



Jednota

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President's Easter 2013 Message

Easter is the Christian celebration of the Risen Christ, the most important day and event in Christianity. His Resurrection is the foundation of our Christian Faith.

Easter Sunday occurs a little early this year. Easter is always the 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon after the Spring Equinox. This dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that the Hebrews used to identify Passover, which is why it moves around on our Gregorian calendar.

The earliest date on which Easter can fall is March 22 and the latest date is April 25. The odds are considerably better for experiencing a late Easter. Many Orthodox Christians celebrate Easter Sunday according to the Julian calendar which equates to approximately 10-15 days later than the Gregorian calendar.

Easter 2013 will also mark the election of a new Pope after Benedict XVI decided to retire at age 85. There is much interest and hope as to who will be elected; especially with the last several years of turmoil in the Church with the pedophilia, loss of vocations and decrease in Mass attendance, especially in The United States and Western Europe.

The new Pontiff will be faced with many challenges, however we as Catholics can be assured that the Church which has survived many crises over the past 2,000 years will survive, with God's protection. In this fast-changing world the likelihood of a non-European Pope is a distinct possibility. Our older members who have lived through the Great Depression, World War II and the fall of Communism in Russia and its satellites, including Slovakia, may witness a historical event in the Vatican. How many people in 1970 would have predicted the fall of Communism only 20

years later?

I re-read the deceased past President Thomas Hricik's Easter message of 2004. He was born early in the Great Depression years and lived through World War II. The experiences he lived through were mirrored in his President's message.

He spoke of a time that many of our younger Members are not familiar with, are too young to remember, or were born later and haven't experienced some of the rich spiritual Slovak customs and traditions surrounding Easter. Many of you can re-live your own Easter experiences of years both distant and near and should relate them to your children or grandchildren for their benefit.

I think Mr. Hricik's message was so good, and is still timely in many respects, that I will re-quote it in part:

"Christ is Risen from the dead! I know because He is present in our Church. Without Christ, His death and resurrection, we would not have a Church." - - -

"The Lenten season is really an austere time of the year. No one wants to face and deny themselves of anything in this self-indulgent world. Lent hasn't changed but people have."

"The greatest season of the Church calendar is Easter. It was traumatic to observe Holy Thursday with Christ's imprisonment, and Good Friday with the death of Christ, but this gave way to Holy Saturday night, Resurrection Services and Easter Sunday in all its glory." - - -

"At my church of St. Florian in United, Pennsylvania, Holy Saturday would burst with the



Andrew M. Rajec

joy of the Resurrected Christ. We were a traditional Slovak Catholic Church. - - -

Every Holy Saturday the service would be the same but forever new. Father Paul Odelga was our pastor and he had booming voice. He would stand at the altar and intone the beginning words of the song: 'Pán Ježiš Kristus vstal z mŕtvych (The Lord Jesus Christ arose from the dead'. The reawakened organ would erupt and the choir and congregation would respond to Father

practically with one voice. The bells would ring and the incense was as thick as Indian smoke signals. Everyone in church would then join in procession. I still get chills thinking of that night. We were taken to a higher level and we believed".

I believe we can all relate to Mr. Hricik's memories in our own way. I encourage you to do that. Think of what Easter has meant during your life experience.

I remember as an altar server, ringing those Easter bells and burning that incense and

playing a small but important part in the solemnity and joy of Easter.

The fragrance of masses of Easter lilies is still with me. To my wife's dismay I always buy 10-12 pots of Easter lilies for our house at Easter time.

On Thursday February 25th I was at St. Florian Church in United, Pennsylvania to attend the funeral of Mr. George Sprock, who was a First Catholic Slovak Union Regional Director for over 15 years and was a leading Recommender in our Society for most of those years. May he rest in peace with the Lord. Thanks George for all you have done for the Jednota. You will be remembered.

The funeral Mass said by Fr. Larry Kulick, District Onda Chaplain, and concelebrated with FCSU Chaplain Fr. Thomas Nasta and Msgr. William Charnoki was beautiful. The St. Florian Choir sang appropriate songs in Slovak. Fr. Kulick's homily along with his graveside services, concluding with the singing of "Hej Slováci", was inspiring. This was Catholic Slovak fraternalism.

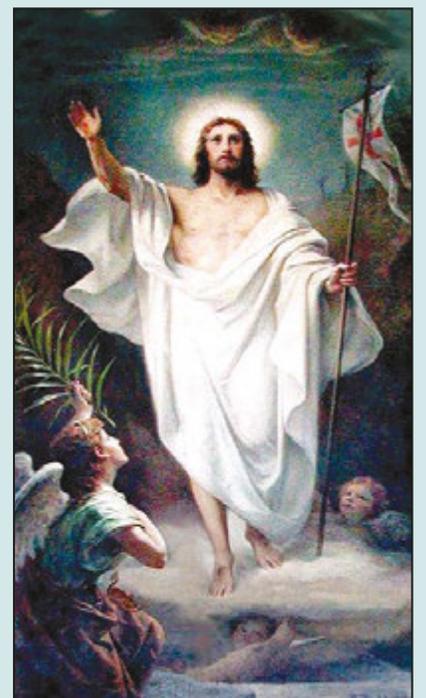
continued on page 3

Easter 2013 - Allelujah, Allelujah!

The Officers and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada extend their most sincere Fraternal Greetings and Best Wishes to all for a Blessed and Happy Easter

- Rev. Thomas A. Nasta..... Chaplain
- Andrew M. Rajec..... President
- Andrew R. Harcar, Sr..... Vice-President
- Kenneth A. Arendt..... Executive Secretary
- George F. Matta..... Treasurer

Victory over the Grave by Bernard Plockhorst, 19th Century.



Inside This Edition:

- Part I of our popular National Coloring Contest Results – with the first set of district winners on p12, with more to follow in the next, March 27th edition



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Deadline for the 2012 tax year on IRA deposits is April 15, 2013. There's still time!

Insights and Viewpoints



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

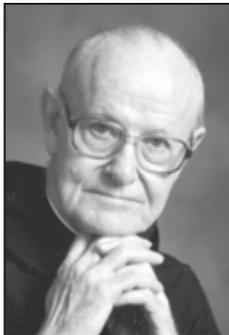
March 24, 2013

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Luke 22:14--23:56

Gospel Summary

The gospel for this Sunday is Luke's version of the passion and death of Jesus. It begins with the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist and then continues with the betrayal, the trials before Caiaphas and Pilate, and ends with the crucifixion.



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

We recognize this account as the climax of the mission of Jesus and yet it is almost too much to comprehend. Moreover, the homily will need to be short in view of the blessing of palms and the length of the gospel; hence the need to look for the essential kernel of this story.

It is clear that the suffering of Jesus is the most prominent feature of the passion story. However, it is necessary to insist that this story is not primarily about suffering; it is about loving. It was Jesus' love for us that brought him to his passion and early death, and it was his love for us that opened the way for our redemption. The suffering was a consequence of his loving. There are many kinds of suffering, but only the suffering that comes from loving and remaining faithful is redemptive.

Jesus insists on this when he "defines" himself at the Last Supper as "body-broken-for-us" and as "blood-poured-out-for-us." And in the verses that follow he separates himself from his bickering disciples with the simple and profound statement, "I am among you as one who serves" (22:27).

Life Implications

As Christian disciples of Jesus, we all need to pay close attention to his wisdom and to guide our lives accordingly. Since we tend to be repelled by images of suffering, there is a real danger that we will become too selective in seeking that wisdom. In this way, we may miss the whole point of the passion story.

Today's gospel is a clear reminder that the heart and soul of the wisdom of Jesus is found in this story of his passion and death. Since his suffering came from his unselfish loving, it follows that we must try to discern the causes of our own suffering. Not all suffering comes from loving. Indeed, it is far more likely to come from frustration or disappointment because we cannot have everything we want.

To walk with the suffering Christ is to feel the pain that inevitably accompanies the kind of love that sacrifices for the sake of others. Good parents do this for their children and good children love and obey their parents, even when it means giving up something they want. Good teachers sacrifice for their students also. Loving presence can easily mean a change of personal plans, so that a loving person is often justified in saying, "My life is no longer my own".

The amazing thing about this kind of loving is that, though it is often very painful, there is a joy in it also. This should not surprise us because, after all, we were created to become

free through the love of others and then to convert that precious freedom into loving service. Nothing is more compatible with our true nature as God's children than this kind of loving... and nothing is finally more successful than the resurrection victory that follows such generous and faithful concern for others.



March 31, 2013

Easter Sunday

John 20:1-9

Gospel Summary

On that first Easter Sunday, Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb of Jesus early in the morning and sees that the stone had been removed from the tomb. She runs to get Simon Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved, and tells them what she saw. Simon Peter and the other disciple enter the tomb to find burial cloths there and the cloth that had covered the head of Jesus. The beloved disciple sees and believes. The gospel passage continues, reaching its climax in subsequent verses with the appearance of the Risen Lord to Mary Magdalene after the two other disciples had gone home.

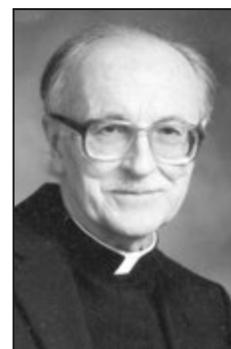
Life Implications

Today is the day of Easter joy. Yet, even as we celebrate we are painfully aware that for many people it is still Good Friday. Every day it seems there is something to remind us of the poverty, injustice, and violence of our world. Reflecting on his own experience of life, Pope John Paul II in an address to pilgrims in Rome used apocalyptic images: "If we cast a glance at the world...it seems that horsemen are riding through the barren lands of the earth, bearing now the crown of victorious power, now the sword of violence, now the scales of poverty and famine, now death's sharp sickle." We are aware that our Easter celebration is an affirmation of hope in a world that appears to experience the pain of Good Friday more than the joy of Easter Sunday.

Jean-Paul Sartre, a much-read atheist philosopher of a few decades ago, in his play No Exit gives us one of the most tragic images of what it means to live in a world without hope and without joy. Three characters of his play, having been condemned to hell, are led by a valet into a pleasant drawing room. Surprised by the absence of fire and brimstone, they remark how nice a place hell has turned out to be. Gradually, however, they begin to get on each other's nerves and at each other's throats. They decide not to speak to each other, but they are stuck with each other. There is nowhere else to go. Finally they realize that they themselves are each other's hell. "Real torture is having no escape, real hell is having no hope."

The three characters of the Easter gospel, representing all of us, experience Jesus, not as the "other" who is their hell, but as their friend who knows them and loves them beyond measure. Mary Magdalene remains at the tomb after the two other disciples went home. Jesus appears to her as she weeps, and says to her, "Mary!" She turns to him and says, "Rabboune" (which means My Teacher). The tender exchange of recognition between Jesus and Mary Magdalene is the Easter revelation of authentic human existence.

We can celebrate Easter in hope and in joy because Jesus, the Risen Lord, is with us. He knows us, and with affection calls each of us by name. Through the Easter gift of sharing his new life and liberating love, we too can recognize and treat each other with justice and with affection. Easter means that we can be heaven for each other, a source of hope and joy in our No Exit world. We can thank God and sing the Easter song together: "Yes, Christ my hope is arisen...our new life obtaining."



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27	MONDAY, MARCH 18
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24	MONDAY, APRIL 15
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8	MONDAY, APRIL 29

Correspondents who are announcing upcoming events should remember that the JEDNOTA is printed EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY, and should take into account the extra time lost in the postal system. Therefore, please plan to have your announcements to us in ample time for them to be printed and received by the readership.

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National Chaplain's Easter 2013 Message

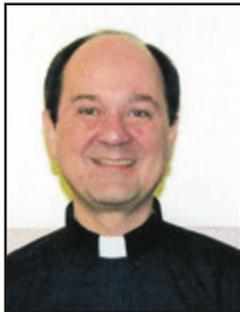
Dear Friends,

It is very likely that when this paper arrives in your home, the vacancy in the office of Bishop of Rome will continue. Benedict XVI, now pope-emeritus, resigned after nearly eight years as the Successor of Peter, the Vicar of Christ. May God grant him an abundance of blessings in retirement.

This period of time we are without a pope gives us an empty feeling in a way. Something is missing. We notice it at Mass during the Eucharistic Prayer when the priest no longer says, "Benedict, our pope." Soon the college of cardinals will enter the Conclave and select a new Holy Father. In the meantime, we just wait, unsure who the next pope will be.

One of Benedict's legacies he left to the church was his dedicating a year to a specific aspect about our Catholic faith. We had the Year for Priests, during which we were to pray for priests and for an increase of vocations to the priesthood. There was the Year of St. Paul, which was a call to review, study, and appreciate Paul's work of spreading the Gospel of Christ throughout the world and to awaken a renewal of the need for evangelization in today's world. We are now in the Year of Faith, which began on the 50th anniversary of the first session of the Second Vatican Council. This Year also marks 30 years since the promulgation of Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The Year of Faith is Benedict's invitation to reflect on and renew in us what we believe in as *continued on page 4*



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Easter Message from Our Executive Secretary

As we enter this holy season, let us rejoice in the Easter blessings of the risen Christ. Remember all He has done for us – and know that the Lord Jesus is forever in our midst, calling each of us to resurrection, to rise with Him into a new life. On behalf of myself, my wife Theresa, our family, and the Home Office Staff, I wish all of our members and their families the joy and blessing of a Happy Easter.



Kenneth Arendt

Year of Faith Ecumenism

Dear Friends,

Another Document from the Second Vatican Council that was promulgated by Pope Paul VI the same day as the Constitution on the Church was the Decree on Ecumenism (Unitatis redintegratio).

The restoration of Christian unity was a principle concern of the Second Vatican Council and this movement toward unity, fostered by the grace of the Holy Spirit, is called "ecumenical." The Council, by means of this Decree, wished to set before Catholics the ways and means they can respond to the grace and divine call of Christian Unity.

It starts by stating what the Catholic Church believes and teaches, namely, that Jesus entrusted all blessings of New Covenant to the apostles alone, of which Peter is the head, and established one Body (Church) on earth to which all should be fully incorporated. Divisions in this one and only Church of God started taking place in apostolic times. In subsequent centuries, serious dissensions and large communities came to be separated from full communion with the Catholic Church. The resulting differences in doctrine, discipline, and/or church structure, creates many obstacles, sometimes serious, to full church unity. Despite the differences and divisions in the Church that have arisen over the centuries, the Church maintains Christian unity subsists in the Catholic Church as something she can never lose and it is through Christ's Catholic Church can all Christians benefit fully from the means of salvation.

The Council advocates a change of heart, living holy lives, and public and private prayer for the work of ecumenism to result in Christian unity. It said that the more effort Christians make to be faithful to the Gospel in their lives, the better they further Christian unity and put it into practice.

The Decree then goes on to describe the chief divisions in the Church. In the East, dogmas formulated in the fifth century that taught Jesus is one person and Mary is the Mother of God (Council of Ephesus), and Jesus possesses two natures, divine and human (Council of Chalcedon), were challenged. Also in the East, a Schism between Rome and Eastern Patriarchates took place in 1054, leading those eastern churches to be called Orthodox. In the West, divisions stemmed from the Reformation movement that was in full force by the sixteenth century.

The Council is hopeful for a restoration of unity with the churches in the East mainly because they possess true sacraments and, above all, by apostolic succession, the priesthood and the Eucharist. The heritage of spirituality and liturgy, discipline and theology in various traditions belong to the full and apostolic character of the Church. The Council also advocates the liturgical and spiritual heritage of the Eastern Churches to be known and cherished by all.

The Council then addresses the situation in the West and tells of the differences between the Catholic Church and other communities, which range from teachings on doctrine to the interpretation of revealed truth. The other communities have various beliefs regarding the Incarnation and the work of Redemption by Christ, the mystery and ministry of the Church and the role of Mary in the plan of salvation. Therefore, the Council offers some considerations to serve as basis and encouragement for dialogue.

Since many Christians share the desire of Catholics to stand by the words of Jesus as a source of Christian virtue, one area for ecumenical dialogue can center on applying the Gospel to moral conduct. Other areas for dialogue include the study of Sacred Scripture and its relationship to the Church, the Lord's Supper, other sacraments, worship, ministry in the Church.

The Council reminds those who are engaged in ecumenical action that it must be fully and sincerely Catholic, that is to say, faithful to the truth we have received from the apostles and Church fathers, in harmony with the faith the Catholic church has always professed and at same time directed toward that fullness to which Our Lord wills his body to grow in the course of time.

The next summary will be from the Decree on the Catholic Churches of the Eastern Rite. Sincerely,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta National Chaplain

Message From President

continued from page 1

Our Catholic Church was founded by Christ himself. In the past several years the Church has been under attack for the horrific actions of a small percentage of wayward priests and religious, which was covered-up by a few bishops. These abuses occurred over the course of over one-half century by a relatively small number of people and cannot be condoned or forgotten. However, we Catholics in the United States number approximately 65 million members and cannot accept the fact that so few people should be allowed to destroy an institution (the Church) that was founded by Christ and that we have built over the past two thousand years.

Think of those who have preceded us; and thank the hundreds of thousands of faithful priests and religious who have taught us and led us on our journey of faith, and especially thank our faithful forbearers. We owe them and the faithful priests and religious who lead us today a grateful "thank you".

To all of you, have A Happy and Blessed Easter.

CHRIST IS RISEN, LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD!

PÁN JEŽIŠ KRISTUS VSTAL Z MRŤVYCH! RADUJME SA!

Andrew M. Rajec
President

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

FCSU National Sales Seminar Schedule for 2013

How does our Society stay strong and vibrant moving into the future? The answer is our members.

We need members to sign up their family, friends, neighbors, church members, and club members. Our members are our best method of sharing the HIGH quality, competitive and affordable insurance products as well as attractive rates on our IRA/Annuities that the FCSU offers. So, too, our active members can educate others in the many benefits of belonging to our fraternal society—whether that is access to a scholarship, or participation in a national or local event.

This year, the FCSU Membership and Marketing Committee is once again hosting seminars around the country to help membership grow.

The following seminar has been finalized:

- Sunday, April 21, 2013 – Sts Cyril and Methodius District (17). The seminar will be at 1 p.m. with the district meeting to follow at St. Anns Basilica Hall, St. Anns Street, Scranton, PA. Please RSVP District President Michael Slovenkai (570) 342-7562 or National Secretary Kenneth Arendt (800) 533-6682 by April 18th.

The following seminar is tentatively scheduled for 2013:

- Rev. John J. Spitkovky District 2 – June 23, 2013 - Time and place to be announced. The following districts are tentatively planning seminars (time and place to be determined and announced):

- Pittsburgh District 6
- Michigan District 5
- Rev. Stephen Furdek District 8
- Rev. Stephen Furdek District 10

Please attend a seminar in your area...form a car pool. If any other district would like a seminar in 2013, please contact the home office.

Until then
Good Luck and God Bless



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice-President

◆◆◆ LIGHT ONE CANDLE ◆◆◆

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

A World That's Broken and Beautiful

"This world is as broken as it is beautiful."

Singer-songwriter Brooke White wrote that on Twitter in reaction to the senseless murder of six adults and 20 children at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, last December. For me, that sentence summed up the nature of our humanity and the world we live in, especially in light of that horrific situation. It's also a concept worth exploring as we finish Lent and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus this Easter.

Each of us is capable of incredible acts of goodness. I know that's true because I talk to people all the time who don't just talk the Christian talk, but walk the walk. That includes a young woman in Nashville who moved to Uganda to care for orphans, a young mother who started an international adoption ministry for Down syndrome orphans, and an ex-football player who has spent 30 years bringing hope and good memories to kids who are seriously ill. You may not always hear about them, but there are life-changing acts of goodness going on around us every day.

Acts like those, along with the simple gestures of kindness, sacrifice and self-denial that friends, family members and even strangers quietly practice every day, make this world beautiful. These acts of beauty can inspire others to act in a similar way. As the author Dostoevsky once wrote, "The world will be saved by beauty."

For Christians, this world was, in fact, saved by beauty. It was a beauty that started horrifically and paradoxically with a crucifixion. But it ended with resurrection and hope and grace.

Despite that divine gift, however, we remain a broken people—a people that messed up our lives in harmony with God a long, long time ago. It left the mark of original sin on our souls and in our world. It certainly doesn't mean that we are worthless and horrible people who all have the potential to become mass murderers of little children. But we're all flawed and can hurt others as well as ourselves in either intentional or unintentional ways. We can make choices that take us further and further away from the life that God intended for us.

As author Dean Koontz once wrote, "Each smallest act of kindness reverberates across great distances and spans of time...because kindness is passed on and grows each time it's passed. Likewise, each small meanness, each thoughtless expression of hatred, each envious and bitter act, regardless of how petty, can inspire others, and is therefore the seed that ultimately produces evil fruit, poisoning people whom you have never met and never will. All human lives are so profoundly and intricately entwined—those dead, those living, those generations yet to come—that the fate of all is the fate of each, and the hope of humanity rests in every heart and in every pair of hands."

Each of us is born with a foundation of goodness inside us, a goodness placed there by the God who created us out of love. But we're also a little broken. Not just some of us; all of us. The choices we make every day can deepen the brokenness or increase the beauty.

So as we celebrate Christ's resurrection this Easter in this world that is "as broken as it is beautiful," pray for healing and wholeness for yourself and others. And remember to add your share of beauty to this world. God knows we need it more and more.

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



**ATTENTION ALL
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICANTS**



Deadline for the First Catholic Slovak Union's 2013 Scholarship Program Has Been Extended to March 30th

The First Catholic Slovak Union is still accepting applications for its 2013 Scholarship Program for those qualified members who are graduating from high school this year and entering an accredited college or university. **The deadline to apply has been extended to the end of March. Applications must be postmarked by midnight, March 30, 2013.**

Scholarships Awarded

Seventy (70) ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS in the amount of \$750.00 each will be awarded to the winners. In addition, a ONE-TIME "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of \$1,000.00 each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.

Three additional ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS of \$750.00 each will be given from the "John A. Sabol Nursing Scholarship Fund" to applicants who have been accepted into either an approved three or four year hospital nursing program or a fully-accredited college of their choice.

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

Scholarship Rules & Requirements

The rules and requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants must have a minimum of \$5,000.00 reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life) with F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school; or an applicant must have \$10,000.00 or more of JEP Term Insurance with the F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school. **All scholarship winners must maintain this insurance in force during their college years. Applicants must be insured prior to April 1, 2009 to be eligible under the rules of this period.**
2. Applicants must apply for grants in the Spring of their senior year of high school, between the ages of 17 and 19.
3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term of 2013 at a qualifying institution. Proof of college admission must be sent to the Home Office with the application.
4. Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application that can be obtained from a branch officer, the scholarship department of the F.C.S.U.; or download an application from www.fcsu.com.
5. **Applicants must submit a completed application to: Scholarship Program, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131 not later than March 30, 2013.**
6. Applications will be accepted only on the proper forms. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS (THOSE WHICH ARE RECEIVED NOT FULLY COMPLETED OR DO NOT HAVE ALL ATTACHMENTS) WILL BE INVALID AND WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.**
7. Winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee (an independent group of educators) according to their individual merit in categories of high school cumulative grade point averages, extra-curricular activities, talents, achievements, initiative, communication skills, transcripts and S.A.T. and/or A.C.T. test scores.
8. Final award checks will be made payable to the winners upon submitting a **proof of college enrollment not later than the fall term of the following year** (fall semester of 2014).
Send in your application today; don't delay. All applications without the above stipulated postmark of **midnight, March 30, 2013** will be considered invalid.

◆◆◆ Message From National Chaplain ◆◆◆

continued from page 3

Catholics. With the See of Rome vacant as this is being written and as we are drawing close to celebrating the events of the Paschal Mystery, we are drawn to a statement we make in the Apostles Creed. "He descended into hell."

A period of time elapsed between the moment of Jesus' death on the cross and that of his resurrection. We can surmise that there was a feeling of great emptiness in the minds and hearts of his disciples and friends. They grieved his death. With Jesus no longer with them, they did not know what to do; they seemed lost without him.

This emptiness is recalled in the church on Holy Saturday. Liturgical ceremonies are not conducted during the day. Mass is not celebrated on Holy Saturday, and neither are baptisms, weddings, or funerals. Holy Communion is given only to those in danger of death.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that when Jesus died, his human soul, united to his divine person, went to the realm of the dead and he opened the gates of heaven for the righteous who died before him (CCC 637). Jesus' descent into hell is a way of expressing our belief that Jesus really died and, through his death, conquered death and the devil, 'who hold the power of death' (CCC 636).

When Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, there was great rejoicing among his disciples and friends. Their feelings of emptiness gave way to rejoicing and praising God.

White smoke will soon appear from the Sistine Chapel, bells at St. Peter's Basilica will ring, and a cardinal will come to the balcony and announce, "Habemus papam. We have a pope." The See of Rome is no longer empty; the vacancy is filled. And the church throughout the world will give glory to God and say, "Deo gratias. Thanks be to God."

Happy Easter!
Fraternally,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta National Chaplain



Accent on Activities



Second Annual Bowling Tournament
May 3 – 5, 2013
Buffalo, New York

Join us for the Second Annual Bowling Tournament with the United Slovak Fraternal. AMF Airport Lanes, the home of the Second Annual Bowling Tournament, offers traditional bowling on 66 lanes, featuring new flat screen monitors, a new Kegel lane machine and new settee seating. Relax in one of their two bar areas and watch your favorite sports on TV or challenge your friends to a game of pool.

You no longer bowl in a Sanctioned league or have a league available? No problem! If you have participated in 3 tournaments within the last 6 years, we can use your tournament average to determine a handicap. If not, we will still give you a handicap based on an average of 175 (men) or 150 (women). So come on out and join us for weekend full of fun and excitement.

The Team Event will be held Friday evening. Doubles and Singles events will be held Saturday. Registration forms can be found at www.fcsu.com.

We'll be spending the weekend at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga. The Millennium Hotel offers complimentary parking, an indoor pool, a fitness center, an airport shuttle, and a business center all at a convenient location, just three miles from Buffalo Niagara International Airport.

Enjoy shopping in over 200 stores at the Walden Galleria mall directly next door to the Millennium Hotel. It's just a short ride from several area attractions including: Niagara Falls, downtown Buffalo, and Ralph Wilson Stadium, home of the Buffalo Bills.

Bowling tends to bring out the performer in all of us. Watch what happens when real bowlers come out and play. Come and join in the fun.

Golf Tournament

This year's golf tournament will be held in Canton, Ohio, at the Zoar and Wilkshire Golf Courses. The tournament will be held the weekend of July 20 and 21. Details are still being planned for this event.

NEW THIS YEAR

Seniors (75 and over) and women have an option to participate in a 9 hole event each day. More details will be provided.

It's that time of year again! Our Bowling Tournament will be held Friday, May 3, through Saturday, May 4, 2013. The *Jednota* sponsors the tournament Friday through Saturday and a banquet Saturday evening.

This year we are looking for bowling lane sponsors:

Lane Sponsor: \$50 – a sign will be placed on the lane with your Individual, Branch, District, or Region name.

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

Susan Ondrejco
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

The deadline for sponsoring a lane is April 5, 2013.

March 2013

Photo Contest

Get your cameras ready! We are having a photography contest for all members. There will be a 12 - 18 age group and an over 18 age group.

Submit your photo in one of the following categories:

People
Nature or Environment
Travel or Destinations
FCSU Fraternal Activity

Judging will be done by an outside professional and all photos will be returned. Judging is based on creativity.

For each category, the following prizes will be awarded.

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

An Overall Winner will be awarded \$100

Rules:

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

Mail your entry to:

Susan Ondrejco
Photo Contest
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

postmarked by October 1, 2013.



Easter Traditions From Slovakia

Lubos Brieda, slovakcooking.com



Raisin Bread (Vianočka)

1 pack of yeast
8 cups flour
two handfuls sugar
water
1tbsp baking powder
oil
raisins



This sweet raisin bread is prepared for both Easter and Christmas. In fact, its name comes from *Vianoce*, the Slovak word for Christmas.

Start by preparing leavened dough from all the ingredients except the raisins. Dissolve in water and stir until you get a smooth dough that doesn't stick to the wooden spoon. Work in enough water so the dough is like honey. Let rise covered for few hours. Then scoop the dough onto a floured board. Dust top with flour and gently roll out. Brush top with oil and fold over. Repeat this rolling, brushing, and folding two more times.



Cut the dough into three pieces. Each will be used to make a loaf. Or you can use the other ones to make other Slovak treats like the poppy seed roll, cheese cake, or fruit-filled dumplings. Knead in raisins, and roll out to a rectangle about one inch thick. Cut into into 6 strips. Take 4 of these and join them at one end. Braid them until you run out of dough. Then twist the remaining two strips and place on top. Bake in a an oven preheated to 375F until nicely brown.



Bear Paws (Medvedie Labky)



1 yolk, 2 cups flour, 2 sticks margarine, 100g ground walnuts, 100g powdered sugar, 1 packet of vanilla sugar

Mix all ingredients until you get a sticky dough with the consistency of play-dough. Grease and dust with flour crescent-shaped metal baking forms. Press the dough into the forms and bake for 8 minutes at 375F. Coat with powdered sugar or dip ends in chocolate.

Hearts (Srdiečka)



4 cups flour, 2 cups powdered sugar, 1.5tsp baking powder, 200g margarine, 2 eggs

Knead the dough until you get a smooth texture. Then roll out and cut out various shapes. Bake for for 12 minutes at 350F. Join two matching halves with jam (raspberry and red currant work great) and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Rings (Venčeky)



250g flour, 250g margarine, 100g ground hazelnuts or almonds, bit of salt, half a spoon of cinnamon, 1 teaspoon of orange zest and juice, 1 egg, 5 spoons of white wine

Combine the ingredients to make the dough. Roll out and use dough circle cutters of two different sizes to cut out the ring. Bake for 15 minutes at 350F. Coat in powdered sugar combined with vanilla and cinnamon. Combine the cut out dough and repeat.

Rum Balls (Rumové Guľky)



2 cups powdered sugar, 2 cups ground walnuts, 1 yolk, shot of rum

Mix all ingredients together and roll into a ball. Coat in powdered sugar, chocolate, or coconut shavings. That's it, no baking required!

Walnuts (Oriešky)



Dough: 150g ground walnuts, 5 cups flour, 1.5 sticks butter, 1-2 eggs, 0.8 cups sugar, 2 tbsp cocoa

Cream 1: 4 eggs, 0.5 cups powdered sugar, 1 packet vanilla sugar. Cream 2: 1.5 sticks butter, 0.5 cups powdered sugar

Mix the dough ingredients together and bake in a greased and floured metal form for 8 minutes at 375F. Whisk ingredients for Cream 1 in a double boiler until it becomes like honey. Let cool down. Whip Cream 2 ingredients together and add to Cream 1. Use the cream to join two halves to make a delicious walnut.

Chocolate Truffles (Šuhajdy)



Chocolate: 150g chocolate, 3/4 stick of Crisco, 3 tsp cocoa
Filling: 100g of ground nuts, 150g powdered sugar, 1/2 stick of Crisco, 2 teaspoons of cocoa, 0.4 cups milk

Melt the chocolate in a double boiler or on low heat. Stack paper cups on a tray and pour quarter inch of chocolate into each. Save half the chocolate for later. Let cool. Cook the ingredients for the filling on low heat. Spoon onto the chocolate. Top off with the remaining chocolate and a walnut for decoration.

Fánky



2 cups flour, 1/2 tsp baking powder, 1/2 tsp salt, 2 yolks, 2 tbsp powdered sugar, half a stick unsalted butter, 4 tbsp cream, 2 tbsp white wine (or rum), 1/2 cup of milk

Mix the ingredients and place the dough in a fridge to cool. Then roll out to 1/6th inch. Cut into rectangles the size of your palm. Cut two slits near the short edges. Tread the ends through the slits to make bow ties. Fry in hot oil until golden brown. Top with powdered sugar.

Šišky (Donuts)

2 cups flour, one yolk, 3/4 cups milk, one packet yeast, 2 tablespoons powdered sugar, 1/5 stick unsalted butter, dash of salt. Topping: jam filling and powdered sugar



Mix all ingredients to get a smooth dough. Let rise. Then roll out on a dusted board to one inch thick. Dust the rim of a drinking glass with flour and use it to cut out circles. Fry in oil. Top with jam and sugar.

Holy Week and Easter Traditions in Slovakia

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

Slovaks have traditionally observed Holy Week (Pašiové týždeň) as a time of fasting and intense prayer. Their folk customs followed a detailed set of rules and rituals that assisted in making the commemoration of Christ's passion, death and resurrection a real part of their lives. Slovaks prepared for the holy days by cleansing both their homes and their souls in preparation for Veľká Noc, the Great Night, or Easter Sunday.

With their turbulent history of occupation and oppression by foreign lords and other states, Slovaks could identify with the passion of Christ. His rising from the dead offered something the Slovak people could hope for – eternal life when they leave a world full of uncertainty and hardships. Similar to the Polish people, Slovaks identified their lives and their nation's experiences with the sufferings of Christ and his ultimate victory over sin and death.

During Holy Week, Slovaks fasted and cleaned as they made ready for the Easter feast. They prepared themselves both physically and spiritually, and observed the obligation to go to Confession so that their souls would be spotless during this holy season. To this day, Catholics must receive the sacrament of Penance at least once a year, and often that occurs during Lent (pôst) to prepare for Easter.

The three days before Easter (the Tridium), Easter itself, and Easter Monday, were all special days in Slovak culture. Unlike here in America, all these days remain a public holiday. Slovak businesses and even all offices close on Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Monday. But before the joy of Easter, one had to experience the sadness of Christ's passion.

Zelený Stvrtok -- Green Thursday (Maundy Thursday)

In Slovakia, Holy Thursday is called Green Thursday because of the tradition of eating lots of foods made from green vegetables on that day. Greens would keep a person strong and healthy, and as we know from more scientific studies today, the old folk wisdom was far ahead of its time.

Green Thursday was also associated with tradition of cleansing of oneself. People in some villages would clean themselves thoroughly that day and preferred to use running water from a spring, stream or river, since that represented living water. This usually occurred after the church bells rang for the last time. Just as holy water would cleanse their souls when they attended church services, moving water would purify their bodies.

Young girls, who desired a beautiful complexion without blemishes, took special care to cleanse themselves very carefully early in the morning, usually before the sun rose. They typically bathed in a nearby spring to perfect their skin and ensure that they would have long and flowing hair that would grow quickly throughout the year.

Drinking spring water on Holy Thursday was believed to help make one healthier throughout the year. In times before fluoride toothpaste was available, Slovaks thought that they could head off toothaches and have a sparkling smile if they rinsed their mouths with holy water, especially from the water blessed at Easter.

Everything that could be cleaned with this pure running water would benefit from its cleansing power. The housewife (gazdina) in some villages washed all the dishes before sunrise and swept the house. But washing of linens was forbidden on Holy Thursday, perhaps due to an association with the linens of Christ. Since most Slovaks owned one or more cows, they made sure they cleaned their milk jugs so that the cows would produce more milk. Some even washed their horses to ensure cleanliness and strength in the future. In other places, people smeared axle grease their barns and practiced various rituals with water to ward off evil.

In the upper Hron district, some farmers even took their cattle outside the church during Holy Mass! Holy Thursday was typically the day that peasants first took their animals to pasture, so people sought blessings for the animals that contributed to their livelihood. Grazing on this day, they thought, would protect their livestock (Bosák, p. 133-134).

One of the stranger Slovak customs concerned anthills. A superstition had it that a household could have a happy year if they would bring an anthill, complete with ants, into its house! Those carrying the anthill only had to be careful to avoid carrying this prize over any water, for that would nullify the magic. How odd to be hauling ants into the house when the women were already so busy cleaning on this day!

Of course, the most important custom for Catholics on Holy Thursday was attending Holy Mass. In Catholic traditions, the feast commemorates the institution of the Holy Eucharist and the beginning of the priesthood. Entire villages would empty into the church and commemorate the Last Supper of Christ with his apostles. A cleansing of feet with water took place after the sermon. Following Mass, the faithful would begin a fast as they mourned Christ's sufferings for their sins.

Another noteworthy custom was the tying of church bells, a tradition which many of us are familiar with in our own churches. No church bells sounded after 10 a.m. in order to remember the tying down of Christ. The silence of the bells symbolized grief. Only a rattling of a wooden stick or rattler (klopačka or rapkáč) would sound from the church tower and at Mass. The bells remained silent until Holy Saturday evening at the Easter Vigil.



Msgr. Peter Polando blesses Easter baskets at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Youngstown, OH



The author and his family at St. Matthias Church in Youngstown, OH, during Easter: (L - R) First row: Michael Kopanic, Rebecca Kopanic, and Patty Kocurek. Back row: Milenka Feighner, Erika Kopanic, and Paul Feighner

An Easter meal with the Kopanic family



Easter eggs decorated by Rebecca Kopanic

The book Slovak Folk Customs and Traditions notes some special local customs associated with the last ringing of bells. In the Nitra region, a woman would jingle keys loudly around the house to drive away rodents and insects. To drive away pests, people near Bratislava would beat the ground with a flail (cep), a wooden farmer's tool which threshed grains to knock them off their husks. Villagers around Kysuce shook trees when the last bells rang so they would ensure a fruitful harvest. Likewise, people around Hlohovec sprinkled earth from crossroads around trees to aid fertility.

Once the bells fell silent, some villagers rattled their klopačky to drive away any evil spirits. Around Košice, shepherds used trumpets to fend off evil on the night of Holy Thursday (Bosák, p. 133-134). Each locality practiced its own variation of cleansing, but they all used the holy day as an opportunity to fight evil and enhance fertility as spring was coming.

Veľký Piatok -- Great Friday (Good Friday)

Good Friday was a day of strict fasting in Slovak Lenten traditions, and people spoke little, performed no menial labor, and concentrated their thoughts on Christ and his passion and death. Most dressed in black and the feeling was that of a funeral. But there was no Holy Mass; only a prayer service with Holy Communion. Church attendance occurred both in the afternoon, and most people attended Stations of the Cross (križová cesta) in the evening as well. The altar and all statues were draped in black. As a sign of devotion, believers would literally crawl on their knees to make their way toward the altar to kiss the Holy Cross.

Hymns were very moving and solemn, such as Dokonané je, meaning, "It is done." Here are the first two stanzas from the hymn 187 from the Jednotný katolícky spevník (The Single Catholic Songbook), the most common prayer book and hymnal used in Slovakia. You may hear the hymn at this website: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jZvtasvutk>

1. Dokonané je! Smrt' plesá, — Kristu svätá hlava klesá, — v mdlobách ducha vypúšťa — Skončená je križa cesta, — duch sa nesie v nebies miesta — a svet tento opúšťa.

1. It is done! Death triumphs, - Christ bows his holy head - in a swoon he gives up his spirit - the Way of the Cross has ended - His spirit is carried to a place in the heavens - and leaves this world.

2. Kalvárie zem stenala, — znak zármutku svojho dala, — triasla sa v tej hodine — Krása, sláva ľudstva zhasla, — pred ktorou sa moc zla triasla, — v skalnom hrobe spočinie

2. The earth is groaning over Calvary, - it gave a sign of its grief - trembling in this Hour - the Beauty and glory of mankind was extinguished - which causes the power of evil to tremble - resting in a stone tomb.

The highlight of the Good Friday prayer service occurred when the men would carry the body of Christ around the church and the Slovak assembly would sing their traditional hymn of sorrow as they laid a statue of Christ in the tomb. All would leave the church in a very solemn and quiet manner as they pondered the passion of our Lord.

Many superstitions also surrounded the folklore customs of Good Friday, for it was a sad and solemn day. Many peasants believed that witches (strygy) and warlocks (čarodějníci) gathered in the hills for meetings and dancing on Holy Thursday night into Good Friday day, and everyone was advised to avoid contact with such creatures of darkness. In addition to causing physical harm to persons, they could wreak havoc on the family garden, attack trees, and even take milk from their cows.

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Focus on Fraternalism

Stefan (Steve) Hreha Turns 95

Steve R. Hreha, PhD

In March of this year, uncompromising Slovak patriot, pioneering Canadian Slovak journalist Stefan (Steve) Hreha, also known as the founding editor of the *Kanadsky Slovak*, keen observer of Canadian Slovak history, and a preeminent cultural, literary and fraternal intellectual, celebrated his 95th birthday in relatively good physical and mental health.

He was born on March 25, 1918 in Cemerne, today part of Vranov nad Toplou in the eastern part of Slovakia where he spent his youth and senior school years. He came to Canada in late December 1936 together with his mother and two younger brothers, Albert and Jimmy (both now deceased), to be reunited with their father in Montreal. He has a Canadian-born sister, Stella (Mrs. Dr. Weisnagel).



Stefan Hreha

Although the new generation of Canadian Slovaks may not be fully familiar with his work and devotion to the Slovak cause, nonetheless it must be stressed that his active participation in the Slovak milieu in Canada spans nearly three-quarters of a century.

Almost immediately upon his arrival in Canada he immersed himself in the social, cultural and fraternal activities of Montreal's Slovak community. His principal passion, however, centered around journalism. For several years, he edited the then-published newspaper, *Slovak v Kanada*, later renamed *Slovenske Bratstvo*. During his tenure as editor of this newspaper, due to his defense of Slovak sovereignty, he was sued by fervent enemies opposing Slovakia's right to self-determination and of Slovaks in Canada affirming their Slovak identity.

Indeed, those were trying years. Editing the newspaper during that turbulent period required a great deal of courage, dedication, and a strong will, a fact acknowledged some years later by prof. Dr. J.M. Kirschbaum who, in his book *Slovaks in Canada*, characterized Hreha as a "courageous young newspaperman."

Hreha is also credited with the successful launching of a brand new Slovak newspaper appropriately called *Kanadsky Slovak*. The newspaper, now in its 70th year of publication, started its uncertain and controversial journey on March 5, 1942 in Montreal during the Second World War as the official organ of the Canadian Slovak League.

He is also known for his cultural and literary contribution to the Slovak community in Canada. Over the years he wrote several stage plays, texts for musicals, a cycle of poems and epigrams, as well as a manuscript on the origin of the Slovak people in Canada published in the *Encyclopedia Canadiana*. He also translated the Canadian National Anthem, *O Canada*, into Slovak.

During the Second World War he served four years in the Canadian army. While he was in the army, the newspaper was edited by F. Kvetan. Upon his return from active duty, he devoted himself entirely to the development and the financial stability of the *Kanadsky Slovak* and to the preservation of Slovak heritage and ethnicity in Canada. Soon after, in 1946, he married Pauline Marejka who, after 65 years of married life, passed away on November 19, 2010. They had one son, Steve, who taught Philosophy and was coordinator of the International Baccalaureat program at Champlain until he retired.

For his lifelong involvement in Slovak affairs in Canada, he received numerous awards, including the prestigious Stefan Moyses Medal from the *Matica Slovenska*, an Honorary Recognition from his native Vranov nad Toplou. On the occasion of the Canadian Slovak League's 75th anniversary, he was presented with the Jubilee Trophy. At the same time, the National Ethnic Press & Media Council of Canada awarded him a medal and the citation *Honoris Causa* for his lifetime achievement in journalism. MVDr. Pavol Bindas, laureate of the *Matica Slovenska* and author of the historiographical book *Cemerne to nebol valal* (*Cemerne Was Not a Village*) placed him amongst the first in a gallery of prominent native sons of his home town.

Probably the most enduring and gratifying tribute he received was paid to him by Nestor Andrej Potocky who, for a quarter-century, was the general secretary of the Canadian Slovak League. In evaluating the unifying mission of the *Kanadsky Slovak* in the Slovak diaspora, he stated that "Brother Hreha had two loves. Love for his family and love for the newspaper he had founded." And Andrej Kucera, founder and long-time president of the organization acknowledged that "he (Hreha) laid a sound and stable foundation for our newspaper in those hard-pressed and critical times in our lives."

Happy 95th birthday, old warrior!

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

Holy Week and Easter Traditions in Slovakia

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Shepherds took their sheep to pasture on Good Friday and marked their flock, for it was believed they felt less pain on this day and wounds would heal more quickly. So they often notched their ears or branded them with unique geometrical shapes to distinguish their flock from others.

In order to guard against evil spirits, peasants wore crosses and displayed them prominently. They also used abundant garlic to counter evil spirits. Any food eaten contained heavy doses of garlic (*cesnak*), and it was even added to the feed given to animals. Bunches of garlic were hung at the entrances of houses and barns to guard against evil spirits.

Some peasants would also run around their fields and loudly ring bells. This was not aimed at evil spirits, but at moles (*krtká*), who would threaten the productivity of the soil. By scaring them off, the farmers believed they would have a better crop that year.

Biela Sobota -- White Saturday (Holy Saturday)

Holy Saturday marked the final day of cleaning and preparation before the Easter holiday. Typically the day involved preparing special foods for the Easter meal – *klobasa* (*kielbasy* in Polish), *ham šunka* (ham) or roasted lamb (*pečené jahňacie*), *syrek* (a special cheese), *paska* (sweet Easter bread), *koláče* (nut rolls), *kraslice* or *pysanky* (painted eggs that symbolized new life in Christ), *chren*, (horseradish), etc. Aromas of cooking and baking swarmed the home, portending the special holiday.

The women of the household would carry baskets of foodstuffs to church, where the priest would offer special prayers and bless their baskets. That tradition continues among many Slovak and Polish churches in the United States today, as in the photo here from the Holy Name of Jesus Church in Youngstown, Ohio.

Commonly on Holy Saturday, Slovaks would burn all that was considered old and potentially dangerous. The custom was called the "burning of Judas," in reference to the traitorous apostle who betrayed Jesus. There was a need to discard all that is sinful. Some folks believed that they could harness the protecting power of goodness by gazing into the embers of the fire that burned the old useless materials.

In the evening, the Easter Vigil took place and Slovaks took care to light all candles with new fire struck from flint. At the church service, lamps were filled with fresh oil, the faithful held candles in the dark church, and the Paschal Candle would be lit, preparing the way for the resurrected Christ.

Veľká Noc – Great Night (Easter Sunday)

Great joy embraced the household on Easter morn as all celebrated the glorious resurrection of Christ. The entire family attended Holy Mass in their best Sunday clothing and many women wore traditional folk costume. The solemnity of the passion gave way to new hope. Easter was a time to show off one's good fortunes as well as celebrating Christ's victory over death.

Easter Sunday was always a day for family togetherness. The family feasted on the foods blessed the day before, and the mother saved a little ham to be used to heal any injuries throughout the year. Each family member ate heartily and each has his or her special egg to enjoy as a symbolic new beginning. As the Church taught, "all life sprang from the egg."

The *gazdina* (lady of the household) carefully gathered any crumbs from the meal and saved them. They would be mixed with seeds in the hope of helping produce a bountiful crop that year. Some crumbs also went to the chickens in the belief that this would enable them to lay more eggs.

After the meal, much like Christmas time, extended families would gather and socialize, sharing some good alcoholic beverages and sweet treats for the children. There was new hope, for Easter had dawned and life had renewed itself.

Easter Monday

The celebration of Easter continued on Monday, and the most memorable custom surrounded the young men's sprinkling of girls with water.

This was not something the girls wished to avoid, but was welcomed. The girls would rise very early on Monday in preparation for the *kúpaci* (the drenching), when boys and single young men would search out the girls they liked. Oftentimes it turned into a fun game of hide-and-seek, with the girls challenging the guys to find them. The girls might hide in the barn, shed, pantry, or elsewhere in order to avoid a soaking. Then when found, they often would perform a ritual whipping with a *korbáč* (a stick made from branches). The *chlapci* (boys) then sprinkled the girls or even got a bucket of water to pour over a favorite. It was all done in good fun, and the boys would receive treats such as eggs or *koláče* as a reward for their capture.

In many places, the girls sought their guys on Tuesday morning and did their own share of watering and whipping. Again it was all intended to be carried out in a good spirit, and served as a mating ritual in the peasant villages. In an age before television and served-up entertainment, these customs made for interesting times.

Through their cherished customs during Holy Week and the Easter holidays, Slovaks strove to maintain the true meaning of the season in their hearts – the painful torture and death of Jesus as the price for human sin, the joyful resurrection of Christ and the final fulfillment of the promise of eternal redemption.

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Hey Kids.....

The Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District II of the First Catholic Slovak Union is sponsoring an "EASTER COLORING CONTEST" for all boys and girls ages 4 thru 12, that are members of District II for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. Color the picture and you could win. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, for age groups from 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. All entries will receive a "Certificate" for participating.

Send in your coloring page and on the back side of the picture please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself and return by **April 15, 2013**. You may make a copy of the picture from the newspaper to color, and if there are other children in family entering the coloring contest.

Pictures of the winners will be printed in the "Jednota" newspaper after Easter. Our lodge members will judge the entries at our District II Meeting on Sunday, April 28, 2013.

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

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest



RaisingOurKids.com

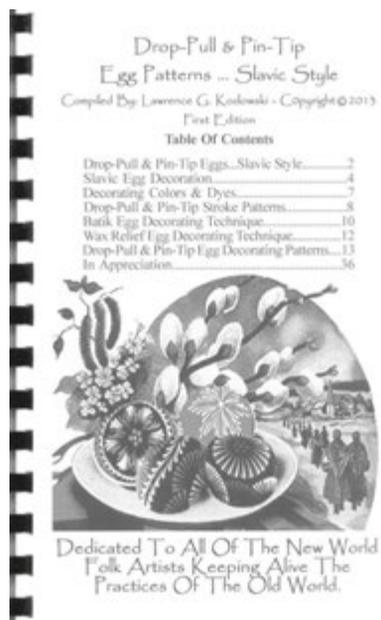
New Folkart Workbook on Egg Patterns Available for Easter

In his newly published full color folkart workbook "Drop-Pull & Pin Tip Egg Patterns ... Slavic Style," Lawrence G. Kozlowski has gathered over 300 "Drop-Pull" and "Pin Tip" strokes, egg patterns and instructions for batik and wax relief Easter eggs.

In many a Slovak home, the poignant smell of beeswax melting over the kitchen stove and the rhythmic sounds of the pin-tipped stylus as a series of dots and dashes ornamented an ordinary chicken egg. After these eggs were covered with traditional patterns, each egg was dyed and a beautiful work of folk art was created. These eggs were then proudly displayed, and were the envy of anyone looking into your Easter basket at the "Easter Food blessing" in church.

For those familiar with these traditions, "Drop-Pull & Pin Tip Egg Patterns ... Slavic Style" gives the patterns and instructions to make memories live again as you decorate your own eggs this Easter.

For the folk artist or craftsman, this 36-page, spiral bound workbook offers you an encyclopedia of egg strokes and complete full-color eggs as decorated by the Slavic people for centuries. Complete instructions for batik and relief methods are included - along with folkloric information and full color egg patterns.



The table of contents of Lawrence Kozlowski's latest book "Drop-Pull & Pin Tip Egg Patterns ... Slavic Style."

Mr. Kozlowski is a past recipient of the "Oskar Kolberg Folklore Award" from the Polish Ministry of Culture. He also teaches folkart in the Slovak community and has written two books including Slovak Easter and Christmas books filled with traditional Slovak recipes, customs and crafts. He continues to perpetuate the rich folklore and folk arts of "the old country" with workshops, seminars, exhibits, demonstrations, and classes at folk festivals, fairs, schools and museums.

"Drop-Pull & Pin Tip Egg Patterns ... Slavic Style" is available at the cost of \$13.75 (postage and handling included) per book. Quantity orders are available for churches, fraternal clubs, gift shops, ethnic fairs, festivals, and fundraising. Please make check or money order payable to: Lawrence G. Kozlowski, 808 Phineas Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 1512. Additional information can be obtained through the mailing address or by email at lgk505@aol.com.

Hand Decorated Eggs - from the Slovak Import Company



Description: Handmade Easter Eggs from north eastern Slovakia and from Martin, Slovakia. An elderly couple makes and distributes these eggs, with the help of family and friends, throughout Slovakia. You can purchase one or more of the Easter eggs for \$10 each, not including shipping. Shipping, at most, will be about \$9. Email the Slovak Import Company at daniel.kisha@gmail.com to place your order, select the eggs you want, and obtain a firm price including shipping.

Slovak Independence Celebration In Detroit

Branch 34 of the Slovak American League of America based in Detroit, MI would like to invite all to celebrate Slovak Independence Day on Sunday, March 17, 2013 at the hall of the St. Cyril & Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Rd., Sterling Heights, Michigan.

The celebration will take place right after the Slovak mass @ 1:00 P.M. Refreshment will be served after the meeting.

Officers of the 34. Branch of the Slovak League, Branch of King Svatopluk in Detroit, MI

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2013

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN:

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

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President (Teleconference)
George F. Matta, Treasurer
Joseph Minarovich, Regional Director (By invitation of the President via teleconference)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the December 2012 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

PORTFOLIO REVIEW:

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, and found everything in order and answered the Committee's questions.

INVESTMENT UPDATES:

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt submitted a written report to the Executive Committee which gave a complete update of the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB).

The Executive Secretary reviewed the Matlin Patterson Fund (MPAM) and gave a complete transaction report for the month.

CURRENT ANNUITY INTEREST RATES:

The President led an extensive review on the current annuity interest rates and it was decided the rates will remain the same and be reviewed at the February Executive Committee Meeting.

TREASURERS REPORT:

The Treasurer presented a written report and answered all the Executive Committee's questions.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES:

The President updated the Executive Committee on the joint activities planned with the other Slovak Fraternal. He reminded everyone of the FCSU Bowling Tournament on May 3-5, 2013, in Buffalo, New York, and the Golf Tournament which will be held July 20-21, 2013, in Canton, Ohio. The President stated he is encouraging the Fraternal Activities Director to explore activities with the other fraternal.

The President updated the Executive Committee on the National Picnic which will be held on August 11, 2013 at FROGBRIDGE Picnics & Special Events Entertainment Park in Millstone Township, New Jersey. The President stated the contract has been signed to secure the date. The picnic will be advertised on our website, newspaper, and included in the branch mailing.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., gave his monthly presentation by Teleconference and WebEx and the Executive Committee each had a copy of the presentation. Mr. White presented an extensive monthly transactions report and briefed the Executive Committee on our Investment Portfolio. After the report, Mr. Larry White answered the Executive Committee's questions.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President reviewed our sales production report for the different regions and the report of our independent agents. This report is always mailed to our Regional Directors for their information. The Vice President stated we are still continuing to recruit new agents. Following the report, the Vice President answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Vice President reviewed the 2013 seminar schedule. He is asking the Regional Directors for their assistance in setting up the seminars for 2013.

The Vice President reported the single premium whole life policy rates have been updated. The new rates will be mailed to the branches and the notice will be on the FCSU website. The illustration software has been updated reflecting the new rates.

The Vice President said he and the Executive Secretary will advertise an incentive plan they are developing to help the recommenders receive their state license. Recommenders are to contact the home office for more details.

ADVERTISING:

The Executive Secretary stated he will continue advertising our products and annuity rates in our Jednota newspaper, mailings, and on our website. The Executive Secretary further stated we will continue to add new addresses as we receive them and using the current e-mail addresses we have on record to advertise our products and inform our members of updated information.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES**

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

Disbursements for the month of December 2012:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 354,195.10
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 18,895.31
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 512.16

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:

The President stated convention sites for 2014 are being investigated and as more information becomes available the Executive Committee will be informed.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

The request for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

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

The President asked Vice President Andrew Harcar to close the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆

April Tag Sale at Yonkers, NY Parish



Most Holy Trinity Parish in Yonkers, NY, will host its annual Tag Sale on Friday and Saturday, April 26 – 27, 2013, in the parish social hall located at 15 Trinity Plaza. Friday hours are 4 – 9 PM and on Saturday 9:30AM – 5:00PM. Refreshments will be available. For additional information, call (914) 963-0720. Proceeds will benefit the parish.

- Submitted by Daniel Tanzone,
Editor, Slovak Catholic Falcon;
member, FCSU Branch 41, Yonkers, NY

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

FCSU National Picnic



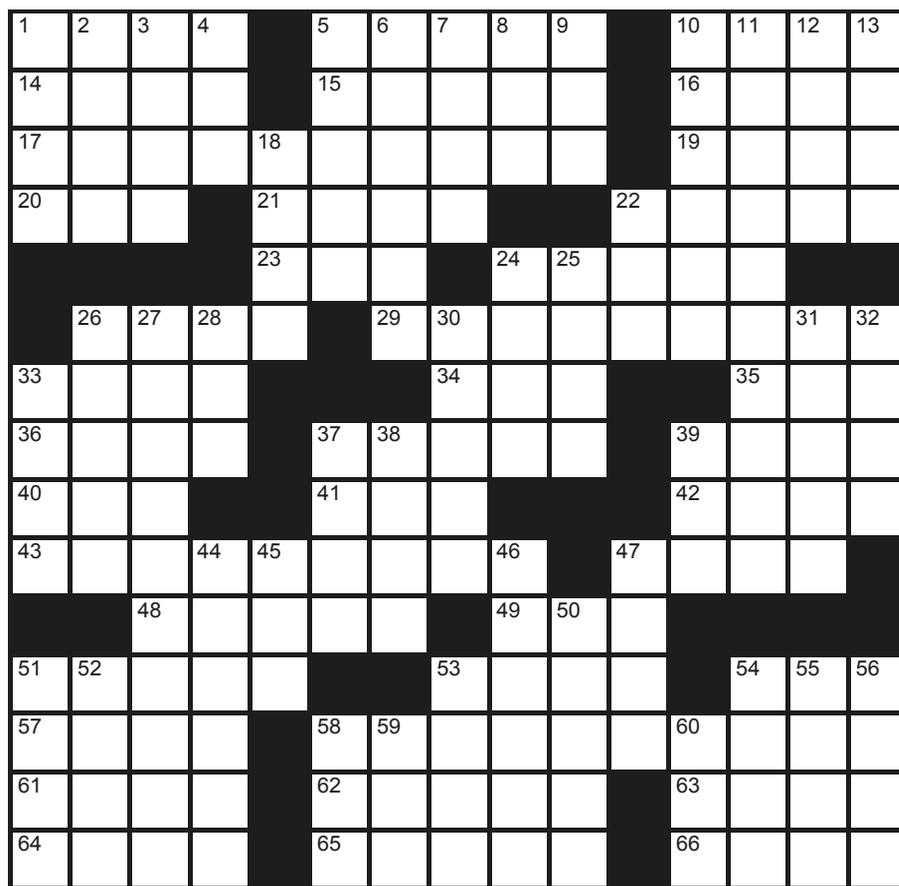
Sunday, August 11, 2013

*Frogbridge
7 Yellow Meeting House Rd.
Millstone Township, NJ 08510*

86 acres of beautiful grounds, with plenty to do for everyone: swimming, waterslides, tennis, softball, beach volleyball, basketball, bocce, soccer, hockey, miniature golf, golf driving range, and more. Food is served all day.

Watch the Jednota paper for more details!

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Mower's target
- 5 Garden tool
- 10 Give off, as light
- 14 Certain cookie
- 15 Circus employee
- 16 Assistant
- 17 Noisy and boisterous
- 19 Hidden valley
- 20 Consume
- 21 Bridle parts
- 22 Assumed name
- 23 Inseparable
- 24 Army ant
- 26 To be, in old Rome
- 29 Deceit
- 33 Sitter's headache
- 34 Greek consonant
- 35 Actress Olivia D'___
- 36 Greasy
- 37 Cast
- 39 Foreboding
- 40 High card
- 41 ___ Speedwagon
- 42 Military ___
- 43 Bronx cheer
- 47 Tarzan's transport
- 48 Chimney items
- 49 Doc bloc
- 51 More or less
- 53 Some dollars
- 54 Fall behind
- 57 Succotash ingredient
- 58 Inverted
- 61 Taxi
- 62 Alabama town
- 63 Beige

Down

- 64 Fr. seasons
- 65 Pilfer
- 66 Dad's lads
- 39 Japanese sash
- 44 Slaps down a coin
- 45 Except
- 46 Evergreen State city
- 47 Flower holder
- 50 Bronze Star, e.g.
- 51 Pain
- 52 Watercraft
- 53 Wight, for one
- 54 Bonkers
- 55 Cockeyed
- 56 Wildebeests
- 58 Battleship letters
- 59 Darling
- 60 Society girl
- 1 Old stories
- 2 Solo
- 3 Cried
- 4 Neither's partner
- 5 Spot on a shirt
- 6 Split
- 7 French friends
- 8 Animal house
- 9 Work unit
- 10 Young raptor
- 11 Soldier
- 12 Concept
- 13 Some bills
- 18 Woodwind
- 22 Current unit
- 24 Canyon sound
- 25 Feline noise
- 26 Author Jong
- 27 Used car pushers
- 28 Eye infection
- 30 Miscue
- 31 Corpulent
- 32 Zero
- 33 Big pig
- 37 Peach or beech
- 38 Towel inscription

AVAILABLE AS TRADITIONAL OR ROTH ACCOUNTS

**FCSU LIFE ANNUITY & IRA
INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2013**

Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.60% APY
Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA's	3.35% APY
with the "Cash Interest" Option	3.10% APY
New six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.25% APY
New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA—1st yr guarantee	1.90% APY
(new Park Free Plus maximum deposit \$25,000.00 PER PERSON)	
New Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	2.85% APY

**If you have any questions about our annuities or IRA's,
Please contact your local branch officer or the Home
Office at 1-800-533-6682**

Email: fcsu@aol.com

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

Address Changes?

Readers are reminded that all address changes for the JEDNOTA newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. If you have an address change, cancellation, or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398; Phone: 1/800-JEDNOTA (1/800-533-6682); Fax: 1-216-642-4310; or E-mail: FCSU@aol.com.

See Solution on Page 18

2012 JEDNOTA COLORING CONTEST RESULTS, PART I

REGION 1

..... Age Group 4-6



Peter Monks
First Place
Perth Amboy, NJ



Violet McNamara
Second Place
Point Pleasant, NJ



Sydney Mihalko
Third Place
Brick, NJ



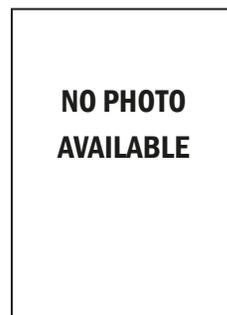
Hunter Lewis
First Place
Perth Amboy, NJ



Ethan White
Second Place
Perth Amboy, NJ



Owen White
Third Place
Perth Amboy, NJ

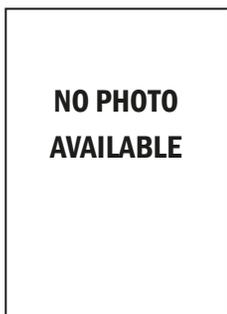


NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

Erin Salko
First Place
Whippany, NJ

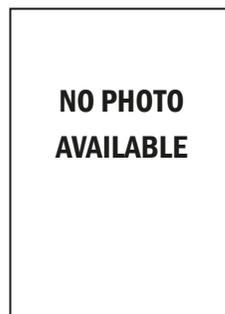
REGION 1

..... Age Group 10-12



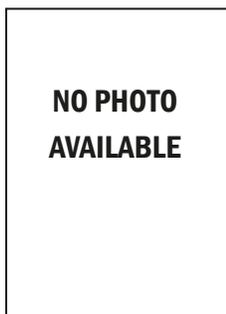
NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

Johanna Diehl
Second Place
Califon, NJ



NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

Erich Diehl
Third Place
Califon, NJ



NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

David Koval
First Place
New Freedom, PA



Grace Bechtold
Second Place
Pgh., PA



Gabriel Fatula
Third Place
Hazelton, PA



Ava Morrell
First Place
Cinnaminson, NJ



Alison Nowatkoski
First Place
Cary, NC

REGION 2

..... Age Group 4-6

..... Age Group 7-9

..... Age Group 7-9

REGION 2

..... Age Group 10-12



NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

Madison Kemp
Second Place
Fairless Hills, PA

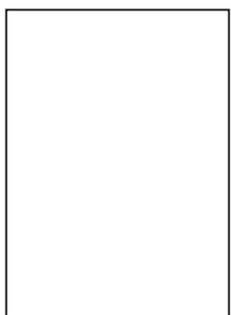


NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

Zoe Kemp
Third Place
Fairless Hills, PA



Michael J. Slovenkai, Jr.
First Place
Scranton, PA



Margaret Pittsman
Second Place
Mayfield, PA



Aidan J. Carone
Third Place
Norfolk, MA



John J. Slovenkai, Jr.
First Place
Scranton, PA



NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

Justin Pecko
Second Place
Browndale, PA

REGION 3

..... Age Group 7-9

..... Age Group 10-12



Anna Pechmann
Third Place
Cullowhee, NC



Amanda Covaleski
First Place
Elizabethtown, PA



Becky Pechmann
Second Place
Cullowhee, NC



Leah Covaleski
Third Place
Elizabethtown, PA



Look for More Coloring Contest Winners
in the next issue of Jednota

Chewy: Easter Here and There

Hi, Kids (and all those Young at Heart). It's me. Chewy. How's every little thing by you? Here at the First Catholic Slovak Union, we've been crazy busy, and time has just flown. Seems like every day some smart Slovak is calling up to take advantage of the stupendous IRA offers the FCSU has (samozrejme – Slovak for "of course" – you don't have to be of Slovak ancestry to open an FCSU IRA, but it doesn't hurt either!). These IRAs are accounts where you can put money for your future retirement and save money right now, in this tax season. Smart, for sure, 'cause you never want to put all your eggs in one basket, as they say.

Speaking of eggs, Easter is almost here! I can hardly wait. It's my first Easter in America. My friends here tell me it's an awesome holiday filled with way-cool traditions. Here you guys hard boil eggs and then decorate them for Easter in all the colors of the rainbow. Sometimes

you put them in a basket for decoration. Sometimes you hide them and have Easter egg hunts out on the lawn. I bet I can win the hunt with one paw tied behind my back. We canines have like 35 times the sense of smell you humans do, so sniffing out some hardboiled treats is so not hard for this here pooch. Not bragging, mind you, just saying

And then, after all that, we get to await that most excellent of animals, the Easter bunny, as he delivers his own basket full of goodies. Too much fun!

In my homeland of Slovakia, the people also decorate eggs for Easter. These are called kraslice. From what I've seen, they're a whole lot



of work with all kinds of instruments needed to apply über-detailed designs and such but the results are AMAZING. The girls on the homestead where I was born way up in the Tatra mountains would work for days on their kraslice to give them away to the young guys who visited on Easter Monday morning — after the guys gave them a whipping or doused them in cold water. Seriously. You can't make this stuff up. It sounds worse than it is, though. The whip, called a korbáč in Slovak, is made from twigs and is supposed to mean a bunch of good stuff like health, strength and all kinds of fresh new things that will come with Spring. And the guys don't really whip them (not like when my brother got caught sneaking into the kitchen after the family had dinner and stealing a slice of šunka – Slovak for ham - right off of the table before the leftovers could be put away. Woo boy.). This hitting with the korbáč is more like a little swat, and I know for a fact the girls later bragged how many guys showed up for each of them, so I know it must signify something in the ole' romance department. Ditto getting hit with "fresh" water. I mean, I ask you, who wants a face full of H2O first thing in the AM? – especially when these young ladies just spent a whole lotta time pretty-ing up those faces for their young visitors. But the girls never complained too much, particularly since most

of the guys knew enough to keep it down to a sprinkle when seeking out a pretty dievča (Slovak for girl) for their special someone. Ah, love. I may just be a pup, but even I know love makes the world go round ... here and there, on special holidays like Easter and all the year through.



Easter egg coloring is popular in the US



These beautifully decorated Easter eggs from Slovakia are courtesy of Daniel Kisha. For more, see p 9 of this issue

My extra special best wishes to you and yours this Easter season. Maybe sometime we can get together and swap stories (and chocolate Easter treats – they say chocolate is bad for dogs, but you can't prove it by me. Yum).

Until then, keep your ears up and your tail waggin'

Your friend (tvoj priateľ),



Site of the FCSU National Picnic, Sunday, August 11, 2013



Frogbridge * 7 Yellow Meeting House Road * Millstone Township, NJ * 08510



Chewy and the National Picnic. Two great things. Both FREE.

The first 200 members to register for the 2013 FCSU National Picnic (free for members), also will be entered in a drawing to win a free Chewy. Watch for details in an upcoming Jednota.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society- Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions please call 216.228.8179.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3 - MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Minneapolis Branch 3 will hold its annual breakfast meeting on Sunday, March 24, 2013. Mass will be offered for our living and deceased members at 9:00AM at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Second Street and 13th Ave., NE.

After Mass, a full breakfast will be served by the St. Cyril Slovak Mens Club in Father Dargay Hall.

The breakfast is free for all members of Branch 3, and the former St. Joseph Branch 226. Please - no parking in the school lot!

Fraternally yours,

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 5P - EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 5P, will hold a meeting Sunday, April 28, 2013, at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the home of Marion Rubino, Vice President, 67 9th St. Wyoming, PA.

On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and activities.

All members are encouraged to attend.

Marion Rubino, Vice President

BRANCH 7 - HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 14, 2013, at 9:00AM at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin Street, Houtzdale, PA. Members are encouraged to attend.

Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 45 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 7, 2013, at 12:30PM after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1st Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 17, 2013, at 9:00AM at K2 Engineering Conference Room, 234 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, PA. Branch activities will be discussed and officers' reports will be given. All members of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting. For directions (if needed) or for any address changes or questions, please call Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

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

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, April 28, 2013, at 1:15 P.M., at Ponderosa Steak House, 1261 Upper Front Street, Binghamton, New York. On the agenda will be a discussion of the District Meeting and Branch business. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call Sue Gabriel at 607-729-8034 or Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by April 25, 2013, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

Spring is about a month away which means our scheduled meetings will begin again. The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold their next meeting on Monday, March 18, 2013 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 each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 16, 2013. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. I appeal to our younger members to become

active in our lodge to help direct our branch as well as becoming involved with the Slovak Club and the United Slovak Societies. The FCSU will conduct another convention in a few years and we will be sending delegates to voice our local's concerns. Input from any and all members is appreciated. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. Come to our meetings. You won't be disappointed.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260 - CAMPBELL, OHIO

Branch 260 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 17, 2013 at 1:30 PM at the Bedford Trails Golf Course. Main topic of discussion on the agenda will be new memberships; also, summer activities in conjunction with the Fr. Kostik Dist. The (2) Jednota Golf Leagues and the Jednota International Golf Tournament will be discussed.

Charles M. Terek, President

BRANCH 276 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist, Branch 276, will hold their next regular meeting on Sunday, March 17, 2013, at Woody's restaurant in Versailles at 1:00 PM. All members are urged to attend.

Fraternally,

wNancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 282 - EAST LYME, CONNECTICUT

There has been a merger between Branch 282K E Lyme, CT and Branch 900K Independence, OH.

All members of Branch 282K will now hold membership in Branch 900K. This merger has taken place as of February 22, 2013.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Rd, Ste#300, Independence, OH, 44131, (800) 533-6682.

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

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 367 - FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Branch 367, Fairchance, PA will hold its next regular meeting at the Olive Garden, 517 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401 at 5:00 PM on Monday, March 18, 2013. Any member that would like to attend please call Audrey Balazik, President 724-438-3887 or Kathryn Baranek, Secretary 724-569-1006.

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 369 - DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 369K Donora, PA and Branch 670K Donora, PA.

All members of Branch 369K will now hold membership in Branch 670K.

This merger has taken place as of February 07, 2013.

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.

Sincerely,

**Kenneth A. Arendt,
National Secretary**

BRANCH 382 - SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382K, Scranton, PA, will hold its Annual March Meeting at noon on Sunday, March 3, 2013, in the VFW Post 3474, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA.

Auditing of the books will take place before the meeting begins.

The agenda will include spring and summer plans, donations, District 17 news, and up-dates from the Home Office. Copies of the 2012 Annual Report to the Home Office will be available.

Light refreshments will be provided. All members are invited to attend.

Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr. is president. Other officers are Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, vice president; Michael Czankner, secretary; Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., treasurer; and John J. Slovenkai, Sr., financial secretary.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 410

UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. at Bob Evans of Uniontown, Route 40 W, Uniontown, PA.

Geri Buchheit, Recording/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OHIO

Attention Branch 553, St. John the Baptist, members. Mark your calendars for the year 2013 - the following dates have been chosen for lodge meetings this year:

April 21

June 23

November 24

All meetings will start at 2 pm and will be held at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. Come to the meeting to learn what is happening with your branch and learn about all the exciting offers from the Home Office.

All members are invited to join us on Friday's during Lent for our famous All You Can Eat Buffet. It's just \$8.00 per person and we offer children's meals at \$4.00. Join us for a great meal.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Hanko, Recording/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 567 - ALLEN TOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ, will hold their regular meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at 1:00pm at 419 East Hamilton St., Allentown, Pa. 18109. Fundraising plans for 2013 will be discussed at this meeting.

Officers for the year 2013 are: President, Bernadine Gerhard; Financial Secretary/Treasurer, William Micek; Recording Secretary/Auditor, Loretta Dashner.

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 580 - WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Sacred Heart of Jesus Branch 580 will hold a meeting on Sunday April 7, 2013 after the 9:30 Mass in the Holy Trinity Social Hall, 529 Grant Ave Ext. West Mifflin, PA. All members are welcome.

Virginia Jasek, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 633 - FLINT, MICHIGAN

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 633, will hold its first meeting of the year at 1:00PM, on Saturday, April 20, 2013, at Teppanyaki Grill & Buffet (former Old Country Buffet located by the Target store) at G-3583 Miller Road in Flint, MI. All members are asked to attend.

Eva Craine, Secretary

BRANCH 661 - STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

There has been a merger between Branch 661K Stamford, CT and Branch 019K Bridgeport, CT.

All members of Branch 661K will now hold membership in Branch 019K. This merger has taken place as of February 22, 2013.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Jacqueline Ann Zack, 15 Brookhedge Rd, Trumbull, CT, 06611-3212, (203) 268-4727.

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

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 731 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Officers for 2013 of Branch 731 elected at the annual branch meeting are Grace Kavulic, President; Irene Makovec, Vice-President; Jacquelyn Bobby, Financial Secretary, Edward Walko & John Kavulic, Auditors and Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary. On April 28, 2013 Mass will be celebrated to honor Saint Joseph our Branch Patron Saint. Liturgy at Noon will be at Saint Matthias Church, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Please try to attend.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 738 - MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's Branch 738 will be holding it's semi annual meeting Tuesday April 16, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW Post 6673 on Whitaker Way Munhall, PA. The meeting will include planning for the bi-annual members appreciation dinner this fall. Please bring your ideas and suggestions to the meeting. All members are welcome.

BRANCH 743 - STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St Joseph on Sunday, March 10, 2013, with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30 am at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy.

All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph's Day and to enjoy fellowship with other members.

A Branch meeting will take place at 1:00 pm in the Slovak Heritage Room.

Any member who has recently moved or requires Branch services should contact the Branch secretary Joseph C. Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087 or phone 586-254-0225.

**Joseph C. Rimarcik,
President/Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 764 WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764 held their monthly meeting on January 30, 2013 at Bella Women's Center.

We were happy to learn that we had 16 new members last year due in part to the JEP program. Future activity plans were discussed with several projects that haven't been done before.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2013 at 12:00 noon at Bella Women's Center, 1192 North Park Road, NE, Warren, OH. All members are encouraged to attend.

Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 844 - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold their Annual Slovak Easter Mass on Sunday, March 24, 2013 at St. John Bosco High School located on 13640 Bellflower Blvd, Bellflower, CA, 90706. Mass will begin promptly at 11:00AM. A delicious authentic Slovak lunch will be served after Mass along with an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak Spirit of Easter.

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

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

**Fraternally yours,
Milan Konkol, Secretary**

Slovak Embassy Chef Offers Slovak Cooking Demo in Pittsburgh



Chef Michal Šariský of the Slovak Embassy in Washington, DC, is coming to Pittsburgh, PA, to demonstrate how to prepare an authentic Slovak meal. He will have recipes for traditional Slovak dishes available and everyone will have a chance to sample the food he makes.

The demonstration will be held on Sunday, April 13, 2013, at 1:00PM in the kitchen of St. Gregory Byzantine Church located at 2005 Mohawk Drive in Upper St. Clair. The demo is sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association (WPSCA). The fee for WPSCA members is \$15 and \$20 for non-members. The fee includes the cooking lesson, lunch and a beverage, and is payable in advance. Send your checks payable to WPSCA, Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220. Call Joe at (412) 531-2990 or Albina at (412) 343-5031 for more information.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 – THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 28, 2013. The meeting will take place at the Missionary Benedictine Convent, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, IL. Attendees will gather at 1:30 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship, with the meeting starting at 2:00 pm. A delicious, catered dinner will be served. All branches are encouraged to send delegates. If you plan to attend, please notify District 2 Spiritual Adviser Dorothy Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810, so enough food and drinks can be ordered. Individual members of District 2 branches who wish to become active in district activities are also encouraged to attend.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 3 – GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT – WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 20, 2013 following the 5:00P.M. Mass at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church, United, PA. The meeting will take place in the Formation Room of the Convent. We look forward to a great attendance from all of our branches. Refreshments will be served.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 5 - MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 21, 2013, at Ss Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church in Sterling Hts, MI.

Our day will begin with Mass at 11:30AM followed by coffee and fellowship in the Fr. Mikus Hall. A 1PM business meeting will be held in the Slovak Heritage Room. A luncheon will follow immediately. The church 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Hts, MI (north of 18 Mile Road).

Branch 743 is hosting the meeting and Joseph Rimarcik Jr should be notified at 586-254-0225 with the number of delegates attending from your branch by Thursday, April 18, 2013.

Spring should be here by then, so let's make it a good turnout. Our District President Robert Kristofik encourages all branches to send delegates.

Remember branches must attend these meetings in order to get branch compensation from headquarters.

Anna Magusin, District Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Pittsburgh District Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 14, at 1PM at Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. Branch 35 will host. Please RSVP by April 7 to Janet Sullivan at 412-824-4185 with the number of members attending.

The meeting agenda will include officers' reports and discussion of national and district business items. We will also discuss upcoming national and district events for 2013. Please email the district secretary at manasta@verizon.net if you have an item for the agenda or an upcoming Slovak cultural event that you would like to advertise. The Annual Meeting in the Fall is still in the planning phase. There is, as yet, no host branch. Please consider hosting and contact the district president in April.

Plan to attend the District Fathers' Day Brunch on Sunday, June 16. Branch 60 will host and district vice-president Karianne Barnes of Branch 628 will do the ad booklet. Further details will be provided later.



FIRST SLOVAK CITIZENS CLUB OF CARTERET

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

ATTENTION former Members of the FIRST SLOVAK CITIZENS CLUB OF CARTERET, NEW JERSEY.

If you were a Member or are the surviving spouse of a Member of the FIRST SLOVAK CITIZENS CLUB OF CARTERET, NEW JERSEY as of July 9, 1992, you may be eligible to share in the distribution of the proceeds from the sale of the Clubhouse.

Please contact the attorney representing the Club at:

William J. Hamilton, Jr., Esq.
94 Bayard Street
P.O. Box 1149
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903
Telephone: 732-249-3660
Fax: 732-545-2220
hamiltonwll@aol.com

Forms of certification to assert a claim for a share in the proceeds of the sale are available from William J. Hamilton, Jr.'s Law Office or on www.carteretslovakclub.com. All certification forms should be signed and returned to William J. Hamilton, Jr. by July 10, 2013.

Please note that there is a presently scheduled meeting for April 10, 2013 for the membership to review and approve certifications and calculate approximate amount of distribution to members. The meeting will be held at:

Knights of Columbus Hall
164 High Street
Carteret, New Jersey 07008
The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

While we look forward to seeing everyone at the FCSU district meeting, remember there are many other local Slovak events that also merit your attention:

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: March 4: Slovakia Today vs the Slovakia or our Ancestors, Rev Johannes Oravec; April 1: Life of a Tammy, Katka Gallagher; May 6: Folk Customs of Eastern Slovakia, John Righetti; June 3: Overview of Slovak Folklore and Crafts, Larry Kosloski.

** Slovak Language Classes will be held Tuesdays in the spring. Call Joe Senko at 412-956-9000 during office hours for information about reservations and fees.

** Saturday programs at the National Slovak Society Heritage Museum in McMurray: March 23: Easter egg designs & Easter customs; April 27: Straw ornaments & nut cookies; September 21: Christmas in September. Guided tours are available by appointment. Call 1-800-488-1890.

** Slovak Day at Kennywood Park is Thursday, July 18.

** The Pittsburgh Area Folk Ensemble will be performing at Slovak Day and at the McKeesport International Village on August 13, 14, & 15. Look for their booth at the craft pavilion.

** Various Slovak programs and courses are available through the University of Pittsburgh Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. See www.slavic.pitt.edu

Anyone with additional Pittsburgh area Slovak events that they wish to be included in our district notice should send information to manasta@verizon.net

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 – THE REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold its next meeting Tuesday March 19, 2013, at St. Matthias Church Rectory, starting at 6:00pm. On the agenda will be summer activities, the casino bus trip, and open discussions of Jednota business.

Carla Peshek, President

DISTRICT 15 - PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Prince Pribina District will hold its next meeting on Palm Sunday, March 24, 2013. The celebration begins at 11:00 AM with a Slovak Holy Mass at the St. John Bosco Chapel in St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706. The meeting will follow in the cafeteria.

On the meeting agenda will be: our Year of Faith renewal, and preparations for September 8, 2013, when the Bishop from Bratislava, Msgr. Jozef Halko, will come to celebrate with us here in California in honor of the 1150th anniversary of the evangelization of the Slovak people by St. Cyril and Methodius. Promotion and schedule of District fraternal activities and First Catholic Slovak Union Insurance program information will be on the agenda as well.

After the meeting, we will enjoy a period of fraternal fellowship, and a Slovak gourmet lunch, dessert and refreshments will be served. Children will have the opportunity to participate in a traditional Easter Egg hunt.

All members are invited and all branches in our area are encouraged to send delegates to this district event.

Sincerely,

Paul Skuben, President

DISTRICT 17 – SS CYRIL & METHODIUS DISTRICT – LUZERNE AND LACKAWANNA COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA; AND BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

The District's semi-annual meeting will be held on Sunday, April 21, 2013, at 1:00PM at St. Ann's Basilica Hall, St. Ann's Street, Scranton, PA, with parking available in the lot to the left of the church. Books will be audited prior to the meeting.

On the agenda are reports from Officers and the Regional Director of updates from the Home Office, and upcoming summer activities.

Call District President Michael Slovenkai at (570) 342-7562 to notify him of the members who will be attending from your branch. Light refreshments will be served.

COME ... join in FRATERNALISM.

Fraternally,

Theresa Chupka, Recording Secretary

REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT-

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 14, 2013. The Mass will be at St. Catherine Drexel Church, 124 East Abbott Street, Lansford, Pa. 18232 at 10:30 AM.

Dinner will be served at 12 noon. The meeting will take place at 1:00 PM. The dinner and meeting will take place at Kelley's Irish Pub, 636 East Patterson Street, Lansford, Pa. 18232. The Pub is about 6 blocks from the church.

Donation for the dinner is \$17.00 per person. Please make checks payable to Branch 293. All checks and credentials must be returned by Saturday, April 6, 2013. PLEASE be prompt!!

Any questions, please call Loretta Dashner at 610.432.8350. Thank You!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

Reminder For All Branches

Among the requirements to complete in order to qualify for your branch stipend, under Bylaw Section 14. RULES GOVERNING LOCAL BRANCHES, is the following:

14.01 General Rules

a) Branch and district meetings must be held in the close proximity of the hub of its members. The meetings shall be held at least semiannually, one of which must be for the elections of officers, who shall assume their duties upon election. **Notice of each of these meetings shall be published in the Official Organ at least thirty (30) days in advance of such meeting.**



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	Michael J Krupar	162K	Paul E Kolp Jr	362K	Joseph Slivenski Jr	731K	Norbert J Yanek
001K	Joseph S Stolar	162K	John R Mateosky Jr	367K	Dolores B Martoncik	738K	Regis J Survinski
005P	Joseph Hoover	162K	Bernard J Swetts	367K	Thelma J Wytko	746K	George Hudak Jr
019K	William George Tomis	162K	William J Zehala Jr	456K	Mary A Danko	746K	Anna M Lukacs
023K	Helen R Hostensky	166K	Eleanor E Kuzma	456K	Stephina I Danko	746K	Mary M Yash
024K	Paul Kollar	166K	Carol Anne Walker	484K	Edward E Hromulak	756K	Frank Robert Guysky
035K	Robert T Merkovsky	175K	Andrew John Lacey	484K	Michael B Slavik	774K	Joseph C Bower
038K	Mathilda J Zawodniak	181K	Elizabeth C Saglime	497K	Loretta J Kozub	796K	Benjamin B Kovalcik
040K	Ruth E. Mathis	233K	James E Elias	512K	Michael Savko Jr	796K	Irene I Strella
040K	Jeremy Lee Williams	238K	Cecilia Motichka	543K	Paul M Ledak	823K	James D Croushore
041K	Valer Mocak	240P	Mary Bridgid Webster	553K	Walter N Blateric	831K	Mary Catherine Duncan
045K	Joseph A Stracar	260K	Joseph P Antal Sr	553K	John F Kline Sr	831K	Anna Pastrick
045K	Joseph Vanco	260K	Emil J Dzurej Sr	581K	Mary Helen Rusnack	831K	Priscilla A Swift
060K	Clement J Gazda	266K	Paul Hametz	581K	Rudolph M Zajac	852K	Agnes L Knovic
060K	Alex Schur	292K	Leo Joseph Wojcik	615K	James Anthony Lemmon	853K	Helen A Babchak
085K	Mary L Petrasko	293K	Sr Catherine Ann Galgoci	615K	Maria A Sertich	855K	John J Skvasik
089K	Andrew S Trokan	293K	Marie C Heydt	635K	John P Majcher	890K	Lawrence Stephen Tobias
096K	George J Donch	293K	Gertrude G Kujawa	670K	Kathleen Fisher	900K	Curt K Gaidosh
096K	Thomas J Hudak	308K	Paul A Bindas	670K	Margaret V Sterback	900K	Martin Sedlacek
108K	Martin M Hudacek	313K	William J Judy	670K	Ann M Tentler	900K	Helen Wauzynski
136K	Joseph J Guydish	313K	Ann Margaret Kubon	682K	Ann Tokarsky		
153K	George S Pekelnicky	319K	Helen A Yirga	716K	Michael J Kubenik Jr		
156K	Joseph P Nehilla	326K	Francis Paul Carpency	731K	Stephen Bengala		

*Processed through the month of January 2013



OBITUARIES

HELEN L. PARRISH BRANCH 1P – HAZELTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Helen L. Parrish, 94, a former resident of North James Street, Hazleton, died Saturday Feb. 2, 2013 at the Woodside Manor Nursing Home, Rochester, N.Y.

Born in Hazleton, she was the daughter of the late Francis and Mary (Medvetz) Luschak.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Frank A. Parrish, who died Feb. 15, 1973, sisters, Sister M. Ernestine, Mary Zoltak, Jennie Luschak, and Susan Gondera; and also stepbrothers and stepsisters.

She was a 1936 graduate of the former Hazleton Senior High School, and attended Redstone Academy, which became Empire Beauty School.

She was also employed by the local textile industry. She was a charter member of the Confraternity of Christian Women of the former Holy Trinity Slovak Roman Catholic Church. She was a current member of St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Hazleton. She with her husband Frank were long time active members of Branch 001P in Hazleton.

Surviving are her son, Francis J. Parrish and his wife, Bonnie, Rochester N.Y.; three grandchildren and three great grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Feb. 6, 2013 from the John J. Pusti Funeral Home Inc., 480 W. Broad St., Hazleton. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Hazleton, at 11 a.m. Interment will be in Holy Trinity Slovak Roman Catholic Cemetery, Hazleton.

Memorial donations made to St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church would be greatly appreciated by the family.

JOSEPH P. NEHILLA BRANCH 156 – BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA

Joseph P. Joe Nehilla, 90, of Bethlehem, PA, died on May 6, 2012. Husband of the late Helen A. (Phillip) Garcia Nehilla who died on December 23, 2005. Joe was born in Bethlehem son of the

late Michael and Josephine (Sofranko) Nehilla. He was in the US Navy aboard the USS Delta during World War II, serving in North Africa, Palermo, Sicily and Naples Italy. He also served in Japan with the occupational forces in 1945. Joe was a machinist in the central tool department at the Bethlehem Steel for 30 years retiring in 1984. Following his retirement, he was a security guard at GAF and Tarkett. He was a member of Holy Infancy Catholic Church in Bethlehem. Survivors: Stepchildren: James P. Garcia, husband of Frances; John J. Garcia, husband of Elizabeth; Jeannette C. Guidon; Mary Ann T. Mucka, wife of Joseph; sister Anna D. DiGiacinto; ten step-grandchildren; and eleven step-great-grandchildren. Predeceased by four brothers, Stephen, John, Michael, and William; and by two step-grandchildren. Services: Prayer Service followed by entombment on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 at 12 noon in the Mausoleum at Bethlehem Memorial Park. There was no viewing. Funeral arrangements were by the John F. Herron Funeral Home, Bethlehem, PA.

- Submitted by John J. Garcia

SISTER CATHERINE ANN GALGOCI, MSC BRANCH 293 – LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

Sister Catherine Ann Galgoci, MSC, formerly known as Sister M. Jane, a Missionary Sister of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, died Jan. 1, 2013, at Sacred Heart Villa, Hyde Park.

Born in Lansford, she was a daughter of the late Charles and Helen (Mikulka) Galgoci.

In the early 1900s, Sister Catherine Ann's parents came from (then) Czechoslovakia and settled among other Slovak immigrants in the coal mining region of Pennsylvania. It was there in Lansford that Sister Catherine Ann first met the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart as her teachers in elementary school. She made her First Profession of Vows on Aug. 26, 1940.

After completing her studies at Sacred Heart Hospital School of Nursing, Allentown, she served in various capacities in Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown, Mt. Trexler, Limeport, and Good Samaritan Hospital, Pottsville. She also served on the Pastoral Care Team at Sacred Heart Hospital, Norristown, and St. Mary's Hos-

pital, Athens, GA.

She retired to St. Michael Convent, now Sacred Heart Villa in 1997.

She is survived by three sisters, Sarah Yushmanish of Lansford, Mary, wife of Albert Kohler, of Reading, and Helen Michalik of Summit Hill; and a brother Sylvester Galgoci of Summit Hill; also many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by brothers, Joseph, Charles, Ernest, and Samuel.

Service: will be at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, 51 Seminary Avenue, Reading, PA 19605. Gallman-Sonoski Funeral Home Inc., Reading, has charge of arrangements.

LUCILLE J. (RHODES) CIBIK BRANCH 600 – LEECHBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Lucille J. (Rhodes) Cibik, 86, of Parks Township, PA, died Friday, Feb. 22, 2013, at Belair Health and Rehabilitation Center, Lower Burrell. She was born May 3, 1926, in Reynoldsville, daughter of the late Joseph C. and Madalean (Jewell) Rhodes. She was a homemaker and a member of Christ the King Parish, Gilpin Township. She was a member of the St. Anne's Guild at the former St. Martha Roman Catholic Church, in Leechburg, the Catholic Daughters of America Court 1000 and Kiski Valley Coalition to Save Our Children. She loved gardening, knitting and crocheting and was a great cook. Her greatest enjoyment in life was making her family and friends happy. She is survived by two sons, Gerald E. Cibik, of Parks Township, and John C. Cibik (Karen), of Houston, Texas; and three grandchildren, Johnathan Cibik (Jayme), of Houston, Texas, Jessie Lynn Cibik, of Austin, Texas, and Dr. Lori A. Cibik, of Jacksonville, Fla. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, John C. Cibik, who died Oct. 3, 1987; and two brothers,



Joseph D. Rhodes and Harry Rhodes. Friends were welcomed by her family from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25, 2013, and from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013, at Clawson Funeral Home and Cremation Center, Leechburg, PA, where parting prayers of transfer were held at 9:15 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013, followed by a Christian Funeral Mass at 10 a.m. with her pastor, the Rev. Joseph V. Trupkovich, officiating. Interment followed in St. Catherine Cemetery, Gilpin Township.

- Submitted by John Majo, Branch 600 President

MICHAEL J. KUBENIK JR. BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NY

Michael J. Kubenik Jr. of Rock Tavern, NY entered into rest on December 10, 2012 at home. He was 84.

Michael was born in Velke Rovne, Slovakia on January 11, 1928 to Michael J. and Ludmila Racik Kubenik. He was the husband of Mary Bosan Kubenik.

A loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle who will be missed dearly by his family. Michael was the former owner of Standard Wire Works of Brooklyn, NY.

A past president of both the Slovak League of America Branch #1 and the FCSU St. Stephens Branch 716. A member of St. John Nepomucene Church, NY. Michael was an avid bowler who also loved hunting, fishing and loved gardening and playing poker.

Michael is survived by his wife, Mary Kubenik of Rock Tavern, NY; son, Michael J. and his wife, Kelly Kubenik of Brewster, NY; daughters: Ann Marie D'Agostin of Eastchester, NY, Helen and her husband, Philip Loviti of Wappingers Falls, NY and Jane Pankovcin of Greenwood Lake, NY; siblings: Henry and his wife, Anna Kubenik of Jeffersonville, NY, Beatrice Gazo of Egg Harbor, NJ, Ludmila Zajac of Warwick, NY and Maria Gabor, also of Warwick, NY; grandchildren: Paul, Mark, Dani, Kristen, Karen, Melanie, Tiffany, Michael, Devon and Irene; brother-in-law, Steven Bosan of Los Angeles, CA; sisters-in-law: Vera

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In Memoriam

George A. Sprock

Past FCSU Regional Director & Branch 181 Officer

George A. Sprock, 79, of Unity Township, died Sunday, February 24, 2013 at his home. He was born January 20, 1934 in Latrobe, PA, a son of the late George and Anna (Wirdzek) Sprock. Prior to retirement, George worked several places including Pleasant Unity Hotel, the former Bivouac, Pepsi Cola, Volkswagon and Latrobe Area Hospital. He served on the USS Wisconsin with the Navy during the Korean War and was a member of St. Florian Catholic Church, United, PA. George was a member, past Regional Director, and past Branch 181 Financial Secretary of the First Catholic Slovak Union; member and past commander of Unity Township American Legion Post #982; and member of VFW Post #8643, Pleasant Unity. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers: Adam, Vincent and Frank Sevcik; and two sisters: Irene Gritzer and Mildred Bonar. He is sur-



vived by his wife of 57 years: Florence M. (Mizenko) Sprock; three children: Barbara A. Spencer and husband James of Frederick, MD, Karen M. Hunka of Mercersburg, and George F. Sprock and wife Wendy of Latrobe; 11 grandchildren: Katharine, Matthew, Anne, Joshua, Jacob, Trevor, Anna, Katie, Jonathon, George and Sarah; and a great grandson: Aliqui; a brother: Joseph Sprock and wife Mary of Hostetter; a sister-in-law: Mary Sevcik of Pleasant Unity; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Friends were received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 PM Wednesday, February 27, 2013, at the Gaut-Bacha Funeral Home, Inc., Pleasant Unity. Prayers were held at 9:30 AM Thursday, February 28, 2013, in the funeral home followed by a funeral Mass celebrated in St. Florian Catholic Church at 10 AM. Military service by the Armbrust Veterans Group and interment followed in St. Florian Cemetery, Mt. Pleasant Township.

Tibor T. Kovalovsky

Past Officer, Slovak Catholic Sokol & Fraternal Alliance

Tibor T. Kovalovsky, 91, passed away Tuesday, February 26, 2013, in Bradenton, FL. He was born Sept. 27, 1921, in the Bratislava District of Slovakia, where he completed his formal education. At the age of 15, he earned the honor of Eagle Scout.



He served as an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the first Slovak Republic in Bratislava, and after World War II at the Ministry in Prague, Czecho-Slovakia. His assignments included Berlin and Paris. He later served as Liaison Officer for the Czecho-Slovak Government to the British Government in the British Zone of West Germany. He was a member of the Czecho-Slovak delegation to the Paris Peace Conference in 1946.

In 1949, he resigned his position in the diplomatic corps following the Communist takeover of Czecho-Slovakia. He, along with his wife, Emilia, and sons, Tibor and Peter, initially immigrated to Australia. Later they were granted a visa to the United States, arriving in 1953, and settled in Campbell, where his son, John, was born.

Tibor was employed by several local entities, including General Fireproofing, Isaly's Dairy, and Mahoning County Engineering Department. He was later appointed by Campbell Mayor Rocco F. Mico to the position of Campbell Superintendent of Streets.

In 1971 he was elected to the position of

Supreme Secretary (CEO) by the Slovak Catholic Sokol National Convention and moved to Passaic, N.J. to serve in that capacity. During this time, he was also President of New York and New Jersey Fraternal Congress. In 2003, he was honored by the Slovak Catholic Sokol as its "Fraternalist of the Year."

After retiring in 1992, he and his wife returned to the Mahoning Valley and resided in Boardman. He recently relocated to Bradenton and resided with his son, Peter, until his death on Feb. 26, 2013.

His parents, John and Elizabeth; and on Aug. 19, 2005, his wife, Emilia, preceded him in death.

His sons, Tibor (Anne) of Knoxville, Tenn., Peter (Rose-Ann) of Bradenton and John (Donna) of Saddlebrook, N.J.; nine grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild survive him.

He was a member of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Campbell and later of St. Mathias Slovak Church in Youngstown.

The Kovalovsky family has entrusted their loved one to the care of the Kubina-Yuhasz-Wasko Funeral Home, Youngstown, OH. The funeral Mass was held on Monday, March 4, 2013, at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows at St. Mathias Catholic Church, Youngstown, OH, with Father John Jerek officiating.

Prof. Dr. Stanley Kubina 1925-2013

Branch 784 – Montreal, Quebec

Montreal's Slovak community mourns the sudden death of prof. Dr. Stanley (Stanislav) James Kubina, who was called to his eternal rest on February 13, 2013 at the age of 87. He was an esteemed, religiously and socially oriented member of the community as well as being a highly educated and well respected Canadian Slovak intellectual. Both his parents and the parents of his wife Lily (nee Gregus) were devoted believers, active fraternalists, ardent supporters of Slovak endeavors in Montreal, and of Slovak affairs in Canada. His lifelong academic, professional and personal achievements read like a Who's Who.

He was born on November 6, 1925 in Smolinske, a district of Senica, Slovakia. He came to Canada in 1934, with his mother and older sister Berta (Mrs. Stano, now deceased) to join their father in Montreal where he lived all his life. As a young boy, for a short period of time, he attended the then-existing Slovak school and served as an altar boy in the Slovak church. Fluent in his mother tongue, later in his life, he became a holy scripture reader in the Slovak church.

Upon graduating from D'Arcy McGee High School, he attended McGill University in Montreal where he received his B.Eng. in Engineering Physics and M.Eng. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering. His 14-year industrial career focused on the design, development and evaluation of avionics systems; he was responsible for the development and evaluation of antenna systems on Canada's classic aircraft such as the CL-28/ARGUS, the CL-44/YUKON, the CL-66/COSMOPOLITAN and the C130/HERCULES. He pioneered the first Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) program on aircraft in Canada.

His academic career began in 1965 when he headed the Electrical Engineering Department at Loyola College of Montreal. Upon the formation of Concordia University in 1974, he served on the first Board of Governors and was Director of Engineering for the Loyola campus of the new university. In 1991, he retired from regular academic duties and became the first Professor Emeritus in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Concordia University. He headed the Electromagnetic Compatibility Laboratory and provided consulting services to the Department of National Defense and Industry on avionics systems, antennas and electromagnetic compatibility. From June 1993 to July 1997, he was recalled to serve as Associate Dean, Strategic Planning for the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science. In 2000, his official title became Distinguished Professor Emeritus. Long before that date, his family had started to joke that retirement was not a word in his vocabulary. His work and research had a great impact on industry and in academia. The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers honoured him as Life Fellow citing Dr. Kubina for his leadership in computational electromagnetics for EMC analysis and design and in electrical engineering education in Canada.

He was an active member of St. Cyril and Method Parish in Montreal, a long-standing member of Montreal FCSU (Jednota) Branch



784, and past president of the Canadian Slovak Professional and Business Association of Montreal. Dr. Kubina was a man of faith, a man of honour, and a gentleman who was known to recite classical poems on special occasions. He was an attentive professor and thesis supervisor. He was a great man, a loyal Slovak patriot and as

such he was a keynote speaker at the convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union held in Toronto (Ontario) in 1976. He was also an accomplished dancer. It was a pleasure to watch Stanley and his wife Lily "twirl" on the dance floor.

He leaves behind his beloved wife of 62 years, Lily, his children Camille (Andre), James (Irena), and Lucy-Ann; his grandchildren Brigitte, Viviane, Aaron and Natasha, and his dear niece Rose-Marie.

Dr. Kubina was laid to his eternal rest in Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery on February 22, 2013 following a religious service held at the funeral home chapel. He was eulogized by his Deacon son, James, daughter Camille, his learned colleagues, and Ann Hrycyk on behalf of the Slovak community of Montreal.

As we bid *Posledne zbohom* to our compatriot Dr. Kubina we express our profound and heartfelt sympathy to his wife Lily, and to the entire Kubina family.

Nech Otec nebesky obrati Svoju tvar k nemu a nech odpočiva v pokoji v zemi svojej adoptovanej vlasti.

- Submitted by Stefan Hreha

OBITUARIES

continued from page 16

Kubenik of Warwick, NY, Helen Kubinec of Eastchester, NY and Emily Bosan of Hopewell Junction, NY. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his brother, John Kubenic and his brother and sisters-in-law: Joseph Bosan, Richard Kubinec, Emil Turcik, Henry Zajac, Joseph Gabor, Louis Gazo, Anna Turcik and Ethel Bosan.

Visitation was held Wednesday, December 12, 2012 the at David T. Ferguson Funeral Home, Washingtonville, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial was held Thursday, December 13, 2012, at the Church of the Assumption in Maybrook, NY. Burial immediately followed at St. Mary's Cemetery in Washingtonville, NY.

DANIEL MAKOVSKY BRANCH 784 – MONTREAL, QUEBEC

Passed away peacefully, on February 27, 2013 at the age of 87. Beloved brother of Tony (late Mary) and the late Paul (Madeleine). Cherished uncle to Bill (Dawn), John, Louise, Paul Jr., Lise (Elan), Lynn (Jimmy) and Linda. Great-uncle to Marcel, Madeleine, Veronika, Emilia, Melanie and Rachel. He leaves to mourn many friends and other family members. Resting at Jasko Moshonas Ouimet Funeral Home, 693 Jean Talon W. (corner Champagneur), on Monday, March 4, 2013 from 5 - 9 p.m. Funeral service on Tuesday, March 5 at 11 a.m. from Sts-Cyril & Method Slovak Church (7187 2nd Ave and Jean Talon). Thence to Notre Dame Des Neiges Cemetery for interment. In lieu of flowers, a donation in his memory can be made to the Heart Foundation of Canada.

Attention:
FCSU Mobile Members!



Use your smart phone to download a QR-code reader. Then take a photo of this icon for more information on our Society wherever you are - at home or on the go.

Gestures of Fellowship from FCSU Members & Others Help Slovak Village

Financial support of any kind is welcome these days, particularly when it comes to corporate sponsorship. However, when the support comes not from a business entity but individuals – gestures by ordinary people who want to express their feelings – then the action takes on special meaning. Financial support becomes more meaningful still when these ordinary people have ties to a particular cause through historical roots. In this case by Slovaks who emigrated from their homeland out into the wide world in of search work and happiness, but have never forgotten their ancestral origins.

Our village – Lúčina (formerly Huviz), in the Prešov District of Slovakia– has had the privilege to experience just such meaningful support twice in our recent past.

The first time occurred in 1994 when several families, including the Hudak family, donated money for the building of a new Roman Catholic Church, including Calvary paintings, a memorial cross and the church itself. The Hudak family is connected to Lúčina through the father of Andrew Hudak, currently the Director of the Slovak Institute in Cleveland, OH (Editor's note: and FCSU Branch 1 Vice President) who was born here. Mr. Andrew Hudak himself was born in nearby Kecerovce. Through his donation, Mr. Hudak wanted to express his love and respect for the country of his birth, and the fact that he never forgot it abroad.

The second experience with meaningful financial support from individuals with ties to Slovakia involved the construction of a children's playground in our village. It is a quite interesting story.

As Mayor of this tiny village, I often face financial problems. Municipalities in Slovakia are financed based on the number of citizens. We only have 160 citizens, but thank God, we are not considered a "dying village" – a common term here for those places without any young people. We do not have just an aging population but actually have quite a few families with teenagers, small children and infants. Still, our small size dictates that once we pay basic expenses to keep the village running, there is nothing left for other projects such as new development.

My wife Jana works at the University of Prešov. During the winter semester in 2009, she met Nancy Emerick-Meyer from Cleveland State University in Cleveland, OH, who was at University of Prešov for an international partnership program. Nancy also has roots in eastern Slovakia, and so was eager to help us fulfill our dream of building a children's playground; she suggested getting in touch with Mr. Hudak (yes, the same guy who had already donated funds for the church). Nancy knows Mr. Hudak personally from Cleveland. (Isn't it interesting and great how lives and history are mixed?) When she got back to the US she contacted Mr. Hudak. In the meanwhile I also contacted him by mail. Mr. Hudak got this great idea: the playground could be dedicated and named after A. P. Bugoš – who was born in Lúčina in 1865 and immigrated to the US in 1882, later becoming the first Slovak immigrant elected as a United States Senator for the state of Wyoming.

Next, he contacted the Bugoš family, whose members by now were spread across the United States. Communication was coordinated by another member of the Slovak Institute, Mr. Joe Hornack, (Editor's note: also a member of FCSU Branch 1). Together, they initiated the fundraising efforts necessary to support our intention of building the A.P. Bugoš Playground. I kept everyone apprised of project details via the Internet, and we reached our fundraising goal within months. In addition to the Bugoš family, many other willing donors participated. Altogether the Bugoš family (represented by Paul E. Bugoš) donated \$2107. The fund was also financially supported by the following: Andrew F. Hudak and family - \$450, Joseph J. Hornack and family - \$100, Anna Korecko - \$100, Nancy Meyer-Emmerick - \$75, the Slovak Institute and Library -



\$105, the Stanislav Bugoš family from Lúčina - €150, All totaled, exactly \$3000 was collected. The funds we brought to us by Fr. Martin Uhal, who was returning from a trip to Cleveland. We also received another grant from a local foundation sponsored by the Velky Šariš Brewery. A local forestry company donated wood for construction, as well. Labor was provided by our local citizens, in their free time.

Establishing this children's park was a beautiful demonstration of cooperation and good fellowship of those families with ties to our Slovak village – particularly the ancestors of A. P. Bugoš, after whom the playground is named – as well as the Mayor's office of the Lúčina village, local forestry community and all voluntary and helpful efforts of the citizens of Lúčina.

Submitted by Roman Chovanec, Mayor of Lúčina, Slovakia

Flowers Sunday in Johnstown

Flowers Sunday: Slovak and Rusyn Easter and Spring Traditions is a program being presented by the Slovak Heritage Association of the Laurel Highlands on Sunday, March 24, 2013, 1–4:00 PM, at the Am-Slo Club, 85 Lenhart Street in Johnstown, PA, 15901. Admission is \$2.00 per person.

The program will feature exhibits and demonstrations including *pysanky* written by Ron Wanko, *Morena* dolls with Ethel Gaspar, wedding aprons made by Dolly Yonkoski, and palm weaving. Food exhibits and demonstrations will include potato *halušky* by Dennis Ragan, *pirohy* by A. J. Rován and his family, a special two-flavor *kolače* by Bernie Mitrus, and Agnes Bardar's fast and easy *pagač*.

Visitors can browse for items from Dan Kisha's Slovak Crafts and for Larry Kozlowski's Easter publications, Easter and Slovak themed cards and gifts, and at a bake sale, and try chances on a spring/Easter basket and Polish pottery raffles.

A light meal of traditional Easter foods will be available for \$5.00 a plate

All are invited to drop in during the afternoon and shop, eat, learn or reaffirm Slovak and Rusyn spring traditions and compare notes on "how we did it in our village." For further information call Nick or Susan at 814-255-5517.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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



Saturday, April 20, 2013

7:30pm

Monsters vs. Grand Rapids Griffins
Quicken Loans Arena-Cleveland, OH



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- Branch 24: Tom Ivanec, 216-668-7797
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- Branch 855: Linda Kolesar, 440-886-0206



Special FCSU member rates, courtesy of your FCSU branch
Deadline to order: Monday, March 25, 2012

Upper Endzone	Total
# OF TICKETS	\$
<small>(\$19 game day value lower level end zone and corner seats)</small>	

CONTACT INFORMATION (Please fill out completely)

NAME _____ DAY PHONE () _____
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PAYMENT INFORMATION

CHECK/MONEY ORDER (MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO YOUR LOCAL BRANCH)

METHOD OF DELIVERY:

From your branch officer or pick up at will call (near box office)

All orders are subject to availability. No ticket required for children under the age of two. Video cameras are not allowed in Quicken Loans Arena. Orders must be placed online, by mail, fax, or phone. Offer and discounts not available at arena box office. No refunds or exchanges.

News From Slovakia

Production of TV Sets in Nove Mesto nad Vahom Up 200,000 Units

Bratislava, March 4 (TASR) - Universal Media Corporation (UMC) in Nove Mesto nad Vahom (Trencin region) in 2011 produced 200,000 more television sets than it did the year before, reaching a total output of 1.4 million units, a UMC media representative told TASR on this date.

According to the latest information, the company earlier this year contracted new customers in Britain and France. This is expected to increase production volumes by another 200,000 units in 2013.

Around 600 people are employed at the plant in Nove Mesto nad Vahom.

Price Tags Get More Attention Than Other Food Packaging Information

Bratislava, March 4 (TASR) - Only 20 percent of people read the labels on food in shops, according to the results of a survey carried out by the Health and Nourishment Association that were released on this date.

Those who do read the labels are most likely to be people with university education aged 45-54. Conversely, 40 percent of Slovaks don't pay any attention to labels - mainly the unemployed, pensioners and students. Overall, women are more interested than men in labels on food.

Meanwhile, it's the price tag that captures the most attention. Jana Jurkovicova from the association pointed out that a product with lower price frequently contains less of the basic materials that actually prompt the customer into buying the food. This applies to products such as sausages and fruit juices, for example, said Jurkovicova.

Slovakia Seeks to Boost Military Ties with Sweden

Bratislava, March 3 (TASR) - Cooperation between Slovakia and Sweden in the area of defence is set to be given a nudge in the years ahead, TASR has learnt from the Slovak Defence Ministry.

The areas that will see mutual ties enhanced should include, inter alia, training, field operations as well as research and development, according to sources from the ministry, which is working on an agreement with Sweden to this effect.

According to the ministry, the agreement is aimed at boosting mutual trust, stability and security. It is also projected to include military education and health care. Experts of the armed forces in both countries should engage in consultations, co-operate in studies at military educational facilities and exchange information.

E-reader Sales Up by One Third Over Last Year

Bratislava, March 2 (TASR) - The sales of e-book readers rose by one third on an annual basis in 2012, TASR learnt from executive director of the Slovak Association for Electronic Commerce (SAEC) Jozef Dvorsky.

He added that the rise in e-reader sales at this pace isn't set to stop in the next few years, as the market with the devices isn't saturated as yet. "This growth is limited in a way, however, as - unlike tablets and laptops - e-book readers won't be subject to trends," he said before adding that this is linked to the fact that the period of time after which users of e-readers buy a new model of the device tends to be longer.

Radovan Scibrany of martinus.sk bookshop agreed, saying that the hike in e-reader sales isn't going to stop any time soon. However, he said that this will also be conditional on how innovative producers of these devices will be in order to counter the ever increasing interest in tablets.

Gasparovic Decorates Vaclav Klaus With Order of White Double Cross

Bratislava, March 1 (TASR) - President Ivan Gasparovic bestowed the Order of the White Double Cross on outgoing Czech President Vaclav Klaus on this date, Presidential spokesman Marek Trubac confirmed to TASR on the same day.

The Order is the highest Slovak distinction that the President can bestow on non-citizens in recognition of their extraordinary accomplishments, all-round development of relations between their state and Slovakia, improvement of Slovakia's standing in international arena, contribution towards foreign-affairs priorities of Slovakia or improvement of Slovakia's reputation abroad.

To date, Gasparovic used this honor to decorate Danish Queen Margrethe II, Danish

Prince Henrik, President of Malta George Abela, Norwegian King Harald V, former NATO General Secretary Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, English Queen Elisabeth II, Spanish Queen Sofia, Dutch Queen Beatrix, Italian President Giorgio Napolitano, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos and Polish President Lech Kaczynski.

Vrbove: Funeral for Oldest Woman in Slovakia

Vrbove, March 1 (TASR) - The oldest woman in Slovakia, Anna Balasova of Vrbove (Trnava region), had her funeral on Friday. She passed away on February 26 at 108, TASR learnt from Vrbove Municipal Office head Lubomir Bosak.

"She never mentioned any recipe for longevity, but she loved candy and chocolate very much. Her health took a turn for the worse eight years ago, when this very taste for sweets caused her injury. The granny had a sweet tooth late at night and snuck up to the Christmas tree secretly to enjoy some of the goodies hanging from it and fell in the process," said Bosak. He added that her life was extraordinarily colorful, as the Smrecany native (Zilina region) married three times, the last time in 1971. She had eight children during her lifetime.

Kia Motors Slovakia Posts Increased Production, Earnings

Teplicka nad Vahom, February 28 (TASR) - The car-manufacturer Kia Motors Slovakia, based in Teplicka nad Vahom (Zilina region), saw 292,050 vehicles produced last year and 464,467 motors, the company's spokesman Jozef Bace announced on Thursday.

This represents an increase in the car production by 15 percent year-on-year and a 29-percent growth in motor production, and represents overall earnings of €3.9 billion in 2012.

"We posted a net profit of €155 million, which is twice as much as the previous year. Investments reached around €120 million and they were directed at installation of new technologies, completion of a new logistics centre and extending of the warehouse and distribution centre," Bace specified.

Kia Sportage represented a half of the manufactured cars (over 136,514), the rest were Kia cee'd (120,600) and Kia Venga (almost 35,000).

"An absolute majority of our production was exported, the lion's share (22 percent) headed for the Russian Federation. We expect that we'll produce around the same number of cars this calendar year, which is also indicated by the stable development of commissions," said Bace.

"We fully launched our three-shift production last year. We currently employ 3,900 people and we don't expect any big recruitment in the near future," he added.

Pociatek and Sedgwick Debate Motorways and U.S. Steel

Bratislava, February 27 (TASR) - Transport, Construction and Regional Development Minister Jan Pociatek on Wednesday met US Ambassador to Slovakia Theodore Sedgwick to discuss construction of highways and the future of the U.S. Steel in Kosice, among other issues, ministry spokesman Martin Kona told TASR on the same day.

Pociatek informed the ambassador about the plans of launching the construction of 310 kilometres of motorways and expressways within the current electoral term; and more than 130 kilometres of these new roads should already have been in use when Pociatek's term expires in 2016.

When the debate turned to the largest private employers in Slovakia, U.S. Steel Kosice, Sedgwick appreciated the "attention paid by members of the Government to the agenda". Pociatek said that the steelworks are a key customer of the state-run rail company Cargo, and the Government will do everything possible to keep the American company in Slovakia. [It has been speculated recently that the Americans might be planning to sell the steelworks, with Rinat Akhmetov, owner of the Ukrainian football club Shakhtar Donetsk, mentioned as one of the most likely prospective buyers. - ed. note]

One interesting point of the discussion was the planned release of the so-called Breast Cancer Stamp. The postage stamp, designed by Slovak academic painter Vladislav Rostoka, is set to be released by the Slovak Post Office on Daffodil Day (April 12). The initiative came from the US, which has already launched similar co-operation with Austria, Ireland and Macedonia.

**The First Catholic Slovak Union is now accepting
VISA, Mastercard and Discover credit cards
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Contact the Home Office for details:
1-800-JEDNOTA or fcsu@aol.com.**

Special Easter Fundraiser Presented at St. Thomas A'Becket on April 5th

St. Thomas A' Becket will hold a special presentation "Sister's Easter Catechism: Will My Bunny Go to Heaven?" on Friday, April 5, 2013, at 7:00PM in the old church building on 139 Gill Hall Road, Jefferson Hills, PA.



Part pageant and "wholly" hysterical, this latest of the sinfully funny Late Nite Catechism Series unearths the origins of Easter bunnies, Easter eggs, Easter baskets, Easter bonnets, and – of course – those yummy Easter peeps. Get ready to participate as Sister runs her own version of the Easter Egg Hunt, with special rewards and candy give-aways.

The cost of a ticket is \$30, and all proceeds are part of on-going fundraising for the new church. Tickets are on sale in the church office and also will be sold after the Masses at St. Thomas A' Becket on weekends in March. Or, for more information, call the Parish Office at (412) 655-2885.

- Submitted by Sister Mary Judith Seman, SCN

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES & CANADA
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Protecting the privacy of your personal financial and medical information has always been and will continue to be a matter of top priority for us. When used in this notice, the following terms have the meaning shown.

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

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

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

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ~ HOLIDAY HOURS



The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on March 29, 2013, in observance of Good Friday.

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2013

Issue Date	Deadline
March 27	March 18
April 24	April 15
May 8	April 29
May 22	May 13
June 12	June 3
July 17	July 8
August 7	July 29
September 4	August 26
September 25	September 16
October 9	September 30
October 23	October 14
November 6	October 28
November 20	November 11
December 4	November 25

Due to overwhelming response,
Special offer extended through
March 30, 2013

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All applications must be received in the Home Office **postmarked on or before March 30, 2013.**

- 1st year premium waived on \$10,000 Term Insurance *
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Recept na Bratislavské rožky

POTREBNÉ PRÍSADY

500 g hladkej múky špeciál, 250 g Hery, 1 vajíčko, 170 ml mlieka, 1 kocka droždia, 1 vanilkový cukor na potieranie: žltok, 1 a ½ lyžice vody, lyžička kryštálového cukru

POSTUP PRÍPRAVY

Múku preosejeme, rozdrobíme droždie, pridáme vanilku, vajíčko, nakrájané maslo, trošku rukami premiesiť pridáme mlieko, premiešame, nenechávame kysnúť, hneď preložíme na pomúčenú dosku a premiesime, aby sa nám to pekne spojilo. Keď sa cesto lepí na dosku, treba ho jemne pomúčiť.

Vytvarujeme bochník, vyvaľkáme ho do tvaru valca, ten rozdelíme na 6 častí. Každú dľaňami dotvarujeme do okrúhleho tvaru a vyvaľkáme na kruh o priemere 28 cm, cesto nebude hrubé a bude sa dobre zatačať. Rozdelíme ho na osem častí a na najširšiu časť dáme plnku. Najširšiu časť preložiť boky preklopiť dovnútra a zrolujeme smerom k najužšej časti. Zrolované ohneme do tvaru rožka. Ukladať ich na maslom vymastený plech tak, aby konček cesta bol naspodku. Alebo použite papier na pečenie. Žltok, vodu a cukor vymiešame, potrieme rožky a dáme upiecť na 190° C cca 20 min. dozlatista. Tie s inou plnkou si rozlíšime poznačením radielkom cez prostriedok. Vyberieme každý lopatkou a dáme vychladnúť. Vychladnuté posypeme práškovým cukrom.



MAKOVÁ PLNKA: 120-150 g maku, 50 g práškového cukru, 1 vanilkový cukor, ak chcete, pridajte si za hrst' hrozienok, 2 dl mlieka (ak nebudete pridávať do plniek hrozienka, dajte si mlieka trochu menej). Mak zmiešať s práškovým a vanilkovým cukrom, priliať mlieko, pridať hrozienka a povariť od bodu varu cca 2 min, alebo aj dlhšie, tak, aby to bolo husté. Pridáme 3-4 lyžičky lekváru /džemu/.

ORECHOVÁ PLNKA: 100 g orechov, 2 hrste piškôt, 50 g práškového cukru, 1 vanilkový cukor, 2 lyžičky rumu, hrst' hrozienok, 2 dl mlieka. Pomleté orechy zmiešať s cukrom, vanilkovým cukrom, pridať mlieko, hrozienka, povariť cca 1-2 min., pridať pomleté /zmixované/ piškóty, rum, nechať povariť toľko, aby bola plnka hustá, odstaviť. Tiež pridáme lekvár /džem/.

Vyskúšajte aj slanú variantu rožkov: vynecháte vanilkový cukor, do cesta pridáte zarovnanú lyžičku cukru, dve väčšie štipky soli, na potieranie stačí len žltok vymiešaný s vodou. Cesto jemne potriete kečupom, na to pol plátka šunky, nahrubo nastrúhaný syr, provensálske bylinky, striedajte ho s korením na pizzu. Zrolovať, preniesť na plech vystlaný papierom na pečenie, potrieť žltkom vymiešaným s vodou, posypať ešte korením.

Sú vynikajúce, skúste ich!

Prvá Slovenská republika v moderných dejinách

Nemôžeme zabúdať na obdobia, keď mali Slováci svoj štát

Historik Peter Sliacky
(Pokračovanie z minulého čísla)

Malá vojna

Po tejto zrade bola 6. októbra vyhlásená autonómia. Tú neskoršie Baranova pražská vláda uznala, ale súčasne ju vystavila intrigám a taktizovaniu, ako to bolo aj za Masaryka a Beneša, ktorí neuznávali slovenský národ a tvrdili, že existuje len národ československý. Ďalším polienkom do ohňa bol tzv. Homolov puč v noci z 9. na 10. marca 1939, pri ktorom českí generáli na Slovensku vyhlásili stanné právo, počas ktorého pozatýkali predstaviteľov autonómie, a tým chceli zrušiť legitímnu autonómiu, lenže opak bol pravdou. Následne po týchto udalostiach bol 14. marca 1939 vyhlásený Slovenský štát a utvorená prvá vláda Slovenského štátu. Slovenská republika vznikla pol roka pred vypuknutím druhej svetovej vojny a bola medzinárodne uznaným štátom. Napriek tomu ju pár dní po vyhlásení napadli maďarské vojská. Tento vojenský zásah poznáme pod názvom Malá vojna. Tá vypukla 23. marca 1939, t. j. deväť dní od vyhlásenia Slovenského štátu. Paradoxom je, že Maďarsko bolo medzi prvými štátmi, ktoré uznalo Slovenský štát, a tým de facto aj hranice ustanoveného samostatného štátu. Situácia sa upokojila podpísaním prímeria 25. marca 1939 a dohodou o nových hraniciach 4. apríla 1939.

Nečistá Nemecká hra

Nemecko ako garant svojbytnosti Slovenského štátu nehralo čistú hru. Napriek tomu, že navonok vystupovalo ako ochranca Slovenského štátu, nepostavilo sa proti tzv. malému riešeniu. Na Horthyho list Hitler odpovedal pozitívne a súhlasil s obsadením východného Slovenska Maďarmi. Nasvedčovala tomu aj maďarská propaganda, ktorá vyhlasovala, že Nemecko sa vzdalo Slovenska a Maďarsko má voľné ruky až po Váh. Tak isto aj poľský postoj k maďarskej politike bol ústretový. Slovensko sa nachádzalo medzi dvomi kameňmi. Aj z dobovej tlače je zrejme, že Slovenský štát sa vnímal ako nevyhnutnosť pre bytie slovenského národa. Pochopiteľné je aj to, že v danom geopolitickom postavení sa nedalo uberať cestou „evolučného postupu k samostatnosti“, ako chcel Karol Sidor. Do úvahy treba brať aj politickú situáciu na Slovensku, ktorú charakterizovali vnútorne rozbroje medzi tzv. umierneným krídlom HSĽS, ktoré predstavoval Jozef Tiso, a radikálnym krídlom HSĽS pod vedením Vojtecha Tuku. Slovenskí politici stáli pred ťažkými rozhodnutiami, aby Slovensko nestálo na filozofii, ktorá je mu cudzia. Napokon aj prejav prvého prezidenta Slovenskej republiky Dr. Jozefa Tisa na margo cudzích vplyvov znel takto: „Nechceme byť a nebudeme otrokmi žiadnej ideológie, ktorá by nevyvierala z našej slovenskej tradície a ktorá by bola cudzia nášmu kresťanskému slovenskému charakteru. Našou jedinou ideológiou bude reálne chápaný záujem národa slovenského.“

Toto sa do istej miery podarilo umiernennej časti HSĽS, o čom svedčí aj to, čo za šesť rokov svojej existencie dokázala po hospodársko-kultúrnej stránke. Taktiež nemôžeme zabudnúť na národné uvedomenie počas trvania Slovenského štátu, ktoré dalo predpoklad pre existenciu druhej Slovenskej republiky.

Rozdielne názory

Už od vzniku druhej Slovenskej republiky v roku 1993 sa stretávame s tým, že jedni prvú Slovenskú republiku glorifikujú, a druhí ju, naopak, hania. V čom tento, až extrémne diferencovaný pohľad na jej existenciu tkvie? Na túto otázku je viacero odpovedí... V slovenskej spoločnosti existuje niekoľko spoločenských vrstiev. Inak to nebolo ani v období prvej Slovenskej republiky. Presne ako teraz každý zastáva nejaký svetonázor, nejaké politické presvedčenie. Ani obdobie našej, nie tak dávnej histórie nebolo výnimkou. V protirečivosti záujmov a presvedčení sa stretli tí, ktorým išlo o národ a jeho svojbytnosť vo vlastnom štáte, tí, ktorí zastávali československú ideu, resp. čechoslovakizmus, a tí, čo hľadali na seba a prispôbili sa tej strane, ktorá mala práve navrch. Taký je aj dnešok. Aj dnes sa kráča v smere jednej politickej taktovky a ak nie, tak to nie je politicky korektné.

Nemyslím si, že by sme nemohli spomínať na vznik prvej Slovenskej republiky, ktorá zachránila národ pred pohltitím inými a počas ktorej národne rozkvitol. Ved' bez tohto národného uvedomenia by nemohlo byť ani pomyslenie na druhú Slovenskú republiku, v ktorej dnes žijeme. Napriek tomu sú pohľady na 14. marec 1939 rôzne či už v historickej obci, u politikov alebo každého jedného slovenského občana. No napriek tomu nemôžeme zabúdať na obdobie, keď Slováci mali svoj štát.

Slovenské národné noviny

Naším Jozefom a Jozefínam

K Vášmu, tak mimoriadnemu sviatku Sv. Jozefa, meno, ktoré tak hrdo nosíte a ctíte, prajeme všetkým Jednotárom, aj ich členom rodiny, veľa dobrého zdravia a Božieho požehnanja, spokojnosti, ako aj potrebných, duševných síl.

Zároveň prosíme, nášho spoločného patróna Sv. Jozefa, aby Vás previedol až ku bráne Sv. Petra tak, ako previedol Pannu Máriu do Betlehema, kde Vás preberie Zbor Anjelov a privedie k Vášmu Stvoriteľovi, kde už nebudú žiadne starosti, trápenia, ale večná blaženosť a svätý – večný pokoj.

Za všetkých Jednotárov: Jozef Smák

Rím privítal slovenských pútnikov na Národnej púti

Fotografia z prvej svätej omše v slovenčine v Bazilike sv. Klimenta v Ríme

Slovak pilgrims traveled to Rome in February as part of a national pilgrimage to mark the jubilee year of SS. Cyril and Methodius. The pilgrims attended the first Slovak Mass in the historic Basilica of Saint Clement in Rome.



Foto: TK KBS/ Peter Zimen

Ulice Večného mesta zaplavili pútnici z celého Slovenska. Do Ríma prišli na Národnú púť, aby putovali k hrobom svätých apoštolov, obnovili si svoje korene a posilnili vieru a v jubilejnom Roku sv. Cyrila a Metoda oslávili svojich vierozvestcov. Špeciálny charterový let vyslala i Konferencia biskupov Slovenska (KBS). Biskupi s kňazmi, rehoľníkmi, seminaristami a zástupcom Slovákov tiež prejavili vďačnosť Svätému Otcovi, ktorý sa tento 28. februára 2013 vzdal svojho úradu.

Oznamy a spoločenské podujatia

Schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princa Pribinu pripravuje schôdzu, ktorá sa bude konať na Kvetnú nedeľu 24. marca 2013. Oslava začne slovenskou svätou omšou o 11:00 hodine ráno v kaplnke sv. Jána Boscu pri St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706.

Po svätej omši sa bude podávať chutný slovenský obed so zákuskom a občerstvením. Deti sa budú zabávať tradičným hľadaním veľkonočných vajčiek. Po obede bude schôdza pokračovať v jedálni.

Na programe je Rok Viery ohlásený pápežom Benediktom XVI. Príprava osláv 1150 výročia príchodu sv. Cyrila a Metoda na Slovensko a evanjelizácia Slovákov. Ďalšie aktivity a informácie o poisťovacom programe Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty. Na toto posedenie pozývame všetkých našich členov ako aj delegátov jednotlivých spolkov nášho Okresu Princa Pribinu.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda

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

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej omši v nedeľu 7. apríla 2013 o 12:30 hodine v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue 66-tej ulici. Láskaovo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Mária Juráši, pokladníčka

Oslavy slovenskej štátnosti 34. zboru SLvA v Sterling Heights, MI

Toho roku to bude už po 65-krát kedy 34. zbor Slovenskej ligy v Amerike z detroitskej okolicy si pripomenie 74. výročie slovenskej štátnosti. Oslava sa uskutoční v nedeľu 17. marca 2013 (hneď po slovenskej omši) v hale slovenského kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda 41233 Ryan Rd, Sterling Heights, MI 48314.

Počas programu nám rozpovie históriu našej prvej slovenskej štátnosti pán Ing. Jozko Kováč, ktorý je tretí viceprezident Slovenskej ligy v Amerike. Po oslavách bude malé občerstvenie, kde prítomní sa budú môcť vzájomne porozprávať s priateľmi. Občerstvenie bude zdarma.

Joseph Janek



FOTO: radophotography.com

Zľava: Tomáš Masi, veľvyslanec Peter Kmec, tajomníčka SAKS-u Sabína Sabadoš, gen. konzulka Jana Trnovcová, predsedníčka SAKS-u Zuzana Krčmárová, podpredseda Matúš Čulen a Stanislav Krčmár.

Úspešný Slovenský ples v New Yorku

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko (SAKS) v New Yorku ako aj po iné roky usporiadalo 9. februára 2013 Slovenský ples, ktorý sa konal v elegantných priestoroch NY Athletic Club na južnej hranici Central parku.

Slávnostnými hosťami na plese boli noví diplomatickí reprezentanti Slovenskej republiky, ktorí prevzali svoje funkcie v jeseni 2012. Boli to veľvyslanec SR vo Washingtone Peter Kmec, veľvyslanec a stály zástupca SR pri Spojených národoch František Ružička a generálna konzulka SR v New Yorku Jana Trnovcová.

Ples sa začal spoločenskou recepciou v osobitnej miestnosti, na ktorej sa účastníci mali možnosť vzájomne postretáť. Najprv privítala prítomných krátkym príhovorom predsedníčka SAKS-u Zuzana Krčmárová. Predstavila slovenských diplomatov a tiež podpredsedu Matúša Čulena, ktorý viedol ďalší program. Za tým nasledovala v banquetovej sále spoločná večera, počas ktorej už začala hrať hudobná skupina Expres nielen na počúvanie, ale aj do tanca.

V priebehu plesu slovenskí diplomati sa poďakovali SAKS-u za pozvanie a v krátkych príhovoroch pozdravili prítomných a spomenuli dobré vzťahy Slovenska so Spojenými štátmi. Konzulka Jana Trnovcová ponúkla spoluprácu svojho úradu so SAKS-om a slovenskou komunitou v niektorých podujatiach a programoch.

V ďalšom bode programu predsedníčka plesu a tajomníčka SAKS-u Sabína Sabadoš viedla štedrú tombolu, pri ktorej šťastní účastníci vyhrali pekné ceny, ako napríklad letenku na Slovensko, pobyt v luxusnom hoteli v New Yorku, vzácnu maľbu majstra Broganyiho, bohatý košík s alkoholom a rôznymi dobrôtkami, slovenský kryštál, keramiky a večere v poprednej reštaurácii. Tieto ceny účastníci vyhrali za svoje vstupenky. Nálada na plese bola veľmi dobrá a viacerí účastníci povzbudzovali funkcionárov SAKS-u, aby v tejto tradícii pokračovali aj v blízkej budúcnosti.

IN MEMORIAM

Vo veku 94 rokov zomrel Metod M. Balco

Slovenský národovec a úspešný podnikateľ Metod M Balco zomrel po dlhšej chorobe 5. februára 2013. Viac rokov pred smrťou mal problémy so srdcom a napriek vysokému veku sa pred dvoma rokmi podrobil operácii srdca. Skonal pokojne v spánku vo svojom byte vo Verone, N.J.

M. Balco sa narodil 18. októbra 1918 v Newarku ako syn slovenských prisťahovalcov. V r. 1921 sa jeho rodičia vrátili na Slovensko a usadili sa v obci Liptovská Mara, ktorú v r. 1975 zatopili vodou pri budovaní vodnej priehrady na Váhu. Metod sa po maturite na učiteľskom ústave stal učiteľom v Medzilaborciach, kde organizoval rôzne národné akcie a stal sa aj tajomníkom Červeného kríža. V 1944 sa presťahoval do Žiliny, kde v čase príchodu frontu bol ako veliteľ Hlinkovej mládeže a činiteľ Červeného kríža poverený vládou dozerať na poriadok a chod núdzovej administrácie v Žilinskom kraji.

V máji 1945 emigroval do Rakúska, kde žil dva roky v utečeneckých táborech a v r. 1947 sa ako americký občan dostal do USA.

Usadil sa v New Yorku a hneď sa zapojil do spolkov a národnej činnosti. V r. 1949 si vytvoril obchod s náboženskými potrebami, ktorý sa rýchlo rozrástol. Popri obchodnej činnosti sa venoval aj národnej práci, hlavne v Združení slovenských katolíkov (ZSK) a v Slovenskej lige (SLvA). Z jeho iniciatívy vznikol Fond pre slovenských utečencov v rámci SLvA, ktorý finančne podporoval emigráciu slovenských emigrantov do USA a vystavoval afidávity – záruky, pre tých, ktorí ich potrebovali.

Od r. 1950 sa M. Balco silne angažoval aj v Republikánskej strane a stal sa spoluzakladateľom Slovenskej republikánskej federácie, ktorej bol viac rokov predsedom. Zastával tiež funkcie v Národnostnej sekcii Republikánskej strany a v tejto funkcii sa stretol s viacerými republikánskymi prezidentmi.

M. Balco bol aj medzi zakladateľmi Svetového kongresu Slovákov, v ktorom zastával viaceré funkcie. Po smrti Š. Romana bol jedným z hlavných podpredsedov. M. Balco ako úspešný podnikateľ štedre podporoval rôzne akcie a programy SKS, SLvA a ZSK a prispel aj na vydanie viacerých významných kníh na Slovensku.

V roku 2006 vydal svoju autobiografiu Život na dvoch kontinentoch (Martin, 2006. 167 str.). V poslednom roku života pracoval na jej rozšírení v druhom vydaní, ktorého sa už nedožil.

Pohrebné obrady M. Balcu vykonal o. Štefan Chanas zo slovenského kostola sv. Jána v New Yorku. Na súkromnom pohrebe vo Verone, N.J. sa zúčastnila aj gen. tajomníčka SLvA Nina Holá s manželom Jánom. Telesné pozostatky M. Balcu budú uložené na večný odpočinok na Národnom cintoríne v Martine na Slovensku. R.I.P.

Jednotársky pracovník Michal Kubeník na odpočinku

12. decembra 2012 zomrel v Rock Tavern, NY v New Yorku a okolitých štátoch dobre známy národný pracovník Michal Kubeník. Bol aktívny vo viacerých miestnych spolkoch, najmä však v Slovenskej lige v Amerike, kde mnoho rokov zastával funkciu predsedu 1. zboru SLvA a viaceré obdobia bol aj regionálnym podpredsedom SLvA.

Rovnako oddaný bol aj Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednote. Mnoho rokov bol predsedom aktívneho Spolku sv. Štefana IKSJ, číslo 45. Aktívne spolupracoval na mnohých národných podujatiach a akciách v New Yorku a na okolí, vrátane programov slovenskej farnosti sv. Jána Nepomuckého.

Michala Kubeníka a jeho príjemnú znášanlivú osobnosť poznala aj širšia slovenská verejnosť z jeho účasti na mnohých konvenciách a národných podujatiach Slovenskej ligy, Jednoty a Svetového kongresu Slovákov.

Michal Kubeník sa narodil 11. januára 1928. Bol rodákom z Veľkého Rovného pri Žiline. Táto obec bola hniezdom slovenských drotárov. M. Kubeník ostal verný tejto tradícii. V New Yorku bol spolujateľom úspešného „drotárskeho“ podniku až do odchodu na dôchodok. V M. Kubeníkovi strácame obetavého národného pracovníka. Nech mu je ľahká americká zem.

Na Floride zomrel Tibor T. Kovalovský

Nedávno sme sa dozvedeli, že 25. februára 2013 skonal vo Floride po dlhšej chorobe významný americkoslovenský činiteľ Tibor T. Kovalovský. 20 rokov bol hlavným tajomníkom Slovenského katolíckeho sokola a tiež členom predsedníctva Slovenskej ligy a Združenia slovenských katolíkov.



863 2013

**JEDNOTA č.45 IKSJ SPOLOK SV. MATÚŠA
V NEW YORK CITY**

*Pri príležitosti 1150. výročia príchodu
sv. Cyrila a Metoda na Veľkú Moravu*

Vás srdečne pozývame na

Tanečnú zábavu

*ktorá sa uskutoční v nedeľu dňa 21. apríla
o 12:30 hod. po slovenskej svätej omši
v osadnej hale slovenského kostola
sv. Jána Nepomuckého,
411 East 66th Street v New York City.*

VSTUPNÉ je \$30.00
Vstupné pre deti nad 12 rokov je \$10.00

*V cene vstupenky je započítané hlavné jedlo,
káva a koláč. Zabávať Vás bude hudobná
skupina KONTAKTY + DJ Jožino*

Josef Juráši - predseda

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• V celosvetovom rebríčku univerzít s najnižšou nezamestnanosťou doktorandov obsadila Univerzita Komenského (UK) v Bratislave prvé miesto, o ktoré sa delí s ďalšími 23 univerzitami. Umiestenie na špičke rebríčka svedčí o vysokej kvalite vedy, výskumu a výučby, na ktorých sa študenti doktorandského štúdia UK podieľajú. Rebríček pripravuje inštitúcia, ktorá zostavuje aj renomovaný Šanghajský rebríček (Center for World-Class Universities of Shanghai Jiao Tong University). Kritériom bolo percento absolventov doktorandského štúdia, ktorí sú zamestnaní do troch mesiacov po skončení štúdia. Zaujímavosťou je, že prestížne univerzity, akými sú Oxford, Cambridge či Yale, sa umiestnili na nižších pozíciách. Celkovo sa v rebríčku nachádza viac ako 700 univerzít, škôl a inštitútov z celého sveta. Doktorandský stupeň štúdia na UK, na ktorom v súčasnosti študuje celkovo 2,633 študentov, má pre univerzitu mimoriadny význam. Univerzita v záujme podporiť a rozvíjať mladých vedcov a učiteľov udeľuje od roku 1997 granty UK zamerané na podporu vedeckých, pedagogických a umeleckých projektov. Minulý rok sa v rámci nich rozdelilo viac ako 302,000 eur.

• **Vláda SR** mala pripraviť do konca februára na rokovanie dokument, ktorým chce oficiálne podporiť myšlienku spoločnej poľsko-slovenskej kandidatury na zorganizovanie zimných olympijských hier v roku 2022. Premiér SR Robert Fico to povedal vo februári po stretnutí s ministerkou športu a cestovného ruchu Poľskej republiky Joannou Muchovou v Bratislave. Premiér dodal, že spoločná kandidatúra ponúka šancu, ktorej sa Slovensko musí chopiť. O možnosti spoločnej poľsko-slovenskej kandidatury na zorganizovanie ZOH v roku 2022 sa začalo hovoriť už v októbri 2012. Celkové náklady na tento projekt sa predbežne odhadujú na 1.5 až 2 miliardy eur. Podiel Slovenska na tejto sume by však mal byť menší ako čiastka, ktorú zaplatí Poľsko. Na Slovensku by sa mali uskutočniť disciplíny v zjazdovom lyžovaní i hokejový turnaj.

• **Štvrtý** ročník najväčšieho veľtrhu práce na Slovensku Profesia days sa konal od 20. februára v bratislavskej Inchebe. Ponuku pracovných miest na tomto ročníku prezentovalo 80 vystavovateľov spomedzi domácich a zahraničných firiem, ktoré hľadajú zamestnancov. Dohromady ponúkajú firmy na veľtrhu viac ako 2,300 pracovných miest. Šancu nájsť si na veľtrhu prácu mali ľudia, ktorí by chceli pracovať v informačných technológiách, bankovníctve, ale aj službách alebo výrobe. Tento rok prišli na veľtrh zamestnávateľia atraktívni pre študentov vysokých škôl, ako sú poradenské spoločnosti PricewaterhouseCoopers Slovensko a Ernst & Young. Medzi vystavovateľmi boli maloobchodné siete Billa, Lidl, Tesco, módna značka Peek & Cloppenburg a tiež prestížne svetové značky obchodných centier, ako sú IBM, Dell alebo Amazon. Tradičnými dlhoročnými vystavovateľmi na veľtrhu sú všetky tri automobilky pôsobiace na Slovensku spolu so svojimi dodávateľmi. Pracovníci EURESU (Európske služby zamestnanosti) ako exkluzívneho partnera veľtrhu odprezentovali uchádzačom možnosti práce v zahraničí, rovnako radili záujemcom v oblasti sociálneho a zdravotného poistenia, pracovného práva, zdaňovania príjmov.

• **Slovenské veľhory**, Vysoké Tatry, sú stále lákadlom pre staviteľov. Najnovšie oznámila štátnym orgánom svoj investičný zámer spoločnosť Park snow Veľká Lomnica, s.r.o. Firma, ktorú ovláda spoločnosť Park Snow Limited, registrovaná na Cypre, chce postaviť veľký zábavný park v katastri obce Veľká Lomnica. Do výstavby rodinného parku plánuje investovať zhruba 26 miliónov eur. V parku by malo nájsť prácu vyše 230 ľudí. Plánovaný zábavný park by sa mal rozprestierať na ploche vyše 206-tisíc metrov štvorcových. V parku by mali návštevníci nájsť napríklad minizoo, rozprávkové mestečko, elektrokáry, strelnicu, hrad, kolotoče, herne, adrenalínové atrakcie, ako aj reštaurácie a bufety. S výstavbou parku chce investor začať v druhom kvartáli budúceho roka. Už o rok by mala byť otvorená prvá časť parku.

• **Nezamestnanosť** na Slovensku v januári tohto roka medzimesačne vzrástla o 0.36 percentuálneho bodu a dosiahla úroveň 14.80 %. V porovnaní s januárom 2012 došlo k nárastu o 1.11 percentuálneho bodu. Výplýva to z údajov, ktoré nedávno zverejnilo Ústredie práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny (ÚPSVaR) SR.

Miera nezamestnanosti v januári rástla na Slovensku v šiestich krajoch. Najvyššia bola zaznamenaná v Prešovskom kraji, kde dosiahla 20.92 %. Nad priemerom sa pohyboval tiež Banskobystrický (20.56 %) a Košický kraj (19.30 %). V prípade okresov dosiahli najvyššiu nezamestnanosť Rimavská Sobota (34.51 %) a Revúca (34.36 %). Naopak, najnižšiu nezamestnanosť, a to 4.51 %, evidovali v okrese Bratislava I.

• **Mladé** vedecké talenty zo Slovenska odchádzajú za lepšími podmienkami nielen do svetových výskumných centier, ale aj do susedného Česka. Podľa predsedu Slovenskej akadémie vied Jaromíra Pastoreka tam dostanú troj až štvornásobne vyšší plat. Výhodou je tiež jazyková príbuznosť a blízkosť domova. Z tohto pohľadu je podľa neho najviac ohrozená Bratislava, ktorá má na dosah Viedeň, Brno aj Olomouc. Štipendium doktoranda dosahuje do 700 eur, postdoktorand má podobný príjem, zníži mu ho však ešte daň.

• **Liekov** na ťažké choroby na Slovensku niet, vyvážajú sa za hranice. Pacienti s poruchami spánku, epilepsiou či stavmi po infarkte sa nemajú čím liečiť. Aj keď výrobca lieky na slovenský trh dodáva, do lekární sa z nich dostane len časť, zvyšok sa vyváža do zahraničia. Na Slovensku je cena liekov oproti susedným krajinám nižšia, a preto sa stali vývozným artiklom. Podľa odhadov ročný obrat na predaji liekov do zahraničia predstavuje okolo 300 miliónov eur. Vývoz liekov sa zvýšil v čase, keď zdravotnícky rezort viedol Ivan Uhliarík. Súčasná šéfkla rezortu Zuzana Zvolenská síce sprísnila kontrolu reexportu, no tá zatiaľ nefunguje.

• **Turistov**, ktorí prichádzajú na Slovensko po cestách, budú od 28. februára vítať na hraničných priechodoch vstupné brány. Prvé dve môžu návštevníci vidieť na priechode Brodské pri vstupe z Česka a na priechode v Čunove pri vstupe z Maďarska. Na vstupné brány na Slovensko by sa mali postupne premeniť aj všetky ostatné priechody. Nové vstupné brány na Slovensko poskytnú turistom informácie o Slovensku vrátane obchodov so suvenírmi. Všetky brány budú v jednotnom štýle. Projekt je pripravený a realizovaný aj v spolupráci so Slovenskou agentúrou pre cestovný ruch (SACR) a Asociáciou informačných centier Slovenska.

• **Anastasia** Kuzminová bola jednou z najväčších hviezd 7. kola Svetového pohára biatlonistiek. V nórskom Holmenkollene k dvom predchádzajúcim tretím miestam pridala druhé v pretekoch s hromadným štartom na 12.5 km, keď zaostala za víťaznou Nórkou Torou Bergerovou 5.4 sekundy. Tretia dobehla Bieloruska Darja Domračevová so stratou 23.3 sekundy. Ďalšia slovenská biatlonistka Jana Gereková sa zaradila na 24. miesto.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Veľká noc vo zvykoch a obyčajoch

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

nie veľmi náročné techniky. Pripravíme si vosk, najlepšie včelí, veľkosti asi ako stolnoteniová loptička, vložíme ho do kovovej nádoby na sporák, necháme ho roztopiť a udržiavame ho neustále v teplom tekutom stave. Potom opačnú stranu zápalky (špáradlom, špajdlou, jemnou triesočkou) namáčame do vosku a rýchle nanášame na surové vajíčko, od jeho vrcholu, stále nižšie a nižšie, rôzne ťahy (čiarky, bodky, ornamente, krížiky, zvieraťká...), pričom po každom nanosení vosku na vajíčko, znovu a znovu namáčame triesočku do teplého vosku. Pri zdobení môžeme použiť aj nejaké slová, mená, úryvky pesničiek... Fantázii sa tu nekladú medze. Keď sú vajíčka vyzdobené, vložíme ich do nádoby s vodou a cibulovými šupkami a necháme povariť 4-5 minút. Pri varení sa z nich vosk oddeľí a všetky voskom potreté čiary, ornamente, obrázky... zostanú biele. Ostatné plochy budú zlatožlté od cibulových.

Modernejší a náročnejší spôsob zdobenia

Na vajíčku opatrným prepichnutím (klinčekom, ihlou, šidlom...) v hornej a dolnej časti vytvoríme malú štrbinku. Na hornú škáru priložíme ústa a začneme do nej dovtedy fúkať, pokým nám cez spodnú škáru nevytečie úplne obsah vajíčka a v rukách nám zostane iba ľahká jemná škrapina. Takto je vajíčko pripravené na zdobenie a po vyzdobení ako kraslica na dlhodobú úschovu.

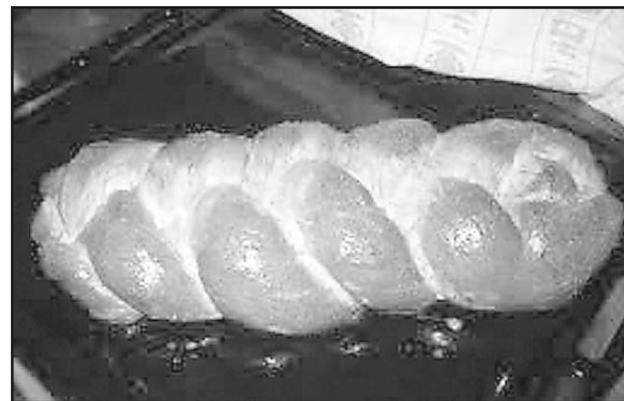
Ozdobovanie robíme rôznymi technikami od farebného maľovania jemným štetcom, nanášaním a lepením kúskov slamy, nití, drobných čiastočiek textilu... až po jeho opletanie tenkým striebriстым alebo žltým zlatistým drôtkom a tvarovaním rôznych zaujímavých vzoriek.

Takýto typ zdobenja vajíčok si vyžaduje už ozajstnú zručnosť, fantáziu, ale aj trpezlivosť, ktorá je nakoniec korunovaná spokojnosťou a potešením z vykonanej práce.

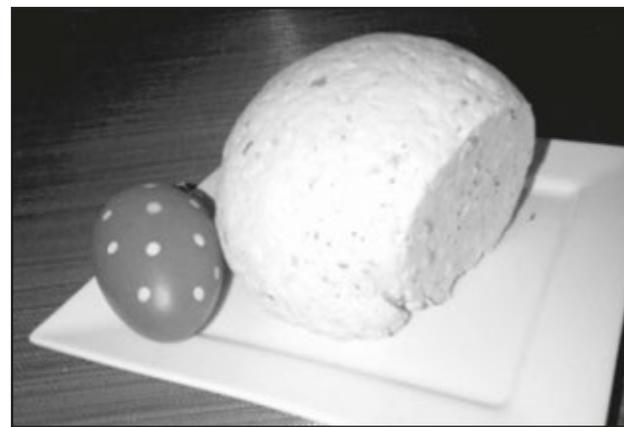
S kraslicami tohto druhu, ktoré sa vyvážajú aj do zahraničia, sa môžeme stretnúť v každom národopisnom múzeu. Sú dôkazom mimoriadnej schopnosti, predstavivosti, dômyslu a vynaliezavosti slovenského ľudu.



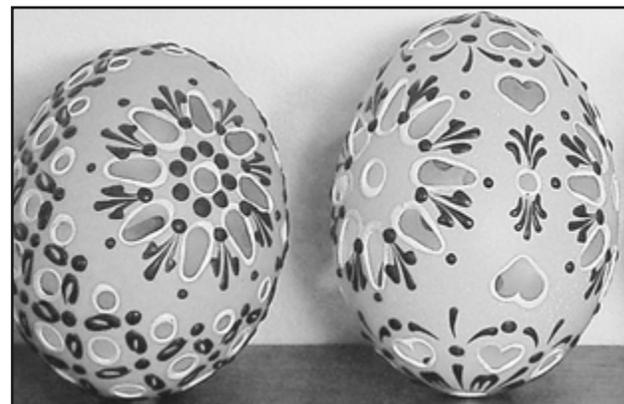
Veľkonočné vajíčka.



Veľkonočný koláč.



Veľkonočná hrudka.



Zdobenie veľkonočných vajíčok.

Oblievačka a šibačka

Po svätení pokrmov pri kostole, prichádza čas na oblievanie. Skupina chlapcov navštívila každý dom, kde bolo dospelajúce dievča alebo dospelá deva, vyviedli ju na dvor a „obdarili“ vedrom studenej vody. Ak bol dom blízko pri potoku, zatiahli ju tam, načierali vodu vedierkom, ktoré si nosili sebou a „obet“ polievali. Pravdaže dvaja chlapci ju pritom držali, pretože sa mykala, vrieskala, jačala. Bola do nitky mokrá. No bola rada, že to už má za sebou. Urobila pár tanečných prvkov s niektorým z chlapcov a bežala do domu prezliecť sa a osušiť. Chlapcov ponúkli domáci kalíškom pálenky. Tí ďakujúc, v dobrej nálade, sa ponáhľali ďalej okúpať ostatné devy, aby sa mohli osušené a prezlečené do sviatočných šiat zúčastniť na omši, ktorá začínala o 10. hodine.

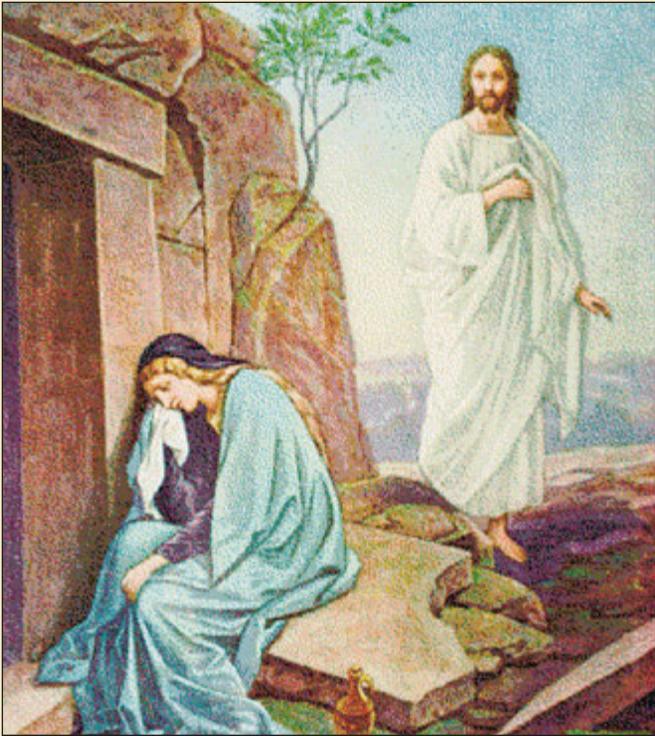
Niekedy sa stalo, ale len ojedinele, že deva sa bála studenej vody, zamkla sa do komory alebo sa ukryla u susedov. Keď sa vracali z kostola a rozprávali si zážitky o kúpačke, dotyčná bola ticho, hanbila sa a cítila poníženou. Očakávala, že budú o nej reči na dedine a zaumienila si, že sa budúcej oblievačke nebude vyhýbať.

Andrej Štelmák, Sliach

O. Štefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

VELKÁ NOC 2013

Všetkým našim čitateľom želáme hlbokú radosť z Ježišovho víťazstva. Nech Božie slovo naplní naše srdcia a vedie naše kroky. Nech sa radosť zo zmŕtvychvstania stane našou oporou a silou, s ktorou dokážeme prekonať v živote všetko ťažké a neprijemné.



I. Gašparovič bol posledným prezidentom, ktorého prijal pápež Benedikt XVI.

Slovenský prezident Ivan Gašparovič bol jedinou hlavou štátu, ktorá sa zúčastnila na poslednej verejnej generálnej audiencii pápeža Benedikta XVI. na svätopeterskom námestí vo Vatikáne. Zároveň bol aj posledným prezidentom, ktorého dosluhujúca hlava katolíckej cirkvi prijala na súkromnej audiencii.

“Povedal som mu, že ho Slováci pozdravujú, že ho majú radi a že ho majú v úcte aj tí, ktorí neveria, pretože urobil veľmi veľa pre mier a pokoj vo svete,” opísal priebeh stretnutia pred novinármi. Gašparoviča potešilo, že si Svätý otec si váži Slovákov za ich oddanosť k viere, pričom mu odovzdal ako darček reliéf Gorazda a list, v ktorom som mu vyjadril úctu za všetkých občanov SR. Benedikta XVI. podľa Gašparoviča mrzí, že už nemôže vo svojej funkcii zavítať na Slovensko. Nielen prezident, ale aj Konferencia biskupov Slovenska (KBS) a premiér Robert Fico mu adresovali pozvánku na návštevu SR. Tá sa mala uskutočniť prí príležitosti pripomenutia si 1150. výročia príchodu svätých Cyrila a Metoda na naše územie, ako aj 20. výročia rozdelenia Československa, a tak nadviazania diplomatických stykov so Svätou stolicou.

V tejto súvislosti pápež vyjadril potešenia aspoň z toho, že sa mohol rozprávať s najvyšším slovenským ústavným činiteľom. Gašparovič poznamenal, že ani jeho abdikácia nie je prekážkou na návštevu SR. “Prijal to s úsmevom. Mal som pocit, že Slovensko mu tak trochu leží na srdci,” podotkol.



FOTO TASR/ L'Osservatore Roman

Na snímke pápež Benedikt XVI. (vpravo) prijal na súkromnej audiencii prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča (vľavo) 27. februára 2013 vo Vatikáne.

In the photo Pope Benedict XVI received Slovak Republic President Ivan Gasparovic in a private audience in the Vatican on February 27, 2013.

TASR

Velká noc vo zvykoch a obyčajoch

Slovensko je bohaté na zvyky a obyčaje. Zachovávajú sa od pradávna, no poniektoré sa vytrácajú podobne ako ľudové kroje. Nie sú všade rovnaké. Každý región má iné, no všetky majú niečo spoločné.

Predveľkonočné obdobie

Veľkej noci predchádza 40 dňové pôstne obdobie, ktoré začína stredou po fašiangoch a trvá do Veľkej noci. Fašiangami sa končia aj všetky plesy a radovánky.

V pôstnom období sa dodržiava prísny pôst - nekonzumovanie mäsitých jedál. Ináč po celý rok je pôstnym dňom piatok, ktorý sa už nie všade prísne dodržiava a týka sa to len rímskokatolíkov, gréckokatolíkov a pravoslávnych.

Na Kvetnú nedeľu ľudia chodia do prírody a donášajú si do svojich prbytkov vetvičky z rakyty alebo vrbové prútky, zvané bahniatka alebo maňušky, aby im doma vo váze rozkvitli do Veľkej noci.



Veľkonočná oblievačka.



Svätenie pokrmov.

Príprava na Veľkú noc

Keďže príprava nie je na celom Slovensku rovnaká, zmienim sa iba o takej, ktorá je charakteristická pre moju rodnú obec Radomu (región Šariš) na severovýchodnom Slovensku tak, ako sa mi uchovala v pamäti.

Tesne pred Veľkou nocou (Zelený štvrtok, Veľký piatok, Biela Sobota) majú gazdinky plné ruky práce. Pečú koláče, chutné tvarohové, makové a orechové závin, štrúdle a maľujú (zobia) vajíčka. Nachystajú si aj prútený košík, ktorý bol po celý rok odložený a je určený iba pre naplnenie veľkonočných pokrmov, v ktorom nesmú chýbať: koláč (aspoň kus, ak nie celý), závin, štrúdlá, údená klobása, šunka, maslo, maľované vajíčka a špeciálny zlatistý syr, zvaný hrudka, urobený len z vajíčok a mlieka pre túto príležitosť.

Na veľkonočnú nedeľu, hneď zrána, na úsvite, nesú gazdinky ku kostolu košík s obsahom vyššie spomínaných pokrmov, prikrytý obvykle ručne vyšívaným obrúskom. Pri kostole rozložia košíky do radu, odkryjú ich a kňaz ich pokropí svätenou vodou. Potom si gazdinky opäť košíky zakryjú a náhlia sa s nimi domov, aby boli po celý rok v práci také šikovné ako teraz.

Maľovanie (zobenie) vajíčok

Posledné dni pred Veľkou nocou sa popri pečení venujú aj ozdobovaniu veľkonočných vajíčok, ktoré sa zvyknú nazývať kraslice. Môžu sa zdobiť viacerými spôsobmi podľa toho, či ich potom chceme použiť aj na konzumovanie alebo iba na okrasu.

Najjednoduchší spôsob zlobenia: vajíčka vložíme do vriacej vody, v ktorej sú šupky z cibule. Po uvarení a vybratí z vody získajú zlatohnedú farbu, svetlejšiu alebo tmavšiu podľa toho, či sme vložili do hrnca viac alebo menej cibulových šupiek.

Iný spôsob maľovania: V obchodoch sa predávajú malé vrecúška s obsahom rôznych farieb v prášku špeciálne určených na maľovanie veľkonočných vajíčok. Technika práce je veľmi jednoduchá. Do hrnca dáme zvariť vodu, vsypeme prášok a ponoríme do vody vajíčka. Asi po 5 minútach ich vyberieme, a dáme osušiť na utierku. Oblúbené sú pestré pastelové farby: zelená, červená, modrá, fialová, hnedá, okrová... Ak sa pri varení nerozpraskli, sú vhodné aj na konzumovanie.

Zdobenie voskom

Takéto zdobenie patrí medzi veľmi staré, zaujímavé a pri trocha zručnosti a fantázie

Pokračovanie na str. 23