



Jednota

THE UNION

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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

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

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NUMBER 5901

President's Annual Report For The Year 2013 Presented At The Annual Board Of Directors Meeting Friday, March 21, 2014

Fellow Officers, Members of the Board of Directors and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union!

First, I would like us to remember and pray for all the Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union who have reached Eternal Life since our 2013 Board of Directors Meeting. They were included in our Mass this morning. My wife Idka and myself would like to thank the Board Members and all of the Jednota Members and Branches that expressed their condolences including the offering of Masses in memory of our daughter Idka Ann, who was born into Eternal Life in October 2013.

I want to thank our employees for their efforts and the Board of Directors for their support and our Members for your continued interest in and support of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

After the near Depression of 2008-2009 the U.S. economy has stabilized and shown some signs of growth. However, the U.S. Federal Reserve has intentionally kept the short term and as a consequence long-term interest rates at historically low levels. They have done this by injecting several trillion dollars into the money supply. This has resulted in adding to an already massive national debt but also has created what some have called a "bubble" in the stock market, and bubbles usually collapse with unpleasant results for those still in the market.

Currently, the crisis in the Ukraine has reached the headlines with a real possibility of re-igniting the "Cold War". Some skeptics say that since the U.S. involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan is winding down a new enemy must be found or old ones revisited. Former President Dwight Eisenhower, a WW II War hero and a Republican, warned about the "military-industrial complex" that must always have wars or threats of war to justify their existence and/or make profits.

The year 2013 was another positive year for the Society. The investment climate, especially as it relates to bonds, in which the Society by state law must invest at least 85% of its assets, faced an overall lower rate of return.

Likewise in the stagnant economy fewer companies found it necessary to go to the bond market to raise new funds, thereby decreasing availability and returns on high quality bonds for us to purchase.



Andrew M. Rajec

However, I am proud to report that the December 31, 2013 financials, filed as required with the State of Ohio, our state of domicile, as confirmed by our outside Actuary Bruce and Bruce, and audited by outside auditors Hosack, Specht, Muetzel and Wood, LLP, shows that the Society has reached another new record in total assets of \$336,438,256.

In addition, and more importantly, surplus for 2013 increased by \$2,035,037 to another new record of \$22,681,611 at 12/31/2013 even after giving a dividend to our Members a little higher than in 2012.

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2013 Report of the National Chaplain March 2014

Dear Board of Directors and Members of the F.C.S.U.:

It is an honor to be your National Chaplain. I was happy to be present for and to participate in several events during the past year.

In January I joined others from across the country in Washington, DC for the annual March for Life.

The following month I traveled to St. Florian Church in Unity, PA, to concelebrate the Funeral Mass for Regional Director Emeritus George Sprock.

I attended either in person or by means of teleconference all



Rev. Thomas Nasta

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2013 Annual Report of the Executive Secretary March 21-22, 2014

Reverend Father, Mr. President and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States of America and Canada; it is my pleasure to present this 2013 report to you, the Board of Directors of the FCSU.

The Society experienced successful operating results for the year 2013. Operating profits and net income were higher than 2012 and continued a long string of profitable years. Net gain from operations before capital gains amounted to \$1,455,636. Total asset value increased 10.1% (+\$30,951,731) with realized capital gains of \$553,505 and \$192,118 of unrealized capi-



Kenneth Arendt

continued on page 8

The Chewy Challenge:



Check out these rates!

FCSU ANNUITY AND IRA INTEREST RATES AS OF APRIL 1, 2014

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3.20% (APY) - 6 Year Flexible Premium Annuity or IRA

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Insights and Viewpoints



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

April 27, 2014

2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Gospel John 20:19-31



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

The Gospel begins with Easter Sunday and ends with the Sunday after Easter. On Easter Sunday the disciples were still mourning the death of Jesus, and even

though they had heard reports that the tomb was empty and that Jesus is Risen, this reality was too much for them to accept and they remained in fear hidden away behind the locked doors of the upper room. This was same upper room where they had only days earlier celebrated the Passover with Jesus and were probably already referring to it as the "Last Supper." While Jesus had been buried in a tomb of rock, the upper room was becoming their tomb.

Jesus enters the room despite the locked doors and stands in their midst. He greets them with words of peace and it seems that they are overwhelmed by his presence. When the absent Thomas arrives afterwards, they can't wait to tell him that Jesus is truly risen and that he had visited them in this upper room. We are all too familiar with response that resulted with Thomas being forever known as "doubting Thomas," and sometimes the much more important message of this Gospel. We are told that a week later they are still in the upper room and the doors are still locked. This room has truly become their tomb. They are still in fear and afraid to go out even after the experience of seeing the Risen Lord. Jesus appears again and takes Thomas on the words he spoke to the rest of the disciples a week earlier, and invites him to put his hands in the wounds in his hands and feet. Thomas doesn't have to, he then makes a profession of faith. It seems that it is only after this visit of Jesus through the locked doors of the upper room that the disciples were able to leave fear behind and venture out of the upper room.

The image of the disciples locked in the upper room in fear, as if in a tomb, is a good image for us to reflect on as we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. Even though we profess our faith in the Risen Lord who died to take away our sins, we can look at our lives and wonder if God truly loves us. We can even be in fear that God doesn't love us and that we are the exception when it comes to the forgiveness of sins. We can even begin to isolate ourselves from God and His life-giving presence. This second Sunday of the Easter Celebration is one that is meant to reinforce in us the reality of the depth of God's love for us. A love that is far greater than any fault, failing or sin that we have. His mercy is His gift to us and he is just waiting for us to accept this gift, to unwrap and allow it to fill us with his mercy, love and peace. During Easter we celebrate the greatest event in human history, Jesus overcame death, left the tomb and is Risen Lord. Jesus did this so that we can be spared eternal death and, at the end of our earthly existence, enter into eternal life. If for whatever reason we are trying to hide from God behind the locked doors of a self-imposed tomb, let us welcome the Lord in to receive take away our fears and fill us with his peace.

May 4, 2014

Third Sunday of Easter

Luke 24: 13-35



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

The disciples walking on the way to Emmaus in the late afternoon of Easter Sunday did not realize that they were speaking in person with Jesus. The fact that his appearance was different to them is clear; after all, they would hardly fail to recognize such a personal friend and guide, yet their delayed recognition goes beyond visual images and embraces a broader human tendency to fail to see the things that ought to be the clearest to us. They finally recognize him when he takes bread and breaks it to share with them, representing the Eucharist which he had previously shared with his apostles on the evening of Holy Thursday, immediately preceding his passion and death.

The breaking of the Eucharistic bread is what connects the disciples' experience of Jesus after the resurrection to what they knew of him before his death—it is the source and the focus of their faith in this defining event of Jesus' life, revolving around the resurrection as the hinge of their belief. As such, the Eucharist and the resurrection are inseparable, each one giving meaning to and confirming the other in a beautiful exchange of grace.

In the first reading for mass this day, from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter urges the crowds to believe in Jesus, now risen to new life, noting how God has exalted Jesus far above David through the power of the resurrection. Peter understands that his almost entirely Jewish audience gathered in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost will esteem David and his place in their religious piety. He appeals to Isaiah, Joel, and the Psalms in order to exhort them to believe that God had raised Jesus from the dead, and thus exalted him as the true Messiah and superior of David—who remained in his tomb.

During the Eucharistic Prayer the entire assembly at mass rejoices in singing the memorial acclamation: "When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory", thus affirming our faith in the bond between the resurrection and the Eucharist and acclaiming Jesus as the true Son of David.

The second reading from the First Letter of Peter goes beyond initial belief in the resurrection and describes the way in which Christians ought to respond to the resurrection in terms of their way of life. "You were ransomed... with the precious blood of Christ" we are reminded, and we therefore have a responsibility to live in a manner worthy of the one who redeemed us at so great a cost. When we partake of the broken bread at mass we must live from that moment on in imitation of the selfless love of Jesus so that we may also share in his resurrection when he comes again in glory.

Finally the gospel account of Jesus accompanying the disciples on their way to Emmaus confronts us with the resurrection in terms of recognizing the Risen One in the breaking of the bread in our midst, reminding us that we do not always see what is obvious. When we gather this third Sunday of Easter to celebrate together the Eucharist of the Lord, we should remember that through this sacramental action of the Christian community Christ becomes present in our midst and "stays with us". If we trust in God who raised Jesus from the dead, and live as though we truly believe what we profess in the creed, we will need no longer ask each other "Were not our hearts burning within us?", but will be able to proclaim, "The Lord has truly been raised...and has been made known to us in the breaking of the bread".

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, APR 30	MONDAY, APR 21
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7	MONDAY, APR 28
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21	MONDAY, MAY 12

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

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Message From President

continued from page 1

As I noted in my 2012 report, we cannot expect a new record of profits and increased surplus every year. However, in 2013 the FCSU showed another net gain from operations of \$1,455,635 or \$134,302 higher than in 2012.

I believe the Society must continue to add to surplus in the future. The challenges from the markets and competition, not to mention our ability to attract new members and possibly merger opportunities, will be enhanced by obtaining a satisfactory A.M. Best rating. I propose a goal for the FCSU to obtain an A.M. Best rating of at least a B+ within the next five years. It won't be easy and will take significant time and effort. We want our Society to be here for another 100 years. That is all our responsibility.

To the benefit of our Members, the Society pays among the highest annuity rates of all our competitors.

As I have said before, our number one priority is the protection of funds entrusted to us by our members, whether it be in insurance or annuities. Some other companies, including some fraternal, have chosen to substantially increase their annuity liabilities in a manner we believe is not in our Members' best interest in today's investment environment.

The Ohio Department of Insurance has completed its tri-annual audit of the FCSU and while we have not yet received their report the several update meetings that I and our Executive Secretary have had with them indicates that the 2014 report will be very satisfactory, as was their prior report three years ago.

The financial strength of the Society continues to increase as will be attested by the independent outside auditors, the independent actuary and our investment advisor, as you hear their reports today.

Our annuity sales in 2013 exceeded our planned goal of \$20 million by about \$2 million. As I have said many times we want to have controlled growth in order to not take excessive interest rate risk to protect our members.

The FCSU continues to fully fund (100%) its annuity reserves from the date of deposit which means that FCSU's reserving method establishes annuities at fund account value without adjustment for surrender penalties. FCSU is one of only a handful of fraternal insurers that uses this conservative method, another step to protect Members' funds.

However, in spite of our successes challenges continue in many areas for various reasons.

The challenges the Society faces in 2014 are varied. They include the investing environment, interest rates, the number of Recommenders, new agents, existing and new Branches, membership and fraternalism.

I anticipate 2014 will again revolve around the issue of interest rates, whether they will remain at historically low rates, gradually climb or for whatever reason climb suddenly.

State insurance departments are insisting that actuaries include new annual tests when analyzing all companies.

Some of these tests anticipate interest rates as much as twenty years into the future. You will note that this additional testing has increased our actuarial costs.

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

I would like to thank all of our Recommenders for their efforts to gain new members and distribute our annuity and life insurance products. We would like to have more Recommenders and members to become fully licensed to sell our products. Unfortunately the numbers of Recommenders has slowly decreased, primarily because of deaths and illness and the increasing complexity of the annuity and insurance products, as well as the continuing increased state regulations.

We have been required for all these reasons to continue to increase our number of independent sales agents. Many fraternal use only licensed independent insurance/annuity agents. We currently have contracted 180 agents and are looking for more, especially in the states where we are newly licensed. We are now licensed in 27 states.

We all know from our own branch personal experience that many of our FCSU Branches need vitalization. The issue of money is often not an issue. Too many Branches receive the annual FCSU stipend and don't use it for membership activities. Too many Branches are not active enough to even qualify for the stipend.

However, our Society is not alone. We hear from many other fraternal societies that they have the same situation. What's the answer? We are researching thru the American Fraternal Alliance what some other fraternal have tried to successfully improve branch interest and participation. However, we know that an inactive or barely active branch does not attract interest and members.

We are not satisfied with our new membership totals and our sales of life insurance. Therefore, we are about to announce two new programs to benefit existing members and attract new members.

FINAL EXPENSE

First, we will introduce our Final Expense product, designed to provide resources for members' families for the sometimes overwhelming expenses that a member and their family incur for last illness medical expenses, and finally funeral expenses. Many of our Members have only minimum \$1,000 - \$2,000 policies, purchased by their parents many years ago. This program will be expedited underwriting but not "guarantee issue". Information on this program will be rolled out within 60 days.

WEALTH ACCUMULATION/WEALTH TRANSFER

Second, the other new initiative will be directed at both existing and new members to be purchased either direct, thru Recommenders or thru agents. This is called Wealth Accumulation/Wealth Transfer product.

Our single premium whole life product is a perfect vehicle for Wealth Transfer and Wealth Accumulation. It is very competitively priced in the market.

Many people do not realize the benefits of building cash value in an insurance policy or its

tax free implications and the value of no probate. How about the use for saving for college tuition?

We are implementing a program to educate existing and potential Members thru all our marketing channels within the next 30 days. You will see promotions in the Jednota, on our website and through the mail. Many financial planners are using this type of product to use annuity money to purchase Whole Life Insurance.

We have an excellent product that we need to expose to the market. With a new education and promotional effort we believe that we can provide exceptional value to our Members and add to our membership. While our annuity products are excellent there is a tremendous need for Wealth Accumulation and Wealth Transfer products. With our independent agents we expect to target policies \$25,000.00 and higher.

FRATERNALISM AND HERITAGE

We have had numerous compliments for our Jednota newspaper and our Editor, Terri Ivanec. The intent is to make our Jednota more customer friendly and informative, with new articles and features, in addition to Society and Branch news.

Our website FCSU.com is frequently updated and contains links to many informative sites. We know that more people are taking advantage of the information.

We continue to support various Slovak and Catholic organizations, including the Slovak Catholic Federation, Slovak League of America as well as many others. I pledge to continue our support of Slovak heritage and causes, as well as a continuing relationship with the Slovak Republic through its Embassy in Washington, D.C. and the Friends of Slovakia and through the direct contacts we have with Slovaks in Slovakia.

You will note that His Excellency Peter Kmec, the current Slovak Ambassador to the United States, is scheduled to be a speaker at our 2014 Convention.

I have said clearly that we want to preserve Slovak Catholic heritage. We demonstrated that at the 2010 FCSU Convention with our emphasis on Slovak culture, music and dance. We hope to match that in the 2014 Convention.

As I have said many times in many places our Society still treasures and strives to preserve its Slovak heritage and all the good virtues it implies, even as the generations gradually assimilated into the American fabric.

We are still a fraternal and intend to remain that way for the benefit of our Members. Branches and Districts are important and we must maintain and support them. At the same time the leaders in our Branches and Districts have an obligation to make them active, not just barely active. We are a grass-roots organization.

Remember when Members of the deceased's Branch held a vigil or said prayers at the casket as a group? Section 20.05 of the Bylaws contains the prayer to be said. Wouldn't be wonderful if we could revive this custom? This is fraternalism in action. We encourage Branches to use their stipend money to have Christmas parties, especially for kids, even if they are cooperative with other fraternal. Branch sponsored baseball, basketball, bowling etc. events for kids and adults alike are encouraged. Even sponsoring a bus for trips etc. should be considered.

The First Catholic Slovak Union currently has two national events, the National Bowling and Golf Tournament. Some of these have been co-sponsored and others such as the 2014 Golf Tournament are not. We encourage these events and hope to continue them with shared efforts. We had a wonderful National Family Picnic in 2013 in New Jersey. The event and the venue were fantastic. We only wish that more people would take advantage of these events. Once you try it, you will like it. Thanks to our Fraternal Activity Director Susan Ondrejco for running these events very smoothly.

We continue to add and change displays in Museum at the Home Office.

Personally, 2013 has again been a busy year. I attended Branch and District meetings and Vilijas and other events in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey and Michigan.

I also participated in seminars with our Vice President and Executive Secretary. The Society again manned a booth at the annual Family Fest in Wickliffe, Ohio where there again were 30,000 + attendees.

I also made several visits to our properties in Middletown to meet with our Jednota Slovak Editor Anna Sutherland and the maintenance personnel of our land and properties and oversee our investment. There will be a report regarding Building # 2 by George Matta and Regis Brekosky at this meeting.

Absentee property management is difficult and does not get easier with time and complications. For example, a legal agreement signed by the FCSU in the late 1970's to facilitate the building of the FCSU Printery by running sewer lines across another property owner's land by way of an easement, has reared its head. The owner of that property is now demanding, via lawsuit, that the FCSU PAY \$450,000 + to pay for the replaced sewer line he built across his property. We are now in litigation and there will be an update at this meeting.

Jim Marmol and I met on March 20, 2014 with the design team and contractor to finalize the plans, the materials and the exact site on the ground to begin construction in late spring of the Memorial on the Jednota grounds commemorating our Society, the former Orphanage, our deceased Veterans from several wars and all our deceased Members.

An artist rendition of the final memorial will be published in coming issues of the Jednota with detailed information. I would anticipate a formal dedication in Spring/Summer 2015.

I have received several notices from the companies that have oil and gas pipeline easements on our Jednota Estates properties that were granted 25 or more years ago. I am very wary about any of these easements as I see in general any pipeline easement as de-valuing our properties. We will not grant any new easements or any expansion unless we are forced by court order.

The Home Office Building has a new rubber roof, completed this week at a cost of \$50,000.00. The Home Office Building window frames that have been leaking on all three floors with an estimated total repair cost of almost \$500,000.00 have not been yet replaced pending the results of the new roof completion.

continued on page 4

From the Office of the Vice-President

How Insurance Works

Insurance makes it possible to transfer risk from one person to a group of persons. The risk-sharing group is usually a private insurance company, called insurer, underwriter, or carrier.

Insurance is written (set forth in legal language) in the form of a contract called a policy. The policy states the arrangements for the protection or coverage. In it, the company promises to pay the insurance money if your death should happen within the period covered by the policy. The insurance money is called the benefit, or face amount of the policy.

The person receiving the insurance protection is the insured or policy holder. In return for the protection, he/she promises to pay a premium. The sum of money is payable to the company in a lump sum, annual payments, or in periodic installments.

For the cost of protection to be distributed fairly among all holders of a particular kind of policy, calculation of premium rates has to take into account the amount of risk involved as determined from experience.

In life insurance, matters that affect premium rates are age, health and occupation of the insured at the time he/she applies for insurance. Mortality tables show rates of death at each age and are used in predicting life expectancy of the applicant. Making up premium rate tables is part of the work of actuaries. (An actuary is a specialist in the mathematics of insurance. He calculates the probable length of life, works out rates and premiums, and figures risks for life insurance companies). Different actuarial calculations are used to determine premiums for such applicants as...for example...a 28 year old man, a 45 year old woman, a test pilot, an office worker, a smoker and a non-smoker.

With participating policies (dividend paying), the actuaries set the annual premiums higher to cover the anticipated expenditures. In general, dividends reflect the investment income a company earned, the mortality its policy holders experienced and the company's expenses. Dividends are paid at the company's discretion and are never guaranteed.

Companies let you borrow against the cash value of your policy at an interest rate specified in the policy. If you die while the loan is outstanding, the amount you owe is deducted from the death benefit paid to your survivors. If you cash in your policy and take the cash value, the amount of any outstanding loan is deducted from the sum the insurance company owes you.

Let me ease your mind and tell you that life insurance companies are required by state laws to establish certain minimum liabilities on their financial statements based on state mandated assumptions. The chief such liability is known as the policy reserve. This is a fund which together with future premiums and interest earnings will be sufficient to meet future obligations. Insurance companies are subject to state law in many of their operations. Every state has an insurance commissioner who checks on the financial stability of companies who is licensed to do business in their state.

Since our society has been in existence for over 123 years, you can be assured any investments you make with us, whether it be life insurance or annuities, are secure.

Please help our society by signing a loved one today.

For more information on our insurance and annuity products, contact your local lodge officers. If you don't know who they are, call 1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682). You can also go to our website at www.fcsu.com to download information and forms.

Until next time,

Good Luck and God Bless,



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice-President

Last Chance for Youngstown/ Spišská Nová Ves Cities Tour 2014



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

The cost of the trip including airfare, hotels, admissions, breakfast and dinners daily is \$3849.00 from Washington D.C. and \$3899.00 from Pittsburgh, Pa. We spend three nights in Bratislava, 1 night in Piešťany/Trenčín region, 2 nights in the Tatry Moun-

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

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

Annual Report From The President

continued from page 3

The year 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Our Lady of Sorrows, Patroness of Slovak chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. It also marks the 100th anniversary of the death of the founder of our Society, Fr. Stefan Furdek, in 1915. We are in the initial stages of planning an event in Washington, D.C. at the Chapel open to all Slovaks, to commemorate these historic events.

Finally, I would like to thank the Executive Committee and the Board for their help and cooperation. With continuing and new challenges, 2014 will require all of our skills and efforts to continue and expand our success. This year's results show, that with the cooperation of our Home Office, the Executive Committee, and all our Officers and Board of Directors working together as a team, we can accomplish outstanding results.

Also, I want to thank our Members and especially our Branch and District officers for their continued support and commitment to our Society.

Ďakujem. Thank you. Za Boha a Národ – For God and Nation.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Annual Report from The National Chaplain

continued from page 1

Board of Directors meetings that were held in 2013. I opened and closed each session with prayer and offered Mass at those meetings I was personally present. At the invitation of the National President, I also attended the Executive Committee meeting that was held in March.

I participated in the annual Bowling Tournament which was in Buffalo, NY and the Golf Tournament, held in Canton, OH. I also attended the National Picnic that took place in Millstone Township, NJ. I celebrated Mass at all three locations for all who attended these fraternal activities.

In July I was the main celebrant and homilist at Mass for the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Association's Annual Slovak Day held at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, PA.

As a member of the Executive Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation, I was a delegate to its convention in September at Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Throughout the year I have written articles that were published in our fraternal's newspaper and have answered correspondence that was sent to me.

The year 2013 was a special year of grace for all of us. May our Lord continue to bless us in our all our endeavors.

Fraternally,

Reverend Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

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Annual Statement for the year 2013 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA**
ASSETS

	Current Year			Prior Year
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	4 Net Admitted Assets
1. Bonds (Schedule D).....	300,535,784		300,535,784	281,561,350
2. Stocks (Schedule D):				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....	200,000		200,000	700,000
2.2 Common stocks.....	5,756,573		5,756,573	3,178,369
3. Mortgage loans on real estate (Schedule B):				
3.1 First liens.....	1,416,745		1,416,745	1,587,886
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate (Schedule A):				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	1,009,340		1,009,340	1,020,772
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	772,830		772,830	811,890
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	562,675		562,675	562,675
5. Cash (\$.....11,129,071, Schedule E-Part 1), cash equivalents (\$.....0, Schedule E-Part 2) and short-term investments (\$.....0, Schedule DA).....	11,129,071		11,129,071	7,916,511
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	1,049,079	2,119	1,046,960	1,014,147
7. Derivatives (Schedule DB).....			0	
8. Other invested assets (Schedule BA).....	10,133,875		10,133,875	3,746,150
9. Receivables for securities.....			0	
10. Securities lending reinvested collateral assets (Schedule DL).....			0	
11. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
12. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 11).....	332,565,971	2,119	332,563,852	302,099,750
13. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
14. Investment income due and accrued.....	3,840,970		3,840,970	3,361,023
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	26,470		26,470	18,788
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).....	4,295	4,295	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 to 25).....	336,438,256	6,964	336,431,292	305,479,561
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
28. TOTALS (Lines 26 and 27).....	336,438,256	6,964	336,431,292	305,479,561

Annual Statement for the year 2013 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

	1 Current Year	2 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life certificates and contracts (Exhibit 5, Line 9999999) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	261,839,000	243,149,000
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (Exhibit 6, Line 16, Col. 1) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (Exhibit 7, Line 14, Col. 1) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	40,717,575	29,587,520
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life (Exhibit 8, Part 1, Line 4.4, Column 1 less sum of Columns 9, 10 and 11).....	300,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health (Exhibit 8, Part 1, Line 4.4, sum of Columns 9, 10 and 11).....		
5. Refunds due and unpaid (Exhibit 4, Line 10).....		
6. Provision 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 (Exhibit 1, Part 1, Col. 1, sum of Lines 4 and 14).....	286,787	293,109
8. 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, Line 6).....	609,141	171,618
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued-life and annuity contracts \$.....0 ; accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	7,223	14,903
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
11. General expenses due or accrued (Exhibit 2, Line 12, Col. 7).....	65,127	62,268
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 (Exhibit 3, Line 8, Col. 6).....	22,835	21,858
14. Unearned investment income.....		
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	6,010,086	7,022,497
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 (AVR, Line 16, Col. 7).....	2,461,429	2,350,068
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.....		535,709
21.9 Payable for securities lending.....		
22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	1,020,967	914,927
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	313,749,681	284,832,989
24. From Separate Accounts statement.....		
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 and 24).....	313,749,681	284,832,989
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.....	22,681,610	20,646,572
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (Page 4, Line 47) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts statement).....	22,681,610	20,646,572
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30) (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3).....	336,431,291	305,479,561

Annual Statement for the year 2013 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

	1 Current Year	2 Prior Year
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts (Exhibit 1, Part 1, Line 20.4, Col. 1).....	22,216,307	19,650,874
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....		
3. Net investment income (Exhibit of Net Investment Income, Line 17).....	14,149,981	13,393,552
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR, Line 5).....	380,661	310,954
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains or losses.....		
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 26.1, Col. 1).....		
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.....	203,442	79,911
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	36,950,391	33,435,291
10. Death benefits.....	2,430,466	2,696,560
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....	3,270	
12. Annuity benefits.....	9,947,089	10,003,697
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts, including premiums waived \$.....0.....		
14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	823,140	659,904
15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contracts funds.....	211,732	273,274
16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....		
17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts.....	18,690,000	15,544,000
18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17).....	32,105,697	29,177,435
19. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only) (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 31, Col. 1 less Col. 5).....	263,752	216,199
20. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 26.2, Col. 1 less Col. 5).....		
21. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses (Exhibit 2, Line 10, Cols. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6).....	2,840,415	2,639,407
22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees (Exhibit 3, Line 6, Cols. 1, 2, 3 and 5).....	127,719	141,005
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.....	(247,883)	(457,377)
26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25).....	35,089,700	31,716,669
27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26).....	1,860,690	1,718,622
28. Refunds to members (Exhibit 4, Line 17, Cols. 1 + 2).....	405,055	397,288
29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28).....	1,455,635	1,321,333
30. Net realized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0 (excluding \$.....818,187 transferred to the IMR).....	553,505	198,857
31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30).....	2,009,140	1,520,191
SURPLUS ACCOUNT		
32. Surplus, December 31, previous year (Page 3, Line 30, Col. 2).....	20,646,573	18,984,017
33. Net income from operations (Line 31).....	2,009,140	1,520,191
34. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	192,118	364,955
35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....		
36. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	(22,573)	9,823
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.....	(111,361)	(205,060)
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.....	(32,287)	(27,352)
46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45).....	2,035,037	1,662,556
47. Surplus December 31, current year (Lines 32 + 46) (Page 3, Line 30).....	22,681,611	20,646,573

Annual Report From The Executive Secretary

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tal gains. Liabilities increased \$28,916,693 (10.2%) and surplus increased 9.9%.

The increase in surplus resulted from the strong operating gains and realized capital gains: which were more than sufficient to offset the increase in the AVR. The amount of \$111,361 was added to the AVR, as a result of increase in Bonds owned. The AVR balance at the end of 2008 was only \$235,339 and now stands at \$2,461,429 and is at its current maximum.

The Society emphasizes Bonds and Stocks (92.2%) as its main investments. The Society had over \$11,100,000 of cash on hand at year end.

The Society uses funds available from the Federal Home Loan Bank at very favorable interest rates to help generate interest income. The funds acquired through the FHLB are managed by an investment management company.

In 2009 a significant change was made in the investment area when the Society employed the services of AQS, a fraternal benefit society experienced investment firm to assist in guiding its investment activity.

Financial Position:

Our 2013 premium income is broken down as follows:

Life Insurance	\$1,515,069
Annuities	<u>20,701,238</u>
Total	\$22,216,307

Investment income for 2013 is broken down as follows.

Investment Income for 2013:

Government Bonds	\$ 1,953,523
Bonds	12,854,445
Common Stocks-Affiliates	150,000
Preferred Stock	15,375
Common Stock	170,995
Mortgage Loans	108,575
Real Estate	320,952
Certificate Loans	60,629
Short Term Investments	3,493
Other Investment Assets	345,723
Write-ins for Investment Income	<u>(508,792)</u>
Total Investment Income	\$ 15,474,918

Investment Expenses:

Depreciation on Real Estate and Other Investment Expenses (Investment Taxes, License Fees, etc.)	\$ (1,324,937)
Net Investment Income	\$14,149,981

Listed below is a five-year comparison of assets, premium income and net income.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Assets	\$234,794,912	\$272,289,975	\$285,105,807	\$305,479,561	\$336,438,256
Prem Income	17,676,121	33,635,663	14,055,956	19,650,874	22,216,307
Invest Income	14,943,839	14,325,257	13,294,943	13,393,552	14,149,981
Net Gain	4,309,466	1,861,798	1,127,438	1,321,333	1,455,635

To summarize: Unrealized Capital Gains increased surplus by \$192,118; plus the net income of \$2,009,140. These gains were partially offset by the increase in the AVR \$111,361; Non-admitted assets and asset accrual adjustment \$54,860.

The Society's IMR now stands at \$609,141, and the AVR is at \$2,461,429. The AVR is at the 2013 maximum.

The Society's solvency ratio is 107.3%. When the IMR and AVR are combined with surplus, the solvency ratio is 108.3%.

The Society experienced an increase in premium income of 13.1%, while investment income increased 5.6% in spite of limited availability of high interest rate bonds.

Bonds are 90.4% (+2.8%) of the Society's assets, with an average maturity of 15 years. The Organization enjoys excellent bond quality, with 99.7% of the bonds in the two highest NAIC rating classes. Preferred Stocks make up only 0.06% of invested assets; Common Stocks 1.7%; which serve to provide diversity and balance to the portfolio, as well as to provide the benefit of growth potential of the market. Other assets consist of mortgages (0.4%); and all others (7.3%), including cash on hand \$11,129,071.

The most significant changes in liabilities were: policy reserves increased 7.7%, IMR 254.9%; AVR 4.7%; and Deposit type accounts 37.6%, while Funds held as Trustee decreased 14.4%*. The AVR increases reflect the continued restoration of the AVR which is at the 2013 maximum. The Society has established \$725,000 for convention reserves toward its year 2014 convention. Average lapse ratio was a very favorable 3.44% over 5 years. The Society enjoys loyal membership.

The Organization's total admitted assets are \$336,438,256 a 10.1% increase. Five year asset growth is 43.3%.

Operations:

Life premium decreased 2.9%, led by a 9% decline in Single Premium income; First year premium increased 7.3%. Annuity premium income increased 14.4% and totaled \$20,701,238. Overall total premium increased 13.1%. Sales activity consists of contracted

General Agencies, Independent Agents, and Member Agents. Investment income was 5.6% higher despite the current low interest rates available; portfolio repositioning and the general unfavorable economic climate. Total income for the year was 10.5% higher.

Total member benefits were 1.6% lower primarily because of a 9.9% decrease in death benefits paid, which offset a 24.7% increase in Cash Surrenders. Life reserves demand was 49.4% higher, and annuity reserve demand was \$17,607,000 (+18.8%) higher, reflecting the higher than 2012 total premium. Total Operation Expenses were higher. Commissions were 22% higher consistent with increased premium. General Expenses were a modest 7.6% higher. Management continues to monitor expenses, and expense levels in relation to income. Dividends to members were \$405,055 which is comparable to 2012. The society realized a gain from operations of \$1,455,636 after payment of dividends and before realized capital gains.

The AVR increased by \$111,361.

There are no known trends which will cause future operation results to deviate materially.

There are no known items which would cause the financial results to be inaccurate.

Surplus increased 9.9%. Surplus is at its highest point in the history of the Society and currently stands at \$22,681,611.

Cash Flow and Liquidity:

The items which provide liquidity are over \$11,100,000 of cash and \$5,000,000 of Common Stock, over \$4,400,000 of bonds maturing in less than one year, over \$22,000,000 of premium income; and over \$14,000,000 of investment income. Expected outgo for benefit payments, commissions, dividends, and expenses are about \$17,000,000, if the same amount of annuity

premium and withdrawals are incurred in 2014. The Organization enjoyed a \$20,000,000 positive operations cash flow in 2013.

*Trustee funds represent idle branch funds deposited for safekeeping with the Society.

The Society experienced larger operations profits and asset growth in 2013. The investment return, although somewhat affected by the low interest rates available, will be at a competitive level. The Society markets no other major interest sensitive product other than annuities.

There are no plans for any major expenses or outlays.

Insurance in Force:

The Society recorded a net of \$1,522,000 increase for insurance in-force. Insurance in-force has increased only 1.5% since 2009.

Summary:

Our 2013 financial statements, quarterly and year-end were compiled and completed on a timely basis and filed with the various states in which we are licensed to do business. We are continually in contact with the regulatory agencies of the various states regarding their requirements, which are constantly changing. We are in compliance with all of the states' and NAIC accounting regulations.

In 2013 we had a loss in insurance membership (death claims, cash withdrawals, expels, etc.) of 954 members compared to a loss of 810 in 2012. We had a decrease in the number of life insurance certificates of 1,308 in 2013 compared to a loss of 1,167 in 2012.

As of December 31, 2013, the Society had 5,446 annuity certificates. As of December 31, 2013, annuitant membership totals 2,093 annuitant members (this total does not reflect members who have both insurance and annuity contracts). The total cash value of our annuity accounts for 2013 was \$179,283,148.68 compared to \$162,006,801.46 in 2012. Our annuity products continue to be the bright spot in our portfolio, bringing in over \$100,000,000 in the last five years alone. This represents great confidence in our Society and its continued growth.

The First Catholic Slovak Union's insurance and annuity portfolio contains many products, which suit all insurance and annuity needs. The Membership and Marketing Committee, along with our actuarial firm, Bruce and Bruce Company, and our Financial Consulting Firm, Bruce and DePersis, continues to explore avenues to improve and enhance our existing products and develop new products.

We are now licensed in 27 states. We are licensed in the following states: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, Virginia, and Wisconsin. This will provide an opportunity to market our insurance and annuity products and recruit new independent agents in these states.

In 2013 we continued to offer training seminars to our branches and districts. These seminars are designed to educate our branch officers, district officers and recommenders not only about our existing products but also our new products and ways to present them. We believe these seminars will help stimulate the growth of our Society, develop motivation and strengthen the relationship between the home office, our branches and recommenders. Our goal is to keep the lines of communication open among our branches, districts, recommenders and the home office. We encourage our district officers, branch officers and recommenders to personally discuss their thoughts and ideas with us.

In 2013 we did establish an incentive plan to encourage our recommenders to obtain their state insurance license. We are offering our recommenders and any member interested in representing the FCSU as a state insurance licensed agent an opportunity to do so with this incentive plan. The FCSU will pay ½ (one half) of the cost to obtain a life insurance license in your state. This includes the cost of the license school and the license fee (the tuition and license fee varies by state). Based on productivity the FCSU will pay for ½ (one half) of the license renewal. We will be looking into costs and education center locations that will be available to them.

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Annual Report From The Executive Secretary

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Our expanded search for new independent insurance agents to sell our products has been successful. We have 180 agents with signed contracts with our Society and they are making our products available to their clients. The illustration tool we have developed has proven to be very helpful to our independent agents.

The home office maintains a supply of sales tools, which aid our officers, recommenders and independent agents with their presentation of our products. Some of these tools are sales kits, which contain information regarding our products (rates, application forms, etc.) and sales brochures describing our products. We now have available our new updated version of the pamphlet: What is the Jednota. This pamphlet gives a brief history of our Society. Our highly qualified home office staff is also available during normal business hours to answer any questions concerning rates, completing applications, etc. To better serve our members and to increase efficiency, we offer an automatic premium payment service, which enables our members to have their premium payments automatically deducted from their bank accounts. Automatic deposit for annuity checks is also available to our annuity holders. For the convenience of our members, we are now accepting Visa and Master Card credit cards which may be used for premium payments, annuity deposits, loan payments and newspaper subscriptions.

We are continually updating our computer system to be more efficient to ensure that it meets and exceeds all state and NAIC requirements.

We continue to use, direct mail as a means of contacting our branches and our members, giving them information about our existing and new products. Direct mail is a necessary tool in marketing our products as we can reach a vast majority of our members in a short time.

We have expanded our marketing advertising in our Jednota, our official organ, to better inform our members about our products. Teresa Ivanec, our editor, has really worked hard to improve the appearance of our paper by adding color and additional articles to the paper. All articles should be sent to the home office or they may be emailed to fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com.

The FCSU maintains its own web site www.fcsu.com, which contains the history of our Society and information about our products. We are continuing to update our website so that when you visit it you will not only have the latest information regarding our insurance and annuity products but also information about what is going on in the FCSU (branch meetings, district meetings, etc.). We are encouraging all branches and districts to send information about their activities to the home office so we may include the news on our website. As a service, we are notifying our members of branch meetings and branch activities through our current email addresses on record. We are encouraging our members and officers to use email when corresponding with the home office and to provide email addresses so everyone is kept informed. The Jednota newspaper (English and Slovak sections) is now on our web page and for our members' convenience four back issues and the current issue are maintained on the web page at all times. The site contains links to Slovak news agencies, the Slovak Embassy and other interesting topics. We continue to offer insurance quotes on our website for the convenience of all our members.

We use the Internet daily to communicate with our members and to receive information from the Slovak Embassy and the Slovak News Agency. This information is used by our Slovak Editor to write articles about current events in Slovakia.

We are continually looking for ways to improve our home office operations. We believe a strong communication and working relationship between the home office, branches and recommenders is vital. Input from our members is necessary and very important to us. The home office always welcomes suggestions about ways to improve service to our members.

In 2013 our internal auditors and outside auditors, Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, conducted their audits for the period ending December 31, 2013. Their audits consisted of a complete review of our quarterly and year-end financial statements and our home office operations. As a result of these audits our Society received an excellent review.

During 2013, we continued merging inactive branches with active branches. This process will be continued through 2014. This is an ongoing problem for our home office since many of our branch officers are unable to continue to service the members in their branches and not only is it difficult to find replacements for them within their branches, but it is also difficult to find other branches to merge with them. Our home office staff employees will work closely with our branches and independent agents and provide support, information and generally to be available and answer questions.

Per FCSU bylaws the branches are still required to meet the requirements set forth by our FCSU Convention to qualify for the branch stipend. We encourage our branch officers that if they are unable to perform their duties and cannot find anyone in their branches to take over their duties, to call the home office. We will try to merge them with an active branch. For those branches that do not wish to merge, the home office can offer you guidelines as to how you can meet the requirements and receive the stipend. Throughout 2013 the requirements for the financial obligations (bylaw section 4.05) has been mailed to all branch officers and published in the Jednota newspaper as a reminder of the expectations for each branch.

The FCSU has an outstanding scholarship program, which is available to our members who meet the requirements. Members may contact the home office for information concerning the scholarship program. We continue to award 75 one-time scholarships in the amount of \$750.00 each year to the highest ranking applicants.

The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, which is separate from the Society's scholarship program, is available to any person pursuing post-secondary education. To be eligible for this one-time scholarship, the applicant must be of Slovak descent and Catholic faith. At this time, ten non-renewable scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 each are expected to be awarded.

Our Society is very active in fraternal activities. We sponsor bowling and golf tournaments each year. A coloring contest and photo contest for the younger members of our Society is held each year. Family picnics are now held on the District and Branch level and are more centrally located for our members. There were activities for the young and older members of the FCSU at the picnics. We hope to continue this practice annually. We held our National Family Picnic on August 11, 2013 at FROGBRIDGE Picnic and Park located in Millstone Township, New Jersey. One of the activities that the FCSU takes part in each year is the March for Life, which is held in Washington, D.C. in January. Members of our Society join with all others who respect the rights of the unborn. We will continue to explore possible joint adventures with other fraternalists for the future.

As I have stated in the past, the economic success of our Society hinges on four factors: the effective sale and promoting of our insurance and annuity products to increase premium income; the effective management of our investment portfolio to increase our investment income; continuing to control our operating expenses; and also investigate new ways to attract new members. New members are vital to our growth.

As your Executive Secretary, I represented the FCSU on the Board of Directors of the Slovak Catholic Federation and Slovak League as well as a Director of the Secretary Section of the American Fraternal Alliance. I have attended and represented the Society at fraternal functions not only within our FCSU but also other fraternal societies. I represent the society at various branch and district meetings throughout the year. Each year I attend the American Fraternal Alliance Annual Convention. I also attend many seminars, including the Bruce and Bruce Seminars, which are always very informative regarding current insurance trends and pending state and NAIC regulations that might affect the FCSU. I am in constant contact with all state Departments of Insurance to ensure that FCSU is at all times in compliance with state regulations. We continue to meet all federal requirements.

My wife, Theresa, and I appreciate your trust and support as your Executive Secretary. I will continue to work and do my very best for our society. I will work towards a stronger society and address all issues with honesty and integrity. We are the First Catholic Slovak Union and I pray for our Society's continued growth. We have outstanding products with competitive rates and we all need to be involved in reaching new members and promote our society.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of my fellow officers and board members who assisted me throughout the year. A special thank you goes to our home office staff, a very hard-working entity of our Society.

Fraternally,

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Explore Your Heritage This Summer with 2014 Treasure Tours

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



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

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

United Slovak Societies of Lorain Scholarships



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

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

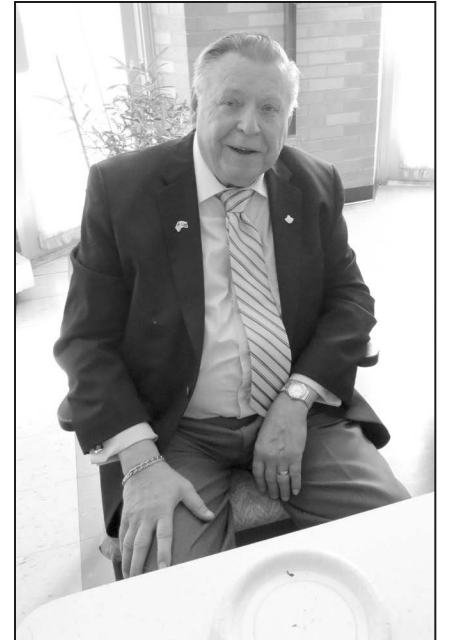
For rules and application, please contact Helene Virant, 440/282-3325

Deadline for submission is May 30, 2014.

District 2 Semi-Annual Meeting in March

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 held its Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 30, 2014 at the Missionary Benedictine Convent in Oak Forest, IL.

Submitted by Robert Tapak Magruder, District 2 Recording Secretary



LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for The Christophers

'He Risked His Life to Save My Life'

A lifetime ago, a New York City firefighter saved a baby boy. He did so in spectacular fashion, rescuing the infant from a burning building in Brooklyn. The city heaped praise on the young fireman, and the event made the front page of the New York Daily News. As time went by, though, the man and the boy lost touch with each other, and over the years the firefighter wondered aloud what had happened to the infant he saved so long ago. The mystery wasn't solved until last January, when the fireman died—and at last his family had the answers it had sought for so long.

It was a hot morning in July, 1967, when firefighter Daniel Tracy, who had already earned two citations for heroism, answered a call to a blazing home on St. Mark's Ave. in the Brownsville section. Once he and fellow members of Ladder Co. 120 arrived, Tracy heard there was an infant trapped inside. He frantically searched the house and finally found the baby—seven-month-old Terry Sykes—lying on a bed in a smoky room. When other firefighters poured water on the flames they unknowingly sealed off Tracy's exit, until, baby in hand, he broke a window and called for help. Moments later he collapsed on the ground, handing little Terry off as he did.

There it was; a life saved. For firefighters, all in a day's work. There were honors to come, of course: a Brooklyn Citizens Medal, a citation from the Daily News as "Hero of the Month," and that front-page photo showing Tracy holding young Terry Sykes; a letter of commendation from U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

But the years slipped by, and as they did the incident gradually faded from sight. Tracy retired as a captain from the Fire Department in 1990, a 30-year veteran. Occasionally he wondered what had happened to the baby boy, and kept a framed copy of the News' front page that day, with its photo of him and the baby. Unknown to him, so did Terry Sykes—as he grew, wherever he went. It was an important reminder of a truly life-changing event.

Then, in January of 2014, Daniel Tracy died at 85. The Daily News ran the photo again, and assigned Joe Kemp to write of his death and had Denis Slattery and Stephen Rex Brown cover the funeral. Together, they helped to unravel the mystery—and found Terry Sykes, now 50 years old, living in Virginia Beach, Va., married and the father of seven, a minister. And still grateful to Tracy.

"I'm so grateful and indebted to the family," he said. "They had a wonderful father, a wonderful man. They lost a great one." Sykes spoke of the effect Tracy had on his own family. "I always wanted to let my kids see the man who saved their father's life. I told them, 'He risked his life to save my life...and that's why I was able to give you life'."

Sykes was not able to attend the funeral, but his oldest daughter, Dashawn Sykes, 28, was there for the ceremony at St. Christopher's Church in Baldwin, Long Island. "It's an honor," she said to Daniel Tracy Jr. "If it wasn't for your Dad I wouldn't be here right now, so it's really a blessing. We're family now."

A lifetime ago, a New York City firefighter saved a baby boy. All in a day's work? Maybe. But don't try telling that to Terry Sykes. He simply won't believe it.

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



Branch 181's Conrad and Lynda Firment Take Trip Down Memory Lane – To Asia



Conrad Firment enjoys a bowl of noodles at the Hong Kong airport.

In March, the Firmments took a trip back to Southeast Asia where they met and married in Saigon at Queen of Peace in Saigon during the Vietnamese War. Both had lived in Bangkok during the war and then both were transferred to Vietnam where we met in Binh Hoa just outside of Saigon.

This nostalgia venture included Singapore, Bangkok, Saigon, DaNang, Hue, Hanoi and Hong Kong and was a trip down memory lane for them. Lynda Firment lived in the colonial French section of Saigon

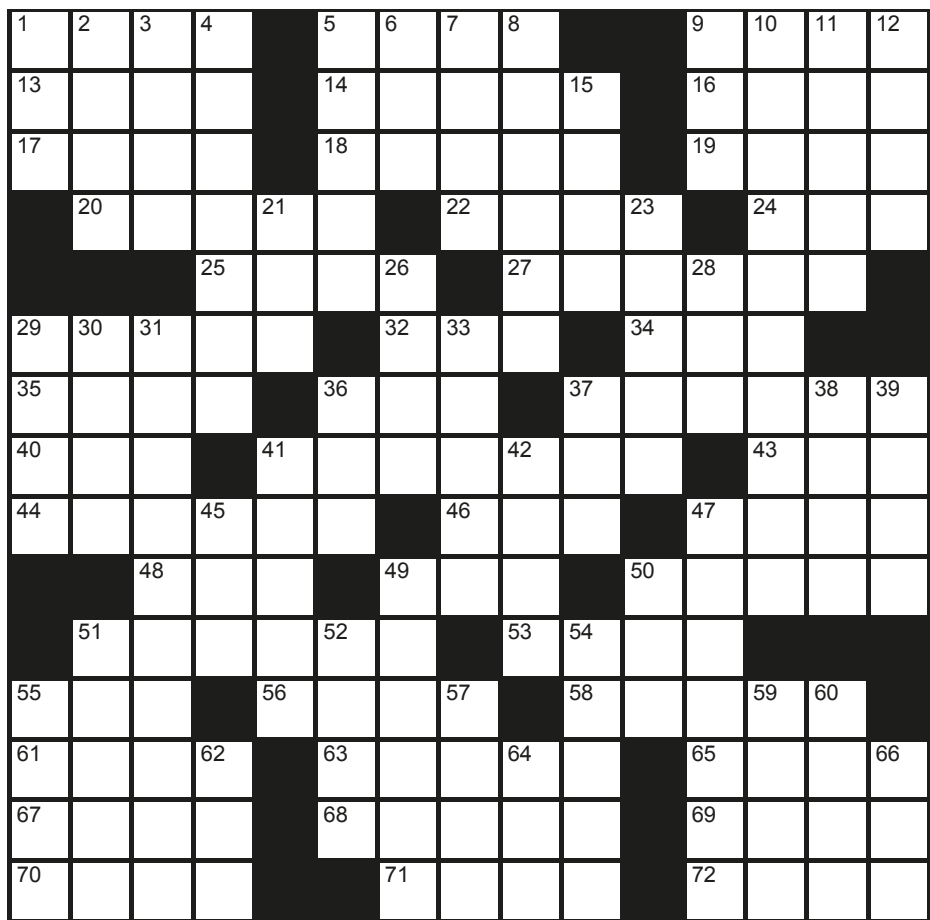
near Notre Dame between 1965-67, Before living in Saigon I was in Quang Ngai City the provincial capital of Quang Ngai province south of DaNang and the large marine base at Chu Lai. The Caravelle Hotel where they spent the first night of their honeymoon before flying to Taipei and Okinawa (now Japan).

- Submitted by Lynda Firment, Branch 181

The Firmments visited Notre Dame Cathedral in Saigon as part of a nostalgia tour of Southeast Asia.



Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Branch 40 Now Accepting Scholarship Applicants



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

* You are a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union's – St. Clement's Society Branch #40, of Streator, Illinois.

* You are in high school and have applied for a fall term at a qualifying institution OR

* You are attending a Private Grade School

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

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

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

Applications must be postmarked by May 30, 2014.

Mark Your Calendars:

The following FCSU Sales Seminar has been finalized...



An FCSU Sales Seminar will be held on **Sunday, May 18, 2014** at the Beaverdale Fire Station, 411 Cedar Street, Beaverdale, PA. The seminar will be conducted by the Membership & Marketing Committee of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU), and will be held directly after the

District 7 meeting and luncheon. District 13 also is invited to attend the seminar. (Editor's note: please see page 15 of this issue for details on the District 7 event).

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

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

Across

- 1 Jacket
- 5 Exited
- 9 Fencing sword
- 13 Jackrabbit
- 14 Loathing
- 16 Horse color
- 17 China setting
- 18 ___ cotta
- 19 Jason's ship
- 20 Implied
- 22 Bondman
- 24 French possessive
- 25 Cowl
- 27 English cathedral city
- 29 City on the Ruhr
- 32 Sea eagle
- 34 Beachgoer's goal
- 35 Vermin
- 36 ___ Baba
- 37 Dimensions
- 40 Round Table title
- 41 Spread out
- 43 Arles assent
- 44 Like some mushrooms
- 46 Make lace
- 47 Zig or zag
- 48 School org.
- 49 Actress Dawber
- 50 Emcees
- 51 Brokers
- 53 Meager
- 55 Chest protector
- 56 Frog
- 58 Fancy tie
- 61 Employed
- 63 Flash of light
- 65 Starch
- 67 Attired
- 68 Alpha's opposite

- 69 Popular fragrance brand
- 70 Superman AKA
- 71 Fitness centers
- 72 Coaster

- 41 Bias
- 42 Tubers
- 45 Drone, e.g.
- 47 Male prowlers
- 49 Sacred songs
- 50 Not hers
- 51 Bridal path
- 52 African country
- 54 Tibetan priests
- 55 Stag
- 57 Abstruse
- 59 Voiced
- 60 Subway, in London
- 62 Old insecticide
- 64 Turk. title
- 66 Muck

Down

- 1 Chinese tea
- 2 Brewer's equipment
- 3 Opera highlight
- 4 Instructs
- 5 Numbers game
- 6 Dutch city
- 7 Conifers
- 8 Deep dish
- 9 Pitcher's stat
- 10 Grandiloquent
- 11 Avid
- 12 Nephew of Abel
- 15 Groucho, for one
- 21 Charged item
- 23 Malodorous
- 26 Wooded hollow
- 28 Little bit
- 29 Gaelic
- 30 Remarked
- 31 Green vegetable
- 33 Lasso
- 36 Copy
- 37 Rainy
- 38 Smart
- 39 Transgresses

See Solution on Page 19



TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS VICTORY OF GOD'S LOVE—CHRIST IS RISEN!

Holy Week calls us to celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. In His own lifetime, Jesus directs us to, "Take up your cross and follow me (Mk8: 34)." In other words, "Don't run from suffering, embrace it." This is the actual ironic pattern of His own life. Christ knew His destiny was to be fulfilled in an eternal life. "The Father loves me because I freely lay down my life. And so I am free to take it up again. No one takes it from me (Jn10: 17,18)."

Jesus also gently reminds us, "Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. If you let go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal (Jn12: 24,25). For each of us, this new fruit is the fruit/triumph and joy of a new life with Jesus—which can begin here.

**Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.
Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA**

Nevinnosť Premilá

Nevinnosť Premilá, čo si učinila?
Za koho zomdlievaš, za koho umieraš
tak žalostne, tak ľutostne?
Za koho umeriaš, za koho omdlievaš?

Umiera nevinný, Syn Boží jediný
Na kríži zavesený, celý poranený
pre hriech, zlosti, nepravosti,
umiera nevinný, Syn Boží jediný.

Trpí za nás muky, pohliadni na ruky
klincami ranené, nohy prerazené;
pre hriech, zlosti, nepravosti
trpí veľké muky, pohliadni na ruky.

Hriešniku nešťastný, kresťane nevďačný,
Pre tvoj hriech spáchaný, Ježiš trpí rany.
Nechaj zlosti, nepravosti,
Pre Kristovu bolesť, nechaj hriešnu nereseť.

Precious Innocence

Precious innocence, Lord Jesus, what is
it that you've done?
For whom are you suffering, for whom
are you dying?
Ever so sadly, pathetically,
For whom are you dying, for whom
agonizing?

Now condemned is God's own loved
Son, to a death most shameful,
On a cross He is raised for me, wound-
ed, bruised—so painful;
For sin and anger, injustice and hate,
Loving and forgiving, see God's Son is
dying.

See Christ's suffering and torture—
hands with nails are wounded;
Feet which walked to heal, now nail-
pierced, to the cross are fastened,
For sin and anger, injustice and hate,
Suffering such torment, his hands and
feet are spent.

Sinners troubled by sad failures, Chris-
tians most ungrateful,
For the wayward ways of creatures,
Jesus has been wounded.
Restrain your anger, rash-judging
and pride,
Focus on Christ's suffering, for you and
all He died.

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.

FREE

Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union



First Catholic Slovak Union

Estate Planning Booklet



Your Personal Record Keeper

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

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

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

Plan ahead and leave a positive legacy behind

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

According to a recent article in TIME magazine the cost of a funeral is between \$6,000 and \$15,000 with an average of \$7,775?

Don't leave a financial burden for your family or loved ones.

Inquire today about
**FINAL EXPENSE
INSURANCE**

The sooner you do, the less it costs!

Call 800.533.6682 or visit www.fcsu.com



FCSU Financial - First Catholic Slovak Union
Contact Branch Officer or the Home Office

6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131, 800.533.6682,
www.fcsu.com, insurance@fcsu.com



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society- Branch 1 will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. At this meeting they will elect the delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions please call 216.228.8179.

Cynthia Niznik, Secretary

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

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

Fraternally

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 3P – HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mike Koval, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

At its recent March 9th meeting, the branch decided to reschedule its next meeting from April 13 to April 27, 2014, as this year April 13th falls on Palm Sunday. The meeting will be held after the Mass, at approximately 9:30AM, in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT. All members are encouraged to attend.

Fraternally,

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 55 – BROOMHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 55 K.J. will hold a meeting on Sunday, May 4, 2014, at 2:00 P.M. at the residence of Steve and Josephine Gerba at the Wesley Enhanced Living Complex, 8401 Roosevelt Boulevard, Apt. P114, Philadelphia, PA. Elections will be held for Delegates and their Alternates to the FCSU's 50th Quadrennial Convention. This 2014 Convention will be held in Philadelphia, and hosted at the Sheraton Downtown Philadelphia Hotel on August 23-27, 2014.

If you wish to attend, please call the President at (610) 356-7956 or the Secretary at (215) 637-6530, as we need a head count for the lunch that will be catered. For directions to the meeting, please call either number.

Fraternally yours,

Helena T. Gaydos, President

BRANCH 85 – BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Florian Society, Branch 85K, will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at 7:00PM at the Jessup American Legion Post 411, Church ST., Jessup, PA.

The agenda will include the election of delegates to the 2014 Convention of the FCSU to be held in Philadelphia, PA, August 23 – 27, 2014.

Bernard Skovira, President

BRANCH 199 - HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Sincerely,

Barbara Patula, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold their next meeting on Monday, April 21, 2014 at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 15, 2014. 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. This is the convention year and a lot of items will be discussed at our meetings. Input from any and all members is appreciated. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. Come to our meetings. You won't be disappointed.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 254 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 254 will hold a meeting on Sunday, May 4, 2014, at noon at Panera's Restaurant in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria Mall located at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Albina Senko at 412-343-5031.

**Albina Senko,
Financial Secretary/ Treasurer**

BRANCH 266 - HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The semi-annual meeting of St. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 266, will be held on Sunday May 18, 2014, at 9:45 am at the United Church of Christ Hall at 21 Faith Drive, West Hazleton, PA. All members are invited to attend. Election of delegates to the upcoming 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union in Philadelphia in August of 2014 will be conducted

at this meeting. A buffet breakfast will be provided by the Pardeesville Christian Association for all branch attendees. For more information, and to get directions if needed, contact R. Lazar or any other branch officer.

Richard Lazar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 276 MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Nancy Gerdich, Rec. Sec.

BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

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

Joseph F. Minarovich, President

BRANCH 293 – LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Fraternally,

Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 313 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

Joseph Bugel, President

BRANCH 320 – STOCKDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 320 will hold its next meeting on May 4, 2014, at 11:30AM at the home of Frances Tarquinio at 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. The agenda will include the election of delegates to the 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU, along with other items. Any questions, please call Frances at (724) 929-9788.

Fraternally,

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

On the agenda will be information on

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

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

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

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

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

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 419 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 419 will hold a meeting/luncheon on Sunday, April 27, 2014 at 12:30PM at Norm's on Sherman Street in Wilkes-Barre, PA. General business as well as convention plans will be discussed. Also we will pay tribute to our recent past president, Marie Gryczko.

Francis (Frank) Wassil, President

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 450 will be holding a meeting on Saturday April 26, 2014 at 10 am at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma Ohio 44129. (between Snow and Brookpark Roads).

Lori Valencik, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Branch 595 will hold its next meeting at 2:00PM, May 18, 2014. It will be held at 2526 Sixth Street, Muskegon Hts., MI, 49444. All members are encouraged to attend and to show support of the organization and branch.

Branch 595 also will be having a HARD TIMES PARTY on April 26, 2014. Donate your used household items and receive a dinner ticket for a wonderful BBQ, CHIPS, PICKLE & DESSERT. There will be raffles, 50/50 drawings, silent auctions and fun for everyone. April 27, 2014 is our breakfast. Make sure you invite your family and friends to meet them for a nice Sunday Breakfast.

Fraternally,

Cindy Bellefeuil, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 633 – FLINT, MICHIGAN

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 633, will hold its first meeting of 2014 at 1:00PM on Saturday, April 26, 2014, at Teppanyaki Grill & Buffet at G-3583 Miller Road in Flint (former Old Country Buffet) by the Target store. All members are urged to attend.

Eva Craine, Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 670 will hold its next meeting on May 4, 2014, at 12:00 PM at King's Restaurant located in Bentleyville, PA. The agenda will include the election of delegates to the

continued on page 17

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 3 - GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT – WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 26, 2014 following the 5:00P.M. Mass at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church, United, PA. The meeting will take place in the Formation Room of the Convent. On the agenda will be the election of one delegate and one alternate for the FCSU 2014 Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia, PA. All branches are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

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

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

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

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

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

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

** Slovak Day at Kennywood – Thursday, July 17. Discount tickets will be available at our

Fathers Day Brunch on June 15 or email Sue at smosr@verizon.net.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

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

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

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

Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 11 – MONSIGNOR JOSEPH TISO DISTRICT

District 11 will be holding its biannual meeting on Sunday, April 27th at the Slovak Club Br. 200 located at 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA @ 2:00 pm. Delegate nomination & election will be held for representation at the 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU in Philadelphia, PA. Please send a branch representative to the meeting. Look forward to seeing each of you!

Fraternally,

Grace Charney, Secretary

DISTRICT 12 – MONSIGNOR ANDREW HLINKA

District 12 will hold its next meeting on May 4, 2014, at 1:00PM at King's Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. The agenda will include the election of our delegates to the 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU, along with other items. Any questions, please call Dorothy at (724) 379-5881.

Fraternally,

Dorothy Petrus, President

DISTRICT 14 – REV JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

The Rev. Kostik District will hold a special meeting, Tuesday, April 29, 2014, 6:00PM. Please note the meeting place has been changed to: Inner Circle Pizza, 1816 Boardman Poland Rd, Rt. 224, Poland, OH. Delegate nomination and election will be held for representation at the 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU in Philadelphia, PA. All member branches are urged to attend. The district is also planning bus transportation to the convention. Any one interested from Youngstown/Akron area please call Carla Peshek at 330-779-3927 for more information.

Fraternally,

Carla Peshek, President

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

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

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

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

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

Fraternally,

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary/Treasurer

ALL – NEW TOURS! VISIT SLOVAKIA & THE WORLD



At the First Catholic Slovak Union, we are constantly updating our website to make it more useful, more informative – fresher. We have just added an entirely new list of tours to Slovakia guided by FCSU members under our informational tab called SLOVAKIA & THE WORLD. Here you can also find information on news and views related to our shared heritage – such as the latest video highlighting beautiful Slovakia.

Visit www.fcsu.com/slovakia-and-the-world today.

R

eminder...

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

OBITUARIES

Donna Marie Senko, the daughter of Joe and Albina Senko, passed into Eternal Life on April 4, 2014.

Below is her obituary along with memorial information. Joe has been Honorary Slovak Consul in Pittsburgh for many years, very active in the Slovak community and Treasurer of Jednota Properties, Inc.

May her Soul rest in eternal peace with Our Lord.
Fraternally,

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Donna Marie Senko Hilliard New York Formerly of Pittsburgh

Donna Marie Senko, 51, of New York died with her family by her side on April 4th, after a year-long struggle with cancer. Until her death, she was the beloved wife for 7 years to William Hilliard of New York; daughter of Joe and Albina Senko of Mt. Lebanon; sister of Ted (Cindy) of Vail, Colorado; Matthew (Cathy) of Whitehall; Katherine (Frank) Yarussi of Cafayate, Argentina; Christina (Stuart) Mitchell of Mt. Lebanon; and of the late John Senko of Kendall, Florida. She is also survived by 10 nephews and nieces and her beloved Shih Tzu, Madison.

Donna graduated from Chatham University. She and her husband were associate brokers at Sotheby's International Realty in New York City.

On Wednesday, April 9th, the family received friends and relatives from 4pm to 6pm at the Church of the Holy Family, 315 E. 47th Street, New York City.

A funeral Mass was held on Thursday, April 10th, at 10 am in the Church of the Holy Family, 315 E. 47th St., New York City, where she served on the church council.

On Saturday, April 12th, from 10 am to 11:30 am, the family met with friends and relatives at Laughlin Memorial Chapel, 222 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon followed by a memorial mass at noon at St. Bernard Church, 311 Washington Rd. in Mt Lebanon. A private interment took place at Jefferson Memorial Park, 301 Curry Hollow Road, Pleasant Hills. In lieu of flowers and in observance of the Lenten season, the family suggests memorial contributions to:

Glen Wild Animal Rescue

POB 75
South Kortright, NY 13842
917-553-0591
<http://www.glenwildanimalrescue.org>

or

Mary's Garden

Church of the Holy Family
315 East 47th Street
New York, NY 10017-2301
212-753-3401
<http://www.churchholysfamily.org/geninfo.html>

**LEONARD "LENNY" GOSTINSKI
BRANCH 16P –
WEST WYOMING,
PENNSYLVANIA**



Leonard "Lenny" Gostinski, 86, of Scottsdale went home to be with Our Lord on December 12, 2013. Lenny was born in Swoyersville, PA, married the love of his life, Bette, in 1950, and moved to Scottsdale in 1957. Lenny was a World War II veteran. He was a civil engineer, working for Bellante & Clauss early in his career; left to join Wiley & Associates, and ultimately owned the company upon his retirement. Lenny was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis, and enjoyed golf and baseball. Lenny will best be remembered for his faith, his devotion to God and family, and his wonderful sense of humor. He loved to leave a smile wherever he went. Lenny was predeceased by his beloved wife of 58 years, Bette. He leaves loving memories to be cherished by his children, Linda, Matt and his wife Vicki; his sister-in-law Barbara; and his grandchildren who he adored, Will and Phylcia. Lenny's life was celebrated on Saturday, December

21, 2013, at St. Daniel's Catholic Church, 1030 N. Hayden Road, Scottsdale, with a Memorial Mass at 11:30 a.m. and a reception with a light lunch that followed. I

**FATHER AUGUSTINE
KAPINUS, OFM
CONV.
BRANCH 166 –
WINDSOR, NEW
YORK**



Father Augustine Kapinus, OFM Conv., died on March 6, 2014 at University Hospital in Syracuse, NY. He was born on April 17, 1931 in Jermyn, PA, to the late George and Mildred Kapinus. He is survived by two brothers, Edward (Barbara) and Richard (Kathleen) Kapinus, as well as several nieces and nephews. Father Augustine was professed as a Conventual Franciscan Friar on August 27, 1952 in Middleburgh, NY and made his solemn profession of vows on September 17, 1955 in Rensselaer, NY. He was ordained to the priesthood in Washington, DC on February 8, 1958. He spent his years in ministry as a teacher and as a parochial minister. He served as a teacher in Trenton, NJ, Staten Island, NY, and Callicoon, NY. He served as an Associate Pastor at SS. Cyril & Method Church,

Binghamton, NY; Immaculate Conception, Trenton, NJ; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Seaside Heights, NJ; St. Francis, Bridgeport, NY; St. Mary's, Minoa, NY. He was also pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Tribes Hills, NY and St. Ann's Church, Northville, NY. For the last two years, he was a member of the Franciscan community of St. Francis Friary in Bridgeport, NY. At the time of his passing, he was a resident at Central Park Nursing Home in Syracuse. Calling hours were held on Monday, March 10, 2014 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at his home parish, SS. Cyril & Method Church, Binghamton, NY, where there was also a Franciscan Wake Service at 7:00 p.m. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at SS. Cyril & Method Church on Tuesday, March 11 at 11 a.m. Interment followed at the Slovak Catholic Cemetery in Binghamton.

**JAMES A.
CHERVENAK, DDS
BRANCH 292 –
WINDBER,
PENNSYLVANIA**



Chervenak, James A. D.D.S. Born October 19, 1930 in Portage, PA. Died February 5, 2014 in Destin, FL. Jim graduated from Portage Township High School (valedictorian) in 1948. His pre-dental schooling was at his beloved Penn State University, with his

doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dentistry. During the Korean War he enlisted in the Navy and upon graduation was assigned to the 1st Marine Division Fleet Marine Force PAC. After his Navy tour he moved to MN and established his practice in St. Michael. In 1960 he married Lorraine Sterner. Together they raised their three children in St. Michael. Lorraine died in 1990. On Feb. 23, 1996 Jim married Connie Anderson of Chicago City. Jim is survived by his wife, Connie; his children, Thomas (Patti), Patrick (Shelley) & Maria (Jerry) Foster; six grandchildren. Connie's children, Tami (David) Newcomb, Linda (Joel) Fisk, Patti (Pat) Reicherts & Angie (Lenny) Koch; eleven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Many other dearly loved relatives and friends. A memorial gathering was held from 5-8 pm on Thursday, February 20, 2014 at Grandstrand Funeral Home in Lindstrom, MN, one hour prior to Mass at church. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Friday, February 21, 2014 at St. Michael Catholic Church, St. Michael, MN. Interment followed in St. Michael Catholic Cemetery in St. Michael.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY				
AS OF APRIL 1, 2014 THE FOLLOWING BRANCHES DID NOT MEET				
THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THEIR 2013 BRANCH STIPEND				
PER BYLAW 4.05 FINANCIAL OBLIGATION				
Branch #	Branch #	Branch #	Branch #	Branch #
001P	163K	315K	434K	700K
004K	164K	319K	456K	701K
010K	165K	321P	461K	702K
016P	175K	322K	465K	704K
023K	189K	324K	472K	714K
041K	189P	326K	487K	717K
053K	198P	327K	497K	729K
064K	200K	330K	505K	733K
083K	211K	333K	510K	735K
086K	215K	335K	512K	748K
090K	221K	348K	514K	754K
096K	224K	353K	517K	756K
098K	226P	353P	543K	774K
102K	233K	358K	571K	777K
108K	238K	362K	584K	780K
110K	240P	368K	586K	788K
114P	266K	373K	591K	823K
121K	270K	381K	600K	831K
122K	278K	388K	615K	852K
124K	279K	401K	618K	853K
128K	280K	402K	633K	858K
132K	294K	403K	635K	862K
136K	299K	404K	636K	888K
144P	308K	414K	638K	890K
149K	310P	417K	652K	
152K	312K	429K	667K	
156K	313K	430K	686K	

Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport 2014 Scholarship



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

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

Deadline for the return of forms is May 12, 2014. Recipients will be notified by June 2, 2014, and the award will be presented at the June meeting. NOTE: the Scholarship award will be paid directly to the recipient's school.

Fraternally,

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

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

2014 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU, along with other items. Any questions, please call Dorothy at (724) 379-5881.

Fraternally,

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

On Sunday, April 27, 2014 at 2:30PM, Branch 682 will hold a special meeting to elect delegates from the branch to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU. It will be held at MRL, 290 N. Bridge St., Struthers, OH. This is the former school building behind Holy Trinity Church.

Please try to attend.

Thank you,

Andrew J. Hirt, President

BRANCH 721 –

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 769 – ENDICOTT, NEW YORK

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

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

Henry J. Pochily, President

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Branch 855 hereby gives notice to all members of a meeting to be held on April 27, 2014, in the Borromeo Room of the Parish Activity Center of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church at 5891 Ridge Road, Parma, OH 44129. The purpose of the meeting is the election of eight [8] delegates and alternate delegates from our branch to the upcoming 2014 National Convention. The meeting will convene at 2:00PM. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Linda Kolesar at 1-440-886-0206 by April 18, 2014 if you plan on attending.

Linda Kolesar, Secretary-Treasurer



Kent-Dudince Sister City Association

Eleventh Annual Anniversary Banquet Sunday, May 18, 2014

Kent Elks Lodge Hall

Elks Lane -- State Route 59
(behind Twin Star Bowling Lanes - 2245 State Route 59)

1:00 pm -- Social Hour 2:00 pm -- Dinner 3:00 pm -- Program

Music by Johnny Pastirik during Social Hour and Dinner

Dancing following the program

Pittsburgh Slovaks

Sue and Rudy Ondrejco, Directors

Lucina Slovak Folk Ensemble of Greater Cleveland

Nadia Oros, Choreography Tom Ivanec, Director/Program Coordinator

Tickets - \$20.00 per person

Catered by Tom's Country Place of Avon, Ohio

Advance ticket sales only

Deadline for purchasing tickets: May 9, 2014

Ticket orders with directions will be mailed. Please include names of all guests.

Donation of Baked Goods would be appreciated

Ticket Order Form ---- Kent-Dudince Sister City ---- Anniversary Banquet

Name: _____ Number of Tickets _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

List others attending (if known) _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip _____

Ticket orders with directions will be mailed

Make Check payable to: Kent-Dudince Sister City Association

Mail to: Dr. George Wargo, Treasurer,

858 Stonewater Drive, Kent, Ohio 44240 (330-677-9094)



2014 September Slovakia Heritage Tour to End in Krakow

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

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

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

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2013 HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

(TELECONFERENCE)**OPEN MEETING**

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and asked the National Chaplain, Fr. Thomas Nasta, to offer the opening prayer.

ANTHEMS

The President asked Susan Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Directors, to lead in the singing of the anthems.

ROLL CALL

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call:
 Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain – present via telephone;
 Andrew M. Rajec, National President – present;
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President – present via telephone
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary - present;
 George F. Matta, National Treasurer – present; via telephone;
 Karen M. Hunka, Chairman of Auditors – present via telephone;
 Susan M. Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director – present via telephone;
 Joseph F. Minarovich, Regional Director, Region 1 –present via telephone;
 Damian Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2 – present via telephone;
 Carl Ungvarsky, Regional Director, Region 3 – present via telephone;
 James Marmol, Regional Director, Region 4 – present via telephone;
 Regis P. Brekosky, Regional Director, Region 5 – present via telephone
 Henry Hassay, Regional Director, Region 6 – present via telephone
 Rudolph Bernath, Regional Director, Region 7 – present via telephone
 Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Regions 8 – present via telephone;
 Gary J. Matta, General Counsel – present via telephone;

All present and accounted for.

READING OF THE CALL

The Executive Secretary then read the Call to the Quarterly Meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2013 BOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by James Marmol to accept the minutes as corrected of the September 20-21, 2013 Board of Directors Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Quarterly Meeting which had previously been sent to all the Board members and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the agenda and to allow the President to change the order if necessary. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President presented his report.

Investment Update

President Rajec reviewed the written reports submitted by the Executive Secretary to the Board of Directors on the complete update of all MPAM, UBS, and MAI investments and all current transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

Convention

President Rajec stated the plans for the 2014 Convention being held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania were under way and he planned to have everything finalized real soon.

Annuity Rates

The President stated that as of December, 2013 the rates will remain as follows:

Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.60% apy
Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.20% apy
With the "Cash Interest" Option	2.95% apy
New Six Year Fixed Rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.10% apy
New "Park 2 Annuity"	2.15% apy

Budget

Executive Secretary Arendt gave an extensive report on the comparison of the 2013 budget versus the actual expenditures for 2013. The Executive Secretary presented the proposed budget for 2014 and answered all the Board's questions. A motion was made by Carl Ungvarsky and seconded by Damian Nasta to accept the 2014 budget as presented. Motion was carried.

Tri-Annual Audit

The President stated the State of Ohio Department of Insurance will begin their Tri-annual Audit of FCSU in early January 2014 and the projected end date is March 2014. The Board of directors will be updated as more information becomes available.

Centimark Corporation

The President updated the Board of Directors on the progress of the new roof project at the Home Office. The President stated the project has been started; however the bad weather is causing an issue. The President stated he is hoping for a break in the weather to complete the project.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR FIRST QUARTER 2013Executive Secretary's Report

Secretary Arendt presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the first three quarters of 2013. After his report he answered the Board's questions. The Executive Secretary stated that the 2013 third quarter Financial Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

Portfolio Custodian

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

AQS – ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC.

Larry White, of AQS Asset Management Company, LLC, presented his report to the Board via teleconference. A copy of his presentation was distributed to each Board Member prior to the meeting. Following his report, he answered all the Board's questions.

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

The Vice President reviewed the sales production by Districts and also by General Agents and Independent Agents and answered the Board's questions.

The Vice President updated the Board on the recruiting process for independent agents to sell our products. He informed the Board that we have 170 agents.

The Vice President stated he has begun setting dates for seminars in 2014 and encouraged the Regional Directors to contact him regarding seminars within their region.

The Vice President reported the 7-day Caribbean Membership Cruise on the Crown Princess from November 9-16, 2013 was very successful. There were over 80 attendees. We are planning for an independent agent event for 2015; other fraternal are doing these events as sales motivators.

DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

Director of Fraternal Activities, Susan Ondrejco, presented her report and stated the Photo Contest is over and the checks have been sent. The contest results will be announced in the January issue of the Jednota newspaper.

Activities Director Ondrejco announced the Bowling Tournament will be held April 25-26, 2014 in Mount Lebanon, Pennsylvania. The entry information will be published in the newspaper. The FCSU Golf Tournament will be July 20-21, 2014; however, the final location has not been determined as yet. There will be no joint ventures this year with the Slovak Catholic Sokol because both sides were not able to agree on dates or sites.

The Activities Director announced the FCSU National Family Picnic will not take place in 2014 since we do not have a picnic the same year as our convention.

CHAIRMAN OF AUDITOR'S REPORT

Chairman of Auditors Karen Hunka presented the Auditor's Report for the third quarter of 2013, and answered the Board's questions. She stated that the Internal Auditors conducted a thorough audit and found everything was in order.

PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTSExecutive Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Executive Committee Meetings. He stated that in accordance with the Bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Executive Committee meets monthly and whenever else it is necessary to take care of the business of the Society.

Investments

The Executive Secretary stated all investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the investment policy adopted by the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee members work very closely with AQS Asset Management Company and all investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee.

Scholarships

The FCSU Scholarship applications for graduating seniors in 2014 are ready and will be mailed out upon request and placed on our website. The Jednota Benevolent Scholarship

continued on page 20

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, FERUARY 14, 2014

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN:

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

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
 George F. Matta, Treasurer (via telephone)
 Carl Ungvarsky, Regional Director
 (rotating Director via telephone)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE JANUARY MEETING MINUTES:

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., gave his extensive Investment Portfolio transaction report via Telephone. Each member of the Executive Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, Mr. White answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The President led an extensive review of the current annuity rates, the Executive Committee decided to extend the present rates. These rates will be reviewed at the March meeting.

INVESTMENT UPDATES:

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

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

Disbursements for the month of January 2014:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 247,692.30
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 24,514.84
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.

PORTFOLIO REVIEW:

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

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

The Vice President stated he is still scheduling seminars for 2014 and asked for the Regional Directors to contact him with available dates. The Vice President announced there will be a sales seminar in Catasauqua, Pennsylvania for District 8 on March 23, 2014.

The Vice President stated we are still discussing our current commission rates. As more information is obtained, the matter will be discussed further at the March meeting.

ADVERTISING:

The Executive Secretary stated we have been advertising the IRA and Roth products in our mailings, on the website, and through e-mail.

The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that we have received excellent response from our members on the Personal Estate Planning Booklets. The booklet is a fraternal benefit and is still available to all members upon request.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President stated the convention planning in Philadelphia is going very well. The President said the Annual March Board of Directors Meeting will be held in Philadelphia, the site of the convention. He announced the Board will have a tour of the hotel and see the space that will be used for our convention.

The Executive Secretary stated he has begun the process of certifying the delegate credential forms. Once a delegate is certified, a letter of acknowledgement will go out to him or her along with a tentative schedule and information on how to register at the hotel.

The President updated the Executive Committee on the progress of the new roof Centimark Corporation is contracted to do. The President stated as soon as the weather breaks and work can resume, it will only take 3 or 4 days to complete.

The Executive Secretary stated the 2013 Financial Statement is nearing completion and will be filed with the State of Ohio and the other states we are licensed in prior to the March 1st due date.

The President stated he and Regional Director James Marmol are working on adjusting the cost of material for the Middletown Memorial Project. The President discussed the plan of having members or branches sponsor a granite brick as memorials. Construction bids are being reviewed.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

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

ADJOURN:

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec
 President

Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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News From Slovakia

Volkswagen Slovakia Produced Most Cars in Its History in 2013

Bratislava, March 27 (TASR) - Carmaker Volkswagen Slovakia (VW SK) produced 426,313 vehicles last year, which when compared to 2012 is an increase of 1.5 percent, representatives of the company announced at a press conference at the Bratislava plant on this date.

"In 2013, we produced the highest number of vehicles in our 23-year history. We are thus at the edge of our production capacity. The Factory of the Year award for 2013 for outstanding mass production, which we will be awarded on April 1, 2014, shows how successful we are," said Volkswagen Slovakia board chairman Albrecht Reimold.

The Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) made up 51 percent of production, while City cars from the New Small Family line accounted for 49 percent. Last year, the Bratislava plant produced 268,500 gear-boxes. Production of components at the Volkswagen Slovakia Martin plant increased by 17.5 percent to 32.9 million pieces.

The company's turnover of €6.5 billion in 2013 is viewed as stable. Profits before tax amounted to €176 million. The company invested €351.9 million in Slovakia, with the money directed mainly at the construction of a new press shop and car-body shop. In total, 9,400 employees worked at Volkswagen Slovakia in 2013.

Exports from VW SK last year amounted to €6.48 billion, with 99.8 percent of the vehicles produced going abroad. The largest export markets were Germany with a 33.7-percent share, China on 19.9 percent and the United States on 10.4 percent.

Fico and Orban Open Slovak-Hungarian Gas-pipeline Link

Szada, March 27 (TASR-correspondent) – Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico and his Hungarian counterpart Viktor Orban on this date symbolically opened a connection of the Slovak and Hungarian gas-pipeline networks near the village of Szada, 28 kilometers north-east of Budapest.

The connection is part of the North-South corridor, which in the future will allow transit of gas from Poland up to Croatia.

The prime ministers at the meeting also signed a memorandum on development of road infrastructure.

Orban in Brussels last week stated that the Slovak-Hungarian gas-pipeline connection, which has been financially supported by the EU, fulfills not only business but also energy security requirements. According to the Hungarian premier, this connection will allow Hungary to receive for the first time ever non-Russian gas (coming via Ukraine), as the Hungarian network is now connected via Slovakia to the Czech gas system [which is also supplied by Norwegian gas – ed. note].

The new two-way gas pipeline with the annual capacity of 5 million cubic metres is 111-kilometres long, of which 94 kilometers is on the Hungarian territory. The project has cost €160 million, with the EU contributing €30 million via the European Energy Program for Recovery funds.

Official Results: Andrej Kiska Elected Slovak President

Bratislava, March 30 (TASR) - Businessman-turned-philanthropist Andrej Kiska was elected president of Slovakia in the second round of the 2014 presidential election held on Saturday, March 29, against Prime Minister Robert Fico, according to the official results of the vote released by the Central Electoral Commission (UVK).

Based on the results, Kiska garnered a total of 1,307,065 votes or 59.4 percent, compared to Fico, who received 893,841 votes, or 40.6 percent of the vote.

UVK added that of the total of 2,223,812 ballots that were cast on Saturday, 23,806 ballots were invalid, which slightly exceeded 1 percent of all the votes.

The voter turnout in the second round stood at 50.48 percent, which was roughly 7 percentage points higher than in the first round on March 15. The highest turnout was recorded in the electoral district of Senec (Bratislava region), where it stood at 60.88 percent. Conversely, the poorest figure was posted for the electoral district of Trebisov (Kosice region) with 38.78 percent.

"From the point of view of the Interior Ministry, the election was peaceful," said UVK's Eva Chmelova, adding that they didn't record any disturbances. As added by Statistics Office head Ludmila Benkovicova, the results of the vote were processed by the Office in a professional manner and was without problems.

Kiska is due to be sworn in on June 15, when the five-year term of incumbent President Ivan Gasparovic expires.

Kiska: I'll Return Trustworthiness to Post of President

Bratislava, March 30 (TASR) - Newly-elected Slovak president Andrej Kiska at his first press conference on this date promised the public that he will return trustworthiness to the post of president, and will represent all decent people in the country.

Kiska won the presidential election on 59.4 percent of the vote.

"I promise that I'll attempt to ... make our politics more humane," said Kiska. He thanked all voters who came to the polls, and especially those who voted for him, giving him what he described as a strong mandate.

"I've promised to be a president of all citizens and that I'll connect and motivate people. Slovakia is a country of amazing people, and it's only up to us to use everything we have to be able to be proud of our country, to make young people want to live here and feel good," said Kiska.

Kiska didn't provide any comments on the result of his rival Robert Fico.

Fico at a brief press conference before Kiska's conceded his defeat and congratulated Kiska on his victory in the run-off.

"Mr. Kiska, congratulations," said Fico at the press conference, without provision for any questions from journalists.

Fico thanked all supporters and announced that he'd like to analyze the result in the coming days.

Lajcak: Slovakia to Adopt Measures in Line with New NATO Strategy

Brussels, April 2 (TASR-correspondent) - Slovak Foreign and European Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak stated in Brussels on this date that he'll inform the top echelons of the state about the results of the conference of NATO ministers so that measures can be adopted in line with the new NATO strategy, which reflects the changed security situation in Europe.

"While the Alliance had been focusing on operations far from its borders over the past ten years, there's now the need to boost measures within its territory," said Lajcak.

"The security threats are to the east of NATO's borders," said Lajcak, noting that Slovakia is in the eastern-most region of the Alliance. He added that no details, such as probable NATO military drills on Slovak territory, were discussed in Brussels.

NATO confirmed a temporary freeze on technical and political relations with Russia due to its engagement in Crimea.

"It was stated that de-escalation needs to come from the Russian side as the escalation came from there. We're ready to re-evaluate [the measures] at any time," Lajcak told TASR, adding that the announced withdrawal of some Russian troops from Crimea hasn't been evaluated by NATO as a de-escalation of tension.

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting

continued from page 18

Program is completed for this year. The winners have been announced and notified, and the announcement has been printed in the Jednota newspapers.

MISCELLANEOUS

Middletown Memorial Project

The President stated he and Regional Director James Marmol are working with a design firm and a contractor for the project and the work is expected to begin in the spring dependent on the weather.

A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Father Thomas Nasta to accept all reports as presented. Motion was carried.

PAYMENTS OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by James Marmol to pay all the bills associated with the meeting as presented. Motion carried.

DONATIONS

Donation requests were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Joseph Minarovich to adjourn. Motion carried.

The President asked Father Thomas Nasta to end the meeting with a prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

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

Správy zo Slovenska

AUTO: Volkswagen Slovakia vyrobil vlni najviac vozidiel v histórii

Bratislava 27. marca (TASR) – Automobilová spoločnosť Volkswagen Slovakia (VW SK) vyrobila minulý rok 426.313 vozidiel. Oproti roku 2012 ide o nárast o 1,5 %. Na dnešnej tlačovej konferencii v sídle závodu v Bratislave o tom informovali zástupcovia spoločnosti.

„V roku 2013 sme vyrobili najviac vozidiel v našej 23-ročnej histórii. Pohybujeme sa tak na hrane našich produkčných kapacít. Ako sme pritom úspešní, ukazuje ocenenie Fabrika roka 2013 za vynikajúcu veľkosériovú výrobu, ktoré si prevezmeme 1. apríla 2014,“ uviedol predseda predstavenstva a. s. VW SK Albrecht Reimold. Vozidlá Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) dosiahli 51-% podiel na výrobe. Mestské automobily radu New Small Family tvorili 49 %. Vlni vyrobil bratislavský závod 268.500 prevodoviek. Produkcia komponentov v martinskom závode vzrástla o 17,5 % na 32,9 milióna vyrobených komponentov.

Obrat spoločnosti vo výške 6,5 miliardy eur predstavoval v roku 2013 stabilnú úroveň. Zisk pred zdanením dosiahol 176 miliónov eur. Firma na Slovensku investovala 351,9 milióna eur, ktoré smerovali najmä do výstavby novej lisovne a karosárne. V koncerne pracovalo 9400 zamestnancov.

Export VW SK zaznamenal vlni hodnotu 6,48 miliardy eur. Do zahraničia smerovalo 99,8 % vyrobených vozidiel. Najväčšími exportnými trmi boli s podielom 33,7 % Nemecko, ďalej Čína s 19,9 % a Spojené štáty americké s 10,4 %.

PLYN: Fico s Orbánom otvorili prepojenie sietí plynovodov SR a Maďarska

Szada 27. marca (TASR) - Predseda vlády SR Robert Fico spolu s maďarským premiérom Viktorom Orbánom dnes v obci Szada, nachádzajúcej sa 28 kilometrov severovýchodne od Budapešti, symbolicky otvorili prepojenie slovenskej a maďarskej siete plynovodov. Prepojenie je dôležitou súčasťou severojužného koridoru, ktorý v budúcnosti umožní tranzit plynu od Poľska až po Chorvátsko.

Súčasťou schôdzky predsedov vlád bolo aj slávnostné podpísanie memoranda v oblasti rozvoja cestných komunikácií. Orbán vyhlásil, že slovensko-maďarské prepojenie plynovodu s finančnou podporou Európskej únie (EÚ) spĺňa nielen obchodné, ale aj bezpečnostné požiadavky. „Existuje nielen cena energií, ale aj energetická bezpečnosť,“ spresnil. Podľa predsedu maďarskej vlády sa po prvý raz naskytne možnosť, aby potrubím prúdil do Maďarska neruský plyn. Plynovod umožní prepojenie s českou sieťou a v krízovom prípade odtiaľ do Maďarska možno prepraviť zemný plyn.

Obojsmerný plynovod s ročnou kapacitou 5 miliónov kubických metrov (m3) má dĺžku 111 kilometrov, z toho 94 kilometrov na území Maďarska a 21 kilometrov na slovenskom území.

Hodnota projektu sa odhaduje na 160 miliónov eur. Projekt, ktorý je podporený z Európskeho energetického programu pre obnovu (EEPR) sumou 30 miliónov eur významným spôsobom prispeje k európskej energetickej bezpečnosti a diverzifikácii prepravných trás.

PREZIDENT14: Novým slovenským prezidentom sa stane Andrej Kiska

Bratislava 30. marca (TASR) - Víťazom druhého kola prezidentských volieb je a novým slovenským prezidentom sa stane Andrej Kiska. Vyplyva to z oficiálnych výsledkov volieb, ktoré dnes zverejnila Ústredná volebná komisia (ÚVK).

V absolútnych číslach volilo A. Kisku 1.307.065 a R. Fica 893.841 obyvateľov. Volebná účasť dosiahla 50.48 percenta.

Andrej Kiska sa ujme funkcie prezidenta SR zložením sľubu. Skladať ho bude 15. júna, keď sa skončí funkčné obdobie súčasnej hlavy štátu Ivanovi Gašparovičovi.

A. KISKA: Budem stáť za každým slušným človekom našej krajiny

Bratislava 30. marca (TASR) - Ako prezident vrátim dôveru v prezidentský úrad. Do tohto boja som vchádzal kvôli ľuďom našej krajiny a svoj sľub splním. Budem stáť za ľuďmi, za každým slušným človekom našej krajiny. Na svojej prvej tlačovej konferencii to dnes vyhlásil novozvolený prezident SR Andrej Kiska.

„Sľubujem, že to, čo tak veľmi potrebujeme, sa pokúsím naplniť. Poľudšitiť našu politiku a pokúsím sa vrátiť dôveru v slušné slovo. Ako prezident spravím všetko preto, aby sa politika stala ľudskejšia,“ avizoval. Kiska zároveň poďakoval všetkým voličom, že prišli k urnám a dali mu ako prezidentovi silný mandát. „Vďaka nim budem za chvíľu novým prezidentom Slovenska,“ vyhlásil za búrlivého potlesku priaznivcov.

Kiska deklaroval, že to, čo sľúbil, aj splní. „Sľúbil som, že budem prezidentom všetkých občanov a že budem ľudí spájať a motivovať. Slovensko je krajina úžasných ľudí a je len na nás, ako to všetko, čo tu máme, využijeme preto, aby sme mohli byť pyšní na našu krajinu, aby mladí ľudia tu chceli žiť a aby sme sa tu cítili dobre,“ povedal. Výsledok svojho súpera Roberta Fica (Smer-SD) nekomentoval.

M. LAJČÁK: Budem informovať najvyššie vedenie štátu o novej stratégii NATO

Bratislava/Brusel 2. apríla (TASR) - Šéf slovenskej diplomacie Miroslav Lajčák dnes uviedol, že o záveroch konferencie ministrov zahraničných vecí NATO v Bruseli bude v najbližších dňoch informovať najvyššie vedenie štátu a následne aj slovenská strana prijme potrebné opatrenia, ktoré budú v súlade s novou stratégiou Severoatlantickej aliancie k zmenenej bezpečnostnej situácii v Európe.

Lajčák upozornil, že počas utorňajšej pracovnej večere ministrov a predstaviteľov aliancie sa všetci zhodli na tom, že v posledných týždňoch sa bezpečnostná situácia v Európe zásadne zmenila a NATO na to musí reagovať. „Kým ostatných desať rokov sa aliancia sústreďovala hlavne na operácie ďaleko za svojimi hranicami, teraz je nápor na posilnenie opatrení do vnútra svojho územia,“ uviedol Lajčák. „Bezpečnostné hrozby sú na východ od hraníc aliancie, kde sa nachádza aj Slovenská republika,“ upozornil minister. A dodal, že o detailoch, ako napríklad možných cvičeniach jednotiek aliancie na slovenskom území, sa v Bruseli nehovorilo.

Diplomati aliancie v utorok potvrdili dočasné zmrazenie technických vzťahov a zníženie úrovne politického dialógu s Ruskou federáciou vzhľadom na jej angažovanie sa na Kryme. Na otázku TASR, či ide o časovo ohraničené opatrenie, Lajčák uviedol, že aliancia bude priebežne vyhodnocovať situáciu, pričom k zmene postoja môže dôjsť na ďalšej ministerskej konferencii NATO v júni.

„Bolo konštatované, že deeskalácia napätia musí prísť z ruskej strany, tak ako eskalácia prišla od nich. My sme pripravení to hneď prehodnotiť,“ zhodnotil situáciu Lajčák. Podľa jeho slov deeskalácie je to, čo si členovia NATO vyhodnotia ako skutočné zníženie napätia. A spresnil, že napríklad avizovaný odchod časti ruských vojsk z Krymu nebol alianciou ohodnotený ako deeskalácia napätia.

Kňaz Tiso

Blahoslavený, kto sa nezaknísal
a stál jak Tiso, keď dopíjal kalich
a zatváral svoj mučenícky misál.
Ó, aprílové mraky! ... Vietor hnal ich
nad naše duše ... Kto stál hromozvodom
v tom hromobití veľikášov malých? ...

Kňaz Tiso! On bol sviecou pred národom,
hromničkou svätou, z ktorej na smrť chory
nespúšťa zrak ... Bol jeho jasným bodom,
o ktorom sa dnes doma nehovorí,

ani nenačím, lebo do srdca vrasť,
je teplom krbu, vatrou na pohorí.

I zaprisahám otcov na kríž: Sčasta
čítajte jeho závet pred obrazom,
nech vaše deti sajú jak med z plásta
protíliek na lož, súciť voči plazom
a lásku k pravde o zhanenej snahe,
že bol nám otcom, sprievodcom a kňazom
a čistou žertvou za Slovensko drahé!

Gorazd Zvonický

Americký veľvyslanec ocení slovenskú ombudsmanku

Ocenenie za intenzívnu ochranu ľudských práv Human Rights Defender Award si 2. apríla v Bratislave prevzala ombudsmanka Jana Dubovcová. Verejnej ochrankyni práv na Slovensku cenu odovzdal v priestoroch svojej rezidencie americký veľvyslanec Theodore Sedgwick.

Za „odvážnu snahu dodržiavať a propagovať práva všetkých ľudí nezávisle od rodu, rodovej identity a sexuálnej orientácie“ získala ocenenia aj ďalšia Slovenka. Riaditeľka odboru rodovej rovnosti a rovnosti príležitostí na Ministerstve práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR Oľga Pietruchovej sa z rúk amerického veľvyslancu prevzala Woman of Courage Award.

Medzinárodnú cenu Women of Courage od roku 2007 udeľuje americký rezort diplomacie ženám za mimoriadnu odvahu pri presadzovaní ľudských práv, presadzovaní rovnosti žien a sociálneho pokroku. Nominujú ich americké ambasády po celom svete. Minulý rok bola na titul Woman of Courage nominovaná advokátka Vanda Durbáková.

TASR



FOTO TASR - Martin Baumann

Na pôde amerického veľvyslanectva odovzdal veľvyslanec USA v Slovenskej republike Theodore Sedgwick (vpravo) ceny za obhajcov ľudských práv 2. apríla 2014 v Bratislave. Na snímke vľavo ombudsmanka a verejná ochrankyňa práv Jana Dubovcová s cenou.

American Ambassador to Slovakia Theodore Sedgwick (right), presented an award in Bratislava on April 2 for the Defense of Human Rights to Slovak Ombudsman and Public Defender of Rights Jana Dubovcova.



Pozdrav americkým Slovákom

Pokračovanie zo str. 22

Boh žehnaj slovenskú Ameriku a slovenský národ pod Tatrami!
V Bratislave 14. marca 2014.

Ing. Marián Tkáč, PhD.

~~~~~  
**Pozdravný dopis Jeho exelencie emeritného arcibiskupa trnavského Mons. Jána Sokola, členom 34. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Zboru kráľ a Svätopluka v Detrote pri príležitosti 75. výročia vzniku Prvej Slovenskej republiky.**

Drahi Slováci a Slovenky!

Často som vo svojom živote rozmýšľal o Slovákoch, ktorí tvorili najväčšiu národnostnú menšinu v Uhorsku a nedokázali presadiť svoju samostatnosť. Tisíc rokov žili v národnostne zmiešanom zoskupení. Je pravda, že do začiatku 19. storočia všetky menšiny v Uhorsku žili v pokoji. V tomto období však začalo pomadařovanie menšín. Táto snaha sa začala podľa autora, ktorý bol poverený touto úlohou zakladaním miest, v ktorých sa dával priemysel do rúk maďarsky hovoriacich ľudí a potom sa už robili len štatistiky ako stúpa maďarsky hovoriaca menšina. Nebyť našich katolíckych a evanjelických národovcov, iste by sa podarilo Slovákov asimilovať. Potom prišiel Apponyiho zákon, ktorým boli zrušené všetky menšinové školy a už to išlo iba k horšiemu. Rozpadom Rakúska – Uhorska po prvej svetovej vojne, sa začalo brieždiť na lepšie časy. Ale len spočiatku. Onedlho opäť nebolo dost tých, ktorí by bojovali za samostatnosť, azda aj preto, že zo strany Čechov bol daný prísľub, že Slováci budú mať plné práva. Vznikla Česko – Slovenská republika. Túžba Slovákov nebola splnená. Ba boli hlasy, ktoré tvrdili, že žiaden slovenský národ neexistuje, že je to len nárečie češtiny. A v tom mnohí žili skoro dvadsať rokov. Potom prišli opäť ťažké vojnové časy. Slovenský národ sa ocitol tvárou v tvár veľkému diktátorovi, ktorý predložil dve alternatívne budúceho vývoja. Bud' sa územie slovenského národa rozdelí medzi susedov a národ zanikne, alebo si národ zachová svoju identitu i územnú celistvosť ak vyhlási samostatnosť. Slováci v týchto vypätých chvíľach odmietli rozdelenie národa a jeho územia a vybrali si cestu samostatnosti. Po tom, čo bol prezident Hácha informovaný o ultimátach diktátora, zvolal členov Slovenského snemu. A členovia snemu všetkými hlasmi, ktorých bolo 57 rozhodli vyhlásiť samostatný Slovenský štát. To sa stalo 14. marca 1939. Konečne sa splnila túžba ľudu, ktorý jasal a s nadšením prijal toto vyhlásenie. Bodaj by aj nie, veď niektoré omnoho menšie národy, čo do počtu obyvateľstva mali a majú svoju samostatnosť, prečo nie Slovensko. V predvečer Druhej svetovej vojny sa tak slovenský národ prostredníctvom svojich zástupcov legitímne rozhodol o tom, že blížiacim sa vojnovým zverstvám a tragédiám sa pokúsi čeliť jednotne pod svojou slovenskou a nie maďarskou či poľskou zástavou.

Po vojne, v roku 1945 sa opäť toto právo na samostatnosť stratilo a vznikla Československa republika. To zapríčinilo, že bratia Česi hovorili, že doplácajú na Slovensko a Slováci zase, že nás Česi okradajú.

Práve preto v roku 1989 boli snahy, aby sa obnovila samostatnosť Slovenska. Dosiahla sa až v roku 1992. Vďaka Bohu bez prelievania krvi. A to je to krásne. Sme dva bratské národy, ale každý si orie na svojom. Každému, kto pozoruje vzájomné slovensko-české vzťahy je zrejme, že nikdy neboli tak dobré a priateľské ako sú dnes.

Je pravda, že mnohí, zvlášť z mladej generácie za minulé obdobie internacionalizmu, stratili zdravé národné povedomie a hrdosť. Preto musí byť snaha, aby sa popri láske k všetkým národom, obnovila láska k vlastnému národu a zdravé národné sebavedomie.

U vás v zahraničí ho cítim a vidím väčšie, ako tu doma. Dôkazom tejto skutočnosti je aj to, že si každý rok pripomínate štrnásty marec ako vznik samostatného Slovenska. A v tomto roku je to už sedemdesiate piate výročie.

Pri tejto príležitosti vás všetkých pozdravujem, spomínam si na vás a v modlitbách nezabúdam.  
Emeritný arcibiskup Ján Sokol

## Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

### Pripravované podujatia Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Koncert slovenského speváka Petra Stašáka

V nedeľu **27. apríla** o 2.00 hodine popoludní bude v Crakovia Manor, 96 Main Ave., Wallington NJ koncert slovenského speváka Petra Stašáka. Vstupné je \$50.00. V cene vstupenky je jedlo na bufetový štýl, víno, káva a koláč. Bližšie informácie a rezervácie: Stanka, tel. č. (201) 375-5488.

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

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

**Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka**

### Skupina Drišľak na turné v USA

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

V sobotu **3. mája** o 7.00 hodine v Harristown, NJ. Informácie: Oľga (609) 529-1522, (609) 771-6736.

V nedeľu **4. mája** o 2.00 hodine popoludní v Clifftone, NJ. Informácie: Martina (201) 751-8481.

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

## Medzinárodný letný tábor Matice slovenskej

Vážení krajanovia, milí priatelia, leto je za rohom... Tak nám to pripomína aj známa slovenská kapela vo svojej piesni. A s prvými teplými lúčmi začíname sprádzať podrobné plány, ako ho stráviť čo najlepšie. Nezabudnuteľné zážitky a bohatý dvojtýždenný program ponúka letný tábor, ktorý už po 23-krát organizuje Matica slovenská v krásnom tatranskom prostredí. Ak aj Vás láka aktívny oddych a krásna príroda a chcete spoznať nových priateľov, pridajte sa k nám počas prvých dvoch júlových týždňov.

Pripájame niekoľko základných informácií o letnom tábore, ktoré budeme priebežne dopĺňať.

•Názov tábora: Medzinárodný letný tábor Matice slovenskej (MLTMS)

•Lokalita: Stredisko Detský raj Tatranská Lesná

•Termín: 29. 6. 2014 – 13. 7. 2014 (celý pobyt, resp. prvý alebo druhý týždeň)

•Vek: Tábor je určený deťom zo Slovenska i zo zahraničia vo veku od 7 do 16 rokov.

•Prihláška: Prihlášku môžete zaslať poštou, alebo naskenovanú e-mailom (musí obsahovať podpis zákonného zástupcu) najneskôr do 16. júna 2014.

•Cena: Pobyt v tábore je dvojtýždenný – výška poplatku 210 €. Môžete sa však prihlásiť aj na jeden týždeň – výška poplatku na jeden týždeň je 110 €.

•Cena zahŕňa: Ubytovanie (v murovanej a podľa potreby aj vykurovanej budove Školy v prírode, sprchy na poschodí), stravovanie (6x denne-raňajky, desiata, obed, olovrant, večera, druhá ľahšia večera), pitný režim, celodenný dozor, športové vybavenie, materiál na tvorivé dielne a doprava počas celodenných výletov. Vstupenky a poplatky za podujatia si deti hradia z vreckového (za vopred dohodnuté zvýhodnené ceny).

•Doprava: Príchod do tábora je individuálny. Škola v prírode Detský raj je výborne prístupná osobnou, autobusovou alebo železničnou dopravou. Autobusová a železničná zastávka sa nachádza v tesnej blízkosti strediska (podrobnejšie informácie poskytneme na požiadanie). Dovoľte odvoz dieťaťa je možné spojiť s návštevou miestnych prírodných alebo kultúrnych zaujímavostí.

•Program: Program tábora bude zverejnený v priebehu apríla. Opäť nebudú chýbať výlety a túry do blízkeho i vzdialenejšieho okolia, kúpanie v aquaparku, návšteva kultúrnych a historických pamiatok, športové turnaje, hry, besedy, tvorivé dielne, táborová vatra, opekačka a diskotéky.

Všetky potrebné informácie (a v prípade záujmu i prihlášku) nájdete na: <http://www.matica.sk/?id=menu=73374> Budeme veľmi radi, ak budete informáciu šíriť medzi Vašimi priateľmi. Kontaktné údaje: Matica slovenská, P. Mudroňa 1, 036 01 Martin; Tel: 043/4012826043/4012826, 0905735336; Fax: 043/4133188; E-mail: [fin@matica.sk](mailto:fin@matica.sk)

**PhDr. Zuzana Pavelcová, vedecká a vývojová pracovníčka**



## Predstavili prípravu kanonizačnej slávnosti Jána Pavla II. a Jána XXIII.

V Tlačovom stredisku Svätej stolice nedávno predstavili prípravu na kanonizačnú slávnosť blahoslaveného Jána XXIII. a Jána Pavla II., ktorá sa uskutoční 27. apríla 2014. Sobotná modlitbová vigília v jedenástich kostoloch v centre Ríma, ktorá bude predchádzať svätorečeniu v Nedeľu Božieho milosrdenstva, a stretnutie mladých s postulátormi kázň blahoslavených pápežov (Mons. Slavomírom Oderom a P. Giovangiuseppem Califanom OFM) v utorok 22. apríla v rímskej Bazilike sv. Jána v Lateráne. Toto sú dve hlavné podujatia, ktoré budú blízkou prípravou na „veľkú slávnosť viery“, ako povedal hovorca Vatikánu páter Federico Lombardi v úvode tlačovej konferencie.

Následne kardinál vikár Agostino Vallini poukázal na to, v čom spočíva veľkosť tohto podujatia: „Je to v podstate duchovné poslanstvo, pretože je to sviatok svätosti. Vzťah, ktorý mali Ján XXIII. a Ján Pavol II. s Cirkvou Ríma, ktorej boli biskupmi, je vzťah veľmi blízky, hovorí o štýle, akým vykonávali túto svoju službu, o blízkosti, o prijatí a starostlivosti o ľudí, o človeka ako takého.“ Kardinál Vallini povzbudil k intenzívnemu prežívaniu týchto dní pred kanonizačnou slávnosťou slovami: „Kanonizácie sú Božou milosťou, ktorú nám preukazuje Pán predstavujúc nám ako vzory kresťanského života týchto dvoch mužov viery. Snažme sa teda prejsť touto cestou ako cestou k zintenzívneniu spirituality. Toto je spôsob, akým by sme sa mali pripraviť na toto podujatie.“

Aj relikviár Jána Pavla II. bude ten istý ako bol na beatifikácii a podobný bude vyrobený pre Jána XXIII. Na slávnosti sa zúčastnia dve osoby, ktoré boli zázračne uzdravené na príhovor Karola Wojtyly. Po svätej omši bude možnosť uctiť si hroby dvoch nových svätcov. Na druhý deň, v pondelok 28. apríla bude na Námestí sv. Petra kardinál Angelo Comastri sláviť omšu v akvizičnom zariadení za svätorečenie.

**TK KBS, RV**



## Pozdrav americkým Slovákom

*Pozdravný dopis predsedu Matice slovenskej, Ing. Mariána Tkáča členom 34. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Zboru kráľ a Svätopluka v Detrote pri príležitosti 75. výročia vzniku prvej Slovenskej republiky.*

*Drahí americkí krajanovia!*

Matica slovenská v súlade so svojim dlhodobým cieľom objasňovať i odtabuizovať udalosti slovenských dejín a osobností si 13. marca t. r. pripomenula 75. výročie vyhlásenia Slovenského štátu Slovenským snemom. Vychádzali sme pritom aj z postojov vtedajšieho vedenia Matice slovenskej, ktoré reprezentovali Jozef Škultéty, Jozef Ciger Hronský a ďalšie matičné osobnosti tých čias.

Vznik štátu r. 1939 bol kvalitatívnou zmenou v postavení Slovákov ako národa, hoci sa, žiaľ, udial pod tlakom vonkajších okolností, najmä hrozby z rozdelenia nášho územia v prospech susedných štátov. Slovensko dosiahlo medzinárodnoprávnu subjektivitu, nastal rozvoj kultúry, vzdelania, vedy i hospodárstva: počas celého trvania štátu nebol na rozdiel od okolitých štátov, zavedený klasický listkový prídelový systém. Tým sa určitým spôsobom naplnilo úsilie Slovákov o národnú emancipáciu, o ktorú sa aktívne usilovala aj Matica slovenská.

Uvedomujeme si vážnosť tohto dátumu s dosahom na ďalší život slovenského národa a jeho prežitie v rodine európskych národov, ale aj jednotlivcov i skupín, vrátane tragického osudu rasovo prenasledovaných. Dejiny mení nemožno, ani vytrhávať udalosti z kontextu, spoznávať ich a hľadať z nich ponaučenia sme však povinní. Prejavujeme preto aj pokoru pred všetkými obeťami osudových udalostí, ktoré nasledovali po tomto dátume, ako aj po skončení druhej svetovej vojny a v našej spoločnosti rezonujú dodnes.

Pokračovanie na str.21

## Busta J. C. Hronského - verejná zbierka

Vážení priatelia, pred niekoľkými rokmi bola odcudzená z Parku L. Štúra vo Zvolene busta zvolenského rodáka, spisovateľa a matičiara J. C. Hronského. Miestny odbor Matice slovenskej vo Zvolene preto inicioval verejnú zbierku na jej obnovu. Zbierka registrovaná Ministerstvom vnútra Slovenskej republiky pod číslom SVS-OVVS3-2013/016845 potrvá do 31. júla 2014. Celá suma, poukázaná na účet verejnej zbierky, bude použitá na obnovu busty. Na režijné náklady nebude použitý ani cent a účet v banke (4018029109/7500) je vedený bezplatne.

**Vlastimil Uhlár**  
člen Výboru Matice slovenskej

## CNN zaradila Bratislavu medzi najfascinujúcejšie pohraničné mestá v Európe

Hlavné mesto Slovenska sa dostalo medzi šesť najfascinujúcejších pohraničných miest v Európe. Bratislavu do zoznamu so španielskym San Sebastianom či nórskeym mestom Kirkenes zaradila spravodajská televízia CNN.

Autor článku Barry Neild predstavuje Bratislavu ako mesto, ktoré bolo 300 rokov centrom uhorskej monarchie. Pripomína, že vo svojej histórii niesla aj názvy ako Istropolis, Bresburg, Pressburg alebo Wilson City. Takto sa mesto volalo krátko po prvej svetovej vojne. Autor opisuje, že s rakúskou Viedňou Bratislavu kedysi spájala električka a až do roku 1993 bolo mesto súčasťou Československa.

“Svedkom väčšiny udalostí bol Bratislavský hrad,” píše autor. Zrekonštruovaný symbol Bratislavy je podľa neho dobrým miestom na vychutnanie si mesta, ktoré leží na križovatke ciest vedúcich cez strednú Európu. Barry Neild nezabúda ani na uličky v historickom centre, ktoré očarili aj dánskeho rozprávkara Hansa Christiana Andersena. Tradičná miestna kuchyňa je zase podľa neho všehochuťou jedál, ovplyvnených susedným Rakúskom a Maďarskom.

V šiestici najfascinujúcejších hraničných európskych miest sa ocitlo aj francúzske mesto Lille, švédske Malmö a talianske mesto Terst.

TASR

## Putovanie po regiónoch Slovenska

(Pokračovanie)

### Turiec

Nachádza sa v Turčianskej doline, obklopený horskými hrebeňmi Veľkej a Malej Fatry, Žiaru a Kremnických hôr. Patri medzi najpozoruhodnejšie a najvýznamnejšie regióny na Slovensku. V období najsilnejšej maďarizácie bol centrom slovenského a politického života.

Jeho sídlom je Martin (predtým Turčiansky Svätý Martin) rozprestierajúci sa po stranách rieky Turiec, bohatý na viaceré historické, kultúrne a politické udalosti.

Medzi najdôležitejšie, s ktorými by sa návštevníci regiónu mali oboznámiť patria:

- V r. 1861 prijali v tomto meste naši národní buditeľia Memorandum slovenského národa obsahujúce formuláciu národných požiadaviek Slovákov, ktorú poslali cisárovi do Viedne

- V r. 1863 založili tam Maticu slovenskú, predsedom ktorej sa stal biskup Štefan Moyzes.

V r. 1867 vzniká tu jedno z troch slovenských gymnázií (zrušené 1874)

V r. 1869 zakladá sa tu spolok slovenských žien ZIVENA

V r. 1870 zakladá Viliam Paulíny Tóth Narodné noviny

V r. 1893 vzniká tu pod vedením Andreja Kmeťa Slovenská muzeálna spoločnosť

30. 10. 1918 prijímajú tu zástupcovia slovenského národa Martinskú deklaráciu, ktorou sa hlásia k novovytvorenému štátu Čechov a Slovákov.

K národným kultúrnym pamiatkam mesta Martin patrí Národný cintorín, v ktorom sú pochovaní viacerí kultúrne, národní a politickí dejatelia ako: Martin Kukučín, Janko Kráľ, Svätozár Hurban Vajanský, Martin Benka, Elena Maróthy Šoltésová...

Pri prehliadke mesta by ste nemali vynechať návštevu Slovenského národného múzea (najväčšieho na Slovensku) s jeho etnografickými zbierkami, ale ani Skanzen slovenskej dediny pozostávajúci z etnických celkov.

V Turčianskej kotline sa nachádzajú Turčianske Teplice, jedny z najstarších kúpeľov na Slovensku s 8 prameňmi sadrovej zemitej vody (42° C), ktoré sa špecializujú na reumatické a poúrazové stavy.

Treba dodať, že martinské nárečie, príbuzné liptovskému a horehronskému, sa stalo základom pre vznik a uzákonenie spisovnej slovenčiny, na ktorom sa dohodli v r. 1843 významní národovci Štúr, Hurban a Hodža.

Z okolitých obcí je zaujímavá Turčianska Štjavnička s rozsiahlym parkom zahrňujúcim vyše 150 druhov vzácných cudzokrajných drevín z Číny, Japonska, Severnej Ameriky, Kamčatky ...

Nie menej zaujímavá a atraktívna je pri obci Blatnica aj Gaderská dolina, jedna z najkrajších na Slovensku. Má vzhľad kaňonu s nádhernými útvarmi vápencových a dolomitných skál.

V neďalekom Hornom Jasení sa narodil významný lekár, Ján Jesenius, ktorý prednášal na univerzite v Prahe a ako prvý verejne tam uskutočnil 8. júna 1600 pitvu človeka. Po bitke na Bielej Hore ho však 21. júna 1621 ako revolucionára popravili.

Pozornosť si zasluhuje aj obec Kláštor pod Znievom, kde si benediktíni založili v 17. st. lekáreň. Tamojší obchodníci chodili s liekmi, (bylinky a olejčky) po svete (Rusko, Poľsko, Perzia...). Tu vzniklo po Revúcej (1862), Martine (1867) v r. 1869 tretie slovenské gymnázium, ktoré uhorská vláda v r. 1874 zrušila.

Milovníci zimných športov si vyhľadávajú Martinské hole, ktoré majú pre ich pestovanie vynikajúce podmienky.



Gaderská dolina.



Slovenské literárne múzeum Martin.



Kúpele Turčianske Teplice.



Kalvária v Kláštore pod Znievom.



Kroj Turčianske Teplice.

## Spomienková oslava slovenskej štátnosti v NYC

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stolom. Po úvodných slovách nasledoval jeho slávnostný prejav, v ktorom poukázal na stáročia trvajúci boj za sebaurčenie slovenského národa, ktoré bolo túžbou všetkých oddaných Slovákov. História bola konečne slovenskému národu štedrá keď Slovensko dosiahlo samostatnosť dvakrát 14. marca 1939 a 1. januára 1993. Svoj prednes ukončil týmito slovami: „Česť a sláva tým, ktorí zasvätili svoj život na ceste k sebaurčeniu slovenského národa a jeho víťazstvu“.

Svoj prejav v anglickom jazyku predniesol predseda Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Daniel F. Tanzone. V ďalšom bode programu odzneli básne: „Náš prvý prezident“ od Gorazda Zvonického a „Moja vlasť“ od Andreja Žarnova, ktoré zarecitovala Henrieta H. Daitová. Jozef Ivaška zaspieval niekoľko slovenských ľudových piesní ako aj dve árie z opery Gejzu Dusíka. Na záver tajomníčka Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Nina Holá zhodnotila túto dôstojnú oslavu slovenskej štátnosti a poďakovala všetkým tým, ktorí sa zaslúžili o jej zdarný priebeh. Na záver oslavy si prítomní zaspievali dve hymnické piesne: „God Bless America“ a „Hej Slováci“.

Po programe sa podávalo veľmi dobré občerstvenie o ktoré sa pričínili členky I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy Helena Kopčeková, manželia Bilikovi, rodina Lysáková, Mária Božeková a ďalší ochotní členovia I. Zboru SLvA v NYC.

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka I. Zboru SLvA v NYC



Predseda SLvA, Daniel F. Tanzone počas prejavu. V pozadí sediaci zľava Henrieta H. Daitová, Lacko Korček a Nina Holá.



Henrieta H. Daitová počas recitovania básní. Sediaci zľava Lacko Korček, Nina Holá, Daniel F. Tanzone, Msgr. Lawrence M. Connaughton, Jozef Bilik a Eva Lysáková.

## KBS zaslala Andrejovi Kiskovi blahoprajný list k zvoleniu za prezidenta SR

Predseda Konferencie biskupov Slovenska, bratislavský arcibiskup-metropolita Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský zaslal v mene slovenských biskupov blahoprajný list víťazovi prezidentských volieb Andrejovi Kiskovi. Text uverejňujeme v plnom znení.

**Andrej Kiska, designovaný prezident SR**

Vaša Excelencia,

dovoľte mi, aby som Vám v mene Konferencie biskupov Slovenska srdečne zablahoževal k zvoleniu za prezidenta Slovenskej republiky v priamych prezidentských voľbách.

Slovensko sa nachádza na ceste k budovaniu otvorenej spoločnosti. Mnohé kultúrne, hospodárske a sociálne zmeny sú nielen zaujímavou výzvou, ale pre mnohých občanov aj dôvodom frustrácie, čo sa odráža v ich pohľade na spoločnosť a verejnú angažovanosť.

Slovensko má v európskej rodine mnoho príležitostí ukázať svoju vnútornú silu, ktorá pramení z osvedčených kresťanských hodnôt. Som presvedčený, že vzájomná otvorenosť a spoločenský dialóg sú najlepšou cestou k sociálnemu zmieru a porozumeniu. Historické skúsenosti nás zároveň učia, že otvorenosť bez rešpektovania vlastnej kultúrnej a náboženskej identity končí rozsiahlou sociálnou a kultúrnou dezintegráciou.

Slovensko má mnoho chudobných. Na prvom mieste medzi nich patria rodiny, v ktorých je rodič nezamestnaný, ťažko chorý alebo zostáva po rozvode s deťmi sám. Medzi chudobných patria všetci, ktorých sa nemá kto zastáť, najmä deti, zvlášť tie nenarodené; starí a chorí ľudia.

Vaša Excelencia, v mene Konferencie biskupov Slovenska Vám zo srdca želim pevné zdravie a múdrosť pri rozhodovaní v službe, do ktorej si Vás vybrali občania. Prajem Vám, aby ste vytvárali otvorenú a dobroprajnú spoločenskú atmosféru, ktorej bude dominovať nielen sloboda, ale najmä pravda a spoločenská zodpovednosť. Všetci potrebujeme venovať väčšiu pozornosť chudobným na všetkých úrovniach a urobiť z rodiny stredobod verejného života.

Mám nádej, že Vaša ochota slúžiť, kresťanská viera a túžba pomáhať chudobným Vám pomôžu naplniť veľké očakávania, ktoré do Vás vkladá mnoho občanov Slovenskej republiky. Tešíme sa na spoločné stretnutia, na ktorých budeme môcť spoločne diskutovať o našej budúcnosti.

Do Vašej služby i ďalších rokov života Vám vyprosujem hojnosť Božích darov.

**Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský, bratislavský arcibiskup – metropolita  
predseda Konferencie biskupov Slovenska**

TK KBS

## V Bratislave sa stretlo asi 40 historikov z Európy a USA

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

komparáciu jednotlivých národných a štátnych skúseností. “Podujatie tohto druhu má a vždy bude mať svoj význam. A to aj preto, že súčasná dynamika medzinárodných vzťahov kladie veľký dôraz práve na riešenie a prevenciu ozbrojených konfliktov. K tomu môže dopomôcť aj toto vedecké podujatie. Pevne verím, že aj táto konferencia tak bude priestorom na prezentovanie poznatkov z vojenských dejín, politológie, bezpečnostných štúdií, sociológie a iných vedných odborov,” konštatoval Koterec.

TASR

Andrej Štelmák, Sliach



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

# Jednota

O. Štefan Furdek  
Naš zakladateľ

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

Ročník 123

STREDA, 16. APRÍLA 2014

Číslo 5901

## Novozvolený prezident SR Andrej Kiska

Budúci slovenský prezident Andrej Kiska sa narodil 2. februára 1963 v Poprade. Vyštudoval Elektrotechnickú fakultu Slovenskej vysokej školy technickej (SVŠT, dnes STU) v Bratislave. Po ukončení štúdia pracoval ako projektant v spoločnosti Naftoprojekt v Poprade.

V roku 1990 odišiel skúšať šťastie do USA s plánom natrvalo sa tam usadiť. Po roku a pol sa však vrátil na Slovensko s veľkou chuťou podnikat'. Založil svoju prvú spoločnosť, ktorá sa zaoberala dovozom, veľkoobchodom a maloobchodom so šperkami a prišiel o všetky svoje úspory.

Od roku 1996 postupne spoluzakladal splátkové spoločnosti Tatracredit, Triangel a neskôr aj Quatro, ktoré viedol a spravoval spolu s bratom. V roku 2005 kúpila tieto spoločnosti VÚB banka a zlúčila ich pod názov Consumer Finance Holding, kde Andrej Kiska pôsobil do roku 2007 ako člen predstavenstva tejto spoločnosti.

Neziskovú organizáciu Dobrý Anjel založil Andrej Kiska v roku 2006 s priateľom. Charitatívna organizácia Dobrý Anjel pomáha pravidelnými mesačnými finančnými príspevkami rodinám s deťmi, ktoré sa vinou ťažkého, život ohrozujúceho ochorenia dostali do ťažkej finančnej situácie. Pôsobil v nej ako predseda správnej rady do mája 2013, keď sa funkcie vzdal. Od júna 2013 ho na tomto poste nahradila manželka Martina Kisková. V roku 2011 založil organizáciu Dobrý Anjel aj v Českej republike.

Kiska je autorom publikácií *Vezmi život do svojich rúk* a *Cesta manažéra z pekla alebo Ako robiť charitu úspešne a so srdcom*. V roku 2006 získal od predplatiteľov týždenníka *Trend* ocenenie Manažér roka a je držiteľom ocenenia Krištáľové krídlo za rok 2011 v kategórii filantropia.

Andrej Kiska bol občianskym kandidátom v priamej voľbe prezidenta SR v roku 2014. Víťazom prvého kola voľby prezidenta SR 15. marca 2014 sa stal Robert Fico, ktorého volilo 28 percent ľudí (531.919 hlasov). Do druhého kola postúpil aj Andrej Kiska. Tomu hlas odovzdalo 24 percent voličov (455.996 hlasov). Volebná účasť bola 43,4 percenta.

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Na snímke novozvolený prezident SR Andrej Kiska pred rozhovorom v RTVS v nedeľu 30. marca 2014 v Bratislave.

*Newly elected Slovak president Andrej Kiska.*



## Americkí biskupi zasvätia národnú svätyňu pamiatke bl. Jána Pavla II.

Z príležitosti blížiaceho sa svätorečenia bl. Jána Pavla II. (27. apríla 2014) biskupi Spojených štátov amerických pomenujú budovu vo Washington D. C. ako národnú svätyňu venovanú pamiatke obľúbeného pápeža. Arcibiskup Joseph Kurtz z Louisville, predseda Konferencie biskupov USA povedal, že toto venovanie odráža "lásku amerických katolíkov k Jánovi Pavlovi II." "Národná svätyňa je skutočne vhodnou poctou a pripomienkou jeho odkazu zo strany Ameriky," povedal arcibiskup pri podpísaní dekrétu o svätyňi v stredu 19. marca.

Patrick Kelly, správca novej svätyne, vyjadril vďaka za toto rozhodnutie a povedal, že stavba je "venovaná veľkému svätcomu, ktorý odvážne svedčil o Božej láske a dôstojnosti ľudskej osoby." Národná svätyňa Jána Pavla II. oslávi kanonizáciu svojho patróna liturgickou slávnosťou, recepciou a stretnutím mladých. Centrum, ktoré ľudia poznajú pod názvom Svätyňa bl. Jána Pavla II. bolo postavené z prostriedkov Kolumbových rytierov v roku 2011 ako pamätník poľskému pápežovi a miesto odovzdávania jeho odkazu Cirkvi a spoločnosti. Nachádza sa v ňom aj relikvia svätca: nádobka s jeho krvou, ktorú dal Kolumbovým rytierom kardinál Stanislaw Dziwisz z Krakova, dlhoročný tajomník pápeža Jána Pavla II.

Predseda Kolumbových rytierov Carl Anderson povedal, že zosnulý pápež "ovplyvnil celú generáciu katolíkov" a dodal, že svätyňa bude slúžiť ako pripomienka svätého života Jána Pavla II, ako aj jeho "výzvy k svätosti, ktorá je adresovaná nám všetkým." "Táto svätyňa nám dáva príležitosť i privilegium pokračovať v misii pápeža Jána Pavla II., v snahe evanjelizovať budúce generácie katolíkov, a my to s vďakou prijímame."

Kardinál Donald Wuerl z Washingtonu pripomenul, že bývalý rímsky biskup "významne prispel k šíreniu dobra v Amerike." Dodal, že washingtonskí katolíci sa môžu cítiť "osobitne pocení", lebo majú túto svätyňu vo svojom meste a stanú sa tak jedným z prvých miest na svete, kde stojí svätyňa nesúca jeho meno". Zdôraznil, že budova sa za tri roky svojej existencie stala "pútnickým miestom a miestom modlitby", ktoré priťahuje mnoho ľudí nielen z Washingtonu.

Hlavné poschodie svätyne sa v budúcnosti premení na kostol a jeho kaplnka bude slúžiť na úschovu relikvie. Kostol i kaplnka budú na všetkých stenách ozdobené mozaikovou výzdobou. Od začiatku tohto roku sa na prízemní svätyne koná rozsiahla permanentná výstava týkajúca pápežovho života a učenia.

Ján Pavol II. stál na čele Cirkvi od roku 1978 do svojej smrti v roku 2005. Bol to prvý poľský pápež a zohral kľúčovú úlohu v ukončení Studenej vojny.

TK KBS, CNS

## Spomienková oslava slovenskej štátnosti v NYC

Spomienkovú oslavu slovenskej štátnosti, ktorá sa toho roku konala v nedeľu dňa 9. marca 2014 za bohatej účasti Slovákov žijúcich v New Yorku, Connecticut, New Jersey a Pensylvánii, usporiadava už tradične I. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v NYC za spolupráce slovenských spolkov pracujúcich pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC.

Oslava sa začala svätou omšou v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC, za prvého prezidenta Dr. Jozefa Ľišu a obeť slovenského národa, ktoré celý svoj život obetovali za smotatné slobodné Slovensko. Slávnostnú svätú omšu odslúžil vikár Slovenského kostola otec Štefan Chanas. Za tím odzneli Americká a Slovenská hymna za doprovodu slovenského speváka Jozefa Ivašku. Predseda I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v NYC, Milan R. Dait privítal všetkých prítomných a predstavil oficiálnych hostí za predsedníckym



Spomienková oslava slovenskej štátnosti, v nedeľu 9. marca 2014 v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC. Za predsedníckym stolom SLvA sediaci zľava: Nina Holá, Daniel F. Tanzone, Rev. Msgr. Lawrence M. Connaughton, farár Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, Milan R. Dait a Eva Lysáková. Stojaci zľava: Mary Z. Gašparik MD, Dr. Mikuláš Halko s manželkou Nadine, Ján Holý, Anna Korčák, Jozef Korčák, Jozef Bilik, Marta Cataláno, Henrieta H. Daitová a Lacko Korček.

Pokračovanie na str.23



## V Bratislave sa stretlo asi 40 historikov z Európy a USA

Vojenský historický ústav Bratislava v spolupráci s Centrom pre vojenskú históriu Kráľovskej dánskej akadémie obrany v Kodani pripravil 14. medzinárodnú vedeckú konferenciu Euroatlantickej pracovnej skupiny pre štúdium vojnových konfliktov v dňoch 7. - 11. apríla. Je to v poradí už druhá takáto konferencia organizovaná na Slovensku.

Pät' dňovú medzinárodnú vedeckú konferenciu pod názvom Zmena doktrín - využitie minulosti v boji o súčasnosť otvoril štátny tajomník MO SR Miloš Koterec. V úvodnom príhovore vyzdvihol skutočnosť, že túto významnú vedeckú akciu už po druhýkrát organizuje slovenské vojensko-historické pracovisko rezortu ministerstva obrany. "Téma zmien doktrín a využitie histórie v zápase o súčasnosť predstavuje problematiku, ktorá pomerne presne reflektuje filozofický názor, že ten, kto sa nepoučí z chýb histórie, je odsúdený opakovat' ich," poznamenal v úvode podujatia Koterec. Zdôraznil, že pertraktovaná téma je pomerne rozsiahla a z tohto dôvodu dáva priestor pre interpretáciu viacerých čiastkových problémov a bezprostredne umožňuje



Archívne Foto: TASR/Štefan Puškás

Štátny tajomník Ministerstva obrany SR Miloš Koterec (vľavo) odovzdáva medaily vojakom.

*Military historians met in Bratislava recently for an international conference for the study of military conflict. Slovak Minister of Defense Milos Koterec, who opened the five day meeting, presents awards to Slovak soldiers.*

Pokračovanie na str.23