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President's 2015 Christmas Message Veselé Vianoce a Šťastlivý Nový Rok!

I am writing this message while sitting in the airport in Puerto Rico waiting for my return flight after our Membership Meet honoring our top sales people, recommenders and independent agents along with Members who chose to take advantage of the cruise as advertised in the Jednota for several months.

A Caribbean Cruise is no longer expensive and is affordable to most Americans, Europeans and many others. There was a mix of races and many nationalities from many countries, from near infants to people in their 90's with a good number of people with disabilities, and included singles and many families. It is a stretch, but the spread of "cruising" is a phenomenon similar to the invention by Henry Ford of the "assembly line" of the 1920s.

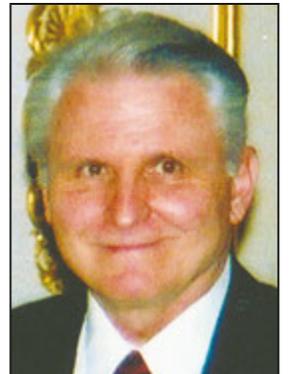
While the climates are wonderfully warm with almost constant breezes, most islands are almost "third world" for the average residents, with heavy and in some cases total reliance on tourism, with

poor living conditions and high prices for most of the population. Visiting the Caribbean islands gives you a greater appreciation of the United States and how lucky we are to be Americans.

2015 IN REVIEW

The year 2015 was a year of special highlights and milestones for the First Catholic Slovak Union.

We held six 125th Anniversary Celebrations dinners and programs throughout the year in Pittsburgh, Chicago, Toronto and Scranton, with the largest in Cleveland followed by a large Dinner/Dance event in Linden, NJ in November. They were terrific events. I want to thank the Regional Directors in those areas and all who helped



Andrew M. Rajec

continued on page 3

Merry Christmas 2015 Veselé Vianoce



Botticelli, The Nativity



Attention, FCSU College- bound Seniors:

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

See page 14 for details.

Inside

- Editorial/Commentary 2
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Celebrating Our Heritage



This year marks a number of milestones for the First Catholic Slovak Union, including the 125th Anniversary of our Society and the 100th Year of our founder, Fr. Štefan Furdek's passing.

See pages 6 - 7 of this issue for coverage of Region 1's celebration event held in November.

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Kids,
Color Your
Christmas
Pages Today!

Contest Ends Soon. See pages 4 - 5!

Insights and Viewpoints



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

December 25, 2015 – The Nativity of the Lord

Gospel: Luke 2: 1-14

The beauty of Christmas is that we sense a wonderful closeness to Christ who is Emmanuel—"God with us". It is also special in that we are celebrating the birth of a child, something that naturally gives us all a spirit of newness and a fresh start. What took place in Bethlehem and Judea some two thousand years ago is indeed far off in terms of time and distance, yet in a very real sense we



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

do not look on from afar, because the events narrated in the gospel on Christmas touch us today, here and now.

First, reflecting on the birth of the eternal Son of God as a human being, we should realize that this birth means that all our encounters with God are not interactions with a distant or detached "god" who requires attention and appeasement in order for us to win his favor. Rather, we encounter "God with us" as Isaiah the prophet says (Isaiah 7:14; cf. Matt 1:23), a God who rejoices in being close to his people. In fact, God so treasures us that he desires to become one with us in Jesus of Nazareth: "...and the Word became flesh", as we read in the prologue to the gospel of John.

This unity with humankind does not simply emerge as a sort of "plan B" in response to sin, it reflects and makes complete the creation of humanity as God had intended it in the first place. When the eternal Son of God became incarnate, we were able to see clearly what it is to be divine, and what it is to be human, and thus we could realize the heights to which God desires to exalt us in and through Jesus. Through the birth into our world of the Son of God all of us are enabled to rise to share Christ's divinity, since he has come to share in our humanity.

Second, Christmas gives us the hope of having yet another new beginning. No matter how often we have failed or fallen short in some aspect of life, we are all lifted up by Christmas because we see the boundless potential that a newborn brings. Everyone rejoices in the birth of a new baby: people naturally smile upon seeing an infant, they want to hold the baby and marvel over its eyes; even people who usually present themselves as "tough" are softened in spirit when they behold the tiny fingers and hear the gentle cooing of a newborn. Babies in short remind us of the possibilities that once lay ahead of us when we were infants.

We may have lost or squandered some of those possibilities, but the birth of the baby Jesus not only reminds us of what could have been, it also gives us the chance to begin anew. Jesus' birth on Christmas was followed by decades of life, filled with all of the happiness, disappointments, successes, and pains that fill our lives. Eventually, the same Jesus born in a manger in Bethlehem would give over his life for our sake on the cross, freeing us from sin, as well as from the hopelessness that often accompanies patterns of sin in our lives. Just as he shared in this sequence of events of human life and death with us, so too we will one day share fully in the victory brought about through his divinity, and the new beginning and the eternal life that lies beyond it.

The birth of the Christ child is God's pledge that he will bring to fulfillment in the joy of the resurrection the work of redemption begun in Bethlehem. May the bright promise of the infant Jesus be with you and your loved ones always!

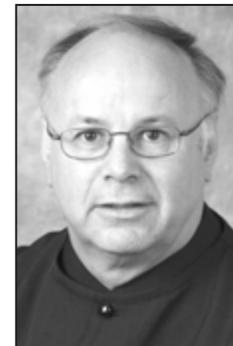
December 27, 2015 – The Holy Family of Jesus,

Mary and Joseph

Sirach 3: 2 – 6, 12 - 14; Colossians 3: 12 - 21

Gospel Luke 2: 41 - 52

This celebration of the Holy Family, just a few days after Christmas, is one that puts the coming of Christ into an important context for us. When God sent the Redeemer he did not mysteriously appear from nowhere, nor did he drop down to earth from Heaven. The Redeemer is God himself, the second person of the Trinity. This second person is also the Word of God which is the creating power that made all of creation. In the Prologue of John's Gospel we are told that "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." God himself as second person of the Trinity, is the Divine Word, who took on flesh and was born into the world just like those who he came to re-create. We have just celebrated his birth to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, and today we celebrate how they truly were a family.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

The Gospel has us jump ahead twelve years after Bethlehem and tells of Jesus, Mary and Joseph making the pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover. The caravan of pilgrims is returning to Nazareth and Mary and Joseph both assume that Jesus is somewhere in the caravan with friends and relatives. After spending a day without success of trying to locate him, Joseph and Mary return to Jerusalem where they searched for three days before finding him in the Temple. Joseph and Mary were looking for and worrying about Jesus for four days. It's easy to imagine the worry and anguish that built up within them as each hour of unsuccessful searching passed by. When they find Jesus, and Mary asks him, why he stayed behind, his response that he must be in his Father's house, reveals to us again his identity of being not only fully human and the son of Mary and Joseph, but also fully divine and the Son of God. Jesus is a twelve year old boy, who learned a lesson about how his actions affect Mary and Joseph. He returned with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them.

The Feast of the Holy Family reminds us that this family, comprised of Mary, who was conceived and remained without sin, Joseph, the model of faith and justice, and Jesus, fully human and fully divine, were indeed human. What parent cannot identify with the worry, anxiety and even fear that comes from not knowing the whereabouts of their child, if even for a brief period of time? Whether the child unintentionally wandered off or intentionally ran away, the emotions that touch a parent's heart are the same. What adolescent has not thought that they were old enough to exert the authority to make their own decisions, whether out of ignorance and without malice, or out of defiance? These are situations that almost every family experiences in one way or another.

This Feast of the Holy Family presents us with two important reminders that can help us in our faith. The first is that Jesus, Mary and Joseph were the Holy Family, but not the perfect family. Like all families they had their difficult moments. We should not hesitate to take our own family situations to the Holy Family and know that they understand and help us through their intercession and intervention. The second point is that each family is called to be a Holy Family. We grow in holiness by growing in unconditional love for one another, praying for one another, and praying for each other. As Servant of God taught us, Fr. Patrick Peyton taught us, "The family that prays together, stays together."

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13	MONDAY, JAN. 4
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27	MONDAY, JAN. 18
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10	MONDAY, FEB. 1

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Christmas Greetings from the National Vice President

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

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

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

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

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



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice President

A Christmas Message from the Executive Secretary

On Christmas, we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. During this holy season, I hope we take the time to share with one another the great gift of His Incarnation in quiet and meaningful ways. On behalf of my wife Theresa and my family, I extend from my household to yours the joy and peace that comes with Christ's light and is reflected on our many blessings of family, friends and faith.



Merry Christmas, Veselé Vianoce.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary



Kenneth Arendt

President's 2015 Christmas Message

continued from page 1

organize and worked at these events.

Many of you saw the special videos we prepared for these events, including that of the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the death of our founder, Fr. Štefan Furdek.

One of the great events of 2015 was the 50th Anniversary of the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows at the Basilica in Washington DC, highlighted by a Pilgrimage and Mass held in both Slovak and English with over 600 attendees and a special Mass celebrated by Cardinal Wuerl and co-celebrated by over 20 Slovak priests from as far away as New York.

While we cooperated with the Slovak Catholic Federation, most planning, execution and expenses were borne by the FCSU Home Office.

The post Pilgrimage reception/program was held at the Slovak Embassy in Washington DC, jointly sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union and the Slovak Embassy. Between 300 - 400 people attended the reception. We thank Ambassador Peter Kmec and his fine staff for their hospitality.

On September 13, 2015, on a beautiful early fall day, over 100 people attended the dedication of the Memorial on the Jednota grounds in Middletown, PA. A short memorial poem by Joseph Trojcek and dedication address, with a short history of the Jednota grounds, by President Andrew M. Rajec was followed by a pleasant picnic. The Memorial was about 2/3rds finished with many more "brick" panels to be installed as weather dictates. The Memorial is a remembrance and appreciation for our Veterans, past and present, but also for our Slovak ancestors, who exhibited great courage to leave their homeland in Slovakia and venture into an unknown future in the United States. (More pictures will follow as more "bricks" are installed. We will be sending a picture of the panel containing your "brick" to each "brick" owner.)

2015 was a good and prosperous year for the Jednota, as reported inside this Jednota issue, and I hope it was for you too. To all of our Members and their families, who suffered illness and other hardships in their lives, our prayers are with you this coming Christmas season. May God hear your and our prayers and may they be answered.

One of the purposes of the First Catholic Slovak Union is to try to preserve and continue the traditions and core values handed down from our ancestors.

We thank and encourage those Branches and District that hold, sponsor and support the traditional Slovak Christmas dinners (Vilija or Štedrý Večer) in their areas. The Jednota newspaper provides more information.

I want to thank the many Branches, District Officers and Recommenders for their dedicated service. The Jednota was founded and exists on the principle and ideal of fraternalism, which means we have a common bond, but it also means we respect and care for each other.

My final thought revolves around the subject of Family during this coming Christmas season.

Your Family includes not only immediate relatives, father, mother, sons, daughters etc., but also your fraternal Family i.e. the Jednota, and our spiritual Family in Christ.

We remember and offer prayers for all of our deceased Members of the Jednota and to all Members who are ill and to those who are in physical or spiritual need.

May your Family celebrate this Christmas together in peace and love. On behalf of our Board of Directors, our Home Office staff and the Rajec family I wish you all a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

Narodil sa Kristus Pán, veselme sa.

Christos raždajetsa, slavite jeho.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

A Christmas Message from the National Chaplain

Dear Friends,

A few weeks have passed since the acts of terror happened on a Friday night in Paris. In the immediate aftermath of the attacks, the President of France announced to his nation and to the world that those responsible eventually would be found and be given "no mercy."

Prince of Peace, the Holy Infant, the Newborn King, are just a few of the names we give to Mary's newly born Son. Pope Francis offers another one for our consideration, the Face of Mercy. The Holy Father uses that name in the title of his letter proclaiming a Jubilee Year of Mercy that began on December 8 and will continue to November 20, 2016.

Jesus is the Face of Mercy. Just think of the implications and intentions if we really wanted to give "no mercy" to a person or group that commits evil against us. No mercy implies a wish for Jesus to be absent from our midst, a desire for Him never to have been born. No Jesus, no mercy. How sad and hopeless the world would be!

But the world is not lost or forsaken. Our Redeemer is born, born to reconcile and bring all people to Himself by means of His everlasting mercy.

And so it is with grateful hearts and voices we can invoke during the Christmas Season and throughout the Year of Jubilee the words of the psalmist from Psalm 67: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face (the Face of Mercy) shine upon us.



Merry Christmas!
Fraternally,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Christmas Greetings from the National Treasurer

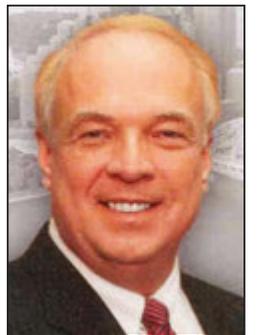
My family and I would like to take the time to wish each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and joyous New Year. My family and I am sure many of your family's Christmas Eve feast is one where we share many customs, family traditions and special food. To us it has always been a day that we gather to rejoice and give thanks for the birth of our Savior and rejoice in being together as a family.

As you sit at your tables this year I ask each of you to take a moment and tell each other how special and grateful you are to be able to have each other and to make special moments that last a life time. May God's blessing be a part of this special season.



Myself, my wife Cathy and the entire Matta family wish you a Blessed Christmas.

George Matta II, National Treasurer



George F. Matta II

Christmas Greeting from the National Fraternal Activities Director

Mark your calendars and hope you will plan on attending one or both of the following events:

International Bowling Tournament

Friday, April 22 and Saturday, April 23, 2016

Sawmill Lanes -- Dublin, OH (near Columbus)

More information and registration forms will be available shortly.

International Golf Tournament

Saturday, July 23, and Sunday, July 24, 2016

Pine Creek and Yankee Run Courses (Youngstown, OH area)

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and ACTIVE New Year 2016!

Veselé a Radostné Vianočné Sviatky a všetko najlepšie do nastavajúceho Nového Roku 2016.



Fraternally,

Rudy Ondrejco
National Director of Fraternal Activities



Rudy Ondrejco

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

FCSU 2015 Christmas Coloring Contest

The Christmas Story By Leanne Guenther

A

Once upon a time,
A long, long time ago.
Begins the story of a baby,
That most of you should know.

His daddy's name was Joseph,
And Mary was his mom,
This babe was very special
He was God's only Son.

Some angels came from heaven,
And they began to sing.
To the shepherds in the fields below,
"Glad tidings do we bring!"

A bright star lit the heavens,
To light the magi's way,
To the baby in the manger
Who was born on Christmas day.

And all who gathered round Him,
Rejoiced and praised His birth,
For the babe, the king named Jesus,
Is our savior here on earth!



C

B



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

RULES

1. Each age group is assigned a certain picture:
4 – 6 year olds – picture B
7 – 9 year olds – picture A
10 – 12 year olds – picture C
2. Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
3. Pictures are allowed to be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.
4. Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
5. Your child's completed entry form, colored picture, and a photo of your child must be postmarked by **December 31, 2015**.
6. Mail to:
 Rudy Ondrejco
 Fraternal Activities Director
 234 Ilion St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Please submit this form with your child's entry by December 31, 2015

Child's Name: _____	Age: _____
Certificate Number: _____	Branch Number: _____ (MUST be filled in)
Street Address: _____	
City, State, Zip: _____	
Phone Number: _____	
Email Address: _____	

PRIZES

Winners in each Region and age group will receive the following:

- 1st Place – Jednota Sports Bag and \$25.00**
- 2nd Place - Jednota Sports Bag and \$15.00**
- 3rd Place - Jednota Sports Bag and \$10.00**
- Honorable Mention - \$5 Gift Card**

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March for Life 2016



Our Presence at the 43rd Annual Right to Life March on Friday, January 22, 2016 in Washington, DC is extremely important. The First Catholic Slovak Union and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association support the position of the Pro Life Movement.

The FCSU and the FCSLA are once again offering free transportation from the FCSLA Home Office in Beachwood, OH for this very important trip. For the past few years we have filled two buses for this march. Again this year, we will reserve

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

Will you join us? Please call Kelly at the FCSLA home Office. Her phone number is 800-464-4642 EXT. 1051 or email her at Kelly@fcscla.org for details or questions and to reserve your seat on the bus before December 28th. The buses fill up quickly and seating is limited so don't wait until the last minute to reserve your seat. You can also go to our website www.fcscla.org for a tentative itinerary for the trip.

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

**Christmas Oplatky
 2015**



Oplatky, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers, will be available this holiday season from Jankola Library. Orders will be accepted from October 26 until December 18, 2015.

The Oplatky, five in one package are thermal-sealed and can be purchased for \$5.00 per pack. In addition, the minimum cost of shipping and handling is \$6.00 and upwards depending upon the number of packets

ordered and the rising costs of priority mailing. Customized requests can be filled to meet your needs. Payment to Jankola Library is expected before receiving an order.

For more information or to place an order contact
 Sister Catherine Labouré Bresnock, SS.C.M. at 570-275-5606 or
 write to Jankola Library and Slovak Museum
 580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

Reminder...

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

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

Region 1 celebrates Jednota's 125th Anniversary with a Gala Dinner

This year marks a significant year as the First Catholic Slovak Union celebrates its 125th anniversary. It is an especially poignant time to remember our founder, Fr. Stefan Furdek, and also to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his death. These past 125 years affirm our society's commitment to faith, family and fraternalism. Region 1 came together before the Lord on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at Holy Family Church in Linden, New Jersey to give thanks for our many blessings. National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Fr. Thomas Nasta was the main celebrant of the bilingual liturgy. Concelebrants included Rev. Jozef Krajnak, PhD Pastor of the Slovak – American parish, Holy Family Church in Linden, New Jersey and member of Branch 746 and Slovak priests from the Oratory of St. Filip Neri Rev. Vladimir Chripko member of Branch 746, Rev. Martin Kertys, and Rev. Roman Palecko.

Members of branch 240, 746, 45, and 716 participated in various parts of the mass. Mrs. Mary Tkach, Mr. Joe Minarovich, Mrs. Anna Zofcak, and Mrs. Mary Karch were highlighted as the longest standing members of those present from Branch 746 and Branch 240 with 68, 66, 62, and 50 years of membership respectively. Mr. John Budis of Branch 746 served as the Director of Liturgy and was the organist for the mass. Mr. Radoslav Lesay was the cantor for the liturgy and led the choir in song in both the Slovak and English language. Among the choir were members of Branch 746 – Mrs. Maria Budis, Mrs. Ludmila Choma, Mrs. Emilia, Filak, Mr. Emil Filak, and Mrs. Maria Kozar.

The celebratory liturgy was followed by a gala dinner at Msgr. Komar Hall which commenced with a cocktail hour featuring traditional Slovak food such as holupky (stuffed cabbage) and segedínský guláš (popular Slovak stew made of pork and sauerkraut with bread-sized steamed dumpling). The event was catered by Mr. and Mrs. Rada and family of Julie Rada Catering.

Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director, welcomed all those in attendance in both Slovak and English and served as master of ceremonies for the evening. The rich program commenced with singing of the National Anthems of the US, Canada, and the Slovak Republic by Ms. Luba Mason, member of Branch 716 and daughter of the late Rudolph Gregus, and Mr. Radoslav Lesay.

The invocation was offered by Rev. Jozef Krajnak, PhD pastor of Holy Family Church built by Slovak-Americans in 1955 celebrated its 60th anniversary this year. Rev. Jozef Krajnak, PhD, also a member of Branch 746, was installed as Pastor on October 18, 2015. The Slovak-American community welcomed the new Pastor, born in Kezmarok, Slovakia, with open arms and hearts as he began his ministry to the Slovak and American communities living in the area. Upon moving to the new parish, Fr. Jozef found the precious 93 year old incorporation document of the First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 746 in the garage of the church rectory. Members have played a large role in building the church, raising money, and continue to be active members in the parish. The document was restored, framed, and re-gifted to Holy Family Church at the Gala Dinner as a sign of the branch's dedication to the local parish and the community.

The Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York, Ms. Jana Trnovcova, offered the toast and congratulated the First Catholic Slovak Union on its quasicentennial anniversary noting the significance of this milestone for the Slovak community.

Ms. Luba Mason – acclaimed Broadway star, recording artist, classically trained singer, pianist, dancer and actress who was nominated for the prestigious 2015 DRAMA DESK and LUCILLE LORTEL theater awards as "Best Featured Actress in a Musical" – performed "Materinská moja reč" (Motherland). The song translated as "Motherland" is about our motherland and mother tongue, one verse of the song can be translated as "bitter tears come to my eyes, joy swells deep inside me, when I dream sweet memories of you, I am blessed by thee". The song resonated with those gathered and Luba's beautiful interpretation brought tears to many people's eyes. This song along with original songs by Luba will be featured in her new album MIXTURA which will be released June 2016.

At the core of the First Catholic Slovak Union is faith and family. Some of our youngest members of Branch 746 showcased their talent to those attending. Children from Slovenské centrum detí Lipka performed in Slovak "Slovensko v nás", "Jablčko", and "Ježiš, Ty máš meno najkrajšie". Ms. Marianna Fecova, Coordinator of Slovenské centrum detí Lipka, explained the mission of the Slovak school which has been operating in Linden, New Jersey since 2003 and provides Slovak language education to children ages 3 to 14. In attendance were also teachers from the school Ms. Jaroslava Hrehova and Ms. Ingrid Mazarikova.

After a delicious served dinner, the 125th Anniversary video was shown which highlighted the history of FCSU. Those that did not have a chance to attend the 125th anniversary organized by the Home Office in Cleveland were able to see a glimpse of the celebrations and hear a clip of Rev. Michael Brunovsky's presentation of the legacy of Fr. Stefan Furdek and his beautiful singing of "Kto za pravdu hori" by Karol Kuzmany.

FCSU President Andrew M. Rajec keynote address highlighted the on-going work of Jednota and the changing atmosphere the Society faces as we transition into the 21st century. The President had the opportunity to engage and meet with many members of the various branches of Region 1 as well as non-members who were in attendance.

Mr. Radoslav Lesay, who many may remember as the cantor at the Shrine pilgrimage at the National Basilica in Washington, DC, performed in Slovak famous Slovak pop songs towards the end of the evening. Mr. Lesay, a singer, songwriter, and producer, performs and composes in the area of popular music and Christian music. In 2009 he made his television debut with the video clip to his song "There Beyond the Mountains High" which had reach 4th place in Slovak Gospel Charts.

The Dinner Gala wouldn't have been complete without a three-tiered cake and delectable homemade Slovak pastries! FCSU President Mr. Andrew M. Rajec and Executive Secretary



Mr. Kenneth Arendt partook in the cutting of the cake.

The Home Office was also presented with an original acrylic painting donated by young artist Pavol Olsavsky III of Fr. Stefan Furdek. Ms. Julie Ann Gurega, member of Branch 45, presented Mr. Kenneth Arendt with a basket of goodies from Goral Vodka, an award winning Slovak vodka distilled, packaged, and produced in Stara Lubovna, Slovakia and sold on the US market. All those attending received a miniature bottle to sample compliments of Goral Vodka Master.

Although the celebrations began at 5pm the evening did not conclude until 1am! Entertainment was provided by the excellent band Express led by Marek Soltis. All the guests had a wonderful time dancing to traditional Slovak songs as well as music from all genres!

Thank you to those that traveled near and far to support the event especially National Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union: National President Andrew M. Rajec and his wife Idka; Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt and his wife Theresa; National Chaplain Rev. Thomas A. Nasta; Chairman of Auditors Karen Hunka; Region 1 Director Emeritus Joe Minarovich and wife Lillian; Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados; Region 2 Director Damian Nasta and his wife Peggy; Region 3 Director Martha Zavada Wojcik; Region 8 Director Milos Mitro and his wife Anne; Supreme Court Member James Bench and his wife Kay; Supreme Court member and FCSU Director of Independent Agents Andrew P. Rajec; and Slovak Editor of Jednota Anne Sutherland and her husband Anthony.

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125th Anniversary with a Gala Dinner



continued from page 6

Also in attendance were representatives of various Slovak organizations including Mrs. Nina Holy Secretary of the Slovak League of America and her husband Mr. John Holy former editor of *Slovak v Amerike* and contributor to the *Jednota*, Mr. John Duch, Chairman of the Slovak Festival, and members of the Slovak-American Cultural Center Executive including Vice President Mrs. Rosemary Golia and her husband Judge Golia, Mr. Rado Lesay and wife Ivetka, Julie Gurega, Michaela Harvis, and Jozef Venglar.

A special thank you to all the clergy participating in the liturgy especially Rev. Jozef Krajnak, PhD, organist Mr. John Budis for a spiritually enriching Mass. A note of gratitude to Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York Ms. Jana Trnovcova for her participation. Sincere appreciation to the extraordinary performers including Ms. Luba Mason, Mr. Radoslav Lesay, and to the children of Slovenské centrum detí Lipka and their parents.

Sincere appreciation to Jednota members attending from local branches, District 1, 4, and 16 and Branch 746 and the efforts of all the volunteers that made the evening possible especially Mrs. Anna Balas, Mrs. Ludmila Choma, Mr. Viliam Choma, Mrs. Anna Korcak, and Mrs. Emilia Filak and Ryan Ranahan of Ryan Ranahan Photography for capturing all the memories we will treasure for years to come!

Those attending, totaling over 200 people, included Jednota members from local branches, District 1, 4, and 16. Enjoyed the Slovak traditions, culture, language, food, and entertainment. The celebration of the Jednota's anniversary united all those present in the spirit of fraternalism. Region 1's 125th anniversary celebration was hosted by Branch 746 in collaboration with Branch 19 – St. Joseph Society of Bridgeport, CT, Branch 240 – St. John the Baptist Society of Raritan, NJ, Branch 45 – St. Matthew the Evangelist Society of New York City, NY, and Branch 716 – St. Stephen the Martyr Society of New York, NY. Thank you to these branches which sponsored tables for the Gala Dinner.

Submitted by: Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director



Ježiško a Vianoce - Little Jesus and Christmas

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

The University of Maryland University College



While most children in the USA receive gifts on Christmas Day, in Slovakia the custom of gift-giving begins on the night of December 5-6, the eve of the Feast of St. Nicholas, or Sviatok svätého Mikuláša. Good children receive treats while those who were bad might get a lump of coal. The tradition continues on Christmas Eve when children receive some presents and older family members might exchange gifts. But the focus is on Ježiško (Little Jesus - pronounced Yay-zhees-ko), and gifts are from Him. According to tradition, Ježiško flies through a window on Christmas Eve (Štedrý večer) sometime after dinner. That assures that the children will eat the traditionally sacred meal rather than playing with any new presents.

Our Family Christmas

As children with a Slovak-born mother, our family really did not celebrate St. Nicholas Day, though some Slovak-Americans did. From what I have read and experienced, the St. Nick Day custom died out among many Slovaks after being in the USA for a while. Perhaps its proximity to Thanksgiving helped take away from the holiday; in addition, having my birthday a few days away worked to my own disadvantage.

Unlike most children, we received our gifts on Christmas Eve, when we thought Santa came. We children would lay down after enjoying the Vilija supper with its scrumptious mushroom soup (hubová polievka). It was easier to try to sleep when we were very little, when we were accustomed to naps. Once we got older, there was no thought of sleeping, but only listening for reindeer hoofs. Or we would look out the window hoping to spot St. Nick, just as Slovak children might to see if they could spot Ježiško. Then we were roused and told Santa had come, but he had whisked away because he had lots of other homes to visit. Sure enough, the milk and cookies left for him were eaten. Once up, we began our wanton search for toys, and had no enthusiasm for such useless gifts like clothes!

Only now do I realize that my mother was practicing the coming of Ježiško as she did when she was a child. She had just substituted Santa. When she lived in Slovakia, her family was so dirt poor that all she got was at most an orange, and maybe some handmade clothing, but certainly no toys; they were too indigent to afford such luxuries as toys. Today even most of the poorest Americans could not even comprehend such poverty like my mother experienced. And I have read that Slovaks like my mother who came to the USA were amazed at how much better the poor lived here, even during the Great Depression.

On Christmas Day, the gift giving would continue when our baba (grandmother), aunts and uncles would present us with a small gift of money, or an article of clothing. They would tell us that Santa had left it at their house for us, and only later when older did we realize it was from them. My wife's baba would call Santa "Sondy Klaz," and said so in very comical way. But all of us have the memory of a baba always having soup (polievka), kolache (koláče) and čeregy (sweet rolls).

A Little History

When I lived in Slovakia as a graduate student in 1982-83, people would ask what Ježiško brought: Čo ti doniesol Ježiško? (What did Baby Jesus bring you?), or Čo si dostal od Ježiška? (What did you receive from Baby Jesus?) But they never bothered to explain to me the custom during that communist era.

The communists tried to extricate the Slovaks' religious traditions by introducing Dedo Mraz (Grandfather Frost). The communists portrayed him as an old bearded man dressed in a robe who flew through the window, bringing gifts from the Soviet Union for all the good little boys and girls. That communist myth got nowhere among most Slovaks.

After the 1989 Velvet Revolution overthrew the communism, there was yet another attempt to dethrone Svätý Mikuláš and Ježiško and bring in Santa Claus. Some businesses in Slovakia and the Czech Republic tried to push the more commercial Santa Claus to sell more goods, and Santa was appearing in shop windows. Slovaks tend to link Santa Claus to America, capitalism, and Coca Cola (Remember the ad of Santa with a Coke!).

Because Slovaks wanted to keep Christ in Christmas (Vianoce), a Zachraňte Ježiška (Save Little Jesus) reaction of people put an end to the movement and preserved the tradition of St. Nick and Ježiško. Santa Claus might still today appear in some Slovak shopping malls to drum up business, but he plays third fiddle to the saint and Christ child, which continue as Slovak traditions in most families today.

Contacting Ježiško

In Slovakia, children can write to Ježiško in order to request certain gifts, just as many of us in America write to Santa. At least we did as children. And in Slovakia, the children correspond with Ježiško via Christmas mail (Vianočná pošta) with help from the internet today, by way of the website www.vianocepatosta.sk. Beginning in 1999, the Slovak Post Office (Slovenská pošta) began accepting letters with this address: 99 999 JEŽIŠKO. The post office in Slovakia receives thousands of letters every year from both Slovakia and abroad, and young writers are told that they may write or draw their requests. All letters are sent to the House of Christmas Mail (Dom Vianočnej pošty) in Rajecká Lesná, a village about 25 miles south of Žilina. The hamlet is also well-known because it hosts an annual pilgrimage on September 8, the feast of Virgin Mary's Nativity.

Some children post their wishes (želania) online at this website run by HN style. Of course, the requests are in Slovak, but the drawing samples are easily understood: <http://style.hnonline.sk/vikend-140/precitajte-si-najkrajsie-listy-deti-jeziskovi-477129>.

Here is a sample letter with my translation (preklad).

Milý Ježiško,

Volám sa Miško a mám 3 roky. Veľmi sa teším na Vianoce a prosím Ťa prinies mi pod stromček traktor s vlečkou. Lúbim Ťa.

Miško, Holumnica

Dear Little Jesus,

My name is Mikey and I am three years old. I am looking forward to Christmas and would you

please bring me under the tree a tractor with trailer. I love you.

Mikey from Holumnica

For small children, a parent or a teacher often writes the letter. The requests grow more elaborate with the child's age. A five year old wants a dog and will name it Beethoven after the movie, but it could be a bit smaller than the one in the film because the family lives in a small apartment. Then a seven year old is already asking for a Playstation! A ten year old girl even declares she does not believe any more, but still wants a microphone so she can sing like Nela Podsková, and a child's rose, rather than a big one so her mother will not be upset!

A Child's Christmas Carol

Children also sing songs to Ježiško, and below is a translation of a traditional favorite, which is sometimes sang at children's plays at Christmas time. The words are quite simple, but are the essence of the Christmas message: I do not have much, but I give you my heart, and ask that you protect our family and those far from home, and let brotherly love spread across the world. One may hear at this YouTube site: "Vianočná pieseň - Ježiško maličký," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=us0aNcY-Cw0>.

1. *Ježiško maličký, čože Ti dám,
ťažko je vyberať, keď málo mám.*



*Srdce Ti darujem, láska je v ňom,
dávam Ti v ochranu celý náš dom.*

1. Little Jesus, what shall I give you,
It is difficult to choose, when I have so little.
I will give you a heart, for love is in it,
I give you this so you will protect our whole house.

2. *Za seba prosím a za všetkých tiež,
čo sú tam ďaleko od domu, vieš.*

*Ježiško maličký, môj Boh a Pán,
veselé Vianoce daj všetkým nám.*

2. For myself and for all, I ask,
For those who are far from home, you know.
Little Baby Jesus, my God and Lord,
Grant to them all a Merry Christmas.

3. *Požehnaj, Ježiško, i celý svet,
lásky nech bratskej už rozkvitne kvet.
Všetky nech národy velebia Ťa,
ochráň a žehnaj nás, Božie dieťa.*

3. And bless, Baby Jesus, the whole world,
Let brotherly love bloom like a flower.
Let all the peoples praise You,
Protect and bless us, God's child.

Recipe for Biskupský Chelbiček (Slovak Bishop's Bread)

Finally, a sweet fruit bread called *Biskupský Chelbiček* is commonly used in Slovakia on Mikuláš and is also used a favorite in some households during the Christmas holidays (Vianočné sviatky). Since most of us enjoy good Slovak food, a recipe seemed appropriate, which I edited; the original recipe can be found on the St. Nicholas Center website in the citation below.

Ingredients

- ¼ pound butter
- ½ cup icing sugar
- 4 eggs
- ½ cup all purpose flour
- 2 ounces chocolate chips
- 2 ounces almonds
- 2 ounces chopped figs
- 1 ounce raisins
- 2 ounces candied chopped fruit
- one tablespoon baking powder

Mix the butter, half of the sugar and the yolks. Then beat up from the egg whites to a snow, and add the other half of the sugar and finish the snow.

Fold the mixture into the egg yolk mixture half of the dry ingredients with the other half of the snow. Finish adding the rest of the dry ingredients together with the other half of the snow.

Bake the mixture in a bread loaf pan. Put butter and flour on the baking pan before adding the mixture. Fill the pan about ¾ full, since it will rise. Bake at 350° F. for 45-60 minutes.

Check that the Biskupský Chelbiček is fully baked by inserting a toothpick in the middle of the bread. If it comes out clean, the bread is ready. Cool it, and then slice. You may sprinkle it with confectioners sugar or some other topping for decoration and/or taste.

Conclusion

Finally, I would like to conclude this article with a traditional wish, a vinšovanie [pronounced veensh-oh-vaahnye] to all of our members and readers of Jednota. In the Spiš dialect, we use vinč [veenč] for short. And in memory of my father who passed away this year in May, I would like to present his vinč, which he heartily proclaimed as he entered the home of any fellow Slovak-American during the Christmas holidays.

**Ja Vám vinčujem na toto Božieho narodenia,
žeby Pán Boh dal vám dobré zdravie i
ľuboš do druhej Božieho narodenia.
Menšie hriehami, väčšie radosti, Božké milosti,
Pokojnejší, spokojnejší, rok jak žili a prežili.
Pochvalený budz Pán Ježiš Kristus!**



Branch 278's Helene Cincebeaux receives Distinguished Service Award.

Photo credit: Ric Peltier

Helene Cincebeaux Receives CGSI Distinguished Service Award

Helene Baine Cincebeaux was honored with the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Distinguished Service Award at the organization's 15th conference, this year held in Cedar Rapids, IA. Helene has led the Parade of Kroj, providing the folk outfits from her collection, at each conference since 1993. Helene is well known as the founder of the Slovak Heritage and Folklore Society International and as editor of its quarterly Slovakia Magazine and many books on Slovak culture and traditions. Helene also is a member of the FCSU's Branch 278. In the photo, Conference Chair Paul Makousky presents the award.

District 17's October Meeting

Saints Cyril and Methodius District 17 held its annual fall meeting on Sunday, October 18, 2015, at St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston, Pennsylvania. Members attended the 12:15 P.M. Mass and then enjoyed a catered luncheon. Pictured here are the elected officers for 2016. Seated (L - R) are Marion Rubino, treasurer; Arlo Meeker, vice president; and Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., president. Standing (L - R) are Martha Zavada, Region 3 Director who conducted the swearing in ceremony; Kimberly Meeker, acting secretary; Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, fraternal activities director; and John J. Slovenkai, Sr., sergeant-at-arms.



- Submitted by Elizabeth Slovenkai, District Fraternal Activities Director

Ježiško a Vianoce - Little Jesus and Christmas

continued from page 8

Translation

I wish you on this, God's birthday,
That the Lord God grant you good health and
Love that lasts until God's next birthday.
May you have fewer sins, greater joys, God's grace,
A more peaceful and more satisfying year than what you have lived through.
Praise be to the Lord Jesus Christ!

The visited household would then answer: Na veky Amen. (Forever, Amen.)

Veselé Vianoce! - Merry Christmas!

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District 11 Participation in 50th Anniversary of Slovak Chapel at National Shrine in Washington, D.C.

The Slovak C.U. Club, Ford City/(Branch 200) subsidized transportation for five people from three different locations within District 11 (Vandergrift, Apollo, and Ford City) to attend the Mass and Rededication of the Mother of Sorrows Chapel in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on September 12, 2015. Following services in the Shrine and the reception His Excellency Peter Kmec, Slovak Ambassador to the United States, hosted for all Slovak fraternal representatives at the Slovak Embassy on International Court NW, Washington, graciously invited the District 11 contingent to be photographed with him in the main entrance of the Embassy before their departure. The group spent several hours afterward sightseeing in downtown Washington, George-town, and Arlington, VA, before returning home.

- submitted by Grace Charney, District 11 Recording Secretary

Christmas concert and dinner in Yonkers, N.Y. on December 20



Our member of Branch 41KJ, Stephen J. Knoblock will direct the traditional Christmas concert of chorus and instrumentalists "Journey to Bethlehem" on Sunday, December 20 at the Church of St. Casimir, 239 Nepperhan Avenue in Yonkers, NY, beginning at 3 p.m. The concert will feature the artistry of the choir of the former Most Holy Trinity Parish. The Slovak parish was shuttered on August 1st. For the past 30 years, the concert was an integral part of the celebration of Christmas at the parish. This year's concert, the first in the majestic gothic Church of St. Casimir, under the baton of Maestro Knoblock will feature an array of traditional Advent and Christmas favorites and arrangements.

Following the concert, a buffet supper will be served in the church hall. Traditional Slovak and Polish culinary specialties will be enjoyed. Tickets for the concert and dinner are \$35.00 or \$10 for the concert alone. Reservations for the dinner are necessary and may be made by calling St. Casimir's Rectory at tel. 914-963-1254 or email: office@casimirchurch.com.

- Submitted Daniel F. Tanzone, Branch 41

Friends of Slovakia Visit FCSU



The First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) welcomed Friends of Slovakia to the Home Office recently. The Friends of Slovakia (FOS) is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit committed to enhancing US/Slovak relations through economic, business, political, security, cultural, educational, and humanitarian efforts. (L - R) FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec, FOS Vice Chairman Ken Bombara, FOS Chairman and FCSU Branch 254 Member Joe Senko, and FCSU Director of Independent Agents Andrew P. Rajec.

Slovakia 1990-2015: Moving Ahead?

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum

It is now a quarter of a century since I began traveling annually to Slovakia. Until the Iron Curtain fell in the autumn of 1989, I was denied access to my country of birth, which I left with my parents in 1942. This trip in 1990 was therefore a flight into a sort of "known" unknown, a country about which I had heard so much from my parents and their friends but whose development was totally unfamiliar to them as it was to me. For two decades, I had been teaching courses at a Canadian university on what was then called the "Soviet bloc;" I knew a lot about the political system in Eastern Europe, especially Slovakia, I was aware that there had been economic development, but I could not really tell what it was like to live there, nor how the almost half century of socialist economics and totalitarian rule had transformed the people and the country. I was curious but also apprehensive, remembering what had happened in 1968, when the country was invaded by Warsaw Pact troops after a few months of "liberalisation;" I had no idea of what I would find.

In 1990, the first eye-opener was the bus trip from Schwechat Airport near Vienna to Bratislava. It was still Czecho-Slovakia then, but at the Austrian-Czecho-Slovak border I saw signs that we were about to enter Slovakia. I had not expected this and it warmed my heart. The border formalities were quickly taken care of. And then, Petržalka, in all its socialist ugliness with its uniform grey high rises and empty spaces came into view: a real blot on the landscape. Beyond it you could see the outline of Bratislava, with the Castle dominating the city along with the bridge over the Danube. As we crossed the river and entered the city I saw only old cars, Soviet trucks with their wheels inclined inward and spewing black smoke from their exhausts, and row after row of dilapidated buildings, including historic ones. As I told one of my cousins (all of whom I was meeting for the first time) I felt that I was in a Third World city. She agreed with me.

It was the warm welcome that I received from my relatives that made the trip memorable; and also the need to speak Slovak 24/7. No one spoke English yet. Improving my command of Slovak, that beautiful sounding language, would become one of the benefits of my annual trips over the next twenty-five years. My relatives were very patient as I made every effort to say correctly in Slovak what I was thinking either in English or French. But more importantly, I quickly realized that I felt at home: how my relatives behaved, how they spoke, sang, or what they cooked was very familiar. I was a Canadian, speaking both official languages fluently, but my parents had made sure that I also acquired something of a Slovak background. And thanks to them, I did not feel as a foreigner in my native land, nor did my relatives treat me like one.

As the years went by, I saw with every visit the inevitable changes of life. The children of my first cousins grew up and some married and soon had children of their own. My aunt, the last relative of that generation, passed away, as did my oldest cousin. But what would not change was the welcome; I was always made to feel at home. Some from the younger generation learned either English or German (even both) and visited my family in Canada. For them, the freedom to travel and see the world was now possible. Others were happy to remain in Slovakia and make a life for themselves there. And they, like me, learned what it had been like under the Communist regime. What I found interesting was how incredulous they were at what they were told about visa restrictions, barbed wire and strict controls at the border, aggressive and fully-armed guards, and so forth, not to say anything about how careful you had to be in expressing your opinion in public. The changes that Slovak society underwent in that quarter-century were positive and very evident in the life of my relatives. The future for the younger generation is a good one: if the political and economic situation allows it.

My annual trips permitted me to observe the changes that took place, especially after independence was declared in 1993. There was much economic uncertainty at the beginning and many expressed serious doubts that the country could make a go of it. But they were wrong; the transformation that took place has been truly astonishing. The ugliness of the socialist period disappeared and the signs of economic growth became progressively evident: new housing, modern highways, first class hotels, fully-stocked shops, refurbished historic spas, new wellness centres, shopping malls, the latest automobiles, and so on. The rail and bus systems were modernised. All over the country towns and villages, especially Petržalka, were transformed and even restored their historic sections. In some instances, like Trnava, where the campus of the historic University of Trnava suffered what was nothing less than "cultural vandalism" with the building a modern hotel right in the middle of it, the result was very disheartening. Be that as it may, how Slovakia made the transition from a socialist to a market economy and to a modern society is a remarkable story.

Socially, Slovakia clearly underwent major change. A new mid-



Trnava's new hotel on campus

dle class emerged, which the founding of new universities – too many, some would say – along with the expansion of academic disciplines in the established ones enabled it to become more educated, more professional, and more diversified. A competent public service was emerging. It put to rest once and for all the notion that Slovak society was not up to the challenge of modernisation and development and that it needed assistance from others to move ahead, an argument used by those who opposed Slovak independence. There were of course many social problems resulting from this transformation, the country faced many economic trials, and yet it managed to deal with them. This proven ability bodes well for the future.

Slovak politics also proved to be very interesting. Initially, it was the debates and activities concerning the future of Czecho-Slovakia that were captivating as they involved the past as well as the future. It was clear that Czecho-Slovakia was a dysfunctional state and that the political elites of the two nations would not reach an agreement to remain in the common state. After that, the question was how would the political parties govern and ensure change and development. Since I have commented in these pages over the years on the various governments that Slovakia has had, suffice it to say that political development in Slovakia has also been a remarkable story. Despite evidence of financial corruption, authoritarian tendencies, parliamentary and electoral manipulation, political skull-dogery and the legacy of the totalitarian past, de-

mocracy is what defines Slovak political life today. Slovakia also has had rather interesting leaders. I had meetings with all four presidents: Michal Kováč, Rudolf Schuster, Ivan Gašparovič, and Andrej Kiska, and three prime ministers: Ján Čarnogurský, Vladimír Mečiar, and Mikuláš Dzurinda. What caught my attention was how each sought to show how Slovakia was moving ahead. My meeting with President Kiska last June was most instructive: I was in the presence of a very charming and intelligent man who wanted to know how Slovakia could help the Slovak community abroad. He exuded an air of confidence that was genuine and also refreshing.

The picture of the last quarter-century in Slovakia I have painted here is a positive one: and why not? It is all too easy to focus on problems and errors and comment on them smugly, but over the long term, unless they have had a major impact, they are simply the stuff of daily life and politics. The electoral system allows for adjustments and change. And it has. The fact is that Slovakia has moved forward and is today a respected member of the family of states in the United Nations Organisation, in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and in the European Union. It is a magnificent country, full of natural wonders and historic sites that have a great deal to offer to residents and visitors. And its future looks very good; let us hope that the population never loses sight of this as it faces new problems and challenges.



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**Hope you can join us for
a wonderful evening of
entertainment, dancing,
and great food!**

From the Office of the Executive Secretary

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



Christmas – Thursday, December 24, 2015 –
Friday, December 25, 2015
New Year's – Friday, January 1, 2016

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

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2015

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

SATURDAY, December 12, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. (telephonically).

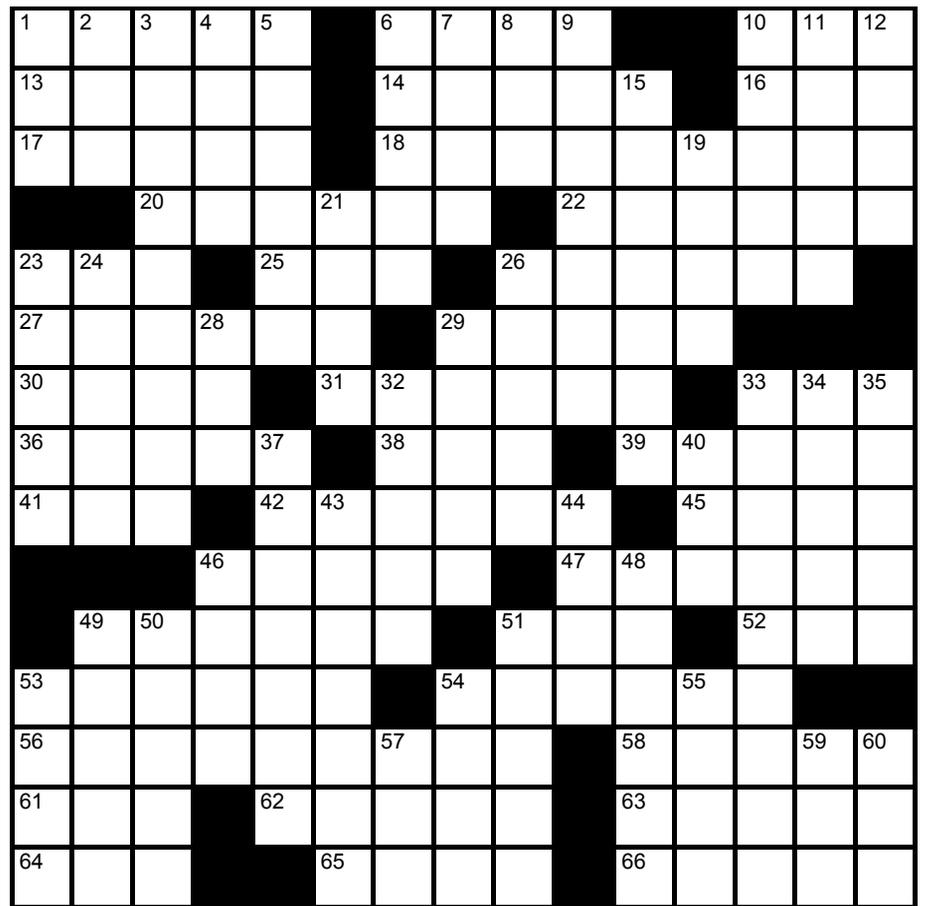
The Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Friday, December 11, 2015, 2015.

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

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Prevent
- 6 Vases
- 10 Take steps
- 13 Helpful
- 14 Crannies' pals
- 16 Kind of jacket
- 17 Raptor
- 18 French cheese
- 20 Balloon filler
- 22 Creates a picture
- 23 Position
- 25 Summer hrs. in D.C.
- 26 Walked
- 27 Holiday event
- 29 Horse trots
- 30 English river
- 31 Meager
- 33 Actor Kilmer
- 36 Store sections (Abbr.)
- 38 Kind of nut
- 39 Indian side dish
- 41 Compass pt.
- 42 Pressed
- 45 Operatic prince
- 46 Go-between
- 47 Appraisal
- 49 Daybed
- 51 Children's card game
- 52 Sign of the zodiac
- 53 Brick holder
- 54 Naval unit
- 56 Laziness
- 58 Carries on
- 61 Pipe joint
- 62 Flower holders?
- 63 Fancy tie
- 64 Miss the mark

- 65 Editor's mark
- 66 Motif

Down

- 1 Fitting
- 2 Greek vowel
- 3 Circus wire
- 4 Model Macpherson
- 5 Staggered
- 6 Full-length, like a movie
- 7 Wander
- 8 ___ de guerre
- 9 Doubter
- 10 Modify
- 11 À la ___
- 12 Small fry
- 15 More stylish
- 19 Life stories, briefly
- 21 March date
- 23 Garden tool
- 24 Roof overhangs
- 26 *Beetle Bailey* character
- 28 Pantry pest
- 29 Scrawny
- 32 Duplicate
- 33 Close attention
- 34 Make reparations
- 35 Florida's Key ___

- 37 Warning signs
- 40 River islet
- 43 Feels remorse
- 44 Apothecary's weight
- 46 Camera position
- 48 Noah's landfall
- 49 Recluse
- 50 Command
- 51 Usurp
- 53 Minute arachnid
- 54 Pinnacle
- 55 Short run
- 57 Fishing aid
- 59 Male cat
- 60 Fr. holy woman

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2016

Issue Date

Deadline to Receive Information

January 13
January 27
February 10
March 2
March 30
April 20
May 11
June 15
July 20
August 17
Sept 7
Sept 21
October 5
October 19
November 2
November 16
December 7

January 4
January 18
February 1
February 22
March 21
April 11
May 2
June 6
July 11
August 8
August 29
Sept 12
Sept 26
October 10
October 24
November 7
November 28

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 06K, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 27, 2015, at 1PM at Cracker Barrel, 4119 Columbus St., Ottawa, IL. The agenda will include the election of officers for 2016, and discussions for activities and business for 2016. A lunch will be provided for all members, followed by fraternalism. Please call: 815-822-8851 or 815-672-1764 if you plan to attend or have any questions on policies, or to purchase a policy or annuity for a new member. We urge all members to attend.

Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2015, at 9:00AM at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin Street, Houtzdale, PA. Election of officers will take place. All members are urged to attend.

Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2015, at 9:30AM in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 79 Church St, Bridgeport, CT. The election of officers will take place and the distribution of annual donations to our special charities will take place.

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

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St. Andrew Society, will hold a branch meeting at 1:00 PM, Sunday, January 31, 2016 at the Old Town Hall, 6652 Brecksville Rd. (Rt. 21) in Independence, OH. Parking is available behind the gazebo on the town square.

Refreshments will be served.

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

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

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 35 - BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's, Branch 35 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at 1987 Centurion Drive, Forest Hills, PA.

Agenda items will include a discussion of branch and district activities, officer's reports and the election of officers for the New Year.

Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 40 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday January 31st at 1:00 P.M. at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington St. Streator, Illinois. All members are urged to attend the meeting. A buffet luncheon will follow. Election of officers will take place. Please make reservations by calling Maria Harcar at (815) 672-6682 before January 29, 2016.

Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 17, 2016, at 12:30 PM after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1th Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's Society Branch 45, is organizing an indoor soccer tournament which will take place on Saturday of January 23, 2016 at 2:00pm held at St. John Nepomucene Hall in New York City. Interested participants may contact the sport directors for further detail and information: Jozef Korcak: (201) 841-8814 or Jan Zeman: (347) 578-4419. Winners will be awarded with great prizes. We are look-

ing forward to see you.

Jozef Jurasi - Sport Director

BRANCH 55- BROOMALL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual Meeting of Branch 55 K.J. is scheduled to be held on Sunday, December 27, 2015 at 2:00 P.M. at the residence of the President and Secretary-Treasurer in the Dining Room at the Wesley Enhanced Living complex, 8401 Roosevelt Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA. Mass will be held at Wesley Hall at 11:00 A.M. followed by lunch.

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

Attention! Any high school or college student that attends this meeting, will receive a copy of Joseph Trojcek's recently published book, FOCUS ON YOUR LIGHT. Joe, a multi-faceted entrepreneur, is a member of the FCSU, who shares his insights and experience in building a successful career centered in the field of music. In his book, Joe presents helpful ideas for anyone interested in starting a business or furthering his/her career.

Lunch will be catered; therefore, we request that you RSVP by December 10h in order to make reservations at the Wesley. For directions to the meeting, please call the President at (610) 356-7956 or Secretary at (215) 637-6530.

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

Helena T. Gaydos, President

BRANCH 173 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch Number 173, will hold its annual meeting on Dec. 20, 2015, at Norms North Sherman St Wilkes-Barre, beginning at 12 Noon.

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

Fraternally,

John Ungvarsky, President

BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 199 will meet on Sunday, December 13th at 1:00 PM at Jioio's Restaurant, Route 981, Latrobe, PA 15650. You are encouraged to attend.

Barb Patula, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228, of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold their annual election/bylaw review meeting on Monday, December 21, 2015 at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. I appeal to our younger members to become active in our lodge to help direct our branch as well as becoming involved with the Slovak Club and the United Slovak Societies. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. Come to our meetings. They are fun, informative and help to promote fraternal comradery.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold their annual meeting at the Bedford Trails Golf Course Restaurant in Coitsville, OH, on Sunday, December 20, 2015, at 1:00PM. We will have an election of officers for the coming year followed by a luncheon – with reservations to be made by calling 330-755-8316.

We wish to extend our wishes for a Holy and Happy Holiday Season to all members.

Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260- CAMPBELL, OHIO

Branch 260 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2015, at 1:30PM at the Beford Trails & Golf Course Restaurant, Coitsville, OH. On the agenda: general branch business and election of officers for 2016 will take place at this meeting. A Christmas luncheon will follow directly after the meeting, so please call President Paul Ritz by Friday, December 11, to make your reservation at (234) 855-1233.

Fraternally,

Paul Ritz, President

BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

St. John the Baptist Branch 290 will hold a meeting on December 9, 2015 at 6:30PM. Election of officers will be held at this meeting. Please call Joe at (908) 413-7177 after 6PM for the location of the meeting.

Joe Minarovich, President

BRANCH 292 - WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 292, will hold their Annual Meeting and Christmas Party at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, December 13, 2015, at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, PA. Nomination of officers will take place at this meeting. All members are asked to attend this event.

On December 18, 2015, Branch 292 will hold a special meeting for election of officers. The meeting will start at 7:00PM and will be at the home of Present Edward T. Surkosky. Details of this meeting will be offered at the December 13th meeting or for more information call 1-814-467-9346. All members are asked to attend.

The officers extend to all members best wishes for a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Edward T. Surkosky, FIC, President

BRANCH 293 - LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 293KJ, will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, at the home of Financial Secretary Robert J. Lakata, 527 E. Bertsch St., Lansford, PA, 18232-2210, at 6PM. Election of officers will take place at this time. Anyone needing service or more insurance should call 570-645-4872 and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Fraternally,

Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 312 – BAGGALEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 312K will hold its next meeting on Sunday, January 31, 2016, at 1:00PM at the home of President Mark Smolleck, 1121 Monastery Drive, Latrobe, PA, 15650. On the agenda: election of officers for 2016. For more information, contact Micki Smolleck at 724-539-8326.

We wish all our members a very blessed Christmas, and a Happy and Health New Year.

Micki Smolleck, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph's Branch 367, will be meeting on Thursday, December 17, 2015, at 5 PM at Bogey's Restaurant @ Duck Hollow Golf Club, 374 Duck Hollow Road, Uniontown, PA 15401. All members are welcome. Election of officers for the next year and our branch 2016 projects will be discussed. If planning on attending please call Audrey Balazik 724-438-3887 or Kathryn Baranek 724-569-1006 for reservations.

We would like to wish all of our members and their families a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely, Kathryn Baranek Secretary

BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 372, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2015, at 2:00PM at the home of President Michael P. Hudak, 829 Cameron Ave, Beaverdale, PA, 15921. On the agenda: general business and election of officers for the calendar year 2016.

Respectfully,

Michael Hudak, President

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Members of Branch 410 are invited to a branch meeting at the Titlow Grille, 92 W. Main Street in Uniontown, PA at 1:30 on January 21, 2016.

Elections of officers for 2016 will be on the agenda. Members are encouraged to attend.

Geri Buchheit, Recording & Financial Secretary.

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting of St. Joseph's Society, Branch 494, will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2015, beginning at 2PM. The meeting will be held at the home of the recording secretary Monica Rura, 819 Power Plant Road, Coral, PA.

On the agenda will be the election of officers, payment of bills and donations to organizations. There will be details given and a discussion of the recent annual meeting of the Rev. John Martvon District.

All branch members are welcome, especially anyone wishing to become a branch officer.

Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OHIO

On Sunday, December 27, 2015 at 2 pm at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH, St. John the Baptist, Branch 553, will have our last meeting of the year to elect officers for 2016.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please send your letter to intent to Grace Bacot, c/o Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. In your letter please state what position you are interested in serving on the board. Deadline for letters is December 18, 2015. This is your opportunity to take an active roll in your Branch.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 567 KJ – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ will hold their annual meeting on Friday, December 18, 2015 at 1:00PM.

It will be held at the home of the Recording Secretary, Loretta Dashner, 419 East Hamilton St., Allentown, PA. 18109.

Our annual financial report will be given at this meeting. We will also have nomination and election of officers for the year 2016.

There will be a discussion regarding plans for the year 2016.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 581 – GARY/WHITING, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 581, will hold a meeting on Friday, December 18, 2015, at the Lake Park Restaurant, 7 East Old Ridge Rd., Hobart, IN, at 1 p.m. The agenda will be election of officers and insurance premiums for children to be paid by the branch for the first year. New business will also be discussed. Please RSVP to Ann, 219-947-2793 or George, 219-926-2410.

Ann Buczek, President

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

December 20th meeting will be election of officers, please attend.

Sunday, Dec. 27 Breakfast 8:30am-12noon all you can eat and the best breakfast in town.

Burritos every third Thursday of the month, to-go only. Call ahead to order.

Every Tuesday and Thursday all drinks .50 off
Hours are Mon-Fri 1pm-8pm Sat 12noon-8pm
Come down and enjoy yourself!

All events take place at Tatra Hall 2536 Sixth St. Muskegon Heights, MI 733-7525.

Susan Hornik, Secretary

BRANCH 628 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel will be held on Saturday, December 26, 2015 at 4:00

continued on page 16

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 11 – THE MONSIGNOR TISO DISTRICT

District 11 will arrange/subsidize transportation (by school bus and/or 15-passenger van) for our Branch members and guests from their communities to attend the first performance of the 80th season of the Tamburitzans (formerly known as the Duquesne University Tamburitzans) at 2:00 PM at the Palace Theater in Greensburg on January 31, 2016. We invite and encourage all members of Branches 164, 200, 280, 401, 429, 600, 701, and 831 to join us for this joyful celebration of Eastern European traditional music and dance, to promote this event among your friends and neighbors, and to consider this as a Christmas gift that highlights our Slavic heritage and fraternal good will.

All are welcome to share in local pickup provided as needed in or near Butler, Ford City, Leechburg, East Vandergrift, Vandergrift, Natrona Heights, New Kensington, and Tarentum, but participants are responsible for procuring their own tickets/choice of seating. The Palace Theater Box Office (724-836-8000) is open Monday through Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM and Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM and its website offers 24/7 service at www.thepalacetheatre.org; ticket prices are \$24/orchestra, \$20/loge, and \$16/balcony. District 11 also has a limited number of loge seats reserved; these are available on a first-come-first-served basis.

Interested participants should get in touch with your appropriate Branch officer/ contact point and ask him/her to coordinate transportation need with Grace at (724) 664-7184 no later than Wednesday, January 12.

Grace Charney, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 14 – REV JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

Rev. Kostik District will hold its Annual Christmas Party starting at 6:00PM on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, at Bruno's Restaurant in Poland, OH. The cost of the buffet is \$ 27.00. Please call Joe Scavina with reservations at 330-758-4536. The district's next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, at 6:00PM at St Matthias Church, located on Shady Run Road Youngstown OH. The agenda will be the election of officers. All member branches are urged to attend.

Carla Peshek, President

DISTRICT 15 – PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Prince Pribina District cordially extends an open invitation to an early Christmas Slovak Mass Celebration on Sunday, December 20, 2015, at 1:00 PM at the John Paul II, Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA, 92886. Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Pavol Schulak, SVD, from San Bernardino. We will follow with the tradition of St. Nicholas presenting Christmas gifts to children. Also, a gourmet lunch of "Kapustnica" and dessert will be served.

Prince Pribina District will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday January 16, 2016. The meeting will be held at 11:00 AM at Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. On the agenda will be: plans for 2016 activities, election of officers for the year 2016, and a financial report. All Branches in our area are encouraged to participate and have their concurrent annual meetings.

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

Paul Skuben, President

DISTRICT 19 - MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

The Monsignor Michael Shuba District will hold its annual meeting on Sunday January 10, 2016, at 1:30PM at Sts Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Dr, Mississauga, Ontario. Luncheon will be included; please RSVP to Mike Kapitan at 416-543-4111.

Anne Mitro, Secretary

District 2 Annual Meeting

The Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District 2 held its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on October 11, 2015 at the Missionary Benedictine Convent in Oak Forest, IL. District President John Jurcenko conducted the meeting. Region 7 Director Rudy Bernath gave his report, and FCSU National Vice President President Andy Harcar talked about the need to sign up new members to keep our Jednota a vibrant, growing organization. He administered the Oath of Office for the 2016 District 2 officers. Afterwards, attendees enjoyed a delicious catered meal arranged by Dorothy Jurcenko.

- Submitted by Robert Tapak Magruder, District 2 Recording Secretary



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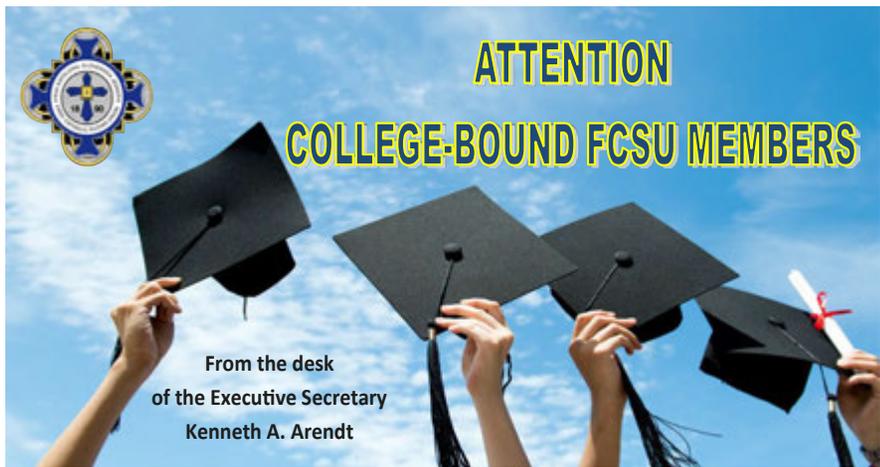
Example:

Newborn Male	Newborn Female
\$5,000 for \$410	\$5,000 for \$345
\$10,000 for \$820	\$10,000 for \$690

Reach out to us at 800.533.6682

FCSU Financial - First Catholic Slovak Union
Contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office
6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131, 800.533.6682, www.fcsu.com, insurance@fcsu.com

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



THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
IS NOW ACCEPTING 2016 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

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

- 75 scholarships in the amount of **\$1000.00**.
- A "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of **\$1,250.00** each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.
- Three Scholarships of **\$1000.00** each will be given from the "John A. Sabol Nursing Scholarship Fund" to applicants who have been accepted into either an approved three or four year hospital nursing program or a fully-accredited college of their choice.

In addition, upon proof of college graduation and completed insurance application, each recipient will be issued a **paid up \$3,000 Single Premium Life Insurance Policy**.

For rules, requirements and applications go to

www.fcsu.com/scholarships
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**Applications must be postmarked by midnight,
 February 29, 2016**

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All applications must be received in the Home Office **postmarked by December 31, 2015.**

**Higher amounts available - please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office Standard underwriting applies.*

A Chewy Kind of Christmas

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

It's me. Your old pal Chewy. Can't quite believe another Christmas is upon us, but here we are. So as we say in my homeland of Slovakia, Veselé Vianoce (Merry Christmas). I know many of you guys here greet each other the Slovak way, too, and that you will help keep our traditions alive this season once again with lots of Vilijas (or, in English, Christmas Eve Dinners) celebrated at FCSU District and Branch events as well as in your homes. Wow. You guys are The Best.

Back in the day, when I was but a young pup growing up with my littermates on an alpine homestead far up in the Slovak mountains, my master and his family would day would pick out a spruce from the surrounding forest and put up on Christmas eve (unlike in USA, where you have a tree already for weeks I guess). This comes from the olden times when your Christmas tree would be a spruce brought fresh from the forest –so it'd be a fragrant green as possible throughout all the days of Christmas. Everyone had a hand in decorating (everyone with hands, that is;-). It kept the household busy until the big evening meal. See that's the main event on this Holy Night when I was growing up. Christmas Eve day was a fasting day, or at least, a day when just a small meal was in order, something like cabbage soup. Not too many table scraps for us pooches either, let me tell you!

But the evening. Wow. That was another matter. No meat, samozrejme (of course) but oh, what a special night was our Vilija. I remember fondly that at the Christmas Eve table just about everything grown at the farm was carefully laid on a table covered in a crisp white cloth: Fish that the boys could catch on our own property; mushrooms that the girls would pick up in the forests on our land and dry beforehand ready for this special night; and lots of other good things my family grew right on the property like winter vegetables and potatoes, along with good stuff from the larder like apples and nuts... nothing fancy or store bought but super yummy.

Then our master's wife would light the candles and the whole family would start singing Christmas carols. The whole family was there; hey, no one wanted to be on their own this special night and all were truly welcome. My master even practiced the tradition of setting an extra place at the table, ready to welcome whoever showed up on our doorstep and needed to be fed.

Wherever you are this Christmas season, I wish you good food to fill your belly, and the comfort and warmth of being surrounded by those you love. Until next year, keep your ears up and your tail waggin' Tvoj priatel (your friend),

Chewy

BTW: Check out the elf suit. Yea, they dressed me up again for the holiday in front of this crazy Chewy-sized poinsettia. It's all in good fun. See how me and my little buddy got all decked out to highlight another fantastic offer from the FCSU on the front page. Sweet, huh?



OUR FAVORITE RECIPES



A Typical Slovak Christmas Eve Menu

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

PIROHY

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

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

Cheese Filling

- 1/2 cup dry cottage cheese
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 teaspoon butter
- pinch salt

Mix together

Potato Filling

- 1 large potato cooked and mashed
- 1 tablespoon butter

(Optional-grated cheese to taste)

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

BREAD FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

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

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

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

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

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

CHRISTMAS EVE BOBALKY

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

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

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

NUT ROLLS

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

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

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

NUT MIXTURE

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

PAGAČ

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

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

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

Filling: Fried cabbage or potato and cheese

TWO HOUR NUT AND POPPYSEED ROLLS

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

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

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

NUT FILLING

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

Add scalded milk. Mix well.

POPPYSEED FILLING

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

CHRISTMAS BREAD

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

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

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

MUSHROOM CABBAGE

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

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

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

MUSHROOM SOUP (MAČANKA)

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

Zapraška (Soup thickening)

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

MUSHROOM SOUP

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

Cook mushrooms in water about 1 hour.

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

CARAWAY SOUP

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

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

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 12

PM at 141 Bellevue Drive, Penn Hills, PA.

The agenda will consist of the election of new officers for 2016 and a summary of activities in 2015, plus ideas for the upcoming year for our branch.

Sincerely,

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 633 – MT. MORRIS, MICHIGAN

FCSU Branch 633KJ, Sacred Heart of Jesus Society in Mt Morris, MI is announcing its annual branch activity. We are once again going to an NBA basketball game. We are going to see the Detroit Pistons take on the Memphis Grizzlies on Wednesday December 9th @ 7:30pm at the Palace of Auburn Hills. If you are interested in joining us please email branch Vice President Rod Meloni at roderickm@comcast.net as soon as possible so we can get a head count. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Fraternally,

Rod Meloni, Vice President

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2015, at noon, at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members of Branch 670 are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 682 - STRUTHERS, OHIO

Branch 682 will hold a meeting December 13, 2015 at 2:30 pm, at MRL, 290 N. Bridge St., Struthers, OH 44471. The election of officers for 2016 will be held, and a discussion of 2016 upcoming events. Please also join us for the annual Christmas Party to be held after the elections. All members are encouraged to attend.

Thank you,

Andrew J. Hirt, President

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

On December 20, 2015, members of Saint Joseph Branch 731 will remember our deceased members at 11:00 am Mass at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Following the Mass, we will have our annual meeting to elect Branch officers for 2016. Please try to participate.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 735 – PORTLAND, OREGON

Branch 735KJ's Annual Election of Officers will be on Sunday, December 13, 2015 from 1:00PM to 2:30PM. The location is St. Patrick Catholic Church, 1623 NW 19th Ave, Portland, OR, 97209. After the short business meeting, we'll sing Christmas Carols while waiting for Santa to arrive. Bring a dessert to share (Slovak if you can) and beverages will be served.

Contact for more information contact Cindy Ďuriš Hirst, 503-647-4600 (h); 503-314-5065 (c); 503-647-5840 (f); E-mail: hirst@q.com or chirst811@gmail.com.

Cindy Ďuriš Hirst, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743- STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be Officer's Report, a 2015 financial report, approval of the 2016 budget, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the Branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The election of Branch Officers will also take place.

Our Treasurer Mrs. Anna Magusin has announced her retirement and will not be seeking re-election. Mrs. Magusin has served Branch 743 for over thirty years, the Officers and members thank her for her dedicated and invaluable service to our branch and St. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church. She will be greatly missed.

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

The annual meeting will follow the Slovak Mass in

the Church Social Hall.

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

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

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

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2015 at 12:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The agenda will include election of new officers, as well as plans for next year's activities. A Christmas holiday lunch will follow this meeting. Please call Mary Karch @732-572-2331 if plan on attending.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

The meeting will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2015, at 12:30PM. It will be held in the Hospitality Room of St. Joseph School on 811 E. Oliver Street in Owosso, MI. Enter from the front of the building.

A review of the last meeting will be discussed, and officers will make their reports. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to 517-381-8358. We may go to lunch after the meeting.

Stephan J. Patoprsty, President

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

Branch 785 will hold its Annual General Meeting on Sunday January 10, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Dr. Mississauga, Ontario. Election of officers will be held at this time. All members are encouraged to attend.

Many Christmas Blessings to all and we hope to see everyone at the meeting in the New Year!

Sharon Tomas, Secretary

BRANCH 844 - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Branch 844 will hold their Annual Slovak Christmas Mass meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2015, at St. John Paul II Polish Center, 3999 Rose Dr., Yorba Linda, CA.

Mass will begin at 1:00PM lunch will be served after Mass, along with the presentation of gifts for the children.

Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak Spirit of Christmas.

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

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

Fraternally yours,

Milan Konkol, Secretary

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853 will hold the next meeting on Dec 20 at 12 noon at Rego's Restaurant in Charleroi, PA. All branch members are asked to attend. The meeting will be the annual Christmas party dinner meeting with the election of officers and a discussion of next year's events. Non-branch member's fee will be \$20 for the dinner meeting. Branch members are free. Please leave your name, number of reservations and phone number at 412-341-1577. Branch 853 wishes all a blessed holiday season.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA, will be held on Wednesday December 9, 2015. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, PA.

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

Fraternally,

Damian D Nasta, Recording Secretary

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for The Christophers

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Bells. Bells! Few sounds are so joyously teamed with Christmas as that of bells—happily ringing, singing to all that Christmastime is here once again. And one of our most beloved Christmas carols celebrates just that.

I heard the bells on Christmas Day

Their old familiar carols play,

And wild and sweet the words repeat

Of peace on earth, good-will to men.

The "lyricist" was none other than Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, whose 1863 poem inspired the carol. It was first set to music in 1872, but you probably know the music written much later, by Johnny Marks in 1950. (The carol was recorded by—among many others—Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra.)

Most of us know only the first verse. There's much more to it, though, and it was all told in an op-ed piece in The Record, a North Jersey paper, by an old acquaintance, Charles Austin, a retired Lutheran pastor who used to report for The New York Times. It goes like this:

When he first wrote the poem, Longfellow was still mourning the death of his wife in an 1861 fire. Only a month before, he learned at his Massachusetts home that his son had been seriously wounded fighting for the North in the Civil War. His spirits were sagging, although they revived as he wrote the first stanza and another that followed it. But by the third and fourth he allowed despair to grip him once more—and wrote that the War, which consumed the country, had made the concept of peace on earth "forlorn" once more.

And in despair I bowed my head:

"There is no peace on earth," I said,

"For hate is strong and mocks the song

Of peace on earth, good-will to men."

But yet the theme persisted—as if in answer, Austin wrote, to Longfellow's sorrow. The poet took up his task yet again:

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:

"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;

The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,

With peace on earth, good-will to men."

Till ringing singing, on its way,

The world revolved from night to day,

A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,

Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

"We need to hear more bells," Austin concludes his article. "Perhaps we could train ourselves to hear even the pop tunes and secular carols as reminders that this season is a time when, although 'peace on earth, good will to all' might not cover the world, it can be present and, indeed, is present so long as we sing about it—and let even a small measure of peace on earth and good will into our lives."

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note *OPENING YOURSELF TO GOD'S GRACE*, write: The Christophers, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org

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CGSI 15th Conference Provides Insight into our Heritage

Judith Northup-Bennett, Slovakia Heritage Tours, Branch 918

In October my husband, Bruce and I traveled from the Northeast to Cedar Rapids, Iowa to join with over 350 people of Czech and Slovak heritage for the 15th Annual Conference of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI).

Our efforts were well-rewarded with over 35 break-out sessions ranging from beginning to advanced genealogical research techniques to many historical and cultural presentations: a Czech and Slovak folk songs sing-a-long; a fujara performance; language presentations; in depth overviews of Slovak history; hands-on craft workshops, as well as a large vendor room and a chance to meet and network with people from more than 30 states and 4 countries interested in all things Slovak. A plus for me was to reunite with 3 people from the Midwest who had traveled with me on my Slovakia Heritage Tours as well as genealogical researcher Michal Razus from Presov, Slovakia who gave three workshops.

This is a "must attend" event for people researching their Slovak family histories but it's also an important way to immerse yourself in the history, politics, music, language and many other aspects of the Czech and Slovak cultures. This year a special draw for us was a chance to visit the National Czech and Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids. The conference held a delightful "Thursday Night at the Museum" event for us to explore the beautiful exhibits, library, and gift shop while visiting with conference goers.

While this year's conference drew more Czechs than Slovaks (Cedar Rapids was settled by Czech immigrants.), the 2017 CGSI's 16th Conference in Pittsburgh beginning on October 17, 2017 will be in the heart of the Slovak community and is expected to have a broader focus on Slovak heritage. If you are interested in presenting at the 17th CGSI Conference, proposals will be due in the Spring of 2016. For more information on CGSI and the 2017 Conference, visit the web site:

<http://www.cgisi.org/news/conferences-and-symposiums>



Helene Cincebeaux arranged a fantastic Parade of Kroj with folk clothing from her collection.

Judy Northup-Bennett, second from left, reunites with people from her Slovakia Heritage Tours (SHT): Dana Gerberi (SHT2014) and Deb and Gary Kukul (SHT 2015).



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Branch 181's Conrad Firment Celebrates a Birthday in November

Conrad Firment celebrated birthday #77 on November 21, 2015. Pictured here with his now deceased mother Anna L. Firment. Conrad's sister is Geraldine Hricik. Conrad has 8 siblings. They are all living. He is a US Air Force vet and retired from the CIA with 34 years of service. We met and married in Saigon during the war.

- submitted by Lynda Firment

17th Printing of Slavic Cookbook Available



The Carpathian Cookery cookbook, has entered its 17th printing, having sold nearly 16,000 copies, is available for sale. This cookbook was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection. The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. The book includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas

Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.00 plus \$3.00 postage and handling (\$17.00). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$25.00 U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost.

To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, or call from 9AM - 3PM at (724) 438-6027 for more information. You may contact us at: carpathiancookery@gmail.com.



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Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
001K	Margaret M Gonda	166K	John T Jacobs	419K	Edmond A Sepela	721K	Anthony Gregor
001P	George E Lucas	200K	Mary W Holizna	419K	Robert J Sepela	738K	Sandra Lynn King
002K	Marlene H Burda	215K	Julia J Bozar	450K	John S Sopko	743K	Helen Biondi
003P	Joan M McGettigan	228K	Mark A Mihalik	465K	Richard J Terlesky	743K	Joseph M Miller Sr
005P	Joseph R Petrovich	260K	Dorothy A Biskup	484K	Elizabeth Kukucka	743K	Frances Sherry
006K	William J Pshak	260K	George Muskal	484K	Zachary C Moritz	743K	Patricia Carol Sutton
010K	Theresa Sluko	260K	Frank T Petrek	514K	Albert J Mayernik	746K	Mary A Joswick
016P	Anthony J Machak	276K	Joseph J Bauer	553K	Pauline M Adams	746K	George A Kakascik
024K	Rev Norbert A Ozimek OSB	293K	John J Bilsak Sr	553K	Helen Kulich	746K	Stephen P Sromovsky
024K	Raymond J Pekaric	293K	Anna T Polinsky	567K	Barbara Dorshimer Haydt	746K	Craig D Sallaz
024K	Andrew C Putka	308K	Helen T Centofanti	580K	Eugene J Sabol Sr	755K	Paulette Alzo
035K	Matthew M Magda	313K	Catherine Grace Hawkins	587K	George J Hutman Jr	785K	Nicholas Dzubina
040K	Stephen R Kudrick	313K	Stephen J Lustek	595K	Rose A Paparella	785K	Mary Kednar
055K	Lawrence B Pindjak	320K	Houston Belski	615K	Beatrice Jakub	831K	Violet Alma Marso
060K	Veronica Katchmark	320K	Paul L Krivacek	615K	Michael C Jakub	831K	Veronica M Vitkay
085K	Emily Ann Loughney	327K	Joseph R Lukac	615K	Robert A Jakub	855K	John M Siskovic Sr
086K	Kathryn Louise Zwierzelewski	333K	Helen Agnes Patrick	628K	Alice E Kazimer	888K	Michaeleene Ragey
102K	Mary A Vrancik	335K	Phyllis P Kopecky	633K	Eleanor E Cesar	907K	Rose E Divis
122K	Stanley R Olshefsky	367K	Michael G Kmetz	638K	Rudolph Ezack	915K	Mary Ann Rycyk
144P	Rose M Petrisko	373K	Andrew J Blaner	670K	Emil J Badzik	916K	Robert H Becker
153K	Anna Capiak	373K	Joseph R Sabados	682K	Elizabeth A Gavura	916K	Geraldine Roman
153K	Richard K Imrisek	382K	Joseph M Sirotak	682K	Mary Krivan		
156K	David T Digiaccio	402K	Peter Bernard Raynak	682K	Mary Veronica Presco		
156K	Francis J Pecuch Jr	410K	Florence Bosak	700K	George J Timko		
157K	Jr John J Reed	410K	Robert B Toth	706K	Albert J Lestinsky		
162K	Debra Bowers	419K	Leona Huk	706K	Joseph M Levon		
165K	Matthew J Gress	419K	Helen Jones	714K	Annabell M Simpson		

*Processed through the month of November 2015

Branch 853's Charles Boone Participates in Broken Arrow Ceremony

Branch 853's Charles Boone 16 of Pittsburgh, PA, participated in a very special Broken Arrow Ceremony in the Order of the Arrow (OA) of Boy Scouts.

On September 13, 2015, the brothers of OA, met at the Savolskis-Wasik-Glenn Funeral Home in Munhall, PA. They paid honor to the life-long scout, the late Albert Zsak by participating in the final tribute. Mr Zsak, 86, was very active throughout his life in Boy Scouts and the Allohak Menewi Lodge.

Charles was one of only 4 youths and 19 adult scouts in the Broken Arrow Ceremony.

90% of the Scouts (both youth and adult) in attendance achieved the rank of Eagle. Charles, is a life Scout and working toward the rank of Eagle. Charles is past Chapter Chief of the Allohak Menewi Lodge, of the OA and represented his Boy Scout troop.

All of Arrow brothers were in full uniform with their OA sash. Allowat Sakima and Meteu were in full dress with headdress.

The ceremony began as the Scouts, led by Meteu and Allowat entered the room from the back.

They stopped at the ends of the casket. Each brother crossed arms as the circle was broken by the casket. Charles, the youngest scout in attendance was second in line after Meteu and proudly carried the arrow for the ceremony.

There is special significance to the arrow. "It must be straight, its point keen. Aimed high, its course is undeviating, its direction onward and upward. It, therefore, has been chosen as a symbol of leadership.

The breaking of this arrow is symbolic of the end of strife and the beginning of peace."

During the ceremony, Meteu took the arrow from the youngest scout Charles, and broke it. Both pieces of the broken arrow were offered by Meteu with both hands open to Mr. Zsak's family.

By participating in an end of life ceremony for someone you didn't know, is one of the greatest ways for Charles to live that "a scout is reverend" and to show Charles' respect for God's precious gifts of love and life. One of Charles' favorite songs at church says "Whatever you do, to the least of my brothers, that you do undo Me."

Charles Boone is the son of Ronald Boone and Monica Rodacy Boone, former Pension Board Trustee and former National Auditor. All are active branch 853 members.

- Submitted by Monica Rodacy Boone, Branch 853 President



Visit Slovakia "The Old Country"



Join the 19th Annual Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Tour July 8-July 22, 2016

Remember how your parents or grandparents referred to their birthplace as the "the old country?" Well now is the time for you to sit down and talk with the oldest members of your family to learn about their birthplaces in the old country. There is so much beauty and charm in their ancestral land, and it's all there just waiting for your visit. So get your passport and let's go.

Join Jim and Kay Bench as they host the 19th Annual Youngstown/ Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities tour from July 8-July 22, 2016. We will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities agreement so get your dancing shoes ready for the time of your life.

In 2016, you will see the capitol of Slovakia, Bratislava, located on the Danube River. Since joining the European Union, you will see how the villages, towns and cities have been restored to their former beauty. Unique to our trip is a reception with the mayor of our sister city, Spišská Nová Ves, complete with entertainment and a formal signing of the city registry for all tour participants. You will enjoy traditional Slovak food, attend several kolibas, enjoy shopping, go whitewater rafting on the Dunajec River (the natural border between Poland and Slovakia), visit villages such as Čičmany where you will see decorated homes, visit historic Tichý Potok (a village of 324 people), stay in a beautiful spa in Sliac and enjoy the thermal waters, indoor and outdoor pools, saunas and other amenities. Visit many of the Unesco sites, castles, and churches – especially the oldest church in Slovakia located in Nitra. Attend and participate in a mock wedding in traditional Slovak kroj. Wine tasting is a favorite to many participants. There are so many things to see and do, too numerous to mention in this short article. Remember, our trip is fourteen days so you really get to see Slovakia, visit family, and have time for shopping.

A Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities tour includes an English speaking tour guide, large air conditioned bus with restroom, first class hotel accommodations, great food and entertainment.

Kay and Jim are seasoned travelers, who must be doing something right as people are returning for their 5th and 6th time! The tour makes changes yearly. They have a luncheon several weeks before the tour leaves, along with travel agent Paul Hudak, to answer questions. They tell you what type of clothing to take, how to pack, weather conditions, money exchange, where and how to carry your money, medications etc.

For additional information contact Jim or Kay Bench:

- Jim Bench cell phone 724-858-5843 e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com
- Kay Bench cell phone 724-771-7900 e-mail skbench@gmail.com

Travel arrangements are made through Adventure International Travel. Call Paul Hudak at 216-228-7171 or 800-542-2487 or Fax 216-228-7174. E-Mail Paul@advintravel.com

September's Slovakia Heritage Tour Reconnects Families

Judith Bennett-Northup, Branch 918

Finding lost relatives in Slovakia often depends on careful genealogical research as well as a hardy dose of good luck.

When Ken Petrus signed on to this past September's Slovakia Heritage Tour in July he knew there wasn't much time for a full search for his mother's and father's families. Preliminary research failed to show up any living relatives in Smilno, a small town near Bardejov, that his father, Joseph, left in 1921 to work in the mines and steel mills of western Pennsylvania. Joseph was the only one of six brothers who emigrated to the United States. One of Joseph's two sisters, Susan (Baran), emigrated later. His family had lost contact with the Smilno family when Ken's mother died in 2000 soon followed by the death of his aunt.

Ken started the Slovakia Heritage Tour knowing that he would visit his cousins, the children of his mother's sisters, in Hazin (Zemplin region) whom the researcher had located. He had little hope of finding his father's relatives but planned to take a couple of hours to visit the village, church and cemetery, and pay his respects to the family graves.

This is where luck intervened. Slovakia Heritage Tours arranged for Ken and his wife Sue to have a driver/translator take him to Smilno while the rest of the group visited Bardejov sites. I volunteered to go along so I was there as the late afternoon sun sent a golden light across the valley to the cemetery hill and a small miracle happened.

Ken and Sue quickly found the graves of Ken's great-grandfather, grandparents, and two uncles. All of this would have been enough for Ken but as the afternoon light faded, our good fortune brightened. We hadn't figured in our visit that this was September 15, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, a Slovak national holiday.

In the late afternoon, people began streaming into the cemetery returning from a pilgrimage to a shrine in the forest outside of town. Pretty soon we were surrounded by villagers curious about these strangers in the cemetery. Instantly we were engaged in lively conversations: one person was related to the Quartek family who Ken knew from his Pennsylvania childhood; another knew his Petrus family well. Pretty soon someone was offering to run back to the village and return with his car to lead Ken to the home of one of his first cousins. Within twenty minutes Ken was embracing Helena Petrusova, his first cousin, and the tears were flowing.

Soon, we were sitting in Helena's living room pouring over family photos. Even though the visit was completely unannounced, Slovakia hospitality dictates that within minutes we were sipping coffee, toasting with "palenky", and munching on baked goods. Before we returned to Bardejov that evening, Helena led Ken and Sue to the homes of two more cousins.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS AS WELL AS FAMILY

While reconnecting with ancestral villages and family is an important part of returning to Slovakia, a heritage tour is also a chance to reconnect with the fond memories we have of growing up with our Slovak grandparents and families: the food, the music, the language, the folk arts, as well as the traditional customs.

Since music and food have the power to instantly transport us back to early memories, this September, our Slovakia Heritage Tour added a few musical events, encouraged by one of our travelers, Dale Olsen, a Florida ethnomusicologist. The haunting music of the fujara as Dale joined noted fujara artist Dušan Holik carried us back to the shepherds and mountain people who developed the fujara. (See the Slovakia Heritage Tour Facebook page for a video: <https://www.facebook.com/Slovakia-Heritage-Tour-174098635947952/?fref=ts>) After a visit to the spectacular Orava Castle, a family from Orava entertained us with lively dance music from the region. In the Šariš region, we explored traditional songs in the village of Tichy Potok, as well as, in Sabinov, Czardas and polka dance music that we remembered from the Slovak weddings of our childhood.

Although Slovakia today has a wide range of fine restaurants, meal time often took us back to our grandmothers' kitchens with a chance to order: pirohgi; halušky; chicken or garlic soup; palacinky, and other favorite foods. While in the mountains, we all joined in for a cooking class to prepare Bryndzove Halušky.

And a heritage tour is also a good way to better understand the historical and political struggles and events that drove our grandparents to leave the beautiful Slovak countryside, the lives they knew and their beloved families for uncertain futures in the United States. As we traveled in the bus or walked the country and village paths, we tried to make sense of the



A visit to Košice's St. Elizabeth's Cathedral was one highlight of the 2015 Slovak Heritage Tour.

difficult and complicated history of the region that led so many of our ancestors to leave their families and country: the 800 years of Hungarian repression; the two World Wars; as well as the Soviet Era which held our Slovak relatives captive in their own country for almost 45 years. We also reflected on how far Slovakia has come today as an independent country, and member of the European Union.

Most travelers on our September tour, returned to the States, making plans to return to Slovakia to visit their newly discovered relatives and enjoy their beautiful native homeland.

6th Slovakia Heritage Tour September 9-18, 2016

Our 6th Slovakia Heritage small group tour will be September 9-18, 2016 next year. We can also arrange private family tours for small groups at any time during the year. For more information visit the Slovakia Heritage Tours web site: www.slovakiaheritage.com or contact Judy Northup-Bennett directly at 978-544-5144 or slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com.



Ken Olsen, of Tallahassee, FL, plays a duet with noted fujara player Dušan Holik.

Starting off on a small hike through the charming, old mining town, Spania Dolina.



The 2015 Slovakia Heritage Tour group poses with the Oravan musical family.



Dolores and Andy Mirolsky learning how to make halušky.

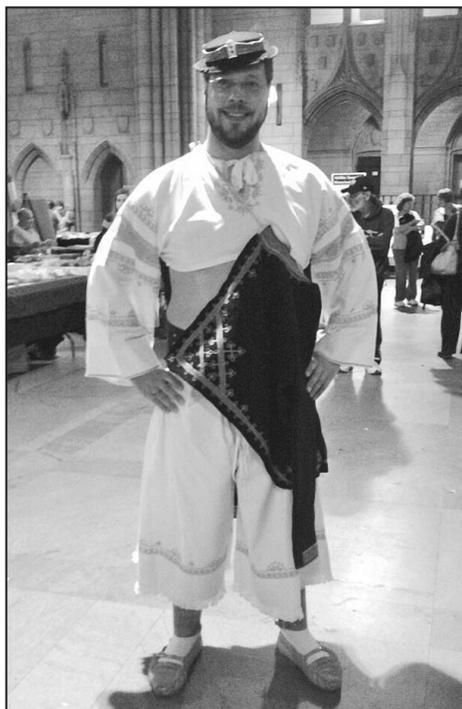
Scenes from the 24th Annual Slovak Heritage Festival in Pittsburgh

On Sunday, November 2, 2015, the 24th Annual Slovak Heritage Festival was held at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning Commons Room. Starting at 1:00PM and going until 5:00PM, the afternoon featured a variety of Slovak and East European items and food for sale. Attendees were treated to a display of kroj (Slovak folk costumes) and cultural lecture by Branch 254's Helene Cincebeaux, along with an entertainment program that included performances by the Pittsburgh Slovaks, a folklore ensemble led by Branch 2's Rudy and Sue Ondrejco; PAS (Pittsburgh Area Slovaks), and Slavjane Folk Ensemble as well as Slovak singer Jozef Ivaška, internationally renowned singer from Slovakia, The Singing Revil'ak Family of Bardejov, and fujara player Ben Sorenson.

All photos by Louise Segursky; submitted courtesy of Helene Cincebeaux.



Helene Cincebeaux, who traveled from New York, exhibited Slovak treasures along with her books, one on Slovak traditions and another on Slovak folk dress. The exhibit was set up by George Terbrack, who also helps curate the FCSU Home Office Museum.



Fujarista Ben Sorenson came from North Carolina to perform his magic on Slovakia's UNESCO treasure and unique instrument, the fujara.



Paula Maltba took part in the parade of kroj wearing a maiden's wreath. She's from South Carolina.



International singing star Jozef Ivaska came the farthest, across the ocean, to perform Slovak folk songs and a crowd favorite, "Ave Maria".

Annual ASCA Vilija Nears

By Loretta Ekoniak



The American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley will once again be hosting our traditional Vilija Dinner. This year it will be held on Sunday December 13, at 4pm at the Father Snock Center at Our Lady Of Sorrows Parish (former St. Matthias School) 2800 Shady Run Road, Youngstown, OH. One of our most beloved Slovak traditions, Štedrý Večer, or Vilja...the traditional Christmas Eve dinner is a special meal the family shares before going to celebrate midnight Mass. This dinner is filled with tradition and memories of our Slovak heritage. In eastern Slovakia it is a meatless meal but by no means a meager one. We will have the traditional Slovak Christmas Eve meal featuring oplatky and honey, fish, pirohy, bobalky, mushroom soup and kolače. As our special guest we are honored to have the Most Reverend George V. Murry, S.J., Bishop of the Diocese of Youngstown. There will be musical entertainment by the Pittsburgh Area Slovaks (PAS) and much more including a Basket Auction and a Lotto tree raffle. We'll even have oplatky for sale! We will also be presenting the winner of our annual ASCA scholarship at this dinner and letting you know about some exciting projects coming up in our great Slovak community. While some of us still celebrate this traditional Christmas Eve dinner at home, many no longer have that opportunity and this annual dinner is our way of keeping our tradition alive. Whether you still have this dinner at home or you remember it from your childhood and would like to experience it again...or if you've never had the opportunity to experience it but would like to...come join us in celebrating our Slovak heritage. Get your tickets soon for the best seating. We are still holding the price at \$20.00 this year! Tickets will be half price for children under 12 years and children under 4 will be free. NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR. The deadline to purchase tickets is December 7th. For tickets and information contact:

Ron Garchar at 330-533-7077 or Loretta Ekoniak at 330-549-3760 or e-mail Loretta at: loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com.

Updated Resource for Slovak-related Topics



Interested in reading more about Slovakia? Now, thanks to Fr. Gerald J. Sabo, S.J., of John Carroll University, there is a central list of publications with Slovak-related topics.

This handy list includes ISBN numbers for those books published in Slovakia – which makes for easier identification when searching for them at the library or online. Websites for locating remaindered and used books, and where to purchase them, are included at the end of the file, as well.

To view or download a PDF of titles, go to www.fcsu.com and click on Slovakia & the World.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

D	E	T	E	R		U	R	N	S		A	C	T		
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If each member would sign up just one new member, we could double our Society immediately

THINK ABOUT IT!

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2015

INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN:

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

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
George F. Matta II, Treasurer
Rudolph Bernath, Regional Director (by teleconference and invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the September 2015 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar, Sr., and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

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

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

PORTFOLIO REVIEW:

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

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

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

Disbursements for the month of September 2015:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 386,167.77
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 93,321.49
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

TREASURER REPORT:

The Treasurer commented on the investment update.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report via web ex and telephone to the Executive Committee. Each member of the Executive Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his or her review. Following the report, Larry White answered the Executive Committee's questions.

ANNUITY RATES:

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President stated we are still continuing to recruit new agents and now have over 200 agents. The Executive Secretary stated we are beginning a recruiting campaign to find new agents in our newly licensed states.

The Vice President said he has notified the Regional Directors to help in scheduling sales seminars for 2016 in their regions.

The Vice President announced the program to reintroduce the special offer of waiv-

ing the first year premium on the JEP Policy is selling very well. All branch officers received information on this special offer. There has also been an advertising campaign with notice being in the newspaper, sent through email, and on our Facebook.

The President announced we may have to post additional reserves for our insurance products. This is based on the new reserve factors which we may need to use in the near future.

The President stated that Visia Marketing, a local marketing firm, has been selected from the several firms that were interviewed to develop a marketing program for the FCSU. As part of its responsibility for developing a marketing program, Visia was given the following priorities:

- Website Design & Development
- SEO (Search Engine Optimization)
- Market Research Survey to Existing Agents
- Targeted Email Campaign to Recruit New Agents by State
- Social Media

Visia Marketing will present a Proposal to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Secretary stated we are continuing to advertise on Facebook with new material being added daily, as well as on the FCSU website and email, while including new ad material in our home office mailings. The Vice President stated any branch or district planning a fraternal activity is to please contact the home office or the Editor and we will advertise the event through Facebook, email, and our mailings.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President announced the company preparing the panels for the Jednota Middletown Memorial will be installing additional 8 panels soon. Once they are in place, we will begin to photograph the panels and mail a copy to the members who purchased the bricks.

The President announced that on September 1, 2015, Edward Cowman, actuary for FCSU, has left Bruce and Bruce Actuarial Company and has joined the Miller & Newberg, Inc. Firm in Kansas. The President stated we plan to continue our relationship with Mr. Cowman, as he has been our actuary for many years. We will cease our relationship with Bruce and Bruce Company, except as it relates to the FCSU Employees Pension Plan. We will continue to use the services of Mr. Edward DePersis.

President Rajec stated that he and the Executive Secretary traveled to Barberton, Ohio to close the bar and restaurant owned by Branch 425K. The property is now for sale. Money from the sale will be used to pay the outstanding debt the bar and restaurant has incurred over the years by the bar and restaurant.

The President and Executive Secretary both stated they have received many letters of thanks for the wonderful event in Washington, DC. They also stated there are two more 125th anniversary celebrations planned for this year; one will be in Scranton, PA and the other in Linden, NJ. Both the President and Executive Secretary will attend and support both.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

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

ADJOURN:

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Address Changes?

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

Statement as of September 30, 2015 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA**
ASSETS

	Current Statement Date			4 December 31 Prior Year Net Admitted Assets
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	
1. Bonds.....	338,709,271		338,709,271	310,841,123
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....			0	
2.2 Common stocks.....	2,854,964		2,854,964	3,392,431
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens.....	1,102,412		1,102,412	1,233,860
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	936,900		936,900	982,322
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	704,475		704,475	733,770
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	753,488		753,488	697,050
5. Cash (\$.....10,062,635), cash equivalents (\$.....0) and short-term investments (\$.....0).....	10,062,634		10,062,634	18,176,699
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	1,081,339		1,081,339	1,095,600
7. Derivatives.....			0	
8. Other invested assets.....	6,126,722		6,126,722	10,084,740
9. Receivables for securities.....			0	
10. Securities lending reinvested collateral assets.....			0	
11. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
12. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 11).....	362,332,205	0	362,332,205	347,237,594
13. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
14. Investment income due and accrued.....	4,659,056		4,659,056	4,170,118
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	27,306		27,306	18,837
15.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums).....			0	
15.3 Accrued retrospective premiums.....			0	
16. Reinsurance:				
16.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers.....			0	
16.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies.....			0	
16.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts.....			0	
17. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans.....			0	
18.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon.....			0	
18.2 Net deferred tax asset.....			0	
19. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit.....			0	
20. Electronic data processing equipment and software.....			0	
21. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0).....	14,351	14,351	0	
22. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....			0	
23. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....			0	
24. Health care (\$.....0) and other amounts receivable.....			0	
25. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets.....	550	550	0	0
26. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 12 through 25).....	367,033,468	14,901	367,018,567	351,426,549
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
28. Total (Lines 26 and 27).....	367,033,468	14,901	367,018,567	351,426,549

Statement as of September 30, 2015 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

	1 Current Statement Date	2 December 31 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	284,288,000	274,860,000
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	46,987,425	42,849,920
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life.....	300,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health.....		
5. Refunds due and unpaid.....		
6. Provisions for refunds payable in following calendar year - estimated amounts:		
6.1 Apportioned for payment.....	400,000	400,000
6.2 Not yet apportioned.....		
7. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$.....0 discount; including \$.....0 accident and health premiums.....	276,346	286,400
8. Certificate and contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
8.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts.....		
8.2 Other amounts payable on reinsurance including \$.....0 assumed and \$.....0 ceded.....		
8.3 Interest maintenance reserve (IMR).....	1,197,320	646,991
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued - life and annuity contracts \$.....0, accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	13,020	28,595
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
11. General expenses due or accrued.....	92,776	90,961
12. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$.....0 accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves).....		
13. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued.....	13,589	13,589
14. Unearned investment income.....		
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	4,813,733	5,106,290
16. Amounts held for fieldworkers' account, including \$.....0 fieldworkers' credit balances.....		
17. Remittances and items not allocated.....		
18. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....	9,511	9,511
19. Liability for benefits for employees and fieldworkers if not included above.....		
20. Borrowed money \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
21. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
21.1 Asset valuation reserve.....	2,214,595	2,311,775
21.2 Reinsurance in unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) companies.....		
21.3 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) reinsurers.....		
21.4 Payable to subsidiaries and affiliates.....		
21.5 Drafts outstanding.....		
21.6 Funds held under coinsurance.....		
21.7 Derivatives.....		
21.8 Payable for securities.....		
21.9 Payable for securities lending.....		
22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	522,835	372,835
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	341,129,150	327,276,867
24. From Separate Accounts Statement.....		
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 to 24).....	341,129,150	327,276,867
26. Aggregate write-ins for other than liabilities and surplus funds.....	0	0
27. Surplus notes.....		
28. Aggregate write-ins for surplus funds.....	0	0
29. Unassigned funds.....	25,889,417	24,149,682
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts Statement).....	25,889,417	24,149,682
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30) (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3).....	367,018,567	351,426,549

Statement as of September 30, 2015 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

	1 Current Year To Date	2 Prior Year To Date	3 Prior Year Ended December 31
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts.....	14,127,998	12,968,615	16,870,446
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
3. Net investment income.....	11,648,788	11,248,177	14,710,566
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR).....	360,000	350,000	476,440
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains and losses.....			
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded.....			
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded.....			
8. Miscellaneous income:			
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts.....			
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts.....			
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income.....	9,100	4,691	21,467
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	26,145,886	24,571,483	32,078,919
10. Death benefits.....	2,068,517	2,225,850	2,933,628
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....			
12. Annuity benefits.....	9,363,491	7,222,185	10,266,961
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts including premiums waived \$.....0.....			
14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	466,054	456,700	923,246
15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds.....	109,761	122,633	159,895
16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts.....	9,428,000	10,577,000	13,021,000
18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17).....	21,435,823	20,604,367	27,304,730
19. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only).....	188,527	131,912	183,350
20. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed.....			
21. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses.....	2,439,545	2,237,513	2,867,853
22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees.....	82,150	118,357	100,024
23. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums.....			
24. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance.....			
25. Aggregate write-ins for deductions.....	(167,527)	(236,955)	(151,245)
26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25).....	23,978,518	22,855,194	30,304,712
27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26).....	2,167,368	1,716,289	1,774,207
28. Refunds to members.....	295,239	291,211	405,722
29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28).....	1,872,129	1,425,078	1,368,485
30. Net realized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of0 (excluding \$.....0 transferred to the IMR).....	(65,608)	543,520	690,629
31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30).....	1,806,521	1,968,598	2,059,114
SURPLUS ACCOUNT			
32. Surplus, December 31, prior year.....	24,149,682	22,681,611	22,681,611
33. Net income from operations (Line 31).....	1,806,521	1,968,598	2,059,114
34. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	(153,529)	(186,419)	(723,683)
35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....			
36. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	(14,351)	6,414	6,414
37. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized and certified companies.....			
38. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis (increase) or decrease.....			
39. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	97,180	195,277	149,654
40. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period.....			
41. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts Statement.....			
42. Change in surplus notes.....			
43. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....			
44. Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance.....			
45. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus.....	3,915	0	(23,428)
46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45).....	1,739,736	1,983,870	1,468,071
47. Surplus as of statement date (Lines 32 + 46).....	25,889,418	24,665,480	24,149,682

Správy zo Slovenska

Po TechMatch idú milióny na reklamu internetu

Podľa pološtátnej agentúry Slovak Business Agency (SBA) veľa podnikateľov nevie, že ak sa udomácnia na internete, môžu zarobiť viac ako doteraz. Povedia im to kampaňou, na ktorú v priebehu dvoch rokov minú približne 1,7 milióna eur. Za ďalšieho štvrt' milióna (s DPH) nakúpili kreatívny koncept a plán mediálnych aktivít či sprievodných podujatí. Osvetová kampaň SBA sa má skladať z televíznych a rozhlasových šotov, inzercie, PR podpory. „Program podpory je určený pre širokú verejnosť, kde účelom programu je poskytnúť tejto cieľovej skupine dostatok informácií a praktických rád pre efektívne používanie nástrojov e-commerce v rámci podnikania“, uviedla Dominika Bizíková z SBA. Rozpočet 1,7 milióna eur by sa mal minúť do roku 2017. Ideový koncept podujatí jej za 240-tisíc eur navrhla PR agentúra Dynamic Relations 2000, ktorá by mala na priebeh kampane dohliadať.

Deti so zlyhaním pľúc dostanú novú šancu

Akútne zlyhanie pľúc u detí sa bude na Slovensku úspešne liečiť. Novú šancu na plnohodnotný život dostanú v Detskej fakultnej nemocnici s poliklinikou (DFNsP) v Banskej Bystrici, kde vzniká vôbec prvé centrum oxygenácie pre detských pacientov na Slovensku. Dopomôcť má k tomu prístroj Cardiohelp v hodnote 60-tisíc eur. Cardiohelp bude v bansko-bystrickej nemocnici slúžiť na preklenutie obdobia akútneho zlyhania pľúc u detí v kritickom stave po vyčerpaní štandardných terapeutických postupov.

Budeme mať svätú

Vatikánska Kongregácia pre kauzy svätých skúma zázrak, ktorý sa údajne stal na príhovor blahoslavennej sestry Zdenky Schelingovej. Našich biskupov, ktorí sú na návšteve vo Vatikáne, na to upozornil prefekt Kongregácie kardinál Angelo Amato. Za blahoslavenú ju vyhlásil na Sviatok sv. Kríža pápež Ján Pavol II. 14. septembra 2003 v Bratislave-Petržalke na svojej tretej pastoračnej návšteve Slovenska. Sestra Zdenka je prvou blahoslavenou ženou v našich novodobých dejinách.

Santovku skúmajú vedci

Žriedlo minerálnej vody Santovka je staré už skoro pol tisícročia, najstaršia analýza santovskej kyselky pochádza z roku 1838. Prvé medzinárodné vyznamenanie získala na výstave v Hamburgu v roku 1869 a odvtedy jej na rozličných svetových a medzinárodných výstavách udelili 28 medailí. Po časoch slávy však prišiel pád, podnik napokon v roku 2004 zatvoril. Po modernizácii v roku 2010 sa pokúšali o jeho reštart, no bezúspešne. Teraz sa v Santovke plnia fľaše minerálkou opäť. „Začali sme v roku 2013, no naša produkcia smeruje najmä do Švédska a USA, teraz doťahujeme kontrakty s Čínou,“ prezradil konateľ firmy Pavol Butkovský. Na Slovensku sa Santovka distribuuje len do vybraných obchodov, pár fliaš sa nájde priamo v regióne. Minerálna voda je známa svojimi blahodarnými účinkami. Vyskytuje sa v nej lítium v takom množstve, aké po vypití jedného litra denne potrebuje ľudský organizmus. Väčšina produkcie preto smeruje na sever Európy, kde ju podrobujú skúmaniu švédski vedci.

V Tatrách kreslia nový projekt za 40 miliónov eur

Na európsku mapu lyžiarskych stredísk sa dostala Jasná vďaka desiatkam miliónov eur preinvestovaných z vrecka tatranskej spoločnosti Tatra Mountain Resorts. Najnovšie však s megainvestíciou vo výške takmer 41 miliónov eur mieri do Demänovskej doliny domáci hráč z Liptova. Pozemkové spoločenstvo Ploštín z Liptovského Mikuláša totiž na svahu v lokalite Lúčky postaví dva nové hotely, štyri apartmánové domy, 25 rekreačných chat, zdravotné stredisko i reštauráciu. „Cieľom je vybudovať v jednom z nástupných centier do centra zjazdových tratí Jasná rekreačno-ubytovacie objekty a objekty služieb vrátane doplnkových zariadení, ktoré v tejto lokalite chýbajú,“ konštatuje urbariát vo svojom investičnom zámere.

Kanada chce viac Slovákov

Nový ľavicový kabinet v Kanade premiéra Pierra Trudeaua plánuje zvýšiť počty imigrantov, ktorí prichádzajú do krajiny. Týkať sa to bude aj Slovákov. Kanada patrí všeobecne medzi otvorené krajiny voči cudzincom. Vlni tu udelili trvalý pobyt 250.000 imigrantom. „Presné plány ešte nie sú, no celkový počet migrantov by mohol narásť o tretinu,“ hovorí Joseph Burza z Kanadskej obchodnej komory na Slovensku. Kanada je stále zaujímavá aj pre Slovákov. Vlni do krajiny prišlo vyše sto ľudí. Toto číslo sa po novom môže zvýšiť. Podľa komory prijímajú dvakrát viac ľudí v kategórii Family Class, cez ktorú môžu ísť rodinní príslušníci. Takisto sa má zvyšovať aj kvóta pre skilled workers (odborní zamestnanci). Sú to v podstate vysokoškolské povolania ako lekár, právnik, ekonóm.

Medveď ľudožrút napadol dvoch poľovníkov

V Ľubochnianskej doline sa Tomáš (28) zo Sobotiša v okrese Senica ocitol ako poľovník. Prijemná sobotňajšia (07.11.) prechádzka sa však v sekunde zmenila na boj o život. Medveď muža hrýzol hlava-nehlava, podľa kamarátov ho dokonca ťahal desiatky metrov. Ešte v ten deň však šelma zaútočila v tej istej doline aj po druhý raz. Mal však obrovské šťastie, medveď mu poranil stehno a lýtko. Podľa poľovníka tohto medveďa treba jednoznačne zlikvidovať. Nemá totiž žiaden strach. Zranený Tomáš ležal na jednotke intenzívnej starostlivosti v ružomerskej nemocnici.

Múmia Žofie Serédyovej dostane novú tvár

Takmer po 40 rokoch sa naruší večný spánok strážkyne kaplnky hradu Krásna Hôrka Žofie Serédyovej. Jej telo bude predmetom záujmu vedcov zo Slovenskej akadémie vied. „Výskum sa začne 19. novembra preskúmaním tela v kaplnke hradu. Na základe výsledkov obhliadky múmiu odvezú na výskum do Bratislavy,“ informovala Judita Krajčiová z Múzea Betliar. Pripravovaný výskum má dať odpoveď na otázky týkajúce sa jej veku, príčiny úmrtia, spôsobu mumifikovania tela a jeho zachovanie DNA.

Slováci si dokázali vlni ušetriť viac ako sto eur mesačne

Slovenské domácnosti pritom dokázali v priemere nasporiť mesačne 131 eur, polovica domácností však nasporila menej ako 50 eur. Zadlženosť slovenských domácností sa v minulom roku zvýšila. Vzástli ich finančné záväzky a výraznejšie stúpol podiel rodín, ktoré majú dlh zabezpečený nehnuteľnosťou. Uvádza sa to v najnovšom čísle odborného bankového časopisu Biatic, ktorý vydáva Národná banka Slovenska (NBS).

Správy čerpané z TASR a slovenských časopisov

Tradičné vinše na Vianoce

Vinš regrútov z Východnej:

A zasa nadišli tie radostné sviatky, ktoré nám tak sladí ten náš život krátky.
V ďalekej krajine, tam kde rastú palmy,
tam, kde prorok Dávid skladal svoje žalmy,
tam, medzi troma čiastky zeme,
narodil sa Kristus Pán v mestečku Betleme.
Oj, či môže byť krásnejšia novina,
akože na spasenie dal nám Pán Boh syna.
A na tieto sviatky aj ja sa radujem,
a zo srdca toto Vám vinšujem
aby bol Kristus Pán Vaším tešiteľom,
Vaším dobrým radcom a dobrým priateľom.
A tiež od neresti ktorých býva dosti,
zbav tento dom milý – Ty nebeský hosti
Pán Boh Vám daj dobrý večer.



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, centre, meets Slovenian Foreign Minister, Karl Erjavec, 2nd left, and Slovakian Foreign Minister, Miroslav Lajcak, right, as they arrive for a NATO ministerial meeting on Resolute Support operations in Afghanistan, at NATO Headquarters in Brussels Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015.



Na snímke sprava slovenský minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Miroslav Lajčák, americký minister zahraničných vecí John Kerry a slovinský minister zahraničných vecí Karl Erjavec prichádzajú na rokovanie ministrov zahraničných vecí členských štátov NATO o budúcej úlohe aliancie v Afganistane a vzťahoch s Ruskom 1. decembra 2015 v Bruseli.

FOTO TASR/AP

Na Slovensku od Nežnej revolúcie prešlo 26 rokov

Na Slovensku sa od roku 2001 slávi 17. november aj ako Deň boja za slobodu a demokraciu. Dátum 17. november sa v minulosti spájal najmä s Medzinárodným dňom študentstva. Odpor proti totalitnej moci počas druhej svetovej vojny si 17. novembra pripomínajú študenti na celom svete. Medzinárodný deň študentstva vyhlásil v Londýne Medzinárodný zväz študentstva v roku 1941 na manifestácii solidarity s českými študentmi ako spomienku na rozpútanie fašistického teroru proti českým vysokým školám a ich študentom v roku 1939.

Podobne ako v roku 1939 aj v novembri 1989 zohrali najmä v Prahe a Bratislave významnú úlohu študenti vysokých škôl. Stali sa katalyzátormi všetkých neskôr nasledujúcich zmien. Udalostiam zo 17. novembra 1989, keď sa študentskými demonštráciami začala Nežná revolúcia, predchádzali nelegálne stretnutia študentov v Prahe aj v Bratislave. Poslucháči vysokých škôl ich zorganizovali v predvečer Medzinárodného dňa študentstva. V novembri 1989 príslušníci Verejnej bezpečnosti na ulici Národná trída v Prahe zbili študentov, ktorí demonštrovali za základné ľudské práva. Postupne udalosti na podporu študentov a na vyjadrenie odporu voči socialistickému zriadeniu nadobúdali väčší rozmach, až vyústili do pádu režimu. Rok 1989 priniesol národom vtedajšieho Československa, ako aj miliónom ďalších ľudí v strednej a východnej Európe, slobodu, demokraciu, obnovenie ľudských práv a slobodu vo vyznávaní viery.

Federálne zhromaždenie (FZ) ČSFR schválilo 9. mája 1990 zákon č. 167/90 Zb. z., na základe ktorého sa 17. november - Deň boja študentov za slobodu a demokraciu - stal pamätným dňom ČSFR. Národná rada SR na svojom zasadnutí 20. októbra 1993 prijala nový zákon č. 241/1993 Zb. z., ktorým zrušila ustanovenia zákona č. 167/90 Zb. z. a 17. november - Deň boja proti totalite - vyhlásila za pamätný deň SR.

Poslanci NR SR napokon 25. októbra 2001 rozhodli schválením príslušného zákona, že 17. november - Deň boja za slobodu a demokraciu - bude štátnym sviatkom SR. V Českej republike je 17. november, Deň boja za slobodu a demokraciu, štátnym sviatkom od roku 2000.

TASR

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Mikulášske odopoludnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou v NYC

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC, Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716, Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v NYC a Slovenský katolícky sokol v NYC, pozýva slovenskú verejnosť v nedeľu dňa **6. decembra 2015 o 1:00** hodine odopoludnia na Mikulášske odopoludnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou, ktoré sa bude konať v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street v New York City. Vstupné je voľné. Občerstvenie bude zabezpečené. Bližšie informácie podajú: Farský úrad Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, otec Štefan Chanas tel. číslo: (212) 734 4613; Jozef Bilik: (718) 353 6541; Henrieta Daitová: (201) 641 8922; Mária Božeková: (347) 612 1934.



Štedrovečerná večera Vigília v NYC

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC, Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ, Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ a Slovenský katolícky sokol NYC Vás pozývajú na Štedrovečernú večeru - **Vigíliu**, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa **13. decembra 2015 o 1:00 hodine** odopoludnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street NYC. Vstupné je 20.00 dolárov. Večera je započítaná vo vstupnom. Lístky na Štedrovečernú večeru si môžete objednať na: Farskom úrade Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, telefón: (212) 734 4613; Jozef Bilik: (718) 353 6541; Henrieta H. Daitová: (201) 641 8922; Mária Božeková: (347) 612 1934.



Predvianočná slovenská omša v Kalifornii

Pozývame vás na pred-Vianočnú slovenskú sv. omšu v nedeľu dňa **20. decembra 2015, o 13:00 hod.** v kostole John Paul II, Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA 92886. Sv. omša bude slúžiť Fr. Pavol Sochulak, SVD, zo San Bernardina. Po sv. omši už tradične Mikuláš rozdá deťom Vianočné dárky. Bude pripravený aj kvalitný obed "Vianočná kapustnica" so zákuskom a občerstvením.

Výročná schôdza Princa Pribinu v Kalifornii

Okres Princ Pribina bude mať výročnú schôdzu v **sobotu 16. januára 2016**. Výročná schôdza začne o **11:00 hod.** v Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. Na programe je plán aktivít na rok 2016, voľba funkcionárov na nasledujúce obdobie, finančná správa. Členovia všetkých spolkov v okolí sú pozvaní a doporučuje sa základným organizáciám v Distrikte FCSU vykonať súčasne výročné voľby.

Funkcionári okresu Princ Pribina žiadajú všetkým členom FCSU pozhnané a radostné Vianočné sviatky.

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

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v nedeľu **17. januára, 2016 o 12:30 hodine** v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskavo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

Halový futbalový turnaj v New York City

Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ pri kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC usporiada halový futbalový turnaj v sobotu dňa **23. januára 2016 o 14:00 hodine** v kostolnej hale sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC. Záujemcovia sa môžu prihlásiť u športových referentov: Jozef Korčák: (201) 841-8814 alebo Ján Zeman: (347) 578-4419. Výhercov čakajú pekné ceny. Tešíme sa na Vašu účasť.

Jozef Jurasi – športový referent

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko usporiada 23. Slovenský ples 2016

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko v New Yorku pozýva slovenskú verejnosť na 23. slovenský ples ktorý sa bude konať v sobotu **30. januára 2016** v The Royal Manor, 454 Midland Avenue, Garfield, NJ. Začiatok bude o **7:00. hodine večer**. Vstupné je \$130.00 za osobu. V cene je započítaná večera a otvorený bar. Rezervácie: Zuzana Krčmár, tel.: 973-357-1209; email: zuzana11@optonline.net; šeky zasielajte na adresu: Zuzana Krčmár, 33 Weasel Drift Road, Woodland Park, NJ 07424.



Vianočný bazár vo Washingtone, DC

Na pôde Zastupiteľského úradu SR vo Washingtone sa v sobotu 7. novembra 2015 uskutočnil Vianočný bazár, ktorý sa stretol s vysokým záujmom návštevníkov z Washingtonu DC a jeho okolia a prilákala viac ako 1100 hostí.

Na podujatí prezentovali svoje výrobky slovenskí výrobcovia: Ručne robené vianočné ozdoby (Okrasa Čadca), Slovenské vína - Víno Diouš (Horné Orešany) Dušan Belko (Terra Scelench Zeleneč), Medovina – Apimed (Dolná Krúpa), Umelecké sklo - Zuzana Bobrovská (Košice), Úžitkové sklo - Sklárne Poltár a Rona (Lednické Rovne).

Zastupiteľský úrad na podujatí taktiež prezentoval slovenskú kuchyňu (štedrovečerná kapustnica), varené víno a tradičné perníky. Úspech malo aj vystúpenie detí zo Sokola Washington, ktoré predviedli slovenské vianočné koledy. Časť z výťažku Vianočného bazára išla na podporu slovenskej a českej školy, ktorá funguje v rámci Sokol Washington.

Zastupiteľský úrad vo Washingtone s cieľom propagovať slovenských výrobcov, ako aj slovenské vianočné tradície zorganizoval Vianočný bazár po prvýkrát. Vzhľadom na vynikajúce ohlasy, široké mediálne pokrytie, plánuje zorganizovať podobnú akciu aj na budúci rok.

MZV SR



A Christmas Bazaar offering Slovak glass and porcelain along with Slovak delicacies and wine was held November 7, 2015, at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, D.C

Adventné zamyslenie

Pozývame Vás do projektu Advent s Konferenciou biskupov.

Projekt bude trvať od 29. novembra 2015 (Prvej adventnej nedele) do 25. decembra 2015.

V tomto čase budú môcť záujemcovia získať každý deň e-mail myšlienku na tému o Božom milosrdenstve. Projekt sa uskutoční v rámci mimoriadneho Svätého roka milosrdenstva, ktorý ohlásil pápež František. Projekt nadväzuje na podobné projekty z minulosti. Ak ste sa zapojili do posledného z nich (v pôste 2015), v novom ste automaticky prihlásení.

Tím projektu

Utorok, 1. 12.

Najväčšie milosrdenstvo spočíva v tom, že Ježiš prebýva uprostred nás a volá nás, aby sme sa mu ponáhľali v ústrety a spolu s Petrom vyznávali, že on je "Synom živého Boha"

(Veritatis splendor, 118)

Milí krajanovia,

K Vianociam a novému roku

Vám prajeme

12 mesiacov šťastia,

52 týždňov zdravia a

365 dní lásky.



Krajanské múzeum Matice slovenskej

Prezentácia cestovného ruchu krajín V4 v New Yorku

V New Yorku sa v utorok 10. novembra 2015 uskutočnila spoločná prezentácia generálnych konzulátov a zástupcov národných agentúr cestovného ruchu V4. Prezentácia bola prevažne pre newyorských novinárov a médiá a bola zameraná na krajiny V4 ako atraktívnej turistickej destinácie. Hlavným rečníkom bol uznávaný žurnalista John DeMers, ktorý pútavo popísal svoju návštevu krajín Vyšehradskej štvorky. Večer vyvrcholil ochutnávkou národných jedál a nápojov a networkingom.

MZV SR

Gala večera na oslavu 125. výročia IKSJ v Linden, NJ



Zľava sediaci: Mrs. Anna Zofchak, Mrs. Emilia Filak, Mrs. Ildka Rajec, Sabina Sabados a Ms. Lois Schmidt. Stojaci zľava: Mr. Emil Filak, Rev. Martin Kertys, Rev. Vladimír Chripko, Mrs. Gloria Waldron a Rev. Roman Palecko.



Speváčka na Broadway Luba Mason počas svojho vystúpenia.



Pri stole sediaci zľava tajomníčka Spolku 716 IKSJ, Henrieta H. Daitová s členmi Spolku č. 716 IKSJ.



V prostriedku sediaci hlavný duchovný IKSJ Rev. Thomas Nasta v spoločnosti hlavných úradníkov IKSJ.



Zľava: Generálna konzulka Jana Trnovcová; riaditeľ nezávislých zástupcov IKSJ, Andrew P. Rajec; speváčka na Broadway, Luba Mason a 1. Oblastná riaditeľka, Sabina Sabados.



Na snímke zľava: bývalý redaktor časopisu Slovák v Amerike, Ján Holý; hlavná tajomníčka Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Nina Holá; hlavný predseda IKSJ, Andrew M. Rajec; generálna konzulka SR v NY, Jana Trnovcová.

Toho roku sa Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Jednota niesla v duchu viacerých významných výročí. Bolo to 50. výročie otvorenia Kaplnky Sedembolestnej Panny Márie vo Washingtone, DC, posviacka Pamätníka Jednoty v Middletowne, PA, 160. výročie narodenia a 100. výročie úmrtia významného slovenského kňaza, zakladateľa IKSJ, národovca, novinára, organizátora nespočetných podujatí a predstaviteľa amerických Slovákov, Rev. Štefana Furdeka. Tieto vzácne jubileá zakladateľa IKSJ si nedávno pripomenuli nielen americkí Slováci ale aj maticiari v jeho rodnej obci Trstená na Slovensku.

Medzi najvýznamnejšie výročia patrí 125. výročie založenia tejto fraternalistickej organizácie. Tento významný medzník v histórii amerických Slovákov si jednotári utčili príležitostnými oslavami počnúc v Chicagu IL, v Ontariu Kanada, v Clevelande OH, v Scrantone, PA a končiac 7. novembra 2015 v Linden, New Jersey. Hlavný usporiadateľ Okres č. 1 na čele s jeho oblastnou riaditeľkou Sabinou Sabados a hosťiteľ Spolok č. 746 v spolupráci s ďalšími Spolkami pripravili pre prítomných veľkolepý program.

Výročité podujatie sa začalo slávnostnou svätou omšou v slovenskom kostole Sv. Rodiny, Linden, NJ, ktoré toho roku oslavuje 60. výročie svojho založenia. Svätej omši predsedal a homíliu predniesol, hlavný duchovný IKSJ, Rev. Thomas Nasta. Koncelebrantmi slávnostnej bohoslužby boli hlavný farár kostola, Rev. Jozef Krajnak, PhD; slovenskí kňazi: Rev. Vladimír Chripko; Rev. Martin Kertys; Rev. Roman Palecko. Prvé liturgické čítanie predniesla Maria Zakovic a druhé Julie Ann Gurega. Pani Henrieta Daitova a Stephen Minarovich prečítali prosby. Omšu sprevádzal zbor kostola Sv. Rodiny a operný spevák Rado Lesay. Hlavným organistom bol John Budis. Počas omše sa spievali krásne slovenské mariánske piesne, ktoré ukončila americká „God Bless America“.

Po omši sa prítomní premiestnili do pekne vyzdobenej sály Msgr. Komar Hall, kde sa podávalo predjedlo a koktail. Účastníkov čakal na začiatku programu prípitok so šampanským, po ktorom si mohli poháre s vbrúseným znakom 125. výročia IKSJ, zobrať domov spolu s darčekom Sv. Ruženca a flaštičky Goralskej vodky, vyrobenej na Slovensku. Celý program uvádzala riaditeľka 1. Okresu IKSJ, Sabina Sabados, ktorá najprv privítala a predstavila hostí: generálnu konzulku SR v NYC, Janu Trnovcovú, hlavného predsedu IKSJ, Andreja M. Rajeca s manželkou, hlavného tajomníka IKSJ Kenneth A. Arendt s manželkou, hlavnú tajomníčku Slovenskej ligy v Amerike Ninu Holú, bývalého redaktora časopisu Slovák v Amerike Jána Holého a ďalších predstaviteľov popredných fraternalistických organizácií a krajskej komunity v Amerike.

Spevom Americkej hymny, Star Spangled Banner zahájila program známa a uznávaná speváčka na Broadway pani Luba Mason. Slovenskú národnú hymnu, Nad Tatrou sa blýska a Kanadskú hymnu, O Canada, zaspieval operný spevák, skladateľ a producent, Radoslav Lesay. Modlitbu predriekol hlavný farár kostola Rev. Jozef Krajnak, PhD. Prítomných pozdravila a prípitok predniesla generálna konzulka SR v New Yorku, Jana Trnovcová. Za tým hlavný predseda, Andrew H. Rajec privítal jednotárov krátkym príhovorom v slovenskej i anglickej reči, v ktorom zhodnotil prácu IKSJ a prínos osobnosti nebývalých rozmerov, Rev. Štefana Furdeka a jeho dielo v živote amerických Slovákov v mene hesla „Za Boha a národ“. Za tým nadväzovalo prehratie videa z príhovoru otca Michaela Brunovského počas hlavných osláv 125. výročia IKSJ v Clevelande, OH, z ktorého sa prítomní dozvedeli o začiatkoch a príčinách slovenskej emigrácie do USA a o celoživotnom diele zakladateľa IKSJ Rev. Štefana Furdeka.

V kultúrnom programe sa vystriedali rôzne umelecké vystúpenia. Luba Mason, dcéra bývalého dlhoročného dopisovateľa Jednoty pána Rudolfa Greguša, večer spríjemnila spevom niekoľkých piesní. Medzi nimi bola aj známa pieseň „Materinská moja reč“. Obečnosť si získali najmä deti z folklórnej skupiny Lipka z New Jersey, pod vedením Marianny Fecovej, interpretujúce piesne v hrejivej rodnej slovenčine, nám tak vzdialenej od domova. Radoslav Lesay sprevádzal niektoré piesne detí hrou na gitare a neskoršie zaspieval rad známých slovenských i anglických piesní. Zaujímavé video 125. výročia o krátkej histórii



Zľava: Mr. a Mrs. Kozar, Mr. a Mrs. Kudroc, a Mr. a Mrs. Halama zo Spolku č. 746 IKSJ.



Fotografie: Mr. Ryan Rananah

Skupina členov zo Spolku 45 a 716 IKSJ v spoločnosti hlavného predsedu (v prostriedku) Andrew M. Rajeca s manželkou Ildkou.

IKSJ s vysvetlením komentoval riaditeľ nezávislých zástupcov IKSJ, Andrew P. Rajec. Počas celého večera pre všetky vekové skupiny hrala hudbu rôzneho žánru, skupina Express. Medzi kultúrnym programom sa podávala výborná večera a typické slovenské zákusky s tortou 125. výročia.

Hlavný predseda, Andrew M. Rajec v závere večera využil príležitosť sa poďakovať všetkým, ktorí sa podielali na príprave a organizovaní, hlavne Sabine Sabados, za jej koordináciu, tejto výnimočnej oslavy. Poďakovanie patrilo aj pani Anne Korcakovej a Anne Balas, ktoré sa starali o predaj a zabezpečenie vstupeniek.

Ako už zaznelo vo viacerých príhovoroch predsedu IKSJ, Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Jednota predovšetkým podporuje duchovnú i finančnú prosperitu svojich členov ako aj snaží sa o neustále zveladenie tejto fraternalistickej organizácie, v dnešnej dobe i prostredníctvom novodobých technológií. Z radov mladšej generácie sa snaží získať nových členov, ktorí by pokračovali vo vzácných predsavzatiach svojho zakladateľa ako aj v náboženských a kultúrnych hodnotách svojich predkov.

Na tomto mieste sa žiada znovu vysloviť poďakovanie oblastnej riaditeľke Sabine Sabados, za všetko úsilie a námahu počas príprav celého podujatia, spolu s vkusnými brožúrkami ako aj ďalším jednotlivcom a spolkom, ktorí zabezpečili plynulú a nezabudnuteľnú chvíľu z okázalých osláv, ktoré sa stanú ďalším míľnikom v histórii Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty.



Vianoce 2015



Príchod malého Ježiška, nech vás naplní úprimnou radosťou, potechou, pokojom a umožní vám radosťný vstup do Nového roku.

Všetkým členom a priaznivcom Jednoty želáme Požehnané Vianoce a Šťastlivý Nový rok

Vianoce-sviatky pokoja a lásky slávi asi dve miliardy kresťanov vo svete

Vianoce - sviatky pokoja a lásky začínajú 24. decembra na Štedrý deň sláviť asi dve miliardy kresťanov vo svete. Veriaci si pripomínajú narodenie Ježiša Krista ako chudobného dieťaťa v betlehenských jaslách, jeho vstup do dejín ľudstva, ktorému priniesol spásu. Väčšina ľudí oslavuje Vianoce ako sviatky domova a rodiny pri rozsvietenom vianočnom stromčeku.

Štedrým dňom sa končí advent - obdobie duchovnej prípravy na slávenie Vianoc a začína sa ich slávenie. Mnohé kresťanské rodiny na Slovensku dodržiavajú v tento deň pôst ako symbol pokory a vyjadrujú takto úctu príchodu malého Ježiška na svet. Celodenný pôst a slávnostná štedrovečerná večera ako vyvrcholenie dňa symbolizuje podľa tradícií jednotu rodiny, ktorá by sa mala pri spoločnom stole stretávať aj celý nasledujúci rok.

Katolícki veriaci slávia 24. decembra popoludní a večer vigíliu sviatku Narodenia Pána. Tradičnou a neodmysliteľnou súčasťou Štedrého večera v katolíckych kostoloch sú polnočné omše, keďže podľa evanjelistu Lukáša sa Ježiško narodil v noci. V mnohých kostoloch sa konajú "polnočné" už skôr, napríklad o 22.00 h najmä pre rodiny s deťmi a starších veriacich. Spievajú sa koledy a vianočné piesne, medzi nimi aj svetoznáma skladba Tichá noc, svätá noc..., ktorú v roku 1816 skomponoval v rakúskej dedinke Oberndorf organista Franz Xaver Gruber. V kostoloch a v domácnostiach veriacich nechýbajú betlehemy sprítomňujúce Svätú rodinu, ktorá prišla do mesta Betlehem, Troch mudrcov z Východu, pastierov, zvieratá.

V gréckokatolíckej cirkvi sa slávi Veľké povečerie a liturgia rovnako v neskorých večerných hodinách. V evanjelických chrámoch sa 24. decembra popoludní a podvečer konajú slávnostné štedrovečerné služby Božie. Slávnostné bohoslužby sú aj v iných kresťanských kostoloch. Po Štedrom večere nasleduje slávnostná liturgia Narodenia Pána 25. decembra, ktorá je v kresťanských cirkvách stredobodom slávenia vianočných sviatkov.

Vianočný pozdrav z Matice slovenskej

Na cesty sa sype ťažký čerstvý sneh, plný mesiac sa skvie medzi miliónmi zlatých, strieborných i bronzovo-žltých hviezd a ľudia, z takmer celého sveta, v teple domova, ticho, túžobne i radosťne očakávajú začiatok najkrajších sviatkov roka – sviatkov vianočných.

Práve v tomto čase si matičiari intenzívnejšie pripomínajú, že slovenský svet sa nerozprestiera iba od Bratislavy po Košice, ale jeho hranice objímajú takmer celý svet. V starých archívnych dokumentoch sa neraz nájde fotografia slovenskej rodiny, ktorá oslavuje slovenské Vianoce v Austrálii, zámorí, na Dolnej Zemi či v inom meste Európy. Zdá sa, že z tradícií, ktoré si mladí Slováci odnášali z domoviny, boli azda najdominantnejšie práve tie, ktoré sa praktizovali v magickom čase vianočnom. Naši krajanovia, či už tí, čo v inej zemi žili 200, 100 alebo iba 10 rokov na svoje korene nezabudli. Mnohí z nich si spomínajú na tradičné Vianoce, ktoré zažili ešte s ich prastarými rodičmi v neslovenskej krajine alebo si spomínajú na tie, ktoré zažili v časoch, keď ešte žili na Slovensku.

Vianoce sú azda najkrajší kresťanský sviatok. Človek k človeku má v tomto čase bližšie, v hrudiach bijú slovenské srdcia hlasnejšie, náruč sa otvára širšie, ruky viac hladia, ústa viac chvália...

Pre slovenskú národu však celoročne ostáva typické, že si z pokolenia na pokolenie zachováme svoje zvyky, lipneme na starootcovskom dedičstve a nezabúdame na tradičné...

Mnohí z krajanov ešte stále na stromčekoch majú zavesených vyrezávaných drevených anjelikov, krehké bábičky zo šúpolia, kúsky sušeného ovocia, vlašské oriešky, voskové sviece a na štedrovečernom stole sa tkvie krásna, slovenská výšivka.

Podľa starých zvykov je pod ňou ukrytá šupina z kapra – pre bohatstvo a na nej sú položené misky s cesnakom, medom, oplátkami, jablkom i trúňkom – pre zdravie i poslušnosť. A poznáte poveru s orechovou škrupinkou? Keď sa vlašský orech rozpolil, položila sa škrupina na vodu a tomu, komu odplávala najďalej, predpovedala odchod do cudziny. Kto vie, či sa takáto predpoveď ukázala i našim krajanom, ktorých osud zavial ďaleko od svojej domoviny...

Po Štedrej večeri mnohí odchádzali do kostola, iní vytvárali živý Betlehem a chodili spoločne koledovať z jedného konca dediny, na druhý.

Aj my, tak ako betlehemijskí koledníci, Vám chceme adresovať naše prianie do všetkých kútov zeme, všade tam, kde žijú naši krajanovia. Zo sídla a srdca Matice slovenskej, z Martina, Vám chceme z úprinného srdca zaželať krásne, pokojné, radosťné a najmä šťastné a veselé Vianoce, plné vzájomnej lásky a pokoja.

Matica slovenská je hrdá na to, že i dnes, v roku 2015, udržujete slovenské zvyky a cítite sa byť Slovámi.

Šťastné a požehnané, milí krajanovia!

Zuzana Pavelcová



Snímka z osláv 125. výročia IKSJ, ktorá sa konala 7. novembra 2015 v Linden, NJ. Zľava: Mrs. Jaroslava Hrehova, Mrs. Marianna Fecova, Rev. Jozef Krajnak, generálna konzulka SR v NY Jana Trnovcová, hlavný predseda IKSJ Andrew M. Rajec, 1. Oblastná riaditeľka IKSJ Sabina Sabados, Theresa Arendt, Idka Rajec, Andrew P. Rajec a hlavný tajomník IKSJ Kenneth A. Arendt.

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