



# Jednota

THE UNION

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## Pranostiky – Weather Lore, or Slovak Folklore about the Weather

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

One of the rich traditions of Slovakia is that of pranostiky, or weather lore. Each month, Slovak calendars have sayings that accompany almost every day. They usually consist of a short sentence or phrase which forecasts the weather based on conditions on that day of the month. This is somewhat similar to the popular Poor Richard's Almanac which Benjamin Franklin published with great success during American colonial times. So weather lore is not unique to Slovakia, but Slovaks developed a special knack for sayings which identifies with their culture and familiar surroundings.

In the past, weather was very important to Slovak peasants, for in an agricultural society, their livelihood revolved around favorable conditions, or the ability to predict bad weather as well. While some weather lore has some basis in scientific fact, pranostiky are useful for seeing the world through the eyes of our ancestors and appreciating the beauty of the expressions and their historical and religious values as well, for most days are identified with a particular saint. They are a window to the past and the soul of Slovaks.

Here are few pranostiky which were commonly used during the month of May, which is almost upon us.

May 1 -- Ak na prvého mája večer prší, bude celý rok pekne.

If it rains on the 1st of May, the weather will be nice all year.

Na Jakuba, Filipa zelená sa každá lipa.



The linden trees shown here surrounding Bojnice Castle in Slovakia are among the many subjects of Slovak weather lore. The oldest linden tree in the country, one approximately 600 years old, can be found on the castle property.

On St. James' and St. Philip's Day, every linden tree is green.

Dážď na prvého mája – úrodný rok. Rain on the first of May – a fruitful year.

May 4 -- May 4th is the feast day of St. Florian, who lived in the 4th century A.D., and is a patron saint of Central Europe, and Poland in particular.

Svätý Florián úrodu nám chráň.

St. Florian, protect our crops.

Svätý Florián si ešte môže nasadiť snehový klobúk. -

St. Florian can still don a hat of snow.

May 7 – Ak na Stanislava padá dážď, bude na jeseň prázdny sud.

If it rains on St. Stanislaus Day, there will be an empty barrel in the autumn.

May 12 – Dážď na Pankráca osožný je poliam, ale škodný viniciam.

Rain on St. Pancras Day is helpful to the fields, but harms the vineyards.

Gazda čaká na prejdenie troch zmrzlíakov.

The farmer waits for the passing of three frosts.

May 13 -- Pred Servácom niet leta, po

Serváci niet mrazu.

Before St. Servatius day it is not summer, and after St. Seratius day there is no frost.

May 15 -- Žofia – ľadová žena.

St. Sophie – an icy lady.

Žofia víno vypíja a dobré ľany dáva.

St. Sophie will drink up wine and yield a good flax crop.

Traja ľadoví muži a Žofia je ich kuchárka. Three ice men and St. Sophie is their cook!

Svätá Žofia stromy rozvíja.

The trees bloom on St. Sophie's Day.

May 19 -- Ak mrzne na Gertrúdu, bude mrznúť celý mesiac.

If there is frost on St. Gertrude day, there will be frost the whole month.

Gertrúda je už záhradníčkou.

St. Gertrude is already gardener.

Do Petra /Peter Celestín, pápež/ neni tepla, a po Petre už je po teple.

Until St. Peter Celestine the pope's day, it is not warm, and after St. Peter Celestine's

continued on page 10

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Inside	
Editorial/Commentary.....	2
Branch Announcements.....	14
District Announcements.....	15
Slovak .....	21-24

# APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network  
UNITED STATES



## April 2016

### Universal Intention

**Small Farmers:** *That small farmers may receive a just reward for their precious labor.*



Seventy-two percent of the world's farms are less than 2.5 acres in size. In the U.S., 90 percent of the 2.1 million farms are considered small, family farms, and many of them are struggling.

Though prices have gone up in supermarkets, the income of farmers has not. As a result, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics states that the largest job loss of any occupation is farmers. When the small farms go out of business, often large agribusinesses acquire the land and create greater potential for ecological damage and health risks. For example, a single fast food hamburger may contain meat from more than a hundred different cattle.

For Pope Francis small farmers are essential to caring for the earth and safeguarding it for future generations. He said that "in the work of farmers there is the acceptance of the precious gift of the land which comes to us from God, but there is also its appreciation in the equally precious work of men and

women, called to respond to the mandate of tilling and safeguarding the land (Genesis 2: 15)."

Agricultural workers should receive a just wage. As the pope said, "The labor of those who cultivate the earth, generously dedicating time and energy to it, appears as a genuine vocation. It deserves to be recognized and appropriately appreciated, also in concrete economic policies."

With the coming of spring, we pray for those on small farms who are busy planting. May they not only have an abundant harvest this year but also "receive a just reward for their precious labor."

#### Reflection

Besides a greater concern for the land, what other values do family farms contribute to the good of society?

#### Scripture

2 Timothy 2: 6 "The hardworking farmer ought to have the first share of the crop."

## EVANGELIZATION INTENTION

**African Christians:** *That Christians in Africa may give witness to love and faith in Jesus Christ amid political-religious conflicts.*

With over 420 million Christians (38.3 percent of the population), Africa is the fastest growing continent for Christianity. It is also a place where many Christians are threatened with violence. In 2013 in Kenya, where 60 percent of the population is Christian, a terrorist group attacked a shopping mall and killed 67 people. Last April the same group killed 148 mostly Christian students at Garissa University College.

In November Pope Francis visited African countries beset by violence with a message of reconciliation.

He told the bishops of Kenya that the Church "must always be true to her mission as an instrument of reconciliation, justice, and peace. May you strengthen your commitment to working with Christian and non-Christian leaders alike, in promoting peace and justice in your country through dialogue, fraternity, and friendship. In this way you will be able to offer a more unified and courageous denunciation of all violence, especially that committed in the name of God."

He went on to say that "the united and selfless efforts of many Catholics in Kenya are a beautiful witness and example for the country. In so many ways, the Church is called to offer hope to the broader culture, a hope based on her unstinting witness to the newness of life promised by Christ in the Gospel."

We have just celebrated the death and resurrection of Jesus, recalling that the hatred that killed him was infinitely less powerful than his love. Convinced of that love, we pray that our African brothers and sisters may give witness to it amidst their struggles.

#### Reflection

How have I experienced the fact that love is the only force capable of changing the world for good?

#### Scripture

Romans 12: 9-21: "Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good."

## Message from the National Chaplain

Pope Francis declared December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016 to be an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. A series of articles featuring a saint who lived a particular Spiritual Work of Mercy is offered to help mark the Year. Today's subject is Instruct the Ignorant.

St. John Neumann (1811-1860) was born in what is currently the Czech Republic. He came to the United States interested in mission work and was ordained for the Diocese of New York. After four years ministering in outposts such as Buffalo and Rochester, he responded to a call to community life and joined the Redemptorists in 1842. He was the first Redemptorist to be professed in the United States. He eventually became Bishop of Philadelphia in 1852 at the age of 41. The Diocese of Philadelphia at this time was 35,000 square miles and included territory which now comprises the Dioceses of Allentown, Altoona-Johnstown (partial), Harrisburg, Scranton, Camden, Trenton, and Wilmington.

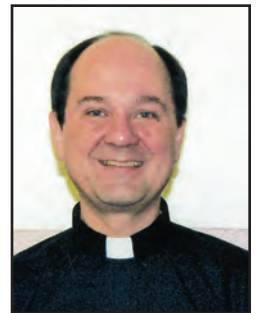
Although he deemed himself unworthy of the episcopacy, Bishop Neumann was a tireless worker and administrator of temporal goods. But what he loved to do above all was teach the faith. It is noted that whenever he went to a parish to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, he personally gave two instructions to those to be confirmed, one on the evening prior and the other on the morning of the celebration. Bishop Neumann had annual conferences for priests in 4 different areas of the diocese for furthering their education.

Although the Forty Hours Devotion was already in practice in America, Bishop Neumann's love for and teaching of the Presence of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament was instrumental in popularizing and transforming Forty Hours into a parish spiritual renewal. He introduced having a schedule of churches within the diocese where the Devotions are taking place so people would know where they could go not only to adore the Blessed Sacrament, but also could go to confession.

Bishop Neumann's devotion and commitment to educating people in the Catholic faith led him to establish a diocesan wide elementary school system, as well as promoting private academies Catholic colleges. He was also known to teach theology classes at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia.

St. John Neumann lived the spiritual work of mercy to instruct the ignorant, not only in a formal or academic setting, but also by his humility, his spirituality, and his love for all people, no matter their race or ethnic heritage. He continues to teach us today the endless mercy of God.

St. John Neumann's feast day is January 5.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Thomas Nasta  
National Chaplain

# 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.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15	MONDAY, JUNE 6
WEDNESDAY, JULY 20	MONDAY, JULY 11

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# Report of the National Vice-President

Reverend Father, President Rajec, and members of the Board of Directors:

As always, I want to start off my report by thanking the Membership and Marketing Committee which is comprised of Brothers Andrew Rajec, Kenneth Arendt, and George Matta II for all the time and effort they spend with me on the problems and solutions that concern membership and marketing. Each member is very concerned with the growth and success of our society.

## Membership

As you will see by our annual statement, the First Catholic Slovak Union had another good year. Our assets grew by 15.4 million dollars and our surplus increased by 2.24 million dollars. We will go into all the annuities and insurance statistics when we get into our marketing report.

Our existing sales force is doing a tremendous job for the First Catholic Slovak Union. The Membership and Marketing Committee would like to express their sincere thanks to those recommenders who consistently recommend new or increased business during the year.

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 10 Insurance/Annuity Proposers by Total Points for the year 2015.

1. Roger Soltis
2. Audrey Balazik
3. Susan Lang
4. Albert Valo
5. Stephen Gerko
6. Michaelene Smolleck
7. Rebecca Demase
8. Kenneth Vehec
9. Rudolf Ondrejco
10. Rosemary Deliman

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 10 Proposers by Amount of Insurance Sold for the year 2015.

1. Rebecca Demase
2. Susan Lang
3. David Lang
4. James Marmol
5. Michael Krajsa
6. Sabina Sabados
7. Michael Lako
8. Michaelene Smolleck
9. Roger Soltis
10. Patricia Speshock

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 10 Proposers by Amount of Annuity/IRA/Park Money brought in for the year 2015.

1. Stephen Gerko
2. Roger Soltis
3. Cluey Sandy
4. Kimberly Meeker
5. Audrey Balazik
6. Linda Hanko
7. Rosemary Deliman
8. John Budis
9. Sabina Sabados
10. George Matta

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 10 Proposers by the Number of Insurance Policies Sold for the year 2015.

1. Dorothy Petrus
2. Mary Belechak
3. Vicki Lynn Schaub
4. Sabina Sabados
5. Audrey Balazik
6. John Nalevanko
7. Susan Lang
8. Arlo Meeker
9. Mike Lako
10. Florence Matta

To each and every one who signed an insurance member and/or who sent in an Annuity/IRA/Park Money contract for the year 2015: My heartfelt thanks and congratulations for a Job Well Done!

## Marketing

This past year the Membership and Marketing Committee...

- Is continuing to add more agents – as of this date, we have 223 agents under contract. We are instituting a program to recruit new agents in the states we are newly licensed.

- On April 25, 2015 – A sales seminar was held for the George Onda District #4 at the Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg, PA.

- On May 21-22, 2015 – The committee attended the Bruce and Depersis Seminar in Pittsburgh. They supply us with information regarding pending state and NAIC regulations which may affect us.

- Heavily advertising our:

A.) "Final Expense Insurance" – It is coverage specific to the cost of the funeral using our single premium policy.

B.) "Wealth Transfer – Wealth Management" – Through our single premium whole life policy the benefits avoid income tax \* avoid probate \* cash value growth.

- Advertising the IRA and Roth products as well as our annuity rates in our newspaper and in mailings, on the website and thru email.

- On July 15, 2015 – An informational booth was set up for the 92nd annual Slovak Day at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, PA.

- On August 9, 2015 – An informational booth for the fest was set up at the seminary grounds in Wickliffe, Ohio. A record crowd of 45,000 people attended. It is sponsored by the Cleveland Diocese.

- At all the festival booths – Information is provided on the FCSU and its insurance and annuity products. These booths are part of the on-going campaign to make the First Catholic Slovak Union more visible.

- On September 7, 2015 – An informational booth was set up at the annual Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Festival held at St. Anthony of Padua Church Hall in Parma, Ohio.

- On September 25, 2015 – An informational booth was set up at the New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival. The festival was held at the New Jersey Arts Center in Holmdel, New Jersey.

- On October 4, 2015 – A sales seminar was held for the Msgr. John E. Rura District #4 at the Msgr. Komar Hall in Linden, New Jersey.

- On October 29, 2015 – A sales seminar was held for the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District #14 at the Magic Tree Restaurant in Boardman, Ohio.

- Still have the incentive plan started in 2013 to help our recommenders become a licensed insurance agent in the state they reside in. The FCSU will pay ½ the cost to obtain a life insurance license in your state. This includes the cost of the school and fees. Depending on your productivity, the FCSU will pay for ½ of your license renewal. If interested, contact one of our in-house agents for a list of license schools in your state.

- Set up an insurance meet – This time it was a Southern Caribbean Cruise on Carnival's Liberty Cruise Ship from November 15 to November 21, 2015.

## Activities

Some of my activities in the year 2015 were: Attended all monthly Executive meetings as well as meetings called by the President. Letters concerning marketing/seminars were sent to the recommenders. Wrote articles pertaining to insurance and had them published in the Jednota. From April thru December, I sent the "Top Guns" to the editor. Inform all Regional Directors of their districts insurance and annuity production on a quarterly basis. Attended various district/branch meetings and/or social functions. Am a director in the Indiana Fraternal Alliance and attend all their meetings. Attend Bruce and Depersis Seminar in Pittsburgh. Attended all seminars. Set up booths at festivals. Chair the Membership and Marketing Committee and the Jednota Inc. Committee. I also sit on the FCSU Financial Committee, where we work diligently to support our Society through the approval of new investments – part of an overall financial strategy that has yielded tremendous success. Attended some of the 125th Anniversary Ceremonies and the 50th Anniversary of the Shrine in Washington, D.C. as well as the dedication of the Jednota Memorial Shrine in Middletown, PA. Went to the Midwest Pastoral Seminar in Worth, Illinois.

At this time, I personally want to thank our Executive Committee and the Board of Directors for their help and encouragement. I would also like to thank the branch and district officers for their untiring commitment to our great society. Last, but not least, I want to express my sincerest thanks to our home office staff for their excellent help and cooperation given to me throughout the year.

Until Next Time,  
Good Luck and God Bless,

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

# Annual Report of the National Chaplain

Two of our sister Catholic Slovak fraternal organizations had their conventions last year and I was honored to be a guest at both and offer greetings on behalf of our Society. The convention of the Slovak Catholic Sokol was held in August in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, while the First Catholic Ladies Slovak Association had their convention in October at Louisville, Kentucky. I was a concelebrant at both opening convention Masses.

In addition to being the national chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union, I am also the First Vice President of the Slovak Catholic Federation. My primary responsibility is to coordinate the annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. This appeal raises funds to support the operating costs of the residence for priests from Slovakia pursuing post-graduate studies in Rome as well as benefit religious communities of men and women in Slovakia that have a counterpart in the United States represented on the Conference of Slovak Religious. I was able to attend an Executive Committee meeting in July, however, due to scheduling conflicts, I was unable to attend the Executive Board meeting in September.

Throughout the year I have written articles that were published in the Jednota and have answered correspondence that was sent to me.

May our Lord continue to bless us in our all our endeavors.

Faternally,

**Reverend Thomas A. Nasta**  
National Chaplain

## 2015 Annual Report of the National Treasurer

Dear Father Nasta, President Rajec, and Brother and Sister Officers,

I am pleased to report that all financials and other reports required by the various states where the First Catholic Slovak Union is licensed to do business have all been properly filed by March 1, 2016.

The national and world economic climate continues its slow recovery. Normalization of the Federal Reserve's extraordinary monetary policy was begun during the prior year with the FED raising the interest rate slightly. There appears to be no discernable change in the Federal Monetary policy as a result of the new Federal Reserve Chairman. International economies continue to struggle and are taking various steps and measures to try to stop the falling value of the Euro and preventing some countries from bankruptcy. Falling oil price are playing a major role in this. Currently it appears the prices are leveling and starting to rise.

The Society's investment portfolio continues its well diversified status with about the same emphasis on longer maturities; and no investment in the CMO's because the need for the flow of cash is less. The emphasis in the past three years has been diverted from FNMA, FHLMC and GMNA bonds to other types of securities, mainly Industrial and Miscellaneous bonds. Corporate bond issues have increased in number, providing some attractive rates. The Society's portfolio profile has changed from purchasing CMO's to divesting them from the portfolio by pay downs and sales. Over \$5,400,000 of CMO's and GNMA's were disposed of in 2015 with no new purchases. As notes before, a factor in the area was the FHLB advising that it no longer requires only Federal Government issued securities, but that some municipal government securities are now accepted for purposes of membership and to acquire loans. One large advantage is that municipals' interest rates are more favorable and not subject to the volatility and pay downs of CMO's. The Society continues to utilize low interest funds that are available as a result of the Society's membership in the Federal Home Loan Bank. In spite of the continuing, slow economic climate recovery and changes mandated by the FNMA and FHLMC classification, the Society's 2015 Investment Income results were stable.

Positive results for 2015; Surplus increased almost \$2,250,000, or 9.3%. This raised surplus to \$26,397,416 and the solvency ratio increased to 107.75%. The Society reduced its holding in the Hedge Funds during 2015, and the current total is about half of the 2014 level. Total Hedge Fund investments are within the Ohio insurance regulation standards.

Net investment rate of return was 4.47%. The current year's income released from the IMR is included as part of investment income. The Society's average investment return for the past five years is 4.67%. Bonds make up 93.2% (+3.7%) of the portfolio. Investment grade bonds (NAIC Class 1 & 2) are 98.8% (+0.4%) of bonds owned. One Society bond is in the low category, and only 1.2% are in NAIC Class 3. The Society owns no Preferred stocks. Common stocks are 0.6% (-0.4%) of investment assets. Common stocks include the Society's investment in Jednota Holding Company (\$662,075). The diversification of security classes, although modest in some areas, helps stabilize the investment portfolio. The Society had a +4.4% increase in assets. The level of 2015 premium income was greater than in 2014 production, which helps provide for investment funds for the continued effective growth of the Society.

Net gains on the sale of bonds and common stock were -\$471,024 of which \$167,686 of bond gains went into the Interest Maintenance Reserve, as required by Regulation. These bond gains helped to maintain a positive IMR balance, which reduced to \$329,048 and will be released in annual increments each year. There are realized capital losses shown of \$638,711, which resulted from the sale of common stock.

IN 2015, \$485,630 of prior years' bonds/preferred stock profits were included as a part of income. This amount was released from the Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR). The IMR requires that most profits or losses realized when bonds or preferred stocks are matures,

called, or sold, must be placed in this reserve and amortized to the original maturity date of the security. This requirement does not apply to bankrupt Bonds & Preferred Stocks. The Society primarily holds bonds for income and does not actively trade these securities. The current IMR schedule provided that profits from prior years will be released to the income for several years. The current schedule of funds to be released from the IMR are shown on page 25 of the Annual Statement.

The bankrupt Lehman Brothers bonds have been removed from the Society's books. The Society continues to receive payments from the bankruptcy distributions. The amount received in 2015 was \$106,968. The Society had \$100,000 of Borden Inc. bonds that were classified as bankrupt and were disposed of in 2015.

The Asset Valuation Reserve (AVR) is required by regulation for purposes of mitigating market swings. Because of the realized capital loss activity, and due to the unrealized gains and the unique calculation system of the AVR, the 2015 maximum was \$2,191,650 which meant that \$120,125 was released to surplus. This is the second year in which funds have been released from AVR. The purpose of the AVR is to guard against large swings in the economy. The release from the AVR was due to the drop in the value of common stock. The bond/mortgage loan component continues to be at its maximum.

The Society purchased over \$54,000,000 of securities in the year 2015, while over \$32,000,000 of securities were matures, called or sold. The combined total of \$86,000,000 equal 25% of the 2014 invested assets. The large volume of activity reflects the continuing large number of calls, especially government sponsored entities such as FNMA, FHLMC, and pay downs on GMNA's. The challenge continues to find replacement bonds of equal value and high interest rates available while maintaining quality. Another factor is to earn sufficient investment income to support the competitive interest rates on the Society's annuity products. The average years to maturity of bonds was 15 years at the end of 2015. The large volume of trading in recent years is consistent with the current volatile economic climate and the premium production.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

**George F. Matta II**  
National Treasurer

## Annual Report 2015 National Director of Fraternal Activities

President Rajec, Fellow Board Members, and Members of the FCSU,

It was a busy first year as your activity director. It began in early January with finishing the 2014 coloring contest. There were 147 youths between the ages of 4 and 12 who participated in the annual contest. The entries were as follows:

Region 1 – 11	Region 3 - 22	Region 5 – 25	Region 7 - 26
Region 2 - 0	Region 4 - 32	Region 6 - 25	Region 8 - 3

There were also 3 non-members who submitted entries. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each age group received a T-shirt, certificate and a check as was advertised. However, those who entered but did not win also received a letter of congratulations and a \$5 gift card for their efforts. We are grateful to the good Sisters who judge all the entries every year.

The bowling tournament was held with the National Slovak Society and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association at Eastway Lanes in Erie, PA., May 1-3, 2015. Since we received many lane sponsors between the 3 organizations, (especially the FCSLA members), everyone enjoyed a wonderful hospitality buffet at the lanes on Friday evening. Saturday, following Mass at the Hilton Garden Inn, an evening of food, refreshments and socializing took place in the Garden Atrium. This is a very complicated activity. I would like to thank Joe Burkhart who serves as the tournament secretary for his expertise in the USBC rules, and for registering the tournament etc.. and to the former FCSU Activity Director, Suzy Ondrejco who offered valuable information and assistance in the set up at the lanes. Also, thanks to the tournament committee, who helps to keep things running smoothly during the tournament.

July 17-19, 2015 the annual Golf Tournament was held in Dubois, PA. Friday evening in preparation for the event the members were treated to some snacks and refreshments before the competition began. Saturday evening following Mass, dinner was held at the Best Western Conference Center. Following Sunday's round of golf a barbecue was held before everyone left to go home. Thanks to Pres. Andy Rajec, Paul Ritz (Activity Director Emeritus), and Gary Matta, FCSU Legal Counsel for supporting the tournament by being sponsors. Also, thanks to the golf tournament committee who keep watch for winners on holes for special prizes, or a hole in one, take pictures etc.

This year's (2015) photo contest had 43 entries in the 12-18 age group, and in the 18+ age group there were 75 entries. The photos were judged by an Art Institute of Pittsburgh graduate. Letters of congratulations were sent along with checks to all the winners.

The Coloring contest for 2015 was printed in the Jednota paper in November and December. The results are being published in 2 issues. The letters and prizes will be sent out shortly.

The dates for the events in 2016 are: bowling tournament-- April 22,23 2016 at Sawmill Lanes in Columbus, Ohio---golf tournament at Tam O'Shanter in Canton, Ohio July 22-24.

In addition to these activities I have published some articles in the Jednota to advertise the National tournaments, pictures and results of the tournaments and contests. I also asked each region/district to join in a challenge and send first aid supplies to an organization that makes kits to give to handicapped veterans to be used when they travel. The Pittsburgh District collected 4 boxes of items that were sent to the organization and District 4 in New Jersey donated \$250.00 for the project. Thank you to the officers who encouraged their districts to participate.

In November, a meeting of the Fraternal Activities Committee was held in Donora, PA. The

committee met to discuss rule changes for the tournaments, possible venues, and ways to improve attendance at our tournaments.

In September I attended the 50th Anniversary of the Sorrowful Mother Chapel in Washington DC., the 125th Anniversary celebrations in Cleveland and Pittsburgh. I also continue to attend and participate in meetings and events held by Br. 2, the Pittsburgh District and other Slovak community events.

I have given a report about the progress of activities at each board meeting. I have also prepared a financial report for each event which is sent to Secretary Arendt and the chair of the auditors as per the by-laws. Twice a year a financial report of the fraternal Activities account is prepared and given to the internal auditors for their review and audit of the account.

ACTIVITY	# of Participants	Cost to FCSU
Coloring Contest 2014	144	2651.25
Bowling Tournament 2015	113	2474.93
Golf Tournament 2015	73	3852.03
Photo Contest 2015	118	960.00
		<b>SUB TOTAL: 9938.21</b>
Picnics: Any region who has a picnic can get \$5/Member reimbursement **		
Region 3	31	<b>155.00</b>
Region 4	87	<b>435.00</b>
Region 8	84	<b>420.00</b>
		<b>SUB TOTAL: 1010.00</b>
Bowling & Golf Leagues can get \$5/ member reimbursement**		
Bowling	Golf	
Akron 9 45.00	Youngstown 15 75.00	
Br. 2 35 175.00		
Mon Valley 42 210.00		
<b>TOTALS: 615.00</b>	<b>75.00</b>	<b>SUB TOTAL: 690.00</b>
Bowling: Sanction Fees	Participates in Nat'l Tournament Full sanction fee paid	DOES NOT participate in Nat'l Tournament half fee paid
Akron 67.50		
Br. 2 457.50		
Mon Valley 648.00		
Toronto 910.00		
		<b>SUB TOTAL: 2083.00</b>
\$25 for each member on a winning bowling league team		
Mon Valley 46.60	Toronto 125.00	<b>SUB TOTAL: 171.60</b>

**TOTAL AMOUNT SPENT ON ACTIVITIES IN 2015: 13,892.81**

\*\* Subject to meeting established requirements. For forms or more information contact me. Rudy. Ondrejco@gmail.com

Thanks to all of you who promote and/or participate in the various activities. As you can see there are many regions/districts and members who do not take advantage of the fraternal activities we offer. I would like to hear any ideas that any of you might have for other events.

This past year I have learned many things not only about sports and activities, but as a member of the Board of Directors I realize how important it is to be knowledgeable about many other areas of the insurance business. I will continue to learn as much as I can so that I can make informed decisions as a Board Member. Therefore, I would like to make the following recommendations:

--That new board members be given a complete and detailed orientation before the first official board meeting so we can be comfortable with policies and procedures etc.

--That board members be given the opportunity to attend meetings/workshops held by the state and American Fraternal Alliance organizations, so that we can bring new ideas to our meetings and organization, and learn about the legal duties and responsibilities of board members.

--That a committee be formed made up of board members to discuss new ideas for fraternal programs for all ages, ways to increase member involvement, set goals, etc. to be presented to the whole board for discussion.

The business world has changed over the years and continues to change. Hopefully, these suggestions will help our Jednota face the challenges that are waiting for us in 2016 and beyond.

Fraternally,

**Rudy Ondrejco**  
National Director of Activities

## 2015 Annual Report of Region 1 Director

Dear Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec, Executive Officers, and fellow members of the FCSU Board of Directors:

It was an honor to represent Region 1 on the Board of Directors this past year. My first year as a Board Member was very productive and fruitful. Firstly, I would like to thank the Executive Board and all of my fellow board members for their warm welcome, guidance, and support. I am eager to continue to learn and collaboratively work together to grow our society. I appreciate the assistance I received from all of the Board members while I assimilated. I am particularly grateful to everyone for their support and interest in my ideas.

I have performed all the duties required of me as stipulated in the bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union. As part of my duties and responsibilities as a Regional Director, I've attended all Board of Directors meetings personally or via teleconference, as requested, in addition to Executive Board meetings on invitation of the president.

I've also attended all of Msgr. John E. Rura's, District 4 meetings, and liaised telephonically and in person with the Presidents of each of the districts under Region 1.

Furthermore, I've reached out to all presidents of the branches in my Districts on numerous occasions making myself available to attend meetings and address their questions, concerns, or obtain feedback. This was done through an initial written communication and then followed up telephonically where possible. Lastly, I've attended all Branch 746 meetings.

This past year has certainly been extremely busy and productive due in large part to that fact that it was the 125th anniversary of our society. I organized various events, activities, and trips on behalf of FCSU. I've also attended numerous activities that were sponsored by FCSU and local branches. Additionally, I've attended various events in the NJ/NY/CT area to promote our great society.

To recap:

- **Joe's Retirement Party** - On Sunday October 12, 2014 I, along with Branch 746, organized a surprise retirement luncheon celebration at Luciano's Ristorante for my predecessor, Mr. Joseph Minarovich, Region 1 Director Emeritus, who after many years of dedicated service to the First Catholic Slovak Union retired at the quadrennial convention in August 2014 in Philadelphia. The celebration was well attended. Joe was very surprised.

- **Solicitation of new members** - I met personally with the Slovak Parish Committee in Trenton to give them an overview of FCSU and how they could become members. I attended mass at St. Michal's and then spent the afternoon with some of the young active members of the Slovak community at St. Michal's. I distributed information about various FCSU products and informed the group about upcoming events.

- **Christmas Celebration** - On January 11th, 2015 I attended Branch 746's post-Christmas celebration.

- **What Is Jednota? Campaign** - Throughout the course of February I put together a two page Fact Sheet on FCSU in English and Slovak to better inform the Slovak-American community about the work of our organization. These Fact Sheets were shared with, and approved by, the home office with minimal changes. These flyers were mass printed and distributed to non-members at various Jednota events including the Winery Tour, Shrine event, Seminar, and Region 1's 125th Anniversary. In total about 2000 copies were distributed to non-members.

- **District Meeting / Branch 746 Meeting** - On March 15th I attended the District 4 meeting as well as Branch 746 meeting where we discussed upcoming events.

- **125th Anniversary** - Region 1 Proposal - In February, as per the request of the President, I submitted a detailed proposal to host a Gala Dinner for the 125th anniversary celebration for Region 1 with an event vision, event planning details, proposed budget, and possible dates. I also brainstormed with ideas on promotional giveaways, promotional flyers for the 125th celebrations as well as festivals. I was keen on pushing for having a Jednota mascot!

- **JEP Campaign** - From March through April, I launched a campaign to attract young members through the JEP initiative. I liaised with Vice President Harcar to obtain additional information as to how this was done in the past. My local branch, 746, agreed to pay for 1 year of a JEP policy for each child from the Slovak school which is linked to our local parish. I coordinated with the teachers at the Slovak school in Linden, NJ and met with them personally to explain the campaign, reasons behind our interest in the youth, and the benefits our fraternal organization offers. I drafted and finalized a letter which was sent home with each of the 60+ kids that attend the school that outlined the background behind the initiative and outlined dates that parents could stop in to the school to speak with me about joining. The campaign was successful in spreading awareness of FCSU, its products, and gaining new members through purchase of JEP policies.

- **Pro Musica** - Mangolia Debut in the USA - (April - July) I was approached to help organize a fundraiser/concert for a children's group coming from eastern Slovakia (Michalovce and Sobrance). The group consisted of 40 children ranging in ages 8-16 who came to the US to be part of a prestigious Chorale Competition, at which they eventually won the 1st Prize, in Washington, DC. I started working on this project in early April meeting with St. Joseph's Club, Slovak-American Cultural Center, Jednota Branch 746, the Slovak Consulate, the pastor, and many others to see if this would be possible. In the end, 3 organizations took the lead to co-sponsor the dinner show which took place on July 3rd with approximately 170 people attending. Local families provided accommodations for the performers for the weekend in order to significantly reduce expenses. As a sponsor, FCSU and Branch 746 were listed on all of the promotional materials and also presented the group with a donation checks. Non-members who attended the event received Jednota newspaper copies and a FCSU Fact Sheet. The children's performance was broadcast on Slovak television, TV LUX where 3 members of Branch 746 were interviewed. The choir performed at the first mass of Rev. Jozef Krajnak, PhD, the new Slovak pastor at Holy Family Church, also a Branch 746 member, who started his ministry the same weekend.

- **Bango Concert, NYC** - I attended a concert at St. John Nepomucene of a Slovak blind opera singer, Marian Bango. At this event I had the opportunity to engage with members of Branch 45 and Branch 716.

- **Organizing Pilgrims to the Basilica of the National Shrine event** - In March I began sending emails to key members of the Slovak communities in NJ, NY, CT, and PA to save the date for the FCSU's commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Our Lady of Sorrows in order to assure that no other event was being planned for this weekend as there was a Mass organized yearly by Branch 856 under the leadership of Katherine Nowatkoski. I contacted those involved in organizing the mass in 2014 to assure that a separate Mass would not be happening the

continued on page 6

## 2015 Annual Report of Region 1 Director

continued from page 5

same weekend. In June/July I started aggressively promoting the event by handing out flyers in both Slovak and English to local parishioners, requesting pastors to announce the pilgrimage at their masses, and organize buses. I am proud to report that 4 buses and several private vehicles attended from my Region which amounted to approximately 250 people and many Slovak clergy from our area.

- **Shrine event program** – Throughout the course of the summer (June – September) I actively assisted Fr. Nasta, President Rajec, and Secretary Arendt with preparations for the 50th Anniversary Mass. I participated in numerous conference calls, coordinated with local pastors, organized volunteers, promoted the event, worked with 2 organists on suggestions for hymns and songs for the liturgy for approval by Fr. Nasta, arranged for a choir, coordinated the recitation of the rosary before the mass in both Slovak and English, suggested the rosary with FCSU logo and website as a giveaway, and put a together the minute by minute agenda for the day. It was a pleasure assisting the team in making this event a success. Thank you for including me.

- **Historic Television Broadcast** – On June 27th I was privileged to be a part of an intimate mass at the oratory chapel celebrated by Rev. George Torok, Rector of Oratory of St. Filip of Neri. The Slovak catholic network, TV LUX, comparable to the stature of EWTN, broadcasted the Mass live to Slovakia for the first time. I was asked to bring up the offertory gifts. I met with TV LUX producer and directors to brainstorm and obtain feedback on streaming live masses from the USA to Slovakia. They were interested in partnering with FCSU.

- **20th Anniversary of Ordination for Fr. Vladimir Chripko** - On June 28th I attended a special Mass in Tappan, NY con-celebrated by all eight oratorians of St. Filip of Neri to celebrate Fr. George Torok's 54th anniversary of ordination and Fr. Vladimir Chripko's 20th anniversary of priesthood, both members of FCSU. This was an opportunity to meet personally with all of the oratories to confirm their attendance at Jednota's Shrine pilgrimage to be hosted in September in Washington, DC as well as engage them in assisting with the celebration and recruitment of pilgrims from the Slovak parishes that they serve.

- **Sand Castle Winery Tour** – On July 13th I organized a wine tour a Slovak owned winery in Erwinna, PA. There was a full bus of attendees who were excited to learn about wine, wine pairing, and sample the harvest. A lunch at the winery was arranged with a stop at local outlets on the return home. The trip was advertised in the Jednota, at local meetings, to District 4, and to members of the local parish, Holy Family Church, via advertisement in the bulletin and distribution of information flyers. By organizing a different type of event, we were able to obtain a diverse group of attendees ranging in ages 29 – 85. As a special treat, arrangements were made to have the owner, a Slovak speaker, do the wine tasting presentation. He even sang for the group. Overall, it was a very successful event which supported a Slovak business and brought together members as well as non-members. As a direct result, we were able to obtain new members to join FCSU.

- **Region 8's 125th Anniversary Boat Cruise** – The weekend of August 22nd -23rd I attended the wonderful boat cruise organized by Regional Director, Milos Mitro. The 125th anniversary celebrations started with a celebratory Mass at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Parish in Mississauga. Afterward, I attended the coffee and cake session to witness firsthand the thriving parish due in large part because of the support of the local Jednota branch. The cruise on Lake Ontario was a special treat that allowed us to take in the splendid sights. The Slovak band was a great addition. I had the opportunity to meet Jednota members from Canada and felt like I was at home. Thank you to Milos, his wife Anne, and Jednota members for their hospitality and for organizing such a successful event.

- **Home Office's 125th Anniversary** – The weekend of August 29-30th I attended the 125th Anniversary celebration in Cleveland Ohio. The event was exceptionally organized with large attendance. I participated in the Mass as a lecturer and was proud to be able to have the Slovak language included as part of one of the scripture readings. It was a privilege to be invited and celebrate the momentous occasion with my fellow board members. Congratulations to the dedicated staff the worked to make the event truly memorable.

- **Mass to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of our Lady of Sorrows Shrine** – On September 12th I participated in the celebratory mass and assisted with logistics of the day. I am happy to report that there were many Jednota members in attendance from Region 1 including District 4 and 16 board members, branch presidents, and Region 1 Director Emeritus Joe Minarovich and his family.

- **Memorial Dedication** - On September 13, 2015, after the conclusion of the September board meeting, I attended the Memorial dedication Mass and ceremony on the Jednota Estates grounds in Middletown, PA. It was a touching dedication to our veterans and deceased members.

- **Pope Francis** – On September 28th along with some members of Branch 746, I attended the mass of Pope Francis at Madison Square Garden. We were also interviewed by Slovak TV station, STV, on our views of the Pope and his role in the world. It was an incredibly humbling experience to see the Pope with my own eyes. It is something I will remember always and cherish.

- **Slovak Festival** – On September 30th I was attended the Slovak Festival in Holmdel, NY where I assisted our Vice President Mr. Harcar and Andrew P. Rajec at the table in distributing promotional materials, meeting members and non-members, and spreading the word about our society. Also assisting throughout the day were all three generations of Minarovichs – Joe, Stephen, and Adam. In attendance were approximately 5,000 people from the NJ, NY, CT, and PA areas. Informational flyer on the upcoming seminar, Jednota newspapers, product information, and promotional materials were distributed to those attending.

- **Reception with Deputy Prime Minister of Foreign & European Affairs of the Slovak Republic** – On October 2nd, I was invited to attend a reception to welcome H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajcak to New York. In attendance were leaders in the Slovak community as well as many young Slovak professionals. I was able to speak briefly with the Minister and tell him about our society and some of the things we had planned for the year.

- **FCSU Seminar** – On October 4th, Vice President Mr. Andrew Harcar and Andrew P. Rajec conducted a very informative seminar on products offered by FCSU. All those attending, members and many non-members, which totaled around 70, were impressed by the professionalism and thoroughness of the presentations. I promoted the event by reaching out to the local branches of District 4, the hosts, and District 16 members, distributing flyers, and requesting announcements in local Slovak church bulletins. District 4 and 16 combined their seminars in

order to reduce costs for the organization. These seminars are a great way for people to be exposed to the products offered by FCSU. I am looking forward to the video presentations that we can use at meetings and other be able to set up less formal seminars as needed.

- **Installation of Fr. Jozef Krajnak, PhD** – On October 18th, Fr. Jozef, a member of Branch 746, was formally installed as the new pastor of Holy Family Church. I, along with members of Branch 746 and Branch 45 were present at the installation mass and the formal reception which followed.

- **District 17/Region 3's 125th Anniversary** – On Oct 25th I attended the 125th anniversary celebration organized by Regional Director Martha Zavada. The Pontifical Mass celebrated at St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, PA was truly a memorable. The celebration lunch/dinner was wonderfully organized and great fun. We even sang Slovak songs together. It was a wonderful day celebrating with Jednota members.

- **Slovak Young Professionals Networking event** – On November 21st, I attended an event organized by the Slovak Ambassador to the U.S. and the Consulate of the Slovak Republic in New York. The topics of discussion were focused on: Science & Research, Philanthropy, and Entrepreneurship. I was eager to meet new young faces and network with a broader audience of potential members.

- **Christmas Show Trip** – On November 21st, Branch 746, organized a matinee at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse for a showing of "A Playhouse Christmas Musical 2015." Both members and non-members were in attendance and enjoyed the show.

- **Installation of Fr. Chripko** – On November 22nd I attended the installation Mass of Fr. Vladimir Chripko, members of Branch 746, as pastor of St. Paul – St. Ann in Nyack, New York.

- **Office of Slovaks Living Abroad (USZZ)** – In November I was approached by the Consul General in NY to assist in making arrangements for Dr. Jan Varso to meet with Slovak organizations' leadership during his first trip to the United States as Director of USZZ. I facilitated the contact between our main office and the Consul General. Dr. Varso visited Ohio in early December.

- **Christmas Party** – On December 20th Branch 746 celebrated the Christmas season. Plans for 2016 events were discussed at the meeting, along with voting of the new branch executive board.

- **Slovak Ball** – On January 30th the Slovak-American Cultural Center hosted its 23rd Annual Slovak Ball in Garfield, NJ. In attendance were approximately 300 people and all of the Slovak diplomatic community. About twenty Jednota members from various branches were in attendance to support the event.

I am most excited to report on Region 1's 125th Anniversary Gala Dinner and Celebratory Mass. Articles in both Slovak and English along with photos of the event were published in the December 9th issue of the Jednota. Please refer to those articles for more detailed information.

- **On November 7th, Region 1 celebrated the 125th anniversary of FCSU Dinner Gala and the 100th anniversary of the death of Fr. Furdek celebratory Mass.** I began the planning of this event in the beginning of 2015 and worked to secure the venue, catering, organized the mass, invitations, decorations, preparation of the mass program, Gala Dinner program, and advertising/publicity for this event. My goal was to engage the Branch presidents in the preparations and advertising for the event. To this end, I wrote appeals to each of the District & Branch presidents and secretaries to encourage their members to attend this special anniversary event. Publicity was done through distribution of flyers, mailing of formal invitations, ads in the Jednota, Facebook postings, emails sent to all members of Region 1 by the main office, and personal emails to various distribution lists.

Region 1's 125th anniversary celebration was hosted by Branch 746 in collaboration with Branch 19 - St. Joseph Society of Bridgeport, CT, Branch 240 - St. John the Baptist Society of Raritan, NJ, Branch 45 - St. Matthew the Evangelist Society of New York City, NY, and Branch 716 - St. Stephen the Martyr Society of New York, NY. I was especially pleased to have other branches engaged in this event.

The celebrations commenced with a Mass that was held at Holy Family Church in Linden, where the National Chaplain, Fr. Thomas Nasta was the main celebrant of the bilingual liturgy. Concelebrants included Rev. Jozef Krajnak, PhD and Slovak priests from the Oratory of St. Filip Neri-- Rev. Vladimir Chripko, Rev. Martin Kertys, and Rev. Roman Palecko. Members of branch 240, 746, 45, and 716 participated in various parts of the Mass. Mr. John Budis of Branch 746 served as the Director of Liturgy and was the organist for the Mass with members of Branch 746 singing in the choir. The celebratory liturgy was followed by a gala dinner at Msgr. Komar Hall which commenced with a cocktail hour featuring traditional Slovak food such as holupky and segedínský guláš. The event sold out with those attending totalling over 250 people and reaching the capacity of the venue.

The rich program commenced with singing of the national anthems. The invocation was offered by Rev. Jozef Krajnak, PhD pastor of Holy Family Church which was built by Slovak-Americans in 1955. During the Gala Branch 746 rededicated to the church the restored 93 year old incorporation document of the First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 746 which was found in the garage of the church rectory. This was an especially symbolic moment. Among those present included honored guests Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York, Ms. Jana Trnovcova, who offered the toast; acclaimed Broadway star Ms. Luba Mason who performed "Materinská moja reč" (Motherland); children from Slovenské centrum detí Lipka who performed in Slovak; and members of the Executive Board and Board of Directors of FCSU. President Andrew M. Rajec's keynote address highlighted the on-going work of Jednota and the changing atmosphere the Society faces as we transition into the 21st century.

The Dinner Gala wouldn't have been complete without a three-tiered cake with the Jednota logo and delectable homemade Slovak pastries! The Home Office was presented with an original acrylic painting donated by young artist Pavol Olsavsky III of Fr. Stefan Furdek. Dancing was key to the success of this event and hence the band played until 1am!

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all those that attended and came to support the evening especially President Andrew M. Rajec and his wife Idka; Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt and his wife Theresa; National Chaplain Rev. Thomas A. Nasta; Chairman of Auditors Karen Hunka; Region 1 Director Emeritus Joe Minarovich and wife Lillian; Region 2 Director Damian Nasta and his wife Peggy; Region 3 Director Martha Zavada Wojcik and her son; Region 8 Director Milos Mitro and his wife Anne; Supreme Court Member James Bench and his wife Kay; Supreme Court member and FCSU Director of Independent Agents Andrew P. Rajec; and Slovak Editor of Jednota Anna Sutherland and her husband Anthony.

All of the members had an extraordinary time and were extremely impressed by the caliber of the event and the ability to celebrate together such a momentous occasion in our history as a successful society. This would not be possible without the assistance of the home office for

continued on page 7

## 2015 Annual Report of Region 1 Director

continued from page 6

which I am deeply appreciative.

I also want to highlight and thank the people who helped me make this event a success. Special thanks is due to: Mrs. Emilia Filak for all her assistance in helping to organize the details of the event, Mr. and Mrs. Chomas for their assistance in arranging the bar and assisting with the set up/clean up, Mrs. Anna Balas and Mrs. Anna Korcak for taking reservations for tickets, and Fr. Jozef Krajnak and Mr. John Budis for their assistance in coordinating the celebratory mass.

During this extremely busy year filled with various joyous events and activities, I also sadly report that I attended several funerals of local branch members.

Throughout the year I've submitted various articles and photos to publicize Region 1's activities. I would like to thank personally Teresa Ivanec and Anna Sutherland for all their assistance in putting together our Jednota newspaper. I am always proud to distribute copies to non-members so they can familiarize themselves with our society. Having the newspaper in both English and Slovak is a wonderful representation of how the organization has maintained its roots and continues to embrace and promote the Slovak language.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the home office staff for their support, encouragement, and administrative assistance. They were a wonderful resource throughout the year and I am grateful to them for all their hard work.

Lastly, I want to sincerely thank all the members of Region 1 for their support. I look forward to working with all of the members of the Executive Board and Board of Directors to furthering the success of our society and increasing membership and participation.

Respectfully submitted,

**Sabina Sabados**  
Region 1 Director

## 2015 Annual Report of Region 2 Director

Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec, and fellow members of the FCSU Board of Directors:

It has once again been a privilege and an honor to serve as the Regional Director for Region 2.

In this past year, I performed all duties required of me as stipulated by the bylaws. I've attended all Board of Directors meetings which were held in Independence, OH, and Hyattsville, MD, and the quarterly board meetings either in person or over the phone as a teleconference. In May 2015, I also attended via teleconference the monthly Executive Committee meeting that was held in Pittsburgh, PA, at the invitation of the President. I attended both of the district meetings that my region held in Philadelphia, PA, and Egypt, PA, where I updated the delegates with information learned at the board meetings.

In May 2015 I attended and participated at the FCSU bowling tournament in Erie, PA. In July 2015 I attended Slovak Day in Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, PA, and then participated in FCSU golf tournament in DuBoise, PA. I look forward to attending these events again in 2016. On the weekend of September 12-13, 2015, my wife and I attended the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Chapel of the Seven Sorrows at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, and the dedication of the Jednota Memorial in Middletown, PA. I also attended regional 125th Anniversary celebration in Region 1 (New Jersey) and Region 3 (Scranton, PA).

As always, I continue to keep my branches informed through my reports at the district meetings and will continue to do so in the future.

Fraternally,

**Damian D. Nasta**  
Region 2 Director

## 2015 Annual Report of Region 4 Director

Dear Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec, Executive Officers and fellow members of the FCSU Board of Directors,

This past year I've attended all board meetings by personal attendance or teleconference including the September board meeting in Hyattsville, MD. The Executive Board Meeting was attended by teleconference held on July 24th, 2015 at the request of the president.

On March 8th, June 14th and November 8th, 2015, I attended the Frank T. Holly, Jr. District (#9) meetings. On April 25th and September 26th, 2015, I attended the George Onda District (#3) meeting, April 19th, 2015, the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District (#12) meeting and on April 26th and October 25th the Monsignor Martvon District (#7) meeting.

I attended the Slovak mass in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C and the rededication of the Mother of Sorrows chapel and then visited the Slovak Embassy and met the Ambassador, Peter Kmec. I was also instrumental in getting a bus from our region with about 50 people to attend the above activities. The next day, I traveled to Middletown, PA to attend the memorial dedication. I was also present for the membership meet held on the Carnival Liberty Cruise ship which sailed the southern Caribbean from November 15th to the 22nd, 2015.

Over the past year I was present at all four meetings of the St. Wendelin Branch 162 on March 8th, June 14th, Sept. 20th and Dec. 6th, 2015.

I attended the bowling tournament on May 2-3, 2015 in Erie, PA and on May 22nd, I attended the Jednota Properties, Inc. meeting where I served as President. On October 11, I attended the Slovak Radio Hour Fund Raiser held at the Westwood Golf Club in West Mifflin, PA.

My wife, Patty, and I attended a Vilija Dinner on December 6th, 2015 in Greensburg, PA which was sponsored by the George Onda District.

During the past year, I was involved with the Jednota Estates property appraisal, the mapping and selling of the right of ways for the pipeline companies, as well as selling some of the timber on the property.

The society celebrated its 125th anniversary and I attended the affairs held in Pittsburgh on June 7th, and Cleveland on August 29th.

It is reported with sadness that I attended the Jennifer Jordon funeral home in White Oak, PA

where our brother and former national treasurer, George Matta, was viewed. May God bless and watch over his wife, Florence, and the whole Matta family.

I want to thank all fraternal members for their hospitality where both my wife and I were graciously welcomed at all meetings and events. I look forward to seeing everyone again at the various branch and district meetings and all activities at the national level in the upcoming year. It truly is an honor to serve as your regional director.

Respectfully submitted,

**James R. Marmol, Regional Director, Region IV**

## 2015 Annual Report of Region 5 Director

Fellow officers and members,

I ask you to accept this as my yearly report. I attended meetings for Pittsburgh district (Okres) and Msgr. Tiso District (Okres). I represented the Jednota at various lodge meetings in my districts. Some of these events include Slovak Day, The Annual Radio Dance for the Pittsburgh radio program. I also represented the Jednota at the bowling and golf tournaments, as both a participant and a worker.

I attended all board of director meetings, and sold policies and annuities to old and new members. I also planned and executed the Pittsburgh District's 125th Anniversary Celebration of the F.C.S.U. There were some 150 people in attendance for this occasion as we as Supreme Officers of the F.C.S.U. There are close to 40 active lodges in the Pittsburgh District and all participated in one way or another. There are 4 active lodges within the Tiso District. I have helped in the merging of some of the lodges within my district to ensure that all lodges would have some type of active representation at meetings.

That is all I have to report on the district, thank you and fraternally yours,

**Michael E Lako**  
Region 5 Director

## 2015 Annual Report of Region 6 Director

Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Rajec, and Fellow Board Members:

Since our last annual meeting, I have attended all meetings as Regional Director. I also attended the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC which was held on September 12, 2015 in conjunction with the Slovak Catholic Federation Pilgrimage.

I worked at the annual Slovak/Jednota Day Picnic. I work with Joe Scavina selling our insurance.

I attended our District Seminar which was very well attended. I would like to compliment Andy Rajec, Director of Independent Agents, for conducting a very professional and informative seminar. This seminar was the very best in my 20 years on the Board.

Respectfully,

**Henry Hassay**  
Region 6 Director

## 2015 Annual Report of Region 7 Director

Mr. President, Executive Committee, and Fellow Board Members:

The year 2015 was busy year for me with attendance at FCSU Region 7 meetings in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan as well at national meetings in Ohio and Washington D.C. Important events in 2015 were celebrating the 125th anniversary the First Catholic Slovak Union and the 50th anniversary of the Slovak Chapel in the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C. Visitors to the Slovak chapel claim it is the most attractive in the Shrine. Next, all enjoyed a visit to a reception at the Slovak Embassy in Washington D.C.

The Chicago area's 125th FCSU celebration was held at the Garden Chalet in Worth, IL. Attendees from several FCSU branches attended and enjoyed lunch with a presentation about the history of the FCSU. Everyone at the celebration received a rosary and an engraved champagne flute keepsake for the FCSU 125th.

This was followed by a visit to Holy Hill Wisconsin to partake in the 100th anniversary of the Slovak Pilgrimages to Basilica of Holy Hill in Hubertus, WI.

I look forward to a busy 2016 for the FCSU.

Respectfully,

**Rudy Bernath**  
Region 7 Director

## 2015 Annual Report of Region 8 Director

Mr. President, Executive Committee and Fellow Board Members,

This is my report for the Year 2015. It has been a privilege and honor to serve as the Regional Director for Region 8.

In 2015,

- I have performed all duties required of me as stipulated in the bylaws of the FCSU.
- I have attended the annual Board of Directors meeting In March 2015 at the Head Office. Then I attended the Semi annual meeting which was held in Washington DC in conjunction with the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Dedication by the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Chapel of "Our Lady of Sorrows" located inside the National Basilica in Washington DC.
- I also participated in both quarterly teleconference meetings.
- I have also attended the local annual meetings of Okres Msgr. Michael Shuba District and Branch # 785, as well as their semi annual meetings.
- Personally I participated in fraternal activities of the Jednota by taking part in the International Bowling Tournament which was held in Erie PA in May 2015 and also attended our golf tournament in July that was held at Treasure Lakes.
- For our local fraternal activities I assisted and participated in our annual summer Regional

continued on page 8

## 2015 Annual Report of Region 8 Director

continued from page 7

Picnic held in June 2015 in Mississauga Ontario which was well attended by our members and guests. We were very privileged to have with us the National President Mr. Andrew Rajec and his wife Idka as well as the Executive Secretary Ken Arendt and his wife Theresa.

- Organized with the help of Okres President Mike Kapitan and Branch 785 President Milan Zoldak a boat cruise on Lake Ontario in celebration of Jednota 125th Anniversary Celebration which was well attended by members and guests as well as special guests from Head office and a few Regional Directors. The Mass before was celebrated by Jednota Chaplain Father Thomas Nasta at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church in Mississauga, ON, Canada

- I participated in our Annual Local Golf Tournament of Jednota. This was held in September 2015 at Deerfield Golf Club. This event was also well attended with members and guests.

- I assisted and enjoyed the Casino Rama bus trips, which were organized by Jednota Branch 785 member Emil Jursa.

- Also I attended funeral services of our deceased members in Mississauga Ontario.

Respectfully submitted

**Milos Mitro**  
Region 8 Director

## 2015 Annual Report of President and Property Manager, Jednota Properties, Inc.

Dear Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec, Executive Officers, Members of the FCSU Board of Directors, Officers of Jednota, Inc. and Jednota Properties, Inc.,

This is my first full year report. Since my last report, I entered into a contract with Performance Services, Inc. for window cleaning for 2015 and have renewed the contract for 2016. I attended and chaired the meeting for Jednota Properties, Inc. on May 22, 2015. On May 29 and 30 I visited the property, took photos and prepared a short report that I shared with the home office and fellow board members by way of email.

In June, I contracted with Centimark to clean the roof drains and to review the roof system so that a maintenance and management program could be started. The parking lot was sealed and painted on June 19 and all the building windows were cleaned on June 22, 2015. I also attended a teleconference meeting on June 25 concerning the new lease for Xerox. After back and forth negotiations, on Aug. 17th the Xerox lease was signed for a period of two years with two (2) one year extension options. While attending the memorial dedication on Sept. 13, I observed the building and grounds.

Jim Eppley of American Airlines (formerly U.S. Airways and Piedmont Airlines), sent an email concerning two rooftop units that needed replaced. After investigating his issues and concerns, we discovered from a report by Enginuity, that heat exchangers were deteriorated and could cause carbon monoxide to escape into the lease space. Quick action was taken and I hired Enginuity on 12-14-15 to replace the two rooftop units. I will provide a proactive stance and be ready to replace the remaining 9 units over the next couple of years, but on an as needed basis. There has since been an additional unit go bad that serves the Server Room for the airline company. The unit has been ordered and is in the hands of the contractor waiting to be installed.

The winter was relatively mild until the 30 inches of snow fell the weekend of Jan. 22 and 23, 2016. Steve Nease had contracted C.D. Glace to help with the snow removal around the building and parking lot. I approved Centimark to remove the snow from the roof. Centimark also removed the snow from the roof of building #1. It was discussed with the F.C.S.U. president to consider hiring additional outside help when large amounts of snow falls in the area. This past amount was difficult to manage by a single person and our equipment is old and needed repaired after the snow removal. I will make it a part of my inspection to review the equipment upon my next visit this summer.

The "Extended Forbearance Agreement Number 4" was executed which renegotiates the mortgage and payments.

Various other maintenance issues were addressed such as grading problems, water getting into the building, water ponding at the loading dock of Xerox, replacement of worn doors and the trash screen on the Piedmont Airlines space, removal of dead shrubs, replacement of shrubs and the constant cutting of the grass, weeding, fertilizing and trimming of the landscaping.

The next Jednota Properties, Inc. board meeting is scheduled in May, 2016. The lease will expire for U.S. Airways on December 31, 2016. Therefore, it is anticipated that negotiations will start around mid-year.

An appraisal of the entire property was performed by Industrial Appraisal Company in September, 2015. In the appraisal, it was noted that the 5.4 Acres and building #2 was appraised at a value of \$5,530,000 while the remaining 292 acres and building #1 was appraised at a value of \$6,130,000. The total appraised value of Jednota Estates was \$11,660,000.

I look forward to continue in my position over the next year and will continue to maintain our Building #2 and property in a professional manner.

Respectfully submitted,

**James R. Marmol**  
President and Property Manager  
Jednota Properties, Inc.

## 2015 Annual Report of the National Auditors

The Internal Audit Team conducted audits of different processes of the First Catholic Slovak Union for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. The Audit Team was provided with all information necessary to conduct each reviews. The audits were performed in accordance with the bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada, effective January 1, 2015.

THE AUDIT PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES INCLUDED, BUT WERE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- Review expense vouchers submitted.
  - Ensure expense vouchers:
    - contain required and relevant documentation
    - calculations are correct
    - approvals are obtained
    - checks are properly issued and documented
- Test death claims processed.
  - Ensure death claims:
    - contain required and relevant documentation
    - are processed correctly according to FCSU
    - checks are properly issued and documented
- Test payroll and personnel procedures.
  - Ensure payroll and personnel:
    - procedures are in place and functioning properly
    - calculations of earning, special payments, benefits, taxes and voluntary/involuntary deductions are accurate complete and timely
    - transactions are accurately reflected in the accounting system
- Test branch stipend processing.
  - Ensure stipend requests:
    - contain required and relevant documentation:
      - Annual report
      - Financial report
    - verify at least 2 published announcements including one for election of officers
    - submitted by February 15
    - contract(s) obtained
- Test annuities application process.
  - Ensure the annuity:
    - application contains required documentation
    - recommender receives appropriate points
    - interest is calculated correctly according to the contract
- Test bank reconciliation process.
  - Ensure bank reconciliations:
    - are performed in a timely manner
    - verify cleared and outstanding checks
    - account for deposits, transfers, withdrawals and bank fees
    - are reconciled to the accounting system
- Test certificate loan process
  - Ensure certificate loans:
    - contain proper approvals and signatures
    - invoices are mailed in a timely manner
    - interest is calculated properly
- Review corporate credit card procedures
  - Verify proper internal controls are being utilized to ensure:
    - relevant documentation present
    - approval follows designated chain of authority
    - mathematical calculations are correct
- Review outside agent payment process
  - Verify outside agent payments:
    - are in accordance with contract on file
    - are issued only if certificates and licenses are current
    - are approved by appropriate personnel

### METHODOLOGY

Audit procedure programs, written by the audit team, were used throughout the year to evaluate the key operations of the specific areas audited. Discussion with management and staff, observations, and analytical testing was performed. Results and recommendations were presented to the President and Executive Secretary prior to ending the audit.

### OVERALL EVALUATION:

Based on our review there are no indications of irregularities or abuse for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. Our evaluations indicate that processes and controls are in place which provide assurance of an efficient and effective operation. It is our opinion that the Home Office operates with high standards.

Respectfully submitted,

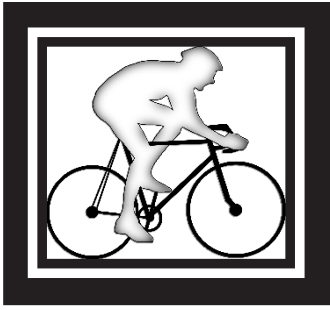
**Karen M. Hunka-Chairman**  
**Raymond G. Lako**  
**John J. Leskovyansky, Jr.**  
**Leonard Zilko**

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

# Spring Slovak Sports Roundup

Tichomir Miko

## Sagan Wins Two in a Row



After several very close second place finishes, Sagan finally hit his stride and won two difficult Spring Classic races in a row.

The Slovak cyclist, wearing the rainbow color jersey of the World Cycling Champion, captured a hard-fought victory at the 243 km Gent-Wevelgem race in Belgium on Sunday, March 27, 2016, after out-sprinting a strong four-man breakaway that finished ahead of the main peloton.

The Zilina native won the dash to the finish in the last hundred yards by catching Sep Vanmarcke of Belgium, Viacheslav Kuznetsov of Russia and Fabian Cancellara

of Switzerland. Sagan was delighted with his victory after finishing second several times this season; he dedicated his win to his father-in-law. "I'm very happy I finally won in this rainbow jersey," he said before climbing on the top step of the winner's podium. "This is my second win at Gent-Wevelgem and this is for the father of my love because he's having a hard time."

A week later, on April 4, 2016, at the 255 km Bruges to Oudenaarde race in Belgium, Sagan crossed the finish line a full 25 seconds ahead of his closest rival, former world champion Fabian Cancellara. He celebrated with his trademark "wheelie", saluting his many fans.

"I feel very good, I'm very happy. It was a super hard race from start to finish – always full gas," said Sagan. "We have to think about the two guys who died last week," he added, referring to the deaths of fellow riders Antoine Demoié and Daan Myngheer, who were both remembered earlier in the day. "It's very sad. I want to dedicate this to them. Also to [teammate] Maciej Bodnar, who crashed in training. He was very unlucky and I want to wish him a good recovery."

The next big event awaiting Sagan is the one day Paris–Roubaix race. Famous for rough terrain and cobblestones, it is one of the 'Monuments' or classics of the European calendar, and contributes points towards the UCI World Ranking, which Sagan now leads. It has been called the Hell of the North, a Sunday in Hell (also the title of a film about the 1976 race), the Queen of the Classics or la Pascale: the Easter race. The terrain has led to the development of specialised frames, wheels and tires. Punctures and other mechanical problems are common and often influence the result.

When asked about the upcoming event, the tired winner replied, "Next week I will think about next week, not now."

## Slovakia's Soccer Player of the Year



Marek Hamšík was named 2015 Slovak Footballer of the Year of the Slovak Republic. Martin Škrtel was the runner up while Juraj Kucka was third.

The Banska Bystrica native who plays for SSC Napoli of the Italian Serie A League, won the Jan Popluhar award for a record-breaking fifth time. He also won it in 2009, 2010, 2013, and 2014. Martin Škrtel, his closest rival has won the award four times - 2007, 2008, 2011, and 2012.

"2015 was a successful year for the Slovak national team. The peak was qualifying for the European Championships in France. I believe there will be as much excitement

as when Slovaks participated in the World Cup Finals in South Africa in 2010. We are a strong team, we have it together, we will give the fans something to cheer about again," said the 28 year old midfielder as he accepted the award.

Jan Popluhar after whom the award is named, is considered to be the greatest Slovak football player of the 20th century; he died on March 6, 2011, at age 75.

## Cibulkova Wins Katowice Open

Dominika Cibulkova captured her first WTA final since 2014 at the Katowice Open, taking out three-time finalist Camila Giorgi of Italy, 6-4, 6-0.

In the finals on Sunday, April 10, 2016, the Slovak took a quick a 4-0 lead in the opening set. She double faulted at 5-2 to waste a set point, allowing Giorgi to briefly come back after another double fault before serving the set out at 5-4. The second set was Cibulkova's all the way.

This is the Bratislava native's fifth WTA title. She won in Moscow in 2011, Carlsbad and Stanford USA in 2012 and 2013 respectively, and Acapulco in 2014. She narrowly missed winning the Mexican Open, losing to Sloane Stephens of the USA earlier in this year.

Cibulkova missed five months of 2015 following surgery on her Achilles tendon. A former World No.10, Cibulkova saw her ranking fall as low as No.62, but Sunday's title returns her back into the Top 40. The fiery Slovak was forced to miss five months of 2015 after having surgery on her Achilles. After a long convalescence the climb back up the ladder has proven to be arduous, with several setbacks but the feisty Slovak has persisted and her determination is beginning to pay off as she is now recapturing her former playing level.

In her victory speech, Cibulkova thanked the city of Katowice for creating a friendly atmosphere at the event. "I was really surprised playing for the first time in Poland, it feels like home. I really appreciate it, so thank you." Cibulkova finished her speech dedicating the win to her team, particularly her father, who was celebrating his birthday on Sunday. "I think this is the best gift!"



# The Rev. Dr. Micah E. Kozoil Celebrates his 40th Anniversary as a Priest

The Rev. Dr. Micah E. Kozoil will be celebrating his 40th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on May 22nd at Saint Aloysius Parish in Dunbar where he presently serves as the Pastor.

Father Micah, the son of Susan F. (Lacey) Kozoil and Charles J. Kozoil was a member of the Slovak church of Saint Michael Archangel in Munhall, Pennsylvania. After graduation from high school he went to Reno, Nevada where he served as a teaching Brother for seven years. He then returned home and became a member of Saint Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania where he served for 22 years. While a member of the Archabbey Father finished his undergraduate work earning a B.A. degree in Philosophy and attended Saint Vincent Seminary where he earned a M.Div. degree. Father Micah professed vows at Saint Vincent and was ordained from the Archabbey on May 22 of 1976.

He was then sent to Columbia University in New York City where he earned a Masters and a Doctorate degrees in Mathematical Education. He then returned to the college where he continued teaching in the Department of Mathematics. He also taught Robotics in the Department of Physics when Rev. Cecil Detrich passed away unexpectedly. Father Micah also taught Computer Science at the college where he instructed students in Basic, Fortran, and Paschal computer languages.

Father Micah was raised to the rank of Associate Professor of Mathematics in the college. He also served on the Council of Seniors in the Archabbey, and as a member of the Board of Incorporators in the college. Father was also elected as President of the Faculty Council of the College for several terms.

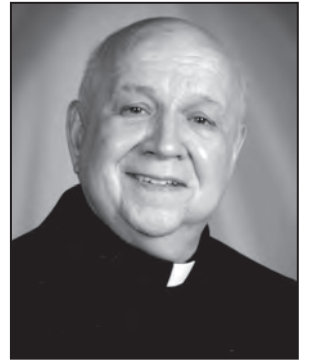
Father Micah wishing to serve in the parishes of the Diocese of Greensburg, incardinated [became a member of] the Diocese of Greensburg in 1991 and served his internship for incardination at Saint Margaret Mary Parish in Lower Burrell. Bishop Bosco appointed Father as the First Pastor of the Church of the Resurrection (a parish resulting from the closure of 8 parishes and 2 missions and was made one parish with 5 worship sites) in Northern Indiana County where he served for eight years.

Bishop Bosco then appointed him as Pastor of Saint Mary (Nativity) Parish in Uniontown. At one time Saint Mary Parish was the largest Slovak Parish in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Having served there for eight years Father was appointed as Pastor of The Historic Church of St. Peter in Brownsville. Because of problems with his legs Father Micah asked to be moved and was appointed by Bishop Brandt as the Pastor of Saint Aloysius Church in Dunbar where he continues as Pastor up to the present time.

Father Micah was raised by his Grandmother, Mrs. Mary Lacey as a member of Saint Michael Archangel Church in Munhall, Pennsylvania. Father has only one sister who passed away in February of last year.

Father's family did not speak English in the home, only Slovak, and Father learned the Slovak Language at the knees of his Baba and learned it quite well having preached in Slovak on several occasions including his Grandmother's funeral. Our congratulations to Father Micah on his Anniversary. "Ad multos annos." Father is a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 162 in Uniontown, PA.



# Join Us for Our 12th Consular Tour of Slovakia and its Neighbors

August 28 – September 10, 2016



Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko and his Slovak born wife, Albina, have assembled a deluxe tour of Slovakia which includes history-rich cities of Bratislava, Šaštín, Skalica, Trenčín, Bojnice, Rajecké Teplice, Čičmany, High Tatras, Ždiar, Stará Ľubovňa, Košice, Bardejov and Prešov.

As you travel through the various regions of Slovakia, arrangements can be made for you to visit relatives or family towns and villages for an additional cost. These are just some of the highlights of our tour.

What makes this tour unique is that it includes a tour of the Dobšinská Ice Cave, a tour of two castles, a mock wedding, two wine tastings, rafting between Slovakia and Poland, spa treatments, and a welcome reception with the Mayor of Prešov.

At no extra cost, Joe and Albina have included a tour of Vienna and Poland.

While in Poland we will visit the famous shrine of Czestochowa, Zakopane, and Krakow, including tours of Auschwitz and the Wieliczka salt mine.

The tour includes airfare from Pittsburgh or Newark, two delicious meals daily, four-star hotels, air-conditioned bus, and a professional guide and more. At \$3899, this is the lowest price of any deluxe tour to Slovakia. For a detailed daily itinerary, contact Joe Senko at [jtjenko@aol.com](mailto:jtjenko@aol.com) or 412-956-6000.

- Submitted by Joseph Senko, Slovak Honorary Consul and Branch 254 Member



## Slovakia Magazine

Helene Cincebeaux, Branch 278

It's the 30th Birthday celebration for "Slovakia" magazine published by the Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International.

Helene Cincebeaux, Editor of "Slovakia" and Director of the Society, noted that 119 issues have been published since the founding in 1987.

"It all began when I'd come home from Slovakia and there was no one to talk to about the place I loved so much... Rochester NY was not an ethnic hotbed! So I sent a 4 page newsletter to Slovak friends around the country and we got our first few members and soon it just took off."

"From the beginning people loved "Slovakia" as it was one of the few places to find just Slovakia when the country was still Czechoslovakia."

"Members contributed memories, photos and family histories. This led to the Slovak Pride Data Base with some 30,000 surnames and villages...you can find it on line at [www.ourSlovakia.com](http://www.ourSlovakia.com) or [www.SlovakPride.homestead.com](http://www.SlovakPride.homestead.com). It's helped unite and re-unite so many long-lost families in Slovakia and even the US."

Helene has authored four books about Slovakia: "Treasures of Slovakia"; "Slovak Pride"; "Slovakia! Traditions Old & New"; and "A Treasury of Slovak Folk Dress. She has had numerous exhibits of folk dress in museums in 16 states and exhibits of images from Slovakia in 7 countries including castles in Italy.

The 12 page quarterly "Slovakia" provides and shares information on Slovak heritage from history to culture - music, folk art, folk dress, customs, crafts and genealogy.

Some 1200 members in the US, Canada and several foreign countries enjoy the articles and the colorful illustrations and works of art celebrating Slovakia!

The latest issue will be mailed to anyone who sends in 70 cents in stamps for postage. Send to Helene Cincebeaux, 151 Colebrook Dr, Rochester NY 14617. For more info e-mail Helene at [helenezx@aol.com](mailto:helenezx@aol.com).

On a final note, I have led 75 trips to Slovakia and its neighbors and found long-lost family for 98 percent of tour-goers with roots in Slovakia. Our Treasures of Slovakia tour is set for July 7 - 17, 2016. Contact Helene for day-by-day itineraries and other info - [helenezx@aol.com](mailto:helenezx@aol.com) or call 585 342-9383 or write her at 151 Colebrook Dr, Rochester NY 14617.



Helene Cincebeaux wearing a wedding headdress from the Tekov region.



The cover of the recent Spring 2016 issue of Slovakia depicting a wedding in Zdiar.

## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for The Christophers

### A Paralyzed Priest's Heroic Virtue

Can a quadriplegic man be ordained a priest in the Catholic Church? Further, can the Church consider his cause for canonization?

The answer—somewhat surprisingly, perhaps—is “yes” on both counts. And you need look no further than an Augustinian named Father Bill Atkinson—now known formally as Father William E. Atkinson, OSA, Servant of God—to make the point. Father Bill's is quite the story, and it could do with a bit of retelling here.

The story has a quiet beginning. Bill Atkinson was born in Philadelphia on January 27, 1946; his parents would have six other children. After grammar school in Upper Darby, where he grew up, he enrolled in Msgr. Bonner High School, Drexel Hill, graduating in 1963. Then he became an Augustinian, entering the order as a novice in 1964.

It was during his novice year that Bill had the tobogganing accident in New York State that would change his life. Hospitalized and near death, he eventually was stabilized but had to spend a year in rehabilitation in Philadelphia. The accident had left him a quadriplegic; the injuries to his spine meant he would be paralyzed in all four limbs. And he would spend his life in a wheelchair.

No matter; his Augustinian brothers rallied round. Year after year they saw to it that he went through all the preparation for the priesthood, and he was ordained by Cardinal John Krol (then Archbishop of Philadelphia) in 1974, nine years after his tobogganing accident. He celebrated his first Mass at Villanova University.

Then began 30 years at his alma mater, Msgr. Bonner High School. He was much more than a teacher there. He taught theology, true, but he was also assistant school chaplain; the senior class retreat coordinator, and moderator of the football team—all from his motorized wheelchair.

One day some years later a student heard him say “Half in and half out.” He explained: “Today is my 38th birthday. I have now spent half my life in this wheelchair and half out of it.”

Students loved his warm and slightly offbeat sense of humor—except in the classroom. There he was known as a strict disciplinarian, and had a reputation as an encouraging moderator and a compassionate confessor.

Father Bill spent the last two years of his life in a nursing home, always buoyed by the presence of his fellow Augustinians. They were with him when he died too, on a Friday afternoon in 2006 at the age of 60. His funeral was held at Villanova.

That's pretty much all there is to it—except that in 2014 some invited guests got together to discuss his life. They were there to answer to the challenge of a visitor from Rome: “Convince me that Father Bill lived a life of heroic virtue. Persuade me that he is a saint.” And one by one they told him stories: of Father Bill's character, his fidelity, his ministry, his humor, his humility. By evening's end, his cause was under way.

Father Bill wrote little poems, too; always touching on his fate. Here are the first and final stanzas of “The Strength of Others”: “How'd you do it? people would say; / So confining, day after day. / Having others around for constant care; / Ever wonder if life's unfair?... / How'd I do it? Let me confide / Always with others right at my side; / Family and friends from the start / Gave me love in no small part.”

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note CHOOSE HOPE, SHARE HOPE, write: The Christophers, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: [mail@christophers.org](mailto:mail@christophers.org) jc 04/17/



Sheep husbandry in the Slovak Republic has a long and proud tradition, and so is often a common subject of Slovak pranostiky.

## Pranostiky – Weather Lore, or Slovak Folklore about the Weather

continued from page 1

day, it is indeed warm.

May 23 – Keď sa na Želmíry včely začnú rojiť, dobrá ovca sa už môže dojiť.

When the bees begin to swarm on St. Želmíra Day, good sheep can no longer be milked.

(Želmíra is a Slavic name which means "wishing (a) peace.")

May 25 -- Urban krásny, vyjasnený, hojným vínom nás odmeni.

If it is nice on St. Urban's Day, there will be an abundance of wine.

Dokiaľ Urban z pece nezlezie, nebude teplo.

Until St. Urban gets out of the stove, there will be no warming.

These are just a sampling of some of the many pranostiky for the month of May, when spring is longing to burst forth and sweep away the winter for good. They remain an integral part of Slovak folk culture and many Slovaks still remember that there is great wisdom in these traditional folk sayings.

Here are a few sources for further perusal.

Sources

Kalendárne pranostiky, (accessed 3 May 2010). <http://pranostiky.host.sk/pranostiky.htm#m%E1j>

Calendar.sk (accessed 3 May 2010). <http://calendar.zoznam.sk/may-01en.php>

Slovak Heritage Society of Northeast PA, "Weather Lore," Folktales, Legends, and Stories (accessed 3 May 2010). <http://www.shsnepa.org/>

# Slovak Radio Cultural & Social Club Fundraiser



When: April 30, 2016, from 6:00PM – 9:00PM  
 Where: Pounders Bar & Grill, 6370 York Rd., Parma Heights, OH, 44130; 1 – 440-887-0185

Cost: \$25 per person

Featuring:

- All you can eat wings, pasta, salad and potatoes
- All you can drink draft beer, well liquor, wine and pop

• Raffles and auctions throughout the evening  
 For tickets or info, call Donna at 1-440-465-6412

## College Scholarships Available Through United Slovak Societies of Lorain, OH



The United Slovak Societies of Lorain, OH, will grant college non-renewable scholarship awards to eligible high school seniors with a GPA of 3.5 or better and who are five-year members of the following Lorain Lodges:

St. John the Baptist Lodge of the FCSU Branch 228

St. Ann's Lodge of the FCSLA Branch 114

Slovak Catholic Sokol Wr. 111 & 177

St. Mary Magdalene of the LPSCU Branch 77

National Slovak Society Assembly #160

Deadline for application is May 30, 2016.

To obtain rules and application, please visit, [www.americanslovakclub.com](http://www.americanslovakclub.com) or contact Michele Mager at 440/984-3353

Submitted by Michele Mager, Branch 228

## Slovakia Heritage Tour Takes Off September 9-18, 2016



Experience Slovak culture, history, and life in Slovakia today, up close and personal on the 2016 Slovakia Heritage small group tour. From September 9 - 18, we'll explore important cities and historic sites as well as folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, beautiful countryside, and the mix of

medieval towns to Soviet-era remnants that make Slovakia such an interesting small country to visit today. Optional genealogical research and ancestral village visits available.

For more information: Visit [www.slovakiaheritage.com](http://www.slovakiaheritage.com) or contact Judith Northup-Bennett, Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 or [connectionswork4u@hotmail.com](mailto:connectionswork4u@hotmail.com)

### JEDNOTA

### Publication Schedule for 2016

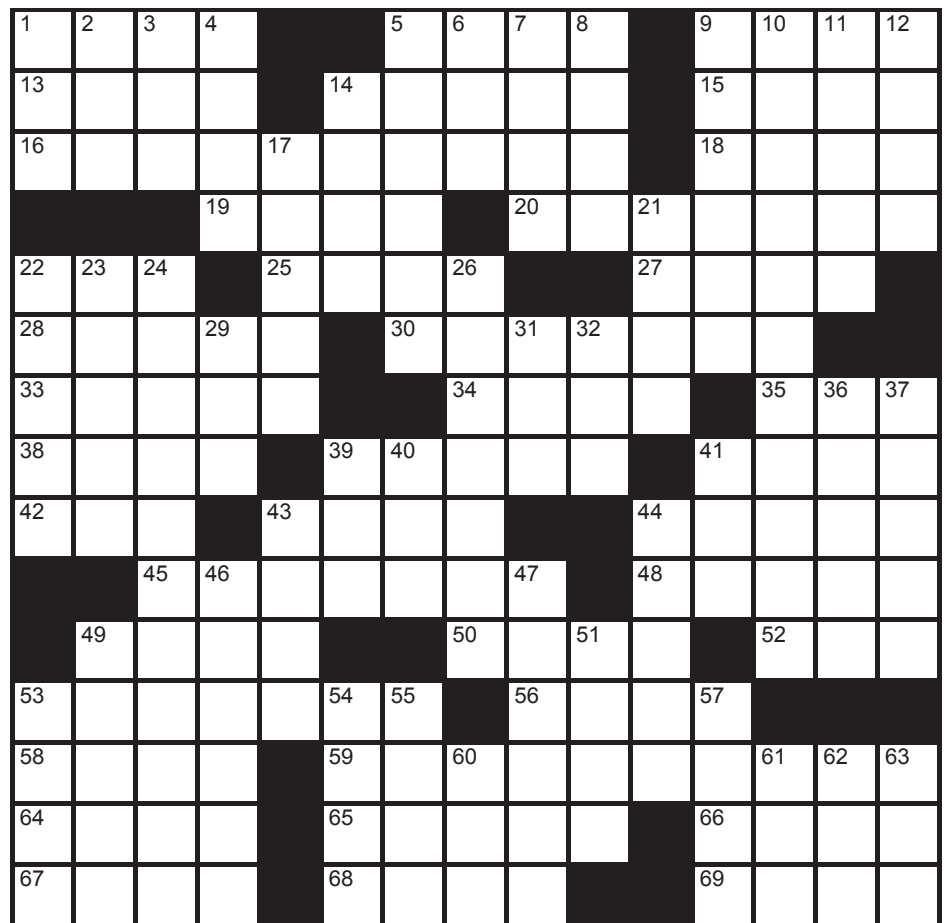
#### Issue Date

May 11  
 June 15  
 July 20  
 August 17  
 Sept 7  
 Sept 21  
 October 5  
 October 19  
 November 2  
 November 16  
 December 7

#### Deadline to Receive Information

May 2  
 June 6  
 July 11  
 August 8  
 August 29  
 Sept 12  
 Sept 26  
 October 10  
 October 24  
 November 7  
 November 28

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



#### Across

- 1 Rush job notation
- 5 Remove, as a hat
- 9 Brewer's need
- 13 Corn Belt state
- 14 Indian lodge
- 15 Floating, perhaps
- 16 Never a \_\_\_\_
- 18 Jazzman Getz
- 19 Restaurant posting
- 20 Backtalking
- 22 Winter woe
- 25 Yorkshire river
- 27 Two-year old lambs
- 28 Sheets and stuff
- 30 Caustic remark
- 33 Chilean range
- 34 Equipment
- 35 I love, in Latin
- 38 Ship part
- 39 Gloss
- 41 Kind of bomb
- 42 Be mistaken
- 43 Grizzly
- 44 Martini garnish
- 45 Puget Sound city
- 48 Sink
- 49 Mix
- 50 Brown rival
- 52 My (Fr.)
- 53 Gall \_\_\_\_
- 56 Santa \_\_\_\_, Calif.
- 58 Behind
- 59 Charlatan
- 64 Affirm
- 65 Labyrinths
- 66 Foil's counterpart
- 67 Resting places
- 68 Bone-dry
- 69 Adolescent

#### Down

- 1 Lend a hand
- 2 Old French coin
- 3 Cobbler's tool
- 4 Before tree or oil
- 5 Objects
- 6 Unlock, in verse
- 7 Sloughs
- 8 Greek salad ingredient
- 9 People generally
- 10 Optical defect
- 11 Slants
- 12 Piquancy
- 14 *Beloved* author Morrison
- 17 Signifies
- 21 Sun, for one
- 22 Crackpot
- 23 Cruise ship
- 24 Trivialized
- 26 Anxiously
- 29 Reef dweller
- 31 Sandpiper
- 32 \_\_\_\_ do!
- 36 Date locale
- 37 Forebodings
- 39 Tennis unit
- 40 Topper

- 41 King preceder
- 43 Poet
- 44 Corpulent
- 46 Large sea ducks
- 47 Merited
- 49 Work extra hard
- 51 Bunches
- 53 Spill the beans
- 54 Madame Bovary
- 55 Surf sound
- 57 See 1 Down
- 60 Israeli weapon
- 61 Gibbon, for one
- 62 Born
- 63 Author Follett

See Solution on Page 19

**Back by popular demand!**  
**Extended to December 31, 2016**

# 1st Year Premium Waived on Juvenile Enrichment Plan (JEP)



- 1st year premium waived on \$10,000 Term Insurance \*
- \$14 annual premium
- Premium never increases
- Guaranteed convertibility at any time up to age 25 (no medical examination required)
- College scholarships available
- Free newspaper subscription
- Youth activities



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 fcsu@fcsu.com  
 www.fcsu.com

All applications must be  
 received in the Home Office  
**postmarked**  
**by December 31, 2016.**

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

**FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**FCSU FINANCIAL ANNUITY & IRA  
INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2016**



<b>Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA</b>	<b>3.60% APY</b>
<b>Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA</b>	<b>3.20% APY</b>
<b>with the "Cash Interest" Option</b>	<b>2.95% APY</b>
<b>New Six-Year Fixed Rate Deferred Annuity or IRA</b>	<b>3.10% APY</b>
<b>New "Park 2 Annuity" (NOT AVAILABLE IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK)</b>	<b>2.10% APY</b>
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1-800-533-6682 annuity@fcsu.com www.fcsu.com

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## Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union



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As National President Andrew M. Rajec and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt state in the beginning of the 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).



FCSU Financial - First Catholic Slovak Union  
Contact your branch officer or the home office  
6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131,  
800.533.6682, www.fcsu.com, insurance@fcsu.com



# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 will hold their semi-annual meeting on Sunday, May 22, 2016, at 11:00AM, at the home of our President, Delores J. Genosky, 1001 42 ½ Avenue, NE, Columbia Heights, MN.

Items on the agenda are our family picnic in August, a merger, and the date of our annual meeting.  
**James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 26, 2016, in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall. We will begin the morning with Mass at 8:30AM celebrated by Msgr. Joseph Pekar in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, 79 Church St., Bridgeport, CT. After the Mass, members are cordially invited to return to the Church Hall for our special breakfast brunch and our Margaret Evancho Award Ceremony where we will give a monetary gift to the following of our 16 year old members:

- Michael Aquqlia	- Logan M. McDonald
- Carly A. Brainard	- Patrick T. Monks
- William E. Hiza, III	- Christopher W. Pudill
- Aimee P. Koller	- Courtney J. Skolka
- Matthew P. Koller	- Robert J. Strada, III
- Jordan Lorys Armstead	- Rebekah M. Wargo
- Andrew J. Madar	- Alexis Zahor

The award is given to honor Margaret Evancho during her birthday month to recognize the dedication and many years of service she gave to Branch 19, especially the youth of the branch. We hope our members will join us in this special tribute to Margaret Evancho.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, September 11, 2016, at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Hall at 9:30AM.

We wish all members of the First Catholic Slovak Union a happy and safe summer season.  
**Henry Zack, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 7:00 pm at 3409 Eisenhower Court White Oak, PA 15131. The agenda will include officers' reports, discussion on Father's Day Brunch, and discussion on Slovak Day at Kennywood Park. All Branch 38 members are urged to attend.

If anyone is interested in FCSU Annuities or Life Insurance, please call Florence Matta at 412-466-7460.

**Logan Haselhoff, President**  
**Florence Matta, Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 112 – MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Members of Branch 112 Mahanoy City, PA, are invited to a family day and branch meeting at Knoebels Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA, on Tuesday, June 14, 2016, at noon. Please call Karen Sterling 570-640-1796 by June 15th, if you plan to attend.

**Karen Sterling, Secretary**

## BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St. Stephen Branch 153 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, June 18. The meeting will begin promptly at 11:30 am and will be held at Cucina Biagio Restaurant at 7319 West Lawrence Avenue, Harwood Heights, IL.

A luncheon for members and their guests will follow the meeting.  
**Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary**

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

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, May 1, 2016, at 1:15 P.M., at Buffet Star, 4089 Old Vestal Road, Vestal, New York. On the agenda will be a discussion of the District Meeting and Branch business. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by April 29, 2016, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.  
**Arlo Meeker, President**

## BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 181 will hold a meeting on May 12, 2016, starting at 6:00PM at Sharky's Café, Rt. 30, Latrobe, PA. On the agenda: planning for the June 26, 2016, for a day of fun, food, and fraternalism at Mammoth Park, Pavilion #14. All members are welcome at the meeting; but workers at the picnic are especially asked to attend.  
**Geraldine Kovacina, Secretary**

## BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Members: We have had a lot going on in the Social Club. Stop in and check out the schedule. We'd love to see you. We now have an email address: scubbranch200@gmail.com and hope to get a Facebook page started.

I have been receiving calls about beneficiaries lately and this brings me to ask you to check your policies to make sure they are up to date. Please feel free to call me @ 724-763-9229 or email me @ vschaub123@gmail.com to make arrangements to go over your policies. If you have computer and printer access, you can go online- First Catholic Slovak Union, forms, scroll down for Member Service Request Form, print out, complete and drop off @ my house or mail it directly to the Home Office. This is required to be notarized. Many of us fail to review and make changes periodically.

Anyone that would like to have prayer for our deceased member, please call to have this arranged. For many years this has been done but with shorter funeral visitation days/times it has been difficult to arrange for our members to get together, attend, and have prayer. Grace Charney does a fantastic job.

Happy Spring!  
Fraternally,

**Vicki Schaub, President**

## BRANCH 228 – 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. Delicious food is served by Theresa Arendt at the last meeting of each calendar quarter. 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 19, 2016. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. I am very happy to see an increased participation from our younger members in 2015 and hope this participation will continue to increase. It is really a lot of fun to have more members speaking up and giving their viewpoint of the various subjects that are discussed at our meetings. These members represent the future of the FCSU and it is great to see their interest grow. 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. Please come to our meetings. You won't be disappointed.

**Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 260 - CAMPBELL, OHIO

The branch will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 19, 2016, at 1:00PM at Bedford Trails Restaurant, Coitsville, OH. On the agenda: election of officers and general branch business.

Fraternally,

**Paul Ritz, President**

## BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Branch 276 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, May 15 at 1:00 P.M. at St. Patrick's church hall on 32nd Street in McKeesport, Pa. We cordially invite all our members to attend one of our meetings.

**Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 292- WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, FCSU, Branch 292 KJ, will hold their semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 26, 2016. The meeting will be held at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, PA, 15963 at 12:30 p.m. This meeting will be held in conjunction with our annual celebration of the feast of our patron, St. John the Baptist. A Mass will be

celebrated that morning at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church at 8:30 a.m. All members are asked to attend both events. A buffet dinner will be served.

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

## BRANCH 293 – LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 293, will hold its semi-annual meeting at the home of the financial secretary, Robert Lakata, 527 E. Bertsch Street, Lansford, PA, 18232, at 6:00PM on Monday, June 13, 2016. Anyone needing service or more insurance should call 1-570-645-4872, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Fraternally,

**Robert Lakata, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, May 22, 2106, at 11:00AM, at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. Since a light brunch will be prepared, please call Fran at 724-929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending. Members of Branch 320 are urged to attend.

**Mary Anne Higginbotham, President**

## BRANCH 372 - BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 372, the St. Joseph Society, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, May 15, 2016, at 2:00PM at the home of Branch President Michael P. Hudak, 829 Cameron Ave, Beaverdale, PA. All are welcome.

**Michael P. Hudak, President**

## BRANCH 380 - CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 380KJ will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, April 24, 2016. The location is Kings Restaurant, Rte 19, Canonsburg, PA. The time is 2:00PM.

Fraternally,

**Margaret Graytok, Secretary**

## BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, June 5, 2016, at 1:00PM at the New City Buffet, 5142 State Rt. 30, Suite 175, Greensburg, PA. All members are welcome. For reservations, please call Mary Ann Nalevanko at 1-724-834-6386.

**Mary Ann Nalevanko, Secretary**

## BRANCH 410 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting at the rbg Bar & Grill located in the Park Inn by Radisson, 700 West Main Street (Route 40 W) at 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, June 23, 2016. Call 724-425-2576 for reservations by June 16, 2016.

All members of Branch 410 are cordially invited to attend.

**Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary**

## BRANCH 419 - MOUNTAIN TOP, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 419 will hold a meeting on Sunday, May 22, 2016, at 12:30PM at Norm's Restaurant, Sherman St., Wilkes Barre, PA. On the agenda: a discussion of election of officers.

Fraternally,

**Frank Wassil, President**

## BRANCH 587 – ALQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist will have a meeting on May 22, 2016, at 2:00PM at the home of Albert Valo, 1835 Brodhead Road in Aliquippa. All members are welcome to attend.

**Edith Valo, Secretary**

## BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**  
If you have several hours that you care spare each month, Tatra Hall needs YOU.

Sunday, April 24, Breakfast 8:30am-12noon all you can eat and the best breakfast in town.

Sunday, May 1, Polka Dance 3pm-6pm food available for purchase.

Saturday, May 7 Polka Dance 7pm-10pm with a special performance by the band "Box On" \$6.00 in advance, \$8.00 at the door. There will be food available for purchase.

Sunday May 15, branch meeting 2pm

Sunday, May 22, Breakfast 8:30am-12noon all you can eat and the best breakfast in town.

Monday, May 30, Memorial Day, BBQ's after mass at the cemetery.

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

Refreshments every Tuesday and Thursday .50 off

Hours are Mon-Fri 1pm-8pm: Sat 12noon-8pm Come down and enjoy yourself!

All events take place at Tatra Hall 2536 Sixth St. Muskegon Heights, MI (231) 733-7525.

**Susan Hornik, Secretary**

## BRANCH 628 - MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel will be held on Saturday, May 28, 2016, at 4:00 PM at the 141 Bellevue Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235. The agenda will include an update of branch activities and discussion of upcoming events.

**Sylvia Vehec, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, May 22, 2016, at noon, at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members of Branch 670 are urged to attend.

**Dorothy Petrus, President**

## BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Branch 682 will hold a general meeting on May 17, 2016 at St. Mathias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, OH, starting at 6:00 pm.

The branch's next meeting will be held on June 26, 2016, beginning at 2:30PM. Location: MRL Lab, 290 N. Bridge St. Struthers, OH 44471. All members are welcome.

**Joe Scavina, Secretary**

## BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

Branch 756, will hold its next meeting on May 15, 2016 at 12:30 pm. It will be in the Hospitality Room of St. Joseph School on 811 E. Oliver St. in Owosso, Mich. Please enter from the front of the building. Still looking for additional officers. May go for Lunch immediately after. If you plan to attend please RSVP to 517-381-8358.

Still have a couple spots available for The Tour around Slovakia, Vienna, and Prague, June 2- 28, 2016. Call 517-381-8358,

**Stephan J. Patoprsty, President**

## BRANCH 780 - SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

The Saints Peter & Paul Society, Branch 780, of the First Catholic Slovak Union will have a meeting on Sunday May 15, 2016. For more information, members may call Catherine Karlsen at 989-280-4916.

Fraternally yours,

**Catherine Karlsen, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 831 – TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

The next regular meeting will take place on Friday April 29, 2016, at 7:00pm at the home of Rose Kuniak, 1073 8th Ave., Brackenridge, PA.

**Kathleen Persun, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC AND AREA

Branch 856 will hold a meeting on May 3, 2016 at 1:00 pm at the Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Blvd. Falls Church, VA, 22042. All members are welcomed to attend. A report on the district meeting will be given, plans for the anniversary Mass in honor of the Slovak Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The date has been set for September 18, 2016 at 11:00 am in the crypt church. For more information please call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Stephen Matula at 703-671-3013.

**Katherine Nowatkoski, Financial Secretary.**

# DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## DISTRICT 5 – THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 24, 2016, at Riverside Family Restaurant, 8295 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

Our meeting will begin at 12:45 pm. Lunch will be served at 1:00 pm. The business meeting will follow the lunch. On the Agenda will be Officer Reports. Also on the Agenda will be information regarding the status of designated "Home Office Branches" in our District.

Branch 774 is hosting this meeting. Please notify Dianna Rimarcik at 586-254-0225 with the number of delegates attending from your branch no later than April 18th so the restaurant can be notified of the number of attendees expected. If you are unable to confirm prior to the event but wish to attend, a \$15.00 fee will be collected at the restaurant. Those making advance reservations will not be charged.

\*\*\*\*Please remember, a branch delegate must attend at least one District meeting in order to be eligible for compensation from the Home Office.

**Dianna Rimarcik, District Secretary**

## District 6 – Pittsburgh District

Branch 213 hosted the Pittsburgh District Spring business meeting on Sunday, April 10, 2016 at Holy Trinity Church in West Mifflin. President David Matta and Regional Director Mike Lako lead the discussion about the requirements for becoming a licensed fraternal insurance agent.

Branch 60, with the assistance of Branch 628, will host the Father's Day brunch on Sunday, June 19 at Holy Trinity, West Mifflin PA. Members are asked to attend the 9:30 AM Liturgy at the church. Brunch will be served immediately after Mass. Prices for the brunch are still pending and will be listed in our May notice. To make reservations please contact the district secretary by email at manasta@verizon.net or leave a message at 412-672-0379. No tickets will be sold at the door. Checks should be made payable to Pittsburgh District FCSU. You can pay at the church hall or send your check to the district treasurer Patrick Sullivan, 100 Legrande Dr, Pittsburgh PA 15221. Prices for the ad booklet are: full page \$75, half page \$40, quarter page \$25. Contact Karianne Barnes at kvehec@hotmail.com. The deadline for both tickets and advertising is Monday, June 6.

The district will host a picnic with food, games etc on Saturday, July 30, from noon until dusk at Renzie Park Pavillion #5. Notices were distributed at the district meeting. The cost is \$5 per person or \$20 for a family of five or more. Checks should be made payable to Pittsburgh District FCSU. Have your reservations and your checks to Annie Ondrejco, 234 Illion Street, Pittsburgh PA 15207 by July 25. While you're at Renzie, be sure to take in the Rose Garden & Arboretum and the McKeesport Regional Heritage Center, home of the Little Red School House.

The District Activities Director Annie Ondrejco is organizing a Facebook group to be called Jednota Pittsburgh District Activities. Join the group to keep up with district activities. Annie would like to know if there is any interest in additional activities such as an art class or attending a Pirates game or going out to the Meadows Casino or a visit to the NSS Museum. Contact Annie at aondrejco@gmail.com.

Branch 276 will host the annual winter business meeting. The date is still pending.

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:

\*\* WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: May 2 – Religious persecution in Slovakia; June 6 – Juraj Janosik. Programs resume in October. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

\*\* Slovak Day at Kennywood Park – Thursday, July 21 – tickets available at the district Father's Day Brunch.

\*\* The 12th Consular Tour of Slovakia is planned for August 28 to September 10, 2016. This tour will include Vienna and Poland. Contact Joe Senko for details.

\*\* Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Joe Senko for information about reservations and fees (412-956-6000). Fall classes are directed toward intermediate and advanced students. Spring classes are for beginners. Saturday summer classes for children are planned for June 4 to July 23.

\*\* Scholarship to the Summer Slovak Language & Culture Program at Comenius University in Bratislava, August 2016 – contact Joe Senko.

\*\* The Pittsburgh Folk Festival will be held in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh this year – September 3-4 – See [www.pghfolkfest.org](http://www.pghfolkfest.org)

\*\* Septemberfest at the NSS Museum – Saturday, September 24 – free admission.

\*\* Slovak Beer Tasting – October 8 – contact Joe Senko.

\*\* Don't forget the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730. The program is also streamed live at [www.wpitam.com](http://www.wpitam.com). The annual dinner dance is planned for October.

\*\* Slovak Heritage Festival at Pitt – Sunday, November 6 – free admission.

\*\* You can follow the Pittsburgh Slovaks and the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association on Facebook.

\*\* Various Slovak programs and courses are available through the University of Pittsburgh Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. See [www.slavic.pitt.edu](http://www.slavic.pitt.edu)

\*\* If you're interested in study abroad, Slovakia has a number of major universities; some have programs taught in English. Check out [www.slovakia.com/study-in-slovakia/](http://www.slovakia.com/study-in-slovakia/)

\*\* The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is available to visitors Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations. See [www.nsslife.org/Museum.php](http://www.nsslife.org/Museum.php).

\*\* The CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International is holding its next meeting in October 2017 in Pittsburgh. Further information can be found at [www.cgsi.org](http://www.cgsi.org).

\*\* FCSU information and forms can be found at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)

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

Fraternally,

**Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary**

## DISTRICT 7- REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT - BLAIR, CAMBRIA, INDIANA, SOMERSET AND BEDFORD COUNTIED, PENNSYLVANIA

The Rev. John Martvon District will hold its first of two annual meetings on Sunday, May 1, 2016. This meeting will be held at Ryans Family Buffet Restaurant, 420 Galleria Drive. Johnstown PA, by the Galleria Mall.

St. Joseph's Society, Branch 23 will host this meeting. The meeting will start at 2:00 PM. We will have Lunch after the meeting.

All District Branches are invited to attend. If you have any questions please call Theresa Cassat

(814) 254-2532.

Let's Spring into a new year. Have a nice afternoon together and see what comes up.

**Theresa Cassat, District Recording Secretary**

## DISTRICT 8 – THE REVEREND STEPHEN FURDEK – EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, MARYLAND, WASHINGTON, DC

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its semi-annual meeting Sunday, May 1, 2016 [please note that this is a corrected date from the April 17 meeting date which ran in error in the March 30 issue].

Mass will be held at 11:30 AM,  
Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church,  
4102 South Church St.

(Egypt) Whitehall PA. 18052-2415

Dinner will be held at 1:00 PM, immediately following the meeting will start.

Location for the Dinner/Meeting is :

Egypt VFW Post7293

5209 Springmill Road

Whitehall, PA. 18052

Further information will be updated in the very near future.

Any questions, please call Monica Fabian at 610-417-0468 or email at [mfabian922@gmail.com](mailto:mfabian922@gmail.com).

Respectfully Submitted,

**Monica Fabian, District Recording Secretary**

## DISTRICT 9 – THE FRANK T. HOLLY, JR. DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly, Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 5, 2016 at 1:00 P.M. in the meeting room of the Dairy Queen Grill & Chill located at 575 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. Branch members are invited to attend.

A Dairy Queen social will take place following the meeting.

**Barbara A. Holly, District Secretary**

## DISTRICT 10 – REV. STEPHEN FURDEK – OHIO

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District 10 will be holding our first meeting of the year on Sunday, May 15, 2016, at St. Charles Parish Hall, 5891 Ridge Road, Parma, OH 44129 at 2 pm.

All branch members of District 10 are invited to attend this meeting to learn more about what our Society can do for you and your families.

Please contact Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151 or via email at [lhanko@neo.rr.com](mailto:lhanko@neo.rr.com) if you are planning on attending. We would appreciate your call so that we may plan accordingly for refreshments. Respectfully submitted,

**Linda M. Hanko, District Secretary/Treasurer**

## DISTRICT 11 - MSGR JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

The 2016 Semiannual Meeting of the Msgr. Josef Tiso District (District 11) will be held on Sunday, May 22. Time and place are 2:00 PM at the C.U.Club, 910 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. All Branches should identify their representatives who will attend to Grace Charney, District Secretary, at (724) 664-7185 as soon as possible. Walk-ins are welcome.

Reminders:

- Per FCSU By-Laws, Branch representation at one (1) District meeting per year is required to qualify for receipt of the annual Branch stipend.

- Any beneficial member is welcome to represent his/her Branch at District meetings; representatives need not be Branch officers or formally selected by/at the Branch meeting.

**Grace M. Charney, District Secretary**

## DISTRICT 12 – ANDRE HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, May 22, 2016, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Andrew Hlinka District will be held at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members of various branches are urged to attend.

**Frances Tarquinio, District Secretary**

## DISTRICT 16 – MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA – NEW YORK CITY

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula, District 16, will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, May 22, 2016, at 1:00 PM, in the Church Hall of St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th, 1 Avenue, New York, New York 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 just branch representatives – are welcome.

After the meeting, refreshments will be served, courtesy of Branch 45.

Fraternally,

**Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary-Treasurer**

## DISTRICT 17 – SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS DISTRICT

Saints Cyril and Methodius District 17 will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 24, 2016. Members will meet at 1:30 P.M. in the Shrine Dining Room of St. Ann's Basilica, 1233 St. Ann Street, Scranton, PA.

All branches are encouraged to send representatives to the meeting. District 17 encompasses Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties in Pennsylvania and Broome County in New York.

Prior to the meeting, district auditors will audit the books at 1:00 P.M.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Please contact District President Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. at 570.342.7562 to confirm your branch's attendance.

Fraternally,

**Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., President**

## DISTRICT 20 - PRINCE RASTISAV DISTRICT - MONTREAL, QUEBEC

The district's semi-annual meeting will be held June 26, 2016, at the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall immediately following the eleven (11) o'clock Mass.

Members of branches 784 and 810 are invited to attend.

A light lunch will be served.

**Alexander S. Dobrik, President**

# Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
001K	Joseph A Fristik	153K	Charles J Capiak	259K	Bohumir Javorsky	567K	Edward L Payer
001K	Lad Joseph Manor	153K	Helen A Ibsen	260K	Sr Irene Hrosky	586K	John S Mano
002K	Mildred E Spirko	157K	Marian C Wear	260K	Joseph T Palik	595K	Esther Louise Cook
003K	John J Medlo	162K	Joseph E Rura	266K	Elizabeth M Benyo	615K	Joseph R Kristofik
003K	Anne Agnes Nalepka	162K	Robert A Tajc Sr	280K	Andrew J Stasny	615K	Margaret Horton Leshinski
004K	Eleanor M Galvin	165K	Paul J Tirak	327K	Joseph A Shuick	635K	Theodore Kordecki Sr
005P	Joseph Ferko	166K	Delores L Balok	393K	Barbara Ann Adams	670K	Paul D Kuma
010K	Marie T Boyarsky	166K	John T Sedlock	410K	William J Churilla	682K	Martha E Horvat
016P	Catherine A Nemecek	181K	Margaret S Forbes	419K	Helen Therese Hryvniak	714K	Gabriella Plsek
016P	Walter E Parks	181K	Ronald J Geary	429K	George John Stefanko	731K	John M Novotny
019K	Agnes P Hornak	181K	Annabelle P Klinchock	429K	John A Yellenik	746K	Mary Micak
023K	Margaret J Prebola	181K	Maryann Krynicky	450K	Dorothy Berdis	764K	Mary Catherine Pasternak
035K	Barbara Furlano	181K	George B Vadas	450K	Simon A Moss	831K	Anna M Gaworski
038K	Andrew G Kaduke	181K	Stephen J Zsolcsak	456K	Mildred A Haas	831K	Irene G Lucas
038K	Helen M Kish	200K	Sandra M Paukoucek	497K	Marlene Louise Stolarik	831K	Emma M Pastorek
060K	Anne C Dzurko	200K	Theresa Marie Stivason	497K	Mary Ann Tunder	855K	Dolores M Bailey
075K	Albert T Fecko	228K	Drew Christophe Hayden	512K	Anne Carney	855K	Marlene Hanna
075K	Paul A Semicek	228K	Irene A Moorman	512K	Chanelle Marie Fatali	855K	Joanne M Limpach
086K	Charles E Patnesky	228K	Grace I Vakerics	514K	Kevin Van Rosko	916K	Ronald J Osika
136K	Michael Christopher Ott	240P	William F Wallo	553K	Geraldine F Schaefer		
152K	Joseph S Butchko Jr	254K	Marie L Pavlovich	553K	Dorothy L Ulichney		

\*Processed through the month of March

## OBITUARIES

**WILLIAM A. NALEVANKO  
BRANCH 10 –  
OLYPHANT,  
PENNSYLVANIA**



William Andrew Nalevanko, 89, of Olyphant, PA, passed into his new life with his Lord, family and friends on Thursday, March 17, 2016, at Gino J. Merli Veterans Center, Scranton, PA. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, the former Florence Novak.

Born December 23, 1926 in Olyphant, son of the late Elmer J. and Veronica Novajovsky Nalevanko, he graduated from St. Patrick's High School, Olyphant, and attended St. Thomas College – now, the University of Scranton – prior to being drafted into the Army during World War II.

Upon his honorable discharge, he returned to Olyphant to manage the family business, Olyphant Bottling Co., Inc. He served as board chairman and president for many years until his retirement in 1992.

Bill was devoted to his family, his faith and his community. He was a lifelong member of the former Holy Ghost Church, now part of Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant, and served in its Holy Name Society and the church's all-male choir, as well as Olyphant Council #1095 of the Knights of Columbus.

Bill was a charter member of Olyphant Hose Company #2, where his father served as the Borough's first Fire Chief. He was also a lifetime member of the American Legion, Raymond Henry Post #327, as well as the Olyphant Rotary Club. He served as a board director for the former National Bank of Olyphant, now Community Bank and Trust. He also served as an Olyphant Borough

Councilman from 1993-1997, upon retirement from the family business. He served as an Auditor and Recording Secretary for the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU), St. John the Baptist K.J. 10, Olyphant. He was a sports fan and particularly supported Syracuse University and the New York Yankees, among others.

Surviving are children, William F., Olyphant, Donna Mrocicka and husband Atty. Frank D. Mrocicka, Dunmore, and a grandson, Armond J., Washington, DC. He is also survived by a sister, Marie and brother-in-law, Edward Maceyko, along with many nieces and nephews.

Bill was preceded in death by three sons, Francis, Joseph and Thomas; four sisters, Philomena Lazarewicz, Louise Briganti, Dorothy Nalevanko and Anna Nalevanko, and two brothers, Elmer, Jr. and Robert.

Funeral services with Military Honors were conducted Monday with Mass of Christian Burial at 9:30 a.m. in Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant. Monsignor Michael Delaney, Pastor of Holy Cross Parish, presided, and the Mass was con-celebrated with Msgr. Peter Madus, Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Peckville and Fr. John Doris, pastor of St. Mary of Mount Carmel Parish, Dunmore. A cousin, Msgr. Frantisek Novajovsky, arranged for a Mass of Remembrance for Bill on March 23, 2016, at the Vatican, Rome, Italy. Interment was held Monday, March 21, 2016, at St. Michael the Archangel Cemetery, Blakely. Olyphant Fire Department members assembled on Sunday, March 20, 2016, at Fire Station 2, and proceeded to the funeral home in dress uniform to pay their respects. Following the funeral on Monday, the Olyphant Fire Department, in cooperation with the Dickson City Fire Department,

created an aerial display of the U.S. flag at Olyphant Hose Co. #2. The Lackawanna County Communications Center interrupted radio traffic on police, fire and EMT bands to honor Bill with an "end of tour" message, prayer and minute of silence in respect. Arrangements were entrusted to the Michael P. Glinesky Funeral Home Inc., Olyphant.

- Submitted by Daniel Spegar, Branch 10 President

**RICHARD J. HECKEL  
BRANCH 60 –  
MCKEESPORT,  
PENNSYLVANIA**



Richard J. Heckel, 90, of North Huntingdon, PA, passed away Sunday, March 6, 2016, at Excelsior Health Westmoreland.

He was born March 19, 1925 in Pittsburgh, PA, son of the late Henry and Eva Holjack Heckel. Prior to his retirement, Richard worked in law enforcement as chief of police for Penn Township in the 1950's, police officer for East Pittsburgh, Westinghouse Security, and a lab assistant for Westinghouse Research, Churchill, PA. He was a member of St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church and a veteran of WWII and the Korean War, having served in the Air Force with 20 years of service. He enjoyed golfing and bowling. Richard was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union. He served as Treasurer of Branch 60 for 23 years (1990 - 2013). In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Olga Bohince Heckel. He is survived by his wife, Mary Balombini Heckel; son, Brad Heckel and his wife, Mary Jo; daughters, Deborah Worthy, Denise Arnold; sister, Gloria Nalovenko; and

three grandchildren, Austin, Bryn and Bria. Friends were received at the James W. Shirley Funeral Home, 176 Clay Pike, North Huntingdon, on Wednesday, March 9. A funeral service was held on Thursday, March 10, 2016, at St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church. Interment followed in William Penn Memorial Park.

- Submitted by Julie Perla, Branch 60 Secretary

**EDWARD M. BOLCAR, JR.  
BRANCH 156 –  
BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA**

Edward "Eddie" M. Bolcar, Jr. 58, of Bethlehem Twp. PA, passed away on February 11, 2016, in his home surrounded by his loving family. He was the husband of Lynn (Weaver) Bolcar. They celebrated 28 years of marriage on September 2, 2015. Eddie was born October 29, 1957, in Fountain Hill, PA. He was the son of Edward, Sr. and Irene (Kereczman) Bolcar. A 1975 graduate of Liberty High School and Bethlehem Area Vocational Technical School, Eddie was a 30 year employee of Moravian College, working in the carpentry department until 2014. He loved woodworking and cabinetry making. In his spare time, he was an avid bowler, starting out in the junior program and bowling in many leagues throughout his adult career. He was also a coach for the junior bowlers at Town and Country from 1996-2009. When he was no longer able to bowl, he turned his sites to oil painting, which blossomed into a new career of "Ed's Art and Frames". Eddie's smile, competitive spirit, positive attitude and practical joke personality will be sadly missed by family and friends. Sur-

continued on page 17

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

**THINK ABOUT IT!**

## OBITUARIES

### continued from page 16

vivors: He will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Lynn; parents; Edward and Irene; daughter, Alexandra Nicole; sister, Veronica, wife of Paul Pavelko; mother-in-law, Marie Blair; nephew, Jeffrey Stofanak; niece, Jennifer Fitzko; along with his furry friend, Dylan. Celebration of Life Ceremony was held on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at 7 p.m. at Connell Funeral Home, Bethlehem, PA. Friends and family called from 4 to 7 p.m. in the funeral home.

- Submitted by Edward Bolcar, Sr.

### FRANCES M. PUSKAR BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA



Frances M. Puskar, of United, PA, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016. Frances was born June 1, 1924, the daughter of Stanislaus and Frances Ostrosky Golkosky. She was a member of the former St. Stanislaus Church of Mammoth and member of St. Florian's. She was active in St. Florian's Rosary Altar Society and St. Florian's Catholic Daughter.

In addition to her parents, Frances was preceded in death by her devoted husband, Frank Puskar Sr.; loving son, Frank Puskar Jr.; infant children, Marie, Eugene and Patty; great-grandson August Valentine Puskar; sister Helen Adamrovich; and brothers Joseph Golkosky and Ray Golkosky. She was also preceded in death by her loving niece and nephews, Susanne Malesky, Regis Adamrovich and Thomas Adamrovich, for whom she lovingly served as their guardian.

She is survived by her cherished grandsons: Stephen and Sandra (Lohr) Puskar, of Acme, PA; Stanley and Monica (Klejka) Puskar, of Latrobe, PA; Frank and Kim (Nagy) Puskar, of Weltytown, PA; Gerald and Kathy (Thomas) Puskar, of Acme; and Joseph and Marcie (Wisneski) Puskar, of United: great-grandchildren Noah and Kellen Puskar, Alyse Puskar (fiance, Drew Clausen), Kyle Puskar, Rachel Thomas, Katlyn Puskar, Andrew Puskar, Hanna Dillon, Madalyn Puskar, Nathan Puskar, Lexi Puskar and Sophia Dillon; great-great-grandson Declan; niece Sylvia (Bill) Hutira, whom she served as guardian; sister-in-law Margaret Golkosky; and numerous other wonderful nieces and nephews.

Frances retired from Latrobe Hospital, where she worked as a messenger for 13 years. Previous to this, she worked at St. Anne Home, where she spent the last 2 1/2 years of her life. The family wishes to personally thank the staff of St. Anne's who all lovingly cared for her, adding humor, compassion and friendship, as part of her extended family. The family also wishes to thank Heartland Hospice for their compassionate support of our beloved "Nan."

- Submitted by Stephen Puskar

### NANCY JONAS HASSAY – BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO



A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by the Rev. Martin Celuch at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February

24, 2016, and friends and family called from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., at Our Lady of Sorrows (St. Matthias) for Nancy Jean Jonas Hassay, 85, who passed away peacefully on the preceding Saturday afternoon of February 20, 2016.

She was born Dec. 24, 1930, in Youngstown, a daughter of Herbert and Rosella Dulovich Jonas.

Nancy was a 1948 graduate of Ursuline High School and on Jan. 7, 1952, married Theodore R. Hassay.

She was employed at various restaurants throughout the Youngstown area, including the Open Hearth, Ciceros and the Mansion. Together with her husband, Theodore, they owned and operated Ted Hassay Tires for 44 years.

Nancy was a lifetime member of the A.M.A. and Our Lady of Sorrows (Holy Name).

Her greatest joy was her family. She was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Many a Sunday and holiday were spent creating loving memories around the family dinner table.

Nancy is survived by her children Ted Jr., Susan (Ambrose) Kalasky, Terry (Mel) and Charlotte Good; 10 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and her beloved cat, Fuzzy.

Reuniting with her in heaven are her devoted husband, Theodore; her loving daughter, Jacqueline Rem; and her sons, Thomas R. Sr. and Michael.

The Hassay family wishes to extend their appreciation to the staff of St. Elizabeth Health Center for their excellent service and compassionate care during her stay.

- Submitted by Ted Hassay, Jr.

### TERESA JOAN 'TERRY' (SIMKOVICH) SACKETTE BRANCH 266 – HAZELTON, PENNSYLVANIA



Teresa Joan "Terry" (Simkovich) Sackette of Beaver Meadows, PA, passed away Wednesday evening, February 17, 2016, at Weatherwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center with loving family members at her side.

Terry was born in Beaver Meadows, daughter of the late Joseph J. and Anna (Steber) Simkovich.

She was a life member of the Parish of Ss. Cyril and Methodius at the Church of St. Joseph.

Terry graduated from Hazleton High School and after that went to work for the Standard-Speaker in the advertising department for 47 years, from where she retired.

Terry had a heart of gold, a very caring and special lady who always put the needs of others ahead of her own. Terry was a faithful supporter of many charities. She will be greatly missed by family, friends and acquaintances who knew her well, especially by her caregivers, nephews, Joseph and Jerome Grega, and their families.

She was preceded in death, in addition to her parents, by her brothers and sisters, John Simkovich, Helen Simkovich, Joseph Simkovich, Anna Simkovich, Irene (Simkovich) Grega, Sister Margaret Simkovich, SSCM, Marie (Simkovich) Miller, Andrew

Simkovich and George Simkovich; a nephew, Joseph Miller; and her former husband, Paul "Butchie" Sackette.

"Aunt Terry" is survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great-nieces, great-great-nephews and many cousins throughout the local area and the rest of the country.

The funeral was held February 27, 2016, at 10 a.m. with a Mass of Christian Burial at the Parish of Ss. Cyril and Methodius at the Church of St. Joseph, Hazleton, PA. Interment followed in the parish cemetery. Arrangements were under the direction of Frank J. Bonin Funeral Home Inc., Hazleton.

- Submitted by Joseph Grega

### MAGDALEN P. DEFRANK BRANCH 591 – CHICAGO HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS

Magdalen "Madge" P. DeFrank (nee Dratnol) age 90 of Chicago Heights, IL, passed away on February 24, 2016. Beloved wife of the late Constance "Sandy" DeFrank. Loving mother of Sherry (John) Darnell of South Chicago Heights and Sheila (Richard) Husarik of Chicago Heights. Grandmother "Baba" of Michael and Matthew Darnell. Sister of the late Julia Elder and late Elsie Brandt. Sister-in-law of Florence DeFrank. Magdalen was a volunteer at the Humane Society Resale Shop for many years and a member of St. Ann's Choir. Visitation was held on Monday, February 29, 2016, from 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Heartland Memorial Center, Chicago Heights. A funeral Mass was celebrated Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at St. Liborius Church, with interment following in Calvary Cemetery.

- Submitted by Sheila Husarik

### ARTHUR J. FAYTA BRANCH 706 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

On Thursday, March 10, 2016, Arthur J. Fayta "Art" passed away at the age of 90. Art and his wife, Barbara, lived in Dyer, IN, for the past 18 years. They formerly lived in Dolton, IL, and have been married for 55 years. Art was the loving father of: Mark (Judy), Fayta, Michael Fayta, Lori (Larry) Seida and Lynda (Terry) Tanis. He is the cherished grandfather of: Adam, Chelsea, Alex, Alexandria, A.J., Julian and Ayden; dearest brother of: the late William (Marion) and the late Stephen Fayta; dear brother-in-law of: Edward (Pam) Dudzik and Kenneth (Ruth) Dudzik; and the fond uncle of

many nieces and nephews. Art was a Veteran of the U.S. Army, Air Force and served in World War II as a Staff Sergeant for the 676th Bomb Squadron. He flew in dozens of missions over Japan during the war. Art played minor league baseball during the late 1940's for various teams including the Batavia Clippers. He was a retired carpenter and a retired Treasurer for District II. He also enjoyed bowling and golfed even through his eighties. Art was buried at Holy Cross Cemetery in Calumet City, IL, near his wife's parents and among several friends. He is well-loved by his family and friends and will be greatly missed.

- Submitted by Lynda Tanis, Branch 706 Secretary

### BERTHA KUCHAR BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN



Bertha Kuchar, age 97 of Henderson, MI, passed away Monday, February 1, 2016 at Oliver Woods Retirement Village.

A Mass of Christian burial was held at 11am Thursday, February 4, 2016, at St. Paul Catholic Church with Fr. Michael O'Brien officiating. Burial followed at St. Michael Cemetery in Oakley, MI. The family received friends at Nelson-House Funeral Home on Wednesday from 2 to 8pm with a rosary prayed at 7pm.

Bertha was born May 26, 1918 in Bannister, MI, the daughter of James and Helen (Podalak) Cermak.

She married Paul Kuchar at St. Michael Catholic Church on October 10, 1936; he predeceased her on April 18, 1990.

Bertha was a homemaker and spent her life raising and caring for her family.

Bertha is survived by her son John (Elaine) Kuchar; daughter-in-law Marilyn Kuchar; grandchildren Sharon Kuchar, Michael (Neva) Kuchar, Tom Kuchar and Brian Kuchar; great-grandchildren Cameron and Connor; sisters Mildred Eberle and Mary Mead; sister-in-law Clara Cermak; many nieces, nephews and other loving family and friends.

She was predeceased by her husband Paul L. Kuchar, son Louis Kuchar, 2 brothers and 3 sisters.

- Submitted by Steve Patoprsty, Branch 756 President

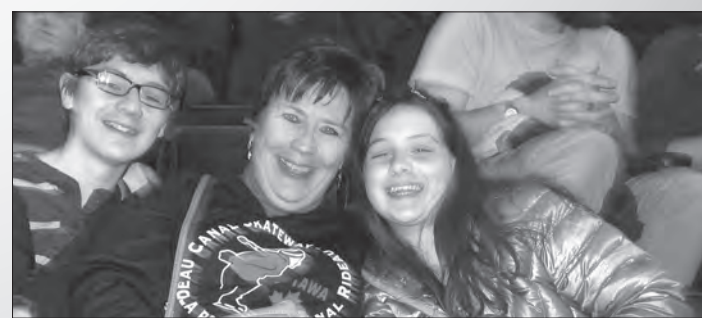
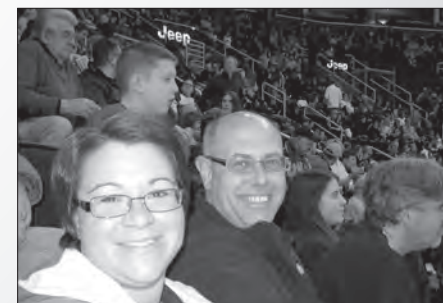
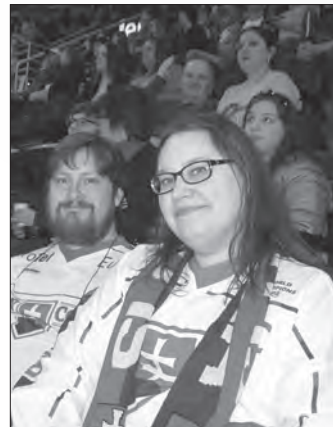
## Address Changes?

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



### Ohio District 10's Evening of Fun & Fraternalism

On Saturday, March 19, 2016 at 7:00pm at Quicken Loans Arena in downtown Cleveland, OH, some 92 members and guests of District 10 of the First Catholic Slovak Union – including Branches 24, 450, 553, and 855 - watched the Lake Erie Monsters win against the Manitoba Moose before an almost sold-out crowd. A fun evening of fraternalism was enjoyed by all



# - From the Office of the Executive Secretary -

## BRANCH REQUIREMENTS FOR BRANCH STIPEND

The following are requirements to complete in order to qualify for your branch stipend:

### Bylaw Section 4.05 FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:

“By the end of March of each year, the Home Office shall pay each local branch \$5.00 per member, per year, not to exceed \$8,000.00, provided the local branch has fulfilled the following requirements:

- (a) Published, announced and conducted two (2) semiannual meetings, one (1) of which shall be an annual meeting held for the election of officers. Meeting attendance (sign in) sheets or copies shall accompany the reports submitted to the Executive Secretary.
- (b) Submitted an annual report to the Executive Secretary on a provided form, by February 15th of the following year.
- (c) Submitted a financial report to the Executive Secretary on a provided form, by February 15th of the following year.
- (d) Hosted, sponsored, promoted, or attended at least one (1) fraternal activity in the past year.
- (e) Produced at least one (1) new contract in the previous calendar year. Branches with two hundred fifty (250) or more members must produce at least two (2) new contracts.
- (f) Provided the Home Office, on a continuing basis, current addresses of members and completed change of beneficiary forms, death reports, and such other documents as required by the Home Office.
- (g) Sent a branch representative to attend at least one (1) district meeting per calendar year. Those in attendance at the district meeting may vote to provide a branch with an excused absence.
  - 1. Members attending a district meeting shall sign an attendance sheet evidencing their presence at the event. No later than February 15th the District shall notify the Executive Secretary of those branches failing to meet this attendance requirement of article “g” above.
  - 2. The Executive Secretary shall publish no later than May 1st in the Official Organ those branches failing to meet the requirement of section 4.05.
- (h) Maintained good standing within its district by paying current fiscal year dues and any dues that may be outstanding from previous years.
- (i) The requirements of this Section must be met by the branch to receive payment of any other compensation.

### Bylaw Section 14. RULES GOVERNING LOCAL BRANCHES

#### 14.01 General Rules

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

operation and control of their branch and members in accordance with the Charter and Bylaws of the FCSU.

(c) Local branches may use the ritual form and prayers as contained in Section 20 of these Bylaws.

(d) Every local branch may observe the anniversary of its patron saint in a manner conforming to the Roman or Eastern churches of the Catholic Church.

(e) A Branch or District Officer who ceases to be a resident within a general area of a branch or district he/she represents is automatically disqualified from office. An exception may be granted by the President and the Executive Secretary.

on will not be permitted to send any delegates to that Convention, excluding Canada.

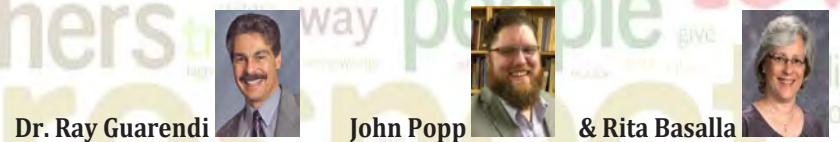
## † St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church †

In Conjunction with:  
The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist  
& Holy Spirit Byzantine Church

### Presents... A Forum on Respect

*Our lives are busy, filled with distractions and messages that are often contrary to God's ultimate plan for our lives. We can easily get caught up in the confusion of our society, and forget who we are as created beings. Join us as we dive in to this important topic of R.E.S.P.E.C.T*

#### FEATURING...



Dr. Ray Guarendi John Popp & Rita Basalla

Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
The Crystal Chalet, 3600 Biddulph Ave., Cleveland, OH 44109.

Pre-order tickets for \$15.00 per adult  
\$8 per child (ages 12-17)  
Multi-child discount (12-17) \$5.00 per ticket

Please visit our website for information and registration at  
<http://stmarybyz.com/>  
Or call  
(216) 741-7979

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY				
AS OF APRIL 1, 2016 THE FOLLOWING BRANCHES DID NOT MEET				
ALL OF THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THEIR 2015 BRANCH STIPEND				
PER BYLAW 4.05 FINANCIAL OBLIGATION &				
PER BYLAW 14.01 RULES GOVERNING LOCAL BRANCHES				
Branch #	Branch #	Branch #	Branch #	Branch #
001P	164K	326K	487K	721K
002K	165K	327K	497K	729K
004K	169P	330K	505K	733K
007K	175K	333K	510K	735K
016P	189K	335K	512K	754K
038K	189P	348K	514K	756K
041K	198P	353K	517K	769K
053K	199K	353P	543K	774K
064K	200K	358K	567K	777K
083K	211K	362K	571K	780K
086K	215K	368K	584K	796K
090K	221K	373K	586K	823K
096K	224K	380K	591K	831K
098K	226P	381K	600K	842K
102K	233K	388K	615K	844K
108K	238K	402K	618K	852K
110K	240P	403K	635K	858K
114P	260K	404K	636K	862K
121K	270K	414K	638K	888K
122K	278K	417K	652K	890K
124K	280K	429K	667K	
128K	299K	430K	686K	
132K	308K	434K	700K	
136K	315K	456K	701K	
144P	319K	461K	702K	
149K	321P	465K	704K	
152K	322K	472K	706K	
156K	324K	484K	714K	

## Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

A	S	A	P			D	O	F	F		M	A	L	T			
I	O	W	A			T	E	P	E	E		A	S	E	A		
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The officers of Branch 595 in Muskegon Heights, MI (R to L): Susan Hornik, Recording Secretary; Dave Cooper, Treasurer; Cora Garcia, President; Doug Zuidema, Financial Secretary; and Shirley Goodman, Vice President.

## Branch 595's March Meeting

Branch 595 recently held a meeting on March 20, 2016, at Tatra Hall in Muskegon Heights, MI. After the meeting the members enjoyed a fraternal luncheon at the Hall, a popular local venue for various entertainment functions and meals throughout the year.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director

## Visit Slovakia "The Old Country"



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

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

Join Jim and Kay Bench as they host the 19th Annual Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities tour from July 8-July

22, 2016. We will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities agreement so get your dancing shoes ready for the time of your life.

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

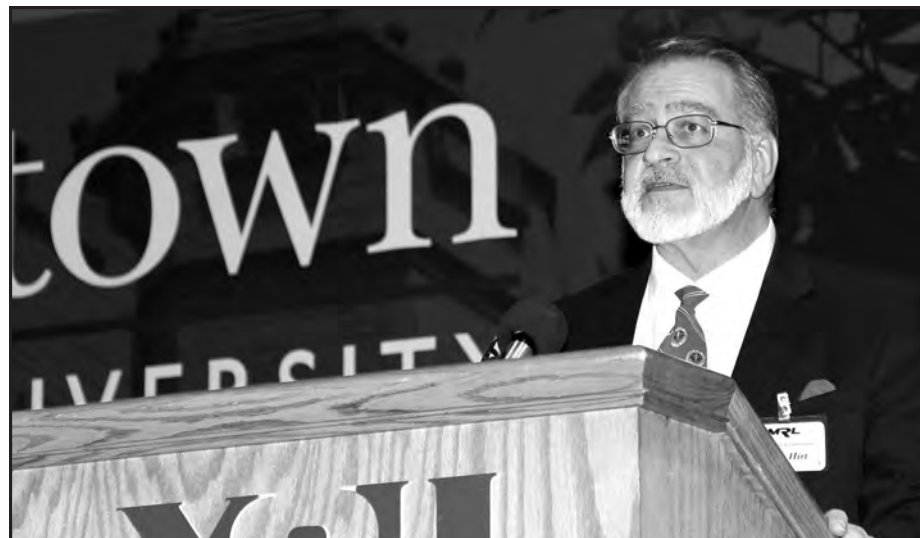
A Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities tour includes an English speaking tour guide, large air conditioned bus with restroom, first class hotel accommodations, great food and entertainment.

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

For additional information contact Jim or Kay Bench:

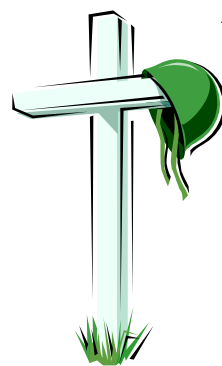
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## Andrew M. Hirt, Branch 682, Honored with Community Award

Andrew M. (Drew) Hirt, Vice President of Branch 682 (St. George Lodge), was the recipient of the 2016 Outstanding Community Partner Award at the Youngstown State University STEM College Awards Dinner on February 17. Mr. Hirt is the President and Senior Scientist for Materials. Drew is a product of the Catholic School system in Youngstown OH, having attended St. Matthias grade school and Cardinal Mooney High School. With a calling to science from an early age (5), Drew pursued his goal to become a scientist and received his B.S. degree in Physics from the Case Institute of Technology in 1977. He continued his education at Rutgers University in New Jersey, where he did graduate work in Materials Science. He also holds certifications in surface analysis and microscopy, having authored over fifty professional papers and books over the span of his 40 year career in science. His prior professional experience includes Technical Assistant for the Case Institute of Technology (CIT), employment as a lab scientist for Perkin-Elmer, Physical Electronics Division and Laboratory Manager for Structure Probe, Inc. MRL was founded in New Jersey in 1988 and moved to Ohio in 1993 when many of the R&D centers located in New Jersey dispersed throughout the country. In addition to its efforts in analytical R&D and failure analysis, the company employs summer and part-time students, makes its facilities available to elementary, high school and college level students and works with several universities on publishable R&D projects. Mr. Hirt has numerous professional affiliations and is listed in "American Men and Women of Science" and "Madison's Who's Who of Professionals". Drew is involved in the American Physics Society (AVS/APS), the American Chemical Society (ACS), ASM International, the Catalysis Society and several other professional groups and actively participates in local, national and international meetings and symposia. Drew is married to his business partner, Carol Jean Hirt, who specializes in electron microscopy. Drew and Carol work with several community groups including the Struthers Rotary (Drew is currently president), the Struthers School Foundation for Educational Excellence, the Chamber of Commerce and the CASTLO community improvement corporation. Their company (MRL) is involved with the internship programs with YSU and serves as a senior project mentor site for the Westminster College Chemistry Department. Drew is also currently an Adjunct Professor with the YSU chemistry department and MRL has partnered with the STEM program on several of their recent instrument grant awards. He also sings and plays guitar at Christ Our Savior Parish, Holy Trinity Church.



## From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Monday, May 30, 2016, in observance of Memorial Day.

## Matica Slovenská Produces Fr. Furdek Video

Headquartered in Martin, Slovakia, the Matica Slovenská is Slovakia's scientific and cultural institution focusing on topics around the Slovak nation.

Recently, it produced a video on Fr. Stefan Furdek, who was brought to Cleveland, OH, from Slovakia as a young seminarian by the Cleveland Catholic Diocese to minister to Czech and Slovak-speaking parishioners, and who later - as an ordained priest and Slovak activist - founded the First Catholic Slovak Union.

To view the video in Slovak on Fr. Stefan Furdek, go to <http://tinyurl.com/jm4nfgq>.



# Správy zo Slovenska

## NITRA: Biskupstvo hľadá riešenie, ako zaradiť deti asýrskych utečencov do škôl

Rodiny kresťanských utečencov z Iraku sa z azylového pobytového tábora v Humennom presunuli do svojich nových domovov v Nitre a okolí mesta. Momentálne sú ubytovaní v priestoroch, ktoré im poskytlo Biskupstvo Nitra. To sa v súčasnosti usiluje vyriešiť problém, čo so školopovinnými deťmi. Do Nitry a okolia sa prisťahovalo 25 rodín asýrskych kresťanov, ktorí hovoria aramejsky. Z celkovo 149 imigrantov tvoria deti do 15 rokov približne tretinu. Občianske združenie Pokoj a dobro zabezpečuje vyučbu slovenského jazyka pre dospelých, rodinám poskytuje prostredníctvom svojich odborných pracovníkov sociálne a právne poradenstvo.

## Uspešný podnikateľ, má iba 27 rokov a už by mohol ísť do penzie

Slovák Andrej Pančík s dvoma spoločníkmi z Oxfordu založili firmu, ktoré zarábajú milióny. Jeho posledný projekt Represent, ktorý sa preslávil vďaka tomu, že ho využívajú hollywoodske hviezdy či známi športovci, kúpila americká firma Customlnk za sto miliónov. Pančík je jedným z našich najväčších podnikateľských talentov.

## Kde je čakanie na vlak najpríjemnejšie

Na Slovensku otestovali 10 vlakových staníc na najvyťaženejších tratiach Slovenska. Viaceré z nich prešli rekonštrukciou. Zaujímavé je, že hoci sú v nich k dispozícii viaceré bufety či reštaurácie, málokde varia cez víkend. Rovnako boli niekde zrušené úschovne batožiny - údajne pre nezáujem cestujúcich. Najlepšie v hodnotení dopadli stanice v Košiciach, Trnave a vo Vrútkach.

## Číňania mieria aj do slovenského turizmu

Čínska spoločnosť CEFC (China Energy Company Limited) stupňuje svoj nákupný apetít na českom trhu. Najnovšie oznámila, že vstupuje do najväčšieho online predajcu dovolení v Česku Invia.cz. Táto firma má pobočku aj na Slovensku. Invia.sk síce na n slovenskom trhu nepatrí k najväčším sprostredkovateľom dovolení, ale má ťah na bránu. V roku 2014 mala tržby len okolo 2,3 milióna eur, čo však predstavovalo nárast o 50 percent. Jej zisk v tom istom roku vzrástol dokonca o 112 percent na 539.000 eur. Číňania by mohli využiť kúpu Invia.cz ako odrazový mostík na dotiahnutie viac čínskych turistov do strednej Európy, ale aj do Nemecka, kde je trh oveľa väčší. Slovenské cestovky zatiaľ nevidia vstup čínskych investorov do Invia.cz ako priamu hrozbu.

## Ruskí Noční vlci plánujú znova jazdu z Moskvy do Berlína, trasa vedie aj cez SR

Motocyklisti z ruského klubu Noční vlci, ktorých vlnajúca akcia pri príležitosti okrúhleho výročia ukončenia druhej svetovej vojny vyvolala nemalý rozruch v krajinách strednej a východnej Európy, sa mienia 29. apríla vydať opäť z Moskvy na cestu do Berlína. Príjazd do nemeckej metropoly je naplánovaný na 9. mája, informoval v Moskve šéf Nočných vlkov Alexandr Zaldostanov. Podľa jeho slov sa na trasu vedúcu cez päť štátov - Bielorusko, Poľsko, Slovensko, Rakúsko a Česko - vydá väčší počet motocyklistov ako vlani. Informovali o tom ruské, poľské i české elektronické médiá. Samotný šéf motocyklistického klubu blízkeho Kremľu, ktorý už vlani nedostal vstupné schengenské víza, sa zrejme do jazdy nezapojí ani tento rok, pretože figuruje na zozname osôb, na ktoré Európska únia uvalila sankcie.

## DOPRAVA: Košice majú s letecké spojenie s Varšavou

Polské aerolínie LOT 30. marca inauguračným letom zaviedli leteckú linku medzi Košicami a Varšavou. Lietat sa bude šesťkrát týždenne s odletom z Košíc o 5.35 h a spätočným letom z Varšavy o 22.35 h.

Podľa Ivety Niňajovej z organizácie Košice - Turizmus je zriadenie linky otvorením Košíc svetom. „Toto spojenie otvára ďalších niekoľko destinácií nielen v Európe, ale v celom svete. Košičania sa môžu veľmi rýchlo dostať do Ázie i Ameriky. Zároveň môžu využiť nové letisko vo Varšave, ktoré je veľmi dostupné. Na jednom podlaží sú všetky brány. Keď človek prestupuje, tak sa vie veľmi rýchlo dostať na prestupový let,“ uviedla Niňajová, ktorá verí, že nové letecké spojenie pomôže rozvoju turizmu nielen v Košiciach, ale i vo Vysokých Tatrách, nakoľko turisti z Poľska mali dlhodobo problém s prístupom.

## Krasokorčuľovanie-MS: Rajičová si vybojovala postup do voľných jazd

Slovenská krasokorčuľarka Nicole Rajičová koncom marca postúpila na MS v Bostone do voľných jazd v súťaži jednotlivkyň. Za krátky program získala od rozhodcov 56,56 b., čo jej po 25 vystúpeniach stačilo na priebežnú štvrtú priečku. Na štarte bolo ešte dvanásť pretekárov, najhoršie mohla obsadiť 16. pozíciu. Vo finálových voľných jazdách má miestenku 24 najlepších. Rajičová, ktorá obsadila na januárových ME v Bratislave 12. priečku, predviedla elegantnú jazdu s jedinou chybou pri kombinácii dvoch trojitých toeloopoch v úvode predstavenia. Za svojim sezónnym maximom v krátkom programe zaostala o 0,68 b.

## Slováci v zahraničí pumpujú do slovenskej ekonomiky miliardy

Slovákov, ktorí odišli do cudziny za prácou je okolo 250-tisíc. Až tretina z nich posieľa peniaze svojim príbuzným naspäť na Slovensko. Takúto finančnú pomoc podávajú najmä pracujúci v Česku, Británii, Rakúsku či Nemecku. Ukázal to prieskum spoločnosti Money Service SK. Peniaze od rodiny pracujúcej za hranicami Slovenska pomáhajú aj slovenskej ekonomike. Podporujú totiž domácu spotrebu. Peniaze dostávajú ľudia od príbuzných najmä v regiónoch s vysokou nezamestnanosťou.

## Tatraci lákajú: Príďte k nám, tu je to bezpečné

Zájum o dovolenku na Slovensku narastá. Minulý rok priniesol najväčší počet turistov, spolu ich bolo vyše 4,3 milióna. Tento rok príde pod Tatry ešte viac dovolenkárov. Môže za to aj napätá medzinárodná situácia, útoky a hrozby teroristov. Preto aj Slováci hľadajú destinácie bez rizika a mnohí zvažujú letnú dovolenku doma na Slovensku.

## „Laná na najväčšiu loď na svete uplietli Slováci“

V Nozdrkoviach pri Trenčíne vyrobili kotviace laná pre najväčšiu loď sveta Harmony of the Seas, ktorá v marci na západe Francúzska prvýkrát vyplávala na more. Firmu založila v roku 2003 materská nórska spoločnosť TIMM, ktorá vyrába laná už tristo rokov. Partia slovenských vývojárov a zamestnancov v spolupráci s nórskymi vlastníkmi sa prepracovala až medzi firmy v lodnom priemysle. „Veľmi nás to teší, sme radi, že dokážeme konkurovať svetu“, povedal riaditeľ firmy TIMM Slovakia Roman Šmíd

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

## Peter Sagan vyhral 100. ročník klasiky Okolo Flámska

Slovenský cyklista Peter Sagan sa stal víťazom jubilejného 100. ročníka belgickej klasiky Okolo Flámska. Jazdec Tinkoffu triumfoval na 255 km dlhej trati z Brúg do Oudenaarde pred Švajčiarom Fabianom Cancellarom a pripísal si na konto najväčší úspech v profikolotoči.

Sagan sa stal iba piatym mužom v histórii, ktorý vyhral prestížny „monument“ v dúhovom drese úradujúceho majstra sveta. Tretí skončil Belgičan Sep Vanmarcke. „Boli to supernáročné preteky od začiatku až do konca. Po sto kilometroch som mal menšie problémy. Bolo tam veľa pádov a musel som meniť obe kolesá. Aj vďaka môjmu tímu som sa však dostal na dobré pozície. Dnešný triumf by som chcel venovať dvom cyklistom Antoineovi Demoittemu a Daanovi Mynheerovi, ktorí minulý týždeň zomreli. Chcem si toto víťazstvo patrične vychutnať a potom už začnem myslieť na ďalšiu klasiku Paríž-Roubaix,“ povedal Sagan v rozhovore pre stanicu Eurosport.

Sagan rozhodol o svojom triumfe 15 km pred cieľom pri stúpaní na posledný „kockový“ kopec Paterberg, po ktorom sa odpútal od Vanmarckeho. V záverečnej rovinatej časti pretekov svoj náskok ešte zveľadil a odolal náporu Cancellaru, ktorý vo Flámsku nenašiel premožiteľa pred dvomi rokmi, keď práve na Paterbergu striasol zo seba Sagana. Sto kilometrov pred cieľom sa preteky skončili pre jedného zo spolufavoritov Belgičana Grega van Avermaeta, ktorý si po páde zlomil kľúčnu kosť.



FOTO: TASR

Na snímke slovenský reprezentant v cyklistike Peter Sagan.

*Slovak cyclist Peter Sagan won the 100<sup>th</sup> jubilee Belgium classic around Flanders, Belgium.*

TASR

## Na Slovensku je vyše 200 kalvárií

“Slovensko je krížovými cestami priam posiate ...“

Počas Veľkého piatka, keď si veriaci pripomínali utrpenie a smrť Ježiša Krista na Golgote, sa v mnohých katolíckych kostoloch, v uliciach miest a obcí a na kalváriách konali krížové cesty. Modlitby a procesie veriacich sa uskutočnili napríklad na Kalvárskom vrchu v Bratislave, v Skalici, v Nitre, Prešove, Košiciach, na Hore Zvir neďaleko Litmanovej a mnohých iných miestach.

Ako konštatoval mladý cestovateľ, fotograf a autor cestovateľských blogov o slovenských kalváriách Miroslav Lisinovič, Slovensko je krížovými cestami priam posiate a na rozdiel od susedných štátov ich má omnoho viac. Nachádzajú sa v areáloch kostolov, nad mestami a obcami, ale aj na odľahlých miestach v prírode.

Lisinovič fotograficky zdokumentoval a prezentoval na svojom blogu 196 kalvárií, ale navštívil ich oveľa viac. Medzi najkrajšie, najväčšie a najhodnotnejšie patrí podľa neho kalvária nad Banskou Štiavnicou. Ide o barokové dielo jezuitskeho pátra Františka Pergera z polovice 18. storočia a pozostáva z 23 stavieb. Táto kalvária sa v súčasnosti podrobuje veľmi potrebnej a nákladnej obnove.

Originálna svojím spracovaním je kalvária nad Starým Smokovcom vo Vysokých Tatrách, ktorú vytvorili mladí umelci a jednotlivé zastavenia sú vyjadrené rôznymi formami. Táto kalvária je zároveň najvyššie položenou na Slovensku.

Kalvária na Slanickom ostrove je originálna tým, že návštevník sa na ňu dostane iba loďou. Bývalá obec Slanica aj tri zastavenia krížovej cesty sú totiž zatopené vodami Oravskej priehrady. Jednou z najodľahlejších kalvárií na Slovensku je pútnické miesto Mičova Jama pri Zborove nad Bystricou. Medzi zaujímavé kalvárie patrí podľa Lisinoviča aj kalvária v Prešove, v Partizánskom, v Žarnovici, v Rybanoch, v Hostí a iných miestach.

Z iniciatívy konkrétnych ľudí z farností a s finančnou podporou dobrovoľných darcov vznikajú v súčasnosti aj nové kalvárie s použitím moderných materiálov ako je betón, sklo, oceľ, alebo z klasického dreva v netradičnom spracovaní.

TASR

## Slováci nie sú ochotní cestovať za prácou

Neochota cestovať za prácou, nedostatok pracovných skúseností, nereálne platové očakávania či slabá znalosť cudzieho jazyka. Toto sú najčastejšie nedostatky kandidátov pri hľadaní si práce. Ukázal to najnovší prieskum medzi manažérmi 91 firiem zo Slovenska, ktorý zrealizovala personálna agentúra Grafton Slovakia. Spoločnosť uskutočnila prieskum medzi firmami počas februárového veľtrhu práce Profesia Days.

Zamestnávateľia ako jeden z najčastejšie sa opakujúcich a vnímaných nedostatkov zhodne označili neochotu žiadateľov dochádzať do práce a budúceho zamestnania. Tento nedostatok označilo celkom 15,38 % zamestnávateľov. Práve tí sú však s cieľom nájdenia vhodného kandidáta ochotní budúceho zamestnancovi poskytnúť ako jeden z benefitov finančný príspevok v podobe úhrady transportu do práce. Z prieskumu vyplýva, že takmer polovica spoločností poskytuje bonus preplácania až 100 % hodnoty cestovného a viac ako 33 % zamestnávateľov svojim zamestnancom uhrádza polovicu vynaložených cestovných nákladov.

“Počas praxe a vyhodnocovania výberových konaní sa u kandidátov stretávame so záujmom pracovného zaradenia len v mieste svojho bydliska, prípadne jeho bezprostrednej blízkosti. Uchádzači o prácu sa neraz nazdávajú, že dochádzanie do práce by ich ukracovalo o čas a priestor na voľný čas,“ skonštatoval manažér spoločnosti Grafton Slovakia

Miroslav Garaj. Zároveň uviedol, že v prípade, ak sa budúci zamestnávateľ nachádza vo vzdialenosti do približne 80 kilometrov, kandidát sa neraz ukracuje o možnosť nájdenia preferovaného pracovného zaradenia, ktoré by mal v prípade záujmu zväžiť.

Okrem preplácania cesty do práce medzi najvyužívanejšie benefity zamestnania patrí u takmer troch štvrtín spoločností aj možnosť absolvovania vybraných školení a vzdelávacích programov. Oblíbené jazykové kurzy ponúka 56,04 % dopytovaných spoločností a viac ako polovica zamestnávateľov informuje kandidátov o možnosti kariérneho rastu v spoločnosti.

Prieskum spoločnosti ďalej ukázal, že uchádzači majú málo pracovných skúseností, nereálne platové očakávania, neovládajú cudzí jazyk. Taktiež nevedia, čo chcú, teda nevedia reagovať a zodpovedať otázku, prečo chcú pracovať v danej spoločnosti. “Jedným zo zaujímavých zistení prieskumu je ešte stále veľmi vysoké číslo a fakt potvrdzujúci nepripravenosť kandidátov na pracovný pohovor. Hovoríme až o 18,68 % žiadateľov o prácu. Výsledok je prekvapivý v tom, že fáza prípravy na pracovný pohovor či výberové konanie patrí k zásadným bodom úspešného absolvovania výberového procesu,“ dodal Garaj.

TASR

## Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

### Konzulárne dni SR v NY v Chicagu, IL

Generálny konzulát Slovenskej republiky v New Yorku organizuje konzulárne dni dňa 28. apríla 2016 (štvrtok) od 1:00 do 8:00 hod. Večer a 29. apríla 2016 (piatok) od 1:00 hod. poobede do 8:00 hod. večer, v reštaurácii KLAS/KLAS Restaurant, 5734 W. Cermak Road, Cicero, IL 60804.

Konzulárne dni budú zamerané na konzulárne úkony, pri ktorých sa podľa zákona vyžaduje osobná prítomnosť žiadateľa. Podrobne informácie : [www.mzv.sk/web/cgnetwork](http://www.mzv.sk/web/cgnetwork)

### Výstava "Krásy Slovenska" na generálnom konzuláte v New Yorku

Pri príležitosti nadchádzajúceho slovenského predsedníctva v Rade Európskej únie od 1. júla 2016 pripravil generálny konzulát v New Yorku výstavu „Krásy Slovenska“.

Návštevníci generálneho konzulátu majú možnosť vzhľadnúť túto výstavu v našich priestoroch počas úradných hodín.

MZV SR

### Polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasulu IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasulu Spolku č. 16 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa bude konať v nedeľu 22. mája 2016 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v malej sále Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City, 411 East 66st Street, 1st Avenue, NYC. Prosíme predsedov všetkých spolkov, ktoré patria do nášho Okresu, aby poslali čo najviac delegátov. Upozorňujeme, že aj nedelegáti sú vítaní. Na programe bude podanie finančnej správy a príprava činnosti na budúce obdobie. Po polročnej členskej schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripravila členovia Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ. Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

## Nad Slovenskom budú v rámci cvičenia prelietavať americké lietadlá

Nad územím Slovenskej republiky budú od apríla do mája prelietavať vojenské lietadlá Spojených štátov amerických. Informuje o tom ministerstvo obrany s tým, že ide o súčasť plánovanej a dlhodobo koordinovanej výcvikovej aktivity aliančného partnera.

„Kolektívna bezpečnosť je v stredo európskom priestore kľúčová. Vzájomné zladenie postupov či znalosť terénu umožňuje efektívne nasadenie spojeneckých jednotiek v prípade krízovej situácie, a to tak vojenského, ako aj nevojenského charakteru. Podobné výcvikové aktivity sú preto bežné, ako nad našim územím, tak aj nad územím ostatných členských štátov Severoatlantickej aliancie,“ povedal štátny tajomník rezortu obrany Ivan Máčovský.

Spojené štáty americké dostali povolenie na prelet lietadiel Hercules C-130 v nízkych letových hladinách. „Na tieto prelety boli vydané riadne diplomatické povolenia Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR v koordinácii s našimi ozbrojenými silami. Takéto prelety boli v rámci cvičení schvaľované aj v minulosti,“ doplnil Máčovský.

Lety by mali byť realizované na severnom a strednom Slovensku. Rezort obrany touto cestou ubezpečuje obyvateľov, že všetky konkrétne prelety budú zo strany USA vopred ohlásené a dodržanie stanovených podmienok bude monitorované.

TASR

## V Košiciach si ekumenickým sprievodom pripomenuli veľkonočné tajomstvo

Ekumenickým pašiovým sprievodom si 25. marca v Košiciach pripomenuli umučenie, ukrižovanie a zmŕtvychvstanie Ježiša Krista. Na sprievode, ktorý má dlhoročnú tradíciu, sa zúčastnilo niekoľko stoviek ľudí.

Sprievodu sa v metropole východného Slovenska pravidelne zúčastňujú cirkvi, ktoré majú v meste zastúpenie. Okrem rímskokatolíckej, evanjelickej a v. a gréckokatolíckej cirkvi nechýbajú ani veriaci z Reformovanej kresťanskej cirkvi na Slovensku, Apoštolskej cirkvi, Bratskej jednoty baptistov, Cirkvi bratskej a Cirkvi československej husitskej. Ako uviedol za organizátorov duchovný reformovanej kresťanskej cirkvi v Košiciach Jaroslav Széles, hlavnou témou dnešného sprievodu bolo Božie milosrdenstvo, ako aj milosrdenstvo človeka k človeku na motíve biblického milosrdného Samaritána.

TASR

## Slovenská technická univerzita v prvej 500-ke elitných svetových univerzít

Do prvej 500-ky elitných svetových univerzít sa dostala Slovenská technická univerzita (STU) v Bratislave. V nedávno zverejnenom rebríčku QS World University Rankings sa umiestnila na pozícii 401-450 v kategórii Počítačové vedy a informačné technológie

“STU sa umiestnila ako najlepšia zo Slovenska aj v ďalších hodnotených kategóriách, konkrétne v architektúre, stavebníctve, chemickom inžinierstve, strojníctve, elektrotechnike, materiálovom inžinierstve a v matematike,“ uviedla Settey Hajdúchová. Ako dodala, v niektorých týchto kategóriách dosiahla dokonca lepšie (stavebníctvo, matematika), či približne rovnaké (elektrotechnika, strojníctvo) skóre ako pri počítačových vedách, avšak hodnotitelia v nich zostavili rebríček len najlepších 100 či 200 univerzít.

“Dočahujeme na svetovú špičku a verím, že pôjdeme vyššie. Máme na to všetky predpoklady – skúsených učiteľov, nové laboratória s unikátnymi prístrojmi, medzinárodne rešpektovaný výskum a intenzívnu spoluprácu s podnikmi. Za kvalitným vzdelaním a vedou nemusia študenti odchádzať do zahraničia,“ uviedol rektor STU Robert Redhammer.

Rebríček QS World University Rankings patrí do tzv. Veľkej trojky najstarších svetových rebríčkov univerzít: QS World University Rankings, ARWU- Šanghajský rebríček, Times Higher Education World.

QS World University Ranking hodnotil 4226 univerzít sveta, do poradia nakoniec zaradil 945 z nich. Rozdelil ich do 42 kategórií od umenia, humanitných, ekonomických či prírodných vied, poľnohospodárstva, techniky, technológií, medicíny či chémie. Rebríček hodnotí reputáciu školy medzi akademikmi a zamestnávateľmi, veľkosť školy, medzinárodnú spoluprácu a výskumné výstupy podľa publikácií a počtu citácií.

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Záber na účastníkov Oslavy.

## Spomienkova oslava slovenskej štátnosti

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

I. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New York City usporiadal v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC nedeľu 13. marca 2016 o 1:00 hodine tradičnú spomienkovú oslavu slovenskej štátnosti. Podujatie sa obyčajne organizuje za spolupráce Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Spolku sv. Matúša a Spolku sv. Štefana Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty a Slovenského katolíckeho Sokola. Táto dostoyná, spomienková oslava sa tohto roku konala za účasti oddaných Slovákov z New Yorku, New Jersey, Connecticut a Pensylvánie.

Program zahájila svätá omša v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého, ktorú odslúžil otec Štefan Chanas o 10:30 dopoludnia za prvého Slovenského prezidenta Dr. Jozefa Tisu a za Slovákov, ktorí obetovali svoje životy za sebaurčenie slovenského národa. Veľkú zásluhu na víťazstve slovenského národa v boji za jeho práva mala aj Slovenská liga v Amerike, ktorá udržovala slovenské povedomie u Slovákov žijúcich v Amerike.

Program oslavy začal modlitbou prítomných, a spevom Slovenskej a Americkej štátnej hymny, ktorú viedol známy spevák klasickej hudby Rado Lesay. Tajomníčka Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Nina Holá privítala prítomných a predstavila oficiálnych hostí. Za tým na spštenie programu slávnosti zaspieval Rado Lesay známe slovenské piesne ako napríklad: “Keby som bol vtáčkom...” V ďalšom bode programu tajomníčka I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v NYC zarecitovala báseň známeho, už nebohého, slovenského aktivistu, Jozefa Smáka “K pamiatke prezidenta Dr. Jozefa Tisu”. Zároveň prečítala “Posledný odkaz Dr. Jozefa Tisu”, napísaný pred jeho popravou v Bratislavskej väznici, krajského súdu, dňa 18. apríla 1947, kde tiež prosí, aby sme si spomenuli na neho v modlitbách a aj on bude prosíť Všemohúceho Pána Boha, aby národu slovenskému v jeho životnej borbe “Za Boha a za Národ” žehnal. Slávnostný hlavný prejav predniesol predseda Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Daniel F. Tanzone. Potom tajomníčka Slovenskej ligy, Nina Holá vo svojom referáte spomenula, že takto každoročne si pripomíname založenie Prvého Slovenského štátu. Boj Slovákov za samostatné Slovensko sa konal storočia, ale bola to práve naša generácia, ktorá mala šťastie sa dožiť vyhlásenia samostatnosti nášho národa a to prvýkrát v histórii dňa 14. marca 1939 bola vyhlásená Prvá Slovenská republika a prvým prezidentom bol Dr. Jozef Tiso. My sme presvedčení, že bez tejto Prvej republiky by nebola druhá Slovenská republika, ktorá bola vyhlásená 1. januára 1993.

Oslava 14. marca je pre nás Slovákov žijúcich v Amerike veľmi dôležitá, lebo tu za ňu bojovali tisíce našich pracovníkov v Amerike a hlavne od založenia Slovenskej ligy v roku 1907. Tešíme sa tiež z Druhej Slovenskej republiky – jej samostatnosti a pokroku.

Pripomíname prítomným našim členom Slovenskej ligy ako aj ostatným prítomným na tejto oslave, že v archíve Slovenskej ligy sa nachádza zápisnica zo zakladajúceho I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v NYC, ktorá bola v marci 1915 – jej predsedom sa stal národovec Msgr. Štefan Krasula. A dnes, keď si pripomíname 14. marec, takto si s vďakou spomíname na všetkých, ktorí bez výhrad a nezištne sa dali do služieb nášho národa, prinášali obeť na oltár vlasti, aby nás priviedli do štátnej samostatnosti. S úctou a vďakou si spomíname na odchod nášho dlhoročného predsedu I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v NYC, Milana R. Daita, ktorý nás krátko po minuloročnej slávnosti predčasne opustil. Nech mu dá Pán Boh večné odpočinutie v nebi a nech jeho rodinu v žiali poteší. “Drahý Milan – budeš v našich spomienkach – nezabudneme na Teba.” Nakoniec Henrieta H. Daitová zarecitovala Milanovu obľúbenú báseň od Andreja Žarnova: “Moja vlasť”.

*Ó, zem ty krásna, sladká mati moja,  
Za tichých nocí v mojich snoch sa vežíš,  
Živičný pozdrav nesie vánok z chvoja,  
mesačnou cestou v ústrety mi bežíš,  
Kde naše malé, rodné chaty stoja  
sťa hniezda teplé, krásna mati moja ...”*

Na záver poďakovala Nina Holá všetkým, čo sa akýmkoľvek spôsobom pričínili o krásny priebeh tejto slávnosti a všetkým tým, ktorí prišli na toto podujatie. Touto cestou si tiež dovoľujeme poďakovať pánu farárom Rev. Richardovi D. Bakerovi a Rev. Štefanovi Chanasovi za ich prítomnosť na tomto slávnostnom podujatí. Tiež ďakujeme pani Judite Lepko a Slovenskej lige v Amerike za ich finančnú podporu tohto podujatia.

Na záver oslavy sme zaspievali hymnické piesne “God Bless America” a “Hej Slováci”. Po programe sa podávalo bohaté občerstvenie, ktoré pripravili Ján a Joan Škrkoň za pomoci Márii Božekovej a niektorých členov Spolku sv. Štefana.

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka



Daniel F. Tanzone počas hlavného prejavu.



Spevák klasickej hudby, Rado Lesay počas svojho recitálu.

Nina Holá pri záverečnom prejave.

Henrieta F. Daitová pri recitovaní básne.

# Spoločná fotografia ministrov tretej vlády Roberta Fica



FOTO TASR - Martin Baumann

Prezident SR Andrej Kiska vymenoval nový kabinet Roberta Fica, ktorý tvoria strany Smer-SD, SNS, Most-Híd a Siet' v stredu 23. marca. Horný rad zľava minister dopravy, výstavby a regionálneho rozvoja SR Roman Brecely, minister obrany SR Peter Gajdoš, minister práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR Ján Richter, minister školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu SR Peter Plavčan a minister zdravotníctva SR Tomáš Drucker. Stredný rad zľava minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Miroslav Lajčák, ministerka pôdohospodárstva a rozvoja vidieka Gabriela Matečná, minister životného prostredia László Solymos, minister kultúry SR Marek Madarič, minister financií SR Peter Kažimír a minister hospodárstva SR Peter Žiga. Dolný rad zľava podpredseda vlády SR pre investície Peter Pellegrini, ministerka spravodlivosti SR Lucia Žitňanská, premiér SR Robert Fico, podpredseda vlády SR a minister vnútra SR Robert Kaliňák.

*Slovak President Andrew Kiska officially named the new cabinet of Prime Minister Robert Fico on March 23, 2016.*



## Vychádza kniha František Mikloško

*Rozhovory o dobe a ľuďoch*

Nová kniha František Mikloško, Rozhovory o dobe a ľuďoch z pera Jána Štrassera prichádza na pulty slovenských knižných obchodov. Za účasti oboch protagonistov knižnej novinky ju 5. apríla večer v bratislavskom Zichyho paláci predstavoval vydavateľstvo Slovart.

František Mikloško v rozhovore s Jánom Štrasserom citlivo rozpráva o osobných témach ako rodina, priateľstvá či náboženstvo. Už od vysokoškolských štúdií sa angažoval v tzv. tajnej cirkvi. Otvorene sa vyjadruje aj k politickým a spoločenským otázkam, veď 20 rokov bol poslancom parlamentu a ako aktívny politik sa stal priamym svedkom mnohých kľúčových udalostí v dejinách Slovenska. Hovorí o Charte 77, slovenskom samizdate, sviečkovej manifestácii, delení Československa aj mečiarizme. Spomína mnohých svojich politických partnerov i oponentov. Priamo odpovedá tiež na otázky smerujúce k cirkvi a náboženstvu.

„S pánom Mikloškom som tú knižku veľmi chcel urobiť, lebo ho pokladám za jedného – poviem to – z mála charakterných ľudí v slovenskej politike posledných 25 či 26 rokov, človeka múdreho, spravodlivého, ktorý má čo povedať a ktorý napokon bol pri najdôležitejších veciach od novembra, cez rozpad štátu, bol pri tých najdôležitejších veciach v politike, takže stálo to za to. S mojou prípravou, lebo to bola špecifická príprava, musel som sa niečo naučiť povedzme o otázkach katolíckej cirkvi, až po autorizáciu to bolo vyše roka. Pán Mikloško autorizoval tú knižku veľmi precízne, ani nie preto, aby niečo menil či prepisoval, ale hlavne, aby tá knižka bola faktograficky presná. Ako politikovi, ktorý si uvedomuje, že tou knižkou zanecháva akýsi odkaz pre dejiny, tak sa usiloval byť čo najpresnejší,“ povedal pri prezentácii Ján Štrasser.

„Bol to rok roboty, pol roka sme natáčali a potom sme pol roka do toho vstupovali a robili korektúry. A musím povedať, že nebyť Jána Štrassera, nikdy v živote takáto knižka nevznikne. Pretože tak, ako sa on pripravil, zároveň že bol môj súputník, tak vedel, do čoho má vstúpiť a z celou jeho básnickou aj štruktúrnou genialitou, tak bez neho by tá knižka nikdy nevyšla. Som šťastný, ale aj strašne unavený, pretože ešte stále sa v noci budím, či som tam niečo nezabudol alebo nepoplietol,“ uviedol pre TASR František Mikloško.

František Mikloško (1947, Nitra) je absolventom Strednej priemyselnej školy stavebnej v Nitre a následne odboru matematika Prírodovedeckej fakulty UK. Pracoval v Ústave technickej kybernetiky SAV, od roku 1983 striedavo ako robotník či nepracujúci. Od vysokoškolských štúdií až do Nežnej revolúcie sa angažoval v tzv. tajnej cirkvi. Pracoval medzi vysokoškolskou mládežou, podieľal sa na tvorbe samizdatov, bol jedným zo zvláštateľov sviečkovej manifestácie 25. marca 1988 v Bratislave. V novembri 1989 sa stal členom Koordinačného výboru hnutia Verejnosť proti násiliu. V rokoch 1990 až 2010 bol poslancom Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky. V roku 2005 mu bola udelená stredoEurópska Cena sv. Vojtecha. Je ženatý, žije v Bratislave.

Ján Štrasser (1946, Košice) po ukončení štúdia na Filozofickej fakulte UK pracoval ako redaktor časopisu Mladá tvorba, potom postupne ako dramaturg Poetickej scény, Vojenského umeleckého súboru a Štúdia S. Bol redaktorom časopisu Slovenské pohľady, neskôr redaktorom týždenníka Domino fórum. V roku 1968 vydal prvú básnickú zbierku Odriekanie. Je autorom desiatok kníh, medzi nimi rozhovorov s Milanom Lasicom - Lenže ja som iba komik (2005), so Zdenou Studenkovou - Som herečka (2006), z tých novších Džez náš každodenný daj nám dnes s Petrom Lipom (2013), Do voza aj do koča s Kamilou Magálovou (2013), Prvá dáma s Emiliou Vášaryovou (2014) či Sledoslov. Rozhovory s Altou Vášovou (2015).

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## IN MEMORIAM

Zomrel Andrej F. Hudák

Vo veku 87 rokov sa pobral na večnosť známy národno-kultúrny pracovník v Clevelande, OH Andrej F. Hudák. Pohrebná svätá omša za neho sa konala 4. apríla 2016 o 10.00 hodine doobeda v St. Michael Church, 6912 Chestnut Rd, Independence, OH 44131. Nebohý za sebou zanecháva milujúcu manželku Sophiu, (rodenú Beno) a súrodencov; svojich synov: Andrew III (s manželkou Maureen); Paul (s manželkou Terri); a Steve (s manželkou Amy); drahé vnúčatá: Christina, Andrew IV, Thomas, Patricia, Matthew, Valerie, Christopher, Nicole a 11. pravnúčat.

Nebohý Andrej F. Hudák patrí do plejády národných a kultúrnych pracovníkov v USA. Narodil sa roku 1928 v Kecerovských Pekl'ánoch, na Východnom Slovensku. V predvečer nástupu totalitného režimu, ako 19 ročný, odchádza za otcom do USA. Prvé kroky na americkej pôde znamenali prekonať veľa prekážok – naučiť sa anglicky, zamestnanie, zvyknúť na nové, nie vždy priateľské prostredie. Pevná vôľa a cieľavedomosť mu pomohli zvládnuť všetky nástrahy. Od svojho príchodu do Clevelandu sa zapájal do slovenského kultúrneho, národného i politického života. Slovenská liga v Amerike, Svetový kongres Slovákov, Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Jednota a ďalšie organizácie sú pre neho priestorom na prácu "na roli dedičnej". Neskoršie aj ako zakladateľ a majiteľ cestovnej kancelárie, orientoval jej smerovanie na približovanie Slovenska krajanom v USA a ich ďalším generáciám, aby si oživilí vlastné korene.

Keď Slovenská záhrada Slovak Garden na Floride, tento domov pre krajanov sa ocitla v kríze a v ťažkostiach, ujal sa jej vo funkcii prezidenta A. F. Hudák jr. Vybudoval z nej prosperujúcu sociálnu kultúrnu a národnú inštitúciu, kde sa každoročne konali v marci veľkolepé krajské stretnutia. Noviny Floridský Slovák, ktoré redigoval A. F. Hudák jr. sa stal angažovaným tribunom, pre mnohých našiel rodákov. Na pôde slovenskej záhrady založil a systematicky doplnil slovenskú knižnicu a múzeum slovenských krojov.

Roku 1991 napísal a vydal publikáciu v angličtine Slovaks in Florida, v ktorej približuje históriu a súčasný život Slovákov na Floride. Svoje životné osudy, prácu v krajských organizáciách i v národnopolitických aktivitách opísal v knihe Cesty životom (1995).

Cleveland bol na začiatku 20. st. mestom s najväčšou koncentráciou Slovákov v USA a jedným z centier slovenských národných a kultúrnych snažení. Slovenskú identitu dnes reprezentuje najmä Slovenský ústav v Clevelande, ktorého bol riaditeľom.

Aj na tomto poste vykonal kus záslužnej práce, najmä v súpise a evidencii bohatého archívneho materiálu a knižných fondov. Toto vzácne bohatstvo dokumentujúce dejiny jednej tretiny slovenského národa sa snažil zachovať aj pre budúce generácie.

Aj na pôde USA sa v súčasnosti prejavuje absencia obetavých národno kultúrnych pracovníkov, preto sa A. Hudák vážne zamýšľal nad budúcnosťou týchto písomných publikácií. Treba realizovať myšlienku vytvoriť pri niektorej slovenskej univerzite vedecké stredisko pre výskum dejín a života Slovákov vo svete. Aj v tomto smere bol A. Hudák medzi súčasnými predstaviteľmi amerických Slovákov dnes už zriedkavá, ale výnimočná osobnosť!

Nebohý Andrej bol bývalým prezidentom Slovenskej záhrady na Floride a členom mnohých slovenských a fraternalistických organizácií a naposledy bývalým riaditeľom Slovenského ústavu v Clevelande, pri opátstve Slovenských benediktínov St. Andrew's Abbey 10510 Buckeye Rd, Cleveland Ohio 44104-3725. S neho sa u pohrebničky mali možnosť rozlúčiť 3. apríla 2016 The Fortuna Funeral Home, 7076 Brecksville RD, Independence, Ohio blízka rodina, známi a priatelia. Nebohého Andreja pochovali na cintoríne Maple Shade. Na pamiatku neho Andrejovi sa môžu zasielať pamätne dary pre Opátstvo sv. Benediktína na Slovensku.

Nech odpočíva vo svätom pokoji. Česť jeho pamiatke!



Andrej F. Hudák v Slovenskom ústave v roku 2010.

## Zomrel Slavo Mulík - významný rodák v USA

Vo veľkonočnú nedeľu 27. marca 2016 umrel v USA v meste Coppel (Texas) vo veku 72 rokov Slavo Mulík významný slovenský rodák z Vondrišľa (Nálepka). Bol to človek mimoriadnych ľudských kvalít, ktorý si svojou usilovnosťou a skromnosťou získal uznanie vo svete. Bol predsedom Nadácie Štefana Baniča pri Americko-slovenskom parašutistickom združení, majstrom športu Západnej Afriky v motokrose a majstrom športu Južnej Afriky v parašutizme. V tejto športovej disciplíne sa stal nositeľom (U.S. Parachute Association) zlatých a diamantových krídel.

Bol majstrom sveta v hromadnom zoskoku (parašutizmus). Pokiaľ neochorel pracoval ako inštruktor a komerčný pilot. Bol veteránom rodézskej a angolskej vojny s ocenením medaily Juhoafrickej republiky III. triedy (Good Hope). Aktívne sa zúčastňoval na spoločenskom a politickom živote slovenských krajanov v zahraničí. Ako tajomník Svetového kongresu Slovákov v zahraničí sa podieľal na mnohých významných krajských podujatiach.

Jeho činnosť si všimla najmä Matica slovenská, ktorej je čestným členom a nositeľom medaily Štefana Moysesova. Aj štátne orgány Slovenskej republiky ocenili jeho zásluhy a udelili mu zlatú medailu Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR.

Nech mu dá Pán Boh večnú slávu!

Peter Mulík/ matica.sk



Slavo Mulík so synom Stevenom odovzdáva Cenu Štefana Baniča prezidentovi USA Georgeovi Bushovi staršiemu.



# Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

# Jednota



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

Ročník 125

STREDA, 20. APRÍLA 2016

Číslo 5937

## Slovenka získala ocenenie International Women of Courage

Zuzana Številová, ktorá je riaditeľkou mimovládnej neziskovej organizácie Liga za ľudské práva, je jednou zo 14 ocenených žien z celého sveta. Ocenenie International Women of Courage Award sa udeľuje ženám za výnimočnú odvahu a lídersťvo pri obhajovaní ľudských práv, zrovnoprávnenia žien či za prínos k sociálnemu pokroku, pričom sú často vystavené vážnym bezpečnostným rizikám, priblížila americká ambasáda.

Tento rok je pritom 10. výročím udeľovania ocenenia. Od roku 2007 ju dostalo takmer 100 žien zo 60 krajín sveta. Številová pri tejto príležitosti vyjadrila vieru, že je morálnou povinnosťou všetkých zabezpečiť, aby sa s utečencami a migrantmi zaobchádzalo s rešpektom a úctou a aby mohli užívať svoje práva, najmä bezpečie a čo najskôr pokračovať vo svojom bežnom živote. „Nepotrebujeme na to veľa. Všetky nástroje a prostriedky máme k dispozícii a niekedy stačí len malá skupina pozorných a odhodlaných občanov na to, aby sme dosiahli zmenu,“ uviedla Številová.

Liam Wasley, ktorý je chargé d'affaires Veľvyslanectva USA v Bratislave, vysvetlil, že Številová na čele Ligy za ľudské práva vynakladá veľké úsilie na zvýšenie povedomia o právach utečencov a venuje veľa osobného času na pomoc migrantom a občanom v núdzi. Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí USA ju podľa neho ocenilo za to, že neustále upozorňovala na nutnosť väčšej pomoci a súcitu s utečencami a ľuďmi v núdzi.

Liga za ľudské práva tiež získala vlani v novembri cenu Človeka za dlhodobý prínos k pomoci utečencom. Riaditeľ občianskeho združenia Človek v ohrození Branislav Tichý odvodnil, že ocenenie udelili za výbornú prácu pri integrácii cudzincov na Slovensku. Mimovládna organizácia sa dlhodobo venuje pomoci utečencom, ktorí prídu na Slovensko. Pomáha pri poskytovaní právnej pomoci, ako aj pri aktivitách, akou je napríklad snaha ovplyvňovať verejnú politiku v oblasti integrácie cudzincov na Slovensku.

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**Minister zahraničných vecí USA John Kerry 29. marca odovzdal Zuzane Številovej ocenenie International Women of Courage.**

**U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry presents the 2016 International Women of Courage Award to Zuzana Številová of Slovakia, Director of the Human Rights League, at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., on March 29, 2016.**



## Na SDM v Krakove sa prihlásilo už vyše 2800 Slovákov

Na Svetové dni mládeže (SDM) v Krakove sa zaregistrovalo už vyše 2800 Slovákov. Vyplyva to z prvej fázy slovenskej registrácie, ktorá prebiehala od novembra do marca. Informáciu zverejnila Rada pre mládež a univerzity Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS), ktorá koordinuje slovenských pútnikov v Poľsku. Tento mesiac spustila druhú fázu registrácie, ktorá potrvá do konca mája.

„Svetové dni mládeže sú najväčším celosvetovým stretnutím veriacich mladých so Svätým Otcem. V Krakove sa ponese v duchu blahoslavenstva ‚Blahoslavení milosrdní, lebo oni dosiahnu milosrdenstvo‘. Veríme, že do Krakova vycestuje spolu s nami najviac Slovákov v histórii,“ uviedol tajomník Rady pre mládež a univerzity KBS Ondrej Chrvála. Naposledy, pred tromi rokmi, do brazílskeho Ria de Janeiro putovalo 300 Slovákov a v roku 2011 do Madridu 3500. Predtým sa konali SDM v Sydney, Kolíne nad Rýnom, Toronte, Ríme, Paríži, Manile, Denveri, Čenstochovej, Santiagu de Compostela, Buenos Aires a Ríme, kde sa tradícia začala. „Do Krakova sa doteraz prihlásilo takmer 600.000 ľudí zo 170 krajín. Prihlasujú sa tiež záujemcovia o dobrovoľníctvo. Doteraz približne 15.000 z Poľska i zo zahraničia. Zo Slovenska očakávame účasť okolo 5000 mladých,“ dodal Chrvála.

Program Svetových dní mládeže zahŕňa dni stretnutia mládeže so Svätým Otcem, ako aj sprievodné udalosti duchovného a kultúrneho charakteru, akými sú sväté omše, katechézy, stretnutia so známymi spoločensťami a hnutiami pracujúcimi po celom svete, či koncerty a predstavenia. V hlavnom programe je otváracia svätá omša, ktorej hlavným predsedačím bude krakovský arcibiskup, kardinál Stanislaw Dziwisz. Návšteva Svätého Otca sa začne v stredu 27. júla.

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## Predsedom Národnej rady SR sa stal Andrej Danko

Predsedom Národnej rady SR sa stal líder SNS Andrej Danko. V tajnej voľbe mu hlas odovzdalo 112 poslancov, na zvolenie ich potreboval minimálne 76. Danko, ktorý sa 23. marca stal druhým najvyšším ústavným činiteľom, vo funkcii šéfa NR SR nahradil Petra Pellegriniho (Smer-SD).

Danko v príhovore povedal, že cíti obrovskú zodpovednosť, ktorá ho čaká pri výkone tejto funkcie. „Žijeme v dobe, kedy nás čaká boj o zachovanie štátnosti, o získanie pozície Slovenska v EÚ. Ja som vždy chcel byť v politike ten, kto nepresadzuje xenofóbiu a rasizmus. Chcem hľadať dobro. Po včerajšku som si uvedomil, aké nebezpečné je používať zbrane, riešiť problémy násilím a hrať na najnižšie pudy a emócie,“ povedal Danko.

Preto chce, aby poslanci v parlamente používali ako zbraň len slovo. „Nemala by tu byť exhibícia. Jediným prostriedkom tu v NR SR a jedinou zbraňou je slovo. Poslanci by mali dostať tie najlepšie slová do zákonov. Tu by sme mali tvoriť systém. Základom je, aby naša politika bola v súlade s ľudskými právami,“ uviedol.

Danko za tri najväznejšie slová označil ďakujem, prepáčte a prosím. „Ja ich rád a často používam. Ďakujem všetkým, čo mi dali dôveru a umožnili mi byť predsedom NR SR. Prepáčte, ak som sa v rámci politického boja niekoho dotkol a prepáčte si aj vy vzájomne. A prosím vás všetkých, aby sme prekonalí to, čo nás rozdeľuje, aby sme ľuďom dokázali zmeniť život,“ uzavrel Danko.

S funkciou predsedu parlamentu sa zase rozlúčil Pellegrini. „Bolo mi ct'ou stáť na čele tohto orgánu. Všetkým želim len to dobré a veľa síl na riešenie problémov, pred ktorými budeme stáť,“ dodal.

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Foto: TASR

**Novovymenovaný predseda NR SR Andrej Danko reční počas ustanovujúcej schôdze Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky (NR SR).**

## Spomienkova oslava slovenskej štátnosti



Na snímke oficiálni hostia Oslavy slovenskej štátnosti, v nedeľu 13. marca 2016 v osadnej hale kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC. Zľava sediaci: Nina Holá, hlavný farár Rev. Richard D. Baker, Daniel F. Tanzone, Dr. Mikuláš Halko, Eva Lysáková. Zadný rad zľava stojaci: Jozef Bilik, Henrieta H. Daitová, Rev. Štefan Chanas, Marta Catalano, Ján Holý a Anna Korčák.

Pokračovanie na str. 22