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Message From The President

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

It is said that restaurants and flower shops have the busiest days of the year for Mother's Day.

Mothers have a special place in our hearts, and obviously a special bond because of the birth relationship.

The modern holiday of "Mother's Day" dates from the early 1900's. There were many other, more localized recognitions in prior years. In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation honoring "Mother's Day". The singular possessive was intentional for each family to honor its own mother, not a plural possessive commemorating all mothers of the world. Whatever spelling you choose I hope that you will remember your Mother, whether living or deceased, in a special way this year.



Andrew M. Rajec

Mother's day is celebrated at different times depending on the hemisphere and depending on the country. For example some former communist countries celebrated the socialist international "Women's Day". Some still do, while others celebrate both Women's Day and Mother's Day. In the former Czecho-Slovakia only Women's Day was celebrated until the 1989 Velvet Revolution. After the 1993 split Slovakia started celebrating both days. The subject became somewhat political where the center-right parties wanted Mother's Day to replace Women's Day and the more left-wing parties wanted to make Women's Day an official holiday. Currently both are recognized but are not state holidays. In Slovakia Mother's Day is the second Sunday in May.

The Roman Catholic Church and several other churches venerate The Blessed Virgin, the Mother of Christ. Many of us remember the May crowning in our own parishes, especially if you went to a Catholic school. This was always a special event which included several special hymns honoring Mary. The one that I remember the fondest is, "Bring Flowers of the Rarest - Queen of the May".

There seems to be much less devotion to Mary in our "modern" Church, at least from what I observe. When I went on the internet to hear this hymn sung by several different singers I was amazed at the number of comments that agreed with my observation. What a beautiful hymn! Please listen yourself.

The Blessed Virgin under the title "Our Lady of Sorrows" is the patroness of Slovakia. 2015 will mark the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. We will commemorate that event on September 12, 2015. More information will come later.

In closing, I would like to wish a happy, healthy and blessed Mother's Day to all our mothers. I know you will do the same.

Fraternally,

Andrew M. Rajec, President



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

The Officers and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada extend their most sincere Fraternal Greetings and Best Wishes to all Mothers and Members on Mother's Day!

Thank you for keeping the tradition alive.

- Rev. Thomas A. Nasta.....Chaplain
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- Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.....Vice-President
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**Convention Delegates:
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See page 5 of this issue for information on your choice of day or night tour.

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Insights and Viewpoints



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

May 18, 2014
Fifth Sunday of Easter
John 14: 1-12

In the gospel of St. John Jesus makes a series of powerful symbolic statements, each of which begins with the famous words "I am", in which he likens himself to various images and things which illustrate some dimension of his person and mission;

for example, "I am the bread of life", "I am the light of the world", and "I am the good shepherd". In today's gospel reading from the fourteenth chapter of St. John, he says: "I am the way, the truth, and the life".

Coming in the penultimate moments of Jesus' presence with his disciples his saying reminds the reader that Jesus himself is both the object and goal of our faith (the truth and the life) and the path which we must follow in order to arrive at that goal (the way).

First, he is the truth and the life itself in that he is the very image of the Father who is the source of all being and goodness: "If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him". Jesus makes it clear in John's gospel that he is equal to the Father and can never be separated from the Father from whom he came forth before all time.

In this particular passage he expresses this message through the actions of seeing, knowing, and believing. To see, know, and believe in Jesus is to see, know, and believe in the Father, and to have eternal life on account of that belief. Jesus is thus the unique source of life and salvation for all who desire to share in the glory and love of the God who was first revealed through the law and the prophets, and who has now been revealed perfectly in Jesus himself.

Second, Jesus is the way we must follow in order to arrive at our goal of unity with the Father. To this end, the first two readings of the mass come to our aid. In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles we hear how the early Christian community was torn by strife over the fact that the widows of gentile converts to Christianity were not being treated as well as the widows of Jewish converts to the faith.

In order to establish a just balance in the community, the apostles decided to appoint seven men as "deacons" or "servants" who would be ordained and recognized as having a share in the work of the apostles, but whose special task was to see that all needy persons were treated with charity and justice. The community prospered under this arrangement and peace was restored—the early Christians drew closer to Jesus their goal by imitating his way of life through a just and righteous decision.

In the second reading from the First Letter of Peter, we learn that to follow the way of Jesus is to let ourselves "be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ"; that is, to become like Jesus by freely offering ourselves to God—giving ourselves over completely to Jesus, just as he gave himself over completely to the Father for the sake of our salvation. When we do this we imitate his self-giving love and are thus, "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own", united to God in Jesus through our faith in him. (580)



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

We take to heart the gospel for this fifth Sunday of Easter if we trust in the One who is "the truth, and the life", and if we seek to walk faithfully on "the way" of charity, justice, and compassion which he has shown us—as a people who are one with the Father through our oneness in Jesus.

May 25, 2014
6th Sunday of Easter
Gospel John 14: 15 - 21

This Gospel is part of what is known as the Last Supper Discourse. They had a difficulty understanding this when they heard it before the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. We hear it, not only after these events, but also after both the Ascension and Pentecost. We also have two thousand years of Christianity behind us that provides us with the reflections, teachings and experiences of the presence of the Triune God in our lives and the life of the Church. It is difficult for us to capture the emotion of the Apostles when they heard Jesus give them this farewell instruction. He would not leave them orphans and would send another Advocate to be with them. Why was he leaving them? Where was he going? Would they ever see him again? What were they to do next? are probably some of the questions that went through their minds. In his discourse Jesus answers these questions.

He begins by making the statement: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Jesus teaches us to view commandments in a new way, that was different than how the first followers had been taught by the Pharisee Commandments are not merely a list of behaviors to be followed or avoided out of duty. Commandments are to be lived as an act of love. If we love someone we do what pleases them. This love moves us to do things we might not want to do, and even things that we might see as being difficult or a sacrifice. Jesus calls us to look at the commandments through the prism of love and to live them out of our love for God..

Jesus promised the apostles the Advocate. This is the Holy Spirit we received at Baptism and Confirmation. In two weeks we complete the Easter Season with the Celebration of Pentecost. This Gospel serves as a good reminder to prepare for Pentecost. On the day of your Confirmation the Bishop, or Administrator of that Sacrament, said, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." Jesus is preparing the Apostles for the Advocate, the Holy Spirit. We are sealed with the Holy Spirit. Prepare for Pentecost by claiming that gift. Take time to realize all that the Holy Spirit has to offer us and don't hesitate to call upon this gift to strengthen and guide us.

Finally, Jesus speaks of unity. There is the unity of the Trinity that he speaks about as he teaches us about the Advocate, and revealing to us that he and the Father are one. Jesus invites us to experience the Love of our Father, The grace that flows from him, and the unity of the Holy Spirit that binds them into one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

There is also the unity of the believers to Christ. Jesus taught that, "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers you do to me." St. Paul experienced this on the road to Damascus when he heard the voice say, "Why do you persecute me." The unity of the body of Christ – of us with Christ – should not be underrated. It is a beautiful part of God's love that binds us to him.

All of this comes from the unconditional love God has for us. Reflect on all that God has done for us and is doing for us out of this great love. Who would not want to love in return, and thus follow his commandments?



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

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, MAY 21	MONDAY, MAY 12
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11	MONDAY, JUNE 2
WEDNESDAY, JULY 2	MONDAY, JUNE 23

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

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LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for The Christophers

A Mother's Refuge, A Son's Legacy

There will be another Mother's Day this year for Jackie Giblin Bardem. She suffered an unspeakable loss 18 months ago when her 7-year-old son, Daniel, was one of 20 student-victims of a shooter in Newtown, Conn. With special thanks to her childhood parish in the Bronx, in New York City, Daniel's memory will go on and on, for Mother's Days down through the years. Her Bronx friends thought that much of her, one of nine little Giblin children who grew up there. And they never forgot.

You probably remember Danny. He was the red-haired kid with the gap-tooth smile who broke your heart when you realized what the family must be going through. There's Mark, Jackie's husband, and two other children: James, 13, and Natalie, 12. Jackie's childhood parish, Our Lady of Refuge in the Kingsbridge section of the Bronx, is raising enough money to dedicate its new athletic facility this month in Danny's honor: the Daniel Bardem Memorial Gym. Denis Hamill wrote about it in the Daily News a couple of months ago, and how on May 17 they're having the Daniel Bardem Memorial Games there.

Jackie Bardem remembers the gym at Our Lady of Refuge when she was just Jackie Giblin.

"It was safe and fun," she recalls. "No drugs, no violence, no gangs. The guys and girls mingled together. There was no social media then. No cell phones. Just kids interacting with each other, laughing, carrying on. We all made friendships that have lasted a lifetime."

The money realized on May 17, as well as that which came from other fund-raising events, will be used for a new gym floor plus refurbishing the entire facility. The honor to her son means a great deal to Jackie.

"The idea that the youth center where I learned about life as a kid will be named after my son Daniel is a very special thing for me," she said. "That other kids will come there to be safe and have fun and learn about life is fitting because Danny was all about helping other kids. One neighbor described Daniel as 'an old soul in the body of a child.' He was such an unusual kid, so giving, so kind, always so concerned about others. Just like the people of my old neighborhood."

That goes for the people of Newtown as well. A teacher, Jackie Bardem had stopped working after the massacre, which left 26 dead—six staff members in addition to the 20 young pupils. The world stopped too for a time, but this year Jackie resumed teaching, and all of her family's friends came through.

"Last week," she said, "I came home and neighbors who knew I'd started working again left prepared meals for us. The kindness here from so many people has been overwhelming. I guess you can say I've seen the best people can be. And, of course, the worst. But there are more good people, and that gives me comfort."

"Now my son's name goes up on the youth center. Where I grew up. Amazing."

Reason to count one's blessings, certainly, this Mother's Day. And, come to think of it, for many Mother's Days yet to come.

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

[The following begins the last set of summaries of the Documents of Vatican II that were prepared for publication during the Year of Faith.]

The Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World, Part I

Dear Friends,

The final document from the Second Vatican Council to be summarized is the Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World (*Gaudium et spes*), one of four documents from the Council promulgated by Pope Paul VI on December 7, 1965.

The Council had a strong desire to explain to the world the ways and means the Church is present and active in the modern world, so *Gaudium et spes* is addressed to all humanity, which often raises questions about the world in which it lives, the meaning of life, both individually and collectively, and its ultimate destiny. Therefore, the document's main focus, as mentioned in the introduction, is the human person itself, whole and entire, body and soul, heart and conscience, mind and will.

The Church has always taken upon itself the duty of studying and examining the contemporary world and interpreting the signs of the times in the light of the Gospel. The Council then outlines some of the main features of the 1960's world, which is full of contradictions. Humanity on the one hand enjoys a great abundance of wealth, resources and economic power and on the other hand huge numbers of people live in hunger and poverty. On the one hand so many have an understanding of freedom, and at the same time there are countless others who are victims of new forms of social and psychological slavery. There is a clear awareness of global unity and interdependence and at the same time political, social, economic, racial and ideological disputes still continue, and with the peril of war. Finally, the search for a better world goes on without a corresponding spiritual advancement. More are having a personal and explicit adherence to faith, yet there are growing numbers of people who are abandoning the practice of their faith or denying God.

The Council then identifies other issues present in the 1960's. One can be summed up in the word change. Seemingly everything was undergoing change, from the family to the neighborhood, to society itself. Changes in attitudes and in human structures leads to both identifying and questioning traditionally accepted values, especially among young people. Institutions, laws, and ways of thinking and feeling as handed down from previous generations were not always seem to be well adapted to the lived situation of the day.

Another word that can be used to describe the world scene at this time was disparity. The gap between wealthy and less influential nations as well as the inequality between men and women, the races, the hungry and the well-fed, the wealthy and the poor, was becoming more pronounced. The "have-nots" were beginning to aggressively demand those benefits they judged themselves to be deprived either through injustice or unequal distribution.

The Council stated that the situation the world finds itself is one of power and weakness. It sees the world as capable of committing the noblest deeds or foulest, and before it lies the path to freedom or slavery, to progress or retreat, to brotherhood or hatred. With all these situations being faced by the world, the Council offers Christ as the answer and declares three teachings the Church firmly believes and upholds. They are: Jesus offers to all humanity the grace and strength to measure up to its supreme destiny; in Jesus can be found the key, focal point and goal of the human race and human history; beneath all changes there are many realities which do not change and have their ultimate foundation in Christ.

The summary will continue in the next issue of the Jednota with the Council's teaching on the human person.

Sincerely,



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

- From the Office of The Vice President – Attention All Recommenders: Win up to \$500 in the FCSU's Convention Cash Drawing



Each new contract on which you are the recommender for any FCSU product – insurance or annuity – between May 1, 2014 and August 15, 2014, will automatically enter you into our Convention Cash Drawing.

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All contracts need to be postmarked to the Home Office no later than **August 15, 2014**. No exceptions. All contracts must be approved and issued to be eligible to receive prizes.

So start today, and keep those entries coming! Send in your signed contracts to:

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Until next time, good luck and God Bless,

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice President

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Deň Matiek - Mother's Day for Slovaks, 2014

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

For Slovaks, mothers (matky) have always been special. Mothers are the rock and foundation of any solid family, and many of us have experienced the unconditional love which mothers have showed us. Slovaks and Slovak-Americans showed a great love for mothers, so much so, that they sang songs about them.

As a child, we used to visit our grandparents, and we were always at baba's house on Mother's Day. But we were going to baba's (do baby - grandma's), not to grandfather's house (dedovi, or dzedovi in eastern dialects). Moms and babas reigned supreme in the household.

In Slovak, Mother's Day is known as Deň matiek [Den maw-tyek, with a soft „n“]. Literally it means „the day of mothers,“ and uses the genitive plural case. Slovak wish their moms Happy Mother's Day by saying Šťastný Deň matiek! [Shtyawst-nee den maw-tyek]. The Slovak language also has diminutives for referring to mothers affectionately. Mom is simply mama [mah-mah], or ma, which adults would tend to use more. Another common word for mom is mamička [mah-meech-kah], which might best translate as “mommy.”

Historical Background

Deň matiek is widely celebrated across Slovakia today, but that was not always the case. Mother's Day traces its origins as far back as pagan times, and more recently, here in America. Over 250 years before Christ, the pagan Greeks held feasts from March 15-18 to honor Gaia or Rhea, whom they believed to be the mother of all gods. But the celebrations remained private, within the immediate family. Romans observed the feast of Matronalia, which they dedicated to the pagan goddess Juno or to Cybele, the great mother. In the 16th century, English Christians started celebrating Mothering Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. On that day, even servants were permitted to return to their mothers' homes so they could spend the day with them. Roman Catholics dedicated May to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and even today, Catholics pay special tribute to her throughout the month.

The modern day observance of Mother's Day is credited to a movement in the United States. The American Julia Ward Howe proclaimed Mother's Day in 1870 so that the world would disarm and live in peace. But it did not catch on. Then after 1907, Anne Marie Jarvis of Grafton, West Virginia, led a successful effort to realize her deceased mother's dream of Mother's Day as a national American holiday. At first, she only attained some success at the local and state level. But when she obtained the assistance of John Wanamaker, the affluent Philadelphia department store entrepreneur, the movement gained valuable backing. After eight attempts at pushing through legislation, the US Congress finally approved and declared the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day nationwide; President Woodrow Wilson signed the bill to make it official.

Jarvis did not foresee that commercial interests would soon exploit the holiday for commercial purposes; they used it to sell everything from Hallmark cards to colorful carnations for living mothers and white carnations for those who had passed away. Jarvis became so disillusioned with Madison Avenue's stealing the spirit of the holiday that she wound up opposing its existence during the latter years of her life.

Slovakia and Mother's Day

After World War I, other countries around the world started observing the holiday. The people of Czechoslovakia also began celebrating Deň matiek in 1923, largely due to the efforts of Alice Garrigue Masaryk, the American wife of President Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, the founder of the Czecho-Slovak state in 1918.

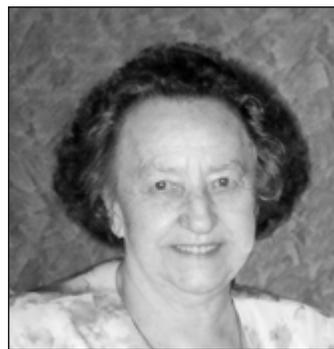
When the communists seized power in Czechoslovakia during 1948, they eliminated Mother's Day from the calendar and followed the Soviet Union's lead in replacing it with International Women's Day (Medzinárodný deň žien) on March 8. The holiday was loosely observed from what I saw when I lived there in 1982-83, and many Slovaks considered it a communist imposed holiday. But the propaganda left an impression on some that lingers to this day.

After the Velvet Revolution of 1989 overthrew the communist dictatorship, people began to think about bringing back Mother's Day. After it acquired independence in 1993, Slovakia started celebrating Deň matiek on the same day as in other free countries, though today it is not an official state holiday. The same holds true in the Czech Republic, where many have also complained about the over-commercialization of the holiday.

There was some controversy in Slovakia as center-right parties wished the May Mother's Day to replace the Marxist date. The left, led by Prime Minister Robert Fico's Smer-SD Party, argued that Women's Day on March 8 should become an official government sanctioned holiday. Prior to the 2010 parliamentary elections, Fico toured the country and recited poems and used humor in commenting on the issue. He did highlight the fact that the March Women's Day was not connected with communism, but had its origins in the Women's Suffrage movement of the early 20th century. Regardless though, many people did not forget that the communists had banned Mother's Day as we know it, and for that reason, they preferred the May Sunday.

Mother's Day Today in Slovakia

Just as in the United States, Slovak children remember their moms on Deň matiek. In schools, they create small gifts for their mamičky, collect flowers, recite poems, and sing songs. For instance, in the eastern Slovak town of Humenné, children bake perníkove srdiečka (ginger hearts) for their mothers. During 2008, the children of Humenné created a sensation with a huge gift that could go in the Guinness Book of Records. Some 3,325 pupils from all of Humenné's grammar schools made an impression in the middle of their soccer field. All the children wore white T-shirts and filled a gigantic moving heart in the playground. The formation measured 70 by 70 meters, and was photographed from a rented airplane. The mayor suggested, “It may be the biggest living heart that was ever created in the world.”



The author's mother, Ann Kopanic



The author's maternal grandparents, Stefan and Helena Susa

Slovak children in Ošcadnica, located in the Čadca District of northern Slovakia near in Žilina, celebrated Mothers' Day with a full program of songs dedicated to their moms.

Slovak children also write poems for their mothers, and here is a good example below.

“Kvety pre mamu” (Flowers for mom)

Všetky kvety do rúk mamy, skladám ako drahokamy. Za jej lásku, plnú nehy, za zelené detské brehy.	All flowers to mom's hands Made like precious gems. For her love, full of tenderness, For the green edges of the meadow.
--	---

Za jej štedrosť, starosť v hlave, za dni šťastné, za dni hravé, za rozprávky nad kolískou, za to, že vždy stojí blízko.	For her generosity, care on her mind, for happy days, for playful days, for fairy tales over the cradle, For that, she is always close by.
--	---

Mamička, prajem Ti všetko najlepšie ku Dňu matiek.

Mommy, I wish you a Happy Mother's Day!

Songs and Moms

American Slovaks have also shown a great dedication to their mothers, and I have seen that expressed mainly in songs (piesne). Slovaks brought with them from Europe many songs about their love for their moms. They might sound corny in English, but loving a mother and singing about that love in Slovak sounds simply wonderful. Slovak-American radio stations such as WKTL in Struthers, Ohio, the Pittsburgh Slovak Radio Hour on WPIT, and the two Slovak radio shows on WERE and WCPN always play songs to mom in May when Deň matiek comes around.

Here is „Slovenské mamičky“ (Slovak moms) by the Pavelkovič family, a good example of one of many Slovak songs which sings the praises of mothers who raise their sons so well. But the song also signals a bit of protest, against the forced draft of young men to go to war, one of the reasons that so many Slovaks emigrated and came to America. One may hear a rendition at the Youtube website: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MplEdolw_nM

Slovenské mamičky Slovak Moms

1. Slovenské mamičky pekných synov máte, Slovak mothers, you have beautiful children,
vychovali ste ich na vojnu ich dáte. You have raised them to go to their war.

2. Vychovali ste ich ako vtáčatko, They were brought up like a little bird,
za nimi zaplače nejedno dievčatko. For many a young girl will cry for them.

This Youtube link will take you to a 1946 recording by Mária Víková singing “Pieseň matky” (A Song of Mother), accompanied by the Bratislava Radio Orchestra - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=045wghvZU9s>. It is well worth listening to.

We thank God for our Slovak mothers and grandmothers (matky a baby), and we will always treasure the love and many fond memories we have of them. Ďakujem pekne mama, pre tvoju večnú lásku! (Thanks so much mom, for your everlasting love!)

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Reverend Ronald Kurzawa to Celebrate Golden Jubilee

50 Years Since Fr. Kurzawa's Ordination: Awesome!

In these past fifty years, Fr. Ron Kurzawa was pastor for four faith communities. He will be scheduling a Mass of Thanksgiving at each of these parishes in which he served. If it is possible, Fr. Ron asks that you come and simply join in one of these Masses (you also can watch your parish bulletins for any updates).

Fr. Ron strongly believes this is an occasion for giving thanks to God for inspiring him and for blessing him with you. That is what will make this year truly "Golden."

Mass of Thanksgiving Schedule:

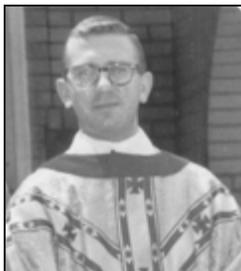
- St. Aidan Parish – Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, June 1, 2014 @ 11:30AM
- St. Hubert Parish – Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday, June 7, 2014 @ 5:00PM
- Dominican Sisters Chapel, Oxford – Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, June 8, 2014 @ 11:00AM
- St. Margaret of Scotland Parish – Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday, June 21, 2014 @ 4:00PM
- St. Clement of Rome, Romeo – Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, August 17, 2014 @ 11:00AM

Born in Detroit, Fr. Kurzawa is the son of the late Sigmund and Helen (Kopas) Kurzawa. He is also a member of the FCSU Branch 199. He attended St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake; St. John's Provincial Seminary in Plymouth Township; University of Detroit; and earned a Master of the Arts in Liturgical Theology at University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN. In 1989, he was given the John Farrell Award, which provided him a time for sabbatical studies at North American College in Rome.

Ordained on June 6, 1964, at Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit, MI, and celebrated his First Solemn Mass on June 7, 1964, at SS Cyril & Methodius Church in Detroit. On June 8, 1964, he concelebrated Mass with the pastor who had inspired him in so many ways, Fr. Joseph Zalibera, at the Dominican Motherhouse Chapel in Oxford, MI.

Fr. Kurzawa served as associate pastor at St. Cunegunda Parish, Detroit (1964 – 1968) and St. Bartholomew Parish, Detroit (1968-1973). He served as Pastor of St. Clement of Rome Parish, Romeo (1973 – 1982); Precious Blood Parish (now St. Peter Claver) Detroit (1982 – 1992); St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, St. Clair Shores (1992-2002); St. Aidan Parish, Livonia (2002-2008) where he entered into retirement on July 1, 2008. However Fr. Ron remains active helping out at St. Hubert Parish and is a member of the Knights of Columbus – Branch #11658 –where is he Faithful Friar of the 4th degree. He frequently presides at Mass at the Dominican Motherhouse in Oxford, MI, where he studied and received his Dominican Order of Preachers Associate. Fr. Ron also assists at other parishes throughout the community.

- Submitted by Marlene Galka, Branch 199



Fr. Ron Kurzawa ordained as a priest in 1964



Fr. Kurzawa celebrates 50 years as a priest in 2014

\$500 Award from New Jersey New York Fraternal Alliance Now Available



One of the most important fraternal programs offered by the New Jersey New York Fraternal Alliance (NJNYFA) is its Youth Volunteer Award Program. Each year the NJNYFA chooses deserving young students from a member society, based on their volunteer achievements with their society as well as the community at large. Each award winner will receive \$500 with an additional \$500 award to their designated

charity.

Applicants must be residents of NJ or NY, members of a Society within the NJNY Fraternal Alliance, and between 16 and 22 years of age at the time of the application. The deadline for submitting applications is September 2, 2014. All applications must be post-marked by that date.

To obtain application forms and supporting information, please contact Karen at the First Catholic Slovak Union at 1-800-533-6682 or via email at kdavis@fcsu.com.



FCSU Delegates: Sign up For Either Day or Night Sightseeing Tour This August

When the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) holds its 50th Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia, PA, this summer - August 23 – 27th, 2014 – delegates will have the opportunity to explore the City of Brotherly in style.

Delegates will receive complimentary tickets for either a day or night tour (guests need to purchase tickets prior to Convention for the reduced rate of \$20 for adults and \$10 for children). Your ticket offers an extensive tour of Philadelphia, covering the historic district, the museums along the parkway, Boathouse Row, Philadelphia Zoo, University City, and Society Hill. Entertaining, well-informed guides will make sure you don't miss a thing!

You have two touring choices:

- 90-minute Night Bus Tour – offered only on Saturday evening, August 23, 2014: A guided non-stop 90-minute Philly by Night Tour, a citywide tour of historic Philadelphia's most notable attractions under a starry night sky.
- 90-minute Day Bus Tour – A citywide day tour of Philadelphia that allows you to hop-off, hop-on to visit a site or museum and then pick-up another bus and continue on your tour.

Don't wait: seating is limited! Choose the night or day tour, and make your reservation today. The deadline to send in your ticket form to the Home Office is **June 13, 2014**. Blank forms are in your delegate packages; or call the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682 to request additional forms.



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2014, in observance of Memorial Day.

Branch 40 Now Accepting Scholarship Applicants



ATTENTION STUDENTS You May Be Eligible To Win A Scholarship If:

- * You are a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union's – St. Clement's Society Branch #40, of Streator, Illinois.
- * You are in high school and have applied for a fall term at a qualifying institution OR

* You are attending a Private Grade School

St. Clement's Society Branch #40 will be offering scholarships to their youth members. They will be giving out one – one time \$500.00 scholarship for college and one – one time \$250.00 scholarship for a Private Grade School student.

These scholarships are solely funded by your local lodge (Branch #40), not the national office.

For more criteria and an application, please call Theresa at (815) 672-6142 (leave message) or e-mail her at ttegraves@mchsi.com for an application.

Applications must be postmarked by May 30, 2014.

Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union website at www.fcsu.com

REFLECTIONS ON THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS • May 2014

We are the Pope's Prayer Group.



Universal Intention - Media

That the media may be instruments in the service of truth and peace.

How do you feel after watching the news and various commentators on television? Or after listening to your favorite talk show on the radio? Are you agitated and angry? Do you feel greater compassion for people?

In his message for the 48th annual World Communications Day Pope Francis challenges us to consider how the media can either create understanding and unity or divide people. He asks, "How can we be 'neighborly' in our use of the communications media?"

His answer: "We need to recover a certain sense of deliberateness and calm. This calls for time and the ability to be silent and to listen." Communication is not simply about talking but also listening and recognizing that, even if we disagree with the person speaking, he or she is our neighbor.

"Nowadays," Pope Francis writes, "there is a danger that certain media so condition our responses that we fail to see our real neighbor." As an example of good communication, Pope Francis proposes the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. The disciples are closed in on themselves and their own ideas but Jesus listens and gently shares with them the truth about the messiah. Their hearts are set on fire by the truth and burn with love. Their dialogue with Jesus leads to a deeper encounter with him when they recognize him in the breaking of the bread.

We pray this month that the media may serve the truth. May the media not manipulate people and promote half-truths or lies. May it help people to enter into dialogue with one another so that the foundations for peace may be laid.

Reflection :

How can I better see my neighbor in someone with whom I have strong disagreements?

Scripture:

Luke 24: 13-35 Jesus speaks to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. That dialogue leads to encounter with truth and love.

Evangelization Intention - Mary's Guidance

*That Mary, Star of Evangelization, may guide the
Church in proclaiming Christ to all nations.*

According to the Gospel of John, Jesus' turning water into wine at the wedding feast of Cana was the first sign of his divinity. The miracle "revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him" (2: 11). Mary played a key role in this miracle. She told the servers, "Do whatever he tells you" (2: 5). Today she says to us: "Do whatever he tells you." What Jesus is asking of us now is to carry on his work of spreading the good news of God's love wherever we go.



Pope Francis often refers to Mary as the one who guides the Church in the work of evangelization. He called her "the star and compass that leads to Christ" and the "bright star of our Christian walk."

Speaking to the Pontifical Mission Societies, he quoted Pope Paul VI's words: "May the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the Good News not from evangelizers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient, or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervor, who have first received the joy of Christ, and who are willing to risk their lives so that the Kingdom of God may be proclaimed and the Church established in the midst of the world."

In the conclusion of "The Joy of the Gospel," Pope Francis writes: "Mary let herself be

guided by the Holy Spirit on a journey of faith towards a destiny of service and fruitfulness. Today we look to her and ask her to help us proclaim the message of salvation to all and to enable new disciples to become evangelizers in turn."

During this month dedicated to Mary, we ask her help in the work of evangelization. Following her direction, let us offer ourselves to Jesus every day, praying that we may do everything he tells us. In that way, the water—the ordinary events of our lives—will be transformed into the wine of the Kingdom of God.

Reflection:

How has Mary been a guiding star in my life? How may she help me do what Jesus asks of me?

Scripture:

John 2: 1-11 The first revelation of Jesus' glory, turning water into wine at the wedding feast of Cana.

Prayer of the Month

Lord Jesus, may the image of the Good Samaritan be our inspiration. Let our communication be a balm which relieves pain and a fine wine which gladdens hearts. May the light we bring to others not be the result of cosmetics or special effects, but rather of our being loving and merciful neighbors to those wounded and left on the side of the road. Amen.

-- from Pope Francis' Message for the 2014 World Communications Day

Park 2 Annuity
2.15%
Current Interest Rate



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

Features of the "Park 2 Annuity" include:

- * The FCSU guarantees your initial interest rate for two years.
- * The "Park 2 Annuity" can be converted to any of the FCSU Annuity Plans at any time.
- * The "Park 2 Annuity" is not applicable to any settlement option or interest option.
- * Withdrawal Privileges-Funds withdrawn during the first two years are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. The charge is 6% the first year and 5% the second year. You may, however, withdraw up to 10% of your 'Beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- * Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- * Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- * The minimum deposit is \$1,000.00.

Please contact your Branch Officer, the Home Office or visit our web site at FCSU.com

FCSU Life * 6611 Rockside Road - Suite 300 * Independence Ohio 44131
Phone 1-800-533-6682 * Fax 216-642-9410 * E-Mail: annuity@fcsu.com

THE PARK 2 ANNUITY IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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

FREE

Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union



First Catholic Slovak Union

Estate Planning Booklet



Your Personal Record Keeper

As National President Andrew M. Rajec and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt state in the beginning of the newly published Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) - the very foundations of our Society have been built on values that honor and protect our loved ones. The FCSU portfolio of insurance and annuity products itself, they point out, is designed with the financial protection of loved ones in mind, as well.

Now, as a member of the FCSU, you can receive a valuable tool for free that allows you to help your loved ones once again. Inside the pages of this personal record keeper are easy ways to record and centralize all the pertinent information for processing your estate – from personal, medical and financial information to life insurance policies, real estate holdings and other assets to final wishes for your family.

To request your free copy of the First Catholic Slovak Union Estate Planning Booklet, please call at 1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682).

Slovenská Národná Aliancia

SLOVAK NATIONAL ALLIANCE



Invites everyone to the 13th Annual Slovak Nation Celebration in Chicago on the last Sunday of May

Sunday, 25th of May:

- Begins at 12:30 pm, Holy Mass, celebrated by J. E. Archbishop Jan Sokol from Slovakia
- Lunch at 1:30 pm
- The main program at 2:00 pm

The program has invited:

- Students from the Slovak Language School in Chicago
- Guests from Slovakia: 21 members of the folklore ensemble ORAVAN, from Nižná
- The program is followed by an open dance
- Cash bar available

Address: The Village of Bridgeview Community Center
7900 Oketo Ave., Bridgeview, IL 60455

Admission: adults - \$25, seniors and youth under 21 - \$10,
Children under 12 years – free

Please come join us in celebrating Slovak culture, customs and delicious food!

Information: (773) 744-8401 e-mail: lojzik@hotmail.com



FCSU FINANCIAL Single Premium Insurance Spring Special!

Newborn Male \$5000 for \$410 \$10000 for \$820	Newborn Female \$5000 for \$345 \$10000 for \$690
Male - age 5 \$5000 for \$475 \$10000 for \$950	Female - age 5 \$5000 for \$410 \$10000 for \$820
Male - age 10 \$5000 for \$565 \$10000 for \$1,130	Female - age 10 \$5000 for \$485 \$10000 for \$970
Male - age 15 \$5000 for \$670 \$10000 for \$1,340	Female - age 15 \$5000 for \$570 \$10000 for \$1,140

Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren and receive a

**FREE \$10.00
GIFT CARD**

to present with the certificate!

Features:

- Pay one premium and have fully paid-up Insurance
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- Excellent gift for children or grandchildren



Editor's Note: The rates in the Winter Single Premium Special that ran on page 22 of the January 15, 2014 issue were published in error. Jednota apologizes for any confusion this may have caused.

News From Slovakia

Analysts: Small Parties Have Hired Celebrities for Brand Promotion

Bratislava, April 20 (TASR) - A number of relatively unknown political parties running in the European election have recruited celebrities and public faces for their slates, with political analysts Juraj Marusiak and Michal Horsky concurring that this could help them to promote their respective party brands.

Nonetheless, the odds of the parties in question acquiring seats in the European Parliament remain low. "These parties are out to get some exposure and public visibility, and they'll certainly vie for media coverage. It's up to every individual party as to how and whether they make it on the political scene, but small parties like these don't stand much of a chance," said Marusiak.

"The 5-percent threshold [for getting into the European Parliament] is way too high for these parties; they don't stand much of a chance of reaching it, and their managements are probably aware of that fact," added Horsky.

Pavol Dubcek, son of distinguished Communist reformist politician Alexander Dubcek, is running for the Christian Folk Party, for instance. Marusiak in particular finds it interesting that a son of a social democrat has opted for a conservative party. "He's run for different parties in the past as well, however."

Ice-hockey legend and coach Jozef Golonka has buttressed his bid on the Party of Modern Slovakia (SMS), but Marusiak doubts that his personal popularity will provide enough traction to advance the relatively minor party all the way to Brussels.

Also noteworthy is the slate of the Christian SLOVAK NATIONAL PARTY (K SNS), the leader of which is former member and chair of the Slovak National Party (SNS) Jan Slota. "It seems that he's taking advantage of a legal loophole in order to include the name of his former party in the name of his new organisation. On the other hand, the degree to which he'll be able to persuade voters that he's the bearer of patriotic values remains to be seen. On a personal note, I'm rather sceptical - currently even SNS is distancing itself from him," said Marusiak, adding that K SNS has only a small chance of getting into the European Parliament. It could divert patriotic votes and deprive SNS of its prospects, though.

Analysts believe that the high level of interest in the European election among various parties on the periphery of the political scene could be explained by the crisis of confidence in the political establishment that has become more pronounced in recent years. "New organisations are attempting to capitalise on this situation and replace the established parties in their positions," said Marusiak. "In some cases, though, it's only virtual parties we're talking about, founded in order to weaken specific existing and established parties."

ZAP: Car Industry in Slovakia Lacks West-East Highway and Education

Kosice, April 14 (TASR) - Any further development of automobile industry in Slovakia faces an obstacle in the form of nonexistent highway connection that would link western regions with the east, the lacking labour force and linkage between science, innovation and industrial needs, representatives of the Automobile Industry Association (ZAP) said after talks with subsuppliers in Kosice and Presov regions on this date.

According to ZAP chair Jaroslav Holecek, there is a room even for fourth automobile manufacturer in Slovakia. "It's not under consideration at the moment, but there surely is adequate room for even two car producers in the area between Banska Bystrica, Zilina and eastern regions," he claimed.

The most important in the context of current logistics changes of companies is the completion of expressway from Zilina to eastern Slovakia, says Holecek. "I believe that over the course of the past decade wasted with meaningless and trivial quarreling [between politicians], we've lost more than all those millions that are at the forefront of decisions on whether or not the expressway would be profitable. Simply put, it should have been built a long time ago," he said, adding that 75 percent out of 300 subsuppliers for automobile industry are based only in western Slovakia.

Another problem standing in the way of the industry development is the education system. Holecek finds it paradoxical that although the unemployment rate is relatively high, companies face the lack of qualified workers. "Our prognosis shows an annual need for 42,000 new employees with high school education, 30,000 of whom would serve only to replace retiring workers. On the other hand, according to statistics, fewer than 5,000 high school graduates land jobs in their respective fields of study," he added. In order to change this unfavorable state of affairs, a wholesome transformation of the school system is required. ZAP would like to see elements of dual system introduced into the high school education system, one in which students would acquire most of practical skills at companies involved in the industry. To that effect, ZAP plans to launch pilot projects as of September.

Slovakia also needs to have its research and development fields more oriented toward practice. "Science and innovations are not linked with the needs of our most important industry," said the chair. Because of this, ZAP proposes the creation of the Centre for Strategic Research and Development, which would be specialized in automobile industry and serve a number of companies.

Automobile industry represents a driving force behind Slovakia's economy, with a 43-percent share in total industrial production of the country. It also forms 26 percent of Slovak exports and provides direct employment to 60,000 people. In 2013, Slovakia once again dominated the world chart in car production, with 181 automobiles produced per capita. Overall car production is still increasing its volume and 980,000 vehicles were manufactured in 2013, representing a year-on-year growth by 5.8 percent.

Poll: Nearly Half of People Happy with Outcome of Presidential Elections

Bratislava, April 16 (TASR) - Forty-seven percent of people voiced their satisfaction with the results of the presidential election, from which Andrej Kiska emerged victorious, TASR learnt from a survey by the Public Affairs Institute (IVO) and Focus agency out on this date.

The survey, which showed that 33 percent of 1,052 respondents were unhappy with the outcome of the elections, was conducted in early April. One-fifth of those asked were unable to say whether they were content with the outcome or not.

The second round of the elections was held on March 29. The voter turnout was 50.5 percent in the run-off vote, up from 43.4 percent in the first round.

The poll also showed that the lower-than-average turnout was seen among first-time voters and youth (up to 24 years of age) in general, people with basic education and students. Fifty-six percent of those who went to the polls only in the second round voted for Kiska, with 39 percent of this group casting their vote for Prime Minister Robert Fico.

According to the results of the poll, Fico was voted in the first round particularly by voters of his Smer-SD party (76 percent) while Kiska was backed by voters of other parties and voters with no particular party affiliation (44 percent in total). The latter was pretty much the case with voter support for fellow non-partisan candidates Radoslav Prochazka and Milan Knazko.

In the run-off vote, Kiska received the most votes from undecided voters, voters of other than Smer-SD party and non-voters. Meanwhile, Fico garnered by far the widest backing from Smer voters.

When it comes to reasons as to why voters picked Kiska rather than Fico, the respondents said that they found Kiska, among other traits, likeable, accessible and tolerant ... that he isn't prone to conflict and is a decent person (23 percent). The next main reasons for voting for Kiska was to stop Fico from winning (20 percent) and Kiska's being a partisan-free candidate and a new figure in politics (18 percent).

As for what prompted the respondents to vote for Fico, they said most often that this was down to, among other perceived characteristics, the premier's experience in politics, the fact that he's proven himself in Slovak as well as international politics, his strong leadership skills, solid prowess in law and diplomacy and his statesmanship (55 percent).

Kiska received 59.4 percent of votes in the run-off round, while Fico was backed by 40.6 percent of voters.

Analysts: Deflation Persists While Food Prices Up by 0.5 percent

Bratislava, April 14 (TASR) - Slovakia posted deflation for the second month in a row in March, but an annual drop in prices didn't concern all prices as, for example, foodstuffs and alcohol-free beverages rose by half a percent, TASR learnt from analysts on this date.

Furthermore, the prices of alcoholic beverages and cigarettes rose by 2.5 percent year-on-year. "The share of cigarettes and alcoholic beverage in total consumption is relatively small, however, and won't offset price drops in other categories. Consumers don't exactly need to spend money on these items and can limit their spending on them," said Home Credit Slovakia analyst Michal Kozub.

On the other hand, positive news is represented by a 1.1-percent drop in the prices of items relative to housing, as this is an area where savings are more difficult to secure. According to Kozub, consumers can't simply decide to 'cut' their consumption of water or payments of rent.

Juraj Valachy of Tatra Banka said that the development in prices reached its bottom in March and the inflation will rise above zero in April. "With a gradual economic revival, we're expecting a rise in demand-pull inflation, which will then push the price level moderately. We foresee that the annual rise in prices will top 1 percent by year-end and that the average for the year will revolve around 0.7 percent," said Valachy.

This was also echoed by Slovenska Sporitelna bank analyst Martin Balaz, who said that inflation will speed up in the months ahead. At the same time, the rate for the whole of 2014 is most likely to be lower than 1.4 percent recorded last year.

The Slovak Statistics Office reported earlier on Monday that consumer prices fell by 0.1 percent on an annual basis in March

United Slovak Societies of Lorain Scholarships



The United Slovak Societies of Lorain Ohio will grant college scholarships to High School Seniors who are members in good standing in the following fraternal:

- First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 228,
- National Slovak Society Assembly 160,
- First Catholic Slovak Ladies Branch 114,
- Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 111, and
- Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union Branch 77

For rules and application, please contact Helene Virant, 440/282-3325
Deadline for submission is May 30, 2014.

Slovakia at IIHF World Championships in May

Tichomir Miko



While the NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs are raging in North America, the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) World Championships will be taking place in Belarus. Consequently, most of the top national teams (such as USA, Canada, Slovakia, Russia, and Sweden) convening in Minsk will be missing top players still involved in the NHL playoffs.

This absence of top players especially impacts on small countries like Slovakia that do not have a vast reservoir of skilled players. Canada, the USA, and Russia could each assemble several competitive teams for the championships while Slovakia without snipers like Marian Hossa (Chicago) and Marian Gaborik (Los Angeles) or defensemen like Zdeno Chara and Andrej Meszaros (both playing for Boston) is severely handicapped.

Sixteen teams have been divided into two Groups. Group A consists of Sweden, Czech Republic, Canada, Slovakia, Norway, Denmark, France, Italy. Group B consists of Finland, Russia, United States, Switzerland, Germany, Latvia, Belarus, Kazakhstan.

There are four rounds to the tournament – preliminary round, quarterfinals, semi-finals and finals. The first round consists of a preliminary round robin within each group of eight. The first four teams from each group based on their standings proceed to the quarterfinals where they will play a cross-over. The winners of these matches will advance to the semi-finals. The teams which will lose in the semi-final will play against each other for the bronze medal and the teams which will win in the semi-final will compete for the gold medal and the 2014 World Champion title.

The matches for the gold and bronze medal will determine the final ranking of the top 4 teams. The teams that did not qualify from the preliminary round, as well as the teams that lost in the quarter-finals will be evaluated according to their previous positions in the groups in the quarter-final rounds. The two teams with the worst tournament placement will be relegated to the 2015 IIHF World Championship Division I Group A. At the same time, the top two teams from the 2014 IIHF World Championship Division I Group A will be promoted to the 2015 IIHF World Championship.

Preliminary Round Schedule for USA, Slovakia, and Canada:

May 9 - **Slov** vs Czech - **Can** vs France - **USA** vs Belarus
 May 10 - **USA** vs Switzerland - **Canada** vs Slovakia
 May 12 - **Slov** vs France - Russia vs **USA** - Czech vs **Can**
 May 14 - **Slov** vs Norway
 May 15 - **USA** vs Latvia - **Can** vs Denmark
 May 16 - **USA** vs Kazakhstan - **Can** vs Italy - Sweden vs **Slov**
 May 17 - **Slov** vs Italy
 May 18 - **USA** vs Finland - **Can** vs Sweden
 May 20 - **USA** vs Germany - Norway vs **Can** - Denmark vs Slov



2014 September Slovakia Heritage Tour to End in Krakow

This September's Slovakia Heritage Tour (September 4-14, 2014) will finish with a day in Krakow, Poland. This small group, 10-day tour will travel the heartland of Slovakia from Bratislava and the Tatry Mountains to Košice and Bardejov with time to get out into the countryside and cities to meet the people and learn about the history and culture. People will have time to visit their family villages, if they choose. Other positives to ending the tour in Krakow: the city has very good air connections for those returning to the states, and it will be a good launching point for trip extensions to Prague, Warsaw, or other eastern locations. Another plus for devout Catholics, is that it is the spiritual home of Pope John Paul II and there are museums and churches dedicated to his memory.

For more information on the September Slovakia Heritage Tour (Sept 4-14), visit the FCSU website at www.fcsu.com and click on the Slovakia & The World tab or go directly to the Slovak Heritage Tour website at www.slovakiaheritage.com or contact Tour Director Judith Northup-Bennett at 978-544-5144 or connectionswork4u@hotmail.com.

Rev. Joseph Murgas Recalled on the 150th Anniversary of His Birth

Daniel F. Tanzone, Branch 41

In 1911, Father Murgas founded the Slovak Catholic Federation to promote and coordinate religious activities among Slovak Catholic fraternal societies, religious communities, Slovak parishes as well as individuals of Slovak ancestry in the United States and Canada. It was in Wilkes-Barre that the SCF was founded. Father Murgas was the founding pastor of the former Sacred Heart Slovak Parish in Wilkes-Barre, PA, and a well-known inventor and pioneer in wireless telegraphy. In addition, he was an accomplished artist, botanist and leader among the first wave of Slovak immigration in America. During World War I, he labored for the emancipation of the Slovaks and Czechs from Hapsburg rule. He was a signator of the Pittsburgh Agreement, an important document in the history of the Slovak struggle for self-determination. He was the chairman of the Million Dollar Drive of the Slovak League of America which raised funds for the establishment of the first Czecho-Slovak Republic.

Father Murgas was born in Tajov, outside Banska Bystrica in central Slovakia in 1864. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Banska Bystrica in 1888. He pursued advanced studies in art and was acclaimed as one of the finest artists in the Kingdom of Hungary. He was commissioned to paint murals in the new Hungarian Parliament building in Budapest in the early 1890s. He believed that the murals depicted a fallacy of the history of the Slovaks. The murals were to portray the duplicity of the Hungarians and the prostration of the Slovaks, one of the subject peoples of the Kingdom of Hungary. He refused to continue his work on the murals. Subsequently, because of his pro-Slovak sentiments, his works were banned in Hungary. Some of his paintings which already adorned many churches in Slovakia were covered or painted over.

In the spring of 1896, he embarked for America where he wished to serve the newly arrived Slovak immigrants. He arrived in New York City on April 6, 1896. He journeyed to the Diocese of Scranton and after a brief stay in Pittston, Pa., arrived in Wilkes-Barre to serve as pastor of the newly established Sacred Heart Parish. In 1908, he built the monumental new church and that same year, opened Sacred Heart School for the children of the parish and invited the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius to serve as the teachers. It was the first mission of the sisters, who had not as yet received official papal approbation. In the spring of 1911 that Father Murgas called a meeting of the representatives of Slovak Catholic fraternals, churches and institutions in the United States. Also attending were two bishops and 36 Slovak priests. The result of the gathering saw the establishment of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

Father Murgas died in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. in 1929 and is buried in Sacred Heart Cemetery in Dallas, Pa. which he established.

During the Spring Meeting of the Executive Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation (SCF) held at the East Mountain Inn & Suites in Wilkes-Barre, PA., March 11-12, 2014, tribute was paid to the Rev. Joseph Murgas on the 150th anniversary of his birth. During the SCF Executive Board Meeting a painting of Father Murgas, provided by the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania, was displayed during the deliberations. It was recalled that two important educational centers in the area honor his memory, namely the University of Scranton with its Father Joseph Murgas Communications Room and King's College in Wilkes-Barre and its Murgas Audio-Visual Center.

Present at the SCF Executive Board Meeting were representatives of all four Slovak Catholic fraternals, as well as the Conference of Slovak Clergy and the Conference of Slovak Religious. The First Catholic Slovak Union was represented by Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt and National Chaplain, Rev. Thomas Nasta.

During the meeting, plans were finalized for next year's pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, September 12, 2015. The pilgrimage will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows, patroness of Slovakia. The chapel was a gift of the First Catholic Slovak Union on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. The pilgrimage will be held in conjunction with the Jednota celebration which will also note the 125th anniversary of the organization's founding.

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

2014 Winners of Spitzkovsky District Easter Coloring Contest



The Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District II for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin, has announced the winners of the 2014 Easter Coloring Contest. Prizes were awarded for First, Second, Third Place, and Honorable Mention for ages 4 – 6, 7 – 9, and 10 – 12. We wish to thank all of our young branch members of District II for their participation and creative drawings. The winning entries were chosen by the members of the Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District II.

Our District Winners:

Ages 4 – 6: 1st Place Nicholas Jurcenko, 2nd Place Peter Jurcenko, 3rd Place Mayalilly Bobo

Ages 7 – 9: 1st Place Emma Graves, 2nd Place Audrey Johnson, 3rd Place Regina Turner

Ages 10 – 12: 1st Evan Jurcenko, 2nd Place Aiden Jurcenko, 3rd Place Sarah Peters

Honorable Mention:

Ages 4 – 6: John Turner, Jack Shelton, Logan Lazzara

Ages 7 – 9: Ayden Fayta and Rachel Rossman

Ages 10 – 12: Jonathan Fayta

Ages 4-6



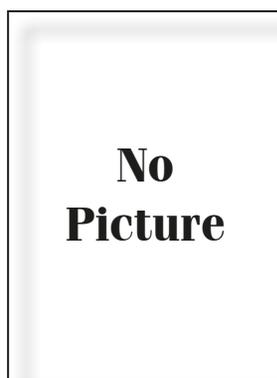
1st PLACE
Nickolas Jurcenko



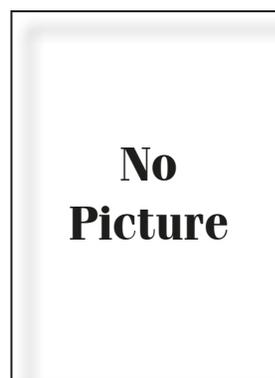
2nd PLACE
Peter Jurcenko



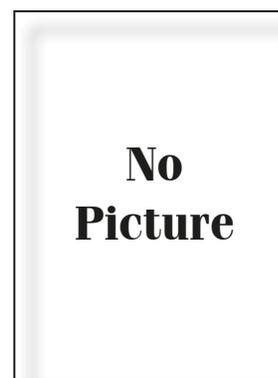
3rd PLACE
Mayalilly Bobo



Honorable Mention
John Turner



Honorable Mention
Jack Shelton



Honorable Mention
Logan Lazzara

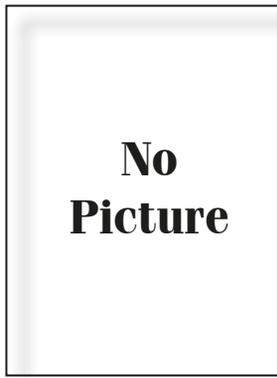
Ages 7-9



1st PLACE
Emma Graves



2nd PLACE
Aubery Johnson



3rd PLACE
Regina Turner



Honorable Mention
Ayden Fayta



Honorable Mention
Rachel Rossman

Ages 10-12



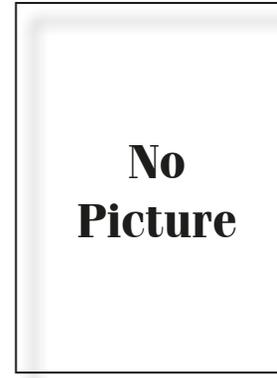
1st PLACE
Evan Jurcenko



2nd PLACE
Aiden Jurcenko



3rd PLACE
Sarah Peters



Honorable Mention
Jonathan Fayta

Congratulations to all!

Barbara Fayta, Chairperson, Easter Coloring Contest

Chewy's Song for Mom

HI KIDS (AND ALL THOSE YOUNG AT HEART).

Well, Mother's Day is almost upon us once more, so I looked up my research from last year on this special holiday. I was reminded that Mother's Day was invented right here in the good ole U S of A. This really nice lady named Pani (Mrs., in English) Jarvis way back in 1908 started it all as a tribute to her mamička. Now it's celebrated all over the planet, usually the second Sunday in May. My home country of Slovakia celebrates it then, where mamičky aren't just loved, they're revered.

And that started me thinking of my dear mother and how much I miss her. This little Slovak ditty just popped into my mind. For sure, if I could grow wings and fly to her right now, I would!

Until next time, keep your ears up and your tail waggin'.

Tvoj priateľ

Chewy



Were I But a Bird

Were I but a bird, I'd
Fly beyond the woodlands
To see what my dear mother
Is doing today.

A shirt for me she is sewing;
And her thoughts of me must be
"Send back, dear God, send back,
My son, my own, to me."

Keby Som Bol Vtáčkom

Keby som bol vtáčkom,
Letel by som za les,
Pozrieť sa čo robí,
Mamička moj dnes

Košielku mi šije,
Na mňa si spomína
"Vrát mi, Bože, vrát mi,
Toho môjho syna."



The Immigrant Mother Revisited

**By Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice President**



Several years ago, my sister gave me a copy of an article entitled "The Immigrant Mother." From the stories our parents used to tell us, the publication was indeed true to life.

Every time I ran across the article, I would read it and start reminiscing about my own mother. She, too, was an immigrant. She was born in a mountain village called Vondriesel in Slovakia, and came to this country at the age of 19. She married and bore 10 children.

When I was growing up, I can remember she would never eat a meal until my fathers, brothers and sisters and I had finished eating. She wanted to make sure everyone had enough to eat before she would sit down. Many times she deprived herself and went without for

the sake of her children.

With Mother's Day approaching, I thought it would be a fitting tribute to have the following article printed in honor of all our mothers.

God love them. Until next time ... good luck and God Bless.

The Immigrant Mother

For all eternity America is indebted to the immigrant mother, whether she is Italian, Slovak, Jewish, Polish, Austrian, German, Russian, English, Greek, Bulgarian, Irish, Slovenian, or Ukranian.

Born in the old country, she usually married at a young age the young boy with whom she worked in the fields. While still a young bride and sometimes with child, she remained and waited while her man left for America – that distant land filled with promises of a better life.

The days, months, and sometimes years, passed slowly, while she patiently waited for word from her husband. Finally, when the letter came with the passage fare for the long boat ride to America, she gathered up her few possessions and children, and boarded a

ship to join her husband.

She found him working in the steel mills, brickyards, iron mines, coal mines, slate mines, and on the railroad. She found him living in a shack, shanty, railroad car, or even in a tent. But at least this was a start, a foundation for a new life. Here in America, with her husband at her side, she prepared for the years ahead.

Our country was young; it needed laborers! she gave five, six or more children from her body and of her soul. While her husband worked in the bitter cold of winter, or the blistering heat of summer, in ditches laying sewers, and deep in the ground mining coal or iron ore, the mothers worked from early morning to late at night, cooking on a coal stove, washing the clothes with a washboard, and heating the water in a big copper tub on the same coal stove. At the same time, she took care of the children, preparing breakfast, making lunches, and sending them off to school.

Now, the freshness of young womanhood is gone. By the flickering oil lamp she sews and irons clothes late into the night. She scrimps and saves to dress her children decently, while she wears an old dress and stays at home. Her children must have an education, so that they may be respected and amount to something someday.

And then at last, when her children are grown, as her cup of joy runneth over, we see how want, deprivation, and hardship have taken their toll. All worn out, her bones aching from so many ills, she lays helplessly in her sick bed, and her children gather around her. She turns to kiss them and to bless them – and then she is gone.

She is the unsung hero and pioneer of America. No statue can be built high enough with which to sculpture a fitting memorial to the immigrant mother.

She, who with her breast nurtured us, with her arms raised us, with her ideals inspired us, with her tears washed us clean, with her devotion saved us, and then on the altar of love, laid out her worn spent body. She found her place in heaven and sends down her blessing on America for what America has offered to her children in this great land.

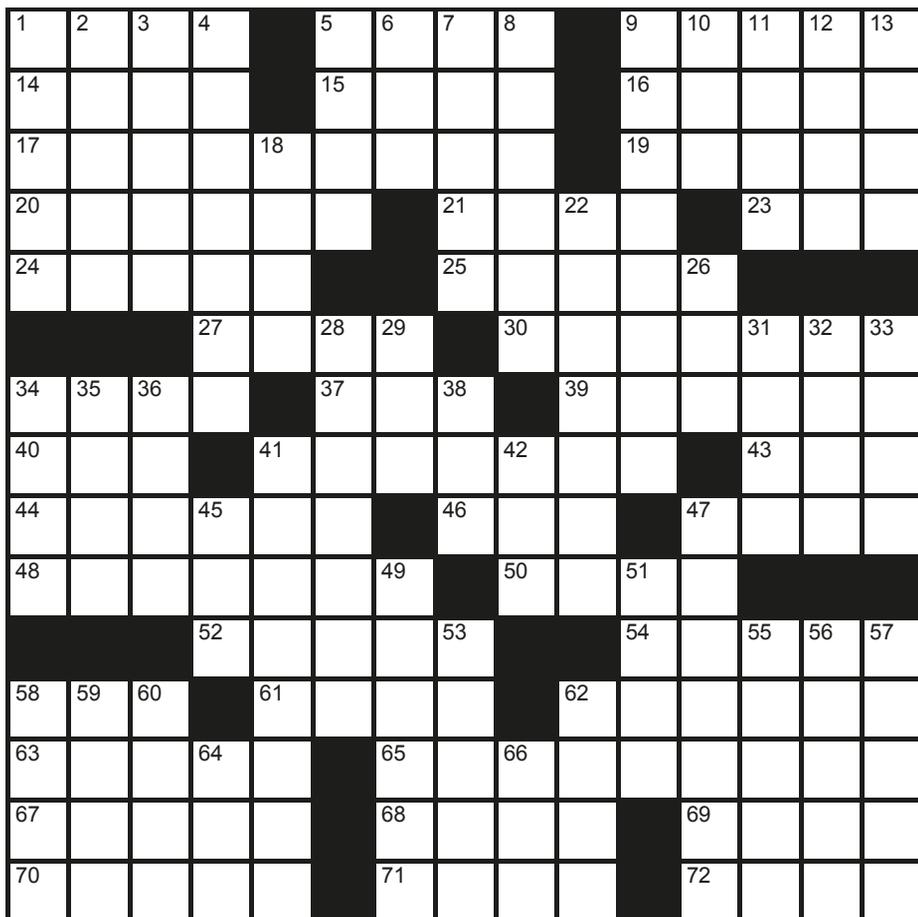
May the people of America never forget what they owe to that sweet and blessed soul – the immigrant mother of us all.



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

-Author, Unknown

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Places
- 5 Food fish
- 9 Book of maps
- 14 Rush job notation
- 15 On the safe side, at sea
- 16 Dog
- 17 Movie sensation
- 19 Itinerary
- 20 Knitted fabric
- 21 Comparable
- 23 Keyboard key
- 24 March follower
- 25 Code name
- 27 Winged it
- 30 Feminine member
- 34 Open carriage
- 37 Morning moisture
- 39 Spit
- 40 Egypt and Syria, once (Abbr.)
- 41 Grill
- 43 Before, in verse
- 44 Ballroom dance
- 46 Jog
- 47 Feudal worker
- 48 Humdrum
- 50 Effortless
- 52 Cherish
- 54 Minimal
- 58 ___ amis
- 61 Soon, to a bard
- 62 Sheen
- 63 Kind of nerve
- 65 Pond
- 67 Parasite
- 68 Collar type
- 69 Just
- 70 Indian lodge
- 71 Family rooms

72 Hardy heroine

Down

- 1 Noodles
- 2 Seize
- 3 Rhino relative
- 4 Elaborate
- 5 Throw off
- 6 Cockpit abbr.
- 7 Bailiwick
- 8 Era
- 9 Party after hitting the slopes
- 10 Also
- 11 LummoX
- 12 Court records
- 13 Actor, singer Wooley
- 18 Bun
- 22 Avatar; Hare ___
- 26 Summer (Fr.)
- 28 Magazine issue
- 29 Network
- 31 Amazes
- 32 Flowerless plant
- 33 At liberty
- 34 Pump type
- 35 Locks
- 36 Florence's river
- 38 Combat
- 41 Migraine

- 42 Pool tool
- 45 It's a free country
- 47 Within view
- 49 Gloated
- 51 Aspersion
- 53 Related maternally
- 55 Make amends
- 56 Vends
- 57 Low cards
- 58 Shed
- 59 Fencing sword
- 60 Dance bit
- 62 Eye piece
- 64 Winter driving hazard
- 66 Freight weight

See Solution on Page 16

Mark Your Calendars:

The following FCSU Sales Seminar has been finalized...



An FCSU Sales Seminar will be held on **Sunday, May 18, 2014** at the Beaverdale Fire Station, 411 Cedar Street, Beaverdale, PA. The seminar will be conducted by the Membership & Marketing Committee of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU), and will be held directly after the District 7 meeting and luncheon. District 13 also is invited to attend the seminar. (Editor's note: please see page 15 of this issue for details on the District 7 event).

An FCSU Sales Seminar will be held on **September 28, 2014** at Tatra Hall, at 2526 Sixth Street, Muskegon Hts., MI, 49444. The seminar will be held directly after Branch 595's meeting at 2:00PM (Editor's note: please watch for details of the Branch 595 meeting in upcoming issues of Jednota).

Other seminars are pending...time and place to be announced. Watch for more information in upcoming issues of *Jednota*.

Explore Your Heritage This Summer with 2014 Treasure Tours

Treasure Tours is offering two trips this coming summer that visit Slovakia, continuing our strategy of immersing in the culture, traversing the country from east to west and north to south, and finding long-lost family for our travelers; proud of our 98% success rate! 2014 Treasure Tours offerings include Bratislava old town, Modra ceramics, Detva Folk Festival, Kezmarok Crafts Fest; two walled towns - Levoča and Bardejov - Prešov, Spiš Castle, staying in a castle overlooking Košice, charming Čičmany and more. July 11 to 20 -\$2,199 per person for the land trip. More information is available

by visiting www.fcsu.com and clicking on Slovakia & The World Tab or directly from Treasure Tours, Helene Cincebeaux, 151 Colebrook Dr, Rochester NY 14617, (toll-free) 888 529-7150, helenezx@aol.com



The traditional Slovak greeting of bread and salt was offered to Treasures of Slovakia tour-goer Perre DiCarlo at the beginning of a village wedding party.

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2014

Issue Date	Deadline
May 21	May 12
June 11	June 2
July 2	June 23
July 23	July 14
August 6	July 28
Sept 17	Sept 8
October 15	October 6
November 5	October 27
November 19	November 10
December 3	November 24

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 2 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St Michael's Branch 2 will be holding our semi-annual meeting on Tuesday July 8th at 7 pm at Kretzlers on Babcock Blvd. to discuss the upcoming convention. All delegates from Branch 2 should attend. For reservations please contact Joanne Lako at 412 766 3222.

Fraternally,
Joanne Lako, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 3 - MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 will hold their delegate elections to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU on Sunday, May 18, 2014, at 9:00AM at Sts Cyril & Methodius Church Hall Second Street and 13th Avenue, NE.

Fraternally
James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 3P - HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The semi-annual meeting of St. Joseph Society, Branch 003P, will be held at 9:45 am on Sunday May 18, 2014 at the Faith United Church of Christ Hall, 21 Faith Drive, West Hazleton, PA. All members are invited to attend. A breakfast buffet sponsored by the Pardeesville Christian Association will be provided free for all branch attendees immediately following the meeting. Also, delegates will be elected for the upcoming 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held in Philadelphia, PA, in August of 2014 at this meeting. Please call M. Koval at 570-454-0004 for details and directions, if needed.

Mike Koval, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 10 - OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, First Catholic Slovak Union of Olyphant, Pennsylvania invites all Branch 10 members, and their families, to attend the annual Communion Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, June 22, 2014. The 8 a.m. Mass at Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant, PA, will be celebrated for all living and deceased members of Branch 10. Immediately following the Mass, a complimentary breakfast for members and their families will be held at the Regal Room, 212-218 Lackawanna Ave., Olyphant. Reservations are requested, and may be made by phoning (570) 489-9819 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. no later than Friday, June 13.

Fraternally,
William Navelanko, Secretary

BRANCH 60 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch #60 - McKeesport will hold its semi-annual meeting Sunday, May 18, 2014 at the home of President Ann Wargovich (58 Lilmont Drive, Swissvale) at 1:00 p.m.

On the agenda will be Officers' reports, and discussion of the upcoming convention.

All members are urged to attend.
Julie Perla, Secretary

BRANCH 162 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, June 15, 2014, at 9:00 AM at Denny's Restaurant, 653 Main Street, Uniontown, PA. Branch activities will be discussed and officers' reports will be given. A report on the National Convention to be held in Philadelphia, PA, in August 2014 will be given. All members of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting and breakfast for Father's Day. Call for reservations by June 10th, directions if needed, and for any address changes or questions to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 199 - HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 199 will hold a meeting at 1:00PM on Sunday, May 18, 2014, at Jioio's Restaurant, Route 981, Latrobe, PA. Delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention being held in Philadelphia Aug 23 - 27, 2014, will be elected at this meeting. Attendance is encouraged.

Sincerely,
Barbara Patula, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 260 - CAMPBELL, OHIO

St. Matthew Branch 260 Campbell, Ohio, will have it's next meeting Sunday, June 22, 1:30 At Bedford Trails Golf Course Restaurant. Located on Bedford Road, 1/4 mile of Route 422. Agenda will include arrangements with District bus trip. Main topic will be The annual Slovak Fest and information of FCSU Annual Golf Tournament, Blairsville, PA.

Paul Ritz, President

BRANCH 266 - HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The semi-annual meeting of St. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 266, will be held on Sunday May 18, 2014, at 9:45 am at the United Church of Christ Hall at 21 Faith Drive, West Hazleton, PA. All members are invited to attend. Election of delegates to the upcoming 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union in Philadelphia in August of 2014 will be conducted at this meeting. A buffet breakfast will be provided by the Pardeesville Christian Association for all branch attendees. For more information, and to get directions if needed, contact R. Lazar or any other branch officer.

Richard Lazar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 276 MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St John the Baptist Branch # 276 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, May 18, 2014 at St Patrick's church hall on 32nd Street in McKeesport. Pa at 1:00 P.M. Reports will be given by the officers and discussion about the convention in Philadelphia will be made. All members are urged to attend.

Nancy Gerdich, Rec. Sec.

BRANCH 290 - RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

St. John the Baptist, Branch 290, will hold a meeting at 7:30PM on May 7, 2014. We will elect our delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union at this meeting. Please call Joe at (732) 469-5256 after 6PM for information on the meeting place.

Joseph F. Minarovich, President

BRANCH 293 - LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 293KJ, will hold a special meeting for the purpose of electing delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union on Monday, May 19, 2014, at 6PM at the home of Financial Secretary Robert J. Lakata, 527 E. Bertsch St., Lansford, PA, 18232. St. Joseph's Society, Branch 293KJ, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Monday, June 23, 2014, at 6PM at the home of the financial secretary Robert J. Lakata. Anyone having questions or needing service or more insurance call the financial secretary at 570-645-4872, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Fraternally,
Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 313 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Branch 313 will be holding a meeting on Saturday, May 17, 2014, at 11:00AM. The meeting will take place at the Mother of Sorrows Convent, 5900 W. 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL. Delegates will be elected at this meeting for the upcoming 50th Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia, PA in August 2014.

Joseph Bugel, President

BRANCH 382 - SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382K, of Scranton, Pennsylvania, will hold a Pre-Convention Meeting at noon on Sunday, May 18, 2014. Branch members will gather in the VFW Post 3474, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, Pennsylvania.

On the agenda will be information on the Quadrennial Convention set for August 2014. Members will have the opportunity to offer suggestions regarding items to be brought to Convention.

In addition, members will discuss possible summer activities for young members of Branch 382K. The District 17 picnic will also be discussed.

A report of the District 17 spring meeting will be given. Members will hear any updated information from the Home Office.

Light refreshments will be served. All members are encouraged to attend.

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

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 595 - MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Branch 595 will hold its next meeting on May 18, 2014 at 2:00pm, at 2526 Sixth Street, Muskegon Heights, Michigan, 49444. Please mark your calendar to attend and learn all about the great activities that are being planned for a fun filled summer. Everyone is encouraged to attend and show your support.

The May Breakfast will be served on May 25, 2014. This will be our last breakfast until the fall. Don't miss out on the best breakfast

in town.

Burritos will be featured on May 22nd. Bring your family and friends to meet for dinner from 4:30pm to 7:00pm.

Our annual Memorial Day luncheon will be May 26th beginning at 12pm. Enjoy a BBQ, Macaroni Salad and a pickle for \$5.00 per person.

Fraternally,
Cindy Bellefeuille, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 721 - BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

Branch 721 will have a meeting on Sunday, May 18, 2014, at 2:00PM. It will be held at the home of Julius Remenar, Branch Financial Secretary, located at 8977 S. Mason Road, Bannister, MI. Election of delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union will be on the agenda. All members are encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members of Branch 731 will meet on Sunday, June 1, 2014. The meeting will be at Noon at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio. Plans for the 50th FCSU convention will be on the agenda. Our participation at the Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest on August 10, 2014 at Saint Matthias Church will also be discussed. Please plan to attend.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 769 - ENDICOTT, NEW YORK

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 769, will hold its semi-annual meeting at 1:00PM on May 19, 2014, at the residence of Henry J. Pochily, 2809 Smith Dr., Endicott, NY. All members are encourage to attend. The meeting will provide information regarding the forthcoming 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held in Philadelphia, PA, on August 23 - 27, 2014.

Other items of concern to the membership will be discussed, including an election of a delegate to the convention.

Henry J. Pochily, President

Last Chance for Youngstown/ Spišská Nová Ves Cities Tour 2014



What are you waiting for? This trip is a go. This is the last chance for you to get on board. Don't postpone making the decision a minute longer. We're awaiting your call or e-mail. Contact Jim Bench at 724-858-5843 or Kay Bench at 724-771-7900 or e-mail us at jmbench@yahoo.com. This is a trip of a lifetime.

The cost of the trip including airfare, hotels, admissions, breakfast and dinners daily is \$3849.00 from Washington D.C. and \$3899.00 from Pittsburgh, Pa. We spend three

nights in Bratislava, 1 night in Piešťany/Trenčín region, 2 nights in the Tatra Mountains, 3 nights in Levoča, 2 nights in Košice, and 2 nights in Sliach. All the hotels are 4-5 star. Remember our trip is 14 days. No matter what state you are from Paul Hudak of Adventure International will arrange for you to meet us in Washington D.C. He can be reached at Adventure International at 216-228-7171 or 800-542-2487.

Side trips are available to visit relatives with advance planning. Hope to hear from you.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

On April 6 Branch 38 hosted the spring meeting of the Pittsburgh District at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin, PA. District President George Matta II was elected as the District Delegate to the upcoming convention. A meeting for all delegates is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22, 6:30 PM at the Holy Trinity church hall in West Mifflin.

Branch 254 will host the annual Fathers Day Mass & Luncheon on June 15, 2014, at Holy Trinity Church in West Mifflin, with assistance from Branch 2. Members are asked to attend a 9 AM Liturgy at the church. Immediately following Mass, members are invited to the church hall for a meal and socializing. The cost of the brunch is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 12 & under. Reservations must be made in advance no later than Monday, June 9. No tickets will be sold at the door. Prices for the ad booklet are: full page \$75, half page \$40, quarter page \$25. This deadline is also June 9. Contact jtsenko@aol.com or 412-531-2990 (day) 412-343-5031 (evening). Checks should be made payable to FCSU Pgh District and sent to 230 Thornberry Circle, Pittsburgh PA 15234. If possible, use the orange form distributed at the meeting.

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

** WPCSA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library. Topics are: May 5: Rev Valerian Michlik – Greek Catholic Churches in Slovakia, June 2: Joe Bielicki – The Czechoslovak Room at Pitt. Meetings resume in the Fall. The Western PA Slovak Cultural Association features their events on Facebook.

** Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in Spring and Fall. Call Joe Senko at 412-531-2990 during office hours for information about reservations and fees.

** Pittsburgh Folk Festival – Monroeville Convention Center – Friday, May 9, 2014.

** Slovak Day at Kennywood – Thursday, July 17. Discount tickets will be available at our Fathers Day Brunch on June 15 or email Sue at smosr@verizon.net.

** The McKeesport International Village at Renzi Park, August 12-14, features ethnic foods and dancing from many countries, including Slovakia.

** The Pitt Slovak Heritage Festival will be held Sunday, November 2, at the Cathedral of Learning, noon to 5 PM.

** The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is open Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations at 412-421-1204 or by email to smosr@verizon.net. The web address is www.nsslife.org/Museum.php.

** The 15th Genealogical & Cultural Conference of the CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International will be held on Oct 21-24, 2015 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. See www.cgisi.org. Cedar Rapids is the home of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. See www.ncsml.org.

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

** If you're interested in study abroad, the University of Presov has a number of interesting programs, including the study of Rusyn Language and Customs. Check out www.unipo.sk/en/.

** Western PA Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730

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

The Semi-annual meeting of the Rev. John Martvon District will be held May 18, 2014, at the Beaverdale Fire Station, 411 Cedar Street, Beaverdale, PA. The meeting will begin at 2:00PM with St. Joseph's Society, Branch 372, as the host.

On the agenda will be a discussion on the upcoming 50th Quadrennial Convention and other district business.

Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 9 - THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 29, 2014, at 1PM in the meeting room of K-2 Engineering Building on Pittsburgh St. All branches are encouraged to attend. The meeting will provide information regarding the forthcoming 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held in Philadelphia, PA on August 23 – 27, 2014. Other reports also will be given.

Fraternally,

Barbara Holly, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 14 - REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

Rev. Kostik District will hold it's next meeting, Tuesday June 17, 2014, 6:00 PM at St. Matthias Church. On the agenda will be discussion of the FCSU Convention and bus trip to Philadelphia. Also on the agenda will be discussion of District part of annual Slovak Fest.

Charlie Peshek, President

DISTRICT 16 - MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT - NEW YORK CITY

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District, District 16, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 1, 2014, at 1:00PM in the Rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, 1st Avenue, New York, NY 10065.

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

We urge all district branches to send their representatives to this meeting. All members of the FCSU, not only district representatives, are welcome.

After the meeting, refreshments will be served, courtesy of The St. Matthew Society, Branch 45, NYC.

Fraternally,

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 17 -- SAINTS CYRIL AND METHIDIUS DISTRICT - BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK, AND LACKAWANNA AND LUZERNE COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA

District 17 will hold its Annual Spring Meeting at 11:30 A.M. on Saturday, May 17, 2014, in the Shrine Dining Room at St. Ann's Basilica, St. Ann Street, Scranton, PA.

On the agenda will be the election and certification of our District Delegate to the FCSU 2014 Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia, the Annual District 17 Summer Picnic, and other district business.

A light luncheon and social will follow the meeting and should conclude at 2:30 P.M.

Please note the change in day, date, and time of the meeting. This is to ensure that District 17 is in compliance with FCSU By-Laws.

All Branches in District 17 are urged to send representatives to the meeting. Please contact Michael Slovenkai at 570.342.7562 to confirm your Branch's attendance.

- Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., District 17 President

DISTRICT 20 - PRINCE RASTISLAV DISTRICT – MONTREAL

Prince Rastislav District will hold their semi-annual meeting on Sunday June 8, 2014, at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall, following the 11.00 AM Mass. Confirmation of the elected delegates and alternate, and the revised social calendar for 2014 will be discussed. Branches 784 and 810 are encouraged to attend.

A light lunch will be served.

Alexander S. Dobrik, President.

Pittsburgh District Fathers Day Brunch Tickets & Booklet Information

Branch 254 (St. Wenceslaus Society) will host this year's annual Pittsburgh District Fathers' Day Mass/Brunch. The liturgy will be held at Holy Trinity Church in West Mifflin on Sunday, June 15, at 9a.m. Immediately following the Mass, members and friends are invited to a brunch along with a brief social program and door prizes in the church social hall.

Cost of the brunch is \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children (12 and under). Reservations must be made in advance no later than Monday, June 9th. **NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.**

There will also be a Father's Day booklet, allowing various branches and districts to extend Father's Day greetings. You may mail a copy of the ad to the address below or send it by e-mail to jtsenko@aol.com. Deadline for the ads is Monday, June 9th.

For tickets or an ad in the Father's Day booklet, call Joe Senko at 412-531-2990 during the day, or Albina Senko at 412-343-5031 in the evening. You can call Joe at any time at 412-956-6000. Make checks payable to: FCSU Pittsburgh District, 230 Thornberry Circle, Pittsburgh, PA 15234.

Joseph T. Senko
Branch 254 Member,
Slovak Honorary Consul

FATHERS DAY MASS/BRUNCH

Please reserve ___ adult tickets@ \$12.00 each \$____(total)

Please reserve ___ child tickets @\$6.00 each \$____(total)

Ticket total \$_____

I would like to purchase an ad:

Full page (5 ½ x8 ½)@ \$75.00 \$_____

Half page (5 ½ x4 ¼)@ \$ 40.00 \$_____

Quarter page (5 ½ x 2 1/8)@ \$25.00 \$_____

Ad total \$_____

Total amount enclosed for tickets and ad \$_____

CONTACT

Name _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____



Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members



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

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
001K	Joseph J Stipkala	200K	Richard Morvik	401K	Mary M Tabacek	670K	John W Hofmann
001K	Joan M Young	224K	Robert Solik	410K	Helen Zitney	682K	Martha M Muransky
001K	Margaret Zupancic	228K	Cecilia L Tornabene	419K	Ronald J Mataconis	682K	Carol Jean Quinlan
002K	Alma M Duda	238K	Lois K Gatto	419K	Mary S Schied	700K	Stanley V Wrabec
002K	Margaret Kuzma	254K	Alice Movitch	429K	Jacqueline M De Less	706K	Steve Pseno
003P	Cyril J Kowalchick	260K	Sr Mary Raymond Balash	450K	Rev Harry S Winca	706K	Albert S Uram
016P	Leonard Gostinski	260K	Ann T Jurcisin	456K	John L Soltis Jr	721K	Dewey R Custer
019K	Stephen J Hudak	276K	Michael J Hadvab	456K	Rita Marie Vilkinofsky	731K	Theresa A Smrecansky
035K	Joseph Guzowski	276K	Mary R Meskanick	484K	John E Barsda	731K	Catherine Yanek
038K	John Krajnak	292K	James Allen Chervenak	484K	Joseph F Bashista Sr	738K	Albert P Pavucsko
038K	Geraldine Stroud Poole	292K	Andrew J Ferko	484K	Albert P Dobay	743K	Elizabeth M Antaya
085K	Joseph S Petrasko	292K	Paul L Ferko	484K	Martin Konkol	746K	Susan Kisslan
136K	Josephine M Saksa	292K	Stephen P Petrilla	484K	Lillian R Stager	746K	Walter R Urban
149K	Jane Kozak	292K	Jennie Pauline Teklinsky	497K	Olga M Berilla	748K	William John Hradel
152K	Agnes R Homishak	293K	Joseph P Krisak	505K	Thomas A Banyas Sr	756K	Joseph P Gasparovic
152K	Marie M Pajka	293K	Edward P Ringer	514K	Pauline C Ciszewski	756K	Robert H Klco
153K	Ann C Zigmond	313K	Muriel Adele Carlton	543K	William V Mikeska	764K	Thomas Shamrock
157K	Alfred R Berner	313K	Josephine C Judy	543K	Raymond Skriba	764K	Deanna L Spano-Richmond
157K	Phillip A Kroll	313K	Eleanor D Tomaska	553K	Loretta Olenick	796K	Thomas William Hudak
162K	Barbara J Rabatin	315K	Edward F Janosko	553K	Rosemary Olenick	855K	Anne Palkovic
165K	Ann T Hart	315K	Rose M Novak	567K	Edward M Lasota	890K	James Paul Blascak Sr
166K	Julia A Pochily	315K	Margaret M Vojtko	567K	Isabelle M Vitalos	890K	Joseph Andrew Hanechak
166K	John Louis Tokos Sr	327K	Joseph S Cisarik	581K	Clara V Greskovich	890K	Bernice E Liptak
169P	Frank Joseph Oravec	353K	James J Bronchik	581K	Pauline Senak	900K	Joseph P Sebesak
169P	Matthew Oravec	367K	Stephen Donald Kutay	628K	George A Bodnar	900K	John P. Straneva
173K	Katherine Zluky	373K	Alfreda Joyce Solomon	628K	Michael E Mrazik	916K	Joseph W Yakich
181K	John W Urban	380K	William J Kacvinsky Sr	670K	Elizabeth D Balog		
199K	Pauline R Matuszky	381K	Charles J Bilicska	670K	Jean Lynn Bloom		

*Processed through the month of March 2014

OBITUARIES

JOSEPH E. STAS BRANCH 199 – HOSETETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Joseph E. "Joe" Stas, 79, of Latrobe, died on Sunday, April 20, 2014 at his residence surrounded by his wife, children, and grandchildren.

He was born on August 1, 1934, in Whitney; a son of the late John M. Stas and Mary (Menarcheck) Stas.

Joe was a lifelong member of St. Cecilia Church, Whitney, it's Holy Name Society and had served as a lector and was on the parish council. He was a graduate of Hurst High School, Class of 1952, and St. Vincent College, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1958. He received a Master of Education degree from Duquesne University in 1965. He also attended Clemson University and the University of Pittsburgh. His first teaching position was 1958-1960 with Unity Township, Youngstown School District as Head Elementary teacher at the Northern Area Building. Also, he served as Summer Recreational Director of Unity-Youngstown and served as a board member of Unity-Youngstown Recreation Commission. He retired from Mt. Pleasant Area School District in 1991; where he served as teacher, football coach, assistant principal, principal and assistant superintendent. Joe served for 20 years (1985-2005) on the Greater Latrobe School Board and eight years on the Eastern Westmoreland and Career and Technology Center. His life memberships included, the Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals, P.S.E.A. and N.E.A. He was also a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota), Branch 199, Life member of the

B.P.O. Elks #868 Mt. Pleasant and Hostetter Literary and Social Club.

Besides his parents Joe was preceded in death by a grandson, Brian Rusnock, a brother Stephen Stas, and two sisters Margaret (Stas) Dlugos, and Martha (Stas) Uhring.

Joe is survived by his wife, Theresa (Bizup) Stas, of Latrobe; 12 children, Joseph Stas and his wife, Linda of Wexford, Dr. Ronald Stas and his wife, Melanie, of Latrobe, Annette Rusnock, and her husband Thomas, of Latrobe, Regina Knestaut, and her husband, Keith, of New Philadelphia, OH, Edward Stas and his wife, Nancy, of Latrobe, Theresa Martincic, of Latrobe, Kenneth Stas and his wife, Sandra, of Latrobe, Mary Helen Vasinko and her husband, Raymond, of Latrobe, Dorothea Looney and her husband, Edgar, of Austin, TX, Sandra Fenton and her husband, Neal, of Latrobe, Renee Reisenweaver and her husband, Kevin, of Mechanicsville, VA, and Randall Stas, of Latrobe; 33 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; one brother, John R. "Jumbo" Stas, of Latrobe, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Joe's positive, uplifting attitude, humor and genuine love for people will be remembered and an inspiration to all.

Family and friends were received from 6 to 9 pm Tuesday, April 22, 2014, and 3 to 9 pm Wednesday, April 23, 2014, at the JOHN J. LOPATICH FUNERAL HOME, INC., Latrobe. The St. Cecilia Rosary Society recited the Rosary at 2:30 pm Wednesday in the funeral home. A Funeral Mass was celebrated at 10:00 AM Thursday, April 24, 2014, at St. Cecilia Church with the Rev. Peter Augustine Pierjok, O.S.B. as celebrant. Interment followed at St. Vincent Cemetery.

MARTIN KONKOL – BRANCH 484 CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

Martin Konkol, 85 of Indiana, PA, died Wednesday, February 26, 2014, at the Indiana Regional Medical Center. The son of Michael and Veronica Solak Konkol, was born in 1928 in Aultman, PA.

Mr. Konkol was a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Kent where he sang in the choir and was active in many ways.

He was employed for over 30 years at the Johnstown Bethlehem Steel plant and farmed his family's 50 acres. Martin served in the Korean Conflict as a U.S. Army cook.

Surviving is his daughter, Aleta of Seattle, WA; brothers-in-law Albert Baroni (Betty), Fred Ziegmond Jr. and wife, Violet, Karl Ziegmond and wife Peggy, an extended family of Lori Friedt, Cory Jahnke, Linda Markle, all of Seattle and Ryan Murray, Long Beach, CA, and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 34 years, Eleanor Ziegmond and his parents. Martin was the last of his generation. His immediate family included: brothers: Andrew, Ralph, John, and George; sisters: Susan Konkol, Jennie Seth, Ann Lipchick, Pauline Stibrik, Mary Bucko, and Veronica (Olga) Janetka.

Friends were received on Friday, Feb. 28, 2014 at the Bowser-Minich Funeral Home in Indiana.

A funeral mass of Christian burial was celebrated at Church of the Good Shepherd in Kent on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2014, with the Reverend Father Thomas Federline as the celebrant.

Interment was made at Saint Bernard's Cemetery in Indiana, PA.

AMELIA "PENNIE" ROGALIN BRANCH 493 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Amelia "Pennie" Rogalin, lifelong Jednota member, passed away unexpectedly at age 85 on January 31, 2014.



She had been chosen as the President of the Assumption of the BVM Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, IL, at the Branch Annual Meeting held on November 30, 2013. Pennie grew up in the Slovak neighborhood around Assumption BVM Slovak Catholic Church at 24th Street & South California Blvd. in Chicago. Her parents had immigrated to Chicago from Slovakia.

She married her late husband Robert Rogalin at Assumption BVM Church, and they settled on Chicago's southwest side near Midway Airport. She was a devout Catholic who was a long-time member of St. Rene Goupil Catholic Church's Mothers Club, Altar and Rosary Society, and Senior's Club.

She leaves to mourn her children Kim (Adriana) Rogalin and Janice (Michael) Shadley, as well as a multitude of friends. She had relocated to Oak Brook Terrace, IL to be near her daughter Janice.

A Mass of the Resurrection was held at St. Rene's Church, with entombment at Resurrection Cemetery in Justice, IL.

Pennie had a very outgoing personality. She loved to attend Branch 493 meetings and reminisce about the old days in the old Slovak neighborhood.

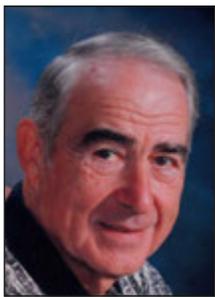
- Submitted by Robert Tapak Magruder, Branch 493 Secretary

continued on page 16

OBITUARIES

continued from page 15

MILLER M. DURIS BRANCH 735 – PORTLAND, OREGON



Miller M. Duris, 86, passed away on Sunday, March 23, 2014, after a 6-year struggle with an aggressive form of Parkinson's Disease. Born on March 2, 1928, to Slovak immigrants John and Mary (Duhon) Duris in Rainier, Oregon, Miller attended school in Rainier until 1945 when he enlisted in the US Navy at the age of 17. He served on the USS Archernar for over 3 years, leaving the service in March, 1949. On October 11, 1948, he married Celestine (Sally) Weverka in Hillsboro. He worked for Meltebeke's Furniture in Hillsboro before joining a fledgling Beaverton electronics company, Tektronix, in 1951 as its 351st employee. Miller and Sally moved to Virginia in 1959 with two daughters, where he managed the Tektronix Washington, D.C. field office. In 1967, they returned to Hillsboro with six daughters, continuing his Tektronix career until 1977. In 1969, Miller was appointed to the Hillsboro City Council and served as Hillsboro Mayor from 1973 to 1977, and Washington County Commission Chair from 1977 to 1981. During this time, he also owned and operated Miller's Sweet Shop in Hillsboro, selling to the Candy Basket in 1974. He then went on to be the Facilities Manager for Tuality Hospital until his retirement in 1991. Upon returning to Hillsboro in 1967, Miller began organizing the Pigtail-Ponytail Softball League (now the Hillsboro Girls Softball Association). The League started with four teams in 1969 and he served on the League's board for 20 years while managing softball teams that included five daughters. When his daughters continued on to play women's softball, Miller was team manager for many years. His passion for playing men's softball began while living in Virginia and continued in Hillsboro. After retirement, he played senior softball in Arizona and California through the winter and Portland in the summer, and traveling to different tournaments throughout the US. In 2004, he pitched for the Northwest 75 Team based in Seattle and the team won the National Championship and World Championship. He hung up his glove in 2009 as his health began to fail. Miller was an active member of the Hillsboro Martin J. Ryan VFW Post 2666 and the First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 735 in Portland, a member of the Hillsboro Elks Lodge 1862, a lifetime member of the Optimist Club and a former member of the Hillsboro Rotary Club. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, four daughters and sons-in-law: Cindy and Herb Hirst of North Plains, OR; Carol and Steve Nolan of Hillsboro, OR; Colleen and Steve Palmer of St. Helens, OR; Carin and Blake Landon of Hillsboro, OR; daughter Cathy Robb of Kenneth, Florida, and former son-in-law Burdette Robb of Vernonia, OR; 9 grandchildren: Jeff Tankersley, Holly and Miller Nolan, Danielle and Katelynn Robb, Addison Haas, Hayley, Griffin and Grayson Landon; two grandsons and granddaughters-in-law: Burdette and Larinda Robb, Michael and MaRaine Palmer; and two great-grandchildren: Aiden and Liam Robb; 3 nephews and 4 nieces in Oregon/Washington, 2 nephews and 1 niece in Slovakia, and many great-nephews and nieces. His parents, brother Andrej in Slovakia, sister

Annie Griffiths from St. Helens, and daughter Cheryl Tankersley from Hillsboro preceded him in death. Services were Saturday, April 5, 2014, at St. Matthew Catholic Church, Hillsboro, OR. The rosary was at 10:30 am and at 10:50 am the presentation of the flag by the US Navy, and 21-gun salute by the Hillsboro VFW. Services were at 11:00 am, and luncheon followed in the church hall.

MICHAEL J. FAJER BRANCH 735 – PORTLAND, OREGON



Michael J. Fajer, 86, passed away April 19, 2014. Michael was a lifelong Oregonian, born July 31, 1927, in Portland, to immigrant Slovak parents, Michael Steve Fajer and Elizabeth Janis Fajer. During the Great Depression, Mike spent his childhood growing up near the former Vaughn Street Baseball Park in Northwest Portland, where he also attended St. Patrick Elementary School. This early influence inspired Mike to later play baseball in high school, college and in the semi-professional leagues. He remembered fondly and often the many friends he made while growing up in "Slabtown." Mike was student body president of Commerce High School in Portland during the height of WWII. During his high school years, Mike worked full time in the summer in war-related industry, including the shipyards of Willamette Iron and Steel, American Can and Timber Structures. Immediately upon graduation from high school in 1945, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving one year assisting in the demobilization of WWII Navy personnel. After the war, Mike attended the University of Portland from 1946 to 1950 where he earned a degree in business administration. Mike married Joy Yvonne Crosswhite in 1951 and moved to Eugene where they made their first home. In 1953, he moved his family to Salem, where Mike worked for the State of Oregon for 32 years, retiring in 1983. During his 32 years of service, he worked for several state agencies, including the Department of Corrections, Budget and Management Division, Department of Motor Vehicles, Executive Department and the Department of Human Resources. Mike and Joy were married for 50 years. After Joy passed away in 2001, Mike married Dorothy Mae Gysin in 2004. Mike's interests included the competitive game of handball and, together with his Salem partner, Lee Shinn, won two Pacific Northwest Doubles titles. He also enjoyed converting his extensive music collection from the 1940-'50s into digital formats. Mike was a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Salem since 1956. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus, the First Catholic Slovak Union, Multnomah Athletic Club and the YMCA. Mike is survived by his second wife, Dorothy Gysin Fajer; children, Michael Vincent, David James, Keith Allen and Mary Frances Gritta; seven grandchildren; and one great-grand-child. His daughter, Elizabeth, died in a 1986 vehicle accident. A Mass of Christian burial was held at 11 a.m. Friday, April 25, 2014, at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Salem, OR. A viewing was held at 3 p.m. Thursday, April 24, 2014, followed by a recitation of the rosary at 7 p.m., both at Virgil T. Golden Funeral Service.

- submitted by Cindy Ďuríš Hirst, Branch 735, who notes our Portland Branch has lost two great Slovaks.



ATTENTION Branches and Districts Electing Delegates to the 50th Quadrennial of the First Catholic Slovak Union: HAVE YOU MAILED IN YOUR DELEGATE FORMS?

11.03 Qualification of Delegates

(c) Election of delegates must be completed no later than ninety (90) calendar days before the opening of the Convention. **Credentials must be forwarded to the Office of the Executive Secretary and postmarked, not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days after the election of the delegate.** Names of those elected delegates not received by the Executive Secretary in accordance with the above requirements will not be seated as delegates at the Convention.

Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport 2014 Scholarship



The Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport, Inc. announces that the Guidelines and Procedures and Application Forms for its \$1,000 Scholarships are now available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Chairperson Eileen Wilson, 395 Pilgrim Lane, Stratford, CT, 06614. No requests via phone, please.

Among the requirements to receive a 2014 Scholarship: applicant, grandparent(s), parent (s) must be a member of the Alliance for a minimum of three years and of Slovak descent, and shall reside in the state of Connecticut.

Deadline for the return of forms is May 12, 2014.

Recipients will be notified by June 2, 2014, and the award will be presented at the June meeting. NOTE: the Scholarship award will be paid directly to the recipient's school.

Fraternally,

**Eileen Wilson Chairperson, Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport, Inc.
Member, Branch 19, First Catholic Slovak Union**

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 12

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

Správy zo Slovenska

POLITOLÓGOVIA: Malé strany vedia,

že im veľké mená v eurovoľbách urobia reklamu

Bratislava 20. apríla (TASR) - Viaceré pomerne málo známe strany získali na svoje kandidátne listiny vo voľbách do Európskeho parlamentu (EP) známe osobnosti. Podľa politológov im tento krok môže pomôcť pri propagácii svojich straníckych značiek, ich šance na zisk postu v EP sú však aj napriek tomu malé. Zhodli sa na tom politológovia Juraj Marušiak a Michal Horský.

„Tieto strany sledujú svoje zviditeľnenie sa, určite budú prítomné v médiách. Závisí od každej strany, či sa dokáže presadiť, ale tieto malé strany veľkú šancu nemajú,“ povedal Marušiak. „Päťpercentné kvórum je pre tieto strany príliš vysoké, nemajú veľkú šancu ho prekročiť. Táto okolnosť je pravdepodobne pre manažment týchto strán zrejme. Ak lákajú tieto osobnosti na svoje kandidátky, asi sú si vedomí toho, že v konečnom dôsledku pôjde len o propagáciu značky ich strany,“ konštatoval Horský.

Za PRIAMU DEMOKRACIU, Kresťanskú ľudovú stranu napríklad kandiduje syn Alexandra Dubčeka Pavol. Podľa Marušiaka je zaujímavé, že sa syn sociálnodemokratického politika rozhodol pre konzervatívnu stranu. „Ale v minulosti už kandidoval aj za iné subjekty,“ poznamenal. Za Stranu moderného Slovenska (SMS) kandiduje hokejová legenda Jozef Golonka, Marušiak však pochybuje, že jeho osobná popularita vytiahne stranu do Bruselu.

Zaujímavá je kandidátka Kresťanskej SLOVENSKEJ NÁRODNEJ STRANY (K SNS), ktorej lídrom je bývalý predseda Slovenskej národnej strany (SNS) Ján Slota. „Zdá sa, že sa usiluje využiť zákonné možnosti tak, aby bol názov jeho bývalej strany obsiahnutý v názve novej formácie. Iná vec je, nakoľko sa mu podarí presvedčiť voličov, že on je nositeľom národných myšlienok. Som v tom skeptický, aktuálne sa od neho distancuje aj SNS,“ konštatoval Marušiak. Kresťanská SNS podľa neho nemá veľké šance postúpiť do europarlamentu, má však šancu ubrať isté percento voličov Slovenskej národnej strane a možno ju tým pripraviť o bruselskú perspektívu.

Vo všeobecnosti veľký záujem rôznych subjektov o voľby do EP si Marušiak vysvetľuje krízou dôvery k aktuálnym politickým reprezentáciám, ktorá je na Slovensku v posledných rokoch stále evidentnejšia. „Aj v prezidentských voľbách sa uchádzalo o tento post veľké množstvo uchádzačov,“ pripomenul. „Nové subjekty sa usilujú z tejto situácie vyťažiť a prípadne vymeniť na pozíciách aktuálne etablované strany,“ poznamenal. Dodal, že proces vstupu na politickú scénu všetky tieto subjekty stojí určité peniaze a preto je vždy dôležité sledovať, kto ten - ktorý subjekt financuje. „V niektorých prípadoch môže ísť aj o virtuálne strany, založené vyslovene na oslabenie niektorých existujúcich a zavedených strán,“ dodal Marušiak.

PRIESKUM: S výsledkom prezidentských volieb je spokojných 47 percent ľudí

Bratislava 16. apríla (TASR) - Spokojnosť s výsledkami marcových prezidentských volieb vyjadruje 47 percent ľudí. Naopak, nespokojných je 33 percent opýtaných a pätina respondentov nevedela odpovedať. Vyplýva to z prieskumu verejnej mienky Inštitútu pre verejné otázky (IVO) a agentúry Focus, ktorý sa uskutočnil začiatkom apríla na vzorke 1052 respondentov formou osobných rozhovorov. Jeho výsledky prezentovali predstavitelia IVO na dnešnej tlačovej konferencii v Bratislave.

Z prieskumu ďalej vyplýva, že v prvom kole bola nižšia ako priemerná účasť v radoch prvovoličov a mladých do veku 24 rokov, menej tiež volili ľudia so základným vzdelaním, študenti, nekvalifikovaní robotníci a „notorickí“ nevoliči. Z voličov, ktorí prišli k urnám len v druhom kole, volilo približne 39 percent Roberta Fica a 56 percent Andreja Kisku.

Najčastejšie dôvody neúčasti voličov v druhom kole boli objektívne príčiny, ako choroba, cesta, práca, ďalej nezaujím o politiku a voľby, dôvod, že nemali koho voliť a napokon všeobecné sklamanie.

Z výsledkov prieskumu je tiež zrejme, že Fica volili v prvom kole najmä voliči Smeru-SD (76 percent). U Kisku prevládali voliči iných strán a nerozhodnutí (dohromady 44 percent), podobne je to aj v prípade Radoslava Procházku a Milana Kňažka.

V druhom kole získal Kiska najviac hlasov od nerozhodnutých, od voličov iných strán, nevoličov a voličov OĽaNO. Fica v druhom kole najvýraznejšie podporili voliči Smeru-SD. Ďaleko za nimi sú ešte voliči iných strán, nerozhodnutí či voliči SNS.

Medzi argumentmi, prečo si voliči vybrali Kisku, prevláda ten, že je sympatický, ľudský, prístupný, tolerantný, nekonfliktný a slušný (23 percent). Ďalšie dôvody jeho výberu boli, aby nevyhral Fico (20 percent), to, že je nezávislý, nestranný, nepolitický kandidát a nová tvár (18 percent). Dvanásť percent voličov si ho vybralo, aby nám nevládla jedna strana, deväť percent aby prišla zmena k lepšiemu a aby sa zmenil systém a osem percent to vysvetlilo tým, že to bola pre nich druhá voľba po tom, ako nepostúpil ich kandidát, ako aj voľba menšieho zla. Objavili sa tiež dôvody, aby premiér nezutekal od zodpovednosti a splnil, čo sľúbil, Kiskova dobročinnosť, filantropia a záujem o pomoc bežným ľuďom, ako aj jeho finančná nezávislosť a neskorumpovanosť.

Najčastejším argumentom, prečo volili Fica, bolo, že je známy a skúsený politik, osvedčil sa v domácej a zahraničnej politike, je to silný líder, najlepší politik, veľa robí pre Slovensko, dobrý právnik, diplomat, štátnik a reprezentatívny typ (55 percent). Druhým najčastejším dôvodom bolo, že „má moju dôveru, je mi sympatický, je obľúbený“ (28 percent). Iní si ho vybrali preto, lebo má sociálne cítenie, je to ľavicový politik, ktorý myslí na bežných ľudí, preto, že je prijateľnejší ako Kiska a dôvodom bola aj vernosť Smeru-SD.

FINANCIE: Deflácia na Slovensku pretrváva, neklesajú však všetky ceny

Bratislava 14. apríla (TASR) - Slovensko v marci už druhý mesiac po sebe zaznamenalo celkový pokles cien, teda defláciu. Medziročne podľa údajov Štatistického úradu (ŠÚ) SR klesli o 0,1 %, to však neplatí o všetkých jednotlivých cenách. Potraviny a nealkoholické nápoje naopak zdraželi o pol percenta, pri alkoholických nápojoch a cigaretách ceny vzrástli až o 2,5 %.

„Podiel cigariet a alkoholu na spotrebe je relatívne malý, a tak ich rast nevyváži poklesy cien v iných oblastiach. Tieto položky nie sú úplne nutné na výdajoch spotrebiteľov, dajú sa ľahko obmedziť,“ vysvetľuje analytik spoločnosti Home Credit Slovakia Michal Kozub.

Positívnu správou je podľa neho napríklad zlacnenie bývania, ktorého ceny medziročne klesli o 1,1 %, Ide totiž o oblasť, kde sa veľmi ťažko šetrí. Spotrebiteľia sa totiž nemôžu rozhodnúť „zrušiť“ svoju spotrebu vody či nájomné, upozorňuje Kozub.

Podľa Juraja Václavého z Tatra banky však vývoj cien v marci už dosiahol svoje dno a od apríla bude opäť inflácia nad nulou. „S postupným oživovaním ekonomiky očakávame nárast dopytovej inflácie, ktorá bude následne mierne dvíhať celkovú hladinu cien. Predpokladáme, že do konca roka sa medziročný rast cien opäť dostane nad jedno percento a celoročný priemer by sa mal pohybovať okolo 0,7 %,“ vyčísluje analytik.

Súhlasí s tým aj ekonóm Slovenskej sporiteľne Martin Baláž. Rast cien by sa mal v nasledu-

júcich mesiacoch zrýchľovať, inflácia však bude podľa neho tento rok zrejme nižšia ako vlani, kedy dosiahla 1,4 %. Nízka alebo mierne záporná miera inflácie pritom praje viac sporiteľom ako dlžníkom, keďže peniaze sa neznehodnocujú.

„Nízka inflácia taktiež zvyšuje nápor na verejné financie, nakoľko znamená pomalší nominálny rast, ktorý sa prejaví aj pomalším rastom daňových príjmov. Inflácia je pre štát priaznivá aj z hľadiska znižovania reálnej hodnoty štátneho dlhu,“ dodáva Baláž.

AUTO: Na Slovensku chýbajú autopriemyslu diaľnice a kvalifikovaná sila

Košice 14. apríla (TASR) - K problémom ďalšieho rozvoja automobilového priemyslu na Slovensku patrí chýbajúce diaľničné spojenie s východom krajiny, kvalifikovaná pracovná sila a prepojenie vedy a inovácií na priemyselné potreby. Upozorňuje na to Zväz automobilového priemyslu (ZAP) SR, ktorého predstavitelia dnes rokovali so subdodávateľmi v tomto odvetví v Košickom a Prešovskom kraji.

Podľa predsedu ZAP SR Jaroslava Holečka je na Slovensku možné vybudovať aj štvrtú automobilku. „V súčasnosti o nej neuvažujeme, ale v priestore od Banskej Bystrice a Žiliny smerom na východ je určite ešte miesto aj pre dve automobilky,“ povedal pre novinárov v Košiciach.

Za mimoriadne dôležité pri súčasných logistických systémoch podnikov označil Holeček dobudovanie autostrády od Žiliny smerom na východné Slovensko. „Ja si myslím, že za posledných desať rokov žabomyšských vojen sme stratili oveľa viac, ako tie milióny, ktoré nás vždy vracajú späť k rozhodovaniu, či autostrádu áno alebo nie, či takú alebo onakú. Jednoducho, už mala dávno byť,“ konštatoval. Dodal, že z takmer 300 subdodávateľov automobilového priemyslu sú tri štvrtiny na západe Slovenska po Banskú Bystricu a Žilinu.

Druhým problémom pre rozvoj priemyslu je systém vzdelávania. V kontraste k celkovej nezamestnanosti vyznieva fakt, že firmy zápasia s nedostatkom kvalifikovaných pracovníkov. „Naša predpoveď ukazuje ročnú potrebu 42.000 stredoškolsky vzdelaných nových zamestnancov, z toho 30.000 len na obyčajnú reprodukciu ako náhrada za tých, ktorí odchádzajú do dôchodku. Na druhej strane, podľa štatistik sa vo svojom študijnom odbore zamestná menej ako 5000 stredoškolských absolventov,“ uviedol Holeček. Zmena tohto pomeru si podľa neho vyžaduje celkovú transformáciu školského systému. Do stredného odborného školstva chce ZAP SR zaviesť prvky duálneho systému, pri ktorom žiak získava väčšinu svojich praktických znalostí priamo v podnikoch, ktoré sú na to prispôbené. Od septembra bude zväz spúšťať pilotné projekty.

Slovensko potrebuje tiež transformáciu výskumu pre potreby praxe. „Veda a inovácie nie sú prepojené s potrebami nášho najdôležitejšieho priemyslu,“ hodnotí šéf zväzu. Hlavnú zmenu vidí Holeček v spoločnom prístupe k investíciám do vedy a výskumu, ktorý je v súčasnosti základom kvalitného dodávateľského vzťahu. Odberatelia v automobilovom odvetví totiž vyžadujú viac komplexné dodávky, ktoré už zahŕňajú inovácie a posúvajú ich finálny produkt o priečku vyššie. ZAP SR navrhuje riešenie vo forme Centra pre strategický výskum a vývoj, ktoré bude špecializované na automobilový priemysel a bude slúžiť pre viacero firiem.

Holeček zároveň ocenil veľmi dobré podmienky výskumu a vývoja na východnom Slovensku, či už vzhľadom na činnosť Technickej univerzity Košice, alebo viacerých súkromných výskumno-vývojových inštitúcií.

Podľa viceprezidenta ZAP SR Štefana Rosinu má Slovensko zároveň oproti svetu veľmi malý podiel podnikových výdavkov na vedu a výskum, preto je potrebné lepšie motivovať slovenské spoločnosti, aby viac investovali do vývoja. Môže sa tak stať napríklad podporou exportu inovovaných výrobkov alebo tým, že sa náklady na vývoj stanú odpočítateľnou položkou z daňového základu. „Veríme, že aj túto bariéru sa čoskoro podarí odbúrať a môžeme efektívne naplňať Národnú stratégiu hospodárstva na základe využitia poznatkov vedy a výskumu RIS3, ktorú Európska komisia vyhlásila za najlepšie spracovanú v rámci členských krajín,“ dodal Rosina.

Automobilový priemysel je ťahúňom slovenskej ekonomiky, jeho podiel na celkovej priemyselnej výrobe Slovenska je 43 %, tvorí 26 % exportu a zamestnáva priamo 60.000 ľudí. Vlani Slovensko znovu obhájilo prvenstvo vo výrobe - 181 kusov automobilov na jedného obyvateľa. Výroba automobilov na Slovensku stále zvyšuje svoj objem, vlani fabriky opustilo viac ako 980.000 automobilov, čo je o 5,8 % viac ako v roku 2012.

„Aj keď tieto čísla vyzerajú veľmi optimisticky, národohospodárska štúdia, ktorú vypracoval tím vedcov Ekonomickej univerzity v Bratislave, hovorí, že stále je tu priestor na rozvoj v automobilovom biznise, predovšetkým v jeho subdodávateľskej časti,“ zhodnotil Holeček.

I. ŠTEFANEC: Vláda investičnými stimulmi deformuje podnikateľské prostredie

Bratislava 17. apríla (TASR) - Vláda poskytovaním investičných stimulov vybraným spoločnostiam ekonomike nepomáha, ale ju deformuje a devastuje. Myslí si to podpredseda opozičnej strany SDKÚ-DS Ivan Štefanec. Kabinet Roberta Fica (Smer-SD) tento týždeň schválil daňové úľavy a dotácie na obstaraný dlhodobý majetok v celkovej výške 20,1 milióna eur pre šesť firiem, ktoré by mali vytvoriť spolu 657 nových pracovných miest.

„Počet nezamestnaných po nástupe tejto vlády narástol a nijakým spôsobom zásadne neklesá. Namiesto plánu a vízie čo so Slovenskom, vláda Smeru len pláta diery po svojej nečinnosti takýmto spôsobom, keď jedno pracovné miesto stojí daňových poplatníkov až 30.000 eur,“ upozornil Štefanec.

Toto podľa neho nie je spôsob pomoci ekonomike Slovenska, ale cesta, ktorá ju deformuje a devastuje. „Vysoké dane, vysoké odvody, rôzne byrokratické zaťaženia živnostníkom, malým a stredným podnikateľom a ďalším aktívnym ľuďom len komplikujú život a škodia tak ekonomike a zamestnanosti na Slovensku. Vláda takouto selektívnou podporou, namiesto uvoľnenia všeobecných pravidiel, škodí hlavne malým podnikateľom, ktorí sú najväčším zamestnávateľom na Slovensku,“ tvrdí opozičný poslanec.

Riešenie vidí v znižovaní priamych daní, flexibilnejšom trhu práce, nižšej administratíve pre tvorcov pracovných miest, teda v pravidlách, ktoré sú rovnaké pre všetkých a nepodporujú len vybrané podniky.

Minister hospodárstva Tomáš Malatinský (nominant Smeru-SD) po včerajšom (16. 4.) rokovaní vlády uviedol, že niektoré investície by bez stimulov na Slovensku nevznikli. Medzi firmami je totiž aj subjekt, ktorý takmer rozbehol svoju investíciu v susednom Maďarsku. Rezort odhaduje príjmy štátneho rozpočtu v súvislosti s realizáciou týchto investícií vo výške viac ako 120 miliónov eur.

Šéf rezortu práce Ján Richter (Smer-SD) sa domnieva, že je správne, keď firmy dostávajú stimuly. „To nie je záležitosť len Slovenska, takto postupujú aj ďalšie krajiny Európskej únie. Ja privítam každé jedno nové pracovné miesto, ktoré bude prostredníctvom tejto podpory vytvorené,“ zdôraznil.

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Pripravované podujatia Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New York City Vám oznamuje, že pripravuje pre Vás tieto zaujímavé podujatia:

Dvojdňovú katolícku púť do chrámu Božieho milosrdenstva – **National Shrine of The Divine Mercy Stockbridge, Massachusetts v máji 2014.**

Tradičnú slovenskú katolícku púť do **Marian Shrine, West Haverstraw, New York** spojenú so slovenskou svätou omšou, ružencovou pobožnosťou a obedom v nedeľu dňa **10. augusta 2014.**

Zájazd na divadelné predstavenie s náboženskou tematikou „Mozes“ do divadla **Sight & Sound Lancaster, Pennsylvania** (pravdepodobne 2-dňový s nocľahom) **jeseň 2014** – presný termín bude oznámený – podľa záujemcov.

Ziadame záujemcov o uvedené podujatia, aby sa prihlásili do konca mája 2014.

Bližšie informácie Vám podajú: Jozef Bilik (718) 463-2084; Henrieta Daitová (201) 641-8922; Mária Božeková (347) 612-1934.

Polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasul'u č. 16 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasul'u Spolok č. 16 sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa **1. júna 2014** o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia na fare Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City. Prosíme predsedov všetkých spolkov, ktoré patria do nášho Okresu, aby poslali čo najviac delegátov. Upozorňujeme, že aj nedelegáti sú vítaní. Program schôdze bude podanie finančnej správy a príprava plánu činnosti na budúce obdobie. Po polročnej schôdzi sa bude predávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripravujú členovia spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ. Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Skupina Drišľak na turné v USA

Skupina Drišľak zo Slovenska, ktorá bude na turné v USA bude mať nasledovné vystúpenie:

V sobotu **10. mája** o 7.00 hodine v hale kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, Manhattan, NY. Informácie: Mária (347) 612-1934; Dominik (914) 403-7877.

Predstavenie detských súborov v New Yorku

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko v New Yorku pozýva slovenskú verejnosť na predstavenie detských tanečných a speváckych súborov Limboráčika z NYC a Slovenského súboru z Trenton, NJ. Predstavenie bude v nedeľu 18. mája o 1. hod. popoludní v spoločenskej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého (First Ave a 66th St). Vstupné je dobrovoľné. V hale bude možnosť kúpiť si „slovenský obed“. Príďte povzbudiť mladú generáciu v propagovaní slovenskej kultúry. – Blížšie informácie: Zuzana Krémár, tel. 973.357.1209, alebo e-mail: skrcmarXoptoline.net



Jozef Ivaška a Heather Fetrow v úlohách Bastien a Bastienka.

J. Ivaška vystúpil v Garden State Opera

Jozef Ivaška ml., slovenskej verejnosti na východe známy ako operný a muzikálový spevák – tenorista, debutoval v polovici apríla t.r. v The Garden State Opera v Mozartovej opere Bastien and Bastienne. Predstavenie sa konalo v talianskom inštitúte v Hawthorne, N.J. Svetoznámy Johan Amadeus Mozart vytvoril túto operu vo veku 12 rokov. Preto je opera veselá, plná detského optimizmu. Ivaška mal v nej titulnú úlohu Bastiena. Túto rolu predstavil v dvoch vystúpeniach aj v Bratislavskej opere pred odchodom do Spojených štátov. Jozefa Ivaška pozná slovenská verejnosť z viacerých vystúpení na Festivale slovenského dedičstva a na iných kultúrnych podujatiach v New Yorku a na okoli. Vo februári t.r. vystúpil tiež v Amore Opera v New Yorku v opere Pagliacci (Komedianti), v ktorej odspieval rolu Beppeho.

Ohrozené hodnoty vyžadujú vernosť a obranu

Starý neverec a mladí „veriaci“

Súčasná technická vymoženosti nám otvárajú možnosť zachytávať správy rozličného druhu zo všetkých sveta strán, a to vo veľmi krátkom čase. Kto sleduje medzinárodné spravodajské služby, nemôže nekonštatovať, že kampaň proti kresťanstvu a najmä proti Katolíckej cirkvi v týchto posledných rokoch nadobúda stále mohutnejšie rozmery. Nie je to novota v dejinách kresťanstva, veď sám jeho zakladateľ predpovedal: Budú vás prenasledovať. A tých prenasledovaných kresťanov prakticky v žiadnom historickom období nechýbalo. Ale nikdy to nedosahovalo také intenzívne a globálne rozmery, ako v tomto 21. storočí.



Milan S. Ďurica

Nehanebne sa manipuluje štatistickými údajmi, vyťahujú sa zločinné postupovania aj z pred polstoročia, zveličujú sa aj vôbec nedokázané obžaloby a povesti, pranierujú sa osoby pred skončením, ba aj pred začatím súdnych procesov, a keď sa obžaloba dokáže ako falošná, nikto sa necíti povinný podobným spôsobom uverejniť opravu urážlivých tvrdení a odprosiť takto mravne znevážené osoby. Tohto sme už aj tu na Slovensku dost' častými svedkami.

Ale je to iba chyba nepriateľov kresťanstva, neraz aj veriacich a náboženstva vôbec?

Veď prenasledovania kresťanov nikdy v dvetisícročných dejinách nechýbali, ako to už Ježiš Kristus jasne predpovedal: "Ak mňa prenasledovali, budú prenasledovať aj vás." (Ján 15, 20). Už v prvých troch storočiach dejiny zaregistrovali najmenej desať veľkých prenasledovaní Cirkvi, najprv zo strany Židov a potom zo strany cisárov Rímskej ríše. Aj počas mohutného šírenia kresťanstva v stredoveku nechýbali lokálne i široko plošné odpory a pokusy o rozvrátenie jednoty učenia a vnútorných štruktúr Cirkvi. Ich vyvrcholením bola bezpochyby Francúzska revolúcia so všetkým, čo ju predchádzalo a nasledovalo. Ba možno povedať, že v nej sú korene aj súčasného ideového i mocenského hnutia na oslabovanie a konečné likvidovanie Katolíckej cirkvi, a postupne aj náboženstva vôbec. Čo je však teraz viditeľne odlišné, to je postoj cirkevných predstaviteľov voči týmto vonkajším, ale aj vnútorným nástrahám a bojom proti kresťanstvu.

Postoj cirkevných predstaviteľov.

Už prví apoštoli odvážne odrazili židovských prenasledovateľov teologickým argumentom: "Boha treba viac poslúchať ako ľudí. (...) My sme toho svedkami, aj Duch Svätý, ktorého Boh dal tým, čo ho poslúchajú." (Sk. ap. 8, 29, 32). Na obranu proti gréckym a rímskym filozofickým odporcom kresťanstva sa v Cirkvi vyvinula celá bohatá apologetická literatúra, ktorej obsah sa rozvíjal až do nedávnych čias v rámci osobitnej teologickej náuky, zvanej apologetika. Táto však bola v druhej polovici 20. storočia z ťažko pochopiteľných príčin formálne vyradená z učebných programov teologických fakúlt. Aj preto väčšina súčasných teológov nedokáže účinne odraziť špekulatívne útoky protivníkov. (Osobne ďakujem Pánu Bohu, že som ešte mohol byť žiakom a priateľom jedného z posledných vynikajúcich profesorov apologetiky, ktorým bol nedávno zosnulý prefekt Kongregácie pre Boží kult a disciplínu sviatostí, kardinál Antonio Maria Javierre Ortas, SDB.) Ale najťažšie pochopiteľnou je skutočnosť, že v priebehu 20. storočia voči vnútorným autorom tak ideových, ako aj disciplinárnych priestupkov a nemravností sa Cirkev fakticky prestala brániť svojim cez dlhé storočia osvedčeným, ale už takmer sto rokov zanedbaným prostriedkom exkomunikácie. Nikdy nezabudnem na konferenciu rodickej sa religionistiky v Miláne, na ktorej istý rabín vo svojej porovnávej štúdiu troch hlavných náboženstiev konštatoval: "Katolícka cirkev prestala rásť a šíriť sa po svete, odkedy stratila odvahu exkomunikovať." Vtedy sa mi to zdalo odvážne a nie dost' fundované zjednodušovanie situácie. No ubehnuté polstoročie zdá sa potvrdzovať toto dávne konštatovanie, keď aj sám pápež Benedikt XVI. definoval súčasný stav ako "dramatická situácia Cirkvi".

Pre hlbkové diagnostikovanie tejto cirkevnej krízy môže byť užitočný metodologický postup, ktorý pozostáva v tom, že zohľadníme stanovisko odborníka, ktorý posudzuje situáciu z celkom nezávislého uhla pohľadu, lebo nepatrí ani k veriacim kresťanom, ani k tým, čo kresťanov prenasledujú. Vypočujme teda osobne nijako nezaujatého, ale kompetentného historika a sociológa, profesora na troch univerzitách v Belgicku, ktorý sa dopracoval za všeobecne uznávaného znalca stredovekých dejín a v ich rámci za najlepšieho odborníka pre dejiny rehoľných rádov onej epochy. Bol to prof. Léo Moulin (1909 – 1999). Osobne nezatajoval svoj laicizmus, agnosticizmus a ateizmus blízky panteizmu. Vstúpil aj do slobodomurárskej lóže, ale po určitom čase ju opustil. Vysvetľoval to tým, že často je to nevyhnutnou podmienkou pre postup v kariére na univerzitách, v žurnalizme, vo veľkých vydavateľstvách, lebo vzájomná pomoc "bratov murárov" nie je žiaden mýtus, ale je to stále aktuálna realita. V dlhom rozhovore s významným talianskym publicistom a redaktorom Vittorio Messoriom v roku 1990 prof. Moulin vyhlásil: "Dajte za pravdu mne, starému nevercovi, ktorý sa do toho rozumie: **Je to vrcholné dielo protikresťanskej propagandy, že sa jej podarilo vytvoriť v kresťanoch, a najmä v katolíkoch, akési zlé svedomie. Vstúpili do nich neistotu, ak nie priam hanbu za ich dejiny.** Zúrivým nátlakom od reformy až podnes dokázali vás presvedčiť, že ste zodpovední za všetky alebo za takmer všetky zlá vo svete. Paralyzovali vás v masochistickej autokritike, aby neutralizovali kritiku toho, čo nastúpilo na vaše miesto. Feministky, homosexuáli, obdivovatelia a citelia Tretieho sveta, pacifisti, exponenti všetkých menších, disidentní a nespokojenci všetkých druhov, vedci, humanisti, filozofi, ambientalisti, animalisti, laickí moralisti – od všetkých týchto ste si nechali predkladať účty, neraz falšované, bez toho, či takmer bez toho, že by ste s nimi diskutovali. Nejestvuje historický problém, omyl alebo utrpenie, ktoré by vám neboli pripisovali. A vy, často neznali vašich vlastných dejín, nakoniec ste to uverili, a tým ich aj podporili. Avšak ja, agnostik, ale historik, ktorý sa snaží byť objektívny, vám hovorím, že **musíte reagovať v mene pravdy.** Lebo často to nebola pravda. A keď aj niekde je niečo pravdy, ostáva tiež pravdou, že **pri výslednom hodnotení dvadsiatich storočí kresťanstva svetlá veľmi vysoko prevažujú nad tieňami.** Tak teda: Prečo z vašej strany nevyžadujete vyúčtovanie od tých, ktorí vám predkladajú účty? Azda boli lepšie výsledky toho, čo prišlo po tom? Uvedomujete si, z akých kazateľní skrúsené počívate určité kázanie? **Tá nehanebná lož o "temných storočiach", lebo boli inšpirované vierou v Evanjiá!** Prečo potom všetko to, čo sa nám zachovalo z oných čias, vykazuje takú fascinujúcu krásu a múdrosť? Aj pre dejiny platí zákonitosť o príčine a následku."

Ak takýto je názor nezaujatého, cudzieho v tom zmysle, že nepatrí ani do tábora kresťanov, ani medzi nepriateľov kresťanstva, ale kompetentného historika, - tak myslím, že my všetci by sme sa mali nad touto situáciou vážne pozastaviť a konať to, čo je našou povinnosťou: aby sme sa zbavili toho nám umele a účelovo nepriateľskou propagandou nainfikovaného strachu a prešli do odvážnej a dôslednej obrany zjavenej aj historickej pravdy.

Milan S. Ďurica

Velkonočné stretnutie detí v Bridgeporte, CT

S cieľom skrášliť Veľkú noc peknými vajčkami a inými veľkonočnými dekoráciami sa konalo 9. apríla stretnutie slovenských detí v Bridgeporte, Connecticut. Podujatia, ktoré usporiadala Agáta Slivková, sa v sprievode rodičov a starých rodičov, zúčastnilo 18 slovenských a českých detí. Prítomné deti za pomoci rodičov a starých rodičov maľovali vajčká, zdobili domáce pečené koláčiky, robili kuriatko v škrupine a hniezde, zajačikov ako aj zdobili vrbové prútiky farebnými mašličkami. Hlavným projektom bola však výroba veľkonočnej pohľadnice so slovenskými básničkami. Pohľadnice za tým posielali deti svojim babičkám a príbuzným na Slovensko. Vyše troch hodín deti mali plné ruky práce, ale na záver boli nadšené so svojimi výrobkami. Medzičasom aj rodičia mali čas v atmosfére Veľkej noci sa porozprávať. O občerstvenie tiež nebola núdza, lebo každý účastník prispel niečím na spoločný stôl. Je pekné aj od rodičov, že každoročne podporujú toto podujatie a oboznamujú svoje deti so slovenskými tradíciami.



Slovenské liečebné kúpele Piešťany

Počet návštevníkov Slovenských liečebných kúpeľov Piešťany, a. s. (SLKP) dosiahol v uplynulom roku 48,000, počet prenocovaní 500.000. Je to proti predchádzajúcemu roku nárast v oboch ukazovateľoch, pričom najväčšiu časť klientely tvorili hostia zo Slovenska (až 41 percent), Nemecka, Izraelu, arabských krajín a Ruska. Priemerná dĺžka pobytu bola v roku 2013 10,5 noci. Celkový počet izieb je v kúpeľoch 1111.



Informovala o tom hovorkyňa SLKP Tatiana Šuláková. Pri naplňaní kapacity zariadení spolupracujú SLKP s obchodnými partnermi. Na nedávnom otvorení zrekonštruovaného balneocentra, do ktorého vložili 9 miliónov eur, ocenili SLKP svojich najlepších obchodných partnerov ocenením Business Awards 2013 v kategóriách počet prenocovaní, nárast obratu a celkové tržby z predaja služieb SLKP. Najlepším, diamantovým partnerom s počtom prenocovaní 50.000 a celkovými tržbami 2,5 milióna eur sa stala Všeobecná zdravotná poisťovňa. Najvyšší nárast obratu za rok 2013 vo výške 350,000 eur zaznamenala nemecká cestovná kancelária Reise Service Deutschland.

Americká spravodajská stanica CNN v cestovateľskej sekcii na svojej internetovej stránke začiatkom roka 2014 zverejnila rebríček najlepších destinácií pre záujemcov o chudnutie. Na siedmom mieste sa ocitol najreprezentatívnejší hotel SLKP – Thermia s viac ako storočnou tradíciou. „Kúpele Piešťany sú aj hrdým partnerom Slovenského paralympijského družstva. Chodník slávy v kúpeľnom parku má pripomínať víťazstvá zdravotne postihnutých športovcov,“ pripomenula Šuláková.

TASR



Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič pozval pápeža Františka na návštevu Slovenska

Slovenský prezident Ivan Gašparovič počas krátkeho rozhovoru s pápežom Františkom pozval hlavu katolíckej cirkvi na návštevu Slovenska. „Zopakoval som svoje asi už štvrté pozvanie Svätého otca. S úsmevom povedal, že určite, keď bude môcť, tak príde,“ uviedol 27. apríla pre médiá Gašparovič.

Zároveň poďakoval pápežovi za dobrú spoluprácu, ktorú má naša krajina so Svätou stolicou. „Túto spoluprácu ocenil aj Svätý Otec,“ dodal Gašparovič. Podľa vlastných slov sa s terajším pápežom stretol už po druhýkrát. „Je to taký dobrý pocit zhovárať sa bez akéhokoľvek pocitu nejakej neistoty, strachu, alebo takej trémy. Ako keby ste sa zhovárali so známym, ktorého ste stretli na ulici,“ priblížil slovenský prezident.

„Som veľmi rád, že som sa ho (svätorečenia, pozn. TASR) mohol zúčastniť, pretože aj pre Slovensko to má určitý význam a najmä z toho dôvodu, že Ján XXIII. v 63 roku posvätil základný kameň pre Ústav svätého Cyrila a Metoda a Ján Pavol v 78 ústav povýšil na pápežský,“ uviedol Gašparovič a spomenul, že s Jánom Pavlom II. sa stretol dovedna štyrikrát. „Stále vyzdvihoval pravdu, vyzdvihoval potrebu pomáhať slabším. Vždy hovoril o dobrých vzťahoch medzi národmi o dobrých vzťahoch medzi rôznymi cirkvami a nakoniec toto zdôrazňuje aj František,“ dodal prezident.

Pre pomocného bratislavského biskupa Jozefa Haľka bolo svätorečenie silným duchovným zážitkom. „Byť prítomný medzi tými státisícami ľuďmi, ktorí prišli sa modliť a rozjímať, bol to zážitok takej ich prítomnosti. Oni boli vyhlásení za svätých aj preto, že ich poslanstvo je tak silné, že je stále prítomné medzi nami,“ povedal biskup.

Podľa jeho slov výnimočnosť tohto svätorečenia je aj v tom, že dnes bol vyhlásený za svätého človek, ktorého sme poznali a bol našim súčasníkom. „Doteraz sme o svätcoch hovorili ako o historických postavách, málokto mohol povedať, ja som tú osobu poznal osobne,“ uviedol Haľko s tým, že dnes si to môžu povedať už milióny ľudí.

TASR



Životná cesta Imricha Minára

JUDr. Imrich Minár sa narodil 20. marca 1922 v Chyzerovciach, v malej dedinke, ktorá je dnes súčasťou okresného mesta Zlatých Moraviec v Nitrianskom kraji. Vyrastal v maloroľníckej rodine v chudobných pomeroch, ale o to v čistejších a šťastnejších vzťahoch plných zážitkov, ako on o tom často vravieval. Rodinné prostredie a dedina mu navždy prirástli k srdcu. Vo svojich spomienkach sa neraz vracal k výrokom svojej matky o tom, ako ju učiteľ v škole vyšľahal trstenicou preto, že Otčenáš nevedela po maďarsky, s úctou hovorieval o tom, ako všetci členovia rodiny statočne pracovali na svojich poličkách a s hrdosťou často spomínal svojho starkého, ktorý si v dedine vyslúžil epiteton „písmák“, čiže vzdelanec. Tam doma vznikali korene sociálneho citenia mladého Imricha Minára i jeho vlastenectva a neustálej túžby po vedomostiach a pravdivom poznaní histórie svojho národa. Po skončení gymnaziálneho štúdia v Zlatých Moravciach odišiel do Bratislavy študovať právo. Ovládanie svetových jazykov nemčiny a angličtiny predurčilo jeho budúce povolanie.

Prvé pracovné návyky získal v renomovanej firme Baťa. Neskôr odišiel do Prahy, kde pracoval v oblasti zahraničného obchodu. V r. 1968 sa vrátil na Slovensko a stal sa zakladateľom a prvým generálnym riaditeľom podniku zahraničného obchodu INCHEBA, ktorý do dnešných čias šíri vo svete dobré meno Slovenska.

JUDr. Imrich Minár bol uznávaný riadiaci pracovník a intelektuál. Okrem profesnej činnosti sa celý svoj život venoval štúdiu, najmä histórie spojenej so zahraničnými Slovákmi a so Slovenskom. V tejto oblasti i publikoval. Vo svojich štúdiách, odborných článkoch i knihách zvečnil svoje poznatky, ktoré počas svojho 5-ročného pracovného pobytu v USA získal z archívnych materiálov, ako aj mnohými osobnými stretnutiami s krajanmi a krajanskými organizáciami. Vyzdvihoval ich zásluhy, hlavne zásluhy slovenského robotníctva na čele s vlastnou kňazskou a laickou inteligenciou, o víťazstvo slovenskej národnej myšlienky a štátnosti. Publikoval v novinách a odborných časopisoch, najmä v Historickom revue a v Literárnom týždenníku. Najznámejšou jeho publikáciou je kniha „Americkí Slováci a Slovensko 1880 – 1980“. Pri príležitosti 90-ych narodenín mu vyšla kniha „Príspevok k dejinám odboja vedeného Slovenskou ligou Amerike – 1907-1920“.

Láske k histórii slovenského národa a k téme americkí Slováci zostal Imrich Minár verný do samého konca svojho života. Rozlúčil sa s ňou svojim posledným príspevkom „Americkí Slováci v národno-politickom zápase“, uverejneným v Literárnom týždenníku dňa 27. marca 2013. Jeho životná púť sa skončila 11. júla 2013. *Cešť jeho pamiatke!*



Slovenská Národná Aliancia



Pozýva všetkých na 13. ročník

Slovenských ľudových slávností v Chicágu

poslednú májovú nedeľu, t.j. 25. mája 2014.

Program:

- Začiatok o 12:30 hod., svätou omšou, celebrovanou Mons. Jánom Sokolom, emeritným arcibiskupom.
- Obed o 13:30 hod.
- Hlavný program o 14:00 hod.

Do programu boli pozvaní:

- Žiaci Školy slovenského jazyka v Chicágu.
- Host' zo Slovenska: Dvadsaťjeden členov folklórneho súboru ORAVAN z Nižnej.
- Po programe nasleduje tanečná zábava – o občerstvení je postarané (Cash bar).

Adresa: The Village of Bridgeview Community Center
7900 Oketo Ave., Bridgeview, IL 60455

Vstupné: dospelí \$25, seniori a mládež do 21 rokov \$10,
deti do 12 rokov zdarma

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Pápež František vyzdvihol nových svätcov-pápežov za vieru a odvahu

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

svätých príslušnou kanonizačnou formulou: „Ku cti Najsvätejšej Trojice, na vyzdvihnutie katolíckej viery a na zveľadenie kresťanského života, autoritou nášho Pána Ježiša Krista, svätých apoštolov Petra a Pavla a Našou vlastnou, po dôkladnom zvažovaní, opakovanom vyzývaní Božej pomoci a vypočutí si rady mnohých Našich bratov v biskupskej službe, vyhlasujeme a definujeme blahoslavených Jána XXIII.

a Jána Pavla II. za svätých, zapisujeme ich do zoznamu svätých a nariaďujeme, aby boli v celej Cirkvi nábožne uctievaní ako svätí. V mene Otca i Syna i Ducha Svätého,“ uviedol Vatikánsky rozhlas.

Vatikán odhadol, že na slávnosti sa v Ríme zúčastnilo približne 800.000 ľudí. Okolo 500.000 z nich zaplnilo Námestie sv. Petra a neďaleké ulice, zvyšní sledovali obrady na veľkoplošných obrazovkách rozmiestnených na ďalších námestiach v centre mesta.

Po kanonizačnom obrade predstavili relikvie nových svätých na verejnú úctu. Strieborný relikviár s pozostatkami Jána XXIII. priniesli členovia jeho príbuzenstva. Relikvie Jána Pavla II. pri- niesla spolu s manželom Kostaričanka Floribeth Mora Diazová, ktorej uzdravenie v roku 2011 uznali za zázrak na príhovor tohto pápeža. Prvá uzdravená na príhovor Jána Pavla II., francúzska ráďová sestra Marie Simon-Pierre, predniesla jednu z prosieb v rámci modlitieb veriacich.

V závere pápež v krátkom príhovore pozdravil jednotlivé skupiny prítomných, poďakoval organizátorom, dobrovoľníkom i pracovníkom médií, a udelil veriacim apoštolské požehnanie. Po ňom sa osobne pozdravil s prítomnými zástupcami krajín a následne prešiel medzi veriacimi v otvorenom papamobile po Via della Conciliazione.

Oficiálne bolo prihlásených 93 delegácií, medzi 24 hlavami štátov bol aj prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič. Zo slovenských biskupov boli prítomní predseda Konferencie biskupov Slovenska Stanislav Zvolenský, prešovský arcibiskup metropolita Ján Babjak, biskupi Stanislav Stolárík, Tomáš Galis, Jozef Haľko a Milan Lach. Medzi členmi Rímskej kúrie boli kardinál Jozef Tomko a arcibiskup Cyril Vasil'. Na slávnosti vo Vatikáne sa zúčastnilo do tisíc slovenských pútnikov, dodáva Vatikánsky rozhlas.

TASR



TK KBS/ Jose Ricardo Santos

Vatikán, kanonizácia blahoslaveného Jána Pavla II. a Jána XXIII.

Canonization of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II at the Vatican on Sunday, April 27, 2014.



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota

O. Štefan Furdek
Naš zakladateľ

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

Ročník 123

STREDA, 7. MÁJA 2014

Číslo 5903

Pápež František vyzdvihol nových svätcov-pápežov za vieru a odvahu

Pápež František vyzdvihol pápežov Jána XXIII. a Jána Pavla II., ktorých dnes na kanonizačnej slávnosti vo Vatikáne vyhlásil za svätých, ako odvážnych mužov, ktorí pretrvali tragédie 20. storočia. Veriacich vyzval, aby nasledovali ich pamiatku verným nasledovaním ich učenia.

František v homílii počas omše na Námestí sv. Petra označil Jána XXIII. za "pápeža poddajnosti voči Duchu Svätému" a Jána Pavla II. za "pápeža rodiny", informoval Vatikánsky rozhlas. "Boli to dvaja muži odvahy... a pred Cirkvou a svetom vydali svedectvo o Božej добрôte a milosrdenstve," povedal pápež. "Boli kňazmi, biskupmi a pápežmi 20. storočia. Prežili jeho tragické udalosti, tie ich však nepremohli. Silnejší v nich bol Boh, silnejšia bola viera v Ježiša Krista," citovala ho agentúra APA.

František vyhlásil svojich dvoch predchodcov za
Pokračovanie na str.19



FOTO TASR/AP /Riccardo De Luca

Pápež František požehnáva veriacim z papamobilu na hlavnej ulici vedúcej do Vatikánu, Via della Conciliazione, po svätorečení pápežov Jána XXIII. a Jána Pavla II. vo Vatikáne v nedeľu 27. apríla 2014.

Pope Francis greets faithful as he is driven through the crowd along Via della Conciliazione after celebrating the ceremony for the canonizations of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican, Sunday, April 27, 2014. Pope Francis declared his two predecessors John XXIII and John Paul II saints before some 800,000 people on Sunday, an unprecedented ceremony made even more historic by the presence in St. Peter's Square of emeritus Pope Benedict XVI.



Vstup Slovenska do Európskej únie bol pre krajinu významným míľnikom

Najväčšie uznanie za všetko, čo sa na Slovensku za posledných 10 rokov urobilo, si zaslúžia Slováci samotní. Uviedol to 28. apríla predseda Európskej komisie (EK) José Manuel Barroso počas prednášky na pôde Ekonomickej univerzity v Bratislave, ktorá mu udelila čestný titul Doctor honoris causa.

Vstup Slovenska do Európskej únie (EÚ) v roku 2004 bol podľa šéfa EK pre krajinu významným míľnikom.

Barroso poukázal na to, že Slovensko si napriek kríze udržalo tempo jednej z najrýchlejšie rastúcich krajín v Európe. Zdôraznil, že vďaka finančným prostriedkom z fondov EÚ sa mu v rokoch 2007 až 2013 podarilo vytvoriť 130,000 nových pracovných miest, zrekonštruovať stovky škôl, desiatky nemocníc a sociálnych zariadení, vytvoriť niekoľko priemyselných parkov a inštitúcií či podporiť malé a stredné podniky. Upozornil však na vysokú mieru nezamestnanosti, s ktorou sa musí krajina vyrovnávať.

"Keď ľudia vyjadria pesimizmus voči únii, treba im ukázať na konkrétnych príkladoch a číslach, pretlmočených do životov ľudí, že solidarita Európy je skutočná, že to nie je iba vágne slovo," konštatoval predseda EK. Dodal, že EÚ nie je cudzou mocou v SR a ak sa jej fungovanie Slovákom nepáči, nemali by sa jej otáčať chrbtom, ale aktívne sa zapojiť a prispieť k zlepšeniu. Napríklad aj účasťou v májových voľbách do Európskeho parlamentu.

Barroso sa v rámci svojej návštevy Bratislavy pri príležitosti 10. výročia vstupu Slovenska do EÚ stretol s prezidentom Ivanom Gašparovičom, ktorý mu udelil štátne vyznamenanie Rad Bieleho dvojkríža II. triedy. S premiérom Robertom Ficom absolvoval tiež slávnostný obed, počas ktorého hovorili o aktuálnych otázkach EÚ.

TASR

Mojej mamke

Tebe, moja milá mamko,
slová vďaky stvárať, ruky k nebu
spínam, volám:
Pane, buď jej milostivý,
obráť k nej Svoju tvár
a daruj jej kýžený pokoj,
bo už od dávnych rokov
v nesvojej zemi odpočíva,
o svojej domovine
dlhé sny sníva.

Tebe, moja dobrá mamko,
venujem moje ľúbe spomienky
a pred Tvoj mĺkvy pomník,
ukladám do bieleho kvetníka,
ruží nerozkvitnuté púčiky,
bo na Tvojom clivom hrobe
rozkvitnú
v jasavé ružičky.

Štefan Hreha
Montréal, 2014

Košice darujú pápežovi Františkovi dreveného anjela s erbom

Mesto Košice daruje pápežovi Františkovi vyše 2,5-metrovú drevenú sochu anjela držiaceho mestský erb. Autorom diela s názvom Anjelský dar zo srdca pre Svätého Otca je rezbár Milan Krajňák, ruku k dielu však symbolicky môžu priložiť aj samotní obyvatelia a návštevníci Košíc počas nadchádzajúcich Dní mesta Košice na Hlavnej ulici. Záujemcovia tak budú môcť pod odborným dohľadom tvorca vyrezať jemným dlátom do sochy ryhu a drievko z nej si odložiť ako pamiatku na deň, kedy sa podieľali na vytváraní spoločného daru pre hlavu Katolíckej cirkvi.

Anjel z topoľového dreva má výšku 2,6 metra, šírku meter a hmotnosť okolo 300 kilogramov. Po dokončení dielo slávnostne prevezme od Košičanov primátor Richard Raši, aby ho mohol doručiť do Vatikánu. "Bol by som poctený, ak by Svätý Otec prijal moje pozvanie a navštívil naše krásne mesto, ktorého výnimočnosť spočíva nielen v bohatej histórii, ale tiež v ľuďoch, ktorí sú pohostinní a tolerantní. Predstavitelia rôznych národností a vierovyznaní v našom meste žijú spoločne v láskavej symbióze a návšteva hlavy Katolíckej cirkvi by bola veľkou udalosťou pre nás všetkých," povedal Raši pri predstavení sochy novinárom. Pripomenul, že budúci rok bude 20. výročie od návštevy zosnulého pápeža Jána Pavla II. v metropole východného Slovenska.

Socha s erbom pripomína, že Košice ako vôbec prvé európske mesto získalo 7. mája 1369 erbovú listinu od panovníka – uhorského kráľa Ľudovíta Veľkého. Anjel má tiež zvýrazniť Košice ako mesto tolerance a duchovnej blízkosti človeka k človeku.

TASR



Na snímke vľavo primátor Košíc Richard Raši s drevenou sochou anjela. Košice, 23. apríla 2014.

Košice Mayor Richard Rasi shows off a wooden statute of an angel with the Kosice coat of arms on April 23, 2014. The statue carved by Milan Krajnak will be presented to Pope Francis.

FOTO TASR – František Iván