



# Jednota

THE UNION

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Fr. Stephen Furdek  
Our Founder

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

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NUMBER 5919

## President's Annual Report for the Year 2014

Presented at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting Friday, March 20, 2015

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

First I would like us to remember and pray for all of the Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union who have reached Eternal Life since our March 2014 Board Meeting, including our recently departed, retired long-term Regional Director, Regis Brekosky, who passed into eternal life on February 2, 2015.

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

The U.S. stock market continue to reach new highs in certain indexes after the near depression of 2008-2009. While unemployment remains stubbornly high there is evidence

that the general U.S. economy is improving. Job creation numbers have improved but many new jobs created are lower wage. The value of the U.S. dollar versus the EURO is at a 12 year high and some predict parity in the near future.

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

While "sequestration" is still a topic in Washington, D.C. its effects are widely speculated. Will it prove to be the impetus

that leads the United States to gain control of its budget crisis and lead to long term fiscal health? Time will tell. The dominant political parties are gearing up for the 2016 Presidential and Congressional races with compromise a seldom used term. In the meantime our Society, the First Catholic Slovak Union, must prudently invest our Members funds, while also trying to grow our membership, promote Slovak culture and our Catholic faith.

In 2014 we did not want to unnecessarily take added risk in our portfolio. Our number one priority is the protection of



Andrew M. Rajec

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**ATTENTION GRADUATING SENIORS: FCSU SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO MAY 15th**



\$1000 toward your education may be yours – plus an additional \$3,000 in life insurance – if you are a member of the FCSU who is graduating high school and planning for college. May 15, 2015 is your last chance to apply for an FCSU scholarship!

See page 7 for details.



The following events will be held in recognition of our Society's 125th Anniversary and the 100th Anniversary of Fr. Furdek's passing:

- **Sunday, June 7, 2015:**  
The Embassy Suites Hotel  
Coraopolis, PA  
*[see pages 7 & 15 for more]*
- **Saturday, August 29, 2015**  
Cleveland Downtown  
Renaissance Hotel  
Cleveland, OH
- **Saturday, November 7, 2015**  
Mgsr. Komar Hall  
Linden, NJ  
*[see page 7 for more]*

Stay tuned for more in upcoming issues of Jednota ....

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**National Coloring Contest Winners, Part II, p14**



# Insights and Viewpoints



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

### April 19, 2015 – Third Sunday of Easter Gospel – Luke 24; 35 - 48

The Alleluias continue to ring out as we are still at the early part of this Easter Season. The Church calls us to sustain this Easter joy for seven weeks, but like the lilies that adorned our churches on Easter Sunday, time takes its toll on us. After a week or two of Alleluias we seem to slide back into the attitude of business as usual.



Fr. Killian Loch,  
O.S.B.

We had the forty days of Lent, the three days of the Triduum, and have completed fourteen days of Easter. We might be thinking, it's time to get back to my "normal" Christian life. The Gospel reminds us today that once we encounter the Risen Lord, there is no turning back to the way we were. The Church celebrates this with an Easter Season for fifty days. We still have thirty-six days to go in our Easter Season, and hopefully when we celebrate Pentecost the joy of Easter will continue to deepen our faith for the rest of our lives.

The two disciples who left Jerusalem to return to Emmaus, which supposedly their home, give the impression that after the Passion and Death of the Lord, and even after they had heard of the empty tomb, they were going home to return to business as usual. They encounter the Risen Lord, who they did not recognize, and he explains what happened to Jesus in light of the Scriptures. It is not until they invite the Risen Lord to join them for supper that they recognize who it is, in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel today picks up with the two having run back to Jerusalem to join the Apostles in the Upper Room to share with them the joy that they had seen the Risen the Lord. They were overflowing with a joy that could not be contained.

The Good News did not remain in the Upper Room with the disciples and apostles, the Risen Lord called them out of the room and into the world. At first they went back to their usual routine, fishing, and there they continued to encounter the Risen Lord. He showed them where to cast their nets, he prepared a meal for them, and he continued to teach them. During these days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost they gradually moved from being "fishermen" to "fishers of men." Their lives were changed and of the original twelve, Judas betrayed, John was imprisoned and tortured numerous times but died a natural death, and the other ten all died a martyr's death. Their lives were changed and they progressed from the group hiding behind locked doors to the apostles, boldly preaching the message, knowing that their lives were in danger because of that. Through their experience of the risen Lord and the power of the Holy Spirit their lives were changed, and fear and sorrow became courage and joy.

The Church gives us these fifty days of Easter so that we can continue to rejoice that Jesus is Risen, and that in rejoicing we embrace more tightly the presence of the Risen Lord. There are trials, sorrows and fears that burden us. The message Easter is to bring these to Jesus. As we look upon our burdens look at the Cross and realize that Jesus suffered for us. He knows what burdens are, and he accepted ours. Look upon Jesus and realize that he is with us. The Risen Lord is Alive and has not left us. He calls us to come out of ourselves and into his presence. The Risen Lord calls us to sing for joy, Alleluia! He is Risen.

### April 26, 2015 – Fourth Sunday of Easter Gospel: John 10: 11-18

During the Easter season we rejoice with deep emotion as we contemplate and give thanks for the most precious gift that God has given us: the salvation and redemption that comes through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We encounter many rousing passages of the scriptures at Sunday masses which move us to praise and glorify the Lord on account of this gift, and we also hear some very challenging words that remind us that the eternal life in Christ we anticipate and rejoice in is a grace that we have not earned. Going further we hear how this grace can be neglected to the point of losing it, or can be outright rejected, with the same sad result.



Fr. Edward Mazich,  
O.S.B.

This fourth Sunday of the Easter season, if we listen carefully, we hear a message that can spur us to action to avoid the possibility of such a loss. But if our ears and hearts are not attentive then we can be led astray without even noticing it.

In the first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, St. Peter stands up in the midst of the crowd in Jerusalem and announces to the assembled scribes, leaders, and elders of the Jewish people that the crippled man they had just seen healed by Peter was in fact healed by the power of: "Jesus Christ the Nazorean, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead". Peter continues: "He is 'the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.' There is no salvation through anyone else..." (Acts 4:10-12).

These words, while reminding the attentive listener to redouble his or her efforts to give thanks to God for the salvation we have in Christ, can equally sour the heart of the inattentive listener or reader, who, with "all the people of Israel" (Acts 4:10) in mind, focuses on the words: "Jesus Christ the Nazorean, whom you crucified". Such an association between the death of Jesus and the people who happened to immediately surround him at the time of his death makes us forget that we too were there, if by way of anticipation: we all contributed to the death of Christ, just as we can all reap the surpassing benefits of his resurrection and the redemption it brings.

Looking to the gospel for guidance, we hear our Lord saying: "I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd" (John 10:11-18). In John's gospel these words almost certainly refer to the gentiles—those people who were not Jewish—yet ironically they can be turned about and applied by us modern-day gentiles to the very Jewish people from among whom Jesus came in the flesh (see Romans 9:4-5). Thus they recall that just as all people contributed to the death of Jesus, so also all people can, in the mysterious design of God, find salvation through Christ, even if by a hidden path.

My late Benedictine confrere, Father Demetrius Dumm, who for many years was a writer of this column, used to remind his students in the seminary to place themselves in the shoes, not of those who are triumphant or being extolled in the scriptures, but rather in the shoes of those who were being warned or admonished. This simple thought helps to keep us humble, and to be more fully open to the messages being conveyed in the Bible, lest we too quickly number ourselves among the "holy" or the "enlightened", and thus lose the impact of the scriptures' teaching.

In the present case, remembering that we were once among the "other sheep" may open our hearts to welcome all who, even by different paths, seek the loving kindness of the one Good Shepherd.

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
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# President's Annual Report for the Year 2014

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funds entrusted to us by our Members, whether it be in insurance or annuities. Some other companies, including some fraternal, have chosen to substantially increase their annuity liabilities in a manner we believe is not in our Members' best interest in today's investment environment.

The First Catholic Slovak Union has made a conscious decision not to aggressively increase our annuity sales. In 2014 we had about \$17 million dollars in annuity sales compared to \$22 million in 2013.

That being said, I am proud to report that our December 31, 2014 financial report filed as required with the State of Ohio, our state of domicile, as confirmed by our outside Actuary Bruce and Bruce, and audited by the outside Auditors Hosack, Specht, Muetzel and Wood, LLP, shows that the Society has reached another new record in total assets of \$351,426,549 million dollars.

In addition, and more importantly, surplus for 2014 increased by \$1,468,071 million dollars to another new record of \$24,149,682 at 12/31/2014 even after giving a dividend to our Members approximately the same as in 2013. Some fraternal continue to lose surplus.

As I noted in my 2013 report we cannot expect a new record of profits and increased surplus every year. However, in 2014 the FCSU showed another net gain from operations of \$1,774,207.

As of December 31, 2014, FCSU solvency ratio was 107.4%, higher than many of the 25 largest insurance companies in the United States. The solvency rate means that there are assets of \$107 dollars for every \$100 dollars of liabilities.

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

The NAIC (National Association of Insurance Commissioners) and the various State Insurance Departments have been more aggressive in monitoring the financial strength of all insurance companies and fraternal.

As a measure of an insurance company's financial health, States require each company's Actuary to run and provide what are called "Cash Flow Studies" every year. These are complex and costly to the FCSU and to all other insurance companies and fraternal.

A very important test was added in the past few years, called "Risk Based Capital Calculation" (RBC). Many State regulators consider the test to be an extremely important tool. State Insurance Departments consider a RBC ratio of under 300 as a red flag warning, under 250 they contact companies by written letter (action response required) to determine what action a company intends to take to improve their surplus, and overall financial health, and under 200, a State Insurance Department can start regulatory action, which could include forcing the company to raise capital, cease writing new business, and even liquidate. There is talk to raising this ratio even higher.

I am pleased and proud to report that the First Catholic Slovak Union has a Risk Based Capital ratio of 956%, a sign of financial strength. Surplus is very important. If we want to attract young, financially savvy new Members, we must show financial stability and strength. While this can be a volatile number, we have one of the highest RBC ratios in the fraternal world.

The challenge however continues for us in many areas and for various reasons, which I will discuss. As I have said before our Society wants to have a goal of attaining an A.B. Best rating of A- within five years. It will not be easy.

## 2015 CHALLENGES

The challenges the Society faces in 2015 are varied and some are not new. They include the investment environment, interest rates, the number of Recommenders, new agents, existing and new Branches, membership and fraternalism.

## INVESTMENT YIELDS

The year 2014 was another positive year for the Society. In my 2012 and 2013 reports I noted that the coming years would provide challenges. The investment climate for bonds, in which the Society by law must invest most of its assets, has continued to provide historically low yields. With the current economy, companies have not gone to the bond market to raise funds. Also, the Federal Reserve has provided almost unlimited dollars at historically low rates to try to stimulate the U.S. economy. Now the European economies have copied the US Federal Reserve policy of "quantitative easing", pouring many millions of EUROS into their economies with super low interest rates. Switzerland in fact has a negative interest rate meaning a depositor actually losses money in their account. The Society has had to adjust its annuity rates to maintain our "spread" and increase our SPWL rates to adjust to the market yields.

## MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

We have made some strides in membership aided by our very competitive insurance and annuity rates. Our annuity rates were attractive during 2014 and we reached the budgeted amount of money we would accept. We could have sold \$100,000,000 if we had wanted. But as I have said previously, we want controlled growth to protect our Members. Our model has proved successful as evidenced at our RBC ratio and our continued surplus growth.

We want to emphasize life insurance, especially whole life, rather than annuities in 2015. To accomplish this we need additional participation from our Recommenders and we need to add more independent agents. We took steps starting in 2012 to take the necessary steps to set and reach certain goals such as contacting independent agents while not abandoning our Recommenders, this may include the addition of needed resources.

As you know we applied to be admitted to sell our products in 25 states, from the original 15 states. The First Catholic Slovak Union can now sell our products and attract new Mem-

bers in 27 states including Arizona, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. California is pending.

We all know from our own branch personal experience that many of our FCSU Branches need vitalization. We increased the stipends to branches and districts. Too many Branches receive the annual FCSU stipend and don't use it for membership activities. Too many Branches are not active enough to even qualify for the stipend.

However, our Society is not alone. We hear from many other fraternal societies that they have the same situation. We are not satisfied with our new membership totals and our sales of life insurance. Therefore, we announced two new programs to benefit existing members and attract new members.

## FINAL EXPENSE

First, we introduced our Final Expense product, designed to provide resources for members' families for the sometimes overwhelming expenses that a member and their family incur for last illness medical expenses, and finally funeral expenses. Many of our Members have only minimum \$1,000 - \$2,000 policies. This program features expedited underwriting but not "guarantee issue".

## WEALTH ACCUMULATION/WEALTH TRANSFER

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

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

We encourage current and new Recommenders to be state licensed to sell more products by incentivizing them to get licensed. A program was announced but with limited response. More complex products require more information and training. Some states will require full agent licensing to sell products. We currently have over 190 independent agents contracted to sell our products and that number will increase. We pay lower commissions to agents than most of our competitors. We may have to review this policy. Most fraternal use only licensed independent insurance/annuity agents.

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

We intend to review our advertising and put more resources to increase business and gain a higher profile.

## FRATERNALISM and HERITAGE

The Society was originally founded by Slovak immigrants in 1890 and attracted and served as means of bonding together like-minded people sharing a common language, heritage and religion in a strange new land. As time passed newer generations gradually assimilated into the American fabric and common ethnic bonds stretched, as to be expected and as experienced by all ethnic fraternal.

We are a fraternal and intend to remain that way for our Members' benefit. Branches and Districts are important and we must strive to maintain and support them for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is fraternalism.

The FCSU currently has two national fraternal events, the National Bowling Tournament and the Golf Tournament. Many years past the Society, through its Branches, supported Jednota baseball teams, gymnastic events, etc. Times changed after World War II and most of those activities ceased. As I have said many times previously, the Slovak fraternal should get together to better serve all their members both financially, culturally and fraternally. In May of 2015 we will participate in a Joint Bowling Tournament with the National Slovak Society, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. In summer 2015 we will co-host a Golf Tournament with NSS.

We continue to add to and change displays in our new Museum at our Home Office in Independence. I again ask that if you or anyone you know has articles to be donated or loaned for the Museum, please contact me. We have had several contributions already. We want to preserve our valuable heritage. We are especially eager to find the large banners Branches used in church processions.

Our Society has clearly said we want to preserve Slovak Catholic heritage. We showed that again at the 2014 FCSU Convention with our emphasis on Slovak culture, music, dance and speakers. I have been told by FCSU members who also belong to other Slovak fraternal that we do more than any others to promote Slovak history and culture.

The whole issue of our Convention costs have raised a huge issue with some of our Board members as well as with our general membership. As I reported to the Board at our last meeting in December, 2014 the FCSU spends anywhere from twice to four times as much per delegate for our Conventions when compared to other Slovak fraternal. Plus, we have become aware of some branches that pay their delegates up to \$1,200 each in extra compensation. Changes have to be made or state regulators will impose changes upon us.

We also continue to publish and improve the contents of our newspaper, the Jednota, our own FCSU website, as well as support various Slovak and Catholic organizations, and causes, including the Slovak Catholic Federation, Slovak League of America as well as many others including charities in Slovakia. I pledge to continue to support our Slovak heritage and Slovak and Catholic organizations, and causes, as well as a continuing relationship with the Slovak Republic through its Embassy in Washington, D.C. I think you will agree that our Jednota Editor Terri Ivanec has done an excellent job in 2014. I want to thank Anna Sutherland for her work on the Slovak section of the Jednota.

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# President's Annual Report for the Year 2014

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## ANNIVERSARIES:

50th Anniversary of Our Lady of Sorrows Shrine in Washington D.C., Saturday, September 12, 2015.

We are working with the Slovak Catholic Federation for a pilgrimage to the Shrine to celebrate this historic event.

We are working with Fr. Nasta, the Federation Vice President, in planning this event. Cardinal Wuerl is the celebrant.

The pilgrimage schedule will start late morning, with a Mass in the afternoon.

We are getting assistance from Katherine Nowatkowski of Branch 856 and our Regional Director Sabina Sabados in executing this important event. We will be notifying other Slovak fraternal of this event. More information later.

## 125th Anniversary of FCSU

Plans are underway to celebrate the 125th birthday of the FCSU. Regional Directors have been asked to coordinate local events with the Home Office. The Home Office will provide a per person stipend based on attendees. This is the same method used by the Society in 1990 for the 100th Anniversary. So far we have commitment from Cleveland, Pittsburgh and NY/NJ. Information will be displayed in the Jednota and on the FCSU website.

## 100th Anniversary of death of Fr. Furdek

The event will be coordinated by the Home Office in conjunction with the 125th Anniversary and the St. Andrew Abbey. More information will be in the Jednota or our website.

## SEWER LINE

The sewer line serving the Jednota Printery building and Building #2 in Middletown, Pennsylvania runs through land owned by a third party by an Easement Agreement signed by the FCSU in 1975. As you know the owner of that property has filed suit regarding improvements to that easement that the owner of the property claims is the obligation of the FCSU. The owner has instructed his attorney to prepare for trial. We have retained a law firm to represent the Society, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC in Harrisburg, PA.

## EASEMENT

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

There has been no recent activity regarding the vacant Middletown land due to the continuing real estate downturn, however this is an issue the Board will have to deal with regarding development or sale.

## MONUMENT

As I have said previously, we have moved the Jednota soldier monument from behind the Printery, up to Rosedale Road and created a small park to make it visible. The intent is to honor our deceased Jednota veterans from several wars and all our members, regardless whether they were in the Armed Forces or not. It would also be appropriate to honor the site of the former Jednota Orphanage at that time. We expect to have the project completed in May or June, 2015. We have offered "bricks" to allow our members to honor deceased family member or Branches. So far over 250 "bricks" have been sold. More pictures will be in Jednota as we complete this memorial. A dedication ceremony will be held in 2015.

I also made several visits to our properties in Middletown to meet with our Jednota Slovak Editor Anna Sutherland and the maintenance personnel of our land and properties and oversee our investment. We have previously discussed the Middletown properties. There will be a report on them later. Building No. 2 is fully rented at this time. However, absentee property management is difficult and does not get easier with time and complications. Building No. 2 leases are up for renewal in 2015 and 2016.

Personally, 2014 has again been a very busy year. I have attended Branch and District meetings, picnics, Vilijas and other events in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, Connecticut, New York, Illinois and Wisconsin. I have participated in seminars with our Vice President and our Executive Secretary.

Some people may question the need for making personal visits and/or hold seminars. I still believe that the Society, our Officers and myself need to be visible to our Members and potential members. Members want to know that the Home Office is interested in them and their activities. We are interested and want to support them.

Finally, I would like to thank the Executive Committee and the Board for their help and cooperation. With continuing and new challenges, 2015 will require all of our skills and efforts to continue and expand our success. It does not get any easier. This year's results show, that with the cooperation of our Home Office, the Executive Committee, and all our Officers and Board of Directors working together as a team, we can accomplish outstanding results.

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

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

**Andrew M. Rajec**  
President

# Annual Report of the Executive Secretary March 20 -21, 2015

Reverend Father, Mr. President and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States of America and Canada; it is my pleasure to present this 2014 report to you, the Board of Directors of the FCSU.

The Society experienced successful operating results for the year 2014. Operating profits and net income were higher than 2013 and continued a long string of profitable years. Net gain from operations before capital gains amounted to \$1,368,485. Total asset value increased 4.5% (+\$14,995,257) with realized capital gains of \$690,629 and \$723,683 of unrealized capital gains. Liabilities increased \$13,527,186 (4.3%) and surplus increased 6.5%. Details follow:

## Total Operation and Capital Gains Profits for 2014:

Gain Per Page 4, Line 29	\$1,368,485
Total Capital Gains	\$1,204,919
Subtotal	\$2,573,404
Deferred Capital Gains (IMR)	-\$ 514,290
Net Gain Page 4, Line 31	\$2,059,114

The surplus increase of 6.5% was due to several factors in addition to the operational profit of \$2,059,114. Unrealized gains/(losses) were as follows:

(a) Bonds	\$ (38,500)
(b) Common Stock	\$ (643,229)
(c) Com. St. Jednota, Inc.	\$ 7,181
(d) Other Invested Assets	\$ (49,135)
	\$ (723,683)

## The following additional items affected Surplus:

(a) AVR	\$149,654
(b) Change in Non-Admitted Assets	\$ 6,414
(c) Accrual & Asset adjustment	\$(23,428)

The increase in surplus resulted from the strong operating gains and realized capital gains which were more than sufficient to offset the increase in the AVR. The amount of \$149,654 was added to the AVR, as a result of increase in Bonds owned. The AVR balance at the end of 2008 was only \$235,339 and now stands at \$2,311,775 and is at its current maximum.

The Society emphasizes Bonds and Stocks (92.2%) as its main investments. The Society had over \$18,100,000 of cash on hand at year end.

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

Since 2009, the Society has employed the services of AQS (a fraternal benefit society experienced investment management firm) to assist in guiding its investment activity.

## Financial Position:

Our 2014 premium income is broken down as follows:

Life Insurance	\$ 1,529,057
Annuities	15,341,389
Total	\$16,870,446

Investment income for 2014 is broken down as follows.

Investment Income for 2014:

Government Bonds	\$ 1,833,296
Bonds	13,964,156
Common Stocks-Affiliates	200,000
Preferred Stock	9,900
Common Stock	110,824
Mortgage Loans	95,530
Real Estate	351,758
Certificate Loans	63,378
Short Term Investments	18,050
Other Investment Assets	-0-
Write-ins for Investment Income	(560,141)
Total Investment Income	\$ 16,086,751

Investment Expenses:

Depreciation on Real Estate and Other	
Investment Expenses (Investment Taxes,	
License Fees, etc.)	\$ (1,376,185)
Net Investment Income	\$14,710,566

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# Annual Report of the Executive Secretary

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

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Assets	\$272,289,975	\$285,105,807	\$305,479,561	\$336,431,292	\$351,426,549
Prem Income	33,635,663	14,055,956	19,650,874	22,216,307	16,870,446
Invest Income	14,325,257	13,294,943	13,393,552	14,149,981	14,710,566
Net Gain	1,861,798	1,127,438	1,321,333	1,455,635	1,368,485

To summarize: Unrealized Capital Gains decreased surplus by \$723,683; partially offsetting the net income of \$2,059,114 (including realized gains). These gains were enhanced by the decrease in the AVR \$149,654; Non-admitted assets and asset accrual adjustments were a net of -\$17,014.

The Society's IMR now stands at \$646,991, and the AVR is at \$2,311,775. The AVR is at the 2014 maximum.

The Society's solvency ratio is 107.4%. When the IMR and AVR are combined with surplus, the solvency ratio is 108.4% (a slight increase from 2013).

The Society experienced a decrease in premium income of 24.1%, while investment income increased 4.0% in spite of limited availability of high interest rate bonds.

Bonds are 89.5% (-0.9%) of the Society's assets, with an average maturity of 15 years. The Organization enjoys excellent bond quality, with 98.4% of the bonds in the two highest NAIC rating classes. Common Stocks make up 1.0% of invested assets, which serve to provide diversity and balance to the portfolio, as well as to provide the benefit of growth potential of the market. Other assets consist of mortgages (0.4%); and all others (9.1%), including cash on hand \$18,176,699.

The most significant changes in liabilities were: policy reserves increased 7.5%, IMR 6.2%; AVR 4.7%; and Deposit type accounts 5.2%, while Funds held as Trustee decreased 15%\*. The AVR decrease reflects the common stock unrealized losses, but the AVR is at the 2014 maximum. The Society released the \$725,000 of convention reserves, but has set aside \$50,000 toward its year 2018 convention. Average lapse ratio was a very favorable 3.26% over 5 years. The Society enjoys loyal membership.

The Organization's total admitted assets are \$351,426,549, a 4.5% increase. Five year asset growth is 49.7%.

#### Operations:

Life premium increased 0.9%, led by a 6.7% increase in Single Premium income; First Year premium increased 3.0%. Annuity premium income decreased 25.9% and totaled \$15,341,388. Overall total premium income decreased 24.1%. Sales activity consists of contracted General Agencies, Independent Agents, and Member Agents. Investment income was 4.0% higher despite the current low interest rates available; portfolio repositioning and the general unfavorable economic climate. Total income for the year was 13.2% lower.

Total member benefits were 6.5% higher primarily because of a 20.7% increase in death benefits paid; a 12.2% increase in cash surrenders; and a 3.2% increase in annuity benefits. Life reserve demand was 37.4% lower, and annuity reserve demand was \$5,264,000 (-29.1%) lower, consistent with the lower than 2013 total premium. Total Operation Expenses were 2.5% lower. Commissions were 30% lower, reflecting the lower premium. General Expenses were level. Management continues to monitor expenses, and expense levels in relation to income.

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

Dividends to members were \$405,722 which is at the same level as 2013. The society realized a gain from operations of \$2,059,114 after payment of dividends and including realized capital gains.

The AVR decreased by \$149,654 due to lower common stock holdings.

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

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

Surplus increased 6.5%. Surplus is at its highest point in the history of the Society and currently stands at \$24,149,682.

#### Cash Flow and Liquidity:

The items which provide liquidity are \$18,176,699 of cash, \$3,300,000 of Common Stock, over \$1,700,000 of bonds maturing in less than one year, almost \$17,000,000 of premium income; and over \$14,700,000 of investment income. Expected outgo for benefit payments, commissions, dividends, and expenses are about \$18,500,000, if the same amount of premium income and withdrawals are incurred in 2015. The Organization enjoyed a

\$14,000,000 positive operations cash flow in 2014.

The Society experienced about the same operations profits, but lower asset growth in 2014. The net investment return, although somewhat affected by the low interest rates available, will be at a competitive level. The Society markets no other major interest sensitive product other than annuities.

There are no plans for any major expenses or outlays.

#### Risk Based Capital:

The Risk Based Capital calculations indicate that total adjusted surplus is \$26,661,457. This does not include the \$646,991 in the IMR. The total for 50% of the calculated RBC was \$2,789,667. The RBC ratio is 955.8%.

The Society has two Insurance Regulatory Information System ratios outside NAIC designated ranges. Change in premium income and in life reserves reflect a drop in premium income and the aging of business.

Total security trading activity was almost \$115,000,000 in 2014.

#### Insurance in Force:

The Society recorded a net decrease of \$619,000 in insurance in-force. Insurance in-force has increased 1.01% since 2010.

#### Summary:

Our 2014 financial statements, quarterly and year-end were compiled and completed on a timely basis and filed with the various states in which we are licensed to do business. We are continually in contact with the regulatory agencies of the various states regarding their requirements, which are constantly changing. We are in compliance with all of the states' and NAIC accounting regulations.

In 2014 we had a loss in insurance membership (death claims, cash withdrawals, expels, etc.) of 1083 members compared to a loss of 954 in 2013. We had a decrease in the number of life insurance certificates of 1,485 in 2014 compared to a loss of 1,308 in 2013.

As of December 31, 2014, the Society had 5,880 annuity certificates. As of December 31, 2014, annuitant membership totals 2,201 annuitant members (this total does not reflect members who have both insurance and annuity contracts). The total cash value of our annuity accounts for 2014 was \$191,395,786.62 compared to \$179,283,148.68 in 2013. Our annuity products continue to be the bright spot in our portfolio, bringing in over \$100,000,000 in the last five years alone. This represents great confidence in our Society and its continued growth.

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

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

In 2014 we continued to offer training seminars to our branches and districts. These seminars are designed to educate our branch officers, district officers and recommenders not only about our existing products but also our new products and ways to present them. We believe these seminars will help stimulate the growth of our Society, develop motivation and strengthen the relationship between the home office, our branches and recommenders. Our goal is to keep the lines of communication open among our branches, districts, recommenders and the home office. We encourage our district officers, branch officers and recommenders to personally discuss their thoughts and ideas with us.

In 2014 we are continually offering an incentive plan to encourage our recommenders to obtain their state insurance license. We are offering our recommenders and any member interested in representing the FCSU as a state insurance licensed agent an opportunity to do so with this incentive plan. The FCSU will pay ½ (one half) of the cost to obtain a life insurance license in your state. This includes the cost of the license school and the license fee (the tuition and license fee varies by state). Based on productivity the FCSU will pay for ½ (one half) of the license renewal. We will be looking into costs and education center locations that will be available to them.

Our expanded search for new independent insurance agents to sell our products has been successful. We are approaching 200 agents with signed contracts with our Society and they are making our products available to their clients. The illustration tool we have developed has proven to be very helpful to our independent agents

continued on page 6

## Annual Report of the Executive Secretary

continued from page 5

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

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

We continue to use, direct mail as a means of contacting our branches and our members, giving them information about our existing and new products. Direct mail is a necessary tool in marketing our products as we can reach a vast majority of our members in a short time. We have expanded our use of social media and have developed a Facebook page advertising our products as well as offering other material to our members. This page is updated daily for the convenience of our members.

We have modernized our marketing efforts with innovative newspaper ads, promotions, and emails incorporating Chewy Cuvac, our FCSU mascot. In addition, we introduced the concepts of final expense and wealth transfer in order to better position our products. These initiatives have been met with wide approval.

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

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

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

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

In 2014 our internal auditors and outside auditors, Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, conducted their audits for the period ending December 31, 2014. Their audits consisted of a complete review of our quarterly and year-end financial statements and our home office operations. As a result of these audits our Society received an excellent review.

During 2014, we continued merging inactive branches with active branches. This process will be continued through 2015. This is an ongoing problem for our home office since many of our branch officers are unable to continue to service the members in their branches and not only is it difficult to find replacements for them within their branches, but it is also difficult to find other branches to merge with them. Our home office staff employees will work closely with our branches and independent agents and provide support, information and generally to be available and answer questions.

Per FCSU bylaws the branches are still required to meet the requirements set forth by our FCSU Convention to qualify for the branch stipend. We encourage our branch officers that if they are unable to perform their duties and cannot find anyone in their branches to take over their duties, to call the home office. We will try to merge them with an active branch. For those branches that do not wish to merge, the home office can offer you guidelines as to how you can meet the requirements and receive the stipend. Throughout 2014 the requirements for the financial obligations (bylaw section 4.05) has been mailed to all branch officers and published in the Jednota newspaper as a reminder of the expectations for each branch.

The FCSU has an outstanding scholarship program, which is available to our members who meet the requirements. Members may contact the home office for information concerning the scholarship program. We continue to award 80 one-time scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 and 2 one-time Honors scholarship (1 male and 1 female) for \$1,250.00 each year to the highest ranking applicants.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fraternally,  
Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

**Plan ahead and leave a  
positive legacy behind**

**DID YOU KNOW THAT...?**

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

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

Inquire today about  
**FINAL EXPENSE  
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The sooner you do, the less it costs!

Premium based on the Single Premium Whole Life rates  
**Call 800.533.6682 or visit [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)**



FCSU Financial - First Catholic Slovak Union  
Contact Branch Officer or the home office

6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131, 800.533.6682,  
[www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com), [insurance@fcsu.com](mailto:insurance@fcsu.com)



## Message from the National Chaplain

Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive is the preparatory catechesis (teaching manual) for the World Meeting of Families to be held September 22-27, 2015 in Philadelphia. The catechesis contains 10 chapters, each concluding with four questions for reflection. One of the reflections from Chapter 3, The Meaning of Sexuality, is offered here.

Things like rest, food, pleasure, and beauty are attractive. But sometimes we have deeply felt desires and appetites beyond what is good for us. How do we know when a desire is legitimate and good? How can we cherish and enjoy creation and our bodies in daily life?

One way to determine if a particular desire is legitimate and good is to view it within the context of our identity as a baptized member of the Body of Christ. These questions may help us discover the answer. Does the desire in question draw us to a more faithful living of our baptism promises? Does it enhance or strengthen my union with God? Does the desire help me conform my life into one lived in Christ Jesus?

Another means to know if a desire is legitimate and good is if it is within the bounds of one of the four cardinal virtues, sometimes also called human virtues or moral virtues. Prudence enables us to think, act or say the right things at the right time. Justice serves to remind all to give God, neighbor and ourselves what properly belongs to each. Fortitude is that inner drive to pursue what is good and holy. Temperance helps us to be moderate when it comes to basic human desires.

Desires with the purpose of impairing judgment, bringing harm to persons, property or relationships, or abetting an addiction are examples of those that fail to pass the above tests.

One word comes to mind when we are invited to cherish and enjoy creation and our bodies in daily life. The word is stewardship. As stewards of creation and our bodies we acknowledge that both really belong to God and each is to be given the proper care and respect that befits its dignity. With a mindset not to waste natural resources and recycling what we can, we allow future generations that come after us to enjoy the same benefits as we do now. We cherish and enjoy our bodies each day when, in addition to eating a healthy diet and exercising regularly, we recall what St. Paul wrote in the sixth chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians. Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, glorify God in your body.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta  
National Chaplain

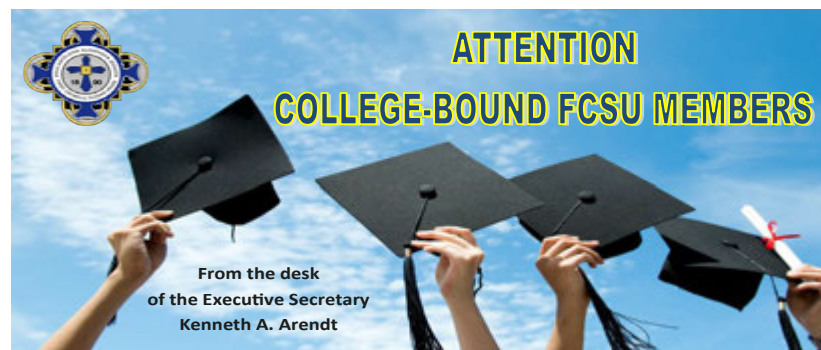
## Trinity Sunday Observance to Mark Closing of Yonkers NY Parish

Daniel F. Tanzone, Branch 41 K.J.

With bittersweet emotions in play, Most Holy Trinity Parish in Yonkers, N.Y. will host its final patronal feast day observance on Trinity Sunday, May 31. The occasion marks the 120th anniversary of the founding of the parish as well as the final gathering of the faith community. As part of the Making All Things New project of the Archdiocese of New York, Most Holy Trinity will officially close on August 1, 2015. Most Holy Trinity is one of 122 parishes in various parts of the archdiocese which includes three of the five boroughs of the city of New York as well as seven northern counties which will be consolidated into 55 parishes. The Yonkers parish will be among those closed.

The observance will begin with a concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated at 3 p.m. in the church, located in Trinity Plaza in the Hollow section of the city where the first Slovaks settled more than 125 years ago. Principal celebrant and homilist will be the Rev. Emil R. Tomaskovic, S.A., former Minister General of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement of Graymoor, Garrison, N.Y. Father Tomaskovic is a son of the parish who was ordained a priest in 1970 and celebrated his first Mass there in January 1970. Former pastors, and clergy associated with the parish will be among the concelebrants. Daughters of the parish in religious life have also been invited to attend. Following the liturgy, a buffet supper will be enjoyed in the parish social hall located at 15 Trinity Plaza, off Walnut Street. Tickets for the supper, which will include a variety of traditional Slovak culinary specialities along with beer, wine and soda, are \$30.00 per person for adults and \$15.00 for children age seven and older. Children under the age of seven will be welcomed free of charge. For reservations, call the rectory at tel. (914)963-0720 or see a member of the committee. Advance dinner reservations only. Deadline for tickets is Monday, May 18.

The parish had its beginnings when Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41 of the First Catholic Slovak Union sought permission from the New York Archdiocese to solicit funds in 1892 to establish a parish serving the Slovak community. The efforts of the Jednota lodge were crowned with success with the completion of the parish's first church in the spring of 1895. This year's Trinity Sunday celebration celebrates the 120th anniversary of the dedication of the first church. The faith community grew and prospered over the years. The parish soon outgrew the original church and in 1910, the current church of romanesque style was blessed and dedicated. A school was opened in September 1911 under the direction of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkhill, N.Y. In 1924, the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius of Danville, Pa. arrived in the parish and staffed the parochial school until 1986. The parish produced a number of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. At its peak in the 1950s, the parish numbered more than 1,000 active families. Over the past 120 years, the parish has been active in American Slovak life. In addition to Branch 41 of the First Catholic Slovak Union, they have included Branch 2 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Assembly 219 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol as well as lodges of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union and the former First Slovak Wreath of the Free Eagle. A number of Jednota members are serving on the committee for the Trinity Sunday Celebration.



### THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IS STILL ACCEPTING 2015 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

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

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

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

For rules, requirements and applications go to  
[www.fcsu.com/scholarships](http://www.fcsu.com/scholarships)  
or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

**SPECIAL ONE-TIME DEADLINE EXTENSION:**  
Applications must be postmarked by midnight, May 15, 2015

## Message from the National Fraternal Activities Director

Let's Get Together...

Every four years members of our society meet to elect officers, and update the by-laws of the society. That is a duty that each delegate must take seriously, to keep the business side of our organization healthy, strong, and ready to face the industry challenges in the years ahead. At the convention you have the opportunity to meet many other members from different parts of the country, and over the years many friendships are formed. That is part of the fraternal side of our organization. That responsibility is not limited to the officers or the delegates to the convention, but rather the responsibility of each of our members to promote fraternalism. We do this by encouraging projects, activities and events and making them available to our members on a national, regional and local level.

This year there are many activities scheduled:

**May 1 - 3, 2015** The United Slovak Fraternal's Bowling Tournament will be held in Erie, PA. Hope you have already made your reservations.

**June 7, 2015** Region 5 (greater Pittsburgh area) 125th Anniversary Banquet, at the Embassy Suites Hotel near the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport. Mass will be at the hotel at 1 pm, followed by cocktails at 2 pm and dinner. For more information contact Mike Lako, Regional Director at 412-766-3222. Deadline for reservations is May 25, 2015.

**July 18 - 19, 2015** The Jednota International Golf Tournament will be held in DuBois, PA at the beautiful Treasure Lakes Silver & Gold courses. More information will be provided in the next issue of the Jednota.

**August 29, 2015** (Cleveland Area) 125th Anniversary Banquet will be celebrated in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary of Fr. Furdek's Death. Arrangements are being handled by the Home Office; more details to come.

**September 12, 2015** The FCSU and the Slovak Catholic Federation will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of the Chapel of the Sorrowful Mother. More details will be available at a later date.

**November 7, 2015** Region 1 (New York area) 125th Anniversary Celebration, starting with holy Mass at 5pm at Holy Family Church followed by a cocktail hour and reception starting at 6pm at Mgrs. Komar Hall in Linden, NJ. More information will be available at a later date.

I'm sure there are many picnics also being planned for the summer months. Get in touch with your District or Branch officers to find out more about these plans.

**FRATERNAL CHALLENGE:** Help paralyzed vets stay safe on the road

**HOW?** Have any unopened boxes of band aids or hand wipes, or maybe a small unused flashlight? If so share them with Paralyzed Veterans of America. This non-profit uses these items for roadside emergency kits for paralyzed veterans, who often drive solo on the road.

Next time you have a meeting in your branch or district ask everyone to bring one of these items. Then mail them to: Paralyzed Veterans of America c/o Sheila Skipper, 801 18th St. NW, Washington, DC 20006.

Feel free to learn more about the organization at [www.PVA.org](http://www.PVA.org).

We'd love to hear about the results of your efforts. Send an e-mail to: [rudy.ondrejco@gmail.com](mailto:rudy.ondrejco@gmail.com)  
Hope to see you at some of these upcoming events.

**Rudy Ondrejco**  
National Director of Fraternal Activities

# The FCSU Celebration Series

## Football Legend Chuck Bednarik Passes Away: A Breed Apart

**Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.,  
The University of Maryland University College**

Another legend from the Greatest Generation has passed away, Chuck Bednarik. A long-time member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Bednarik died on Saturday, March 21, 2015 at the age of 89. Bednarik became a well-known Professional Football Legend and is widely known as the NFL's last 60 Minute Man, someone who played the entire football game on both defense and offense. Despite all his success, he never forgot his Slovak roots, his friends, and his Slovak-American family. Therefore, it is fitting that we include the life of Chuck Bednarik in our Jednota's 125th Anniversary Celebration Series.

A son of Slovak immigrants, Chuck Bednarik was born May 1, 1925 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Just five years earlier, his parents had emigrated from Slovakia to America in search of work. They had lived in the village of Široké near Prešov, in the Šariš region of eastern Slovakia. His father, Charles A. Bednarik, found work in an open-hearth furnace, the hottest part of the Bethlehem steel mill; his mother, Mary Pivovarniček Bednarik, got a factory job. She taught him to defend himself in a tough neighborhood, but only to hit others when they started fighting. At home, Chuck Bednarik only spoke Slovak, and only learned English after he started attending the Slovak ethnic parish of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Bethlehem. He completed his secondary education at a public school, Liberty High School, so that he could compete in interscholastic sports.

After completing high school, he had planned to work in the steel mill, like his father, but World War II changed all that. Having spent most of his life in the Bethlehem area, he soon found himself in the midst of the worldwide struggle. The service sent him to a base in England, and he served as a gunner on a B-24 Liberator bomber; he flew thirty combat missions over Germany. The most dangerous mission included a bombing raid over heavily defended Berlin, in which his plane bore four holes from anti-aircraft fire. In a short film about Bednarik, he noted that the Good Lord kept watch over him during those turbulent times because He wanted him to return to his family and play some good football.

After the War, Bednarik decided to attend college. At the University of Pennsylvania, he played center on offense and linebacker on defense. Those who knew him said he was like "a caged lion" who could single-handedly demolish another team. Attaining All-American recognition twice, in both 1947 and 1948, Bednarik came in third in voting for Heisman Trophy, which even today almost always goes to an offensive ball-carrying player or quarterback. He received the prestigious Maxwell Award, an honor reserved for the most outstanding college athlete. He became the most decorated player in the history of the University of Pennsylvania.

### An Unparalleled Pro Football Career

Not surprisingly, the Philadelphia Eagles chose Bednarik as a first-round draft pick in 1949, and immediately he contributed to the team defending its NFL title that year. At 6'3" and 233 lbs., he was huge for a linebacker in those days. He played his entire professional football career with that one team through 1962, and wore number 60. Bednarik became the starting center for the Eagles, and occasionally played linebacker, particularly when injuries plagued the team. During his career, he acquired a reputation for toughness and durability, and missed only three games. This meant he only had a minute or so of rest before switching sides between offense and defense.

Bednarik also insisted on doing things right, and even made sure his fellow teammates performed their exercises in practices the right way. Bednarik's ferocity bred fear even among his professional opponents, and all respected his tenacity. He pushed around defensive players at will on offense, and on defense, he delivered the kind of hard hits that have contributed to his hard-nosed legend. His outstanding play earned him a spot on the National Football League's (NFL) All-Pro team eight times, as offensive center in 1949 and 1950, and as defensive linebacker from 1951 to 1956, and in 1960. It is hardly a wonder that some folks referred to Bednarik as "Mr. Eagle."

One of the most moving moments in his life happened in 1960, when he was 35 years-old, an age when many pro-players have already retired. Bednarik made his signature tackle -- a devastating, ferocious hit, against the New York Giants' Frank Gifford, who remained seriously injured for over a year. That famous tackle put the Eagles in the NFL championship game, and some people hated him for it. Hate telephone calls from women in New York poured in. Though hard-nosed, he felt like quitting after that moment, because Bednarik never really wanted to hurt anyone seriously, but just play the game tough. He stuck to the game, and Gifford never held it against him, for the tackle was perfectly legal.

During the 1960 NFL championship game, he played one of the most tremendous games of his life. Trailing 17-13, with one last drive, Green Bay was on its last drive as time was running out. Bednarik made a game-saving tackle on the last play of the game that kept Green Bay fullback Jimmy Taylor out of the end zone. Bednarik then told Taylor, "You can get up now, Jim, this game is over." The Eagles had won their first championship since his rookie year in 1949.

Chuck Bednarik will always be remembered as one of the toughest players in professional football, and one of the last players with the fortitude to grind it out on both offense and defense for the whole length of that very rough game. Appropriately, the NFL also inducted Bednarik into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, in 1967. Similarly, the NCAA chose Bednarik to be included in the College Football Hall of Fame in 1969, and that same year, the NFL chose him as the center for its 50th anniversary team in 1969. The NCAA honored him with the creation of the Bednarik Award, an annual award given to the best defensive player in college football.

When speaking about Bednarik, Arizona State University head coach, Frank Kush, said that he was "embodiment of everything we think about football" -- discipline, focus, and toughness. He played the center of the line on offense and defense, and in bad weather, nobody's jersey showed more mud than Chuck Bednarik's.

Upon his recent death, Bednarik received accolades from national newspapers and magazines ranging from the New York Times to The Sporting News, Fox Sports, ESPN, and Sports Illustrated. Even the media in Slovakia took note of his passing. The New York Times related that those who knew him called him "Concrete Charlie," because during the off-seasons, he worked as a salesman for a concrete company. Pro-Football players did not earn big money like today, and they played for the love of the game. Even in his highest paid season, he earned just \$27,000 with bonuses, which was good money in the early 1960s, but not enough to retire for a lifetime with finding later employment.



The 1952 Bowman Large Football Card of Chuck Bednarik of the Philadelphia Eagles.



Chuck Bednarik as he was inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame in 1967.

After his retirement, Bednarik served for many years as the chairman of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission. He continued to be a favorite among diehard Philadelphia Eagles fans, and in 1987, the team retired his No. 60 jersey. At Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia also honored him as "the best center and middle linebacker in the team's history" and included him on the 75th-anniversary team in September 2007.

### Conclusion

Though Chuck Bednarik reflected the tough steel town he came from, he was about much more than hard-nosed football. His work ethic, which his Slovak parents and his Catholic schooling taught him, inspired him to put a 100 percent effort in all that he did. He always remembered his ethnic roots, and was proud of it, and frequently mentioned it in media and television interviews. He even visited Slovakia several times, in 1968, 1988, and again after the Velvet Revolution that overthrew communism. In a telephone call five years ago, he opened with, "Jak sa máš?" (How are you?), and continued the conversation in his good-natured manner.

In retirement, Bednarik regularly attended 8 am Holy Mass every day, for he never forgot to whom he owed all the blessings he enjoyed in his life. A Slovak publication quoted Bednarik as saying, "Ďakujem Bohu za všetko, čím som v živote prešiel. A dúfam, že dobrý futbal hraju aj v nebi" ("I thank God for everything, all that has come to me in life. And I hope that they play some good football in heaven").

Bednarik remains a lasting inspiration for all Americans and Slovaks, and shows the kind of muscle and determination which our forefathers instilled in their children. He continues to shine as an example to all of us.

The First Catholic Slovak Union asks that we all join in prayer for the Blessed Repose of his soul and for the comfort of his family - his wife, Emma, their daughters Charlene Thomas, Donna Davis, Carol Safarowic, Pam McWilliams and Jackie Chelius, and 10 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Finally, below is an excerpt from Chuck Bednarik's acceptance speech when the NFL inducted him into the Hall of Fame. It speaks loads about the strength of his character. After thanking his coaches, he went on:

"I want to thank my parents for bringing me up to be a good strong, healthy boy. I want to thank my wife who put up with me for these fourteen years and raised my five daughters for me while I was out gallivanting on football fields....

And in conclusion, I want to thank the Almighty God for having my parents migrate to this country from Czechoslovakia and having me raised up as a good American boy and I'm just happy that I'm an American. Thank you very much." - Chuck Bednarik

And thank you, Chuck, for providing a model for all of us to admire. May you rest in peace after a fruitful and awe-inspiring life. You make us Slovak-Americans proud!

[Editor's note: You can view a video clip of Chuck Bednarik talking about his football career and his Slovak roots by going to <http://www.fcsu.com/slovakia-and-the-world>]

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## Branch 38's Audrey-Marie H. Winn Named 2015 Emma Locke Award Winner

University of Pittsburgh senior Audrey-Marie H. Winn was named the 2015 Emma Locke Award recipient at Pitt's Honors Convocation on February 28, 2015. The Emma W. Locke Award, established in 1946 by Charles A. Locke in memory of his mother, is presented annually to a graduating Pitt senior in recognition of high scholarship, character, and devotion to the ideals of the University.

Winn, who is triple majoring in Chinese, philosophy, and English writing in Pitt's Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, plans to go to law school after graduation and focus on labor law. While in law school, she would like to analyze the cultural, legal, and political factors surrounding labor injustice and corporate social responsibility issues. Winn hopes that her education will prepare her for a career related to international law, global labor policy, and workers' rights advocacy. Ultimately, she thinks that she would like to work for the United Nation's International Labor Organization.

"Audrey-Marie is an extraordinary student, activist, and leader. Her outstanding intellect and commitment to the common good make

Ms. Winn most befitting of the Locke Award," said University Honors College Dean Edward Stricker, who has provided guidance and support for many of Winn's academic endeavors. "Audrey-Marie is not only a remarkable student but also a remarkable human being who has the talent and determination to take on the most difficult battles and successfully advocate for the rights of underrepresented and disadvantaged people."

A native of Pine Grove, Pa., Winn has been actively engaged in issues related to global humanitarianism throughout her academic career at Pitt. She received the Mary Ellen Callahan Research Award from the University Honors College, which enabled her work in the legal department of the Philadelphia office of the American Civil Liberties Union during the summer of 2014 to ensure that the rights of litigants with limited English proficiency are being protected in the Pennsylvania court system. That same summer, she also went to London on the London Field Studies Scholarship to conduct research on a large-scale project focusing on the history of corporate



espionage in the United Kingdom. In the summer of 2013, she conducted research with migrant workers and studied Mandarin dialects in Chengdu, China, through a 2013 Critical Language Scholarship from the U.S. Department of State.

Winn has also worked as a legal-services intern for the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania and served briefly as a translator for The Carter Center. She currently serves as a policy-analyst intern at the Institute for Global Labor and Human Rights, a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit organization. Within the organization, she works on the Anti-Sweatshop Project, where her duties include investigating corporate fraud at the international level and translating factory workers' testimonials and field reports.

In addition, Winn has been involved in community-engagement projects throughout the Pittsburgh region. Through a University Honors College's Brackenridge Undergraduate Fellowship, she has examined the effects of corporate withdrawal on employment opportunities in Pittsburgh's Homewood neighborhood and developed an afterschool writing program in the city's Faison elementary school, where her students published a book of their writings. As a tutor for AmeriCorps VISTAS' Jumpstart reading program for three years, she assisted underrepresented youths in developing their writing and reading-comprehension skills. She also shares her love of writing by tutoring Pitt students who are non-native English speakers.

On Pitt's campus, Winn has led the Student Government Board Judicial Committee, served as the executive board service coordinator and academic chair for the National Residence Hall Honorary, contributed as a member of the University Honors College Student Advisory Council, and worked as the editor for the Blue and Gold Society's newsletter.

In 2014, Winn was granted the G. Alec Stewart Student Achievement Award, which recognizes Pitt undergraduates who best symbolize the values of the University Honors College. Her other honors and distinctions include the 2013 Iris Marion Young Award for Political Engagement from Pitt's Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program and a scholarship from The Heinz Endowments.

Audrey-Marie is a member of Branch 38, White Oak, PA

## Learn to Play the Fujara & Koncovka, Connect with your Slovak Roots, & Have the Best Vacation of Your Life!

**Bob Rychlik**

Are you one of the many people of Slovak heritage who feel that they are losing touch with their roots amid the hustle and bustle of daily life? Once I also felt I was drifting farther and farther away from the culture and the soul of the (then) Czechoslovakia I left so many years ago, when an unexpected gift from a Slovak friend changed that and more – it changed my life! The gift was my first Slovak fujara, and I immediately fell in love with its rich sound and the feelings it evoked of my distant homeland.

Fast forward to the present time: I now have a hundred performances on the fujara and other Slovak overtone flutes under my belt, at many festivals, and in workshops in many states and in several countries, and I am offering you the opportunity to find that deep inner voice of Slovak culture yourselves by learning to play the fujara and another wonderful flute, the koncovka, yourself.

I teach a one-week course on the beautiful campus of McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland, during Traditions Week 1 of the annual Common Ground on the Hill program. This year, my class will be held from June 29 – July 3, 2015. Everyone is welcome. No music experience is necessary to take this class. In all my years of teaching it, by the end of the week, every student was playing two traditional Slovak songs, and Amazing Grace on the fujara, and everybody was playing the koncovka, even jamming the blues on it.

If you do not have a fujara, no problem. There will be loaner instruments for you; and everybody can get a koncovka at the class. This class is not available anywhere else in the country. Some students come from far away, some take more classes featuring other instruments, and some come here with their spouses for an activity-filled week. There are concerts every day, and people are jamming together at many places .... It was the best vacation of my life, and it could be yours, too.

The class is part of a summer program organized by Common Ground on the Hill. If you would like to find out more, please email the office at [commonground@commongroundonthehill.org](mailto:commonground@commongroundonthehill.org), express interest in the fujara class, and ask for the Traditions Week program booklet to be mailed to you.

You can also see all the courses on line at [www.commongroundonthehill.org](http://www.commongroundonthehill.org) (For fujara: Click Programs/Traditions Week 1 /Overtone flutes – fujara and koncovka)



The 2014 fujara class with instructor Bob Rychlik, 3rd from right.

Come celebrate the 4th of July in Maryland or Washington D.C. This will be the fifth year of the fujara class being offered during Traditions Week 1 and I am looking forward to meeting you in the 2015 class!

For an introduction to the fujara and koncovka, you can watch my presentation at the Library of Congress here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Y5fonktBzQ> (or Google: "Rychlik – fujara – Congress")

### Slovak – American Cultural Center



You are cordially invited to the

## slovak children's folklore show

**Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> 2015, 1pm**

**St. John Nepomucene Church Hall**

411 E 66th Street, NYC

#### Program:

**Andrew Pulver – opera singer, NJ**

**LIMBORÁČIK, NY**

**DOMOVINKA, Clifton, NJ**

**SLNOVRÁTOK, Hillsborough, NJ**

**St. John Nepomucene Slovak School, NY**

**St. Michal Church Slovak Community, Trenton, NJ**

**LIPKA – Slovak Children's Center, Linden, NJ**

**HLAS accompanied by Pajtaši, NY**

**Entertainment by Slovak folk music PAJTAŠI, NY**

**Entrance fee:** \$5 Adults; children and youth up to 16 years of age free  
Slovak lunch will be available for purchase from 12 pm

For more info: [www.SlovakAmericanCC.org](http://www.SlovakAmericanCC.org)



## District 10 Branches Enjoy Fraternal Night Out

On Saturday, March 21, 2015 at 7:00pm at Quicken Loans Arena in downtown Cleveland, OH, some 63 members and guests of District 10 of the First Catholic Slovak Union – Branches 24, 450, 553, and 855 - watched the Lake Erie Monsters win against the Grand Rapids Griffins before an almost sold-out crowd. A fun evening of fraternalism was enjoyed by all.



### Join the Cleveland Slovak Dramatic Club

At

Erie, PA's Presque Isle Downs & Casino

With

Cash Bonus: \$35 Slot Play

On

Saturday, June 13, 2015

From

8:00AM – 6:00PM



Trip Details:

8:00AM Report: Lakefront Lines Bus Garage, 13315 Brookpark Road, Brookpark, OH

8:00AM Depart: Lakefront Lines

0:30AM Arrive: Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Highway, Erie, PA CONF # 30196

[Subject to casino policy & may change or cancel without notice]

Manifest must be filled out & turned in upon arrival.

4:00PM Depart Presque Isle Downs  
6:00PM Arrive: Approximate time of arrival at original departure location

\*\* All passengers must have driver's license or state ID with them \*\*

To Book Trip: Call Johanna at 440-845-0282

- Submitted by Johanna Oros, Slovak Dramatic Club President & Branch 24 Member

### ATTENTION BRANCH 40 YOUTH MEMBERS:

*You May Be Eligible To Win A Scholarship If:*



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

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

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

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

Applications must be postmarked by **June 5, 2015**.

### VISIT SLOVAKIA---- "THE OLD COUNTRY"



Remember how your parents or grandparents referred to their birthplace as "the old country." Well now is the time for you to go to Slovakia and visit the ancestral homeland and villages of your family.

Join Kay and Jim Bench as they host the 18th annual Youngstown/Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Tour July 13-27, 2015.

See the capital of Slovakia—Bratislava, enjoy award winning folk groups, visit Litmanova where there were documented apparitions of the Blessed Mother appearing to three school children in the 1990's, 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 Cicmany where you will see decorated homes, visit historic Tichy Potok, stay in a beautiful spa in Sliac and enjoy the thermal waters, indoor and outdoor pools and other amenities. Visit relatives and enjoy a luncheon reception with our Sister City Spisska Nova Ves. There are many more activities and cities too numerous to mention in this short article. For further information call Jim or Kay Bench.

Jim Bench cell phone 724-858-5843 e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com

Kay Bench cell phone 724-771-7900

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

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

**THINK ABOUT IT!**

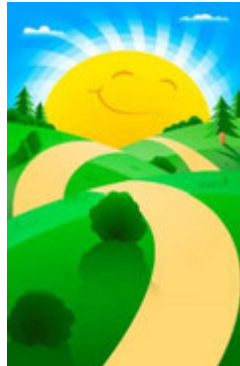
# 10 Things about Spring



1. The word "spring" for the season of the year has been used since the 16th century. Before that, a "spring" always referred to the source of a river.

2. The first day of spring is called the vernal equinox. "Vernal" is Latin for spring. "Equinox" is Latin for 'equal night'. This year, the vernal equinox occurred on March 20, 2015

3. The calendar rule that keeps spring almost always arriving on March 20 or 21—but sometimes on the 19th – is due to a Pope. In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII established the Gregorian calendar, which most of the world now observes, to account for an equinox inconvenience that every 128 years would have the vernal equinox come a full calendar day earlier. If he hadn't established the new calendar, eventually "spring" would be arriving in chilly midwinter.



4. The first day of spring rarely exhibits the exact balance of 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness. There is always a time when it is exact, of course, but experts say it usually occurs before the vernal equinox.

5. The earliest known use of the term 'spring-cleaning' was in 1857.

6. The reason there is more daylight during the spring season? The earth's axis tilts toward the sun at this time of year, not away as it is during the winter.

7. The other reason for more daylight during this time of year is Daylight Saving Time. Daylight savings time starts and ends at different times around the world. In the US, it is observed in all the states but Arizona and Hawaii.



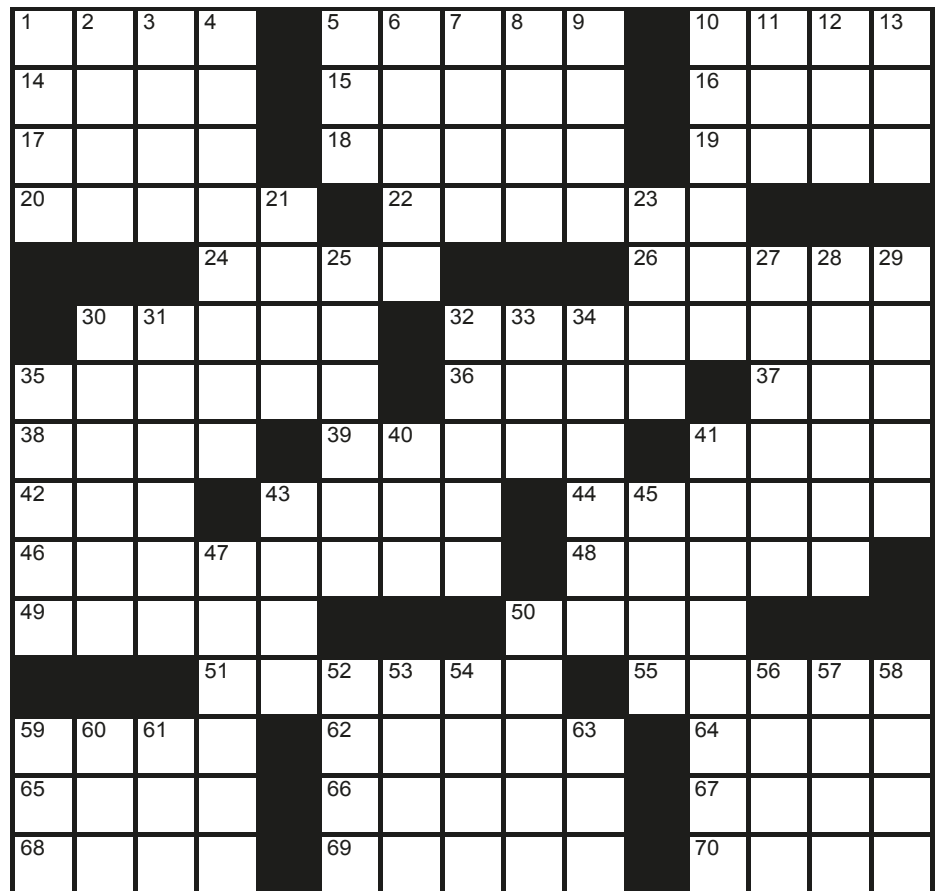
8. Benjamin Franklin was the first propose Daylight Saving Time in 1784. It wasn't fully implemented until the end of the Second World War.



9. The first spring flowers are typically daffodils, dandelions, lilies, tulips, iris and lilacs. However, the actual first bloom is usually a dandelion.

10. Baby birds learn to sing during spring. Although born with the ability, they must learn the specific songs of their species, which they usually do within 60 days of being born.

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



**Across**

- 1 Some actors
- 5 Lessen
- 10 Tumbled
- 14 Downwind
- 15 Gauchos' weapons
- 16 Orient
- 17 Misplace
- 18 60's protest
- 19 News bit
- 20 Guides
- 22 Grave
- 24 Bound
- 26 Fragrant oil
- 30 Photog's request
- 32 Overflowing
- 35 Positions upright
- 36 Bucket
- 37 Fish eggs
- 38 Dangle
- 39 Sticker
- 41 Hinged catch
- 42 Japanese sash
- 43 Study
- 44 Hollow rocks
- 46 Menu heading
- 48 Slipped up
- 49 Skilled workers, briefly
- 50 Enclose, like a gift
- 51 Army helicopter
- 55 Arias
- 59 After straw or opinion
- 62 Beseech
- 64 Speck
- 65 Buffalo's lake
- 66 Artillery burst
- 67 Lushes
- 68 Cozy retreat
- 69 Army ant

70 Son of Seth

**Down**

- 1 Passage
- 2 Skin softener
- 3 Arizona city
- 4 Young plant
- 5 Tummy muscles, for short
- 6 Idaho city
- 7 Choir voice
- 8 Peacock's pride
- 9 Feudal worker
- 13 On the \_\_\_\_ (fleeing)
- 21 Sign on a real estate sign
- 23 Handle roughly
- 25 Annoy
- 27 Tongue-lashing
- 28 Declared unequivocally
- 29 Movie units
- 30 Horse house
- 31 Lunatic
- 32 Aftersong
- 33 Distant
- 34 Ring locale
- 35 Young hog
- 40 Fez, e.g.

- 41 Dolphin kin
- 43 File
- 45 Historic periods
- 47 Swiss building
- 50 Thread in and out
- 52 Basilica area
- 53 Chowder morsel
- 54 Bridge site
- 56 Diving bird
- 57 *Lord of the Ring* actress Miranda
- 58 Impudence
- 59 Corral
- 60 Source of iron
- 61 Fleur-de-\_\_\_\_
- 63 Morse E



## Is your FCSU profile up to date?

Help us serve you by making sure we have all your latest information on file – address, phone, email, beneficiary

Call the Home Office and Update Your Profile Today at: 1-800-533-6682 (JEDNOTA)

Or go to <http://www.fcsu.com/update-profile>

## JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2015

Publication Date	Deadline to Receive Materials
May 6	April 27
May 20	May 11
June 10	June 1
July 15	July 6
August 12	August 3
Sept 9	August 31
Sept 23	Sept 14
October 7	Sept 28
October 21	October 12
November 4	October 26
November 18	November 9
December 9	November 30

See Solution on Page 24

## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The Sts. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 3, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 7, 2015, at 1:00PM at the home of our President Delores Genosky, 1001 – 42 ½ Ave., NE, Columbia Hts., MN, 55421.

On the agenda is our summer fraternal activity, and the volunteers needed.

Fraternally yours,

**James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 05P, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2015, at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the home of Marion Rubino, President, 67 9th St. Wyoming, PA.

On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and activities.

Please call Marion Rubino if you plan to attend 570-693-0399.

**Mary Jo Rubino, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

We encourage you to attend two upcoming summer events. The Cleveland Slovak Radio Club will hold their annual picnic on Sunday, June 28th; The American Slovak Zemplin Club's picnic is on Sunday, July 19th. Both are at The American Slovak Sokol Camp, 2096 Royalwood Rd. in Broadview Hts, OH, from 12 to 8 PM.

Join your Jednota Branch 24 members and friends for delicious Slovak food, refreshments, music and dancing. Please help support our fine Slovak organizations.

**Bob Kopco, President**

### BRANCH 38 – DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity FCSU Branch 38 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2015, at the Eat N Park Restaurant, at the Waterfront, Homestead, PA, at 7:00PM.

Discussions will be held for the 2015 planned activities for the 125-year anniversary. Branch 38 business will be discussed at this meeting. We urge all members to attend.

If anyone is interested in FCSU annuities or life insurance, please call Florence Matta at 412-466-7460.

**Florence K. Matta, Secretary/Treasurer**

### BRANCH 60 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 60 will hold its semi-annual meeting Sunday, May 17, 2015 at the home of President Ann Wargovich (58 Lilmont Drive, Swisshale) at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be Officers' reports, and discussion of events for the upcoming year. All members are urged to attend.

**Julie Perla, Secretary**

### BRANCH 85 – BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Florian Society Branch 85K will hold its semi-annual meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2015, at 7:00PM at the Jessup American Legion Post 411, Church St., Jessup, PA.

All members are encouraged to attend.

**Bernard Skovira**

### BRANCH 163K – JOLIET, ILLINOIS

There has a merger between Branch 163K, Joliet, IL and Branch 493K, Chicago, IL has taken place as of March 05, 2015.

All members of Branch 163K will now hold membership in Branch 493K.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

Robert M. Magruder, 604 Sunnygate Place, Louisville, KY 40223, (502) 244-6643.

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

**Kenneth A. Arendt, National 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, April 26, 2015, at 1:15 P.M., at Hibachi Grill and Sushi Supreme Buffet, Town Square Mall, 2433 Vestal Parkway East, 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 24, 2015, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

**Arlo Meeker, President**

### BRANCH 293 – LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 293KJ, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Monday, June 22, 2015, at 6PM at the home of the Financial Secretary. Anyone needing more insurance or services should call 570-645-4872 and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Fraternally,

**Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 380 – CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Ignatius Society Branch 380 will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2015, at Kings Restaurant, Canonsburg, PA, at 2:00PM.

**Margaret Graytok**

### BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 410 will hold a meeting on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 1:00 P.M. at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

All Branch members are welcomed to attend.

**Geri Buchheit, Financial and Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

St. John the Baptist Branch 553 will hold a meeting on May 31, 2015, at 2 pm at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311.

Come to hear the news of what is happening with our National Organization and with Branch 553. Take an active role in your branch.

Hope to see you there.

Respectfully submitted,

**Linda M. Hanko, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 587 – ALIQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist will have a meeting on June 9, 2015, at 2:00PM in the afternoon at the home of Albert Valo, 1835 Brodhead Road in Aliquippa. All members are welcome.

**Edith L. Valo, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 595 MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Please note that the monthly meeting has been changed, it will now be held on the third Sunday of each month at 2pm.

April 26 Sunday, all you can eat Breakfast \$8.00 per person 8:30 am - 12 noon best breakfast in town!

May 3 Polka Dance 3:00pm - 6:00 pm \$5.00 per person at the door, food available for purchase.

May 17 Sunday, monthly meeting 2pm

May 24 Sunday, all you can eat Breakfast \$8.00 per person 8:30 am - 12 noon best breakfast in town!

Please note this is the last breakfast until September.

Burritos every third Thursday of the month, to-go only \$7.00.

Call ahead to order 231-733-7525.

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

**Susan Hornik,  
Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 717K – ANTIOCH, ILLINOIS

There has been a merger between Branch 717K Antioch, IL and Branch 153K Chicago, IL.

All members of Branch 717K will now hold membership in Branch 153K.

This merger has taken place as of March 05, 2015.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

DOROTHY M JURCENKO  
7113 W TALCOTT AVE  
CHICAGO, IL 60631-2436  
(773) 763-0810

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Sincerely yours,

**Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary**

### BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2015, at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall, St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, New York City.

On the agenda will be a financial report and discussion of plans for the next season.

All members are urged to attend this meeting.

The branch will serve refreshments after the meeting.

Fraternally,

**Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary**

### BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members of Saint Joseph Branch 731, will meet on Sunday, June 14, 2015 at noon at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, OH. We will be planning our summer activities. Please plan to attend.

**James Bobby, Recording Secretary**

## 11th CONSULAR TOUR TO SLOVAKIA

*August 23, 2015 to September 2, 2015 Escorted by Joseph & Albina Senko*



Slovak Honorary Consul Joseph Senko has visited Slovakia 25 times since 1995, including ten tours which he has arranged and escorted. His wife, Albina, was born and raised in Slovakia. With their experience, they have created a customized tour for 2015 which will take you across Slovakia. Each night, we will stay at a first class hotel. Over 270 people from the United States have enjoyed these tours with Joe and Albina.

In addition to touring many historic towns in Slovakia, we will also visit famous historic sites in neighboring countries - Vienna, Austria and Budapest, Hungary. Our tour of Slovakia will take us from west to east through Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia; Trnava, known as the "Little Rome" of Slovakia; Modra, where we will be seeing a demonstration in a ceramic factory; the world famous spa town of Piestany; historic Banska Bystrica; the High Tatras; the famous town of Levoca; Bardejov, which is included in the UNESCO list; Presov, the sister city or Pittsburgh; and Kocise, the second largest city in Slovakia.

In addition to visiting several famous castles and museums, we will enjoy listening to live folk music, touring many historic churches, and dining in several typical Slovak restaurants. Unique to this tour is: receiving a spa treatment; attending a mock Slovak wedding; rafting on the Dunajec river; several wine tastings and meeting with several Slovak dignitaries.

As we travel through the various regions of Slovakia, we can make arrangements for you to visit relatives or family towns and villages at an additional cost. These are just some of the highlights of our tour. The 11 days you will spend with us will be enjoyable, educational and you will be pleasantly surprised what Slovakia has to offer visitors.

For a detailed itinerary and payment schedule, contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000 or jtsenko@aol.com. For a list of hotels, flight schedules, payment schedule and restrictions, contact Joe Senko.

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISTRICT 2 – THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2015. The meeting will take place at the Missionary Benedictine Convent, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, IL. Attendees will gather at 1:30 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments. We will vote on the entries for the District Easter Coloring Contest. The meeting will start promptly at 2:00 pm. After the meeting, attendees will enjoy a delicious dinner. All branches are encouraged to send delegates. Individual Jednota members who wish to become more active in District 2 activities are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, call District 2 President John Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810.

Sincerely,

**Robert Tapak Magruder, District Recording Secretary**

### DISTRICT 4 – THE GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT - WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District of the First Catholic Slovak Union will host its Semi-annual meeting on Saturday, April 25 2015 at the Bishop Connare Center, Route 30 East, Greensburg, PA. It will be in the form of a Sales Seminar to begin promptly at 4 P.M. and be followed by a complimentary Buffet Dinner. Please RSVP the number attending from your branch to Darlene Patty at 724-537-7743 after 6 P.M. We look forward to a great turnout.

**Linda L. Gonta, District Secretary**

### DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Pittsburgh District will be co-sponsoring a dinner reception to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the First Catholic Slovak Union and our own local Branch 2. The dinner reception with entertainment will take place on Sunday, June 7, 2015 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 550 Cherrington Parkway, Coraopolis, PA. Details regarding cost and reservation information will be announced at the Spring meeting. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us as we celebrate our anniversary.

Branch 738 will host the Fathers Day brunch on Sunday, June 21. Karianne Barnes of Branch 628 will do the ad booklet. More details will be provided at the spring meeting. Branch 38 will host the annual winter meeting at a date to be determined later.

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 4 - Velvet Revolution to the European Union, June 1- Sites to see in Slovakia. Meetings resume in October

\*\* Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Joe Senko for information about reservations and fees.

\*\* Pittsburgh Folk Festival – Monroeville Convention Center May 15-16, 2015 – see [www.pghfolk-fest.org/](http://www.pghfolk-fest.org/)

\*\* Slovak Day at Kennywood – Thursday, July 16, 2015. Tickets available at the district Fathers Day Brunch.

\*\* Tour of Slovakia with the Senko's – August 23 to September 2, 2015 – Includes Vienna and Budapest. Contact Joe Senko for information about the itinerary.

\*\* 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 of which 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 2015 meeting October 21-24 in Cedar Rapids IA, the site of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. The 2017 meeting is planned for Pittsburgh. Further information can be found at [www.cgsi.org](http://www.cgsi.org).

\*\* Don't forget the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730

\*\* 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](mailto:manasta@verizon.net)

Fraternally,

**Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary**

### DISTRICT 7 – REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT – BLAIR, CAMBRIA, INDIANA, SOMERSET, AND BEDFORD COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA

The Rev. John Martvon District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2015, beginning at 2:00PM. The meeting will be held in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Graham Ave., Windber, PA, with Branch 292, St. John the Baptist, as the host.

On the agenda will be a discussion on the problem of vacant district offices; also other matters concerning the district. Member branches may pay their dues at this meeting and are reminded of the requirement to have a delegate from their branch attend one yearly meeting to receive the annual stipend.

**Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary**

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

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA, will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 7, 2015, at 1PM in the K-2 Engineering Conference Room located at 234 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, PA. All district branches are invited to attend.

**Barbara Holly, District Secretary**

### DISTRICT 10 – THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK

Rev. Stephen Furdek District 10 will hold the first meeting of 2015 on Sunday, June 7, 2015, at 2 pm at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. All district members are invited to attend.

Please notify Linda Hanco at 330-706-0151 or via email at [lhanco@neo.rr.com](mailto:lhanco@neo.rr.com) if you are planning on attending. We need a head count for refreshments. We look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

Mark the date, November 8, 2015. This will be a meeting a date. The location for the meeting is up for grabs. We are looking for a branch to host this fraternal meeting and plan on choosing a location at our meeting on June 7th.

Respectfully submitted,

**Linda M. Hanco, Secretary/Treasurer**

### DISTRICT 11 – THE MSGR. JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

The 2015 Semiannual Meeting of the Msgr. Josef Tiso District (District 11) will be held on Sunday, April 26. 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:

-- Branch representative(s) at District meetings need not be officers of the Branch; any beneficial member may represent his/her Branch

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

**Grace M. Charney, 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 31, 2015, at 1:00PM, in the Rectory 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 716.

Fraternally,

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

## 2015 Slovakia Heritage Tour Takes Off September 11-20, 2015



Experience Slovak culture, history, and life in Slovakia today, up close and personal on the 2015 Slovakia Heritage ten-day, small group tour. From September 11-20, 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)

## 16th Edition of Carpathian Cookbook Now Available



The Carpathian Cookery cookbook, has entered its 16th printing, having sold over 15,500 copies, is available for sale. This cookbook was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection. The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. The book includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.00 plus \$4.00 postage and handling (\$18.00). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$27.00 U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost. To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, or call (724) 438-6027 (9AM-3PM) for more information. You may contact us at: [carpathiancookery@gmail.com](mailto:carpathiancookery@gmail.com).

**Want to learn more about the FCSU's excellent portfolio of insurance and annuity products?**

## Mark Your Calendars:

The following FCSU Sales Seminars have been finalized...



• **Saturday, April 25, 2015** at the semi-annual meeting of the George Onda District of the First Catholic Slovak Union at the Bishop Connare Center, Route 30 East, Greensburg, PA. The seminar will begin promptly at 4 P.M., followed by a complimentary Buffet Dinner. Please RSVP the number attending from your branch to Darlene Patty at 724-537-7743 after 6 P.M.

• **Sunday, October 4, 2015** at the meeting of the Msgr. John E. Rura District 4 Meeting, starting at 11:00AM. The meeting will be held at Msgr Komar Hall (across from Holy Family Church), 2806 Parkway Ave, Linden, NJ 07036-3548.

*Editor's note: please watch for details of future meetings in upcoming issues of Jednota, as well as other pending seminars, time and place to be announced.*

# 2014 JEDNOTA COLORING CONTEST RESULTS, PART II

## REGION 3

..... Age Group 10-12 .....



John Slovenkai  
First Place



Justin Pecko  
Second Place

## REGION 7

..... Age Group 4-6 .....



Ryan Reidmuller  
First Place



Peter Jurcenko  
Second Place



Nicholas Jurcenko  
Third Place



## REGION 7

..... Age Group 7-9 .....



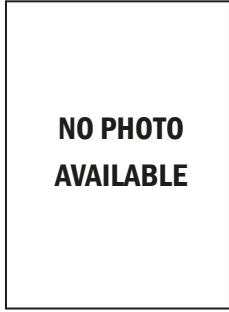
Gregory Horinko  
First Place



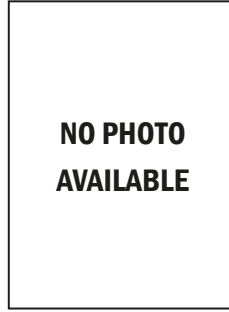
Connor Doyle  
Second Place



Regina Turner  
Third Place



Grace Foley  
First Place



Evan Jurcenko  
Second Place



Sarah Peters  
Third Place

## REGION 8

..... Age Group 4-6 .....



Andrew Boyce  
First Place

2nd Place:  
no entries  
3rd Place:  
no entries

..... Age Group 7-9 .....



Sarah Hergel  
First Place

2nd Place:  
no entries  
3rd Place:  
no entries

..... Age Group 10-12 .....



Mayva Hergel  
First Place

2nd Place:  
no entries  
3rd Place:  
no entries



## Coloring Contest 2014 Honorable Mentions



**REGION 1**  
Violet McNamara  
Jet Griffis  
Charles Griffis  
Matthew DeSopo

**REGION 2 – NO ENTRIES**

**REGION 3**  
Caden Jacobson  
Sebastian Pluto  
Gavin Carone  
Arthur Eddy  
Aiden Luke  
Carson Moyer  
Michael Slovenkai  
Joseph Kowalski  
Jaycob Kucko

Rachel Fay  
Anna Pechmann  
David Rudat  
Elizabeth Pittsman

**REGION 4**  
Seth Catherman  
Max Dlugos  
Eva Matinko  
Valent Cervenak  
Sophia Rush  
Amelia Bissell  
Bruce Higginbotham  
Emma Nash  
Martin Meyer  
Isabel Owens  
Laura Kutschke  
Chloe Jones

Brad Skero  
Elizabeth K Catherman  
Stephanie Novak  
Danielle Novak  
Sydney Marmol  
Katrina Mullen  
Casey Elder  
Aaron Soltis  
Robert Mullen  
JJ Davis  
Ethan Soltis

**REGION 5**  
Cara Zemelman  
Paige Giglione  
Tiffany Matta  
Annabella Barnes  
Addison Giglione

Daniel Matta  
Mary Hlozek  
Ryder Tabachecu  
Timothy Costel  
August Tabacheck  
Jane M Windsheimer  
Michael Costel  
Julia Windsheimer  
Zachary Hanlon  
Andrew Costel  
Christina Fonzi

**REGION 6**  
Nina Sinchak  
Jocelyn Misanko  
Abigail Gizewicz  
Artem Fedoriouk  
Jacob Chuba

Jessica Chuba  
John Chuba  
Suzanne Tassinari  
Sofia Fedoriuk  
Nia Sinchak  
Joseph Valencik  
Jack Wascovich  
Brianna Brake  
Sarah Fels  
Aleksa Gizewicz  
Anna Wascovich

**REGION 7**  
John Turner  
Sofia Vadkerti  
Henry Remenar  
Elizabeth Vadkerti  
Maya Bobo

Logan Lazzara  
Gabriel Fatula  
Mandi Wyatt  
Grace Ramenar  
Austin Doyle  
David Koval  
Emma Graves  
Rachel Rossman  
Mary Karen Tutoky  
Alexa Bahu  
Johnathan Fatta  
Mia Wyatt



Congratulations to all our winners, including those published in the March 18 issue of Jednota



**WIN AN FCSU CRUISE OR OTHER GREAT PRIZES!**

**Thinking about securing your financial future? Act now!**

Apply for a minimum \$25,000 - 6 or 8 Year Annuity or minimum \$10,000 Single Premium Whole Life Policy and upon issuance you will be entered into a drawing for

**3 TOP PRIZES!**

**GRAND Prize: AN ALL INCLUSIVE**

**7 DAY FCSU SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE FOR TWO**

**First Prize: \$500**

**Second Prize: \$250**

Begins March 1, 2015 and applications must be postmarked by August 31, 2015. Winners will be notified in September.

**7 Day Southern Caribbean**

Day	Port	Arrive	Depart
Sun	San Juan		10:00 p.m.
Mon	St. Thomas	7:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
Tue	"Fun Day" at Sea		
Wed	Barbados	8:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
Thu	St. Lucia	8:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
Fri	St. Kitts	8:00 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
Sat	St. Maarten	7:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
Sun	San Juan	7:00 a.m.	

**Departure Dates**

*Your departure date:*  
**November 15, 2015**

Itineraries are subject to change; port, sequence and scheduled times, and/or day. For the most updated cruise information, please contact your Travel Professional.

For more info contact:  
Andy: 800.533.6682 ext. 112  
Bob: 800.533.6682 ext. 116



**For more cruise information, see page 20 of this issue**

# Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
001K	Margaret E Sheba	085K	Margaret L Krall	260K	Annarose M Topolosky	600K	Mary C Venis
001P	Anna R Pavlishin	086K	Agnes L Hay	278K	Rosemary H Walters	615K	Mark A Churchvara
003K	Charles J Kline	086K	Sophia Potoka Moore	292K	Dorothy Ann Petronick	618K	Eleanor D Banik
003P	Mary Higgins	096K	Genevieve Marie Stupic	293K	Margaret M Kuntz	635K	Emil M Smolar
006K	Francis A Hatzler	098K	Donald J Roy	294K	Robert M Novotney	667K	Anna J Nemish
019K	Jean F Hansen	102K	Mary A Tomchik	308K	George T Shuba	670K	Robert F Kolbe
019K	Joseph D Miko	108K	Ronald J Maceyak	312K	Stella F Kuba	670K	Mildred L Krupa
019K	Ludwig T Pavlo	122K	Anna M Tamine	324K	Thomas W Sabo	682K	Donald C Hutira
019K	Katherine P Plavnicky	153K	Mary T Pustelnik	333K	John E Kuzila	682K	Edward J Pavel
023K	Andrew G Paulson Jr	162K	Genevieve Zavage	367K	Mary M Bokros	731K	Mary Ellen Leshinsky
023K	Carol Ann Schonvisky	166K	William Sheredy	367K	Daniel J Hanzely	743K	John F Kolesar
023K	Michael G Yanoschak	166K	Helen Guley Zabinski	367K	Dolores M Holloman	743K	Louise Rose Nowicki
023K	Patricia M Zahorchak	169P	Stephen J Kristoff	410K	Ronald E Gouker Sr	746K	Andrew M Aсталos
024K	Thomas A Benedict	181K	Christopher John Kochis	410K	Edward E Smetanka	746K	Vincent P Bacinsky
024K	Joseph A Kavulich	181K	Mary M Marcinko	419K	John G Manosky	746K	Peter Kovaly
024K	Francis J Paulovich	181K	Donald F Mencer	425K	Marjorie Anna Reznec	756K	Pauline S Haywood
024K	Irene C Vidinsky	181K	Irene H Sichula	450K	James W Hvizdos	764K	Madeline E Matey
038K	Joseph M Gaydos Sr	199K	Kathleen M Kachik	484K	John J Barberich	831K	Marian Detman
038K	John A Kenda	200K	Benedict M Hagofsky	484K	Joseph L Gnibus	831K	Pauline Farione
040K	Rose Marie Frye	200K	Richard Karabin	510K	Edward J Gogola	855K	Lorraine Razum
040K	Rosemary Schmitt	200K	William R Sacik	512K	Andrew T Kozak	855K	Agnes T Trope
041K	Ann Marie Betley	228K	Rev Edward J Luca	512K	Virginia P Moyer	855K	Margaret S Vlk
055K	John Paul Skokan	228K	Brian A Zilka	553K	Margaret B Jurkowski	888K	Mary Ann Balbach
060K	Edward Orenyak	233K	Gary J Mooney	580K	Sandra Lee Ford	900K	George J Fedor
060K	Virginia K Wargovich	238K	Joseph T Yedinak	581K	Michael I Stribiak	900K	Michael Motil Jr
075K	Stanley W Osmanski	259K	Marlene A Komara	595K	Joseph M Hanis		

\*Processed through the month of March 2015

## OBITUARIES

### ANNA PAVLISHIN BRANCH 1P – BEAVER MEADOWS, PENNSYLVANIA

Anna R. (Check) Pavlishin, 90, formerly of West Hazleton, PA, peacefully entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, in the home of her daughter, Andrea, and son-in-law, Donald Swerdon, where she lived for the past 22 years. She was surrounded by her loving family.



Born in Oneida, PA, on July 4, 1924, she was the daughter of the late John and Anna (Horvath) Check. She recently celebrated her 90th birthday with family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Andrew, on Feb. 13, 1995, and to whom she had been married for 47 years; her brothers, Andrew, John and Henry; and her sisters, Marie Lesko and Agnes Horinko.

Anna graduated in 1942 from the former Hazleton High School. She and her husband were the owners and proprietors of the former Lincoln Cut-Rate Store, Hazleton, PA. She enjoyed bingo, baking and family get-togethers. Her greatest joy was spending time with her family and traveling.

She was a member of the former Holy Trinity Slovak Roman Catholic Church, and was a member of the Confraternity of Christian Women at that parish. She was a current member of St. Jude R.C. Church, Mountain Top.

Surviving are her loving children, Edward, Gerald, Andrea and her husband, Donald, and Michael and his wife, Paige; her cherished grandchildren, Edward, Tracey, Ashley, Bethany and Cole; her great-grandchildren, Mackenzie, Eli and Ian; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, at 10 a.m. in St. Jude R.C. Church, Mountain Top, PA.

Interment was in Calvary Cemetery, Drums.

A public visitation was held Monday, February 16, 2015, from 6 to 8 p.m. at John J. Pusti Funeral Home, Hazleton.

The family would like to express its sincere gratitude to Celtic Hospice and Palliative Care Services for their loving care.

### JOSEPH D. MIKO BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

Joseph D. Miko, age 85, of Stratford, CT, beloved husband of Dorothy Kuba Miko, passed away on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 in his home.

Joe, U.S. Navy Veteran of the Korean War, was born in Stratford to the late Matthew and Anna (Alias) Miko and has been a lifelong area resident.

He was a graduate of Fairfield University, where he was a member of the Cross Country, Track, and Basketball teams, scoring the first basket in school history, and was inducted into the University's Athletic Hall of Fame. Joe was a retired VP and Trust Officer for Connecticut National Bank.

He was an avid golfer, enjoyed a good cigar, and always had a good story. He also enjoyed doing brickwork, and never saw a brick he didn't like, but most of all, he will be remembered as a wonderful husband, father and grandfather.

Survivors in addition to his beloved wife, include his devoted children, Thomas Miko (Cathy), Larry Miko (Pamela) all of Stratford, Dan Miko (Cheryl) of Seymour, and Dr. Susan Miko (Larry Columbus) of Las Vegas, NV, 8 cherished grandchildren, Alex, Rebecca, Emily, Joseph, Samuel, Zachary, Jacob, and Casey, 2 great-grandchildren, Lily and Abigail, sisters-in-law, Gail Miko and Rita Miko and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brothers, Matthew, John, and Dan Miko and sister, Mary Tesla. A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Monday, February 2, 2015, at 10 a.m. in St. Mark Church, Stratford, with military honors immediately following. Interment was private.

Friends greeted Joe's family on Saturday, January 31, 2015, from 2-5 p.m. in the Adzima Funeral Home, Stratford.

- Submitted by Dorothy Miko

### STANLEY W. OSMANSKI BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Stanley W. Osmanski, of Gloucester Twp., NJ, formerly of Shamokin, PA, passed away on March 3, 2015, at the age of 74.

Beloved husband of 53 years to Emily (nee Oravitz). Devoted father of Jennifer O'Brien, Paula Gallagher (John), Stephanie Beeston, and Leslie Ciccone (Bob). Proud Papa to Mark, Colin, Matthew, Aaron, Brittany, Bobby, Connor, and Brendon. Dear brother of Dr. James Osmanski and Brother Bill Osmanski. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Stan worked for Sony Records/CBS in Pitman. He enjoyed puzzles, fishing, mountains, and camping. Stan was a parishioner at St. Gregory's Church, where he was a Lector and active with the youth group. Services were held on April 11, 2015 at St Agnes Church in Blackwood, NJ.

### ANNA M. TAMINE BRANCH 122 – EXPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Anna M. Tamine, 95, of Jeannette, PA, passed away Tuesday, January 20, 2015, in the Westmoreland Manor, Hempfield Twp, PA. She was born July 19, 1919, in Penn. PA., a daughter of the late John and Anna Liscinsky Vargo. Anna was a member of the Sacred Heart Church, Jeannette. She was an avid reader and enjoyed a good romance novel. Most of all she enjoyed spending time with her family, especially the grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In addition to her parents Anna was prede-

ceased by her husband Stephen A. Tamine in 2005; a sister Agnes Vrtacnik; and two brothers, John and Andrew Vargo. She is survived by a daughter Patricia DelGross and husband Sebastian "Sam" DelGross of Jeannette; grandchildren, Antoinette "Toni" Bowers and husband Dave, Mario DelGross and wife Cindy, Gina Helman and husband Seth; four great grandchildren, Anthony Monstrola, Dannielle and Derek DelGross, and Tanner Helman; a sister Mary Gebroski of Monroeville and numerous nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at the John V. Graziano Funeral Home Inc., Jeannette, 11:00am to 1pm Friday, January 23, 2015, at which time a blessing service was held with Fr. Paul A. Lisik presiding. Interment followed in the Sacred Heart Cemetery, Hempfield, PA.

- Submitted by Patricia DelGross

### KATHLEEN MARIE KACHIK BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Kathleen Marie Kachik was called home to her Lord's side on February 14, 2015, after a protracted illness. Kathy was born on December 9, 1960 in Latrobe, PA. She was the daughter of Theresa (Gera) Slifka and Frank Slifka. Kathy graduated from Derry Area High School. She was first employed in the admitting department, and later in the business office of Latrobe Area Hospital. It was at Latrobe Hospital where she met the love of her life, her husband Larry.

Kathy enjoyed life. She was an exceptional cook, and homemaker. Her pierogies were legendary. She possessed a green thumb, and a love of flowers and plants that was unparalleled. Kathy was a devoted wife who put everyone in her life ahead of her own interests. She faithfully honored and cared for her Aunt and Uncle, Sue and Adam Plessinger during their lives. They were her second parents. She was especially attentive to her father-in-law, Robert Kachik during his life,

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## OBITUARIES

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and particularly during his final illness. Prior to her own illness she still enjoyed doing anything she could for her father, Frank Slifka, and mother-in-law, Jacqueline Kachik.

Kathy loved her Bichon Frise babies, Gussie and Savannah. She devoted every bit of energy she had to making sure that their lives were the happiest that any two dogs could be. She was very successful at that endeavor. Kathy was extremely proud of all her nieces and nephews. She got to watch them grow into successful adults, and more importantly, great people. Kathy had many friends, but over the years she was very close with Renee Stiffey and Roberta Henry.

Kathy was preceded in death by her mother Theresa (Gera) Slifka, her Aunt, Susanna Plessinger, and Uncle, Adam Plessinger. She is survived by her husband of 24 years, Larry of Port Saint Lucie, FL; her brothers, Dave (Vonnie) Slifka of Latrobe, and Rick (Carol) Slifka of Blairsville, PA; brother-in-law Alan (Pam) Kachik of Pelzer, SC; nieces, Tessa, Sarah and Emily Slifka; nephews Justin (Sarah) Slifka and Ryan Kachik; her father, Frank Slifka; and mother-in-law, Jacqueline Kachik.

**CHRISTINE ANN OSMULSKI  
BRANCH 404 –  
STUTTGART,  
ARKANSAS**



Christine Ann [Christy] Osmulski, age 33 of Munster, IN and Los Angeles, CA, passed away on March 5, 2015, at St. Anthony's Hospice after a valiant two-year battle with brain cancer. She was born on June 22, 1981, in Crown Point, IN. Christy is survived by her parents, Tim and Barbara Osmulski of Munster, brother, Bill [Amber] Osmulski of Edgerton, WI, and sister, Katie of Hammond, IN; Great Aunts Marge Ostrander, Marie Kalemba and Kathy Garrich; Grandmother Rosemary Plafcan; many cousins in Indiana and Arkansas; and Godparents Emory and Helen Mehok of Munster. Her faithful companion, dog George, was at her bedside. Christy was preceded in death by Grandparents William Plafcan, and Ted and Julie Osmulski.

Christy was a 1999 graduate of Pickerington, HS [OH], earned her BA in Music, Magna Cum Laude at Xavier University, Cincinnati in 2003 and her Master's Degree in Music Composition from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 2005.

Christy was employed as the West Coast Director of Admissions for Bennington College [VT]. She was a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit Honor Society, The Regional Admission Counselors of California, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 369, the First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 404, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Hammond and St. Brendan's Church in Los Angeles.

Funeral Services were held on Wednesday March 11, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at the Anthony & Dziadowicz Funeral Home, Munster, IN. A 10:00 a.m. Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Hammond, IN. Burial followed at Elmwood Cemetery in Hammond.

Visitation was on Tuesday March 10, 2015 3-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Christy spent her elementary and middle school years in Munster, moving with her family to Pickerington, OH, for high school. As an admission counselor for Bennington College, Christy made many friends across the country and helped hundreds of high school students gain acceptance into college.

**RONALD E. GOUKER, SR.  
BRANCH 410 –  
UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA**

Ronald E. Gouker, Sr., age 70, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 24, 2014, at home with his wife Adrienne at his side after a six year battle with renal cancer.

"Ron" was born in Connellsville, PA, on Friday, March 31, 1944, the only child of John Wesley Gouker and Ethel (Ashman) Gouker of Dunbar, PA. He graduated from Connellsville High School with the class of 1962. He served his military obligation with the Pennsylvania National Guard in Scottdale, PA.

Ron married Adrienne Cantini on Saturday, November 18, 1967, and became the father of AdriaLee Gouker on Thursday, June 10, 1971 and Ronald E. Gouker II on Sunday, March 30, 1975.

Ron Gouker and Bob Lowe started their garage door business in 1970 and built it to be the largest garage door company in the area. Ron took over the company in 1978 and was sole owner and operator of the company until present; a total of 44 years.

He lived his life for his family and his business.

He was very conscientious about providing the highest quality garage doors and the best service to his customers.

Left to cherish Ron's memory is his wife, Adrienne B. (Cantini) Gouker, with whom he celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary on November 18, 2014.

Also surviving are his daughter, AdriaLee B. (Gouker) Duncan and her husband James L. Duncan, Jr., and his son, Dr. Ronald E. Gouker and his wife Courtney (Baker) Gouker.

Four grandchildren also survive: Andrew Quentin Duncan, Adam Joseph Duncan, Quenten Joseph Gouker, and Isabella Abbeygayle Gouker.

Ron is also survived by his four-legged friends who were his constant companions and therapy dogs during his long battle with cancer: Boston Terriers Beebe, Boomer and Blossom; and English Bulldog Bristol will all miss those long days keeping Ron company and sitting with him. His feline companions – Sam, Socks, and Sassy – gave him much comfort and liked to cuddle on his lap. Ron's loyal therapy dog Bella died from cancer during Ron's illness, leaving him heartbroken.

Preceding Ron in death were his parents, John Wesley Gouker and Ethel (Ashman) Gouker. Also preceding him in death were his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Quenten Joseph "Wedo" Cantini and Therese Louise (Holly) Cantini.

The family would like to thank the doctors at Shady Side Hospital and the Hillman Cancer Center for six long years of concern and devoted care for Ron's illness with special thanks to Oncologist Dr. Leonard Appleman, Urologist Dr. Jodie Maranchi, and Neurosurgeons Dr. Arlen Mintz and Dr. Jonathan Engh, Radiation Encologist Dr. Steven Burton, and Phlebotomist Danisha Edwards, who was always so gentle and caring to Ron. Special thanks to the nurses Regina and Denise from Amedisys for their loving care to Ron during his final days.

Thanks also to our neighbors who were always there to offer support and comfort with visits, food, and cards – especially Vickie, Janice, and Mary Nancy. Also thank you Walt and Amy Lizza for all of your help, advice and concern.

The family received friends and family in the Kezmarsky Funeral Home, Uniontown, on December 28, 2014, from 2 to 8PM, and on Monday morning, December 29, 2014, until 9:15AM, when Parting Prayers were said. A Funeral Mass followed at 10AM at the Saint Therese de Lisieux Roman Catholic Church with Monsignor Michael W. Matusak, V.F. Pas-

tor, as Celebrant. Interment followed in Mt. Macrina Cemetery.

- Submitted by Adrienne Gouker

**PHYLLIS G. LUTE  
BRANCH 414 –  
FARRELL, PENNSYLVANIA**

Phyllis G. Lute, 72, of Punxsutawney, PA died Friday, January 16, 2015 at UPMC - Shadyside in Pittsburgh, PA

She was born March 23, 1942 in Farrell, PA, the daughter of the late George T. and Helen (Kucharski) Koshar,

She was married to Leland Ray Lute who preceded her in death on September 23, 1995.

She was a homemaker and worked as a cook at the Lane Avenue Personal Care Home. She was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxillary.

She will be loved and missed by her family and friends, who say "Thank you for being in our lives; you touched many hearts."

She is survived by four daughters, Susan Hines and her husband David of Sharon, PA; Mary Jane Mallia and her husband Ken of London, OH; Joanne Herrick and her husband Ed of Hubbard, OH; Paula Keener and her husband Doug of Youngstown, OH; one son, Daniel T. Lute of his wife, Jeannine of Struthers, OH; and two sisters, Carol Jones and her husband, Thomas; and Janice Marzano and her husband James. She is also survived by 17 Grandchildren and 17 Great-Grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband and by one son, Leland Ray Lute, Jr.

Friends were received at the Richard L. Fait Funeral Home on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 from 2-4. A Funeral Service was held at the funeral home on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 4:00PM, with Rev. Msgr. Joseph J. Riccardo officiating.

-Submitted by Mary Jane Mallia

**NICHOLAS COOPER  
BRANCH 682 –  
YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO**

Nicholas Cooper, 90, of the west side of Youngstown, OH, passed away Saturday evening, Nov. 8, 2014, at his home after a long and fulfilling life.



Nick was born Dec. 14, 1923, in Youngstown, a son of the late Evan and Anna Capperes, and was a lifelong area resident.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving his country during World War II, and was a retired firefighter for the City of Youngstown Fire Department, serving the community for 32 years.

Mr. Cooper was also the owner/operator of the AMA Club on Steel Street in Youngstown for many years, and was the co-owner of the former Spring Lakes Golf Course in Lake Milton (now The Olde Dutch Mill) for 27 years.

Nick was a member of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Youngstown. He was an avid sports enthusiast and was inducted into the Baseball Old-Timers Hall of Fame for his outstanding baseball talent.

His beloved wife of 51 years, Ann M. Scavina Cooper, whom he married May 26, 1951, passed away Jan. 28, 2003.

Nick leaves five children, Patsy Tamburino of Youngstown, Linda Urbanowicz of Youngstown, Nick (Karen) Cooper of Canfield, OH, Brenda Adair of Youngstown, who was his caregiver and with whom he shared his home, and Lisa (Tom) Scanlon of Youngstown; nine grandchildren, Michelle (Eric), Tim, Jill, Scott, Mario, Nicholas, Tom, Jim, and Amy; and three great-grandchildren, Cooper, Nolan, and Carter.

Besides his wife, a daughter, Michele Cooper; three brothers, Mitch Capperes, Pete Cooper, and Mike Capperes; a sister, Catherine Serbin; and a son-in-law, Colin Urbanowicz, are deceased.

Family and friends called from 4 to 7 p.m., on Tuesday, November 11, 2014, at the Kinnick Funeral Home, Youngstown, where a prayer service took place at 6:30 p.m.

Funeral services began on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at 9:15 a.m. at the funeral home and continued at 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, Youngstown. Interment followed at Calvary Cemetery, where Nick was laid to rest next to his wife.

- Submitted by Branch 682 President Joseph Scavina who notes that the officers and members of Branch 682 offer their deepest sympathies to Nick's family. May he rest in peace.

**MARIAN DETMAN  
BRANCH 831 –  
TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA**

Marian Detman, 87, of Tarentum, PA, passed away peacefully Wednesday, February 25, 2015, surrounded by her loving family. She was the beloved wife of William C. Detman, who preceded her in death Feb. 9, 2005, celebrating more than 50 years of marriage. She was born Dec. 31, 1927, to the late Jan and Paulina (Karac) Pracko. She was the sixth child and first daughter of 11 children (eight brothers and two sisters).

Marian graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1946 and attended business school. She worked as a production clerk for the Nabisco Co. in Pittsburgh and a bookkeeper for the Short Line Bus Company. Marian was a fantastic reader of all books and was a very talented singer with a beautiful voice. In her younger years, she often performed with big bands and orchestras. Marian is known and will be remembered for her outstanding community service, dedication and unselfish contribution to others that made a difference in the lives of so many.

Marian was a board member of Neighborhood Legal Services Association, Central Clients Council, Pennsylvania Legal Services Center and Allegheny Legal Clients Council. From 1967 to 2000, she was a member of the Allegheny County Community Services Board and, as a board member, attended and assisted in many training sessions and conferences which enabled her to help many of the poor and disadvantaged members of the community with legal services and their legal rights.

Marian served as president of the Highlands Community Action Center in Tarentum for years, which served low income disadvantaged residents. She was instrumental in bringing state and federal services and programs to the area, including Department of Public Welfare, Well Baby Clinic, State Fuel Program (LIHEAP), Senior Citizens Transportation and home assistance, Martin Luther King Jr. scholarship fund, Highlands Area Day Care Center, Helping Hand Committee, Alle-Kiski Hope Center, Prenatal Clinic at Allegheny Valley Hospital, Head Start and many more. She was instrumental in leading and establishing a camp program with Grace Methodist Church for children, earning her the moniker "Camp Lady" among the borough children. These efforts brought her a national award for the Best Camping Program in the United States. If that wasn't enough, she was a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Allegheny County Federation of Women's Clubs and the Community Service of Tarentum, where she held various offices including the presidency. Through these clubs and dedication of all its women, she helped to

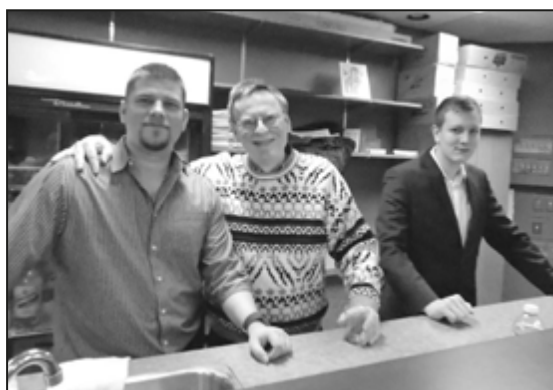
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# Sts Cyril & Methodius Parish in Mississauga, Ontario, Celebrates Feast Day

On Sunday February 15, 2015, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Mississauga celebrated its annual parish Odпуст (Feast day). Mass was celebrated by Fr. Jozef Vano, current pastor of the parish.

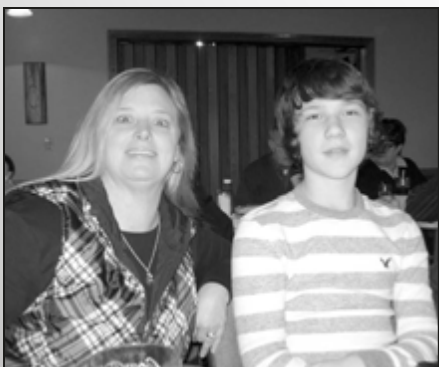
Following the mass a crowd of around 180- 200 parishioners, clergy and friends gathered in the parish hall for a celebratory luncheon. A hearty meal was prepared by Peter Repka with help of ladies from the parish. Father Jozef Vano opened the celebration and Fr. Gregor Nowicki, former associate pastor of the parish, said a prayer before meal and blessed the food we were to consume.

**- Submitted by Helen von Friedl, Branch 785**



# Scenes from the St. Clement Society Jan Meeting

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, Streator, IL, held its annual meeting on Sunday January 25, 2015, at 1:00 P.M. at Chipper's Grill in Streator. Branch officers for 2015 were elected as part of the meeting agenda. A buffet luncheon followed that was enjoyed by all.





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Wed	Barbados	8:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
Thu	St. Lucia	8:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
Fri	St. Kitts	8:00 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
Sat	St. Maarten	7:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
Sun	San Juan	7:00 a.m.	

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See page 15 of this issue for details ...

# MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA • SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2014 HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO (TELECONFERENCE)

## OPEN MEETING

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

## ANTHEMS

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

## ROLL CALL

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call:

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

All present and accounted for.

## READING OF THE CALL

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

## ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2014 BOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Carl Ungvarsky to accept the minutes as presented of the October 17, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President presented his report.

### Middletown Memorial Project

The President gave an update on the Middletown Memorial Project and stated it is 2/3 completed and they are waiting on a shipment of granite needed. He further stated that the engraver is ready to cut the stone for the already purchased bricks. The project is expected to be completed in the spring dependent on the weather. The President thanked Regional Director James Marmol for all his help with the project. The President announced there are still bricks available; for anyone interested in purchasing a brick you may contact the home office or visit our website.

### Fraternal Events

The President stated the 100th Anniversary of our founder, Father Stephen Furdek, and the 125th Anniversary of the First Catholic Slovak Union will be celebrated as one event possibly in a downtown hotel in Cleveland, Ohio. He also stated these events could be highlighted in our districts as well. The Board will be kept informed as the plans are finalized.

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 will be held in the Basilica on September 12, 2015 in Washington DC and it will be a joint affair with the Slovak Catholic Federation. The President announced that we are working with Father Thomas Nasta, FCSU National Chaplain and First Vice President of the Federation, to finalize arrangements for this event.

The 30th Anniversary of the Slovak Studies at the University of Pittsburgh will also be recognized this year. Thirty years ago the First Catholic Slovak Union took the lead and invited the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Union, Slovak Catholic Sokol, and the National Slovak Society to participate and donate money to the University of Pittsburgh to create a Slovak Chair. This group held their last meeting in 2003 and a meeting is being scheduled for 2015 to re-establish communications with the University of Pittsburgh.

## AQS – ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC.

Larry White, of AQS Asset Management Company, LLC, presented his extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction report to the Board via web ex and telephone. A copy of his presentation was distributed to each Board Member prior to the meeting. Following his report, he answered all the Board's questions.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THIRD QUARTER 2014

### Executive Secretary's Report

Secretary Arendt presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the first three quarters of 2014. After his report he answered the Board's questions. The Executive Secretary stated that the 2014 third quarter Financial Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

### Budget

Executive Secretary Arendt gave an extensive report on the comparison of the 2014 budget versus the actual expenditures for 2015. The Executive Secretary presented the proposed budget for 2015 and answered any of the Board's questions. A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Carl Ungvarsky to accept the 2015 budget as presented. Motion was carried.

### Portfolio Custodian

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

### Investment Update

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

## MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

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

The Vice President updated the Board on the recruiting process for independent agents to sell our products. He informed the Board that we have 190 agents.

The Vice President stated he has begun setting dates for seminars in 2015 and encouraged the Regional Directors to contact him regarding seminars within their region.

The Vice President reported there will be a 2015 Membership Meet and details are being finalized. As more information becomes available, the Board will be informed.

The Executive Secretary stated we are continuing to advertise on Facebook with material being added daily as well as on the FCSU website and email, while including material in our home office mailings.

## DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

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

Activities Director Ondrejco announced the Bowling Tournament will be held May 1-3, 2015 in Erie, Pennsylvania. The entry information will be published in the newspaper. The FCSU Golf Tournament will be announced once a final location is chosen.

## CHAIRMAN OF AUDITOR'S REPORT

Chairman of Auditors Karen Hunka presented the Auditors' Report for the third quarter of 2014, and answered the Board's questions. She stated that the Internal Auditors conducted a thorough audit and found everything was in order.

## PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Executive Committee

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

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# MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING

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## Investments

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

## Scholarships

The FCSU Scholarship applications for graduating seniors in 2015 are ready and will be mailed out upon request and placed on our website. The Jednota Benevolent Scholarship Program is completed for this year. The winners have been announced and notified, and the announcement has been printed in the Jednota newspapers.

A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Henry Hassay to accept all reports as presented. Motion was carried.

## MISCELLANEOUS

The President announced it was the Board of Directors' duty to elect new officers for the Jednota, Inc. and Jednota Properties, Inc. Boards. The President made the following recommendation to be effective January 1, 2015:

### Jednota, Inc.:

- Andrew Harcar, President
- Andrew Rajec, Secretary
- James Bacon, Member
- Clarence Pfeifer, Sr., Member

### Jednota Properties, Inc.:

- James Marmol, President
- Joseph Minarovich, Vice President
- Joseph Bielecki, Secretary
- Joseph Senko, Treasurer
- Carl Ungvarsky, Member

A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Milos Mitro to accept President Rajec's recommendations to the Jednota, Inc. and Jednota Properties, Inc. Board for a one year term or until new Directors are elected. Motion carried.

The President recognized the following Board Members who will retire at the end of December 2014:

- Regis Brekosky: Past National President, Past National Vice President, Regional Director for Region 5, and President of Jednota Properties, Inc.
- George Matta: National Treasurer and President of Jednota, Inc.
- Susan Ondrejco: Fraternal Activities Director
- Joseph Minarovich: Regional Director for Region 1
- Carl Ungvarsky: Regional Director for Region 3

The President stated we appreciate these Officers and their dedication to our Society. The President said during the first quarter of 2015 he will invite the new Board members to an orientation meeting prior to the March Board Meeting. The date will be determined.

## PAYMENTS OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

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

## DONATIONS

Donation requests were reviewed and acted upon.

## ADJOURN

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

# FCSU's Sabina Sabados & Andrew P. Rajec Appointed to Friends of Slovakia Board



FCSU's Sabina Sabados and Andrew P. Rajec recently joined the Board of Directors of the Friends of Slovakia, a Washington, DC-based non-profit organization of volunteers whose mission is to strengthen friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation between the United States and Slovakia.

Sabina Sabados comes from eastern Slovakia, immigrating to the United States in the late 1980s. She holds a B.A. in Political Science from Drew University and a master's in International Relations and Diplomacy from Seton Hall University's School of Diplomacy and International Relations.

Sabina is very active in the Slovak community, serving as the FCSU's Region 1 Director and the President of Branch 746 in Linden, NJ. She also is President of the Slovak-American Cultural Center where she serves as chair of the annual Slovak Ball. Sabina is active in the NY Chapter of the Diplomacy Alumni Board, as well.

Andrew P. Rajec works in the home office of the FCSU where he heads independent agent recruitment and is involved in recasting the brand and developing new sales, marketing and social media strategies.

Prior to joining the FCSU, Andrew began his career in Washington as personal assistant to United States Senator Mitch McConnell, the current Senate Majority Leader, and eventually became Special Assistant to Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao, serving as a member of the Secretary's transition team.

He also was an integral part of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) where he served as the International Cooperation Specialist for Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, and Romania, and as the Deputy Director for the Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives. A native of Milwaukee, WI, Andrew is a lifelong member of Branch 89. He graduated from Marquette University in 1996 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, specializing in Finance.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY				
AS OF MAY 1, 2015 THE FOLLOWING BRANCHES DID NOT MEET				
THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THEIR 2014 BRANCH STIPEND				
PER BYLAW 4.05 FINANCIAL OBLIGATION				
BRANCH #	BRANCH #	BRANCH #	BRANCH #	BRANCH #
1P	156K	322K	461K	702K
4K	163K	324K	465K	704K
10K	164K	326K	472K	714K
16P	165K	327K	487K	717K
23K	175K	330K	497K	729K
53K	189K	333K	505K	733K
64K	189P	335K	510K	735K
83K	198P	348K	512K	746K
85K	211K	353K	514K	748K
86K	215K	353P	517K	754K
90K	221K	358K	543K	756K
96K	224K	362K	571K	769K
98K	226P	368K	584K	777K
102K	233K	372K	586K	780K
108K	238K	373K	591K	788K
110K	240P	381K	600K	823K
114P	266K	388K	615K	831K
121K	270K	401K	618K	852K
122K	278K	403K	635K	853K
124K	280K	404K	636K	858K
128K	294K	414K	652K	862K
132K	299K	417K	667K	888K
136K	308K	429K	670K	890K
144P	315K	430K	686K	
149K	319K	434K	700K	
152K	321P	456K	701K	

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015

### INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

**OPEN:**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE JANUARY MEETING MINUTES:**

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the January 2015 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Matta II to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**TREASURER REPORT:**

The Executive Secretary gave a summary of all stock and bond transactions and answered the Executive Committee's questions.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

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

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

**SALES AND MARKETING:**

The Vice President presented a written detailed sales production report to the Executive Committee on the different regions and the report of our independent agents. This report is always mailed to our Regional Directors for their information. The Vice President stated we are still continuing to recruit new agents and now have 192 agents. The Executive Secretary stated we are beginning a program to recruit new agents in the states we are newly licensed. Following the report, the Vice President answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Executive Secretary stated we have continued advertising on Facebook with material being added daily as well as on the FCSU website and email, while including ad material in our home office mailings.

The Executive Secretary stated we will begin an extensive recruiting campaign for agents in the states of Nebraska and Florida. As we progress the Executive Committee will be kept informed.

The Executive Secretary announced we are investigating the possibility of marketing our products to the new Slovak immigrants moving into the Perth Amboy, New Jersey and Chicago, Illinois areas. As more information becomes available, the Executive Committee will be informed.

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

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

**PORTFOLIO REVIEW:**

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

**MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES**

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

**MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS**

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

**Disbursements for the month of January 2015:**

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 169,346.76
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 22,254.74
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

The President gave a progress report on the Middletown Memorial Project and stated the project has been halted at this time due to weather conditions and will resume as soon as the weather improves. The project is 2/3 completed and weather depending we are looking for a late spring completion date. The engraver is processing the bricks that have already been ordered. The Executive Secretary stated we are still accepting memorial granite brick orders. Order Forms are available on our website, in our newspaper, or through the home office.

The President stated we are still in the planning stage for two special events to be celebrated jointly this year, the 125th anniversary of the First Catholic Slovak Union, and the 100th anniversary of the death of our founder, Rev. Stephen Furdek. Once the details are finalized the Executive Committee will be informed and we will begin publicizing the celebration.

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 will be held on September 12, 2015 together with the Slovak Catholic Federation. This event is still in the early planning stages until it is determined to what extent the Federation will be participating. The Executive Committee will be kept informed as details are completed.

The President stated he has been contacted by Sunoco concerning the pipeline easement. Sunoco has notified us of the planned maintenance work granted by the Society many years ago and has requested our approval. We are on record that we are opposed to any expansion of the easements and opposed to any new easements because this constricts our use and development of the property. As more information is available, the Executive Committee will be informed.

**REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:**

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

**ADJOURN:**

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

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

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

# Slovak Picnic in June



Sponsored by the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club

Sunday, June 28, 2015

Noon until 8PM

American Slovak Sokol Camp

2069 Royalwood Road

Broadview Heights, OH

Featuring: Plenty of Slovak Food & Pastries

Music: by Anthony Culkar Band

Admission at gate: \$4.00

# Explore Your Heritage This Summer with 2015 Treasure Tours



The 85th Treasure Tour continues our strategy of immersing in the Slovak culture, traversing the country from east to west and north to south, and finding long-lost family for our travelers; proud of our 98% success rate! 2015 Treasures Tour offerings include Bratislava Old Town, Devta's 49th Folk Festival, Kezmarok International Crafts Fest; the walled towns of Levoča and Bardejov, Prešov, Spiš Castle,

charming Cicmany, the High Tatras, and much, much more. July 10 to 19, 2015 - \$2,199 per person for the land trip.

For more information, contact Helene:

151 Colebrook Drive, Rochester, NY 14617

Phone: (585) 342-9383

Email: [helenezx@aol.com](mailto:helenezx@aol.com)

Or visit [www.our-Slovakia.com](http://www.our-Slovakia.com)

## OBITUARIES

continued from page 17

improve lives.

Her outstanding service to the community earned her many awards and accolades. Her achievements have been recognized by the Congress of the United States, Pennsylvania Senate, Allegheny County, Allegheny County Board of Commissioners, Neighborhood Legal Services of Pittsburgh, Clients Council of Pennsylvania, Allegheny County Chamber of Commerce, Highlands Community Action Committee, Allegheny County Community Action Programs, Community Service Club of Tarentum, Allegheny County Office of Economic Opportunity and Borough of Tarentum. She was a lifetime member of the Jednota Slovak American Club, St Clement's Society and the American Legion Auxiliary Post 226 Brackenridge. Marian was the loving mother of sons, Christopher (Jeannie) Detman and Timothy Detman, both of Tarentum; daughters, Elaine Detman (Neal Macurdy), of Natrona Heights, Lydia (Anthony) Fuhrman, of Shaler, and Cynthia Knoch, of Tarentum; grandchild-

dren, Christopher, Jeremiah and Nicole Detman, Alyssa (Kevin) Heid, Joseph DeRose, Brandon, Derek and Matthew Fuhrman, Daniel and Jennifer Knoch; and 13 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by brothers, Joseph (Madeline) Pracko, of Ocoee, Fla., Richard (Jeannie) Pracko, of North Olmstead, Ohio; and sisters, Betty Backo, of Tarentum, and Margaret Eberhart, of West Palm Beach, Fla. Besides her parents and husband, William C. Detman, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Emil L., John, Edward, Bernard F., Aloysius and Francis Pracko; and a daughter-in-law, Debra Bartel Detman.

Visitation was from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, February 28, 2015, and 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 1, 2015, in the Duster Funeral Home, Tarentum, where a blessing service was held at 9:30 a.m. Monday, March 2, 2015, followed by a Christian funeral Mass at 10 a.m. in Holy Martyrs Church, Tarentum, with the Rev. Aaron J. Kriss officiating. Interment followed in Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, Frazer Township, PA.

- Submitted by Elaine Detman

## Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

H	A	M	S		A	B	A	T	E		F	E	L	L		
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# Slovenská Národná Aliancia

SLOVAK NATIONAL ALLIANCE



Invites everyone to the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Slovak Nation Celebration in Chicago on the first Sunday of May

Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> of May:

- Begins at 12:30 pm, Holy Mass, celebrated by **J. E. Archbishop Jan Sokol** from Slovakia and co-celebrated by Slovak missionary in Chicago **Fr. Kristián Libant**
- Lunch at 1:30 pm
- The main program at 2:00 pm

The program has invited:

- Students from the **Slovak Language School in Chicago**
- Folklore ensemble **ŠARIŠAN** from Detroit
- Guest from Slovakia: popular story teller and comedian **Ander from Košice**

- The program is followed by an open dance
- Cash bar available

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

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

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

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



# Správy zo Slovenska

## HRONSKÝ BEŇADIK: V kláštornom komplexe pribudne priestor pre návštevníkov

V kláštornom komplexe v Hronskom Beňadiku vznikne multifunkčný priestor pre návštevníkov. Jeho súčasťou by malo byť múzeum, ale aj kaviareň či sociálne zariadenia. Na obnovu kultúrnej pamiatky získala cirkev dotáciu 508.690 eur z prostriedkov Finančného mechanizmu EHP (Island a Lichtenštajnsko) a Finančného mechanizmu Nórska. Zástupcovia kláštora podpísali v Nitre zmluvu so zástupcami Úradu vlády SR, ktorý tieto granty spravuje už desať rokov. „Predmetom obnovy kláštorného komplexu bude časť opátskeho kridla s tzv. sýpkou. Potrebujeme vytvoriť multifunkčný priestor pre návštevníkov. Návštevnosť tohto kláštora je vysoká, no pre návštevníkov nie sú historicky vytvorené podmienky. V minulosti sa neuvážovalo s takýmto veľkým cestovným ruchom,“ povedala Katarína Kosová, generálna riaditeľka Pamiatkového úradu SR. Kláštor v Hronskom Beňadiku je nazývaný aj Perlou Pohronia vďaka krásne starého benediktínskeho gotického chrámu. Na mieste dnešného kostola bola prvá románska bazilika postavená v 11. storočí, v roku 1075. Jej základy boli objavené pri reštauračných prácach v 19. storočí. Dnešnú trojloďovú stavbu postavili v rokoch 1346 až 1375. V súčasnosti patrí kláštor k najvýznamnejším gotickým stavbám na Slovensku. Farnosť spravuje rehoľa palotínov, je stále živým miestom konania púť, pravidelných bohoslužieb, modlitieb, táborev a tiež duchovných cvičení. Veriaci putujú do Hronského Beňadiku, aby našli pokoj, uzdravenie a silu aj vďaka relikvii Kristovej krvi, ktorú daroval pápež Pavol II. kráľovi Matejovi Korvínovi. Ten za dôstojné miesto uloženia relikvie uznal práve Hronský Beňadik. V súčasnosti sa relikvia nachádza v kaplnke Božskej krvi.

## PRIESKUM: Najlepší stredoškólači plánujú odísť na univerzity do Českej republiky

Tridsaťpäť percent stredoškólačov si podáva prihlášku aj na vysokú školu v Českej republike. Vyplýva to z dotazníkov, ktoré vyplňalo 14.224 stredoškólačov počas skúšobného testu Všeobecných študijných predpokladov na prelome októbra a novembra 2014. Ide o skúšku, ktorú ako náhradu či súčasť prijímacieho konania používa približne 70 slovenských a českých fakúlt. Spomedzi desiatiny žiakov s najlepším hodnotením testov až 70 percent opýtaných plánuje odísť na štúdiá do Česka. Ako dôvod väčšina uvádza vyššiu kvalitu škôl, ďalšou motiváciou je aj perspektíva lepšieho budúceho zamestnania. Údaje zozbierala spoločnosť SCIO, ktorá organizuje Národné porovnávacie skúšky. Podľa údajov spoločnosti sa chce dostať na české vysoké školy okolo 13.000 slovenských maturantov, približne polovica z nich je v prijímacom konaní úspešná. Najväčší záujem majú v Českej republike o ekonomické odbory, nasledujú lekárske odbory a IT. Najviac záujemcov sa hlási na Lekársku fakultu Masarykovej univerzity v Brne. Ďalší dotazník, ktorý vyplňalo 7627 maturantov, sa zamerával na to, ktoré vysoké školy považujú slovenskí stredoškólači za najprestížnejšie. Na prvom mieste sa s viac ako 20 percentami umiestnila Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave. Druhé miesto obsadili opäť české univerzity. Najlepšiu trojicu uzatvára Slovenská technická univerzita v Bratislave, za najprestížnejšiu ju považuje 10 percent opýtaných.

## Slovensko získalo novinku od Citroënu

Nový model menšieho vozidla, vhodného aj do terénu, sa bude vyrábať v trnavskom závode PSA Peugeot Citroën. Podľa informácií denníka PRAVDA ide o takzvaný crossover značky Citroën. Nový automobil nahradí doterajšiu výrobu modelov Citroën C3 Picasso. Vďaka tomu by si malo udržať prácu súčasných 3500 zamestnancov. To, že nový Citroën získala Trnava, oznámil nedávno v závode prezident koncernu PSA Peugeot Citroën Carlos Tavares. „Carlos Tavares potvrdil, že do Trnavy smeruje investícia za 80 miliónov eur, ktorá nám zabezpečí výrobu nového automobilu,“ povedal pre denník Milan Minarech, šéf odborov v trnavskom závode PSA Peugeot Citroën. Menšie vozidlo so zdvihnutým podvozkom sa bude vyrábať iba na Slovensku. Malo by sa zaradiť do segmentu, kde patrí aj Peugeot 2008. Nové vozidlo je ďalší z milníkov výroby áut na Slovensku.

## Zachráni 600-ročné fresky Štítniku?

Jedinečný skvost, ale peniaze na jeho opravu nie sú. V gotickom evanjelickom kostole v Štítniku v okrese Rožňava sú mimoriadne vzácne fresky zo 14. až 16. storočia. Rekonštrukcia unikátneho štítnického kostola by stála 682.000 eur. Evanjelická cirkev, ktorá ho vlastní, vypracovala projekt a požiadala o príspevok z nórskeho fondu. Sama však musí zaplatiť desať percent sumy. „Z nórskeho fondu si k projektu vyžiadali kompletnú archeologickú správu, ktorá je hotová od vlaňajšieho decembra.“

Všetko je pripravené, len nám chýba tých desať percent, čo je 68.200 eur,“ hovorí štítnický kaplán Daniel Gdovin (26). Fresky v štítnickom kostole patria k unikátnym európskym dielam. Namaľovali ich talianski majstri z najvychýrenejšej freskárskej školy v meste Lucca. Fresky majú tri vrstvy, ktoré postupne vznikali od 14. do 16. storočia.

## AUTO: VW Slovakia vlni vyprodukoval 394.474 automobilov

V roku 2014 vyrobil Volkswagen Slovakia (VW SK) 394.474 automobilov a dosiahol obrát 6,17 miliardy eur, čo predstavuje obrát približne na úrovni roku 2013. Ako povedal nedávno na výročnej tlačovej konferencii v Bratislave predseda VW SK Albrecht Reimold, vlnajšok sa niesol v znamení nábehu nových produktov, napríklad nového Volkswagenu Touareg a Porsche Cayenne. Taktiež vrcholili prípravy na produkciu novej generácie Audi Q 7. Práve toto športovo úžitkové vozidlo (SÚV) malo svoju svetovú premiéru na Medzinárodnom autosalóne v Ženeve, ktorý sa skončil minulý týždeň. Rekordnú úroveň 34,9 milióna dosiahla vlni výroba komponentov v martinskom závode. Z celkového počtu automobilov vyrobených v bratislavskom závode až 48 % tvorili SÚV a mestské vozidlá radu New Small Family predstavovali 52 % produkcie. Bratislavskú automobilku opustilo 285.000 prevodoviek. Vlni VW SK preinvestoval 232,9 milióna eur, pričom prostriedky smerovali najmä do výstavby novej karosárne. Export firmy v minulom roku dosiahol úroveň 6,1 miliardy eur a zo Slovenska sa vyviezlo 99,7 % vyrobených automobilov, pričom najvýznamnejším trhom bolo Nemecko s podielom 33,7 %, Čína so 17,5-% a USA s 11,3-% podielom. V tomto roku, ako zdôraznil šéf automobilky, začne výroba novej Audi Q7- e-tron, čím sa bratislavský závod stane prvým na svete, ktorý vyrába naftový plug-in hybrid automobil. V súčasnosti VW SK zamestnáva viac ako 9900 pracovníkov, pričom len za vlnajšok ich prijal 500.

## Slovenská národná knižnica zabezpečuje prístup do databáz EBSCO

Slovenská národná knižnica (SNK) zabezpečuje už 15 rokov prístup do informačných databáz EBSCO. Pri príležitosti okrúhleho výročia trvania projektu sa koncom marca v Bratislave uskutočnila konferencia, na ktorej sa stretli odborníci z SNK, Národnej knihovny ČR a členských knižnic národnej licencie. Verejnosť má vďaka tohto projektu prístup k viac ako 12.000 zahraničným periodikám, a to vo všetkých typoch nekomerčných knižnic - verejných, vedeckých, akademických, knižnic ministerstiev i nevládných organizácií, približil manažér spoločnosti EBSCO Ján Luprič. Databázy EBSCO podľa neho predstavujú svetový informačný štandard pre všetky vedné odbory a populárno-náučné témy. Databázy sú dostupné vo všetkých krajinách EÚ, vrátane takých inštitúcií ako British Library, Národná knižnica Francúzska, Štátna knižnica Berlín, Harvardská univerzita a ďalšie. „Úspešnosť projektu národnej licencie dokumentuje neustály štatistický nárast vo využívaní zdrojov i zhrnutie a zviditeľnenie slovenských periodik v databázach EBSCO,“ doplnil Luprič.

## VLÁDA: Športovci za vlnajšie úspechy dostanú od štátu vyše 250.000 eur

Športovci, ktorým sa vlni darilo, dostanú od štátu 250.597 eur. Odmenení budú za 206 umiestnení a športových výkonnov, ktoré v minulom roku dosiahli v individuálnych a kolektívnych športoch. Na svojom rokovaní o tom rozhodla vláda SR. V pôvodnom návrhu sa na odmenu počítalo so sumou 217.867 eur. V novom, doplnenom znení pribudli aj mená športovcov. Napríklad tenistky Cibulkovej, cyklistov Petra Sagana a Petra Velitsa, hokejistu Mariána Gáborika či horolezca Petra Hámora. Športovci, ktorí sú navrhnutí na ocenenie, získali celkom 24 titulov majstrov sveta, 23 titulov majstrov Európy, deväť titulov juniorských majstrov sveta, sedem titulov juniorských majstrov Európy, jeden titul na majstrovstvách Európy do 23 rokov, jeden titul na svetovej univerziade a dva tituly na akademických majstrovstvách sveta. Športovci dostanú od 100 do 6600 eur. Do oceňovania sú zaradení športovci a družstvá, ktorí získali v roku 2014 umiestnenia na 1. až 3. mieste na majstrovstvách sveta, majstrovstvách Európy (vrátane juniorov a vekovej kategórie do 23 rokov), na olympijských hrách mládeže, svetovej univerziade, akademických majstrovstvách sveta. Taktiež aj športovci, ktorí dosiahli mimoriadne športové výkony a svojimi výsledkami výborne reprezentovali Slovensko na ďalších významných európskych a svetových podujatiach.

## Správy čerpané z TASR a slovenskej tlače

## A. Kiska prijal Bondru a Lintnera



FOTO TASR - Martin Baumann

Prezident SR Andrej Kiska (uprostred) prijal 13. apríla 2015 v Bratislave bývalých hokejových reprezentantov Petra Bondru (vľavo) a Richarda Lintnera (vpravo). „Som rád, že nezabudli na krajinu“, povedal to prezident SR Kiska po stretnutí s bývalými úspešnými hokejistami Petrom Bondrom a Richardom Lintnerom. Tí mu predstavili svoju víziu o zmene v smerovaní slovenského hokeja. Prezident Kiska chce v slovenskom športe systém transparentného a jasného financovania.

President Andrej Kiska (center) met with two former Slovak hockey stars Peter Bondra and Richard Lintner on April 13, 2015, in Bratislava. At the meeting Bondra (left) and Lintner presented their vision of changes in Slovak hockey. President Kiska wants transparency and financial changes in the Slovak sport system.

## Zámerné rozvracanie verejnej morálky

Pokračovanie zo str. 27

slobodomurármi, modernými komunistami a homosexuálnymi stratégmi a právnikmi sú zbrane, ktoré tlačia kresťanov do podzemia tak ako za čias pohanského Rima a či komunizmu.

Sestra Lucia z Fatimy upozornila svet pred štyridsiatimi rokmi: Zatiaľ vzdycháme pod „diabolskou disorientáciou vyššej cirkevnej hierarchie“. Musíme nasledovať rozkazy a rady pápeža Piusa IX. a ďalších antiliberalných veličín. Nesmieme sa kompromitovať a ustupovať nepriateľom Ježiša Krista, nášho kráľa.

(Z angličtiny preložil a skrátil Jerry Jaroslav Krúpa, Apríl 2015.)



## Medzinárodný letný tábor Matice slovenskej

Nezabudnuteľné zážitky a bohatý dvojtýždenný program ponúka letný tábor Matice slovenskej, ktorý už po 23-krát otvára svoje brány.

Nielen oddych, krásnu tatranskú prírodu, ale aj atraktívny program si vychutnajú všetci tí, ktorí sa rozhodnú stráviť prvé dva júlové týždne v stredisku Detský raj Tatranská Lesná vo Vysokých Tatrách. Tábor Matice slovenskej navštevujú deti zo všetkých kútov Slovenska i zo zahraničia. Na početných prechádzkach a túrach ani v tomto roku neobídeme kaskádové Vodopády Studeného potoka, čarovné tatranské horské chaty a útulne, Štrbské, Popradské, Jamské, či Hincové plesá. Vodu okúsime aj v neďalekom popradskom Aquacity. Povoziť sa na Kométe, historickej železnici, vyberieme sa do zoolgickej záhrady i na hrad. Navštívime Važeckú jaskyňu s kosťami jaskynného medveďa, absolvujeme skvelé adrenalínové jazdy na motokárách.

Nebol by to matičný tábor, keby doň opäť nezavítal remeselník s ukázkami tradičného slovenského remesla. Tento raz deťom predvedie svoje zručnosti drevorezár. Toto krásne, tradičné remeslo si deti budú môcť aj vlastnoručne vyskúšať.

Zábavné popoludnie si pre deti pripravili profesionálni hasičskí záchranári a ako prezradili, nenechajú na nás ani nitku suchú. So svojimi zážitkami a skúsenosťami sa prídeme podeliť skúsený horský vodca a jedno popoludnie bude patriť našim štvornohým kamarátom – psíkom z tréningovej stanice v Štrbe. Bobová dráha, lezecká stena, športové turnaje, hry a diskotéky sú samozrejmosťou. No a večer si posedíme pri táborovej vatre, opečieme špekáčky.

Ak máte deti vo veku od 7 do 16 rokov a chcete, aby prežili zábavné prázdniny, nezabudnite poslať čo najskôr prihlášku. Ten tohtoročný tábor začína už 29. 6. 2014. Tešíme sa na Vás. Ďalšie informácie nájdete na internetovej stránke [www.matica.sk](http://www.matica.sk)

Mária Sokolíková

## Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

### Polročná členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v nedeľu dňa **26. apríla 2015** o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia sa uskutoční členská schôdza vo Farskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East, 66st Street v New York City. Na schôdzi bude podaná finančná správa a za tým bude nasledovať diskusia o návrhoch na ďalšiu činnosť. Vyzývame všetkých členov, aby sa tejto dôležitej schôdzi zúčastnili. Po polročnej schôdzi bude sa podávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripravia členovia Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ. Ostávame s kresťanským pozdravom

**Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka**

### 14. ročník Slovenských ľudových slávností v Chicagu, IL

Slovenská Národná Aliancia pozýva všetkých na 14. ročník Slovenských ľudových slávností v Chicagu v **prvú májovú nedeľu 3. mája 2015** so začiatkom o **12:30 hodine** svätou omšou, celebrou Mons. Jánom Sokolom, emeritným arcibiskupom a našim slovenským misionárom Vdp. Kristiánom Libantom. Obed bude o 13:30 hodine a hlavný program začne o 14:00 hodine. V programe vystúpia žiaci Školy slovenského jazyka v Chicagu, Folklórny súbor Šarišan z Detroitu a zo Slovenska prídeme rozveseliť prítomných ľudový rozprávač a komik Ander z Košíc. Po kultúrnom programe nasleduje tanečná zábava a o občerstvenie bude postarané.

**Adresa:** The Village of Bridgeview Community Center, 7900 Oketo Ave, Bridgeview, IL 60455. Vstupné dospelí \$25.00, seniori a mládež do 21 rokov \$10.00; deti do 12 rokov zdarma.

**Informácie:** (773) 744-8401; e-mail: lojzik@hotmail.com **Príd' objaviť krásu slovenskej kultúry, zvykov a výnimočnosť našich jedál! Tešíme sa na stretnutie!**

### Prehliadka slovenského folklóru v NYC

Slovensko – Americké Kultúrne Stredisko Vás srdečne pozýva na prehliadku slovenského folklóru, ktoré sa bude konať v **nedeľu 17. mája 2015 o 13.00 hodine** v hale kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 E 66th Street, New York City. V hale si bude možnosť kúpiť slovenský obed od 12.00 hod.

V programe vystúpia Andrew Pulver – operný spevák, NJ; LIMBORÁČIK, NY; DOMOVINKA, Clifton, NJ; SLNOVRÁTOK, Hillsborough, NJ; SLOVENSKÁ ŠKOLA pri kos. sv. J. Nepomuckého, NY; SLOVENSKÁ KOMUNITA pri kos. sv. Michala, Trenton, NJ; SLOVENSKÉ CENTRUM DETÍ LIPKA, Linden, NJ; HLAS s doprovodom LH Pajtaši, NY; O zábavu sa postará slov. ľudová hudba PAJTAŠI, NY. Viac info: [www.SlovakAmericanCC.org](http://www.SlovakAmericanCC.org) Vstupné: \$5 Dospelí; deti a mládež do 16 rokov zdarma.

### Polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu Spolok č. 16 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa bude konať v nedeľu **31. mája 2015 o 1:00 hodine** odpoľudnia na Farskom úrade Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City, 411 East 66st Street, 1st Avenue, NYC, po slovenskej omši, ktorá sa začne o 11.00 hodine dopoludnia. 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 pripravia členovia Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ. Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

**Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka**

## Prezentačné podujatie o Slovensku

Na pôde Zastupiteľského úradu SR vo Washingtone sa 7. marca 2015 uskutočnilo prezentačné podujatie zamerané na propagáciu SR. Akcia bola sponzorovaná organizáciou World Artists Experiences (WAE), ktorá sa zameriava na zlepšenie porozumenie medzi jednotlivými krajinami prostredníctvom kultúrnej a občianskej diplomacie v komunitách a na vysokých a stredných školách. Podporuje výmenné programy medzi organizáciami a jednotlivými umelcami, špeciálny dôraz sa kladie na študentov. WAE už spolupracovala s viacerými slovenskými umelcami, v minulom roku zorganizovala spolu so ZÚ SR Washington turné Bratislavského chlapčenského zboru vo Washingtone DC, Virgínii a Marylande.

Prezentácia o Slovensku mala 4 časti: Predstavenie SR v geografickom a politickom kontexte, ekonomická prezentácia zameraná na makroekonomické ukazovatele a predstavenie úspešných slovenských inovačných firiem a startupov, predstavenie najdôležitejších turistických atrakcií SR, ochutnávka tradičných slovenských špecialít.

V rámci kola otázok a odpovedí sa americkí hostia zaujímali hlavne o históriu SR, rozdelenie Československa, pád komunizmu, ale aj možnosti cestovania a hlavné historické pamiatky SR.

MZV SR



## Pápež František prijal na audiencii prezidenta SR Andreja Kisku

Pokračovanie zo str. 28

predstavenie členov delegácie zloženej z pracovníkov Kancelárie prezidenta SR, Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR a Veľvyslanectva SR pri Svätej stolici. Po fotografovaní nasledovala výmena darov. Svätý Otec František daroval rozmernú medailu s motívom Anjela pokoja a výtlačok apoštolskej exhortácie Evangelii gaudium, uviedla Slovenská redakcia Vatikánskeho rozhlasu. Prezident Kiska daroval pápežovi Františkovi špeciálnu pozlátenu fotoknihu od Filipa Kuliševa. Obsahuje fotografie od Bratislavy až po Spiš z vtáčej perspektívy. Kniha je originál, neexistuje jej kópia, 23 karátové zlato sa nanáša špeciálnym chvostom. Farbostálosť takejto knihy pretrvá stáročia, minimálne 200 rokov. Kniha je viazaná v bielej koži, v drevenej kazete s venovaním, ktoré je vyšívané zlatou niťou.

Prijatie u Svätého Otca bolo súčasťou oficiálnej návštevy slovenského prezidenta v Taliansku a Vatikáne (8. - 9. apríla). Do Ríma pricestoval slovenský prezident v stredu, kedy bilaterálne rokoval s prezidentom Talianskej republiky Sergiom Mattarellom.

TK KBS

## Spomienkova oslava slovenskej štátnosti

Pokračovanie zo str. 28

Tradičnú spomienkovú oslavu Slovenskej štátnosti usporiadal v nedeľu 15. marca 2015 I. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v Amerike v New Yorku za spolupráce Slovenskej ligy v Amerike a ostatných fraternalistických spolkov, ktoré pracujú pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC.

Oslava sa začala svätou omšou o 11.00 hodine obetovanou za prvého prezidenta Msgr. Dr. Jozefa Tisu a obeť slovenského národa, ktorú odslúžil otec Štefan Chanas v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC. Na úvod osláv prítomní zaspievali Americkú a Slovenskú štátnu hymnu za doprovodu Rada Lesaya a pomodlili sa modlitbu, ktorú predriekol otec Štefan Chanas. Za tým predstavil a privítal oficiálnych hostí ako aj všetkých prítomných predsedov I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v NYC, Milan R. Dait. Potom ako hlavný rečník sa zamerával hlavne na históriu boja Slovákov za samostatný Slovenský štát a za Slovenskú republiku.

Nám Slovákom žijúcim v Amerike Oslavy slovenskej štátnosti pripomínajú boj Slovákov za sebaurčenie slovenského národa, ktorý trval počas storočí keď bol utláčaný či už maďarizáciou, či počesťovaním. História bola konečne Slovákom štedrá keď v minulom storočí sme dosiahli uznanie našej národnej samostatnosti 14. marca 1939 a opäť po dlhom čase boja za slobodu slovenského národa za obetí na životoch a väzení dňa 1. januára 1993.

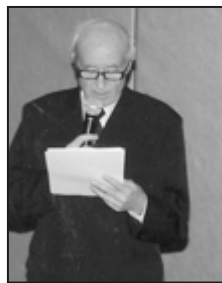
O histórii vzniku oboch Slovenských štátov v angličtine sa prihovoril k prítomným v ďalšom bode programu predseda Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Daniel F. Tanzone. Oslava pokračovala zarecitovaním tajomníčky I. Zboru SLv NYC, Henriety H. Daitovej dvoch primeraných básní. V závere podujatia tajomníčka Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Nina Holá zhodnotila veľmi kladne program a prejavy Spomienkovej oslavy Slovenskej štátnosti hlavne príspevok predsedu I. Zboru Milana R. Daita ako aj predsedu Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Daniela F. Tanzone. Na záver sa zaspievali hymnické piesne „God Bless America a „Hej Slováci“.

Po kultúrnom programe sa podávalo občerstvenie, ktoré pripravil Janko Škrkoň za pomoci Márie Božekovej a ostatných členov a členiek prítomných spolkov.

**Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka I. Zboru SL v NYC**



**Daniel F. Tanzone počas svojej prednášky.**



**Pri svojom referáte Milan R. Dait.**



**Pri obraze prvého prezidenta Slovenského štátu Msgr. Dr. Jozefa Tisu zľava: Daniel F. Tanzone, Henrieta H. Daitová, otec Štefan Chanas, Milan R. Dait, Nina Holá, Dr. Mikuláš Halko, Karol Vida a Lacko Korček.**



## Výstava slovenskej fotografky Saskie Martinskej v New Yorku

V priestoroch Generálneho konzulátu Slovenskej republiky v New Yorku otvorili v stredu 11. marca 2015 fotografickú výstavu Saskie Martinskej. Výstava je ďalšou časťou cyklu Micro-Solo malých výstav.

Saskia Martinská je slovenského pôvodu, fotografovaniu sa venuje popri svojej práci v bankovom sektore. Viac informácií o fotografickej práci Saskie Martinskej nájdete na webovej stránke: <http://www.mzv.sk/cgnewyork>. Výstava je prístupná verejnosti do konca apríla 2015 počas úradných hodín Generálneho konzulátu SR v New Yorku.

MZV SR

## Americký Slávik 2015

Organizácia +421 Foundation so sídlom v New Yorku v spolupráci s Bohemian Hall New York a Slovak House Toronto vyhlasuje 3. ročník speváckej súťaže detí v interpretácii českej a slovenskej ľudovej piesne AMERICKÝ SLÁVIK 2015, ktorý nadväzovala na 25 úspešných ročníkov slovenskej verzie tejto súťaže SLÁVIK SLOVENSKA. Súťažiacich bude sprevádzať ľudová hudba PAJTAŠI. Garantami podujatia sú hviezdy hudobného neba Karel Gott a Peter Dvorský.

Registrácia súťažiacich do tretieho ročníka súťaže Americký Slávik 2015 sa otvára v pondelok, 2. marca 2015. Oznámenie o zaradení súťažiacich do jednotlivých regionálnych kôl bude vydané v pondelok 5. októbra 2015 a rodičom zaslané cez e-mail. Spevníček Amerického Slávika 2015, ktorý obsahuje zoznam a noty povinných piesní bude publikovaný v stredu 1. apríla 2015. Generálka finálového kola Amerického Slávika 2015 sa uskutoční deň pred súťažou, v Bohemian Hall (29-19 24th Avenue, Astoria, New York 11102) v sobotu 24. októbra 2015 o 1pm. Účasť na generálke je povinná pre všetkých finalistov.

Finálové kolo Amerického Slávika 2015 sa uskutoční v Bohemian Hall (29-19 24th Avenue, Astoria, New York 11102), v nedeľu 25. októbra 2015 o 3pm.

Informácie poskytujeme na: [americkyslavik@slovakhouse.org](mailto:americkyslavik@slovakhouse.org).

## Halový futbalový turnaj v New Yorku

Dňa 7. februára 2015 športoví referenti Spolku Sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ, Ján Zeman a Jozef Korčák zorganizovali halový futbalový turnaj. Tento turnaj sa odohral v osadnej hale pri kostole Sv. Jána Nepomúckeho v New Yorku.

Pred samotným turnajom sa dôstojný pán kaplán Štefan Chanas spolu s účastníkmi tohto turnaja pomodlili. Pán kaplán Štefan Chanas nám zaželel príjemné popoludnie. Nezabudol pripomenúť, aby turnaj prebehol v duchu Fair – play.

Za účasti 4. tímov sa samotný turnaj mohol začať. Hralo sa systémom každý s každým, 2x15 minút. V každom zápase sa bolo na čo pozerieť. Hlavne mladší hráči odovzdali na palubovke tejto haly všetko, čo v nich bolo. Nielen mladí, ale aj tí starší bojovali z celého srdca, pretože bolo o čo bojovať. Najstarší účastník tohto turnaja Ladislav Korček ukázal, že aj vo svojich 76-tych rokoch sa medzi mladými nestratil. Pri súčte bodov sa víťazným mužstvom stalo mužstvo z Brooklynu pod vedením kapitána Jána Krafcika. Na druhom mieste skončil tím pod vedením kapitána Vladimíra Šestáka. Tretí skončil tím FOTO pod vedením kapitána Mariána Vargu. Ako posledné skončilo mužstvo NYPD pod vedením kapitána Jana Folvarského.

Po krátkom vyhodnotení tohto turnaja si všetci účastníci v družnej debata pochutili na výbornom guláši a domácich koláčoch, ktoré pripravila Hanka Zemanová. A tak ako sa patrí, dobrý guláš sa zapíjal plzenským pivom.

Na záver by som chcel dodať, že nás organizátorov teší, že my Slováci, ktorí sme z rôznych kútov nášho malého, ale krásneho Slovenska sa tu ďaleko od domova stretávame pri takýchto príležitostiach.

Ján Zeman



Pohostenie .



Zľava: Ján Zeman, Marian Varga, Stano Petrik, Gabriel Pjatak, Daniel Rusin, Jozef Korčák.



Zľava: Jan Folvarsky, Jan Zeman, Maros Derevjanik, Jaro Vislocky, Milan Derevjanik, Rado Rusin, Jozef Korčák.



Zľava: Ján Zeman, Vlado Šestak, Dominick Kovalcik, Jan Pjatak, Jozef Korčák.



Zľava: Ján Zeman, Misa, Jaro Pjatak, Jozef Krafcik, Jan Krafcik, Robo Fedor, Jozef Korčák.



Zľava: Maros Derevjanik, Rado Rusin, Ján Zeman, Gabriel Pjatak, Rado Lesay, Marian Varga, Robo Fedor, Misa, Jaro Pjatak, George Sikorjak, Stano Petrik. Stred: Vlado Sestak, Jozef Krafcik, Jan Krafcik, Ján Pjatak. Dolný rad: Milan Derevjanik, Michael Kovalcik, Dominick Kovalcik, Daniel Rusin, Filip Sestak, Jan Folvarsky, Jaro Vislocky.

## Zámerné rozvracanie verejnej morálky

(Editor John Vennari: Catholic Family News, Niagara Falls, USA, December 2014)

Anti-liberálny pápež Pius IX. v roku 1864 uverejnil jeho články Syllabus of Errors a Quanta Cura v ktorých osvetľuje nebezpečenstvo liberalizmu, zablúdenie, nepriateľstvo proti Kristovi a Jeho Cirkvi. Toto novo-pohanstvo inšpirované slobodo-murárstvom malo a má od časov Francúzskej revolúcie jeden cieľ: zničiť Katolícku cirkev a celú kresťanskú civilizáciu. Otec Denis Fahey nazval tento boj "Pius IX. versus panteistic deification of man". Panteizmus je učenie stotožňujúce prírodu s Bohom. Panteisti chcú urobiť z vesmírneho chud'áka človeka Boha.

Diabol nestárne. Neopúšťa jeho plán. Naopak. On pokračuje novorôznymi metódami v jeho práci. Sme to my, ktorý sa klameme a myslíme si, že dnešný boj už nie je taký nebezpečný ako voľakedy bol. Že plán sekularizmu už nechce zničiť Katolícku cirkev a kresťanstvo. Pokojná koexistencia cez dialóg vraj je vzájomné obohatenie. Svätá naivnosť. Bitka medzi dobrom a zlom, medzi Kristom a diablom, zúri naďalej. Vidíme výsledky síl vyše 150-ročného antikresťanského plánu. Síla organizovaného naturalizmu. Síla, ktoré otupujú našu duchovnosť a pozornosť.

"Spopularizujeme nerest medzi ľudstvom." Cieľ Francúzskej slobodomurárskej revolúcie bol zničiť trón a oltár. Vytiahnuť civilizáciu z kresťanských základov, položiť ju na teóriu naturalizmu, kde Láska a Síla Stvoriteľská Boh a Ježiš Kristus nemajú miesto. Pápež Lev, v r. 1884, v jeho Encyklike proti slobodomurárstvu poukázal na tajné spoločenstvá ktorých úlohou je skorumpovať morálku v ľudskej spoločnosti. Človek, ktorý je morálne oslabený sa skôr poddá naturálnemu bezbožnému učeniu a bezbožným protiludským činom. Pápež Lev varoval: ľudia s oslabenou, narušenou morálkou ľahšie uveria rafinovaným, prešibaným teoretikom "modernej, pokrokovej ideológie" ako je komunizmus a liberalizmus. Títo slobodomurári "vedci" prefikávaným spôsobom ľahšie popletú myslenie ľudom s oslabeným duchom a prenesú ich do radov protikresťanských. Ich cieľ je ohlupnuť ľudstvo s neviazanou sexuálnou nerestou a tak ich dostať do zveráka slobodomurárskej neviazanosti, svojvôle, do falošnej slobody.

V dnešnej dobe sa vo zvýšenej miere zameriavajú na morálne zmätenie žien. V slobodomurárskom dokumente Alta Vendita z 19. storočia majú takúto radu: Cieľom je rozšíriť neviazanosť, nemoralnosť, svojvoľnosť žien. Dostať ženy do falošnej slobody.

"Aby sme ľahšie mohli zničiť katolicizmus je veľmi potrebné správne pôsobiť na ženy". Slobodomurári a ich antikresťanskí spojenci objasňujú ich podvod na ženy takto: "Pretože my nemôžeme príliš tlačiť na ženy musíme ich skorumpovať. Musíme im nahovoriť, že sú mužmi utláčané. V cirkvi nemajú žiadnu reprezentáciu. Muži sú proti ženám. Zvolili sme korupciu na masovej škále. Kresťanský teológ Tertulian mal pravdu keď povedal, že krv kresťanov je semeno kresťanov. Tak nebudeme prelievať krv mártýrov, ale rošírime nemravnosť, neresti, zlo medzi ľudstvom. Musíme to natlačiť do všetkých pórov človeka, do všetkých piatych zmyslov, musíme ich presýtiť nerestou, nemravným chovaním. KEĎ PRESÝTÍME ICH SRDCIA NERESTOU, NEMRAVNOSŤOU, ZVRÁTENOSŤOU – NEBUDE VIAC KATOLÍKOV. Podujali sme sa na zvrátenie všetkých normálností."

"Veľa sme už dosiahli. Zvrátili sme školstvo, univerzity, všetko vzdelávanie, úrady vlád, populárne zábavy. Média dostali špecifické mandáty od tajných organizácií korumpovať ženy v obliekaní, vo všetkom. Lžami a nemravnosťou rozložíme celú spoločnosť. Ženy robia ohromnú prácu na tomto diabolskom poli."

KOMUNIZMUS pod rôznymi menami pokračuje v rozvracaní spoločnosti. Msgr. Dillonová kniha Grand Orient Freemasonry Unmasked, s podtitulom Tajná sila komunizmu odhaľuje málo známe pravdy. Zločiny 20. storočia sú svedkom krvavej práce tajných organizácií.

Leon Skousen dokumentoval 45 cieľov komunizmu ako rozvrátiť Ameriku zovnútra. Uvedme z ich niektoré:

Cieľ 25: Odstránime kultúrne štandardy a morality a povoľme propagáciu pornografie a oplzlostí v časopisoch, knihách, filmoch, v rádiu a TV.

Cieľ 26: Prezентujeme homosexualitu, degeneráciu a promiskuitu ako normálne, prirodzené a zdravé.

Cieľ 27: Prenikneme do cirkví. Vymeňme duchovné hodnoty cirkví za sociálne.

Cieľ 40: Zneuctíme rodinu ako dôležitú spoločenskú inštitúciu. Podporujeme promiskuitu a ľahké rozvody.

Kultúrna dekadencia musí byť považovaná za normálny stav. Podporujeme homo-manželstvá a feminizmus. Zničenie rodiny je zničenie kresťanskej kultúry.

Žiaľ, dnes vidíme viacerých katolíckych prelátov tvrdiť na Synode 2014, že homosexuálna degenerácia má určité "pozitívne aspekty".

Homosexuálni stratégisti, najmä Kirk a Madsen (Pill) ešte v roku 1987 píšú inštrukcie v článku "The Overhauling of Strait America" v ich časopise Guide ako navodiť normálnu Ameriku na homosexuálne scestie. Ide im o morálne zmätenie nielen priemerného Američana, ale aj zmätenie časti katolíckej hierarchie. Boh miluje aj hriešnika.

Vypracovali šesť stupňový plán, ktorý vyzerá úspešný.

Hovorme o homosexuáloch hlasno a tak často ako je len možné.

Predstavujeme gayov ako obeť, ako prenasledovanú a diskriminovanú časť ľudstva.

Vysvetľujeme protestujúcim občanom dôvody prečo existujú gayovia.

Predstavujeme gayov ako dobrotivých a užitočných ľudí.

Urobme z občanov, ktorí sú proti homosexualite, zlých, zaostalých, netolerantných ľudí, ktorí patria do ďalekej minulosti.

Ziadajme finančnú a psychologickú podporu.

Neskoršie Kirk and Pill v ich knihe After the Ball vysvetľovali ... Po obrátení ľudí pôjdeme ďaleko hlbšie, dômyselnejšie a vyhrážajúco proti americkému spôsobu života. Inak hlbšia spoločenská zmena nenastane. My chceme celú zmenu priemerného Američana. Jeho myslenie, cit a vôľu zmeníme plánovaným psychologickým útokom. To sa stane formou propagandy natlačenej do národa informačnými médiami. **Najprv musíme zamútiť kresťanské morálne vody.** To znamená publikovanie každej podpory homosexuálneho spôsobu života akú dostávajú od rôznych organizácií. Zmiernovanie teologických námietok proti homosexualite. Rozglejenie biblického učenia. Vyzdvihovanie kresťanského učenia o láske k blížnemu. A musíme využívať vedecké argumenty. Takéto spôsoby dobre zabrali v minulosti proti cirkvám aj v takých oblastiach ako sú rozvody a umelé potraty. Aj sám pápež počas Synody 2014 povedal: Homosexuáli majú určité dary a kvality použiteľné pre kresťanské komunity. Jednoducho musíme zahmlieť myseľ anti-homosexuálom. Musíme ich presýtiť nerestami, musíme dosiahnuť taký stav, že srdcia kresťanov budú naplnené nemravnosťami a to bude koniec katolíkom.

**Homosexualita a prenasledovanie kresťanstva.**

Pozoruhodné je, že na Synode 2014 sa nespomína prenasledovanie kresťanstva homosexuálmi, zvlášť v kontexte "homosexuálneho manželstva". Je množstvo protikresťanských súdov proti katolíkom i proti protestantom. Mnohí kresťania odmietajú obsluhovať a v ich obchodoch predávať homosexuálnym manželom. Manželstvo so sexuálne rovnakým človekom je taká hlúposť ako suchá voda, alebo štvorcové kruhy.

"Homosexuálne manželstvá" sú výsledok panteistického zbožštenia človeka. Je to taký istý omyl ako že ľudská vôľa je najvyššia vo vesmíre a je nezávislá od Boha (Pius IX. Syllabus). Už existuje veľa kresťanských obchodníkov odsúdených, pokutovaných ktorí odmietajú predávať alebo posluhovať homosexuálnym svadbám. Deštruktívne plány vypracované

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O. Štefan Furdek  
Náš zakladateľ

## Medzinárodná vedecká konferencia v Bratislave

“Čo môžeme urobiť pre šírenie kultúry života?” – bol názov medzinárodnej konferencie, ktorú organizovala 24. marca 2015 v Bratislave Konferencia biskupov Slovenska (KBS). Vystúpili na nej odborníci z viacerých krajín. Na sympóziu sa očakávala účasť biskupov, ako aj osobností spoločenského, politického a náboženského života zo Slovenska i zahraničia.

“Jarné medzinárodné konferencie biskupskej konferencie už majú svoju pevnú tradíciu. Minulý rok sme hovorili o pohľade cirkvi na ľudské práva, rok predtým sme sa zamerali na rodovú rovnosť. Tento raz otvárame tému, ktorá sa nám javí ako aktuálna - šírenie kultúry života,” vysvetľuje dôvod konania konferencie výkonný sekretár KBS Anton Ziolkovský. “V čase, krátko po referende o ochrane rodiny, a pred septembrovým celonárodným pochodom za život, chceme počuť názor zástupcov z iných krajín, akým smerom sa uberali tieto témy u nich,” vysvetľuje Ziolkovský.

Konferenciu otvoril predseda KBS Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský. Prvým rečníkom bol generálny sekretár Biskupskej synody v Ríme. Kardinál Lorenzo Baldisseri predniesol príhovor na tému “Šírenie kultúry života v kontexte novej evanjelizácie a debát biskupskej synody”. Na Slovensko prišiel na pozvanie arcibiskupa Zvolenského. V rámci programu zavítal aj do Katedrály sv. Martina v Bratislave.

“Európska legislatíva a rodinné právo. Situácia, výzvy, príležitosti” – bol názov príhovoru, s ktorým vystúpil generálny riaditeľ Európskeho centra pre právo a spravodlivosť v Štrasburgu Grégor Puppink. Ďalším hosťom bol pomocný biskup v Madride Mons. Juan Antonio Martínez Camino, SJ. Biskup Camino, ktorý je bývalým generálnym sekretárom Španielskej biskupskej konferencie, vystúpil s príhovorom na tému “Zápas o kultúru života v Španielsku”. V závere sa pridal pomocný biskup v Záhrebe Mons. Ivan Šaško, ktorý priblížil “Zápas o kultúru života v Chorvátsku”.

TK KBS

## Nový rožňavský biskup Stanislav Stolárik



Biskup Stanislav Stolárik

Pápež František v sobotu 21. marca vymenoval nového rožňavského biskupa. Stal sa ním doterajší pomocný biskup Košickej arcidiecézy Stanislav Stolárik.

“Chcem sa poďakovať Svätému Otcovi za prejavenu dôveru. A všetkým diecézanom i všetkým ľuďom v Rožňavskej diecéze chcem povedať, že od prvej chvíle, ako som dostal túto správu, mám už všetkých vo svojom srdci a už som aj mnohé sväte omše slúžil za túto diecézu,” reagoval po svojom menovaní Stolárik.

Novovymenovaný rožňavský biskup Stanislav Stolárik preberie svoj úrad 16. mája.

Ako informuje Tlačová kancelária Konferencie biskupov Slovenska, slávnosť pri príležitosti uvedenia do úradu biskupa sa uskutoční v Katedrále Nanebovzatia Panny Márie v Rožňave. Okrem zástupcov cirkvi budú na ňu pozvaní aj predstavitelia štátnej správy, samosprávy a spoločenského a akademického života.

Stolárik na poste rožňavského biskupa nahradí Vladimíra Fila. Ten musel podľa Kódexu kánonického práva po dovŕšení 75. roku života predložiť pápežovi zrieknutie sa vedenia diecézy, ktoré František prijal. Filo nateraz pokračuje v pastoračnom vedení diecézy ako apoštolský administrátor až do prevzatia diecézy jeho nástupcom.

TASR, TKKBS

## Pápež František prijal na audiencii prezidenta SR Andreja Kisku

Svätý Otec František vo štvrtok 9. apríla 2015 prijal na osobnej audiencii v Apoštolskom paláci vo Vatikáne prezidenta SR Andreja Kisku so sprievodom. Ide o jeho prvú oficiálnu návštevu vo Vatikáne po jeho zvolení do funkcie, informovali Slovenská redakcia Vatikánskeho rozhlasu a Tlačový odbor Kancelárie prezidenta SR.

“Pozdravil som pápeža Františka nielen od všetkých veriacich, ale od všetkých obyvateľov Slovenska, a pozval som ho na návštevu našej krásnej krajiny,” tlmočil slová prezidenta Tlačový odbor Kancelárie prezidenta SR.

„Vedel som, že prídem za človekom, ktorý bude počúvať, bude ku mne otvorený, bude mi možno chcieť poradiť a vyjadriť svoj názor. Presne taký bol. Bol to nesmierne hlboký rozhovor plný emócií,” povedal Kiska. Svätý Otec František s prezidentom podľa tlačovej správy diskutovali o úlohe cirkvi ako inštitúcii, ktorá by mala prinášať do spoločnosti tie základné hodnoty – odpúšťanie, lásku, slušnosť, porozumenie.

„To je úloha, ktorú pápež František potvrdzuje a považuje za dôležitú v dnešnom nie jednoduchom svete. Hovorili sme aj o otvorenosti cirkvi, o tom, že musí byť prístupná všetkým ľuďom. Spomenuli sme napríklad krsty detí slobodných mamičiek, alebo sme hovorili o svätom prijímaní ľudí, ktorí sú rozvedení. Pápež František zdôrazňoval to, čo často hovorí, že si cirkev musí nájsť cestu ku každému človeku,” povedal Kiska.

Medzi členmi slovenskej delegácie boli podpredseda vlády a minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Miroslav Lajčák a veľvyslanec SR pri Svätej stolici Peter Sopko, informovala Slovenská redakcia Vatikánskeho rozhlasu, ktorej vedúci Jozef Bartkovjak SJ tlmočil pri stretnutí.

Stretnutie pápeža Františka s prezidentom Kiskom sa uskutočnilo v sále bibliotéky Apoštolského paláca. Po vyše polhodinovom súkromnom rozhovore prišlo na rad

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FOTO TASR/AP

Na snímke vľavo slovenský prezident Andrej Kiska a vpravo pápež František počas súkromnej audiencie vo Vatikáne 9. apríla 2015.

*Pope Francis and Slovak President Andrej Kiska exchange gifts at the end of a private audience, in the pontiff's studio at the Vatican, Thursday, April 9, 2015. (AP Photo/Andrew Medichini)*



Na Oslave Slovenskej štátnosti v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC 15. marca 2015 za predsedníckym stolom zľava sediaci: Mikuláš Halko M.D., Nina Holá, Daniel F. Tanzone, Milan R. Dait, vikár Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, otec Štefan Chanas a Judita Lepko. Stojaci zľava: Ján Holý, Karol Vida, Henrieta H. Daitová, Lacko Korček, Marta Katalano, Jozef Korčák, Eva Lysáková, Anna Korčák.

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