, the Reverend John Kilpatrick, the Reverend Patrick Devine, and the Reverend Philip Altavilla. Deacon Thomas Conlin assisted at the liturgy.

Sister Raymund is survived by her sister, Mrs. Frances Breski, Mableton, Georgia, a brother, John Horvath, Flushing, New York, a sister-in-law, Mrs. Grace Horvath, North Merrick, New York, a nephew, the Reverend Martin Breski, O.F.M. Conv., Lithia Springs, Georgia, and nieces, Mrs. Therese Philipp, Mableton, Georgia, and Mrs. Mary Jane Moroney, Highland Mills, New York.

The Reverend Philip Altavilla, President of the Slovak Catholic Federation, led the prayers at the gravesite in the Sisters' cemetery. Family members scattered soil from Slovakia over the coffin to recall Sister Raymund's deep love of all things Slovak.

Memorial donations may be made to the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, Pennsylvania 17821.

Sister M. Francesca, SS.C.M., 100

Sister M. Francesca (Sophie Ferko) died at the Geisinger Medical Center in Danville on Sunday, May 2, 2010. The daughter of Alex and Sophia (Stupak) Ferko, she was born on

January 27, 1910, in Dupont, Pennsylvania.

Sister attended the Lincoln Public School in Dupont and completed her elementary education at St. John the Baptist School in Pittston, Pennsylvania. She graduated from St. Cyril Academy, Danville, Pennsylvania and received her B.A. from Marywood University, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Sister Francesca entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius on October 2, 1927, was received as a novice on July 12, 1928, and made her first profession of vows on August 18, 1930. This year is the 80th anniversary of her religious profession.

For 57 years Sister Francesca was engaged in the ministry of education. She taught grades 2-8 in parish schools in Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. She also taught religious education classes and was a reading instructor at the Psycho-educational Clinic at Sacred Heart in Wilkes-Barre.

After retiring from teaching, Sister visited the elderly in Olyphant and Shamokin. When she lived at the Motherhouse and Maria Hall, she served as an escort for Sisters requiring medical care. She also acted as receptionist and tour guide for visitors to the Basilica.

Sister Francesca is survived by several cousins, Carol Bennis, Allentown; Dolores Jannen, Naples, Florida; Ellie Rauscher, Collierville, Tennessee; and Tillie Houseknecht, LaPorte, Pennsylvania.

The transferal and recitation of the Rosary took place at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 4, 2010, at Maria Hall followed by a Wake Service at 11:15 a.m. In the afternoon at 1:30 a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Maria Hall. The main celebrant and homilist was the Reverend Gerard Heintzelman. Concelebrants were the Reverend Dominic Azagbor, O.P., the Reverend John Kilpatrick, the Reverend Albert Oldfield, and the Reverend Raymond Orloski. Burial was in the Sisters' cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, Pennsylvania 17821.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

E	F	T	S		F	O	I	L		U	R	S	A
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News From Slovakia

FinMin: Growth of Slovak Economy to Reach 2.8% of GDP in 2010

Bratislava, April 21 (TASR) - The Finance Ministry estimates the growth of Slovakia's economy to reach 2.8 percent of GDP in 2010, Finance Ministry State Secretary Frantisek Palko said at a recent 'Management of Financial Risks' conference organised by Coface in Bratislava.

At the same time, the ministry expects the deficit of public finances to reach 5.5 percent of GDP this year.

"The main reason for the changes in the prognosis was improvement of expectations in the development of the external environment, improvement in indicators of economic sentiment and better results of the real economy in the eurozone at the end of 2009," said Palko.

He noted that the prognosis drawn up by the Finance Ministry reckons on motorway construction, funded via PPP (public-private partnership) projects that will significantly contribute to the GDP growth this year.

Meanwhile, the ministry expects a negative development in consumption by households due to the high unemployment rate (almost 13 percent) and falling real salaries.

In 2009, the Slovak economy recorded a slump of 4.7 percent, with the public finance deficit at 6.3 percent of GDP as opposed to the expected 2.1 percent.

SOPK: Slovakia Has Too Narrow Production Portfolio

Bratislava, April 22 (TASR) - In terms of the economy, Slovakia's biggest problem is the narrow production portfolio, predominantly focused on car industry and engineering, according to the Slovak Trade and Industry Chamber (SOPK).

Among other economic issues that need to be addressed in the near future, SOPK lists decreasing foreign demand, the rise in unemployment, the limited internal market, as well as the lack of qualified workers to cope with the actual needs of the market.

"The ongoing global financial and economic crisis, which was caused by overproduction, and which concerns a crisis of values and systems ... largely manifested itself in Slovakia in terms of consumption," said SOPK chairman Peter Mihok. In order to make it out of the crisis, the Slovak economy has to enhance its performance and competitiveness, according to SOPK. This can be achieved only via a more strict budgetary discipline, entailing constant pressure on the expenditures side of the ledger.

Mihok, SOP chairman since its inception in 1993, assumes that public money could be spent effectively if corruption didn't exist, adding that the same applies to the drawing of EU funds. SOPK also joined the chorus of calls for the bureaucratic burden represented by the employment levies in Slovakia to be reduced.

Imperial Tobacco Slovakia Wins Best Employer Title

Bratislava April 22 (TASR) - Joint-stock company Imperial Tobacco Slovakia, a distributor of tobacco products, has been reported as the best employer in Slovakia for 2009/2010, according to a study published by the global HR consulting and outsourcing firm Hewitt Associates.

The latest results, announced in Bratislava on Thursday, show the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca AB in second place, and Microsoft Slovakia ended up third spot. A total of 46 companies from various industries registered for this year's competition.

According to the study's project manager Eugenia Sochorovska, it's neither the size of the company, nor its brand and publicity glitz that decide the winner. Rather, what matters are factors like employee motivation of employees and the melding of management and staff mind sets.

Italian Investors in Maly Krtis Employ More People Than Population

Maly Krtis, April 23 (TASR) - Italian investors Technogym and Sisme in the industrial park in Maly Krtis (Banska Bystrica) have together employed more people than the overall population of the village.

While around 500 people live in the village, producer of equipment for fitness centres Technogym employs 440 people, and producer of electrical engines Sisme has given jobs to another 160.

"The Sisme management has indicated that after completing the second stage of the plant, employment may further increase by 80-100 jobs," said mayor of Maly Krtis Viliam Bayer.

More than two-thirds of the industrial park's 20 hectares is occupied by the two Italian in-

Address Changes?

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News From Slovakia

vestors. Another five hectares have already been bought by Technogym, which plans further expansion.

The Government, which recently held a session in nearby Velky Krtis, has also promised to support other investors if they come to the industrial park in Maly Krtis.

Bayer noted that while unemployment has been on the rise throughout Slovakia due to the economic crisis, firms in Maly Krtis have been hiring.

Details of Slovakia's Financial Aid to Greece Still Under Discussion

Bratislava, April 23 (TASR) - It hasn't yet been decided how much Slovakia would allocate to help Greece to overcome its public-finance troubles.

Given that the issue should be co-ordinated and agreed on by eurozone-member countries, and that talks on this matter are still only in progress, the Finance Ministry wasn't able to say if Slovakia's contribution to the recovery package would amount to the already estimated sum of around €300 million, an amount calculated according to the size of its national economy when compared to other eurozone members.

To add to the eurozone's recovery package worth around €30 billion, an additional €15 billion should be allocated for this purpose by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In an attempt to refinance its debts successfully, Greece has officially asked the IMF and the eurozone for financial assistance.

Slovak GDP Expected to Be Among Fastest-growing in Eurozone in 2010

Bratislava, April 26 (TASR) - The Slovak economy will be among the fastest-growing economies in the eurozone in 2010, Daniela Ursinyova of Ernst & Young Slovensko told TASR.

The company expects Slovakia's GDP to grow by 3 percent this year and by 4.4 percent in 2011, with the figures curbed by the slow pace of economic growth in the eurozone.

"Slovakia is tied to countries of the economic and monetary union by close business and investment links, so the recession had a significant impact on it. This entwinement is likely to slow down the economic recovery," said Dalimil Draganovsky of Ernst & Young Slovensko.

The deficit won't drop below 3 percent of GDP until 2013. Consumer demand in Slovakia is expected to be adversely affected by rising unemployment, which ranked among fastest-growing amid the crisis.

Essay Competition Winners Will Make a Trip to Brussels

Bratislava, April 22 (TASR) - The best young essay authors participating in the 16th annual 'English Essay Competition' will, among other prizes, be given an opportunity to visit a session of the European Parliament in Brussels for two days.

As Jana Farkasova of the European Commission Representation in Slovakia told TASR, the visit was granted as a prize by Slovak MEP Katarina Nevedalova (Smer-SD).

"The English Essay Competition is a contest in writing English essays for grammar-school students organized by the Open Society Foundation and the EC Representation in Slovakia," informed Farkasova.

Students chose from three topics - the European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, Twenty Years Since the Political Changes in Central Europe, or Gender and Income Equality. According to Farkasova, 747 essays were submitted and 12 students were given prizes.

Survey: Slovaks Ranked within EU Average in Alcohol Consumption

Brussels, April 21 (TASR) - Slovaks rank more or less among the EU average when it comes to their attitudes to alcohol consumption, according to a Eurobarometer survey on EU citizens' attitudes towards alcohol.

The poll canvassed the opinions of 27,000 people across the European Union in October 2009, and 1,006 people of them were from Slovakia.

The survey revealed that the number of abstainers, that is people who haven't had alcohol in the past 12 months, stands at 22 percent in Slovakia, close to the EU average of 24 percent. The list is topped by the Portuguese (42 percent) and, at the other end of the list, the Danish (7 percent).

As regards the frequency of drinking alcohol, a mere 4 percent of those polled in Slovakia said that they drink on a daily basis, which puts them in seventh place from the bottom of the list, which in this respect is topped by the Portuguese (43 percent).

For their part, Slovaks topped the EU-27 list when it comes to a link between alcohol and its price, as 49 percent of Slovaks said they would drink less alcohol if the price rose by 25 percent.

Brass Give Send-Off to Troops Leaving for Afghanistan Friday

Presov, April 22 (TASR) - Another 57 guard troops leaving the next day for a six-month

stint in Afghanistan were given a ceremonial send-off at the Sokolovske military barracks in Presov.

Peter Gajdos, Armed Forces Chief of General Staff, said that troops will be stationed at the airport in Kandahar, where they will be checking the traffic going through entry points and protecting designated facilities.

Defence Minister Minister Jaroslav Baska noted that Slovakia deployed a total of 13,000 troops for more than 30 missions since its inception 17 years before.

Baska said that the current tour of duty, troops for which were drawn from the 2nd Mechanized Brigade in Presov and a battalion in Nitra, was approved by lawmakers two months ago and is one of a series of deployments prepared for this year. Next increase will be voted on by the new Parliament emerging from June 12 election.

According to him, 244 troops now in Afghanistan are planned to be raised to more than 400 early next year.

Rasi: Malnutrition Hampers Capability to Fight Against Diseases

Bratislava, April 22 (TASR) - Some 35 percent of Slovaks entering the hospital suffer from malnutrition, and this affects the efficiency and length of treatment as well as significantly reduces the course of treatment regardless of the disease or conditions, according to Health Minister Richard Rasi.

Because of this, Slovakia has joined the European-wide anti-malnutrition campaign 'Nourishment as Cure - Help Your Nearest and Dearest'. The campaign features issue-related posters in hospitals and retirement homes. According to Health Minister Richard Rasi, the campaign is aimed at raising awareness of malnutrition and the treatment options covered by health-insurance companies.

Geriatric and oncology patients are among the most prone to suffer from malnutrition, said Dr. Jozef Firment from the Anaesthesiology Clinic of Kosice's Louis Pasteur Hospital. Rasi pointed out that malnutrition can also affect obese people, who may be eating enough but are not ingesting the necessary nutrients.

According to gastroenterologist Stefan Krajcik, some 5-12 percent of old people living at home alone suffer from malnutrition. Also, estimates say that 30-40 percent of women over 75 have weight that is minimally 10 percent below their ideal weight. At retirement homes, 23-85 percent of inhabitants are undernourished.

Problems of Slovak Children With Literacy Discussed

Tatranska Lomnica, April 23 (TASR) - The underachievement of Slovak children in the international PISA and PIRLS literacy studies - in which youngsters of up to 10 years of age ranked 26th and those up to 15 came in at 23rd among kids living in OECD countries - was discussed by dozens of educationalists at a two-day conference in Tatranska Lomnica in the High Tatra mountains ending on Friday.

"This is serious, we've finished below the average of OECD countries. We need to look for solutions so that we can perform better in future," said Miron Zelina, guarantor of the event, entitled 'The Development of Literacy in the Context of PISA and PIRLS Studies'.

According to Zelina, it will be necessary to overhaul the country's entire teaching system. The findings of the conference, in his opinion, will form a basis for creating new teaching methodology, and 67,000 teachers in Slovakia need to be gradually retrained accordingly.

Slovakia Expels Suspected Al-Qaeda Terrorist to Algeria

Kosice, April 22 (TASR) - Earlier this week Slovakia expelled Algerian national Mustafa Labsi, charged with co-operation with the international terrorist network Al-Qaeda, to Algeria after he lost his most-recent court hearing in which was seeking asylum in Slovakia, Interior Minister Robert Kalinak announced on Thursday.

According to the minister, the expulsion was carried out after the Slovak Supreme Court judgement turning down his appeal against Migration Office rejecting his asylum application entered effect on April 16.

Labsi, seeking asylum in Slovakia (and other countries) on the grounds that he faces torture and/or the death penalty in Algeria, thus became a foreigner staying in Slovakia unlawfully.

JOHN'S TOURS

John's Tours sets its yearly Tour of Slovakia, Poland, Vienna, Czech Republic for September 6, 2010

John is a member of Jednota & the President of Branch 600

John's tour of September 7, 2009 was a huge success again and the highlight of the tour was a group meeting with the locals, all Slovaks from Radosina, Salgovce, Madunice, Hlohovec, Trencin, Humenne, a total in all of 52. All enjoyed the meal and beverages with the Svadba at Krakovany. I also enjoyed it a little more as the 52 were my guests at the Krakovany Svadba and my relatives, a number that I had never met.

This year's tour will include a visit to Krakow, Poland Salt Mine, a Nazi Concentration Camp, Divine Mercy Shrine, Wadawice, the birthplace of Pope John Paul II, Wawel Castle, the Cathedral of Wawel Hill, Old Town Krakow – plus other sites. Visits to Ciczany, Rajeczka, Lesna, the Slovak Bethlehem, Levoca, Spis area, Bardejov, Spisska Sobota, Presov, Kosice with its St. Elizabeth Cathedral, Old Town – plus other sights in the area.

No trip to Slovakia would be complete if you didn't take a raft ride down the Danajec River on the wooden rafts – a "must" if you visit Slovakia.

At Tichy Potok, we will have a folklore program with dinner. Tichy Potok is a Rusin Village formerly called Stelback. The mayor will show you the village, along with rug weaving and the opportunity to see wooden shingles being made. The folklore program involves young and old performers.

At Krakovany we will have a Svadba with dinner and music – an evening of fun. We also will visit a number of other areas – Stara Lubovna, Levoca – where you will see St. James

Church and the village where thousands gather each year for a pilgrimage up the long hill to St. Mary's Church. Visit Piestany, the spa town, and our hotel for a few nights. Nitra will be a stop for us, along with Trnave, often called Little Rome of Slovakia. We also include a visit to an ice cave.

Your visit to Bratislava, the capitol of Slovakia, will include a visit to Old Town, Devin Castle, and Bratislava Castle. You will visit Modra and its pottery factory where you can buy the pottery, as well as Banska Stiavnica, the old mining town, plus we will make a number of other visits.

In Prague we will visit St. Charles Bridge, St. Vitus Cathedral, Vladislav hall, Prague Castle, Old Town Square, the astronomical clock. In Vienna we will see Schoenbrunn Place, St. Stephen's Church, plus other sights.

Included in the tour will be two (2) meals daily, an English-speaking guide, bus transportation with restroom and air conditioning, admission to all sights, room accommodations in 3- and 4-star hotels, all with private baths. Air transportation will be booked as a group, in order to give you a better price and save you the hassle.

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US Group Announces Major International Conference on "Love"

The Hildebrand Project, which is supported by Pope Benedict XVI, will host a conference in Rome on May 27-29, 2010 exploring the newly translated work of Christian philosopher Dietrich von Hildebrand on how to defend human dignity through love.

The Dietrich von Hildebrand Legacy Project is proud to collaborate with the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in hosting a major international conference in Rome dedicated to the question, "What is love?"

The conference will bring together philosophers, theologians, psychologists, physicians, scientists, and artists to unpack the original insights of Dietrich von Hildebrand's most important philosophical work, *The Nature of Love*, translated for the first time in English by the Hildebrand Project.

Lauded both by Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI, Dietrich von Hildebrand (1889-1977) was a major Christian philosopher, religious writer, and heroic intellectual opponent of Hitler and Nazism. He was a friend of Pope Pius XII, who referred to him as a "twentieth century doctor of the Church."

The Hildebrand Project was founded in 2004 by John Henry Crosby in collaboration with Hildebrand's widow, Alice von Hildebrand, and several students and friends of Hildebrand. The Project raises awareness of Hildebrand's legacy by translating and publishing his writings and by organizing major events to disseminate his ideas.

Pope Benedict XVI served as Honorary Member of the Project until his elevation to the papacy in 2005. Crosby remarked, "The Project would not exist today were it not for the generous support of Pope Benedict XVI," said Crosby. "The Holy Father's many acts of friendship, including a sizeable grant from the Papal Foundation and a wonderful letter of support, have allowed us to gain a footing on the world stage."

Commenting on the purpose of the conference, Crosby said, "Hildebrand defined his heroic battle against Nazism as the 'struggle for the person'. While the threat of Nazism is gone today, human dignity is as endangered as ever before. We want to contribute to the perennial task of clarifying and defending human dignity, and we want to do so through the lens of love."

Crosby continued, "We are organizing the conference on the assumption that one cannot make sense of the human person apart from his or her capacity for loving and being loved. Love is the supreme human concern, and we believe, with Hildebrand, that it is impossible to understand the nature of man without understanding the nature of love. But our approach is not only philosophically motivated. There is also a human dimension, which is that we think that a conversation about love is also the most intriguing way of inviting a larger public to participate in our conference." Keynote speakers include a roster of some of the most prominent living philosophers and theologians, notably Robert Spaemann, the well-known German philosopher, and John Zizioulas, the Greek Orthodox Metropolitan of Pergamon and eminent theologian. The full list includes Roberta Green Ahmanson, Joseph Bottum, Rocco Buttiglione, John F. Crosby, Hanna-Barbara Gerl-Falkovitz, Alice von Hildebrand, Charles Morerod OP, Michael Novak, Josef Seifert, and Michael Waldstein.

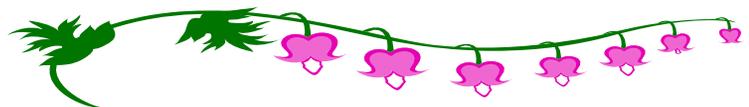
In addition to invited keynote speakers, the conference will also feature as many as thirty submitted papers, and also five winners of the international graduate student essay contest, who will come from around the world to present their papers. Conference attendees will come from around the world.

The conference is being underwritten by two US-based foundations, the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation (Milwaukee, Wisconsin) and the Our Sunday Visitor Institute (Huntington, Indiana). Of special note, the conference has received the Patronage of the Pontifical Council for Culture. "This patronage is for us a great honor," said Crosby. "We hope it marks

the beginning of an important collaboration."

Fifteen institutions and foundations have signed on as cosponsors. They include the distinguished Center for Ethics and Culture at Notre Dame University (Indiana), the Acton Institute (Michigan), and the International Theological Institute (Vienna). Crosby again, "These groups have joined us because they believe their efforts can be enhanced by drawing from the rich legacy of Dietrich von Hildebrand."

The conference will be broadcast live via their website www.hildebrandlegacy.org/rome.



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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**