



Jednota

THE UNION

USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



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

Volume 123

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2014

NUMBER 5913

President's 2014 Christmas Message Veselé Vianoce a Šťastlivý Nový Rok!

2014 in almost in the history books. Our Convention in August re-elected myself, our Vice President and Executive Secretary. Several of our long-term Board members retired, namely Mr. Brekosky, Mr. Matta, Mr. Minarovich and Mr. Ungvarsky, and replacements were elected.

Several other fraternal have recently made dramatic changes in their corporate governance with strong urging by their respective State Insurance Commissioners. The fraternal world is changing.

We announced in the Jednota the establishment of a Memorial for all our members, especially remembering deceased members including veterans of all wars. Progress has

been detailed in the Jednota newspaper. The basic work has been completed with the granite pieces to be installed in Spring 2015. Dedication is expected to be in June of 2015. Pictures will be in the Jednota.

Planning is underway for the 2015 100th anniversary of Fr. Furdek and the 50th anniversary of the Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel in Washington D.C. as well as the 125th birthday of our Society. We will keep you informed.

While Buffalo N.Y. has five + feet of snow, we are reminded that Christmas is not far behind. We now have many members that live in warmer climates that still remember the "old days" of ice and snow. While their location may have changed the basic premises of our Catholic Faith have not changed. Our Faith teaches us that while many things in our lives, beginning with if and when we are born, until our inevitable death, are beyond our control, we do have "free will" when it comes to the ultimate decisions, those that impact our "soul".

Our Faith teaches us that we have a purpose here on Earth, that is to praise God and strive to obtain Eternal life. We believe!

With that knowledge and belief, on behalf of myself and my family, and all of us at the Home Office, I wish you and your family a Merry and Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

Veselé Vianoce a Šťastlivý Nový Rok!



Andrew M. Rajec

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Merry Christmas



THE VISIT OF THE WISE-MEN

The Board of Directors, Officers, and Home Office Staff of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States & Canada Wish All of Our Members a Blessed Christmas Season

Bible illustration c. 1900



Attention, FCSU College-bound Seniors:

Looking forward to graduation next year? Don't forget about the FCSU. Your membership in our Society may award you \$1000 toward your education – plus an additional \$3,000 in life insurance.

See page 13 for details.

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Kids, Color Your Christmas Pages Today!

Contest Ends Soon. See pages 4 - 5!

Insights and Viewpoints



St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies, Father Killian Loch, O.S.B.

December 21, 2014 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7; 1 – 5, 8B – 12, 14A, 16

Gospel Luke 1; 26 - 38

On the Fourth and last Sunday of Advent the Gospel takes us back nine months to the Annunciation. It reminds us that the birth of Jesus was not a random decision by God, but was part of God's plan of salvation for us. The Messiah was to be born at a particular time, in a particular place, to a particular woman. The announcement by

the Archangel Gabriel to Mary that she would conceive by the Holy Spirit, bear a son, and name him Jesus is the beginning of the fulfillment of God's plan of redemption for us.

We can wonder and even be surprised at how God's plan seems to go against what our human expectations of how the incarnation should play out. Should not the Messiah be born of royal lineage in a palace? That was not God's plan. The Messiah was not born of a high born woman, but rather of a woman who found favor with God, and who had been prepared for this from the time of her Immaculate Conception. The Messiah was not born in the palace of a major city, but in a stable in a lowly town. The child was not fathered by earthly royalty, but by the Godliness of the Holy Spirit.

Although the people of Jesus' time had their expectations for an earthly, majestic and mighty Messiah, God did indeed try to prepare them for his plan. The Reading from Second Samuel describes how David's plan to honor God was not God's desire or plan. David revealed his plan to the prophet Nathan to build a great temple for the ark of God. Even Nathan's initial response reflects his worldly view when he tells David to go ahead and build. It was only later when the Lord spoke to Nathan that he returns and says it is not God plan for David to build a temple. Instead, God reveals to David that he will build a house from him that will last forever. This "house" is not a building but the line of David from which Jesus is born. God's plan is so much different than how we might picture things coming about.

In addition to the passage about David the Old Testament is full of prophecies referring to the Messiah and his lowly birth. The expectation of the people of Israel seems to have blurred their understanding and their expectations. When Jesus is born in a manger in Bethlehem many could not see that as God's plan for the Messiah.

This Fourth Sunday of Advent is the beginning of our final four days of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. It is a good time to look at the expectations that we have placed on God and ask if our expectations are open to God's plan for us. The way in which Jesus was born into the world wasn't at all what people expected. Some had an openness that allowed them to adjust their expectations so as to welcome the Lord, others were obstinate in their refusal to recognize Jesus as Lord. The ultimate act of faith in God and openness to His will is seen in Mary's final words to the Archangel Gabriel; "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." As we prepare to celebrate Christmas it would do us well to reflect on these words of Mary, and to make them our own. May we journey through this final portion of Advent with an increased anticipation for God to act in our lives, and an openness to His plan.

December 25, 2014 – The Nativity of the Lord (Mass During The Night)

Isaiah 9; 1 – 6

Gospel Luke 2; 1 - 14

The reading from Isaiah begins with, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." This is a powerful image that describes the world before the birth of Christ and the transformation that began with his birth. Light is very much involved in the birth of Christ and Christmas. From the "glory of the Lord," that shone around the shepherds, to the Star of Bethlehem that led the Magi to Christ, light seems to be breaking forth with the birth of Jesus. Lights on Christmas trees, in and on houses, lawn displays, and lights on Main Streets and town squares all point to Jesus, the Light of the World. There are many voices that call these lights "holiday decorations" and claim they have no religious significance, but, as it says elsewhere in the Gospels, you don't hide a light under a bushel basket. There would be no holiday if there hadn't been the holy day of Jesus' birth.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

In the midst of the busyness that has become more and more a part of Christmas it is important for us not to lose sight of what we are doing. We might wish people, "Merry Christmas," and put "Christmas Lights" on our houses, and even send "Christmas Cards", but be careful not to get this holy day out of focus. Let us not trivialize the beautiful Gospels that we hear on Christmas that speak to us of the birth in the little town of Bethlehem, in a manger in a stable, and the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes.

Christmas is the day that begins the season for us to remember and celebrate how loved we are by God. It is sometimes difficult to accept the fact that we are loved unconditionally by God, but this is precisely what we celebrate, the total and complete, no-strings-attached, love God has for us. The best way to begin our celebration of Christmas is to open our hearts to this great love. God does not withhold his love from us, however, we can have attitudes of inadequacy, self-hatred, shame, and so on, that prevent us from experiencing the love of God being poured out on us. Begin celebrating Christmas by removing anything in our lives that stands in the way of our being able to accept this love.

In his First letter, John writes, "We love because God first loved us." I Jn 4:19 When we accept God's love allow it to change our hearts so that we can truly love God. Thank the Father for his love, and for sending us his son, and blessing us with the Holy Spirit. Let prayers, both formal and spontaneous, come from our hearts. When we visit the crèche take time to thank Jesus for humbling himself to become one of us, and tell him how much we love him.

This renewed awareness, and hopefully experience, of God's love for us and our love for God deepens our relationship with God. The Mass becomes more than something we have become accustomed to attending, but rather a mystery of God's love and presence that we enter into.

This will hopefully lead us to rediscover that that same unconditional love for us, is being poured out upon everyone. We can welcome the presence of Jesus in 2014, and throughout 2015 by sharing the unconditional love given to us with all those around us. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World. May his light shine brightly within us, and may it shine forth from us.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY OF THE WEEK 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, JAN, 14	MONDAY, JAN. 5
WEDNESDAY, JAN 28	MONDAY, JAN 19
WEDNESDAY, FEB 11	MONDAY, FEB. 2

Correspondents who are announcing events should allow ample time for them to be received by the readership, taking into account the publication schedule and the extra time in the postal system.

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:
Teresa Ivanec, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398
FAX: 216-642-4310

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Bi-Weekly Issued 19 Times Annually

Publisher and Proprietor

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

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

Independence OH 44131-2398

TERESA IVANEC, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com

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

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

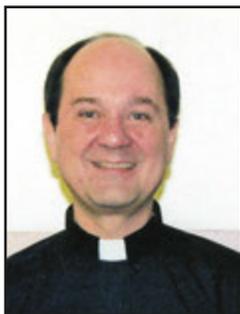
Telephone: 216/642-9406 Fax: 216/642-4310

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

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

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

A Christmas Message from the National Chaplain



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Dear Friends,
Chapters 14 through 16 of John's Gospel contain sayings of Jesus that are well known. "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." "I am the vine, you are the branches." "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you to go and bear fruit that will remain."

These words of Jesus are also found here. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." His gift of peace was not only given to the apostles, but to all who believe in him.

Celebrating the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, gives us a chance to recall the words St. Paul wrote to the Colossians. "Christ's peace must reign in your hearts."

In our day, some resort to violence and vandalism to express anger, dissatisfaction and disappointment. Others hate, seek revenge, act as bullies, mentally and physically abuse others.

It is hard to think of a more appropriate gift to give another at this time of year than the peace we have received from Christ himself. Helping to bring that peace to a broken world, we pray and look forward to the day "peace on earth" become a lived reality each day.

Merry Christmas.
Fraternally,



Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

Christmas Greetings from the National Vice President



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

On Christmas Day we will celebrate the coming of the Son of God to the human race.

With His birth, He brought new faith and hope to the world for a better future. A hope that could really come true if we have faith, love, patience, and practice the Ten Commandments.

Wherever Christmas is celebrated, there should be a spirit of kindness and generous giving in keeping with the message of Jesus, "Glory to God in the Highest and on Earth Peace, Good Will towards Men."

May this Christmas bring many graces and heavenly gifts to you and to all those dear to your hearts.

On behalf of my wife Maria, my family and myself, I will pray that the light of Christ never ceases to brighten your hearts and homes. May the peace of Christ and His holy love be with you and your loved ones this Christmas Day.



Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President

A Christmas Message from the Executive Secretary



Kenneth Arendt

Our homes and trees are decorated. We have waited endlessly in line to pay for that special present. The baking is done. Christmas cards are in the mail. We are eagerly awaiting the biggest holiday of the year.

We pray for snow on Christmas Eve. It's just not the same without it! As we are making our way to Midnight Mass, our minds are racing, making sure we haven't forgotten a last minute detail. As we walk into the church, the "real meaning" of Christmas warms our hearts and the celebration begins.

We sing of our Savior's birth. We thank the Infant for our families, friends, and good health. Truly blessed are we.

May we continue to pray for peace on earth and good will toward men.

On behalf of my wife Theresa, my family and myself, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

Christmas Greetings from the National Treasurer



George F. Matta

As the Christmas Season approaches, we are frequently reminded of our earlier years, when the Christmas wishes were "Peace on Earth and Goodwill to all."

Unfortunately, during recent years, too frequently we read about the wars and unrest throughout the world. When we attend Mass during Christmas, let's pray to our Heavenly Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, to enable us to once again say "Peace on Earth and Goodwill to all."

During the Christmas Season, my wife and I and the entire Matta family extend to all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year.

Veselé Vianoce a Šťastný Nový Rok.

George F. Matta, National Treasurer



LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Jesus, Santa, and Service for Christmas

Actress Candace Cameron Bure, who grew up on television playing D.J. Tanner on the hit sitcom "Full House," knows first-hand that you can create a Christ-centered Christmas for kids while still enjoying Santa Claus and the commercial aspects of the holiday. That's exactly what she does with her three children because it reflects how her celebration of Christmas has evolved through the years.

During a recent interview on "Christopher Closeup" to discuss both the Christmas movies in which she stars on the Hallmark Channel along with her book "Balancing It All: My Story of Juggling Priorities and Purpose," Bure said, "Christmas for us growing up as kids was about Santa and presents, and also serving because charity has always been important to my family, particularly to my mom, who modeled that so well. We definitely were taught the 'giving' part of the season."

It wasn't until a conversion experience years later that Bure fully appreciated the fact that Christmas was about the birth of the Savior. Now she incorporates the best of both worlds into life with her husband, former hockey star Valeri Bure, and their children Natasha, Maksim and Lev.

Bure said, "As a mom, I make sure the season is really focused around Christ, but I still love the commercialism of Christmas too! I think it's wonderful, and I think that you can do both! With our kids over the years, we scaled way back on presents and told them, 'It's just not about this; Christ gives us a gift.' And the saying is so true, 'It's better to give than receive.' I love watching my kids on Christmas morning when one of them has saved up their money and they give their brother a Christmas present. The joy of giving is almost bigger than the one receiving."

There's one tradition that's especially important to the Bures: "For us as a family, we started serving at a shelter on Christmas morning. We wake up at about 5 a.m. and, with some other family members and friends, we go to a local shelter that has about 40 or 50 people staying there. We bring breakfast and we cook it there for them and then we sit down and we eat, share stories and listen to them and encourage them. For us it's about giving back first, and then coming home and having the traditional present-opening at our house and then a big family Christmas dinner with all of our relatives."

Jesus isn't just someone Bure talks about at Christmas time, but someone she makes time for every day. She said, "The busier you are, it's easy to put [God] at the bottom of your list. I don't and I won't. I make time to read my Bible. I just read the Bible this morning with the kids. Before going to school, at 6:45, we all sat on the couch and read a chapter of Corinthians. We talk about it about 15 minutes before school, but it sets your day."

Ultimately, everything comes back to being humble before God for Bure. When asked how she moves forward in hope during times of darkness, she said, "It's on my knees, literally. I have my prayer spot in my room right by my bed. And [I use it] every day, not just when times get bad. When you have that ongoing relationship and dialogue with God, I think that, overall, you will just be calmer and more peaceful, even in difficult times."

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note MAKING CHRISTMAS HAPPY AND HOLY, write: The Christophers, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org

March for Life



Our presence at the 42nd Annual Right to Life March on Thursday, January 22, 2015 in Washington, DC is extremely important. The First Catholic Slovak Union and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association support the position of the Pro Life Movement.

The FCSU and the FCSLA are once again offering free transportation from the FCSLA Home Office in Beachwood, OH, for this very important trip. For the past few years we

have filled two buses for this march. Again this year, we will reserve two buses for the March. Our organizations are proud to encourage our members, along with many young students from area Catholic High Schools, to participate. It is a very rewarding experience to actively participate and help relay this very important message of supporting the Right to Life mission.

Will you join us? Please call Kelly at the FCSLA home Office. Her phone number is 800-464-4642 EXT. 1051 or email her at Kelly@fcsula.org for details or questions and to reserve your seat on the bus before December 29th. The buses fill up quickly and seating is limited so don't wait until the last minute to reserve your seat.

If you would like to attend and are unable to join those leaving from the FCSLA Home Office, please look online for information and transportation. Call your local church or diocese, they may be able to help.

Expanded Jednota Newspaper Archive Now on FCSU Website

Looking for information in a past issue?

Now you can browse through 5+ years of Jednota that we have digitized. Just go to <http://www.fcsu.com/newspaper> and click on the words Newspaper Archive to access the appropriate PDF.

Or, for questions, email Jednota Editor Teresa Ivanec @ fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com or call her at the Home Office, 1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682), x 123.



FCSU 2014 Christmas Coloring Contest

Christmas Angels
by P.Z. Mann

A

The Whittles lived in Humbleburg,
As poor as poor can be,
But all their neighbors loved them,
For their generosity.

For though the Whittles' shelves were bare,
Their cottage tumbledown,
When Christmas came they made a toy,
For every child in town.

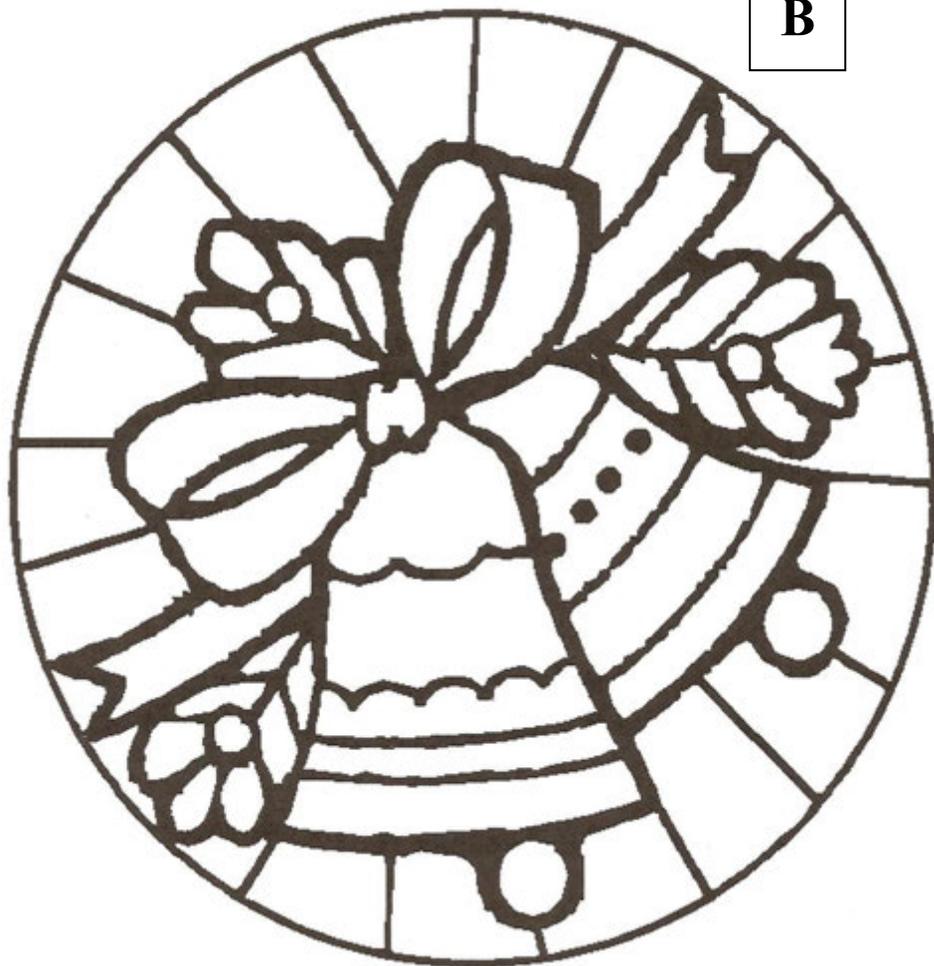
One Christmas Eve they climbed in bed,
After all the toys were made;
And while they dreamed of better times,
The Whittles were repaid.

That night three Christmas angels came,
To give them a reward --
For heaven won't let any act
Of kindness be ignored.

One angel searched the cupboard
And found just a crust of bread;
"Now, this won't do", she whispered,
"Let's prepare a feast instead!"



B



The angels flapped their magic wings,
As only they are able,
And in a flash a flood of food
Filled all the shelves and table!

The tiny house still looked quite drab,
It needed to be cheered;
And as the angels waved their wings,
A Christmas tree appeared!

Two angels trimmed the pretty tree;
The third flew to and fro,
Hanging bells and holly boughs,
And sprigs of mistletoe.

Outside, the angels dressed the house
With icicles and snow,
And on the door they placed a wreath,
Complete with a bright red bow!

They finished all they came to do,
Before the break of day,
And as the Whittles roused from sleep,
The angels flew away.

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

FCSU 2014 Christmas Coloring Contest

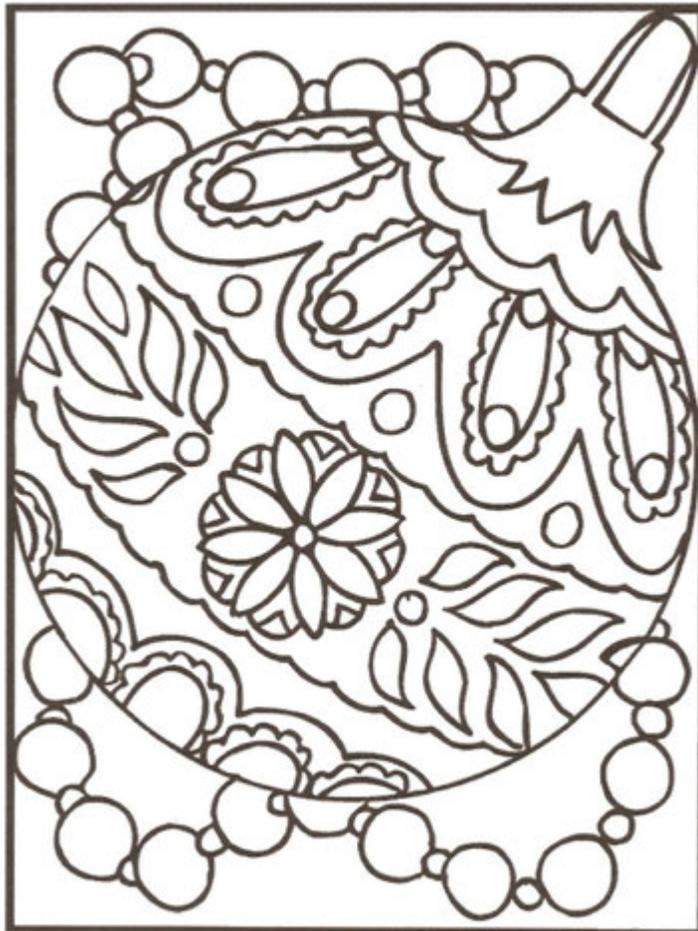
C

Now, when the Whittles saw the food
And all the decoration,
They pinched themselves and wept for joy,
Then danced in celebration!

As word spread through the village
Of their heaven-sent surprise;
Every Humbleburger came
To see with their own two eyes!

The Whittles shared their Christmas feast-
They emptied all the shelves;
Their kindness wouldn't let them keep
Good fortune to themselves.

When everyone had cleaned their plate,
They all joined in a song;
And up above-though no one heard-
The angels sang along!



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RULES

- Each age group is assigned a certain picture:
4 – 6 year olds – picture A
7 – 9 year olds – picture B
10 – 12 year olds – picture C
- Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
- Pictures are allowed to be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.
- Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
- Your child's completed entry form, colored picture, and a photo of your child must be postmarked by **December 31, 2014**.
- Mail to:
Rudy Ondrejco
Fraternal Activities Director
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Please submit this form with your child's entry by December 31, 2014

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Certificate Number: _____ Branch Number: _____
(MUST be filled in)

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

T-Shirt Size: (Please Circle One)

Child S M L XL Adult S M L XL

PRIZES

Winners in each Region and age group will receive the following:
1st Place – Jednota Long Sleeved T-Shirt and \$25.00
2nd Place - Jednota Long Sleeved T-Shirt and \$15.00
3rd Place - Jednota Long Sleeved T-Shirt and \$10.00
Honorable Mention - \$5 Gift Card



Branch 89 officers (L – R): Robert Budjac - Auditor, Paul Novak - Treasurer/Recording Secretary, Dan Laduha - Auditor, and Michael Novak - President.

November Meeting of Branch 89

Branch 89 held their last meeting of the year on November 8, 2014 at Alliotos Restaurant in Wauwatosa, WI. After a short meeting the members enjoyed fellowship and lunch.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director.
Photos courtesy of Mr. Bernath



Branch 89 members enjoying lunch and fellowship.

Fifth Annual Slovak-American Awards Dinner Held at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic

The Fifth Annual Slovak-American Awards Dinner was held at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, DC, on the evening of November 14, 2014. This year's event celebrated the 10th Anniversary of Slovakia's Membership in NATO and the EU; the 25th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution; and the 70th Anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising.

The Slovak-American Awards dinners also celebrate the close ties between the United States and Slovakia. Each year's the dinner honors those who have made significant contributions to strengthening US – Slovak relations. The evening's four awardees were: the Diplomacy Award to the Honorable Theodore Sedgwick, Ambassador of the United States to Slovakia; the Cultural Award to Slovak Concert Pianist and Composer Peter Breiner; the Educational Award to the Fund for American Studies, accepted by Director of Recruitment and Admissions Mary C. Stankus; the Slovak-American of the Year Award to Professor Ján Vilček, Department of Microbiology, New York School of Medicine and President, Vilček Foundation.

Ed Zelenak, Slovak Honorary Consul from Detroit, MI and FCSU member, was the Master of Ceremonies at this year's event. Slovak Ambassador to the US His Excellency Peter Kmec gave the welcoming remarks, along with Dinner Committee Chair Julie Brés Slavik. Friends of Slovakia Chairman, Slovak Honorary Consul, and FCSU member Joseph Senko introduced the keynote speaker, the Honorable Peter Burian, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. The Honorable Theodore E. Russell, former US Ambassador to Slovakia, gave the closing remarks.



(L – R) FCSU Branch 856 President Steve Matula; Marie Parker; Honorary Consul to Slovakia, FCSU Branch 254 Member, and Friends of Slovakia Chairman Joseph Senko; FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec; FCSU Branch 89 Member Idka Rajec; FCSU Branch 228 Member Raymond Luca; FCSU Branch 254 Secretary Albina Senko; FCSU Home Office Staffer and Branch 89 Member Andrew P. Rajec; and Branch 746 President and FCSU Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados.



(L – R) The Honorable Peter Burian, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic; FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec; FCSU Branch 89 Member Idka Rajec; His Excellency Peter Kmec, Slovak Ambassador to the US; and FCSU Home Office Staffer and Branch 89 Member Andrew P. Rajec.

Guest Speaker Pavol Demeš, flanked by FCSU's (L) Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Senko and (R) Mr. and Mrs. Andrew M. Rajec and Andrew P. Rajec, at this year's Czech and Slovak Freedom lecture. The annual event takes place the afternoon of the awards dinner and celebrates the ideals and legacy of the Velvet Revolution.



For more photos, find us on



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Christmas Feelings

By Stanislav J. Kirschbaum

There are many moments in our lives when we register feelings about an event but none is as recurring and also as powerful and laden with anticipation and joy as Christmas. What is it about this event that resonates so powerfully throughout our lives? Is it the ubiquitous reminders in shopping malls and on television to come and buy gifts that we experience shortly after Halloween; or the suggestions of Christmas gifts that appear in bulk stores months ahead of time; or any other commercial reminders? Often, these are irritants rather than reminders; still, in the end, they do make a contribution, however big or small, to the magic of Christmas. But, when you come down to it, there are other factors, that is to say triggers, that are more personal and more deeply rooted in our lives that make Christmas feelings a unique experience.

One of the most powerful triggers is the smells and sights of Christmas. It is not surprising that the commercial world throws them at us very early on; but, in truth, they take hold of us in our own time and in a very special way. They come upon us unexpectedly and that very fact is one of the most extraordinary experiences of Christmas. For weeks, we can walk through a shopping mall or a department store that is over decorated and not feel a thing; we can hear piped Christmas music, especially our favourite carols, and not react; we can walk by a food court and ignore the sweet smells; but we will stop when, out of nowhere, a particular sight or smell triggers a feeling experienced before, often many years ago. Suddenly, it is Christmas in our minds and in our hearts and the link to the annual event begins to take place.

A second powerful trigger, particularly for parents and grandparents, is the anticipation as well as the reaction to Christmas that we observe in children, be they ours or someone else's. Their natural curiosity and the anticipation of delight that children demonstrate so spontaneously and without restraint are among the most magical occurrences in human life. There is nothing more enchanting than to see a child look at a decoration or the depiction of a Christmas scene in church or in specially decorated windows of department stores: their faces radiate curiosity, joy, and anticipation; they may be immobile in awe or prance around, telling you what they see; or they may simply ask you to explain this or that. At that moment, your own feelings and memories kick in; you know that Christmas is here again and it is time to create new memories.

Memories are the third trigger of Christmas feelings. How and what we remember is something very personal. Indeed, we often prefer to bury some memories. And yet, especially when someone recalls an event or a person linked to Christmas, inevitably a memory, if not many, take hold of us. At that moment, we start to experience that special Christmas feeling. As I write these lines, I remember one Christmas long ago that I spent in Germany. I was very alone, missing my family. At Radio Free Europe in Munich, where I was doing research for my graduate studies, one of the employees of Slovak background, Jozef Baluška, saw my discomfort and invited me to join him and his wife on štedrý večer (Christmas Eve) before going to Midnight Mass. All the imaginable Slovak Christmas delights his wife prepared as well as the kindness of a very special couple turned the evening into one of the most memorable Christmases of my life. This was the time before cell phones with international roaming or skype access on a laptop. By inviting me, they connected me with my parents in Canada who always celebrated štedrý večer the Slovak way. It is an old memory now, but, as with the other triggers that I will experience this year, it enables me to link my Christmas feelings with the most important trigger of all, the reason for Christmas.

In the Christian calendar, Christmas is the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord. In our Catholic faith, it is a major celebration, for it reminds us that the Son of God came on earth for our salvation and that his teachings are for all mankind. The religious dimension is in fact the significant element at Christmas, celebrated through preparation during Advent, culminating in Midnight Mass and the liturgy of Christmas Day. But this religious dimension is also linked to a very human celebration: that of birth, of the renewal of life. This is what makes Christmas so special and also makes it possible to celebrate it with people of other faiths. Ultimately, the combination of the religious ceremonies, family and friendly gatherings, the exchange of gifts, and the distinctive succulent Christmas meals is the reason why Christmas evokes such powerful feelings.

May you experience the most wonderful Christmas feelings this year and may they stay in your heart for a long time. Veselé Vianoce/Merry Christmas/Joyeux Noël

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@fcsu.com.

Statement as of September 30, 2014 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA**
ASSETS

	Current Statement Date			4 December 31 Prior Year Net Admitted Assets
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	
1. Bonds.....	311,220,039		311,220,039	300,535,784
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....			0	200,000
2.2 Common stocks.....	3,626,494		3,626,494	5,756,573
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens.....	1,280,760		1,280,760	1,416,745
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	997,462		997,462	1,009,340
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	743,535		743,535	772,830
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	613,289		613,289	562,675
5. Cash (\$.....16,924,762), cash equivalents (\$.....0) and short-term investments (\$.....0).....	16,924,762		16,924,762	11,129,071
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	1,086,801		1,086,801	1,046,960
7. Derivatives.....			0	
8. Other invested assets.....	10,479,982		10,479,982	10,133,875
9. Receivables for securities.....			0	
10. Securities lending reinvested collateral assets.....			0	
11. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
12. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 11).....	346,973,124	0	346,973,124	332,563,852
13. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
14. Investment income due and accrued.....	4,412,511		4,412,511	3,840,970
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	20,148		20,148	26,470
15.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums).....			0	
15.3 Accrued retrospective premiums.....			0	
16. Reinsurance:				
16.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers.....			0	
16.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies.....			0	
16.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts.....			0	
17. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans.....			0	
18.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon.....			0	
18.2 Net deferred tax asset.....			0	
19. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit.....			0	
20. Electronic data processing equipment and software.....			0	
21. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0).....			0	
22. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....			0	
23. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....			0	
24. Health care (\$.....0) and other amounts receivable.....			0	
25. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets.....	550	550	0	0
26. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 12 through 25).....	351,406,333	550	351,405,783	336,431,292
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
28. Total (Lines 26 and 27).....	351,406,333	550	351,405,783	336,431,292

Statement as of September 30, 2014 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

	1 Current Statement Date	2 December 31 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	272,416,000	261,839,000
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	42,906,647	40,717,575
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life.....	300,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health.....		
5. Refunds due and unpaid.....		
6. Provisions for refunds payable in following calendar year - estimated amounts:		
6.1 Apportioned for payment.....	400,000	400,000
6.2 Not yet apportioned.....		
7. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$.....0 discount; including \$.....0 accident and health premiums.....	276,182	286,787
8. Certificate and contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
8.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts.....		
8.2 Other amounts payable on reinsurance including \$.....0 assumed and \$.....0 ceded.....		
8.3 Interest maintenance reserve (IMR).....	362,553	609,141
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued - life and annuity contracts \$.....0, accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	12,488	7,223
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
11. General expenses due or accrued.....	55,733	65,127
12. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$.....0 accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves).....		
13. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued.....	6,062	22,835
14. Unearned investment income.....		
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	5,226,465	6,010,086
16. Amounts held for fieldworkers' account, including \$.....0 fieldworkers' credit balances.....		
17. Remittances and items not allocated.....		
18. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....	9,511	9,511
19. Liability for benefits for employees and fieldworkers if not included above.....		
20. Borrowed money \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
21. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
21.1 Asset valuation reserve.....	2,266,152	2,461,429
21.2 Reinsurance in unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) companies.....		
21.3 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) reinsurers.....		
21.4 Payable to subsidiaries and affiliates.....		
21.5 Drafts outstanding.....		
21.6 Funds held under coinsurance.....		
21.7 Derivatives.....		
21.8 Payable for securities.....	2,206,543	
21.9 Payable for securities lending.....		
22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	295,967	1,020,967
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	326,740,303	313,749,681
24. From Separate Accounts Statement.....		
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 to 24).....	326,740,303	313,749,681
26. Aggregate write-ins for other than liabilities and surplus funds.....	0	0
27. Surplus notes.....		
28. Aggregate write-ins for surplus funds.....	0	0
29. Unassigned funds.....	24,665,480	22,681,610
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts Statement).....	24,665,480	22,681,610
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30) (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3).....	351,405,783	336,431,291

Statement as of September 30, 2014 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

	1 Current Year To Date	2 Prior Year To Date	3 Prior Year Ended December 31
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts.....	12,968,615	18,173,212	22,216,307
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
3. Net investment income.....	11,248,177	10,286,306	14,149,981
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR).....	350,000	225,000	380,661
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains and losses.....			
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded.....			
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded.....			
8. Miscellaneous income:			
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts.....			
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts.....			
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income.....	4,691	192,109	203,442
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	24,571,483	28,876,627	36,950,391
10. Death benefits.....	2,225,850	1,946,939	2,430,466
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....		3,270	3,270
12. Annuity benefits.....	7,222,185	5,641,164	9,947,089
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts including premiums waived \$.....0.....			
14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	456,700	595,200	823,140
15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds.....	122,633	169,244	211,732
16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts.....	10,577,000	17,183,000	18,690,000
18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17).....	20,604,367	25,538,817	32,105,697
19. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only).....	131,912	201,652	263,752
20. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed.....			
21. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses.....	2,237,513	2,144,013	2,840,415
22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees.....	118,357	205,917	127,719
23. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums.....			
24. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance.....			
25. Aggregate write-ins for deductions.....	(236,955)	(218,445)	(247,883)
26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25).....	22,855,194	27,871,954	35,089,700
27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26).....	1,716,289	1,004,673	1,860,690
28. Refunds to members.....	291,211	291,596	405,055
29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28).....	1,425,078	713,077	1,455,635
30. Net realized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of0 (excluding \$.....103,412 transferred to the IMR).....	543,520	368,068	553,505
31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30).....	1,968,598	1,081,145	2,009,140
SURPLUS ACCOUNT			
32. Surplus, December 31, prior year.....	22,681,611	20,646,573	20,646,573
33. Net income from operations (Line 31).....	1,968,598	1,081,145	2,009,140
34. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	(186,419)	3,980	192,118
35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....			
36. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	6,414	4,467	(22,573)
37. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized and certified companies.....			
38. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis (increase) or decrease.....			
39. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	195,277	98,127	(111,361)
40. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period.....			
41. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts Statement.....			
42. Change in surplus notes.....			
43. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....			
44. Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance.....			
45. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus.....	0	(37,651)	(32,287)
46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45).....	1,983,870	1,150,068	2,035,037
47. Surplus as of statement date (Lines 32 + 46).....	24,665,480	21,796,641	22,681,611



Branch 746 members celebrate Joe Minarovich's retirement.



Stephen Minarovich, Lillian Minarovich, Joe Minarovich, and Sabina Sabados

Joe Minarovich and Mary Kapitan



Mr. Joseph Minarovich and wife, Lillian, at his surprise retirement party



Joe Minarovich and Mary Karch

Branch 746 Celebrates Joseph Minarovich

Branch 746 gathered at Luciano's Ristorante in Rahway, New Jersey for a surprise retirement party for Joseph Minarovich, Region 1 Director Emeritus, who after many years of dedicated service to the First Catholic Slovak Union retired at the Quadrennial Convention in August in Philadelphia. Branch 746 wanted to honor Joe in a special way for his many contributions to the Jednota. Joe was truly surprised as he was expecting to be attending a birthday party for one of the members of Branch 746. The wonderful afternoon was enjoyed by all.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Branch 746 President and Region 1 Director

For more photos, find us on



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Visit www.facebook.com/FirstCatholicSlovakUnion



Book Corner

Bishop Creates Mysteries

What does a Bishop do in retirement—besides being about his priestly duties? The Most Reverend Joseph V. Adamec, Bishop Emeritus of Altoona-Johnstown and a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union from childhood, writes and publishes mystery novels. He has just published his second, titled *Heir Non-Apparent*.

This second novel, as well as his first (*Flight of the Beetle*), is based on one of the nine dinner mysteries that he had written and produced while still in service as Diocesan Bishop. In writing the novels, he draws upon his experiences as a young boy growing up in a small town in the state of Michigan. There are references to such things as wash day at the home as well as how the Sunday chicken soup came about—from egg to pot. Also included are descriptions of telephones, cars, and grocery stores of his time. While the settings are real, the plots are fictitious.

"This is as close as I am going to get to writing an autobiography," the Bishop said.

Writing has been an interest of Bishop Adamec for most of his life. He wrote for his high school newspaper and then studied journalism at Michigan State University, where he also served as Co-Editor of the dormitory paper. As a seminarian in Rome, he wrote articles for newspapers in both English and Slovak. Even as an active bishop, his hobby was to write dinner mysteries, which took place at the Bishop's Residence and served to chase away the winter doldrums for the Chancery Staff and others. Upon his retirement, the Bishop decided to try his hand at writing and publishing books.

"However, I was feeling guilty writing mystery novels as an ordained clergyman when I should be doing something for the Church," explained the Bishop.

Bishop Joseph solved his dilemma by donating the books to the diocesan Catholic Charities. At \$25.00 per book, the income generates much needed funds with which to help the poor of the Allegheny Mountains in Central Pennsylvania, according to the Charities' Director, Mrs. Jean Johnstone. She welcomes inquiries about the books' availability at the Catholic Charities' address: P. O. Box 1349, Altoona PA 16603.

"Donating the books to Catholic Charities eases my conscience," the Bishop said. "This way, I get to do what I have always enjoyed doing and am able to help God's poor in the process. And the books make excellent gifts for both youth and adults."

The hard-cover books are self-published works of about 295 pages each. The plot of *Flight of the Beetle* revolves around a missing brooch, an heirloom of the Tahftnut family. That of *Heir Non-Apparent* has to do with the settlement of a missing person's estate.

Bishop Adamec served as National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation for a number of years. Currently, he is the Episcopal Moderator. He was the co-founder and Chairman of the Conference of Slovak Clergy. Today, he is its Vice-Chairman. He was ordained as Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown by Cardinal Jozef Tomko on May 20, 1987. He retired from that office in April of 2011.

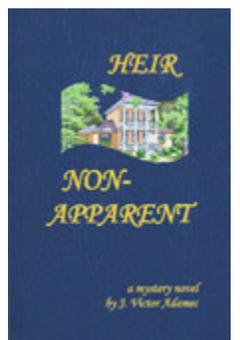
Second Mystery Novel Available for Christmas Giving

"Heir Non-Apparent" is the second mystery novel by the author, also based on one of the nine dinner mysteries written and produced by him. The book has 295 pages with a hard cover and is suitable reading for all ages.

The plot revolves around the question: Who is to inherit Maple View Manor? Miss Sarah Grey disappeared several years ago, and her Estate is about to be settled. More than one person hopes to be the beneficiary. Plots and schemes abound until young Joe Cervik discovers the solution to the dilemma.

Copies can be picked up for \$25.00 (including handling) or ordered by mail for \$28.00 (including postage). All monies generated by the book benefit Catholic Charities in their ministry to assist the poor of the Allegheny Mountains.

There will be a **limited number of copies available for Christmas** giving. You can reserve copies by using the form below. A few copies of his first novel *Flight of the Beetle* are also still available.



Catholic Charities
1300 Twelfth Avenue
P. O. Box 1349
Altoona PA 16603

[TEL: (814) 944-9388]

Please reserve for me _____ copies of the mystery novel *Heir Non-Apparent* at \$25.00 each (if to be picked up) or \$28.00 each (if to be mailed).

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

[Please print]

Name _____

Street Address _____

From the Office of the Executive Secretary

In observance of the following holidays, the Home Office and Jednota Estates will be closed:



Christmas – Wednesday, December 24, 2014 – Friday, December 26, 2014

New Year's – Thursday, January 1, 2015, and Friday, January 2, 2015

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

HOME OFFICE (TELECONFERENCE)
6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131
PHONE: 216-642-9406 * FAX: 216-642-4310

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2014

The Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on

SATURDAY, December 13, 2014 at 9:30 A.M. (telephonically).

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Friday, December 12, 2014.

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent to the Home Office prior to December 9, 2014.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9406 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2015

January 14

January 28

February 11

March 4

March 18

April 22

May 6

May 20

June 10

July 15

August 12

Sept 9

Sept 23

October 7

October 21

November 4

November 18

December 9

January 5

January 19

February 2

February 23

March 9

April 13

April 27

May 11

June 1

July 6

August 3

August 31

Sept 14

Sept 28

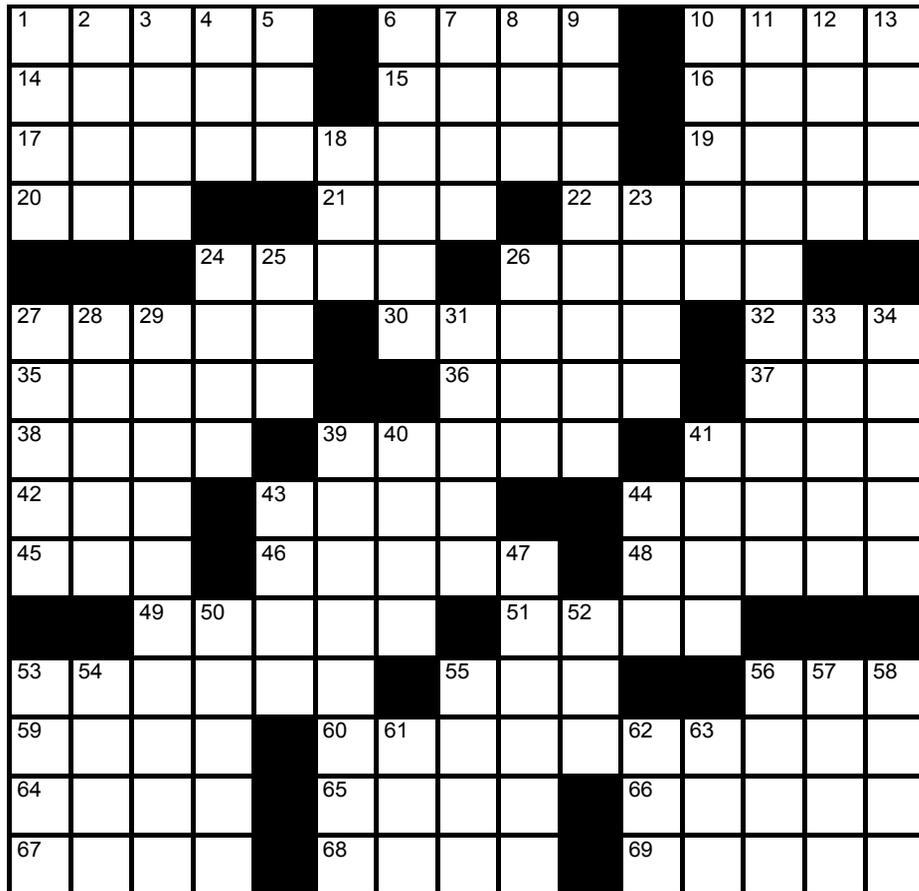
October 12

October 26

November 9

November 30

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 "Halt!" to a salt
- 6 Brooklyn Dodgers, once
- 10 Chew the fat
- 14 Embankment
- 15 Jacob's twin
- 16 Norse god of discord
- 17 Boo! Hiss!
- 19 The Emerald Isle
- 20 Adage
- 21 Over (Poet.)
- 22 Coarse
- 24 Pop
- 26 Ketchup name
- 27 Butcher's garbage
- 30 Drivel
- 32 Mouse catcher
- 35 Pooh's creator
- 36 Author Rice
- 37 Modern (Prefix)
- 38 Okla. city
- 39 Conifers
- 41 Asterisk
- 42 One-horse carriage
- 43 Burbot
- 44 Italian wine
- 45 Cigar residue
- 46 Inquired
- 48 Burns and ____
- 49 Cuts back
- 51 Enough, for some
- 53 Noble Italian family name
- 55 Hot springs
- 56 Santa's helper
- 59 Pub quaffs
- 60 Mutual
- 64 Rolling in dough
- 65 Brio
- 66 Search engine name
- 67 H. H. Munro AKA

Down

- 1 Priestly garb
- 2 Actress Miles
- 3 Swear
- 4 Rep.'s counterpart
- 5 John Ritter's dad
- 6 Decapitate
- 7 Consumer
- 8 Actress West
- 9 Certain physician
- 10 Free from dirt
- 11 Flat and level
- 12 Related
- 13 Pint-sized
- 18 Atlantic food fish
- 23 Agitate
- 24 Hourglass contents
- 25 Corrida cry
- 26 Fine-tune
- 27 Alpha's opposite
- 28 The end, theatrically
- 29 Aircraft carrier part
- 31 Cooktop
- 33 Move in and out through traffic
- 34 *Two Women* star
- 39 Social insects
- 40 Signs, as a contract

See Solution on Page 18



OUR FAVORITE RECIPES



A Typical Slovak Christmas Eve Menu

- Oplatky
- Wine
- Honey
- Garlic
- Dried Peas
- Mushroom Soup
- Pagach
- Bobalky
- Stewed Prunes
- Mushroom Soup (Machanka)
- Caraway Soup
- Mushroom Stuffed Cabbage
- Bread for Christmas Eve
- Christmas Bread
- (Figs, Dates, Oranges, Apples, Tangerines)
- Mixed Nuts
- Nut Rolls
- Poppyseed Rolls
- Pirohy

PIROHY

- 1 cup flour
- About 4 tablespoons water
- 1 egg

Mix flour and egg with enough water to make a soft dough; knead well. Roll out on floured board until thin. Cut into squares. Place 1 teaspoon filling on each square. Fold in half, making a triangle. Pinch edges well to keep filling inside. Drop into boiling salted water and cook until they rise to surface. Cook 5 minutes longer. Rinse in colander with hot water. Drain. Pour melted butter over pirohy and serve.

Cheese Filling

- 1/2 cup dry cottage cheese
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 teaspoon butter
- pinch salt
- Mix together
- Potato Filling
- 1 large potato cooked and mashed
- 1 tablespoon butter
- (Optional-grated cheese to taste)

Lekvar may be used as filling. Cooked sauerkraut may also be used as filling. Drain and rinse sauerkraut in cold water. Brown diced onion in shortening, add sauerkraut. Cook for a few minutes.

BREAD FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

- 1 package dry yeast
- 1/2 cup lukewarm water
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 6 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons salad oil

Dissolve yeast in warm water with 1/8 teaspoon salt and 1 tablespoon sugar. Set in warm place to rise. Sift 6 cups flour in deep bowl, add 2 cups warm water, 4 tablespoons sugar, 1 teaspoon salt, 4 tablespoons salad oil.

Knead well and set aside to rise. When double in bulk, punch down, let rise second time until double. Punch down. Divide dough in two. Shape one part into round bread, cover and let stand 20 minutes. Punch down

and reshape. Place in greased pan. Allow to rise until double in bulk. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Note: The second part of this dough will be use for Bobalky.

CHRISTMAS EVE BOBALKY

Use other half of above dough for bobalky. Knead and roll on floured board into rope. Cut and roll into balls about 1 inch in diameter. Place on floured pan, let rise 15 minutes. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes or until just slightly brown. Cook then place in deep bowl, pour boiling water over just to soak a little. Drain in colander. Then place in serving dish, heat honey with a little water, pour over bobalky.

Mix 1/2 cup ground poppyseed and 1/4 cup sugar and then add to bobalky. Let stand several hours in cool place (or refrigerator) for several hours before serving.

Note: some bobalky are served with sweet cabbage or sauerkraut. Sautee cabbage or sauerkraut with onion in salad oil, then mix with bobalky.

NUT ROLLS

- 8 cups flour
- 2 cups milk (scalded)
- 4 egg yolks
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 large yeast or 3 envelopes dry yeast
- 1/2 pound butter
- 1/2 pound oleo or crisco
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla

Dissolve yeast in 1 cup lukewarm milk. Stir well. Add sugar, shortening and salt to rest of the milk and cool. Beat egg slightly and add to mixtures, then add the yeast mixture to the rest of the lukewarm mixture. Put half of the flour in a bowl and add the above mixture a little at a time. Mix well. Add remainder of flour to make soft dough using just enough flour to knead without sticking. Cover. Let rise double in bulk.

Keep in warm place. Takes about 2 hours to rise. Knead down a little to get out puffiness. Divide into 6 parts and let stand 10 minutes. Roll out and spread with nut mixture. Roll tightly and place on greased baking sheet and let rise about 1 hour and bake in 350 degrees over 35 to 40 minutes. Brush each roll with slightly beaten egg before baking. Brush with melted butter after baked.

NUT MIXTURE

- 4 pounds nuts (ground)
- 4 cups sugar
- 1 stick butter (melted)
- 1/4 cup milk (enough to moisten nut mixture)

PAGAČ

- 10 cups flour
- 2 yeast cakes (or 2 packages dry yeast)
- 2 sticks margarine
- 2 eggs beaten
- 2 tablespoons salt
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 1/2 cups milk (or more necessary)

Knead all together until well blended as for bread dough. Let rise double in bulk in warm place. Punch down, let rise once again. Turn

out on floured board, separate into 8 or 10 portions. Let rise until light. With rolling pin flatten enough to place about 1 cup of filling in center of each mound of dough. Bring dough up over mound and pinch together to shape a round ball. Let rest about 1/2 hour with filling then carefully roll out as thin as you want it. Place on cookie sheet. Bake until golden brown then butter on both sides. Rounds should be about 14 inches in diameter or as thin as you like them.

Filling: Fried cabbage or potato and cheese

TWO HOUR NUT AND POPPYSEED ROLLS

- 6 cups sifted flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 2 packages dry yeast
- 1/2 cup warm milk
- 1/4 pound butter
- 1/2 cup vegetable shortening
- 3 eggs beaten
- 1 cup sour cream

Dissolve yeast in warm milk. Sift together flour, salt and sugar. Add shortening and butter. Mix as for pie crust. Add beaten eggs and sour cream. Add yeast - blend well.

Divide dough in four parts. Let rise 30 minutes. Roll each part thin as for jelly roll. Spread with one of the following fillings. Roll and place on greased pan and allow to rise for one hour or until double in bulk. Bake 35 to 40 minutes at 350 degrees.

NUT FILLING

- 1/2 pound chopped nuts
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 cup scalded milk
- 1 teaspoon melted butter
- Melt butter. Add walnuts, sugar and vanilla.
- Add scalded milk. Mix well.

POPPYSEED FILLING

- 1/2 pound ground poppyseed
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup scalded milk
- 1 tablespoon melted butter
- Combine all ingredients, mix well.

CHRISTMAS BREAD

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 cups scalded milk
- 1 cup warm water (NOT HOT)
- 2 packages dry or compressed yeast
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 8 cups flour
- 1 cup seedless raisins

Put sugar, shortening, salt and scalded milk in a large bowl; stir until shortening melts. Cool to lukewarm. Pour warm water into small bowl; sprinkle or crumble in yeast, stir until dissolved. Add eggs and yeast to lukewarm milk mixture and blend. Add 2/3 of flour and beat until smooth. Gradually add remaining flour, mixing well after each addition. Add raisins and turn out on floured board and knead until smooth and elastic; place in greased bowl. Brush with melted shortening, cover, and let rise in warm place until it doubles (about 1 1/2 hours). Punch down divide into 3 equal portions. Shape

into 2 round loaves; let rise again until it doubles. Brush with beaten eggs. Bake in hot oven for 10 minutes at 450 degrees then turn to 350 degrees and continue baking for 45 minutes or until golden brown.

MUSHROOM CABBAGE

- 1 head cabbage (about 3 pounds)
- 1 large can sauerkraut
- 1 cup ground mushrooms (either canned, dry or frozen)
- 1 cup rice (uncooked)
- 2 tablespoons oleo
- 1 medium onion
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- For Sauce and Brown Gravy
- 1 tablespoon shortening
- 1 tablespoon flour

Cut core out of cabbage to loosen leaves. Place cabbage into boiling water for a few minutes. Remove leaves, cut away the thick rib from cabbage leaves. Fry the onions in the oleo until soft, add to mushrooms, rice. Season to taste. Place about 1 teaspoon in each cabbage leaf and roll. Drain sauerkraut, use about half the kraut in the bottom of the pot. Arrange rolls over the kraut, cover the remaining kraut. Fill pot with water, to top off the rolls. Cook slowly for about 2 hours.

Sauce: Brown flour in shortening. Add about a cup of water. Bring to boil, then pour over the cabbage rolls. Cook for just about 5 more minutes.

MUSHROOM SOUP (MAČANKA)

Wash dried mushrooms. Soak overnight. In morning cook mushrooms in the water. Add salt and pepper to taste. Cook slowly for 2 hours or more.

Zapaška (Soup thickening)

Brown 1 chopped onion in 2 tablespoons salad oil, add browned onion to mushroom soup. To remaining oil add 2 tablespoons flour slowly, brown and then add to mushroom soup to thicken. Cook for a few minutes and serve hot.

MUSHROOM SOUP

- 7 cups fresh mushrooms (chopped)
- 3 quarts water
- 1 quart sauerkraut juice
- Salt and pepper (to taste)
- 1 small onion
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons flour

Cook mushrooms in water about 1 hour. Brown butter onion; add flour and brown well. Add sauerkraut juice and boil this for 5 minutes. Add to soup and boil 1/2 hour longer.

CARAWAY SOUP

- 3 tablespoons oleo
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon caraway seeds
- 3 cups water
- 3 tablespoons flour

Melt shortening in heavy saucepan. Add chopped onion and cook over low heat until lightly golden. Add salt, flour and caraway seeds. Blend into 3 cups cold water and bring to boil, stirring constantly, until mixture is slightly thickened. Serve at once.

*May you have the gift of Faith,
the blessings of Hope,
and the peace of His Love
at Christmas and always*

**Merry Christmas, Veselé Vianoce
from all of us at the First Catholic Slovak Union**



Chewy's Reflections on Christmas

Hi, Kids (And All Those Young at Heart).

It's me. Your old pal Chewy. Well, here we are, heading fast toward another Christmas. Veselé Vianoce (Merry Christmas) to all of you, all of my dear friends around the FCSU, keeping our traditions alive with lots of Vilijas (Christmas Eve Dinners) at district and branch events as well as in your own homes. Ešte raz (once again) I say: you guys are the best.

Last year, I shared a little fun poem that was a Slovak version of 'Twas the night before Christmas. This time, I'm going more serious (kinda hard to do dressed in an elf suit. Yea, they stuffed me in this thing again for the holiday. It's all in good fun, though. Check out me and my buddy Lukaš on the front page)

Anyhoo, this year I got to thinking about Christmas on the farm where I was raised high up in the mountains of Slovakia. I remember fondly that at the Christmas Eve dinner just about everything grown at the farm was carefully laid on a table covered in a crisp white cloth. Then our master's wife would light the candles and the whole family would start singing Christmas carols. The master would say a prayer, break the oplatky and give everyone a piece of this blessed wafer drizzled in honey. He'd also make the sign of the cross on everyone's forehead. Then, with "let's eat," the family would dig in! The honey was there, like I said. It represented good health. Garlic, too, was on the table, to keep away sickness. Bobalky, those yummy dough balls rolled in poppy seed and sugar water, would go fast. Me and my littermates would stay as close as possible to the children's seats, hoping for even the tiniest seed to drop;-) Then came the sauerkraut soup and breaded fish. After the meal, the men gathered round for the plum brandy (Slivovica) brewed right on our property. Then we could always count on relatives and close friends to stop by before the family went down the mountain to celebrate Midnight Mass. Often, visitors would sing. I remember those dark, beautiful Christmas Eve nights filled with the sound of joyous Christmas carols.

I hope you and yours celebrate Christmas 2014 in the very best way, the way I remember back in my homeland of Slovakia – sharing our faith and the blessings of this joyous season with family and friends. I'll leave you part of a Christmas wish or vinše, typically of the carols sung by the shepherd who would call at our homestead and all the other farms in our rural village:



*"On this glorious feast of the birthday
of Christ our Lord,
I wish for you these things from God:
good health, happiness
and abundant blessings ..."*

See you in 2015!
Until then, keep your ears up and
your tail waggin'
Tvoj priateľ (your friend),



Chewy



ATTENTION
COLLEGE-BOUND FCSU MEMBERS

From the desk
of the Executive Secretary
Kenneth A. Arendt

THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
IS NOW ACCEPTING 2015 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Eighty (80) ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS will be awarded to the winners.

- 75 scholarships in the amount of \$1000.00.
- A "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of \$1,250.00 each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.
- Three Scholarships of \$1000.00 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 and completed insurance application, each recipient will be issued a paid up \$3,000 Single Premium Life Insurance Policy.

For rules, requirements and applications go to

www.fcsu.com/scholarships

or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

**Applications must be postmarked by midnight,
March 31, 2015**

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OHIO

Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 2014, beginning at 7:00PM at SS Cyril & Methodius Hall (Transfiguration Church), 12608 Madison Ave., Lakewood, OH. On the agenda: the election of officers, a year-end review, and a discussion of fraternal activities. All members are encouraged to attend.

Cynthia Niznik, Secretary

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 06K, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 28, 2014, at Chippers Grill, 1733 N. Bloomington St., Streator, IL. A meeting will begin at 12 noon and will be followed with a lunch and fraternalism. The agenda will include: the election of officers for 2015, a discussion of the 2015 schedule, and a membership drive. We urge all our members to attend and call 815-822-8851 or 815-672-1764 for insurance questions or problems.

Paul Chismar, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2014, at 9:00AM at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin Street, Houtzdale, PA. Election of officers will take place. All members are urged to attend.

Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 10 – OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, will hold its Annual Meeting, Audit and Election of Officers at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 7, at the Regal Room, 216 Lackawanna Ave., Olyphant, Pennsylvania.

William Nalevanko, Secretary

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The branch's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2014, at 9:30AM in St. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT. The election of officers will take place at this meeting and the distribution of our annual donations to our special charities.

We cordially invite our members to attend these meetings and enjoy seeing friends.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St. Andrew Society, will hold a branch meeting at 2:00 PM, Sunday, January 18, 2015 at the Old Town Hall, 6652 Brecksville Rd. (Rt. 21) in Independence, OH. Parking is available behind the gazebo on the town square. Refreshments will be served.

The agenda will include discussion of branch activities and a financial report.

Please phone activities director Susan Lang at 216/896-0957 evenings after 6:00 PM if you plan to attend. Thanks.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 35 – BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting of Branch 35 will be held on Saturday, December 20, 2014, at 1:00PM at the residence of Joseph Yuros, 1987 Centurion Drive, Pittsburgh, PA.

Agenda items will include convention reports from delegates, officers' reports, discussion of branch activities, general business and election of officers for the new year.

Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 38 – DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Branch 38 will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 2014, at the home of Financial Secretary Florence Matta, 3409 Einsenhower Drive, White Oak, PA, at

6:30PM.

The meeting will include officers' reports, discussion of branch business, and planning for 2015. Election of branch officers will be held. Please make every effort to attend.

Florence K. Matta, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 40 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch #40, of the First Catholic Slovak Union, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday January 25th at 1:00 P.M. at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington St. Streator, Illinois. All members are urged to attend the meeting. A buffet luncheon will follow. Election of officers will take place. Please make reservations by calling Maria Harcar at (815) 672-6682 before January 22, 2015.

Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 55 – BROOMALL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual Meeting of Branch 55 K.J. is scheduled to be held on Sunday, December 28, 2014 at 2:00 P.M. at the residence of the Secretary-Treasurer in the Dining Room at the Wesley Enhanced Living complex, 8401 Roosevelt Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA.

Elections will be held for Branch Officers and Delegates and their Alternates to the District 8 meetings. Regular business will also be conducted. Lunch will be served. Please bring non-perishable food for Aid for Friends in Need. All members are cordially invited to attend.

Lunch will be catered; therefore, we request that you RSVP by December 8th in order to make reservations at the Wesley.

For directions to the meeting, please call the President at (610) 356-7956 or Secretary at (215) 637-6530.

In the event of severe weather, or any other emergency, we will conduct a telephone conference meeting with those who cannot attend.

Fraternally yours,

Helena T. Gaydos, President

BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 75KJ will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 21, 2014, at 10:00AM. The meeting will be held at the home of the Financial Secretary, 8 South Shamokin St., Shamokin, PA, 17872. On the agenda: fiscal year end reports and financial statements will be presented. The auditor's report will be submitted. Nomination and election of officers for the coming year will take place. Any additional branch business will be entertained. All members are requested to attend this semi-annual meeting.

Fraternally,

Ronald M. Anderson, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 112 – MAHANOCY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting of St. John the Baptist, Branch 112, Mahanoy City, PA will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2014. The meeting will begin at noon at Palermo's Restaurant on the Pottsville-Minersville Highway. The agenda will include a report on the convention and election of officers. Please call Karen Sterling at 570-640-1796 for more information.

Karen Sterling, Secretary

BRANCH 157 – CATASAUQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Andrew, Branch 157, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 14 The meeting will begin at noon, and the agenda will include the election of officers. After the meeting, the branch will hold its annual Christmas party [please note the snow date for this meeting is Sunday, December 21, 2014; same time and place].

Branch 157 wishes everyone a Happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Gregory Harakal, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2014, at 9:00AM at Denny's Restaurant Conference Room, 653 W. Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

Branch activities will be discussed, officers' reports will be given, and donations to various organizations will be voted upon. Election of officers for the branch will take place. All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting and breakfast. Call for reservations by December 1, 2014, for directions if needed, for any address changes or questions to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 169P – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's Branch 169P will hold its yearly meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 2:00PM at the Slivosky residence: 1510 Emmett Drive, Johnstown, PA 15905. Lodge business will be discussed. All members are welcome.

Betty Slivosky, Secretary

BRANCH 173 – GREATER WILKES-BARRE-WYOMING VALLEY AREA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch Number 173, located in the greater Wilkes-Barre-Wyoming Valley Area, will hold its annual meeting on December 7, 2014 at Norms, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, beginning at 12:30 pm.

General Business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, and insurance, annuities and fraternal activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union. In addition officers will be elected for Branch 173.

Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy A. Ungvarsky at 570-403-2067, so arrangements can be made.

Fraternally,

John A. Ungvarsky, President

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

The next meeting of Branch 181 will take place on Dec 6, 2014, immediately following the 5PM Mass at St. Florian Church, 4261 Rt. 981, PO Box 187, United, PA. On the agenda: the election of officers.

Geraldine Kovacina, Secretary

BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 199 will hold their semi-annual meeting for the election of officers on Sunday, December 7th at 1:00 PM at Jioio's Restaurant, Route 981, Latrobe, PA 15650. We encourage you to attend.

Barb Patula, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 will hold its annual Election of Officers at our regular meeting on December 4, 2014, following our 7:00pm Board of Directors meeting upstairs in the Social Hall @ 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA.

We encourage ALL members to attend and get involved with. We are looking forward to seeing you there. There are open positions on the Board if anyone is interested in more details, please call Vicki Schaub @ 724-763-9229.

Fraternally,

Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 213 – VALENCIA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael Branch 213 will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2014. It will be held at 2603 Eloquent Lane, Valencia, PA, at 1:00PM. Election of officers will be held at this meeting. All members are asked to attend ... Wishing everyone a joyful and blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Joe Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 of the First Catholic Slovak Union holds meetings at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH, 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 15, 2014. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. We have two vacant (2) lodge offices (Vice-President and Auditor) we would like to fill as current officers are doing double duties. 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. 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. They are fun, informative and help to promote fraternal camaradery.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold an annual meeting at the Bedford Trails Golf Course in Coitsville, OH, on Sunday, December 14, 2014, at 1:00PM. We will have an election of officers, followed by a discussion of plans for the coming year. All members are invited to attend.

We wish all our members a Holy and Happy Holiday Season.

Vivian Sedlako, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO

Branch 260 will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 21, 2014, at 1:30PM at the Bedford Trails Golf Course Restaurant, Coitsville, OH. On the agenda: election of branch officers.

Fraternally,

Paul Ritz, President

BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

A meeting of the St. John Society, Branch 290, will be held on December 4, 2014, at 6:30PM. Please call Joe for the location of the meeting.

Fraternally,

Joseph Minarovich, President

BRANCH 292 – WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, FCSU, Branch 292, will hold their Annual Meeting and Christmas Party on Sunday, December 14, 2014 at 12:30 p.m. at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, PA. The meeting will be held first, followed by the Christmas Party. All members are asked to attend.

We wish all members a Blessed and Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Edward T. Surkosky, F.I.C., President

BRANCH 293 – LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph's Society, Branch 293KJ, will hold its annual meeting on Monday, December 8, 2014, at the home of the financial secretary Robert J. Lakata, 527 E. Bertsch St., Lansford, PA 18232, at 6PM. Anyone needing service or more insurance should call 570-645-4872, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 312 – BAGGALEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 312 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2015, at 1:00PM at the home of President Mark Smolleck, 1121 Monastery Drive,

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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Latrobe, PA, 15650. On the agenda: election of officers.

Branch 312 wishes all FCSU members a very blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Fraternally,

Micki Smolleck, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 313 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Branch 313 will hold its meeting on Saturday, December 6, 2014, at 11:30AM at the home of Curtis Johnson, 16913 Creekside Ave., Tinley Park, IL, 60477. Elections of officers will take place. We also will have a discussion on how to increase membership enrollment. We still have members with unknown addresses. Please call our Branch Secretary Curtis Johnson at (708) 429-6496 or President Joseph Bugel at (708) 349-7873.

Thank you kindly,

Joseph M. Bugel, President

BRANCH 320 – STOCKDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2014, at 1:00PM, at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. Since lunch will be prepared, please call Fran at (724) 929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending. On the agenda will be the election of officers, along with other business. Members are urged to attend.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 372, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 28, 2014, at 2:00PM. The meeting will be held at the home of President Michael P. Hudak, Sr., 829 Cameron Avenue, Beaverdale, PA. The agenda for the meeting will include a review of financial reports and election of officers for the year 2015.

Respectfully,

Michael P. Hudak, Sr., President

BRANCH 401 - EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

The 2014 annual meeting of Branch 401k, St. Anthony of Padua, will be held at 1223 Wysocki Ave, North Apollo, PA, on Sunday, December 28, 2014, at 11:00AM. The agenda will consist of branch reorganization and nomination of officers. Recent 2014 graduates of high school or college are urged to contact Patrick Froncek, PO Box 178, N. Apollo, Pa. 15673 (ph # 724-664-8216) for financial rewards. Look forward to seeing you at the scheduled meeting.

Fraternally, **Patrick Froncek,
Secretary/Treasurer**

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Members of Branch 410 will meet at the Bob Evans in Uniontown at 1:00pm on December 4, 2014. Elections of officers for 2015 will be on the agenda. Members are encouraged to attend.

**Geri Buchheit, Recording & Financial
Secretary**

BRANCH 419 - WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Stephen the Martyr will hold an annual meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2014. Discussions will be held on plans for next year, as we will also hold election of officers. The meeting will be at 1:00PM at Norm's Restaurant, Sherman St., Wilkes-Barre, PA. Refreshments will be served.

Frank Wassil, President

P.S. - Bring a potential member!

BRANCH 425 – BARBERTON, OHIO

St. Mark's Society, Branch 425, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2014, at 1:00PM at the Slovak Society of Barberton, 887 West Tuscarawas, Barberton, OH 44203. Election of officers will take place. All members welcome.

Jeanette M. Willis, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 450 will be holding a meeting on Saturday December 6, 2014 at noon at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma Ohio 44129.

A Christmas party for children will be held at 1 pm following the meeting. Those planning to attend are asked to contact George Carny at 440-885-5702 so that we can have an accurate count to provide gifts for the children attending.

Lori Valencik, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 484 - CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 484 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2014, at the home of the Treasurer Rose Ann Rura, 819 Power Plant Road, Coral, PA, 15731. On the agenda: discussion of our past national convention and future branch activities.

All members are encouraged to attend.

Fraternally,

Joseph Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 493 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The officers of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch # 493 in Chicago, wish all of our members a Vesele Vianoce (Merry Christmas) and Stastlivy Novy Rok (Prosperous New Year)! We will send a McDonald's gift card to all of our junior members for Christmas.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 581 – GARY/WHITING, INDIANA

The St. Michael Archangel, Branch 581 of Gary/Whiting will hold its regular meeting Sunday, December 7, at 1 pm at the River Pointe Country Club, 6700 Country Club Rd., Hobart, IN. The agenda will include Election of Officers and discussion on the children's insurance. RSVP Ann Buczek, 947-2793 or George Kelchak, 926-2410.

Ann Buczek, President

BRANCH 628 - MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel will be held on Saturday, December 20, 2014, at 3:00 PM at the Penn Hebron Garden Club, 237 Jefferson Road, Penn Hills, PA (Phone: 412-241-9779).

The agenda will include the election of new officers for 2015 and a summary of events and issues during 2014, including a recap of the convention.

Sincerely,

Sylvia J. Vehec

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Branch 682 will have a meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2014, at 1:30PM, at MRL Research Center located at 290 North Bridge Street, Struthers, OH, 44471. Also, we will have our annual Christmas Party and election of officers. All members are welcome.

Andrew J. Hirt, President

BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

Branch 721 will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2014, at 2:00PM. It will be held at the home of our financial secretary, Julius Remenar, at 8977 South Mason Road, Bannister, MI. Election of officers will be held.

All members are urged to attend.

Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members of Saint Joseph Branch 731 will remember our deceased members at 11:00 am Mass on December 21, 2014 at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Following the Mass, we will have our annual meeting to elect branch officers for 2015. Please try to participate.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 7,

2014, at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be Officer's Report, a 2014 financial report, approval of the 2015 budget, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. A report will also be made regarding the Convention held in Philadelphia. The election of branch officers will also take place.

Members are urged to attend the celebration of the Slovak Mass before the meeting at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

The annual meeting will follow mass in the Church Social Hall.

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DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 3-GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT-WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District will hold its annual Stedry Vecer on Sunday, December 7, 2014, at the Bishop Connare Center, Route 30 East, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The evening will begin with Mass at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Our festive traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner will follow in the dining room. After the awarding of door prizes, the Pittsburgh Slovaks will entertain. Please plan to attend and preserve this beautiful custom. Tickets this year are: \$22 for ages 12 to adult; and \$10 for ages 3 to 11. Reserve your tickets prior to November 30 by calling Darlene at 724-537-7743 after 6 p.m. No reservations will be accepted after November 30 or by the Bishop Connare Center.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 276 will host the annual Fall/Winter meeting of the Pittsburgh District on Sunday, December 14, 2014, from 5:30 to 7:30, at Holy Trinity Parish, 529 Grant Street Extension, West Mifflin, PA 15122. The meeting will begin with dinner; the business meeting will follow. Reservations are a must. Please RSVP to manasta@verizon.net or leave a message at 412-672-0379. The meeting will include officers' reports, discussion of district business, and planning for events in 2015. District Officers for 2015 will be elected at this meeting. We will review highlights of decisions made at the 50th convention. We will also enjoy a Christmas presentation by the Pittsburgh Slovaks.

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. Topics are: January 5: Wood Carvings, February 2: Researching and Publishing Slovak Family History, March 2: Slovak Easter Customs. Why not join WPSCA and get their newsletter which details their many events.

** Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in the fall & spring. Call Joe Senko at 412-956-6000 during office hours for information about reservations and fees.

** The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is open Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations. See also nsslife.org/museum.

** Various Slovak programs and courses (including programs for study abroad) are available through the University of Pittsburgh Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. See www.slavic.pitt.edu or www.pitt.edu/~votruba for the latest information.

** Information about the First Catholic Slovak Union, its products and events is available at www.fcsu.com.

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

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 – REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

District 14 will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 2014, at 6:30PM at the Fireside Restaurant & Lounge in Poland, OH. The restaurant is located at the corners of Western Reserve and Five Points (street address: 2075 E Western Reserve Rd, Youngstown, OH 44514). The district will celebrate the Christmas season at the restaurant; the cost is \$21 per person. Call Nancy Scavina for reservations by December 12, 2014, at 330-758-4536. The meeting will follow the holiday dinner, which will include the election of officers for the district.

Fraternally,

Carla Peshek, President

DISTRICT 15 - PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT

The Prince Pribina District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday December 21, 2014. The celebration begins at 11:00 AM with a Slovak Holy Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, 710 Sultana Ave, Ontario, CA, where Fr. Pavol Sochulak, SVD, serves as pastor. We will follow with the Slovak tradition of St. Nicholas presenting Christmas gifts to children. Also a gourmet lunch & dessert will be served.

The meeting will be held at 1:30 PM in the cafeteria. On the agenda will be: Reports on the national convention, election of officers for the coming year, and a financial report. All Branches in our area are encouraged to participate and have their concurrent Annual Meeting.

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

Paul Skuben, President

DISTRICT 19 - MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

The Annual General Meeting of the Monsignor Michael Shuba District will be held on Sunday, January 11, 2015, at 1:30PM. Location: Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Dr., Mississauga, Ontario. Lunch will be included.

Fraternally,

Anne Mitro, Secretary



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
002K	William R Stanko Sr	181K	Marlene H Lentz	326K	Frances J Carpency	581K	George P Kochis
007K	Dorothy F Tokarcik	181K	William M Tometsko	333K	Msgr John J Lucas	682K	Frank J Gustinella
016P	Richard J Polinsky	200K	Dorothy Ann Falsetti	367K	Paul B Baranek	682K	Florence M Shilling
023K	John Burgo Jr	200K	Louis A Gispanski	401K	Dorothy V Matonak	682K	Dan J Vlad
023K	Anna C Burke	200K	Jacqueline Shavensky	419K	Joseph E Hovancak	729K	Frank J Pagac
024K	Alan J Benesh	240P	Rev Sebastian Kolinovsky	419K	Pauline B Hovancak	731K	Dorothy I Strawn
024K	Margaret M Harcar	240P	Audrey M Laputka	430K	Anthony S Gardus	746K	Gordon B Tylka
024K	Paul J Zurovchak	240P	John Francis Orsich	456K	Marcella M Kopchik	777K	Nicholas D Kosko
038K	Anna Krohmaly	254K	Deanna C Giessuebel	484K	Monica R Murray	831K	Agnes W Harvey
055K	John F Suder	259K	Donna Jean Howell	484K	Francis J Sable Sr	855K	Margaret Agnes Wincek
075K	Stephen P Bednar	280K	Gloria M Orris	487K	Dorothy M Homol	900K	Joseph S Cebuhar
086K	John T Sofranko	299K	Agnes J Cingle	493K	Amelia Rogalin	900K	Stephen J Majerik
152K	Delphine Lazur	308K	Joseph R Kachurek	505K	Daniel J Kelemen	915K	Estelle Goldstein
153K	Patricia A Bade	312K	Jay E Miscovich	543K	Lawrence Dvorak		
169P	Helen M Malinovsky	312K	Adelaide Marie Semanchek	567K	Bernadine A Gerhard		
173K	Anna R Chervenitski	322K	Joseph Godek	567K	Joseph A Hafner		

*Processed through the month of November 2014

OBITUARIES

ANDREW G. BURY - BRANCH 320 - STOCKDALE, PENNSYLVANIA



Andrew G. Bury, 86, of Roscoe, PA, died Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014, at UPMC Presby. Born April 8, 1928, in Roscoe a son of Joseph G. and Anna Rathway Bury. Mr. Bury was employed as a combustion engineer at Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel's Allenport plant. In 1950, at the age of 22, he was elected recording-secretary of the United Steel Workers of America Local Union 3496 at Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel's Allenport and Monessen plants and served in that capacity until 1960 when he was elected president of USWA Local Union 3496. In 1968 he resigned to accept a position of staff representative of USWA District 15 where he served until he retired in 2004. He has served as campaign chairman, president and a member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of the Mon Valley and, since its inception, has participated in activities which raised money for charitable activities in the Mon Valley area. In addition, he has served on the Board of Trustees of the Community Services of Pennsylvania, vice president of the Mon Valley Health and Welfare Council Inc. and a member of the Advisory Board of Penn State Fayette Campus. At the time of his death, Mr. Bury was a member of the

Board of Directors of the Mon-Vale Health Resources Inc. Mr. Bury was a member of St. Sebastian Roman Catholic Church, Belle Vernon. Surviving are his wife, Jeannette Wojnar Bury; three sons and daughters-in-law, Andrew G. and Marla Bury Jr. of Saluda, Va., Joseph G. and Carla Bury of Fredericksburg, VA, and Bernard A. and Pamela Bury of New Albany, OH; one daughter and son-in-law, Diana B. and John Zaldonis of Murrysville, PA; 13 grandchildren, Andrew "Drew" G. Bury III and wife, Verena, David A. Bury, Susan B. Bulovas and husband, Mark, Katherine A. Wood, Joseph Bury, Gabriela Bury, B. Anthony Bury Jr., Jordan A. Bury, Devin N. Bury, Camryn M. Bury, Jared A. Zaldonis, Jenna M. Zaldonis and Joshua A. Zaldonis; and two great-grandchildren, Kiley and Vincent. Mr. Bury was preceded in death by two brothers, Joseph and John Bury; and eight sisters, Mary Litavec, Anna Palsa, Margaret Podanie, Sue Lenko, Teresa Morgo, Verna Letavec, Agnes Tiech and Helen Safin. Visitation was held on Sunday, Nov. 9, 2014, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. in the Meleneyzer Funeral Homes And Cremation Services Inc., Roscoe. A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated on Monday, Nov. 10, 2014, at 10 a.m. at St. Sebastian Roman Catholic Church, Belle Vernon, with Msgr. Roger A. Statnick and Rev. Edward Litavec officiating. Entombment followed at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Carroll Township, PA.

- Submitted by Niece Frances Tarquinio, Secretary of Monsignor Andre Hlinka District 12

THEODORE STAWOVY BRANCH 320 - STOCKDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

Theodore "Ted" Stawovy, 87, of Rostraver Township, PA, died Monday, Aug. 18, 2014. Ted passed away on the 18th hole of his beloved Cedarbrook Golf Course, surrounded by his longtime golf league friends. He was born in South Huntingdon Township, Sept. 22, 1926, a son of the late Valentine and Johanna (Paleczna) Stawovy. Ted grew up on his parents' farm, Valentine's Dairy, and delivered milk in the Pittsburgh area for 40 years. In 1959, he and his brother, Ben, purchased the Willowbrook Golf Course. Then in 1960, they purchased the McClain farm and built the original 18-hole Cedarbrook Golf Course. In 1987, they expanded the course to 36 holes and added a restaurant, The Clubhouse Grille. Ted was a member of the National Golf Course Owners Association and the Greater Pittsburgh Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He also operated the Willowbrook Ski Area and was a member of the National Ski Area Association of America and served on the National Ski Patrol for 25 years. Ted was a member of the Church of St. Anne, where he was actively involved in the Holy Name Society, was a Eucharistic minister, lector and choir member. He was also an honorary member of the Belle Vernon Knights of Columbus, the Smithton American Legion Post 790, and served in the Army during World War II in the Philippines. Ted is survived by his wife of 62 years, Frances V. (Stofan) Stawovy; six children, Patricia A. (Delvin) Miller, of Sewickley, Timothy J. Stawovy, of Greensburg, John V. (Monica) Stawovy, of Rostraver Township, Mary A. (Mark) Seamans, of Greensburg, Michael T. (Becky) Stawovy, of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and Susan A. (David) Preaus, of Silverthorne, Colo.; 20 grandchildren, Jonathan, David, Katherine and Sarah Miller; Luke, Nicole and Bria Stawovy; Brittany, Olivia, Alayna and J.T. Stawovy; Christopher, Daniel and Becky Seamans; Stosh, Samuel and Stella Stawovy; Theodore, Noah and Hamilton Preaus; and a brother, John (Amelia) Stawovy, of Smithton. In addition to his parents, Ted was preceded in death by two brothers, Joseph and Ben; a sister, Rose;

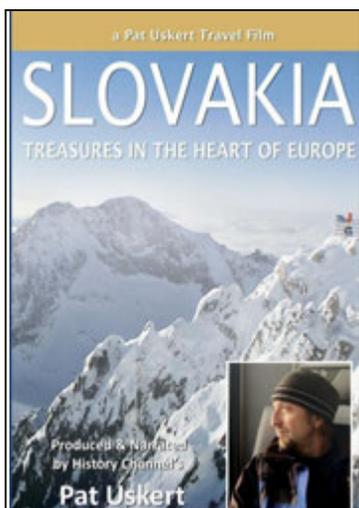
and his daughter-in-law, Cheryl K. Stawovy. Friends were received from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, September 24, 2014, and from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, September 25, 2014, in the James C. Stump Funeral Home Inc., Belle Vernon/Rostraver Township, where a blessing service was held at 9:30 a.m. Friday, September 26, 2014, followed by a funeral Mass at 10 a.m. in the Church of St. Anne with the Rev. Vincent J. Gigliotti as celebrant. Interment followed in West Newton Cemetery.

JOHN P. CIMBALA BRANCH 580 - WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA



John P. Cimbala, age 88 of North Huntingdon, PA, passed away October 17, 2014 at his home. He was born June 8, 1926 in Duquesne, PA, a son of the late Joseph and Helen Lubick Cimbala Petras. John was a member of St. Agnes Church, North Huntingdon. Prior to his retirement, he was employed as a truck driver by Chemical Tank Lines and also by B&O Railroad. John was an all around handy man who also enjoyed playing the guitar and mandolin. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother Joe Cimbala, two sisters, Mary Kovacs and Ann Halter. He is survived by his beloved wife Julia Julock Cimbala, two sons, John and his wife Suzie, Matthew and his wife Roxanne, three daughters, Julie Boyette and her husband Joe, Helen Dickey and her husband Tom, Lisa Hill and her husband Alan, sister in law, Ann Cimbala, 9 grandchildren, Nathan, Ruth, Andy, Michael, Luke, Brian, Dylan, Chelsea, Esther. Friends were received at the James W. Shirley Funeral Home, North Huntingdon on Monday, October 20, 2014, 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. A funeral Mass was held Tuesday, October 21, 2014, at 10 a.m. at St. Agnes Church followed by interment at St. Joseph Cemetery.

- Submitted by Virginia Jasek, Branch 580 Secretary



A Great Christmas Stocking Stuffer

The DVD "Slovakia: Treasures in the Heart of Europe" is now available on Amazon.com.

From History Channel producer and Slovak-American Pat Uskert, this is a visually sumptuous journey into the Slovak Republic - from Bratislava to the High Tatras - and filmed in all four seasons. To order, go to: www.amazon.com and type in Slovakia DVD in the search bar. Or, to view a trailer, go to YouTube and type in Slovakia: Journey into Undiscovered Europe.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 15

Please come and enjoy our annual Christmas meeting with your fellow branch members.

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

Joseph C. Rimarcik, President and Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, January 11, 2015 at 12:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The agenda will include election of officers for 2015, as well as discussion of charitable donations, and plans for upcoming activities. A New Year's holiday lunch will follow the meeting. Please call Mary Karch @732-572-2331 if you plan on attending.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764 will hold our next meeting on January 6, 2015 at 11:00AM at the Perkins Restaurant, 3870 Elm Rd NE, Warren, OH.

This meeting will be for the nomination and election of officers for 2015 and plans for upcoming events.

All members are encouraged to attend.

Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 780 – SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

The Saints Peter & Paul Society, Branch 780, will have their Annual Meeting on Wednesday December 10, 2014 at 7:00pm. Included will be our election of officers for 2015. Any questions or concerns, please call Cathy Karlsen at 989-280-4916.

We wish all our members a Happy Thanksgiving, a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

Fraternally,

Catherine Karlsen, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

Branch 785 will hold its Annual General Meeting on Sunday January 11, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Dr, Mississauga, Ontario. All members are encouraged to attend.

Best Regards,

Sharon Tomas, Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Branch 844 will hold its annual Christmas Mass and meeting on Sunday, December 21, 2014, at 11AM at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, S. Stultana Ave, Ontario, CA, 91761. A Slovak lunch will be served after Mass, and gifts will be presented to the children in attendance. Following the festivities, Branch 844 will hold a meeting for its members to review officers' reports and discuss branch activities. An election of new officers will be held at this meeting.

Come join us in celebrating the Slovak spirit of Christmas.

We hope to see you all there, and we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a special New Year.

Milan Konkol, Secretary

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853 will hold its annual Spaghetti dinner Christmas party on Sunday December 7, 2014 at Rego's Restaurant in Charleroi, PA at 1:00 pm. Due to seating, reservations are required.

To make your reservation please call 412-341-1577 and leave your name, phone number and number of adults and children attending. Non-branch members will be charged \$20 per person which will be payable at that time.

After the luncheon, the branch meeting will be held.

Branch 853 wishes all a blessed Christmas season.

Monica Rodacy Boone, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA will be held on Wednesday December 10, 2014. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, PA.

The officers of Branch 857 wishes all members of the FCSU a safe and Blessed Christmas Season and a Happy New Year.

Fraternally,

Damian D Nasta, Recording Secretary



Jednota Memorial Tiles Make Great Christmas Gifts!

Christmas is a wonderful time to consider participating in the Jednota Memorial project currently underway on our Jednota Estates property in Middletown, PA. Tiles are available for purchase to commemorate loved ones in your branch, district, or family. For more information on purchasing a tile, go to our website at www.fcsu.com or call the Home Office at 1-800- for more photos of the latest photos of the Jednota Memorial construction, find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FirstCatholicSlovakUnion.



IN LOVING MEMORY
OF MY GRANDMOTHER
THERESA KOVAL

Example of a personal memorial tile

Scenes from Annual Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar

The annual Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar took place on September 21, 2014 at the Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting, IN. The Rev. Msgr. Joseph Semancik, PhD., former head of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Gary, Indiana, spoke about the many challenges Bishop Andrew G. Grutka faced as he created the new Diocese of Gary in 1956, and co-founded the Slovak Institute of S.S. Cyril & Methodius for Slovak seminarians in Rome. Attendees first enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by Steve's of Hegwisch. Msgr. Semancik lectured afterwards. After the speaker, attendees toured the Bishop Grutka Museum housed at Calumet College. Msgr. Semancik is a life-long member of the FCSU. His father served as a National FCSU Auditor many moons ago. Three FCSU members serve on the Board of Directors of the Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar: Dorothy Jurcenko, John Jurcenko, and Robert Tapak Magruder.

Robert Tapak Magruder
Pastoral Seminar Publicist
Branch 493 Financial Secretary

Lúčina Hosts Successful Slovak Folklore Event in Greater Cleveland

On Saturday, November 8, 2014, the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland held a Slovak Gala "An Evening in the Heart of Europe." The sold-out event was held at the Holy Spirit Party Center in Parma, OH. Doors opened at 6:00PM, followed by a three-course dinner and an entertainment program that featured the Lúčina Slovak Folk Ensemble, the group's children's ensemble, Lučinka, and special guest artists Veselica Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Chicago. After the program, raffle winners were announced for the many gift baskets, along with a lottery/money tree, and a 50/50 raffle. Music for dancing and listening pleasure was provided throughout the evening by the live band from Veselica, as well as DJ Denis Rozmus.



Tom Ivanec, Lúčina Director and Branch 24 Member, thanked the crowd for supporting the continuation of Slovak heritage through dance, particularly noting the excellent response from the Slovak fraternal. The FCSU Home Office and virtually all of its area-wide organizations attended and/or contributed to the success of the evening, including: Branch 1, Branch 24, Branch 228, Branch 450, Branch 553, Branch 855, and District 10.

Tom Ivanec, Lúčina Director and Branch 24 Member, greets and seats guests at the November Slovak Gala "An Evening in the Heart of Europe."



Veselica Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Chicago entertained gala attendees with their repertoire of traditional folk dances from Slovakia.



Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland performed a couples' dance from Eastern Slovakia before the sold-out crowd.

The youngest dancers of the night, the Lučinka Children's Folklore Ensemble, took the stage for the Train Dance.



For more photos, of the Lúčina Gala find us on

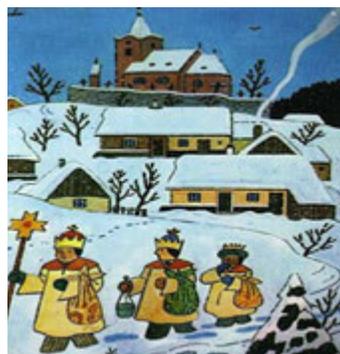


Visit www.facebook.com/FirstCatholicSlovakUnion

Prince of Peace Parish

Presents

21ST ANNUAL SLOVAK VILIJKA & JASLICKARI PROGRAM



5 p.m. Saturday
December 13,
2014

Traditional Meatless
Christmas Eve Dinner

Entertainment by

The Pittsburgh Slovakians

Performing songs and dances depicting the winter traditions practiced in the Slovakia of our ancestors.

Donation: \$24 Adults
\$12 Children (ages 3-12)
Group Discount Available

By Reservation Only: 412-481-8380
Prince of Peace Parish Center
81 So. 13th Street, South Side, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Handicap Accessible / Only 150 tickets will be sold

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

The 2014 CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International Symposium in St. Paul

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

On Friday and Saturday, October 24-25, 2014, the CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) hosted Symposium in St. Paul, Minnesota. The CGSI promotes family research and cultural/historical information about the lands and nationalities of the former Czechoslovakia. These include peoples with the following backgrounds: Bohemian (Czech), Carpathian German (from Slovakia), German-Bohemian (Böhmisch), Hungarian (Magyar), Jewish, Moravian, Ruthenian (Rusyn), Silesian, and Slovak.

Friday, October 24

The CSGI symposium commenced with the opportunity to take a tour of several St. Paul neighbor-



Some of the attendees at this year's CGSI Symposium included: (L - R) Dr. Michael Kopanic, John Sabol, Helen Duchon, and Clyde Duchon

ASCA Vilija Dinner in Youngstown



The American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley will once again be hosting their annual traditional Vilija Dinner. This year it will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2014 at 4pm at the Father Snock Center at Our Lady Of Sorrows Parish (former St. Matthias School) 2800 Shady Run Road, Youngstown, OH. One of our most beloved Slovak traditions, Štedrý Večer, or Vilija...the traditional Christmas Eve dinner is a special meal the family shares before going to celebrate midnight Mass. This dinner is filled with tradition and memories of our Slovak heritage. In eastern Slovakia it is a meatless meal but by no means a meager one. We will have the traditional Slovak Christmas Eve meal featuring oplatky and honey, fish, pirohy, bobalky, mushroom soup and kolačky. There will be musical entertainment and much more including a Chinese Auction and a lotto tree raffle. We'll even

have oplatky for sale! We will also be presenting the winner of our annual ASCA scholarship at this dinner and letting you know about some exciting projects coming up in our Slovak community. While some of us still celebrate this traditional Christmas Eve dinner at home, many no longer have that opportunity and this annual dinner is our way of keeping our tradition alive. Whether you still have this dinner at home or you remember it from your childhood and would like to experience it again...or if you've never had the opportunity to experience it but would like to...come join us in celebrating our Slovak heritage. Get your tickets soon for the best seating. **NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.** For ticket price and information contact:

Ron Garchar at 330-533-7077 or Loretta Ekoniak at 330-549-3760 or e-mail Loretta at: loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com. The deadline to purchase tickets is December 8th.

- Submitted by Loretta Ekoniak

hoods where Czech, Bohemian German, and Slovak immigrants had settled. After some coffee and koláče (pastries), attendees listened to an introduction to the ethnic neighborhoods by local architectural historian Jim Sazevich. All could also soak in the atmosphere of the historic hall built in 1887 and visit a wonderful museum upstairs, which featured many historical artifacts, including organizational material and a bust of the Slovak General Milan R. Štefánik.

That evening, all enjoyed a traditional Czech dinner complete with knedličky (dumplings) at the C.S.P.S Sokol Hall. Following dinner, the Sokol St. Paul Czech and Slovak folk dancers performed traditional Slovak and Czech folk dances in their colorful kroje (folk dress).

Saturday October 25

The CGSI Symposium presentations took place the next day at the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library in St. Paul. The talks offered both in person and online included the following presentations, many by FCSU members:

- Gaining Historical Context for your Ancestors, by John Sabol. - This talk showed "how to reconstruct the environment in which they lived, the social network through which they moved and even some of the little known events of their lives."
- Time Bridge: Rusyns and Slovaks in 20th century, by Michal Razuš from Prešov, Slovakia. - This lecture broadcast from Slovakia featured a presentation of images on the "culture, lifestyle and work depicted in photography, theater and architecture."
- Our Ancestors before and during World War I, by Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB, of the Slovak Benedictines in Cleveland. - This live broadcast described the "living conditions for our ancestors during the years leading up to World War I. Fr. Brunovsky also highlighted the history of the Slovak struggle for independence and the "role played by Czechs and Slovaks in America paving the way for the eventual establishment of Czechoslovakia."
- Interpreting Slovak Birth, Marriage, Death and Census Records, by John Sabol. - This talk offered some great tips for finding ancestors by researching Slovak vital records from the 19th Century and beyond. Some useful website also proved very helpful.
- A Time of Passage: History of the Czechs and Slovaks, 1781 – 1918, by Steve Potach. - The lecture surveyed "a period of dramatic transformation of the Czech and Slovak homelands, an era that formed the historical backdrop for our ancestors' emigration to America. Potach demonstrated how understanding history can enhance our genealogical research, and can "bring our ancestors back to life."
- How to Overcome Brick Walls in Slovak Research, by Lisa Alzo. - Broadcast over the web, this talk attempted to offer suggestions to research our ancestors. "Sorting out surnames, trying to identify ancestral hometowns, and deciphering old country records to connect families are just a few of the obstacles we often encounter along the way." Using "sample case studies, this webinar demonstrated some "lesser-utilized research tactics, and discuss repositories and key resources used to locate information about Slovak ancestors."

Conclusion & More Information

The CGSI Symposium provided a useful forum to meet people and learn more about how to enhance our search for our family roots and our people's histories.

The CSGI will host its next conference in late October 2015, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, which is also home to the Czech and Slovak Museum in the USA. Besides the personal joy of finding out more about who we are, there are added benefits to attending a CSGI conference that are hard to put a price tag on.

Joining the CGSI offers members a useful and informative way to make a roadmap of our family's past and learn more about our people both in Slovakia and abroad. Joining now is a good idea, before membership rates rise in the new year. Memberships also make a great Christmas gift for someone in the family, and the society publishes a very high quality and readable quarterly, Naše Rodine (Our Family). The availability of webcasts for members enables even those who cannot attend events to learn valuable information in putting together the puzzle of one's family history. For further information, see the CGSI Genealogical Society website. It is well worth joining. See <http://www.cgisi.org/>.

Those interested in reading a good book about Slovak immigration to America may purchase a copy through CGSI. The translated book is entitled The History of Slovaks in America by Konštantín Čulen. Professor Michael J. Kopanic, Jr. and Steven G. Potach both edited the book, and the CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International published it in 2007. One may write the CGSI if interested in purchasing it, or visit the website on books available: <http://www.cgisi.org/store/item/40284>. The CGSI also offers many other useful historical and genealogical books for sale on its website.

One may also write to:

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International
P.O. Box 16225
St. Paul, Minnesota 55116-0225

Call (651) 964-2322 to record a question or to record a message.

E-mails

General questions: info@cgisi.org

Research: research@cgisi.org

Membership: membership@cgisi.org

Publications: publications@cgisi.org

Author's Note: In this season of giving, CGSI is featuring a sale on three books published by their society. Buy one of the books and you will receive a year's FREE CGSI membership (a value of \$25 or more). Give the book and/or the membership to a friend or family member or simply treat yourself. For more information, see emails above.

Carolyn Pfeifer (L), Chair of the Diocesan Committee for Catholic Girl Scouts and the Camp Fire Association in the Diocese of Harrisburg presents the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award to Sister Jeanne Ambre, SS.C.M.



Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award

Sister Jeanne Ambre, SS.C.M. was awarded the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award as part of a Girl Scout Workshop and Awards ceremony recently. The Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award recognizes the significant contributions of adults who serve Catholic youth through Girl Scouts and the Camp Fire Association. This award affirms the work of those who help youth develop their spiritual lives within the context of these organizations. It is intended to recognize notable contributions to this field of youth ministry.

This award is given under the auspices of the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry to acknowledge and celebrate outstanding contributions to the growth and development of young women in the Girl Scouts of America and the Camp Fire Association. This medal is not an award to be earned, but rather an honor one is nominated for by others. It is given to recognize those whose efforts have helped to promote the spiritual development of Catholic Girl Scouts.

Sister Jeanne Ambre, SS.C.M. serves as Spiritual Advisor to the Diocesan Committee for Catholic Girl Scouts and the Camp Fire Association in the Diocese of Harrisburg.



The Elizabeth Ann Seton Award

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2014 • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN:

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.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
George F. Matta, Treasurer
Karen Hunka, Chairman of Auditors (via telephone and by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the September 2014 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**INVESTMENT UPDATES:**

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), the Matlin Patterson Fund (MPAM), UBS Fund, and MAI Fund. Following the report, the Executive Secretary answered the Executive Committee's questions.

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.

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

Disbursements for the month of September 2014:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 227,778.75
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 31,363.54
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President presented a written detailed sales production report to the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee on 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 and now have 190 agents. Following the report, the Vice President answered the Executive Committee's questions.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

The President reviewed the extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report that was given that afternoon at the Board of Directors Meeting by Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc. Following the report, he answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The President led a discussion on our current annuity rates. It was decided to keep the rates the same and review them again at the November meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President gave a progress report on the Middletown Memorial Project and stated the contractor is on schedule. The President stated he will have pictures soon of the Memorial Project and the Executive Committee will be kept informed as the project progresses. The President announced there are still memorial granite bricks available on the walkway for members to purchase in memory of their loved ones. Forms to be completed will be available on our website, in our newspaper, or through the home office.

The President stated we are still in the planning stage for the 2015 special events including the 125th anniversary of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the 100th birthday of our founder, Stephen Furdek, and the 50th anniversary of our Sorrowful Mother Chapel at the National Shrine in Washington DC. Discussion has begun and plans are being made to celebrate

these important occasions and the Executive Committee will be kept informed.

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



For your information: About karička



Some readers of Jednota expressed interest in this photo of women dancing in a circle during one of the evening's festivities at the August FCSU national convention in Philadelphia.

The form of dancing they were doing is called karička (phonetically pronounced in English ca-reech-ka), which literally translates into "circle dance." It is a traditional dance where women dance in a connected circle, arms linked while vigorously spinning and creating various shapes and lines. While karička is well known throughout Slovakia, it is most associated with the eastern part of the country. It may or may not be accompanied by musicians. In the east – where it is said that girls used to dance karička during local village dances when the band took a break – singing songs exclusive to this dance is common.

30th Christmas Concert & Dinner December 14 in Yonkers, NY



Continuing in a time-honored and beloved tradition, Most Holy Trinity Parish in Yonkers, NY, will host its 30th annual Christmas concert and dinner on Sunday, December 14, 2014.

The concert, "Upon a Midnight Clear" which will feature traditional and seasonal works, is scheduled for 3 p.m. in the church located at 18 Trinity Plaza in the historic Hollow section of Yonkers where the parish was founded by Slovak immigrants 120 years ago. The concert will be under the direction of the Music Minister of the parish and our Jednota member of Branch 41, Stephen J. Knoblock. The voices of the choir, one of the finest in the Archdiocese of New York, will be accompanied by a 12-piece orchestra.

Following the concert, a buffet dinner will be served in the parish social hall. The dinner begins with the traditional sharing of the Oplatky - the Christmas wafers eaten with honey. The dinner's menu will feature an array of Slovak culinary specialties including klobasy and kapusta, pirohy, halusky as well as roast pork and chicken, followed by an assortment of pastries for dessert along with tea and coffee. Beer, wine and soda are included in the ticket price. The cost of the ticket which includes the concert and dinner is \$35.00 per person for adults and \$17.50 for children, ages 12 and younger. Cost of the concert alone is \$10.00. Advance reservations only. For reservations, call the rectory at tel. (914)963-0720. Tickets are also available following the weekend liturgies in church.

Father Susai Antony D, administrator of the parish, extends a cordial invitation to Jednota members both near and far to join the parish as it celebrates its 120th anniversary at this year's concert and dinner. An enjoyable evening is assured.

- Submitted by Dan Tanzone, Branch 41

Správy zo Slovenska

DOPRAVA: Lístky na vlaky zadarmo už využilo asi 20.000 ľudí

Bratislava 17. novembra (TASR) – Nulové lístky na vlaky už využilo dnes do 10.00 h približne 20.000 cestujúcich. Do systému sa pritom k dnešnému dňu zaregistrovalo takmer 200.000 potenciálnych cestujúcich zadarmo. Na dnešnom brífingu na Hlavnej stanici v Bratislave o tom informovali premiér Robert Fico spolu s ministrom dopravy Jánom Počiatkom (obaja Smer-SD).

„Prvou sekundou dnešného dňa začalo platiť opatrenie, na základe ktorého môžu študenti a dôchodcovia využívať vlaky druhej triedy zadarmo,“ vyhlásil premiér. Následne odškrtnol toto opatrenie z tabule plánovaných krokov vlády na najbližšie obdobie.

Minister Počiatek pripomenul, že cestovanie po predĺženom víkend je už štandardne záťažou pre vlakovú dopravu. „Dúfam, že sa to nebude vyhodnocovať tak, že dnes sú plnšie vlaky len kvôli tomu, že sa zaviedlo toto opatrenie,“ konštatoval. Štát podľa neho reálnu štatistiku o náraste počtu cestujúcich uvidí v najbližšom období. „Sme pripravení na ňu reagovať,“ zdôraznil minister.

Zároveň pripustil, že takýto krok môže priniesť určité komplikácie. „Preto aj prosím cestujúcich o strpenie,“ doplnil Počiatek. Momentálne však podľa šéfa rezortu dopravy platí odhad, že celkový počet cestujúcich v železničnej doprave stúpne o vyše 10 %. „To by ale v princípe nemalo mať zásadný vplyv na kvalitu cestovania, pretože dnes je priemerná obsadenosť vlakov 25 %,“ vyčíslil.

Zmyslom tohto opatrenia bolo preto podľa ministra aj dostať viac ľudí do vlakov. „Kapacity by mali byť dostačujúce, s výnimkou kritických a extrémnych dní, ako sú napríklad takéto predĺžené víkendy, keď dochádza v úvodzových dňoch k veľkému sťahovaniu národov,“ podotkol. A komplikácie pripustil aj nárastom na niektorých diaľkových linkách.

Vlaky zadarmo môžu od dnešného dňa využívať študenti do 26 rokov, seniori od 62 rokov a dôchodcovia, a to starobní dôchodcovia a poberatelia predčasných starobných dôchodkov, vdovských, sirotských a invalidných.

Pavol Paška odstupuje z funkcie predsedu NR SR

Košice 16. novembra (TASR) – Predseda Národnej rady SR Pavol Paška (Smer-SD) odstupuje z funkcie. Oznámil to dnes v Košiciach počas návštevy volebného štábu Richarda Rašiho.

„Som rád, že Košičania ukázali v referende, ktoré sme vyhrali, čo si myslia o ľuďoch, ktorí dávajú svojmu rodnému mestu, vždy aj na politickej úrovni, len to, čo dokážu,“ povedal Paška. Poďakoval sa za to, že Richard Raši a poslanci Smeru-SD budú ďalej rozvíjať mesto Košice.

„Záleží mi na tomto meste, záleží mi na Slovensku a už mám dosť. Preto je tu moja manželka. Nikto mi nebude rozracovať rodinu. Preto oznamujem, že napriek víťazstvu v referende odstupím z pozície predsedu Národnej rady, lebo chcem, aby Slovensko fungovalo ako normálna krajina, aby politiku nerobilo zopár anarchistov na uliciach,“ vyhlásil Paška.

Zároveň dodal, že všetky detaily oznámi na budúci týždeň. Pašku by na čele parlamentu údajne mohol nahradiť niekto z úzkeho vedenia Smeru-SD.

Paška oznámil odchod po viacerých protestoch, na ktorých ľudia žiadali jeho odchod z funkcie. Demonstrácie organizoval Alojz Hlina. Opozícia žiada Paškovu hlavu za to, že ho vidí za údajným tunelovaním slovenského zdravotníctva aj za podozrivým nákupom CT prístroja v piešťanskej nemocnici. Šéf parlamentu opozičné obvinenia odmieta, reagoval na ne trestnými oznámeniami. Prvý protest proti Paškovi Hlina zorganizoval pred Paškovým domom v Košiciach, kam prišli stovky ľudí, na Námestí SNP v Bratislave prišla viac ako tisícika. Hlina avizoval pokračovanie protestov, ak Paška neodstúpi.

Tradičné slovenské Vianoce

V minulosti patrili vianočné sviatky predovšetkým na dedinách k sviatočným príležitostiam, kedy sa ľudia v kolobehu práce na poli a v hospodárstve na chvíľu akoby zastavili a s radosťou i patričnou vážnosťou oslávili narodenie Spasiteľa. Tradičné Vianoce boli okrem modlitieb a osláv v kostole aj plné zvykov, magických predstáv a úkonov. Tie mali svoje korene ešte v predkresťanskom období našich dejín a postupne sa spolu s kresťanskou vierou modifikovali do podoby, ktorá prežívala celé stáročia.

Vianočné jedlá

Keďysi ľudia vážne zachovávali adventný čas, počas ktorého sa postili. Osobitne prísne sa pôst dodržiaval na Štedrý deň a aj samotná štedrovečerná hostina, ktorá mohla začať až po vyjdení prvej hviezdy na oblohe, bola u katolíkov, gréckokatolíkov i pravoslávnych kresťanov pôstna.

To znamená, že sa jedli len jedlá pripravené z rastlín alebo studenokrvné živočíchy, predovšetkým ryby. Na večeru sa zároveň pripravovali také jedlá, o ktorých boli ľudia presvedčení, že zabezpečia rodine aj do budúcnosti želanú prosperitu, bohatstvo, zdravie, šťastie. Mnohé z týchto jedál sa pripravujú v slovenských rodinách dodnes, bez toho, aby ľudia poznali ich pôvodnú symboliku. Bohatstvo mali privodiť jedlá pripravené zo šošovice, kapusty, maku. Obľúbenosť a lásku mala zabezpečiť zasa konzumácia medu a červeného jablčka. Ochrana pred chorobami sa pripisovala cesnaku a petržlenovej vňati. Magické pôsobenie vianočných jedál sa ešte umocňovalo počtom podávaných chodov na štedrú večeru, zvyčajne ich bolo 7 alebo 9, niekedy zasa mal mať ich počet párne číslo a jednotlivé chody mali záväznú poradie. Osobitný význam sa kládol na kvalitu chleba, ktorý sa piekol v tento deň. Podľa toho, ako sa gazdinej vydaril, respektíve nevydaril, predpovedal sa ďalší osud rodiny a hospodárstva. Do cesta vianočného chleba sa pridávali zrnká pestovaných obilnín, strukovín, ľanu, konope i rôzne zelinky, cesnakový strúčik a niekedy aj malá fľaštička s medom. Takýto obradový chlieb sa nejedol, ale nechával sa na stole celé vianočné sviatky, až do Troch kráľov, ako symbol úspešného hospodárstva. Potom sa dal buď zožrať hospodárskym zvieratám alebo sa odkladal a omrvinky z neho ľudia používali ako liečebný prostriedok. Okrem chleba, na tradičnom vianočnom stole zvyčajne ležala misa s ovocím: jablkami, vlašskými orechmi, lieskovými orieškami a sušenými slivkami, zapálená sviečka, niekedy zastoknutá v mištičke s naklíčeným zeleným obilím a fľaša s pálenkou alebo s vínom.

PhDr. Rastislava Stoličná, CSc.



VOLBY14: ÚVK oznámila oficiálne výsledky, nové voľby sa vyhlásia v 29 obciach

Bratislava 16. novembra (TASR) – K volebným urnám počas komunálnych volieb prišlo 48,34 percenta voličov. Vyplyva to z oficiálnych výsledkov komunálnych volieb, ktoré dnes zverejnila Ústredná volebná komisia (ÚVK). ÚVK taktiež informovala, že v 29 obciach budú vyhlásené nové voľby.

V rámci komunálnych volieb boli najúspešnejšími nezávislí kandidáti na starostov a primátorov, ktorých zvolili v 1104 obciach a mestách, čo predstavuje 37,95 percenta. Nasleduje strana Smer-SD, ktorej kandidáti uspeli v 847 obciach a mestách, čo je 29,11 percenta. Na treťom mieste skončilo KDĽ, ktoré získalo 122 postov (4,19 %) starostov a primátorov. Ďalej SMK 107 (3,67 %), Most-Híd 87 (2,99 %). Koalícia Smer-SD a KDĽ má 68 starostov a primátorov (2,33 %).

V zastupiteľstvách miest a obcí bude najviac poslancov nezávislých, a to 6000 (28,91 %). Nasledujú poslanci za Smer-SD, 5123 (24,68 %), KDĽ 2190 (10,55 %), SMK 1151 (5,54 %), SNS 841 (4,05 %), Most-Híd 829 (3,99 %).

SOCIÁLNE: Do roku 2030 bude na Slovensku klesať počet rodín s deťmi

Bratislava 13. novembra (TASR) – Do roku 2030 bude klesať počet viacčlenných rodín a naopak budú pribúdať bezdetné rodiny, dvojčlenné a jednočlenné domácnosti. Také sú výsledky Prognózy vývoja rodín a domácností na roky 2014-2030, ktorú zostavili Výskumné demografické centrum INFOSAT, Prírodovedecká fakulta UK v Bratislave a Prognostický ústav SAV.

Cieľom prognózy bola analýza rodinného správania, charakteru domácností a ich zmien v ich štruktúre. Ide zároveň o prvú prognózu, ktorá bola spracovaná nielen na celoslovenskej, ale aj okresnej úrovni.

Formovanie a charakter rodinných domácností v súčasnosti ovplyvňuje výrazný pokles sobášnosti v posledných troch desaťročiach, ale aj pokles intenzity, s akou vstupujú do manželstva rozvedené a ovdovelé osoby. „V reprodukčnom veku sa zvyšuje počet osôb, ktoré môžu vstúpiť do manželstva, no nevstupujú,“ uviedol Branislav Šprocha z Prognostického ústavu SAV. Výrazným spôsobom ovplyvňuje charakter domácností aj zvýšená rozvodovosť, kde narastá počet neúplných rodín a tiež pokles plodnosti, ktorý prináša nárast bezdetných rodín. „Zároveň tento fakt znižuje aj priemernú veľkosť rodinných domácností,“ dodal.

Ako informoval Branislav Bleha z Prírodovedeckej fakulty UK v Bratislave, v období medzi rokom 1991 až 2011 narástol počet jednočlenných domácností – ten podiel dosahuje v súčasnosti takmer jednu tretinu všetkých domácností (29,5 percenta). Naopak, výrazne začína klesať podiel domácností so štyrmi členmi, ktorú tvoria aj klasické typy rodín s dvoma dospelými a dvoma deťmi. „Tento podiel klesol od roku 1991 do roku 2011 o päť percent, z 23 percent na súčasných 17,9 percenta,“ uviedol Bleha.

Veľké domácnosti sú podľa autorov štúdie charakteristické najmä v okresoch s vyššou pôrodnosťou i sobášnosťou, ktoré sa nachádzajú takmer výlučne na severe stredného a východného Slovenska, v oblasti hornej Oravy a Spiša. V okresoch týchto regiónov je aj najvyšší priemerný počet domácností. Naopak, okresy zo západu, juhu a stredného Slovenska majú najnižší počet domácností. V týchto okresoch prevládajú málopočetné rodiny.

Z pohľadu trendov do budúcnosti očakávame, že na severe stredného a východného Slovenska budú najpočetnejším typom domácností úplné rodiny so závislými deťmi,“ uviedol z Výskumného demografického centra INFOSAT Boris Vaňo. V širšom zázemí Bratislavy, na juhozápade Slovenska, na severe Slovenska (s výnimkou hornej Oravy), na Pohroní a na krajnom východe budú prevládať úplné rodiny bez závislých detí. V najväčšom počte okresov budú najpočetnejším typom domácností jednočlenné domácnosti – samotársky žijúci ľudia budú žiť najmä v okresoch na strednom Slovensku a vo východnej časti južného Slovenska, v okresoch Bratislavského kraja, na severozápade Slovenska i krajnom východe.

Symboly SDM zavítali aj na Slovensko

Na Slovensku prebieha dvojtzáždňová púť symbolov Svetových dní mládeže (SDM). Ide o takmer štvormetrový drevený symbol a ikony Panny Márie, ktoré si za posledné tri desaťročia uctili milióny mladých ľudí na všetkých kontinentoch. Zavítali do 19 miest, s mladými dobrovoľníkmi prejde vyše 1400 kilometrov.

Mladým ho daroval pred 30 rokmi svätý Ján Pavol II. ako symbol, ktorý spája všetky kontinenty. Svoje putovanie začal tento kríž ešte v roku 1984 v Ríme, pokračoval v Mníchove, odkiaľ bol tajne prevezený aj do Prahy ku kardinálovi Františkovi Tomáškovi, aby spojil mládež východu a západu. V súčasnosti sprevádza všetky Svetové dni mládeže (SDM). Chlapci a dievčatá ho nosili na pleciah, v autách, lietadlami, putoval dokonca aj na psích záprahoch či na otvorenej lodi. Kríž je znamením lásky Boha k mladým ľuďom vo všetkých kútoch sveta.

Spolu s krížom teraz prichádza na Slovensko aj ikona Panny Márie z Baziliky Santa Maria Maggiore v Ríme (vysoká 118 cm, široká 79 cm a váži 38 kg). Obidva symboly prevzali mladí ľudia od priateľov z Maďarska. Slováci ich privítali po Bielorusku, Litve, Rusku, Ukrajine, Moldavsku, Rumunsku a Maďarsku. Po dvoch týždňoch putovania na Slovensku ich odovzdajú do Čiech, odkiaľ sa vrátia do Poľska - dejiska najbližších SDM. Dvojtzáždňovú cestu kríža a ikony Matky Božej po Slovensku zabezpečia dobrovoľníci z Rady pre mládež a univerzity KBS. V každom z miest, kam symboly prídu - v kostoloch, školách, pastoračných centrách, komunitách a iných miestach, sa zúčastnia mnohí mladí ľudia, bude sa konať špeciálny program so sv. omšami, krížovými cestami, modlitbami, pobožnosťami a kultúrnym programom.

TASR



Foto: TK KBS/ Peter Zimen

Na snímke mládež so symbolmi SVM 19. novembra 2014 v Katedrále sv. Martina v Bratislave.

Young pilgrims carried a cross and icon of the Blessed Mother to St. Martin's Cathedral in Bratislava in preparation of the next World Youth Day in Poland in 2015. The cross and icon will be taken to over 19 towns in Slovakia before traveling to other countries. The cross is a sign of God's love to young people throughout the world.

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Mikulášske odopoludnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou v NYC

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC, Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716, Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v NYC a Slovenský katolícky sokol v NYC, pozýva slovenskú verejnosť v nedeľu dňa **7. decembra 2014 o 1:00** hodine odopoludnia na Mikulášske odopoludnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou, ktoré sa bude konať v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street v New York City. Vstupné je voľné. Občerstvenie bude zabezpečené. Bližšie informácie podajú: Farský úrad Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, otec Štefan Chanas tel. číslo: (212) 734 4613; Henrieta Daitová: (201) 641 8922; Mária Božeková: (347) 612 1934.

Štedrovečerná večera Vigília v NYC

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC, Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ, Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ a Slovenský katolícky sokol NYC Vás pozývajú na Štedrovečernú večeru - **Vigíliu**, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa **14. decembra 2014 o 1:00 hodine** odopoludnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street NYC. Vstupné je 20.00 dolárov. Večera je započítaná vo vstupnom. Lístky na Štedrovečernú večeru si môžete objednať na: Farskom úrade Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, telefón: (212) 734 4613; Jozef Bilik: (718) 463 2084; Henrieta H. Daitová: (201) 641 8922; Mária Božeková: (347) 612 1934.

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko usporiada 22. slovenský ples

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko v New Yorku usporiada v sobotu **24. januára 2015** už 22. slovenský ples. Bude sa konať v The Royal Manor v Garfield, NJ. Začiatok bude o **7:00. hodine večer**. Vstupné je \$130.00 za osobu. V cene je započítaná večera a otvorený bar. Rezervácie: Zuzana Krčmár, tel.: 973-357-1209; email: zuzana11@optoline.net.

Štátny tajomník Peter Burian vo Washingtone, DC

Štátny tajomník Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky Peter Burian sa 13. novembra 2014 počas návštevy Washingtonu, DC stretol s Paulom Jonesom z Ministerstva zahraničných vecí USA, Charlesom Kupchanom z Rady národnej bezpečnosti USA a ďalšími partnermi.

Počas rokovaní najviac rezonovala situácia na východe Ukrajiny. Partneri spoločne konštatovali, že situáciu nie je možné vyriešiť vojensky. Zhodli sa, že základom diplomatického riešenia je dôsledné dodržiavanie záväzkov z Minska. Americká strana veľmi vysoko oceňuje podporu, ktorú Slovensko poskytlo Ukrajine v ťažkej situácii. Obzvlášť umožnenie reverzného toku zemného plynu cez plynovod Vojany - Užhorod a jeho udržiavanie aj napriek odvetným opatreniam zo strany Ruskej federácie, je príspevok, ktorý významne prispieva k riešeniu ekonomických a energetických problémov na Ukrajine v súčasnosti.

S Erin Barclayovou z Ministerstva zahraničných vecí USA Peter Burian prediskutoval možnosti užšej spolupráce USA a SR v oblasti podpory reformy bezpečnostného sektora vo viacerých regiónoch, napr. na Ukrajine a v Afrike.

Na stretnutí v Pentagone s Elissou Slotkinovou a Jimom Townsendom P. Burian hovoril o prioritách implementácie rozhodnutí zo samitu NATO vo Walese a informoval partnerov o zodpovednom naplňaní záväzku zvýšenia výdavkov na obranu zo strany Slovenskej republiky. Štátny tajomník 14. novembra 2014 diskutoval s vybranými expertmi o situácii na Ukrajine a zúčastnil sa na podujatiach, ktoré sa vo Washingtone, DC konali v súvislosti s 25. výročím Nežnej revolúcie.



Peter Burian

TASR

V Bratislave nové nákupné centrum Bory Mall

V Bratislave 13. novembra otvorili nové nákupné centrum. Bory Mall vyrástlo v západnej časti hlavného mesta medzi Lamačom a Devínskou Novou Vsou a developérska odnož finančnej skupiny Penta doň vložila vyše 150 miliónov eur. Nákupné centrum ponúka 196 obchodov, kaviarní a reštaurácií.

Ako informoval riaditeľ nákupného centra Milan Klégr, plocha Bory Mall predstavuje viac ako 54,000 štvorcových metrov. Návštevníci v komplexe nájdu obchody s oblečením, športovými potrebami, spotrebnou elektronikou, kníhkupectvo, detský svet, supermarket, fitness centrum, polikliniku či pobočku pošty.

Pre návštevníkov je pripravených vyše 2400 parkovacích miest, k centru bude jazdiť aj kyvadlová doprava. Na jar budúceho roka plánujú v Bory Mall otvoriť tiež vonkajší detský zábavný park a 12 kinosál.

Výstavba Bory Mall sa začala v januári 2013 a je súčasťou prvej etapy novej mestskej štvrte BORY. Hlavné mesto chce v budúcnosti do lokality predĺžiť aj električkovú trať z Dúbravky.

TASR

Výnimočný deň v Širokom

Pokračovanie zo str. 23

Zelený pamätník je vlastne živý zasadený ihličnatý stromček s menovkou osobnosti. Na pamätnej doske je pri mene osobnosti QR kód, ktorým sa dá smartfónom preniesť informácia z obecnej webovej stránky, kde je o všetkých osobnostiach krátky životopis a fotografie.

Ako povedal vo svojom príhovore pán starosta obce Ing. Bartoš, ideu Zeleného pamätníka priniesol zo svojej cesty z Írska a keď svoj návrh predniesol miestnemu zastupiteľstvu, schválili ho jednomyselne. Súčasťou ukončenia výstavby bolo aj uloženie schránky pre budúce generácie pod poslednú dlaždicu. V delegácii hostí bol poslanec NR SR Ján Podmanický, ktorý je súčasne aj starostom obce Stará Bystrica a starosta družobnej poľskej obce W. R. Papčiak z Gminy Brzyska. Hostia i občania položili k pamätníku vence. Nechýbal ani veľmi aktívny spevácky zbor, ktorý umocnil slávnostný charakter tejto akcie. Ukončenie slávnostnej udalosti bolo pri spoločnom posedení na obecnom úrade.

Prečo píšem o tejto udalosti vám za oceánom? Medzi dvanástimi menami na Zelenom pamätníku je napísané i meno Trudy Cech-Tuhy, bývalej predsedníčky Spolku slovenského dedičstva v Pensylvánii (NEPA) vo Wilkes-Barre. Jej rodičia pochádzali zo Širokého a svoje deti učili láske ku svojim koreňom, čo Trudy prejavovala aj skutkami. Finančne podporila najmä ľudovú školu umenia. Jej časté návštevy v Širokom a Ľudovej školy umenia, ako učiteľky hudby, mali veľký ohlas. A nebola to iba Trudy, ale aj jej brat Tomáš a sestra Betka, ktorí do tejto kampane zapojili aj môjho nebohého manžela Jozefa i mňa. Bol to pre nás nezabudnuteľný zážitok vypočuť si koncert pri otvorení Domu služieb dňa 10. 10. 2010, kde majú deti nádherné prostredie pre svoj kultúrny a umelecký rozvoj v rôznych činnostiach a súťažiach.

Otvorenia sa Trudy nedežila. Bol tam vtedy prítomný iba jej brat Tomáš, ale v duchu sme cítili, že aj ona je tam s nami. Trudy bola veľkou šíriteľkou východoslovenskej kultúry aj v Pensylvánii. Jej rodina sa každý týždeň schádzala na chate, kde sa hovorilo iba po slovensky a vždy sa spomínalo Široké. Klavír pod jej rukami s východoslovenskými pesničkami znel vo Wilkes-Barre široko-d'aleko.

Som šťastná že obec Široké nezabudla na rodinu Čechovú. Vedia, že ich srdcia bili pre obec Široké aj za oceánom.

Anna Birošová

Niekoľko snímok z požehnaní Zeleného pamätníka v Širokom



Autor snímok: Martin Magda, Vítaz

Vianočné pozdravenie

Hadri-Drevenický

A znova zvesti čakáme od betlehetských strání, svätejšie, krajšie, ľudskejšie stretnutie v milovaní.



Boh znova ide v chudobe do betlehemskej biedy, aby nám túžby nasýtil, uhasil duše smädy,

aby nás dvihol do výšav a učil znať Ho hore, a aby ľudstvo uzdravil, to ľudstvo ťažko choré,

aby nám cesty zahmlené uvoľnil lásky svitom a veľkosť poznať naučil v živote tichom, skrytom, aby sme došli k hostine kde sa za pokrm dáva kde chudobný sa boháčom a slabý mocným stáva,

aby nás zmenil v hviezdy svit, čo Bohu úctu vzdáva, aby zbiedená ľudská zem spievala: Bohu sláva!

Aby sme všetci st' a jeden len Tebe, Boh môj žili, aby sme na púť za Tebou mali dosť svetla, sily.

Tie zvesti znova čakáme od betlehetských strání Ježiško tu je, prišiel zas, nech bude navždy s nami.

SSV si pripomenulo 145 rokov svojho vzniku

Najväčšie a najstaršie združenie katolíkov na Slovensku Spolok svätého Vojtecha (SSV) si v novembri pripomenulo 145 rokov od potvrdenia svojho vzniku.

Po dlhom a namáhavom úsilí slovenských katolíkov schválil 12. novembra 1869 jeho vznik ostrihomský arcibiskup, kňažaprimas Ján Šimor, ktorý poveril generálneho vikára v Trnave Henricha Szajbélyho, aby preštudoval stanovy. Szajbély zvolal dočasný výbor, ktorý sa stretol 14. decembra 1869 a schválil stanovy. Prvé valné zhromaždenie sa konalo takmer o rok neskôr, 14. septembra 1870 v Trnave, na ktorom oficiálne vznikol SSV.



O potvrdení vzniku Spolku sv. Vojtecha ako prvé informovali krátkou správou noviny Pešťbudínske vedomosti vo svojom vydaní 17. novembra 1869 a v nasledujúcom čísle 20. novembra priniesli dlhší článok o poslaní spolku a o okolnostiach, ktoré viedli k jeho založeniu.

O vznik SSV sa zaslúžil predovšetkým katolícky kňaz Andrej Radlinský a poslaním spolku bolo vydávanie slovenských katolíckych kníh. Spolok sv. Vojtecha krátko po svojom vzniku prevzal vydávanie týždenníka Katolícke noviny, ktoré si 7. novembra tohto roku pripomenuli 165 rokov od svojho založenia.

V súčasnosti má Spolok sv. Vojtecha 97,628 členov a je najväčším katolíckym vydavateľom na Slovensku.

TASR

Výnimočný deň v Širokom

Široké je obec na východnom Slovensku (okres Prešov) známa aj tým, že pri nej sa končí a začína najväčší tunel na Slovensku, Branisko. Prvý písomný záznam o obci je z roku 1320, pripomína si teda 694 rokov. Je to veľká obec s približne 2300 obyvateľmi, v ktorej sa za ostatné roky pod vedením starostu Ing. Stanislava Bartoša veľa zmenilo. Dobrá spolupráca medzi miestnym zastupiteľstvom, učiteľmi a miestnym farárom Miroslavom Kyselom výsledok spolupráce s občanmi iba umocňuje.

Priam ukážkovo zrekonštruovali kostol sv. Mikuláša aj s jeho okolím, ktorý tvorí v obci pekné námestie s nedávno odhalenou dominantou, sochou sv. Jána Pavla II. Obec má novú polyfunkčnú budovu so zdravotným strediskom, lekárnou, základnou umeleckou školou i bytmi a slúži nielen miestnym obyvateľom, ale aj širšiemu okoliu. Budujú nový štadión, ktorý bude pýchou obce Široké.

Nuž a tento rok 2014 je výnimočný tým, že obec ako prvá na Slovensku vybudovala na cintoríne Zelený pamätník, ako pamiatku na ľudí, ktorí sa v minulosti o obec zaslúžili, ale z rozličných dôvodov nie sú pochovaní na miestnom cintoríne. Slávnostné požehnanie Zeleného pamätníka sa konalo v nedeľu 26. októbra 2014 na cintoríne.

Slávnosť posviacky Zeleného pamätníka sa začala sv. omšou v kostole sv. Mikuláša, ktorú celebroidal dp. Ján Biroš, t. č. už na dôchodku, ale ako poznamenal miestny pán farár Miroslav Kyšľa, má hlboký vzťah k obci Široké. Za tým nasledovalo slávnostné požehnanie Zeleného pamätníka s prosbou o modlitby za zosnulých, ale aj za tých, čo nie sú menovite uvedení na pamätníku, ale šírili dobré meno svojej obce i za tých, čo položili svoj život vo vojne.

Pokračovanie na str. 22

Ideálom pre Slovákov je stále „niečo medzi socializmom a kapitalizmom“

Podobne ako pred 25 rokmi, aj v súčasnosti považujú Slováci za najlepší spoločenský systém tzv. tretiu cestu, kompromis medzi socializmom a kapitalizmom. Vyplyva to zo štúdie pod názvom Postoje slovenskej verejnosti k politike, angažovanosti a k 17. novembru 1989, ktorú 19. novembra predstavili zástupcovia Sociologického ústavu Slovenskej akadémie vied (SAV).

„Podobne ako v novembri a decembri 1989 po udalostiach Nežnej revolúcie, keď sa približne 50 percent respondentov vyslovilo za „niečo medzi kapitalizmom a socializmom“, aj v našom prieskume realizovanom pred tohtoročným letom až 51 percent opýtaných považuje za ideál túto tretiu cestu,“ uviedol šéf riešiteľského tímu Miroslav Tížik. Zhodu vysvetlil tým, že ideál štátu sa pre Slovákov nezmenil. „V novembri 1989 sme odmietli štátny byrokratický socializmus a ideálom sa stal švédsky či rakúsky model netotalitného štátu, ktorý ponúkal kombináciu vysokého životného štandardu a sociálnych istôt,“ vysvetlil Tížik. „Po takomto type štátu ľudia túžia aj v súčasnosti,“ dodal.

Tento fakt sa prejavil aj pri skúmaní názorov na spokojnosť s celkovou situáciou, v ktorej rodiny respondentov dnes žijú. Kým samotnú hospodársku situáciu rodiny nevnímali respondenti negatívne, z hľadiska celkovej životnej situácie sa prejavila nostalgia za minulosťou. „Pri otázke na hospodársku situáciu možno pri odpovediach vnímať, že respondenti oceňujú dostatok tovaru v obchodoch, to, že si môžu kúpiť základné potraviny, čo za socializmu nebývalo vždy,“ vysvetlil sociológ fakt, že až tretina respondentov vníma súčasnú hospodársku situáciu lepšie ako pred rokom 1989.

„Ale keď sa porovnáva celková životná úroveň, hodnotia sa aj istoty, zabezpečenie, celkové fungovanie verejných inštitúcií, a tu sa prejavuje fakt, že ľudia stratili časť týchto istôt a pocit stability,“ uviedol Tížik. Takmer pätina respondentov (18,6 percenta) odpovedala, že sa jej v súčasnosti žije oveľa horšie, 26,4 percenta opýtaných označilo situáciu ako trocha horšiu. Oveľa lepšie sa žije dnes v porovnaní s rokom 1989 iba necelým šiestim percentám respondentov, 12 percent opýtaných uviedlo, že sa im žije trocha lepšie. „Takmer pätina (19 percent) na túto otázku nevedela odpovedať, napríklad preto, že ako mladí ľudia nevedeli porovnať obe situácie,“ uviedol Tížik.

Pozitívnejšie situáciu vnímajú ľudia s vyšším vzdelaním, naopak, zhoršenie deklarujú ľudia s nižším vzdelaním a starší ľudia.

Terénny zber dát, ktorý riešiteľský tím Sociologického ústavu SAV analyzoval, uskutočnila agentúra FOCUS na prelome mája a júna (29.5 – 8.6. 2014). V ankete odpovedalo 1215 respondentov.

TASR



Projekt digitalizácie objektov SNK

Národný projekt Digitálna knižnica a digitálny archív Slovenskej národnej knižnice (SNK) sa posunul do finálnej tretiny. SNK zdigitalizovala k dňu 22. novembra viac ako polovicu zo všetkých 2,5 milióna objektov. V októbri tohto roku sa začali aj dve stavebné akcie, ktoré sú súčasťou projektu. Ide o dobudovanie komplexného Digitalizačného a konzervačného centra vo Vrútkach a rekonštrukciu troch poschodí depozitov v sídelnej budove SNK.

Hoci je povinnosťou knižnice sprístupniť minimálne 30 % digitalizovaného obsahu až po skončení projektu, SNK podľa jej hovorkyne Zuzany Stančíkovej, zásobuje čitateľov už teraz vybranými dielami a zaujímavosťami z digitalizácie. „Na webovej stránke projektu www.dikda.eu sa SNK pravidelne prezentuje digitalizovanými perlami. Začala národnými rozprávkami, povestami, herbármí či kuchárkami. Zároveň ponúka prehľad zásadných diel slovenskej literatúry a vedy od Štúra, Fándlyho, Hurbana, Hviezdoslava, Kukučína, Holubyho, Riznera a mnohých ďalších,“ ozrejmla.

Osobné fondy historických osobností predstavuje SNK cez rukopisy či súkromné listy, diela, ale aj fotografie. Každý týždeň aktualizuje zaujímavé správy zo 100-ročných novín a hľadá témy, ktoré vedú oslovit. „Teší nás, že sa naša práca stretla s pozitívnou odozvou a web projektu zaznamenal doteraz takmer 90.000 návštev, pričom okrem Slovenska je najviac čítaný v USA, Českej republike, Veľkej Británii či Nemecku,“ uzavrela Krištofová. SNK ako hlavný partner realizuje najväčší projekt Operačného programu Informatizácia spoločnosti (OPIS), Prioritnej osi 2 Rozvoj pamätových a fondových inštitúcií a obnova ich národnej infraštruktúry v spolupráci so Slovenským národným archívom (SNA). Zmluva o poskytnutí nenávratného finančného prostriedku bola podpísaná 7. marca 2012, projekt pracuje s rozpočtom viac ako 40 miliónov eur. Spoločné financovanie je zo zdrojov Európskeho fondu regionálneho rozvoja a štátneho rozpočtu SR. Knižnica týmto spôsobom sprístupňuje čitateľom zaujímavé, už autorsky nechránené diela. Ukončenie projektu je plánované na 30. septembra 2015. Jeho udržateľnosť je päť rokov.

TASR



Pietna spomienka pri pamätníku Brána slobody v bratislavskom Devíne

Pietnou spomienkou pri pamätníku Brána slobody v bratislavskom Devíne vyvrcholila 17. novembra dvojdňová návšteva hláv štátov krajín Vyšehradskej štvorky (V4), Nemecka a Ukrajiny. Na Slovensku boli na pozvanie prezidenta SR Andreja Kisku pri príležitosti 25. výročia pádu komunizmu.

Veniec na znak spomienky na obeť komunistického režimu k pamätníku položili slovenský prezident Andrej Kiska, prezident Poľskej republiky Bronislaw Komorowski, prezident Spolkovej republiky Nemecko Joachim Gauck a prezident Maďarska János Áder. Učinili tak pred zrakmi niekoľkých desiatok členov Konfederácie politických väzňov Slovenska. Na spomienkovom akte, ktorý sa uskutočnil pri príležitosti okrúhleho výročia Nežnej revolúcie a štátneho sviatku SR Dňa boja za slobodu, sa zúčastnilo i viacero predstaviteľov verejného a politického života.

Pamätník Brána slobody venovaný obeť komunizmu odhalili pod hradným bralom v Devíne v roku 2005 pri príležitosti 20. výročia Nežnej revolúcie. Zhotoviť ho dali Ústav pamäti národa a Konfederácia politických väzňov Slovenska. Pripomína represie komunistického režimu. Je na ňom umiestnený menoslov ľudí, ktorí zahynuli pri pokuse o prechod stráženej hranice.

TASR



Radostné a požehnané Vianoce a Šťastný Nový rok



*Nech Vianoce prinesú všetkým Jednotárom
trvalé šťastie, radosť, pevné zdravie a lásku v rodine*

Staromestské vianočné trhy v Bratislave

Hviezdoslavovo námestie v bratislavskom Starom Meste po roku dýchalo vianočnou atmosférou, keď 21. novembra 2014 rozsvietili vianočný stromček a otvorili Staromestské vianočné trhy. "Prichádza posledný mesiac v roku a s ním aj obdobie adventu, ktoré je najmä obdobím pokoja a stretnutí s našimi najbližšími," reagovala na začínajúcu sa vianočnú náladu v uliciach Bratislavy starostka Starého Mesta Táňa Rosová.

Tento rok je na Hviezdoslavovom námestí pripravených 14 stánkov s občerstvením, kde návštevníci nájdu najmä klasické vianočné pochúťky ako cigánka, lokše, placky, varené víno či punč. Tridsať stánkov ponúka vianočné suveníry a darčeky. Súčasťou je remeselná ulička s tradičnými výrobkami ako aj denne otvorené klzisko.



FOTO TASR – Štefan Puškás

Na snímke otvorenie Vianočných trhov v Bratislave a rozsvietenie vianočného stromčeka.

The lighting of the Christmas Tree in Hviezdoslav Square in Bratislava on November 21 marked the official beginning of the 2014 Christmas season and the opening of the annual Stare Mesto Christmas Fair.

To bol môj domov ...

Žiadne iné miesto neznamená tak mnoho pre človeka ako miesto čo volá domov. Je to miesto, kde nás majú radi, i keď vieme, že máme svoje chyby. Je to miesto, kde naše korene boli zasadené hlboko a kde sme boli spokojní so životom. Naši blízki boli vždy okolo nás aby sa delili s našou radosťou alebo ťažkosťami života. Bolo to miesto, kde učili deti kľačať a modliť sa pri posteli pred spánkom. Bolo to miesto, kde Boh žil v rodine každý deň. Bolo to miesto, kde som sa radoval, pretože som žil, bol som mladý a vládol som pracovať. Tu svietilo slnko nado mnou, rosa padala, les šumel a kvety rástli. Tento môj domov bol pod hornatým Javorníkom-choťár obce Makov, okres Čadca.

Tu sa usadilo 15-18 rodín. Ľudia ťažko pracovali na denný chlieb. Svedkom boli aj veľké kamenice. Koľko sa ľudia natrápili, aby pozbierali toľko kamenia a pripravili zem na úrodu. Vzduch bol čistý. Ľudia si nestážovali na alergiu, alebo sinus.

Voda, ktorá vytekala kdesi z pod svahom Javorníka, bola vždy čistá ako kryštál a studená ako ľad. Ďalej bola tu voda s príchutou síry a tiež s príchutou vajca. Obyvatelia tohto mesta si postavili zvoncu – symbol šťastia i nešťastia. Bol to útulok keď prichádzali búrky za bieleho dňa alebo tmavej noci. Tu sa strácali pochybnosti, choroby, samota, bôľ, smútok a nepokoj.

Keď som odpočíval v mojej kolísavej stoličke, okno otvorené na široko, počúval som ako vtáci radostne spievali vyletujú do výšky, ako by sa kízali. Spievali piesne útechy v sladkej melodii. Kdesi ďalej vietok v trubkách a zvončekoch rezonoval nôt a náhodné meradlá pulzovali v čase a môjmu svetu požičiavali pokojné piesne samoty, ktorá je jemnejšia pri tejto hudbe. Jemné partitúry vánku čo prišiel zďaleka sa zahrať na dutých trubkách s dychom čo urobil hudbu prúdom. Rád som počúval týchto hudobníkov, ale som ich nepoznal.

A kdesi obďaleč, kde ešte dosiahol môj zrak a kde sa spájali vrchy a hory počúval som volanie vtákov s dlhými krídlami – noční jastraby. Veľkosť vesmíru a obdiv všetkého robil ma skromným a cítil som sa celkom malým. Tvorca Jeho obdivuhodného plánu poznal každú hviezdu na nebi a ešte mal čas dotknúť sa života niekoho tak malého ako som ja.

Každý deň, plný kúzla bol som hore od úsvitu predtým ako tmavá noc prešla a kohút oznámil príchod nového dňa. Bolo mi dobre pod modrou oblohou kde je málo starosti a trápenia. Vážil som si každý deň čo bol môj. Boli to chvíle plné žiarivého času – slnko, mesiac, každý bavnený oblak.

Zimné obdobie bolo osamelým časom, keď sneh a krutá studená zima nás väznili v dome a zastavovali naše sny. Celkom holé a neúrodné stromy a prázdne hniezda maľovali obraz zúfalstva so žiadnou farbou kraja a nijakým spevom vtákov vo vzduchu. Šedivá obloha pôsobila chmúrne dolu na lesy, stromy, rastliny a zasadené semená, kde melanchólia tajne urobila podobu čiernej škvrny na snehu. Ako na zavolanie, náhle sa objavila srnka a zajace povychádzali a susedia prichádzali na návštevu v sánkach. Už nebolo samoty. Zima urobila spomienky tak teplé ako jarné počasie.

Láska a radosť s ktorými čnosťami sme sa delili, ostali milými spomienkami, ktoré čas nikdy nezmyje. Často si premietam dni mojej mladosti strávené v drahej slovenskej prírode a vždy sa mi ťaží... Aká je len slovenská zem krásna, keď je neporušená.

Domov môže byť veľkou rezidenciou alebo aj malou chalúpkou. Ale je to láska, čo robí bývanie domovom. Je to najdrahšie miesto zo všetkých.

Rudo L. Greguš

Počas Vianoc si uvedomujeme, že žijeme z Božej lásky

Počas vianočných sviatkov si vždy osobitným spôsobom uvedomujeme, že žijeme z Božej lásky, pripomína bratislavský arcibiskup metropolita Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský. Božia láska voči každému človeku je ponukou, výzvou, pozvaním pre každého v ktorejkoľvek dobe. „Nenúti nás, pozýva nás, chce nás ‚získať‘ láskou“.

„Ježiš Kristus sa narodil v chudobných podmienkach, ktoré vyjadrujú posolstvo o biede a slabosti nášho pozemského života poznačeného mnohými previneniami. A predsa prišiel medzi nás. Napriek všetkému je pri nás svojou láskou a pozýva nás, aby sme sa k nemu obrátili a odpovedali na jeho lásku tou našou,“ konštatuje Mons. Zvolenský.

„Vianoce sú krásnym sviatkom, keď si želáme a prosíme, aby Božia láska, ktorá žiari z očí dieťaťa Ježiša, ožiarila naše srdcia, naše rodiny a celú spoločnosť. V tomto duchu prajem všetkým požehnané a láskou naplnené sviatky Božieho narodenia“.

Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský
Bratislavský arcibiskup metropolita