



# Jednota

THE UNION

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Fr. Stephen Furedek  
Our Founder

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

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## Report of the National Chaplain, March 2012



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Dear Board of Directors and Members of the F.C.S.U.:  
It is an honor to be your National Chaplain. I was happy to be present for and to participate in several events during the past year.  
The new year began with the sad news of the death of Stephen Whisdosh, who served many years as Secretary of our Supreme Court and was choir director and organist at our conventions. I was among a number of priests who concelebrated his Funeral Mass at St. Florian Church in United, PA.

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

I attended either in person or by means of teleconference all Board of Directors meetings that were held in 2011. I opened and closed each session with prayer and offered Mass at those meetings I was personally present. I also attended two Executive Committee meetings, one in person and one by teleconference, at the invitation of the National President.

I was able to participate in two fraternal activities during the year – the annual Bowling Tournament in North Brunswick, NJ, and the Golf Tournament in Sharon, PA. I was a concelebrant at the Saturday vigil Mass in the local parish in North Brunswick where our bowlers and their families were most welcome to attend and offered Mass for our golfers in Sharon.

In July I traveled to Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, PA, for the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day  
*continued on page 7*



## Report of the Executive Secretary March 23 – 24, 2012



Kenneth Arendt

Reverend Father, Mr. President and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada:

It is my pleasure to present this report to you, the Board of Directors of the FCSU.

The Society experienced successful operating results for the year 2011. Operating result profits, while lower than 2010, continued the long string of profitable years. Net gain from operations before capital gains amounted to \$1,127,438. Total asset value increased 4.7% (+\$12,815,832) with realized capital losses of \$1,269,681 and \$964,771 of unrealized capital gains. Liabilities increased \$11,351,679 (4.5%) and surplus increased 8.4%.

The increase in surplus resulted from the operating gains and unrealized capital gains: which were offset by realized capital losses. The amount of \$621,146 was released from the AVR, as a result of improvement on the quality of Bonds. The AVR balance at the end of 2008 was only \$235,339 and now stands at \$2,145,008 which is less than \$53,000 below the maximum. The capital losses resulted from OTTI write-downs on Lehman Brothers bonds. Similar write-downs were made  
*continued on page 17*

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## President's Annual Report for the Year 2011 Presented at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting Friday, March 23, 2012

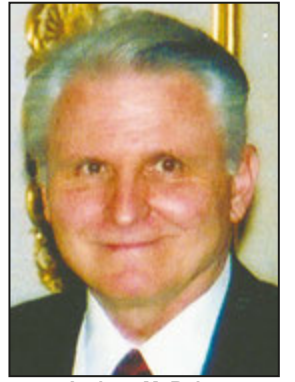
Fellow Officers, Members of the Board of Directors and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union:

The past few years have witnessed economic turmoil in the financial markets. Today, as the U.S. economy appears to be recovering slowly, Europe and its financial system is at a crisis point especially as seen in Greece, Spain and Portugal with regards to their huge budget deficits and national debt. While the debt issue comes in and out of the news headlines, the U.S. national debt continues to explode.

The year 2011 was another positive year for the Society. In my 2010 report I noted that the coming year would provide existing and new challenges. The investment climate, especially as it related to bonds, in which the Society by state law must invest most of its assets, faced a lower rate of return.

Likewise, in the stagnant economy much fewer companies found it necessary to go to the bond market to raise funds, thereby decreasing the availability of high quality corporate bonds for us to purchase.

The Society made the conscious decision not to aggressively increase our annuity sales. In 2011 we did not want to unnecessarily take added risk in our portfolio. As I have said before, our number one priority is the protection of funds entrusted to us by our Members, whether it be in insurance or annuities. Some other companies, including some fraternal,

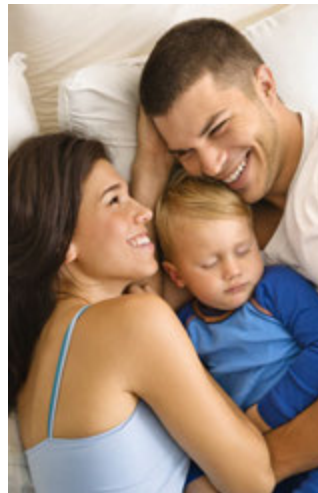


Andrew M. Rajec

*continued on page 3*

## Special, Limited-time Offer:

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



Offered for a limited time from  
**March 1 – July 1, 2012.**

All applications must be received in the Home Office  
**postmarked before July 1, 2012.**

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



FCSU LIFE  
6611 Rockside Rd  
Independence, OH 44131  
800-533-6682  
fcsu@aol.com  
www.fcsu.com

\*Higher amounts available - please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office

# Insights and Viewpoints



## St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies, Father Campion P. Gavaler O.S.B., Father Demetrius R. Dumm O.S.B.

May 6, 2012

Fifth Sunday of Easter

John 15:1-8

### Gospel Summary

In this passage from the Last Supper Discourse (13:31-17:26), Jesus reveals to his disciples and to us that he is the true vine planted and cared for by his Father. We are the branches, depending on Jesus for life just as branches depend on the vine. "Whoever



Campion P. Gavaler,  
O.S.B.

remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." Separated from Jesus we cannot bear fruit: like a useless branch we are cut off and soon wither.

To be certain that we have some sense of how radical the gift of sharing his life is, Jesus adds two astonishing statements. If we ask for anything, our Father will give it to us because of the communion of life. It is as though his own beloved Jesus were asking. "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me," Jesus prayed before restoring his friend Lazarus to life (Jn 11:42). Further, if we bear much fruit from the new Christian life that we have been given, the Father will be glorified in us as he was through Jesus.

### Life Implications

At our Eucharist today we hear the gospel as the Christians of John's community at the end of the first century heard it, not with the incomplete knowledge of the disciples before Jesus' death, resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. We have heard the complete good news beginning with the response of Jesus to the question two disciples asked, "Rabbi, where are you dwelling? Jesus said to them, Come, and you will see" (Jn 1:38-39).

Throughout the Last Supper Discourse, Jesus reveals that he dwells in the Father and the Father dwells in him. And he reveals further that he dwells in us and we dwell in him like a vine and its branches. John's placement of the "vine and branches" saying in the context of the Last Supper reminds us of what Jesus said after feeding a large crowd with bread and fish: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me" (Jn 6:56-57).

If we had only the image of the vine and branches, we might draw the conclusion that our finite human life is totally absorbed by infinite divine life. Rather, the good news is that the communion of life in Christ is a communion of love. "As the Father loves me, so I love you. Remain in my love" (Jn 15:9). Life in Christ is a gift freely given, and a gift freely accepted. Tragically, because there is freedom, the life and love of Christ can be rejected.

The fearful possibility of separation from Christ is a consequence of freedom. It is the possibility of seeking an illusory life that the world separated from God offers. The archetypal figure of the disciple Judas, who succumbed to greed in betraying Jesus, is a graphic reminder of that possibility for all of us. We are meant to live in the peace and joy of the Easter gospel, however, not in fear and uncertainty.

"Without me you can do nothing," Jesus tells us. But with him we can do anything. If we remain in his life and love, we can ask anything of the Father and it will be given. Mindful that Jesus out of love for us, and that his Father might thereby be glorified, did not ask to be saved from his hour of suffering (Jn 12:27). We too will always ask to live in his truth and love. In confident hope that

the supreme grace of remaining in Jesus will always be given, we can keep his commandment to love each other as he loved us. Thus, the Father's goodness will also be revealed in us for his honor and glory. "And the way we know that he [Jesus] remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us" (Second reading, 1 Jn 3:24). In this knowledge of faith and hope is our peace and joy.



May 13, 2012

Sixth Sunday of Easter

John 15: 9 - 17

### Gospel Summary

This gospel passage is filled with beautiful statements about the ever popular subject of love. Jesus tells us that the Father loves him, and that he in turn loves us, and that we should love one another. Perhaps we have heard these sentiments expressed so often that we no longer realize how profound and dramatic they really are.

When Jesus says that the Father has loved him, he is correcting a very common concept of God. Many people at that time (and perhaps ever since) pictured God as someone very transcendent and therefore very distant from them. He was surely all-powerful but, like most powerful ones, he seemed to be cruel as well. Is God not in some way responsible for famine and natural disasters? Does he not at least permit the death of young parents and innocent children?

But Jesus tells us that he knows God much better than we do. As eternal Word, he dwells in the lap of his heavenly Father (John 1:18). This is body language, which tells us that Jesus hears the very heartbeat of his Father. He assures us that God is a loving Father who wishes only good for us. Most of all, he knows that this loving Father offers us a love that can enliven and nurture and energize us, just as the sun energizes plants and trees.

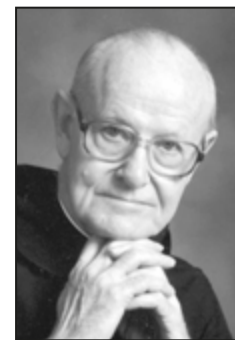
Jesus invites us to experience and to trust this life-giving love, to live in the presence of it, and to yearn for it, just as the sunflower follows the sun across the sky in our human gardens. Then we will know how to become sunshine in the lives of others. We will also know how to deal with mysteries in our lives. We will also want to share our treasures with others and thus become part of that divine love that overcomes all darkness and evil.

### Life Implications

The implications of this vision of reality are not hard to see. Most people who do not love, or do not love enough, are usually persons who do not feel that they themselves are loved. It is futile to tell people that they must love others when they have not really been made free to love by experiencing love in their own lives. Too often it is a case of impoverished people trying desperately to give more than they have.

That is why it is so important to hear and to trust the words of Jesus about the love of the Father for us. This love is found in Jesus himself, who gave his life for us, but it is also found everywhere in life: in loving family and friends, in the blessings and successes of life, in every flower and gentle breeze.

Today's gospel challenges us to acknowledge the dark evil in life but it asks us to notice especially the luminous good that is also there. And as we pay attention to the good in life, we will be able to let the evil go by or, at least, to keep it in its place, which is never at the center of life. This is exactly what Jesus did and, with him, we too need to feel the warmth of the Father's love and to share that warmth with all whom we meet in life.



Demetrius R. Dumm  
O.S.B.

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9	MONDAY, APRIL 30
WEDNESDAY, MAY 23	MONDAY, MAY 14
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6	MONDAY, MAY 28

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

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First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"  
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398  
FAX: 216-642-4310

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

**THINK ABOUT IT!**

# JEDNOTA

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# President's Message

*continued from page 1*

have chosen to substantially increase their annuity liabilities in a manner we believe is not in our Member's best interest in today's investment environment.

That being said I am proud to report that our December 31, 2011 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 \$285,105,807 million dollars.

In addition, and more importantly, surplus for 2011 increased by \$1,464,153 million dollars to another new record of \$18,984,017 at 12/31/2011 even after giving a dividend to our Members approximately the same as in 2010. Some of our fellow fraternalists actually lost surplus.

As I noted in my 2010 report we cannot expect a new record of profits and increased surplus every year. However, in 2011 the FCSU showed another net gain from operations of \$1,521,243.

Unfortunately, in 2011 we had to realize a capital loss of about \$1.2 million dollar attributed primarily to the prior bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers and General Motors. Most of those bonds were purchased in the 1990's. Those capital losses have now been fully realized.

As of December 31, 2011, FCSU solvency ratio exceeded 107%, another new record high. 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 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 Member's funds. Our results were again excellent, and are among the best when compared to other fraternal societies.

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

The challenge however continues for us in many areas and for various reasons, which I will discuss.

## **2012 Financial challenges**

The challenges the Society faces in 2012 are varied. They include the investment environment, interest rates, the number of Recommenders, new agents, existing and new Branches, membership and fraternalism.

Also, as a natural reaction to the world financial crisis of 2008 and the ongoing issues we see today in the Euro nations of Greece, Ireland, Spain, and Portugal, etc., 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 fraternalists.

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 fraternalists.

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.

I am pleased and proud to report that the First Catholic Slovak Union has a Risk Based Capital ratio of 653%, 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.

## **Membership and Marketing**

We have made some strides in membership aided by our very competitive annuity rates. Our annuity rates were attractive during 2011 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.

We are emphasizing life insurance, especially whole life, rather than annuities in 2012. To accomplish this we need additional participation from our Recommenders and we need to add more independent agents. We have taken steps in 2012 to take the necessary steps to set and reach certain goals, which may include the addition of needed resources.

We have begun the process for admission into additional states. 2012 will show the results. We have filed for admission into 15 additional states including Texas, California, Arizona etc.

The situation of our Branches has been discussed previously. As you know, the Society has experienced decreased activity in too many Branches with the aging or passing of older long-time Officers. We have initiated the merger of certain Branches as we had previously reported to the Board, however our first step is to find Officers for existing Branches. We are not alone; other fraternalists are experiencing a similar situation.

We have considered a program to utilize new independent agents to help organize new Branches in areas we currently do not have Branches and in new states. Some other fraternalists have taken this approach. Our information is that they have had limited success.

We will encourage current and new Recommenders to be state licensed to sell more products by incentivizing them to get licensed. A program will be announced before July 1st.

More complex products require more information and training. Some states will require full agent licensing to sell products.

Our Society has clearly said we want to preserve Slovak Catholic heritage. We showed that at the 2010 FCSU Convention with our emphasis on Slovak culture, music, dance and speakers. We will start planning for 2014 later this year. It will be a challenge to match the 2010 Convention.

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. I pledge to continue our 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 would like to recognize our Editor Terri Ivanec for her continuing fine work and Anna Sutherland for her work on the Slovak section of the Jednota.

## **Fraternalism**

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 fraternalists.

Even as we have expanded in assets, we are still 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. In 2011 we held a National Picnic on August 14th, in Novelty, Ohio. 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, I think the Slovak fraternalists should get together in some manner to better serve all their members. Well, in spring of 2012 we will participate in a Joint Bowling Tournament with the Slovak Catholic Sokols and the National Slovak Society. In summer 2012 we will co-host a Golf Tournament with NSS. Thanks to our Activity Director Susan Ondrejco for her efforts.

We continue to add to and change displays in our new Museum at our Home Office in Independence. 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 will have to have a designated curator to keep up with the additional contributions we are receiving.

Personally, 2011 has again been a very busy year. I have attended Branch and District meetings, picnics, Vilijas and other events in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey and New York. I have participated in seminars with our Vice President. I attended the Slovak Picnic in Pittsburgh and the Slovak Festival in New Jersey. The Society again manned a booth at the annual Family Fest in Wickliffe, Ohio, where there were 30,000 attendees.

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.

I also made several visits to our properties in Middletown, PA to meet with our Jednota Slovak Editor Anna Sutherland and the maintenance personnel of our land and properties. We are renting the vacant land to a local farmer at five times the rate of six years ago. We have previously discussed the Middletown properties. There will be a later report on them. Building No. 1 is fully rented and stable. However, absentee property management is difficult and does not get easier with time and complications. For example, a legal agreement signed by the FCSU in the late 1970's to facilitate the building of the FCSU Printery by running sewer lines across another property owner's land by way of an easement, has reared its head. The owner of that property is now demanding, via lawsuit, that the FCSU pay \$450,000 + to pay for the replaced sewer line he built across his property. We are now in litigation.

There has been no recent activity regarding the vacant Middletown land due to the continuing real estate downturn, however we do see signs of some hope. As I have reported earlier the old Printery building has had some leasing interest, but no firm offers as of yet.

As I have said previously, we will move the Jednota soldier monument from behind the Printery, up to Rosedale Road, and create a small park and make it visible, to honor our deceased Jednota veterans from several wars. It would also be appropriate to honor the site of the former Jednota Orphanage at that time. Our Regional Director James Marmol has volunteered to spearhead this project and has already drawn detailed plans with cost estimates. This seemingly small project has many variables and costs, that have to be resolved.

Finally, I would like to thank the Executive Committee and the Board for their help and cooperation. With continuing and new challenges, 2012 will require all of our skills and efforts to continue and expand our success. This year's results show, that with the cooperation of our Home Office, the Executive Committee, and all our Officers working together as a team, we can accomplish outstanding results.

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

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

**Andrew M. Rajec**  
President

Annual Statement for the year 2011 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA**  
**ASSETS**

	Current Year			Prior Year
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	4 Net Admitted Assets
1. Bonds (Schedule D).....	255,081,164		255,081,164	239,151,083
2. Stocks (Schedule D):				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....	2,927,429		2,927,429	5,834,427
2.2 Common stocks.....	2,757,043		2,757,043	2,899,496
3. Mortgage loans on real estate (Schedule B):				
3.1 First liens.....	1,737,103		1,737,103	1,883,937
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate (Schedule A):				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	1,074,301		1,074,301	1,127,831
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	843,809		843,809	813,172
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	562,675		562,675	633,223
5. Cash (\$.....5,245,505, Sch. E-Part 1), cash equivalents (\$.....0, Sch. E-Part 2) and short-term investments (\$.....0, Sch. DA).....	5,245,505		5,245,505	8,982,617
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	992,342		992,342	911,063
7. Derivatives (Schedule DB).....			0	
8. Other invested assets (Schedule BA).....	10,600,462		10,600,462	4,981,249
9. Receivables for securities.....			0	1,885,447
10. Securities lending reinvested collateral assets (Schedule DL).....			0	
11. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
12. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 11).....	281,821,834	0	281,821,834	269,103,545
13. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
14. Investment income due and accrued.....	3,252,818		3,252,818	3,171,829
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in course of collection.....	31,155		31,155	14,601
15.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums).....			0	
15.3 Accrued retrospective premiums.....			0	
16. Reinsurance:				
16.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers.....			0	
16.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies.....			0	
16.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts.....			0	
17. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans.....			0	
18.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon.....			0	
18.2 Net deferred tax asset.....			0	
19. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit.....			0	
20. Electronic data processing equipment and software.....			0	
21. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0).....	20,073	20,073	0	
22. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....			0	
23. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....			0	
24. Health care (\$.....0) and other amounts receivable.....			0	
25. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets.....	19,287	19,287	0	0
26. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 12 to 25).....	285,145,167	39,360	285,105,807	272,289,975
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
28. TOTALS (Lines 26 and 27).....	285,145,167	39,360	285,105,807	272,289,975

Annual Statement for the year 2011 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**  
**LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS**

	1 Current Year	2 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life certificates and contracts (Exhibit 5, Line 9999999) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	227,605,000	226,806,000
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (Exhibit 6, Line 16, Col. 1) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (Exhibit 7, Line 14, Col. 1) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	26,045,653	15,213,178
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life (Exhibit 8, Part 1, Line 4.4, Column 1 less sum of Columns 9, 10 and 11).....	300,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health (Exhibit 8, Part 1, Line 4.4, sum of Columns 9, 10 and 11).....		
5. Refunds due and unpaid (Exhibit 4, Line 10).....		
6. Provision for refunds payable in following calendar year-estimated amounts:		
6.1 Apportioned for payment.....	400,000	400,000
6.2 Not yet apportioned.....		
7. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$.....0 discount; including \$.....0 accident and health premiums (Exhibit 1, Part 1, Col. 1, sum of Lines 4 and 14).....	313,734	290,189
8. Contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
8.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts.....		
8.2 Other amounts payable on reinsurance including \$.....0 assumed and \$.....0 ceded.....		
8.3 Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR, Line 6).....	1,332,565	1,578,788
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued-life and annuity contracts \$.....0 ; accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	25,692	12,374
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
11. General expenses due or accrued (Exhibit 2, Line 12, Col. 7).....	364,187	204,528
12. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$.....0 accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves).....		
13. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued (Exhibit 3, Line 8, Col. 6).....	24,066	22,962
14. Unearned investment income.....		
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	7,140,958	6,763,991
16. Amounts held for fieldworkers' account, including \$.....0 fieldworkers' credit balances.....		
17. Remittances and items not allocated.....		
18. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....	10,000	10,000
19. Liability for benefits for employees and fieldworkers if not included above.....		
20. Borrowed money \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
21. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
21.1 Asset valuation reserve (AVR, Line 16, Col. 7).....	2,145,008	2,766,154
21.2 Reinsurance in unauthorized companies.....		
21.3 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized reinsurers.....		
21.4 Payable to subsidiaries and affiliates.....		
21.5 Drafts outstanding.....		
21.6 Funds held under coinsurance.....		
21.7 Derivatives.....		
21.8 Payable for securities.....		
21.9 Payable for securities lending.....		
22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	414,927	401,947
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	266,121,790	254,770,111
24. From Separate Accounts statement.....		
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 and 24).....	266,121,790	254,770,111
26. Aggregate write-ins for other than liabilities and surplus funds.....	0	0
27. Surplus notes.....		
28. Aggregate write-ins for surplus funds.....	0	0
29. Unassigned funds.....	18,984,017	17,519,864
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (Page 4, Line 47) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts statement).....	18,984,017	17,519,864
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30) (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3).....	285,105,807	272,289,975

Annual Statement for the year 2011 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**  
**SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS**

	1 Current Year	2 Prior Year
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts (Exhibit 1, Part 1, Line 20.4, Col. 1).....	15,472,990	33,635,663
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....		
3. Net investment income (Exhibit of Net Investment Income, Line 17).....	13,294,944	14,325,256
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR, Line 5).....	293,139	177,563
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains or losses.....		
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 26.1, Col. 1).....		
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded.....		
8. Miscellaneous Income:		
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts.....		
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts.....		
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income.....	54,655	52,559
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	29,115,728	48,191,041
10. Death benefits.....	3,043,177	2,563,521
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....	1,085	
12. Annuity benefits.....	20,015,984	9,367,755
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts, including premiums waived \$.....0.....		
14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	545,361	501,109
15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contracts funds.....	284,035	291,108
16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....		
17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts.....	799,000	29,951,000
18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17).....	24,688,642	42,674,493
19. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only) (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 31, Col. 1 less Col. 5).....	220,845	308,970
20. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 26.2, Col. 1 less Col. 5).....		
21. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses (Exhibit 2, Line 10, Cols. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6).....	2,421,858	2,699,457
22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees (Exhibit 3, Line 6, Cols. 1, 2, 3 and 5).....	80,954	77,121
23. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums.....		
24. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance.....		
25. Aggregate write-ins for deductions.....	182,186	167,156
26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25).....	27,594,485	45,927,197
27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26).....	1,521,243	2,263,845
28. Refunds to members (Exhibit 4, Line 17, Cols. 1 + 2).....	393,805	402,047
29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28).....	1,127,438	1,861,798
30. Net realized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0 (excluding \$....46,916 transferred to the IMR).....	(1,269,681)	(855,477)
31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30).....	(142,243)	1,006,321
<b>SURPLUS ACCOUNT</b>		
32. Surplus, December 31, previous year (Page 3, Line 30, Col. 2).....	17,519,864	13,169,012
33. Net income from operations (Line 31).....	(142,243)	1,006,321
34. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	964,771	3,646,259
35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....		
36. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	20,162	(22,415)
37. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized companies.....		
38. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis, (increase) or decrease (Exhibit 5A, Line 9999999, Col. 4).....		
39. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	621,146	(252,033)
40. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period.....		
41. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts statement.....		
42. Change in surplus notes.....		
43. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....		
44. Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance.....		
45. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus.....	317	(27,280)
46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45).....	1,464,153	4,350,852
47. Surplus December 31, current year (Lines 32 + 46) (Page 3, Line 30).....	18,984,017	17,519,864

# Insights and Viewpoints

## Pranostiky for April

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

As we have seen in past issues of *Jednota*, Slovaks use **pranostiky**, or short sayings about the weather, to predict the future. Some **pranostiky** forecast weather for the entire year, whereas others look forward just a few days or a month. Often predictions are based on the conditions on a particular day during a particular day of the month.

The tradition of Slovaks looking for clues about weather compares very much to the *Farmer's Almanac*, which ranked among the popular of all publications in early America. For Slovak peasants, knowing the future weather ranked among their highest concerns, for their survival depend upon it.

Here are a few of the **pranostiky** which concern the month of April and springtime, which often provide clues for the upcoming planting and harvest season. Notice that a few are very similar to American aphorisms about spring weather.

Slovaks of the past identified between 7 and 9 different types of weather in April, and the month is often characterized as constant fight between winter and spring. The beginning of the month usually continued the warming trend that characterized the time around the Feast of St. Joseph (*Jozefa*, March 19), and the Feast of the Annunciation (*Zvestovania Panny Márie*, March 26).

As April begins, the weather chills a bit and there is even a chance for snow through the middle of the month. By the time of the Feast of St. Rudolph (*Rudolfska*, April 17), a warming trend resumes for a few days. But then the Feast of St. Adalbert (*Vojtechovska*, April 22) arrives, things cool things down again. Or sometimes it waits until St. George Day (*Juraja*, April 24). Finally, the ping-pong type of April weather leads to another cold spell around St. Florian Day (*Floriána*, May 4), until the warmth reasserts itself later in May.

### April – General **Pranostiky**

1. *Apríl v daždi máj v kvete.* Translation: April showers bring May flowers.
2. *Apríl zimný, daždivý, úroda nás navštívi.* If it is a cold, rainy April, a good harvest is coming.
3. *Aprílová voda víno vypíja.* April water drinks down the wine.
4. *Aprílové počasie je rozmarnejšie ako ženy.* April weather is more capricious than women.
5. *Panská láska ani aprílový sneh za veľa nestoja.* Neither a man's love nor April snow lasts long.
6. *V apríli never žiadnemu počasiu, robí si, čo chce.* Don't trust the weather in April, for it does what it wants.
7. *Apríl žartuje, sedliak za pluhom hubuje.* April is joking, the peasant grumbles behind a plow.
8. *Ak Mesiac v splne v apríli mraky nezakrývajú, kvety stromov sa sťahujú a môžu sa zadusiť.*

If the clouds do not hide the Full Moon in April, the tree blossoms are moving and may get smothered.

9. *Hrom v apríli dobrá novina, mráz viac kvety nepostína.*  
Thunder in April is good news, for the frost cannot hack down more flowers.
10. *Apríl šialený, zo zimy a leta spletený.* April is crazy, intertwining winter and summer.

**April 2 - Svätý Teodul jamý vetrík podul.** On St. Teodul Day, a spring breeze blows.

**April 3 - Mokry apríl, suchy jún.** A wet April, a dry June.

**April 4 - Ak je apríl pekný, máj bude ružový.** If it is a nice April, May will be rose-colored.

**April 5 - Po teplém Marku se často ochlazuje.** When it is warm on St. Mark's Day, it often cools down.

**April 6 - Ak je apríl jasný, šumný, vtedy bude máj pošmurný.**

If April is bright and beautiful, then the May will be dismal.

**April 19 - Sv. Tiburcí má byť už zelený.** By Saint Tiburcius Day, it should already be green.

**April 23 - Aprílový sneh pole hnojí, dážď požehnáva.**

April's snow fertilizes the field, rain blesses it.

**April 23 - Na Vojtecha (bude) pekná potecha.** On St. Adalbert's Day, it will be delightfully nice.

**April 24 - Hrmenie pred Jurajom bolo predzvestou nepriaznivého roka.**

Thundering before St. George's Day heralds a bad year.

**April 24 - Kolko žaby pred Markom škrečia, tolko po ňom rady mlčia.**



The author's family after the Easter Mass in April celebrated at St. Matthias Church in Youngstown, OH, front row (L- R): Dr. Michael Kopanic, Jr., wife Becky, her sister Patty Kocurek. Back row (L – R): daughters Milenka and Erika, and son-in-law Paul Feighner.

As April begins, the weather can chill, bringing the chance for snow – but weather challenges that do not effect the beauty of Easter, as witnessed by the celebration of the Slovak Easter Mass in St. Matthias Church in Youngstown, Ohio with Msgr. Polando presiding.



However many times the frogs croak before St. Mark's Day, then they will be quiet that long after it.

**April 24 - Ak kravám "zahrmelo" v stajni, teda ak neboli ešte na paši, budú slabo dojiť.** If cows "thunder" in the stable, then if they were not yet out to pasture, they will give little milk.

**April 24 - Ak prší na Ďura, bude ovos, keby ho na skalu zasial.**

If it rains on St. George's Day, there will be oats, even if you planted them on a rock.

**April 25 - Tráva na svätého Marka je už hodne veľká.**

The grass on St. Mark's Day is already very high.

**April 29 - Mrzneli na svätého Vítala, mrzne ešte štyriťdesť dní.** (Czech)

If it is freezing on St. Vitus Day, there will be frost for another forty days.

Finally, this last **pranostika** below really says a great deal about the wild nature of April: **Apríl šialený, zo zimy a leta spletený.** = April is crazy, intertwining winter and summer. With April nearly passed in 2012 by the time of publication, you might check the accuracy of these fanciful **pranostiky**. Let's hope the best of prognostications come true this spring.

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## Report of the National Chaplain, March 2012

continued from page 1

Association's Annual Slovak Day and concelebrated the Mass held there.

Along with our National President and National Executive Secretary, I was invited to offer greetings at the conventions of two of our sister Slovak Catholic fraternal organizations, the Slovak Catholic Sokol and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

As a member of the Executive Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation, I went to Scranton, PA in May to concelebrate a Mass marking the 100th anniversary of the Federation. The next day I attended what turned out to be the only Board meeting held in 2011. The pilgrimage to St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, PA, that the Federation planned for September and the Board meeting which was to take place there were both cancelled due to the effects of Hurricane Irene.

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

The year 2011 was a special year of grace for all of us. May our Lord continue to bless us in all our endeavors.

Fraternally,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta  
National Chaplain

# MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2011 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.

## 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;  
Gary J. Matta, General Counsel – present via telephone;  
Joseph F. Minarovich, Regional Director, Region 1 – absent and excused;  
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 & 9 – present via telephone;

All present and accounted for.

## READING OF THE CALL

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

## ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE September 2011

A motion was made by James Marmol and seconded by George Matta to accept the minutes of the September Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

## PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Rajec stated he and Executive Secretary Arendt along with the Regional Directors are working on merging active branches with the inactive branches.

The President led a lengthy discussion on the current interest rates credited to our annuitants. The interest rates will remain the same at the present time, and the rates will be reviewed and adjustments will be made as needed for the future.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THIRD QUARTER 2011

### Executive Secretary's Report

Secretary Arendt presented the summary of the Financial Report for the third quarter of 2011. After his report he answered the Board's questions. The Executive Secretary stated that the 2011 third quarter Financial Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

### Matlin Patterson (MPAM)

Executive Secretary Arendt presented the Matlin Patterson Report and answered the Board's questions. President Rajec stated Chris Welker, Chief Operating Officer, and Craig Ruch, Chief Executive Officer, will present their complete report at the March Board Meeting.

### 2012 FCSU Annual Budget

Executive Secretary Arendt presented the budget for 2012. The Secretary also presented a comparison between 2011 budget and the actual expenditures for the third quarter and answered all the Board's questions.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer George Matta presented a written report and answered all the Board's questions.

## DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

Director of Fraternal Activities Susan Ondrejco presented her report on the Bowling and Golf Tournaments and the Photo Contest. The Fraternal Director stated there will be a joint Bowling Tournament with the Slovak Catholic Sokol, the National Slovak Society and the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union on May 4-6, 2012. This tournament will be held in Wickliffe, Ohio. Fraternal Director Ondrejco further stated plans are being made to hold a joint golf tournament with the National Slovak Society July 14-15, 2012. She will inform the Board as details become available.

Director Ondrejco further stated the entry for the coloring contest has been published in the Jednota newspaper and she has already received entries.

Director Ondrejco stated she is reviewing sites for a FCSU Family Picnic and will report back to the President as more information becomes available.

## AQS – ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC.

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

## MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

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

The Vice President also stated that we are still in the process of recruiting independent agents to sell our products.

The Vice President further led a discussion regarding seminars for 2012 and encouraged the Regional Directors to contact him regarding seminars within their region. The Vice President will update the Board of Directors with the dates of scheduled seminars for 2012.

The Vice President stated he is looking into offering an incentive program for the recommenders to proceed with obtaining their state insurance license. The home office is checking into the cost and location of classes needed.

## CHAIRMAN OF AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

Chairman of Auditors Karen Hunka stated the President asked her to do a complete special audit of one of the branches. She completed her audit and reported back to the President.

## 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.

Investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the directives adopted by the Board of Directors. All investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee.

### Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee has completed their selections, applicants have been notified, and the winners have been published in the Jednota newspaper. Scholarship applications are always sent to the branches and are available by contacting the home office or may be obtained from our website.

## SUBSIDIARIES REPORT

Jednota, Inc. The President of Jednota, Inc., George Matta, gave his report to the Board of Directors and, after answering the Board's questions, he turned the meeting over to the President of Jednota Properties, Inc., Regis Brekosky, who presented his report to the Board. The reports of Jednota, Inc., and Jednota Properties, Inc., are informational in nature.

A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by George Matta to accept all reports as presented. Motion was carried.

## MISCELLANEOUS

The President led a discussion on the maintenance of the Jednota Printery building and the estates grounds. The President has received a potential offer on the possible sale of the Printery Building. The Board will be updated by the President as more information becomes available.

The President stated he received a call from a local farmer in the Middletown area who is interested in taking over the leasing of the property to farm. The Board will be informed as more information becomes available.

The President also reported we are in the process of reviewing the drawings and the cost for the Middletown Monument Project. The President stated a decision would be made soon.

## 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 James Marmol to adjourn. Motion carried.

It was announced the next Board Meeting will be at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio on March 23-24, 2012.

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

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2012

### HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

**OPEN:**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President  
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary  
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President  
 George F. Matta, Treasurer  
 Henry Hassay (via teleconference by invitation of the President)

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES:**

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the January 2012 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT:**

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

The President discussed the investment presentation from the Federated Strategic Value Dividend Managed Account Portfolio Group given at the last meeting. It was decided no action will be taken at this time.

The President led a review on the full report of our investment with Matlin Patterson Portfolio (MPAM) which was given at the last meeting. Christopher Welker, Chief Operating Officer, and Craig Ruch, Chief Executive Officer, will be present at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting and will answer all questions from the Board.

The President led a lengthy discussion on our current annuity interest rates. It was decided to maintain the current interest rates and the rates will be reviewed at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., gave his monthly presentation by WebEx and Teleconference. He briefed the Executive Committee on our Investment Portfolio. After he gave his report, Mr. White answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The President asked Larry White to investigate the possibility of investing in Canadian and Australian Bonds. Mr. White will report his findings to the Executive Committee at the next meeting.

**FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES:**

The President reviewed the upcoming joint Bowling Tournament with the Executive Committee and informed them it will be held May 4-6, 2012 at the Freeway Lanes, 28801 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe, Ohio 44092. Our joint bowling tournament will be hosted this year by the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, the National Slovak Society, and the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

The President announced this year's golf tournament will be held on July 14-15, 2012 in Sharon, Pennsylvania, at the Tam O'Shanter Golf Course. This tournament will be a joint event with the National Slovak Society.

The President will instruct Susan Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director, to investigate other joint events to be held with the other Slovak Fraternals in 2013.

**SALES AND MARKETING:**

The Vice President reviewed our sales production report for the different Regions and the report on our independent agents and answered the Executive Committee's questions. The Vice President stated we are continuing to add new agents. Vice President Harcar further stated he will be scheduling 2012 seminars. He recommends interested District and Branch officers to contact him with possible dates for their 2012 seminars.

The Vice President informed the Executive Committee the new marketing campaign for a Juvenile Term to Age 25 policy with the first year premium free will begin March 1, 2012. This campaign reintroduces a program that was very successful several years ago. The Executive Secretary has sent the details for the marketing campaign to all branch officers, the website, and printed the information in the Jednota newspaper.

Vice President Harcar stated he is reviewing various sites and ideas for the upcoming 2012 Membership Meet.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:****FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK**

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt submitted a written report to the Executive Committee which gave a complete update of the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB).

**PORTFOLIO CUSTODIAN**

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

**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 2012:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 170,009.38
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 54,777.03
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 720.59

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 is finalizing his review on adding a digital lighted sign to our existing sign on Rockside Road in front of the Home Office. The President attended the Independence Council Meeting for a permit to add to the existing sign. He is waiting on the final decision of The Independence Council and will report to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Secretary stated the branches have received an IRS notice stating a new regulation that is required by our subordinate branches that are covered under the FCSU umbrella (990N). The Form 990N has always been filed by our home office on behalf of our branches. The Secretary stated he is in touch with the IRS on this matter and is waiting to hear from them.

**REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:**

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

**ADJOURN:**

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

### *Please take a few minutes to review The Investment Opportunities Available at F.C.S.U. Life*

First Catholic Slovak Union has been providing safe and reliable life insurance coverage to families like yours for over 100 years. We also offer Annuities and IRA's in a variety of terms at very competitive rates.

Current Annuity and IRA interest rates as of March 1, 2012

Two Year Park Annuity 2.50%

Six Year Fixed Rate Annuity or IRA 3.25%

Six Year Flexible Premium Annuity or IRA 3.50%

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Fax: 1-216-642-4310  
E-mail: FCSU@aol.com  
Website: www.FCSU.com



The Pittsburgh Slovaks are among the featured performers at the 55th International Pittsburgh Folk Festival held from May 18 – May 20, 2012, at the Monroeville Convention Center, Monroeville, PA.

## 55th International Pittsburgh Folk Festival in May

The Pittsburgh Folk Festival Inc. is a non-profit organization started in 1956 with seventeen nationalities to promote "Unity in Diversity" by presenting an annual festival of cultures. The festival now highlights the cultural diversity of more than 30 nationalities in the Pittsburgh area, including Slovakia. The Pittsburgh Slovaks will once again perform.

The 55th International Pittsburgh Folk Festival will take place at the Monroeville Convention Center Friday, May 18, through Sunday, May 20th. Festival hours are Friday, 4 - 10 pm--- Saturday, 11 am - 10 pm-- and Sunday, 11 am to 6 pm. Advance tickets are available at \$8.00 each (\$12 at the door). Children under 10 are free. Larry Richert and the KDKA prize wheel will be at the festival Saturday afternoon from noon until 2 pm. For tickets make checks payable to: Pittsburgh Slovaks and mail to 234 ILION St., Pgh., PA. 15207.

The Pittsburgh Slovaks will represent Slovakia by performing on Saturday. The Junior Pittsburgh Slovaks will perform in the afternoon and the Pittsburgh Slovaks will take the stage in the evening.



## Annual Slovak Flag Raising in Carteret, NJ

The Slovak Community of Carteret, New Jersey gathered together to celebrate the annual Slovak Flag Raising in front of the Carteret Memorial Municipal Building Plaza on March 14, 2012 Slovak Independence Day.

The event was chaired by Diane Gruskowski and coordinated by Mary Rindosh.

The Flag Raising is a very emotional ceremony for the Slovak citizens of Carteret. This was quite obvious during the singing of Hej Slovaci and God Bless America.

The convocation was offered by Rev. Edmund Shallow, Divine Mercy Parish, followed by a brief history of our Slovak Heritage reminding us of the strong Catholic Religion our ancestors fought so hard for.

A Proclamation was presented to Mary Rindosh by Mayor Daniel J. Reiman.

After the Flag Raising everyone was invited to a reception hosted by the mayor.

The event was sponsored by the Ladies Slovak Citizen's Club of Carteret

Požehnané a veselé Velkonočné sviatky pre všetkých Slovákov.

Submitted by Diane Gruskowski, Branch 324

## 60 Anniversary Ordination Of Fr. Richard A. Portasik, O.F.M.

Fr. Richard A. Portasik, O.F.M. will be celebrating his 60th Anniversary of Ordination on June 14, 2012.

Throughout these years he exhibited his love and concern for Slovak immigrants and their children in the United States, Both of his parents, Frank and Mary (Lalis), came to the U.S. at the turn of the 20th century and were married at Holy Trinity Church, Ford City, PA on

July 16, 1918.

Fr. Richard was nourished by the example of his parents who brought with them the faith of SS. Cyril and Methodius.

As a youth he followed in the footsteps of his uncle Brother Florian Lalis O.F.M. and his brother Fr. Joseph O.F.M., and joined the newly established Franciscan Vice Province of the Holy Savior (initially called a Commissariat/Custody) with the center among the large enclave of Slovaks in the Pittsburgh, PA area in 1926. Educated among the Franciscans, he completed his philosophical and theological studies in the Assumption Province of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary.

Following his ordination on June 14, 1952 at Stella Maris in Cedar Lake, IN, he pursued graduate studies at Duquesne University where he received an M.A. in English Literature and at Notre Dame University where he earned an M.A. in Liturgy.

As a bi-lingual speaker, he preached both in Slovak and English throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio, Chicago, Northwestern Indiana and the Northeast. As a son of St. Francis of Assisi, he sought to bring the Good News of the Gospel to a portion of God's people.

Fr. Richard also published many articles in Slovak newspapers and leaflets, and devoted 21 years of special ministry to members of the Secular Franciscan Order (Third Order).

During his years of ministry, especially at Holy Family Friary in Pittsburgh and St. Anthony in Uniontown, he held the office of guardian (superior) and vicar. He was elected as Custos of the Vice Province 1976 - 1982.

His activity among the Slovak fraternalists is well known. As a member of the JEDNOTA from birth, he attended most of the conventions; as a member of the FCCLA, he was elected National Chaplain from 1992 - 1995; as a member of the SOKOLS, he was chaplain of Group #6 for 13 years. Through his articles he encouraged members to fidelity in achieving their cultural goals and their faith.

One of Fr. Richard's dream was to establish recognition of the OFM Franciscans in America in their work among Slovaks in the 20th century. He therefore published two (2) well known short volumes entitled SLOVAK FRANCISCANS IN AMERICA. The volumes encompass the years 1926 to 2000. Both volumes are found in the Library of Congress, the OFM Curia in Rome and the Heinz Library in Pittsburgh, PA.

To celebrate his 60 years as a friar-priest, and to honor his living and deceased family and friends, Fr. David Moczulski, O.F.M., guardian, and the friars of Holy Family Friary will celebrate a special Mass at 11:00am with an open house reception on May 20, 2012.



## Branch 40 Youth Scholarships Available

St. Clement's Society, Branch 40, has announced it will be awarding scholarships to their youth members. Branch 40 will be giving out one, one-time \$500 scholarship for college and one, one-time \$250 scholarship for a student enrolled in a private grade school.

These scholarships are solely funded by Branch 40, not the national office.

For more criteria and an application, please call Theresa at (815) 672-6142 (leave message) or email her at ttegraves@mchsi.com to receive an application electronically.

Applications must be postmarked by May 18, 2012.

Theresa Graves, Scholarship Committee, Branch 40

The First Catholic Slovak Union is now accepting VISA, Mastercard and Discover credit cards as newspaper subscription payments.

Contact the Home Office for details:

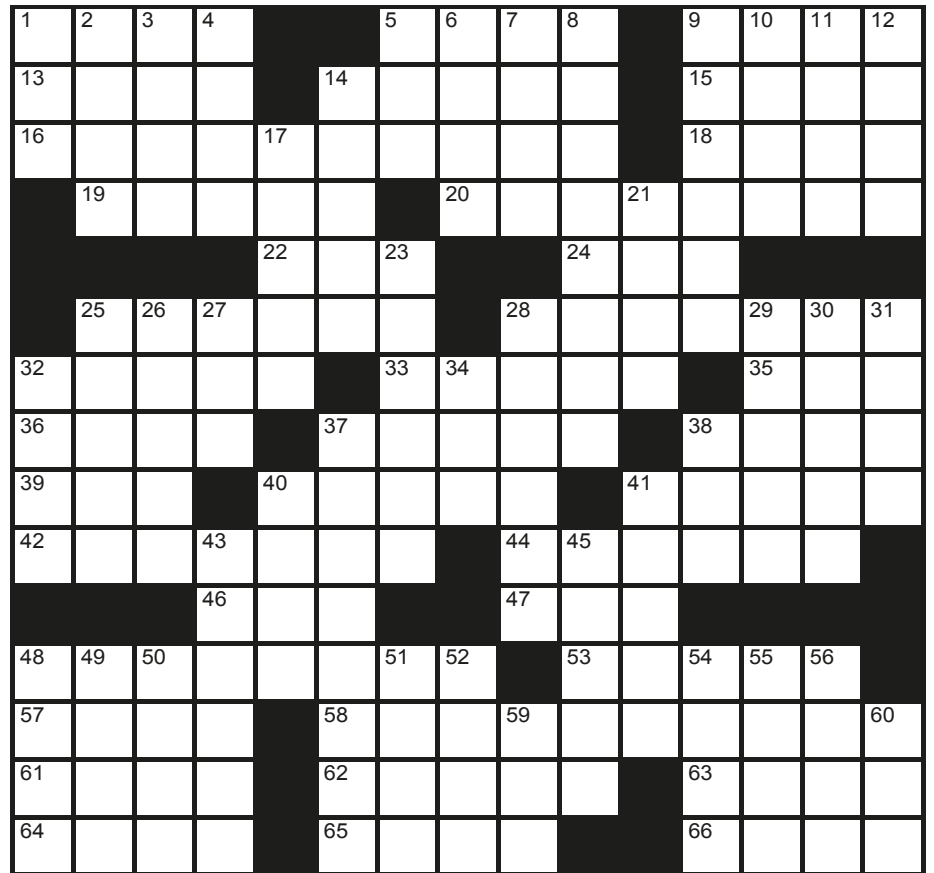
1-800-JEDNOTA or fcsu@aol.com.



FCSU Branch 153 welcomes its newest member 14 month old Jaxson Mack. Jaxson is the grandson of FCSU Branch 153 members Bob & Peggy Bernath and the grand nephew of FCSU Director Region 7 Rudy Bernath.

Submitted by Rudy Bernath

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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## Lorain United Slovak Societies Making Scholarships Available

The United Slovak Societies of the American Slovak Club, Lorain, Ohio is proud to make \$1,000 scholarships available to qualifying members of the St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 of Lorain, Ohio. The applicant must be a graduating high school senior who will enter a college in the fall of 2012 and must be a member of the FCSU for at least the past five (5) consecutive years. Applications and complete rules can be requested by contacting the: American Slovak Club, Attn: Scholarship Chairperson, 2915 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Ohio 44055. You may also contact Helene Virant at (440) 282-3325 or Tom Zuffa at (440) 282-2966. Deadline for applications is May 31, 2012.

This is an excellent opportunity to receive financial aid to help fund your education and we hope to see our members take advantage of it.

Thomas B. Zuffa  
Recording Secretary  
St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity, Branch 228



## CELEBRATING OUR SLOVAK CATHOLIC CULTURE

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**FR. ALBERT: (216) 721 - 5300 EXT.209 ~  
ALBERTMARFLAKOSB@YAHOO.COM**

### Across

- 1 Launching sites
- 5 Ferry
- 9 Weapons
- 13 At the apex
- 14 Cattle spread
- 15 Cleanser
- 16 Affectionate missi
- 18 Food fish
- 19 Reporters, e.g.
- 20 Mileage recorder
- 22 Grippe
- 24 Asphalt
- 25 Grave
- 28 Wasp weapon
- 32 Frogman
- 33 "\_\_\_ we dance?"
- 35 Vow words
- 36 Singles
- 37 Eliminate
- 38 Sundowns
- 39 Raced
- 40 Curt
- 41 Cream (Fr.)
- 42 Fail to detonate
- 44 African desert
- 46 Starfleet Academy grad.
- 47 Oolong, e.g.
- 48 Ovation
- 53 Rituals
- 57 Field game
- 58 Possible
- 61 Flamboyance
- 62 Tango, for one
- 63 Start of many Hoop & Crosby film titles
- 64 Disclaim
- 65 "Hoc \_\_\_ in votis"
- 66 Part of A.M.

### Down

- 1 Buddy
- 2 Molecule
- 3 Pigeon
- 4 Hastened
- 5 Baseball item
- 6 In the know
- 7 Scored on serve
- 8 Choke
- 9 Aft
- 10 Defeat
- 11 Lion's headdress
- 12 Mast
- 14 Kingdom
- 17 Inmate without parole
- 21 Letters
- 23 Doubtful
- 25 Red Sea peninsula
- 26 Kilns
- 27 \_\_\_ *Miserables*
- 28 Wisest
- 29 Donor
- 30 Dropsy
- 31 Showy flower
- 32 Student residence
- 34 Store posting
- 37 Sway
- 38 Time period

- 40 Louise or Tur
- 41 Constraint
- 43 Serious crime
- 45 Bird's nest
- 48 Mocked
- 49 Rod
- 50 Design
- 51 Nova
- 52 Bunsen burner
- 54 *Gone with the Wind* location
- 55 Black
- 56 Spline
- 59 Perform
- 60 Dutch commu

See Solution on Page 19

# Easter Alleluia

The beloved Easter hymn, Jesus Lord, Savior, is Risen (Pán Ježiš Kristus Vstal Z Mŕtvych) is a song of triumph and celebration. As Jesus lived and struggled through his life, passion and death, he trusted his Father for the glorious victory. We too believe in the fulfillment of our faith, hope and achievement of a glorious resurrection. God asks that we live daily, to the best of our ability, in faithfulness and gratitude for the love with which he embraces us. His love is ever faithful, as he responds to our simplest request and rewards our smallest act of kindness. How can we ever thank him adequately?

I am reminded of a significant quotation from Tolstoy's War and Peace: "The most essential, but the most difficult thing is, to love life, for to love life is to love God and God is the most essential thing in life."

**Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SSCM  
Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA**

## Jesus Lord, Savior, Is Risen

1. Jesus Lord, Savior, is risen  
Refrain: Alleluia!  
God, we praise you! God, our Savior.
2. That we sinners are forgiven,
3. He, a painful death enduring,
4. Rescues us, our souls redeeming.
5. To the gravesite three Marys hasten,
6. Bearing costly spices and ointments
7. There they saw an angel most glor'ous,
8. Who revealed this message so wondrous:
9. Christ Our Lord this day is risen,
10. As before his death, he told us.
11. Let's rejoice both day and night,
12. Christ has risen by His own might.
13. Celebrate with song and rejoicing;
14. Laud our God with joy and thanksgiving

## Pán Ježiš Kristus Vstal Z Mŕtvych

1. Pán Ježiš Kristus vstal z mŕtvych  
Sbor: Aleluja, chváľme Boha, Boha svojho.
2. Na potechu všetkých hriešnych
3. Ktorý ťažkú smrť podstúpil.
4. Aby hriešnych nás vykúpil.
5. Ku hrobu tri Márie šli.
6. Drahé masati ony niesli.
7. Anjela tam uvideli.
8. Od neho sa dozvedeli.
9. Že Kristus Pán dnes z mŕtvych vstal.
10. Jak pred smrťou to zvestoval.
11. Preto plesaj vo deň, v noci.
12. Že Kristus vstal v svojej moci.
13. Všetci teda prespevueme.
14. Česť a chválu Mu vzdávajme.



Angel on the Tomb, an image from the Pericopes of Henry II

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, March 2012

## Bishop Libasci Proud of Slovak Heritage

**Branch 282 Members  
Joseph and Carol  
Neslusan flank  
their new bishop,  
the Most Reverend  
Peter Libasci, at his  
Rite of Election and  
Call to Continuing  
Conversion  
Ceremony in  
Manchester, NH, on  
Feb 26, 2012, after  
which they spoke of  
their shared Slovak  
ancestry.**



Joseph and Carol Neslusan, members of Branch 282, Portsmouth, NH, recently met their new bishop, the Most Reverend Peter Libasci, at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Manchester, NH. The occasion was The Rite of Election and The Call to Continuing Conversion ceremony held the first Sunday of Lent, February 26, 2012.

Joseph wore his American/Slovak lapel pin which features a flag of both countries. Carol pointed out the lapel pin to Bishop Libasci who immediately burst into singing "Ja som pyšný že som Slovak ....." (I am proud that I am Slovak ...) The bishop recognized his maternal Slovak heritage in developing his coat of arms which features a species of pine tree indigenous to the Tatra Mountains.

After the February ceremony, Bishop Peter was very pleased to see fellow Slovaks in attendance, and indicated once again how his whole family was proud of their mother's Slovak heritage. Although a long line of people waiting to greet Bishop Libasci permitted the Neslusan's only a few brief moments with him, the bishop did exchange information about their respective parental Slovak villages with them. He also quickly interjected that, come evening, he would get out his big map and look up our villages.

**Submitted by Joseph Neslusan, Branch 282, Portsmouth, NH**



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## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

St. Andrew Svorad, Branch 24, will hold a short branch meeting on Sunday, May 27, 2012 at St. Andrew Abbey following the 1:00 Mass, luncheon, and presentation. For details on the day's program, see the related article in this edition of the Jednota newspaper.

To make reservations (required) or for more information, contact Susan Lang at 216/896-0957. Lunch will be complimentary for Branch 24 members. Non-members may purchase tickets by calling St. Andrew Abbey at (216) 721 - 5300.

**Bob Kopco, President**

### BRANCH 60 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 60 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, May 20, 2012, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of President Ann Wargovich, 58 Lilmont Avenue, Swissvale, PA. On the agenda will be officer's reports and discussion of branch activities. All members are urged to attend.

Fraternally,

**Julie Perla - Branch Secretary**

### BRANCH 85 - BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Florian Society, Branch 85K, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 2012, at 7:00PM at the Jessup American Legion Post, 411 Church Street, Jessup, PA. All members are asked to attend.

**Bernard Skovira, President**

### BRANCH 132 - WHIPPANY, NEW JERSEY

All meetings will be held the second Sunday of the month at 1:30PM on every second month throughout the year. Meetings are held at the home of President Susan Salko. Please phone Susan at 973-906-1145 if you plan on attending.

**Susan Salko, President**

### BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

All Branch 153 members are invited to the May 20, 2012 district event - A brunch and performance of "Making God Laugh." This district event will be at The Theatre at the Center in Munster, Indiana. The Brunch is at 12:45 p.m. and the show at 2:30 p.m. The cost for Branch 153 members who have attended previous shows will be \$19.50. For Branch 153 members attending for the first time the cost will be \$29.50. Guests who are not FCSU members the cost will be \$54.50. The cost is kept low to encourage fraternalism. The district is subsidizing this event along with Branch 153 subsidizing \$15.00 for its members. Please call Dorothy Jurcenko at (773) 763 0810 before April 6, 2012.

**Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 276 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Branch 276 will have their next regular meeting on Sunday, May 20, 2012, at 1:00PM at Woody's Restaurant in Versailles, PA. All members are asked to attend.

**Fraternally, Nancy Gerdich,  
Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 320 - BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday June 24, 2012, at noon, at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. Since lunch will be served, please call Fran at (724) 929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending.

**Mary Anne Higginbotham, President**

### BRANCH 372 - BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph's Society - Branch 372 - will have its semi-annual meeting in Sunday, May 20, 2012. The meeting will be held at the home of President Michael Hudak, 829 Cameron Avenue, Beaverdale, PA, 15921. The meeting begins at 2:00PM. All members are asked to attend.

Fraternally,

**Michael Hudak, President**

### BRANCH 410 UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on

Thursday, May 17, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn of Uniontown, Route 40 W, Uniontown, PA.

**Geri Buchheit, Recording/Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 580 - WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society Branch 580 will hold a meeting on Sunday, May 6, 2012 after the 9:30

Mass in the Holy Trinity social hall. All members are welcome.

**Virginia Jasek, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 595 - MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

Monthly meetings are held at Tatra Hall, Sixth Street and Sherman Blvd., on the third Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. (September through May).

As always, you can call 231 733 7525 for additional information of current events.

**Donna Stone, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 682 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. George Society, Branch 682, will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 24, 2012, at 2:30PM at Material Research Laboratories, located at 290 North Bridge Street, Struthers, OH, 44471. On the agenda: planning for the 100th anniversary. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Andrew J. Hirt, President**

### BRANCH 731- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

On April 29, 2012, Saint Joseph branch 731 members will celebrate our Patron Saint Feast Day with Mass. The Liturgy will be at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio at 12 Noon. We invite all Saint Joseph Branch 731 members to attend.

**Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 738 - MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's Branch 738 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Tuesday 4/24/12 at 6:30 pm at the VFW Post 6673, Whitaker Way, Munhall, PA. The meeting will discuss fraternal activities and ways to increase branch involvement and membership. All members are invited to attend.

**Patricia Guidish, Secretary**

### BRANCH 764 WARREN, OHIO

On February 12, Branch 764 celebrated with a Sts. Cyril & Methodius Feast Day Slovak Dinner of stuffed cabbage with mashed potatoes, kielbasa and sauerkraut, potato pierogi, Slovak green beans, pickled beets, and kolachi (ed note - see pictures in this issue).

Slovak music was provided during dinner by our vice president, Fred Brunetti. Gift baskets and prizes were awarded to many of the guests. We had a capacity crowd of 130 attendees!!

Our next meeting will be held on April 18 at Bella Women's Center, 1192 North Road NE, Warren, OH followed by a tour of the facility.

**Joy Brunetti, Secretary**

### BRANCH 844 - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold its annual Slovak Easter Mass on Sunday, April 8, 2012, at St. John Bosco High School located on 13640 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower, CA, 90706. Mass will begin promptly at 11:00AM. A delicious, authentic Slovak lunch will be served after Mass, along with an Easter egg hunt conducted for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak spirit of Easter.

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

We hope to see you all there and would like to wish everyone a very special and safe Easter holiday.

Fraternally yours,

**Milan Konkol, Secretary**

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISTRICT 5 - MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 29, 2012, at the Tatra Hall in Muskegon Heights, MI. Our day will begin with dinner being served at 1:00PM, with the business meeting following. The Tatra Hall is located at 2526 6th Street and Sherman Blvd.

Branch 595 is hosting this meeting and Emmett Moore should be notified at (616) 901-1791 by April 25, 2012, of delegates attending from your branch.

Spring should be here by then so let's make it a good turn out!

Remember: Branches must attend these meetings in order to get branch compensation from headquarters.

**Anna Magusin, District Secretary**

### DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

This is a short notice to remind you that the Pittsburgh District of the FCSU will hold its annual Fathers' Day Brunch on Sunday, June 17, at the church hall at Holy Trinity parish in West Mifflin, PA. Sunday Mass at Holy Trinity is 9:30 AM, and the meal will follow. We expect to update information in the next issue.

Branch 38 will host the event while Branch 628 will handle the program booklet. Your branch will be contacted regarding reservations, fees and deadlines. Please RSVP as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone on Fathers' Day.

Fraternally,

**Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary, Pittsburgh District**

### 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 29, 2012, in Saints Cyril and Methodius Church Hall in Windber, PA, beginning at 2:00PM. The host will be St. John the Baptist, Branch 292.

Member branches should have received their dues notices by now. These dues may be paid at the meeting. Spring will be here, and the weather is nicer; so let's show our fraternalism with a good turnout of delegates.

**Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary**

### DISTRICT 8 - REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT - EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 29, 2012. There will be a Mass at 11 AM at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Church, 600 West Mahanoy Street, Mahanoy City, Pa. 17948. Afterward, the dinner will be at 12:30 PM at A & C Catering Hall, 505 West Mahanoy Street, Mahanoy City, Pa. The meeting will then take place at 1:30 PM in the hall.

Donation for the dinner is \$15.00 per person. Please make checks payable to Branch 112. All checks and credentials must be returned by Saturday, April 21, 2012. PLEASE be prompt!!

Any questions, please call Loretta Dashner at 610.432.8350. Thank You!

**Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary**

### DISTRICT 10 - STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

The Stephen Furdek District #10 meeting will be held on Sunday, June 3, 2012 at the home office, 6611 Rockside Road, Independence, Ohio 44131 at 1 pm. Please come and take an active roll in your District and learn the latest news about our organization. Refreshments will be served. Please contact Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151 or via email @ Lhanko@neo.rr.com. We would like to have an approximate count of those attending. If you have questions or concerns please contact Linda.

**Respectfully submitted, Linda Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer**

### DISTRICT 11 - MSGR JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the Msgr. Josef Tiso District will be on Sunday, April 29, 2012, at the C.U. Club, 912 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, PA, at 2:00 PM.

Delegates from all branches should call okres secretary Grace Charney at (724) 763-1104 to confirm their attendance.

This notice is also a reminder to Branches that representation at District meetings and up-to-date payment of District dues are requirements for eligibility for your annual membership reimbursements from Headquarters.

**Grace M. Charney, Secretary**

### DISTRICT 12 - ANDRE HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, April 29, 2012, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Andre Hlinka District will be held at King's Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members of the various branches are urged to attend.

**Frances Tarquinio, Secretary**

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

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District, District 16, will hold a Semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 24, 2012, at 1:00PM in the Rectory, St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, New York City.

On the agenda: a financial report, 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 delegates - are welcome.

Refreshments will be served by Branch 45, St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, NYC, after the meeting.

Fraternally,

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

# Branch 45 120th Anniversary Celebrated in NYC During Fašiangy Dance Party

The St. Matthew's Society, Branch 45 – the oldest Jednota lodge in New York City – hosted its annual Pre-Lenten Dance Party in the Slovak tradition of “Fašiangy” along with celebrating its 120th Anniversary on Sunday, February 19, 2012, in St. John Nepomucene Parish Hall.

The program began with an introduction by Branch President Joseph Jurasi who welcomed guests from New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and New York. Rev. Stefan Chanas then offered a prayer before turning the platform back over to President Jurasi who gave a brief history of the branch. Its founder, Martin Challan, came from the small village of Vysoka, Trenčianska Župa region of Slovakia. In 1872, he immigrated to New York, and opened a tinker's shop. In 1892, he established St. Matthew's Branch 45 in St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City, creating a place for Slovaks to communicate in the Slovak language. It also gave Branch 45 members the opportunity to pray together in the Slovak language; at that time, the religious instructor was Msgr. Stefan Krasula.

Following the President's brief branch history, fellow branch member Renata Jurasiova recited the poem “Blaha pamiatka Stura” from a famous Slovak poet, P.O. Hviezdoslav. After the short program, lunch was served, followed by coffee and cake, all prepared by our cooks Milka and Veronika. A traditional Slovak dance music program was then presented by band leader Joseph Jurasi, along with an afternoon filled with Slovak refreshments and a raffle.

All in all, the event was a great success, a uniquely memorable Fašiangy Dance Party and well-attended celebration of the branch's 120th anniversary. We hope to see everyone back again at an upcoming branch event.

Sincerely,

**Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary**

(L – R) Rev. Stefan Chanas offers a prayer at the opening of the day's festivities, with Branch 45 President Joseph Jurasi who gave the introductory remarks.



Guests during the dance party



Guests enjoying a delicious luncheon



(L – R) Renata Jurasiova, Anton Kucharovic, Jan Zeman, Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, Joseph Jurasi, Maria Jurasi, Jozef Jurasi Jr, Maria Zakovic, Jozef Korack, Antonia Krajkovic, and Anna Korcak.

The hand-sewn flag of St. Matthew's Society, Branch 45



Guests dancing and having a good time



(L – R) Maria Zakovic and Antonia Krajkovic



(L – R) Lucky raffle winner Vladimir Macko with Maria Jurasi



Anton Kucharovic and Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic



# 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	Cyril M Ondre Sr	086K	Evelyn J Kurimcak	276K	Marlene E Donahue	595K	Patrick D Kelley
002K	Antonia Garrison Hull	090K	Albert J Kishel	280K	Emanuel M Valasek	628K	Mary C Barkin
003K	Ann Barbara Gromek	112K	Sallie K Starkey	293K	Barbara G Fabrick	682K	Frances B Seech
006K	Catherine M Michlik	124K	Stephen J Gabany Jr	299K	Emro Danko	716K	Anne Hronec
016P	Robert Gaspar Leginus	149K	Robert P Kardohely	299K	Pauline Rackovan	731K	Carl J Gordulic
016P	Aloysius Stajewski	156K	Anna Lehman	380K	Marylou Popiolkowski	746K	Anthony Ulcej
019K	Irene Evelyn Tomis	166K	Daniel J Walikis	382K	Pauline E Stasko	764K	Mary A Kalafsky
019K	Elizabeth Zuty	173K	Alyce C Lopuhovsky	388K	John A Bernat	779K	John C Saboe
024K	Ann G Gedeon	175K	John J Mayernik Jr	410K	Edward E Miller Iii	796K	Albert M David Jr
024K	Andrew J Knapik Jr	181K	Catherine M Keim	430K	William B Lopotosky	823K	Robert Ruzina
038K	Ernest J Jacko	181K	Joseph E Puskar	454K	Helen E Ivak	855K	Anne Kisel
038K	Jean L Ribar	181K	Violet I Sanderson	456K	Patrick J Coval Sr	855K	Stephen Martin Utrata
055K	Thomas J Hogan Sr	200K	Nick Panchik	484K	Rudolph Crnarich	888K	Francis E Maloney
060K	Helen C Yuhas	228K	Stephen G Myers	484K	Kenneth S Smolko	900K	Elizabeth Daprato
083K	Elmer J Valek	228K	Veronica E Tokarczyk	505K	Stephen M Kocis Jr	900K	Mary Ann Gnojewski
085K	Kathleen A Bixby	240P	Joseph F Zimak	553K	Ronald J Kayatin	900K	Steven G Konesky
085K	John M Krall	260K	Jean Ann Augustinsky	567K	Jean D Prochaska		

\* Processed in the month of March, 2012

## OBITUARIES

### Rev. Martin Svitan, pastor of New York's St. John Nepomucne Parish, laid to rest

The Rev. Martin Svitan, the beloved pastor of New York's St. John Nepomucene Parish, passed away peacefully in the rectory on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 following a brief illness. He was 72.

A native of Kravany, a village located just outside the city of Poprad in the Spis region of northeastern Slovakia, Father Martin was born there November 6, 1939. He was educated locally. Following the Warsaw Pact Invasion of Czecho-Slovakia in August 1968 and the collapse of what was historically known as The Prague Spring, a movement to bring about a more democratic and human face to Communism, Father Martin decided to emigrate to the west. He arrived in the United States on February 6, 1969 for a visit with his sister who was then residing on Long Island. He decided to stay and build a new life in America. He answered the call of the Lord and decided to pursue studies for the priesthood. On September 13, 1972, he left New York for Rome to begin studies at the Pontifical Lateran University, residing at the Nepomucene College. He completed his theological studies at the Lateran University. Archbishop Jozef Tomko ordained him a Deacon on December 2, 1979 in the Chapel of the Slovak Institute of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Rome, now known as the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril and Methodius. Father Martin was the first to be ordained to the Order of Deacon by Tomko, who had recently received episcopal consecration. On December 23, 1979, he was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Spis in Slovakia by Cardinal Giovanni Canestri in the chapel of the Convent of the Contemplative Visitation Sisters in Rome. On the feast of St. Stephen, December 26, 1979, he celebrated his first solemn Mass in the chapel of the Slovak Institute in Rome.

On April 23, 1980, Father Svitan returned to New York City where he began his priestly ministry as an assistant to the late Monsignor Stephen J. Hudacek at the parish of St. John Nepomucene. Beginning in 1982, he was transferred to the parish of St. Joseph in Glasco, N.Y. where he served as an associate. He subsequently served at St. Mary's Parish in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., St. Christo-



pher's Parish in Red Hook, N.Y. and Infant Savior Parish in Pine Bush, N.Y. In 1990, he was incardinated into the Archdiocese of New York. In 1996, he was appointed chaplain at Benedictine Hospital in Kingston, N.Y. Following the death of the Rev. Robert J. Tomlian in January 1999, Cardinal John O'Connor appointed him pastor of St. John Nepomucene Parish, effective March 30, 1999. He was formally installed as pastor of the Manhattan parish, which has been affectionately known as "The Slovak Basilica in New York" by Monsignor John G. Woolsey on April 3, 1999.

During his very fruitful ministry at St. John's, Father Svitan undertook the complete renovation of the church and parish facilities. He was ever a beloved spiritual and cultural leader of the New York area Slovak community. His kind heart and outgoing personality endeared him to the faithful far beyond the island of Manhattan. Many of his parishioners reside throughout the New York metropolitan area and return to St. John's where Father Martin's kind and effective ministry always touched them in a very special way. He was a wonderful priest and will be sorely missed. As a leader of the Slovak community, Father Martin actively supported

the work of the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Slovak League of America, as well as our Slovak Catholic fraternals.

On Sunday afternoon, April 15 the body of Father Martin lay in state in the church. That evening at 7:30 p.m., the Mass of the Holy Eucharist was offered with the Most Reverend Gerald T. Walsh, Auxiliary Bishop of New York as principal celebrant. Homilist at the liturgy was the Very Rev. George J. Torok, C.O., pastor and provost of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Old Tappan, N.Y. The funeral liturgy was celebrated on Monday, April 16 with His Eminence, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York as

principal celebrant. The homilist in English and Slovak was given by the Reverend Stefan Chanas. At the Mass of Christian burial, Jozef Bilik, president of Branch 716 of the First Catholic Slovak Union, welcomed Cardinal Dolan on behalf of the parish council of which he is president. Interment followed at Fantinkill Cemetery in Ellenville, N.Y.

May this kind and loving pastor, patriotic American and faithful son of the Slovak nation, now rest in peace. May he enjoy the beatific vision!

- Daniel F. Tanzone  
Editor, Slovak Catholic Falcon

#### ◆◆◆ THERESA F. (ZAVADA) WASSIL

Theresa F. (Zavada) Wassil entered into eternal rest on February 4, 2012 in Fremont, OH after a six-year battle with Alzheimer's disease. She was born in Wyoming, PA on October 17, 1928 to John and Helen (Warganin) Zavada and graduated from Wyoming High School. She married Andrew Wassil, Jr. on June 25, 1949 in St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Pittston, PA. They were married for 50 wonderful years. Together they owned and operated Sullivan Park Service in Exeter, PA, living above the business. Theresa kept books for the business while raising four children. In the 1960's they purchased property in Falls where they built their dream home after retirement.

Theresa loved sewing and put her talents to good use making beautiful dresses, coats, and gowns for her three daughters for every occasion. Before the children were born, she worked in a dress factory and returned again

when they were in high school. She was employed by Nan-Dee Dress Company in Exeter where she was responsible for making Alfred Angelo wedding gown samples until her retirement.

She is survived by her children, son, David (Cathy) Wassil of Gibsonburg, OH; daughters, Gloria (Daryl) Nace of Camp Hill, PA, Diane (Daniel) Suter of Vernon, NJ and Christine (Keith) Hutchings of Vancouver, WA; grandchildren, Jeff, Megan, and Brian Wassil, Destinee (Alan) Tormey, Dustin (Mandy) Nace, Katharine, and Elizabeth Nace, Jesse (Evan) Barquist and Julia Suter; brothers, Leonard (Norma) Zavada and Paul (Cathy) Zavada.

Her husband, parents, and brothers Bernard and William Zavada preceded her in death. She was a member of St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church in Pittston. She was interred at St. John the baptist Cemetery in Exeter, PA.

#### ◆◆◆ American Slovak Club Converts Trophy Cabinet

The United Slovak Societies will begin the project of converting a trophy cabinet into a cultural display case for the retention of Slovak artifacts located at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, Ohio. Carpenters interested in submitting a bid for the project, please contact Michele Mager at 440/984-3353 or email: slovenska.hviezda@hotmail.com

Thank you,

Michele Mager  
Secretary, United Slovak Societies  
FCSU Member, Branch 228

# Report of the Executive Secretary

## March 23 – 24, 2012

*continued from page 1*

in 2010. This should be the last adjustment on these bonds as final settlement is expected in 2012.

The Bond Unrealized gains were General Motors \$545,986; Lehman Brothers \$456,873 and miscellaneous -\$123,263. Schedule BA Surplus Notes gained \$118,860. Preferred stock showed unrealized gains of \$13,840. Common stocks showed unrealized losses of \$133,347 and losses of \$8,990 on sales.

The Society emphasizes Bonds and Stocks (92.5%) as its main investments. The Society had over \$5,200,000 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.

### Financial Position:

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

Our 2011 premium income is broken down as follows:

Life Insurance	\$ 1,417,034
Annuities	<u>14,055,956</u>
Total	\$ 15,472,990

Investment income for 2011 is broken down as follows.

### Investment Income for 2011:

Government Bonds	\$ 3,185,424
Bonds	10,996,688
Preferred Stock	257,450
Common Stock	72,550
Common Stock Affiliates	150,000
Mortgage Loans	129,912
Real Estate	303,112
Certificate Loans	54,172
Short-Term Investments	(297,672)
Other Investment Assets	71,375
Write-ins for Investment Income	<u>(523,406)</u>
Total Investment Income	\$ 14,399,605

### Investment Expenses:

Depreciation on Real Estate and Other Investment Expenses (Investment Taxes, License Fees, etc.)	\$ 1,104,662
Net Investment Income	\$ 13,294,943

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

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Assets	\$203,610,335	\$201,036,525	\$234,794,912	\$272,289,975	\$285,105,807
Prem. Income	5,693,973	8,025,584	17,676,121	33,635,663	14,055,956
Invest. Income	12,064,200	12,053,864	14,943,839	14,325,257	13,294,943
Net Gain	1,915,292	1,427,520	4,309,466	1,861,798	1,127,438

Bonds constitute 90.5% (+1.8%) of the Society's assets, and have an average maturity of 15 years. The Organization enjoys excellent bond quality, with 95.8% (+3.8%) of the bonds in the two highest NAIC rating classes. Preferred Stocks now make up only 1.0% of invested assets. Common Stocks are 1.0% in an effort to diversify the portfolio and increase investment return. Other assets consist of mortgages (0.6%); real estate (.9%); and all others (6.1%). The Society owns \$897,144 of surplus notes which are listed on Schedule BA and shown as Other Invested Assets on the Asset page. Other Invested Assets also included \$9,703,318 in a bond like Hedge Fund. The Society's net investment rate of return was 5.0%, which is comparable to the five-year average of 6.13% and good in the current market. The net investment rate of return dropped from the prior year because 2010 included substantial Hedge Fund income.

The most significant increases in liabilities were: life policy reserves increased 1.0%; annuity reserves increased 1%; deposit type accounts by \$10,832,475 (includes FHLB funds) and Funds held as trustee 5.6%. \* AVR decreased \$621,146 to \$2,145,008 and the IMR decreased 15.6%. Unpaid expenses showed a significant increase as the Convention reserve was reestablished towards the next convention. Average lapse ratio remains at a very favorable 2.44% over the past 5 years. The Society has no foreign investments payable in foreign currency. The Foreign Exchange Reserve was maintained at \$10,000.

Surplus increased 8.4%. Surplus is at its highest point in the history of the Society and currently stands at \$18,984,017.

### Operations:

Total life premium income showed a decrease of 6.6%, while annuity premiums decreased 56.2% due to de-emphasis on annuity products. Overall premium income decreased 54.0%, investment income decreased slightly by 7.2% due to the lower return on the Hedge Fund.

The return is good despite the low interest rates currently available and the continuing economic turmoil. Overall, total income for the year decreased 49.6%.

Total member benefits were 87.8% higher. Total life benefits were 25.1% higher; annuity benefits increased by 113.7% reflecting high withdrawals from one general agent. Annuity reserves were considerably lower (-\$28,920,000) reflecting the lower premium income and higher annuity benefits. Commissions were 28.5% lower reflecting lower production; operation expenses were 11.7% lower, led by General Expenses which were only 10.3% lower, and taxes were 5.0% higher. Management continues to control expenses. Dividends to members were 9.0% higher. The Society enjoyed a gain from operations for the 17th year in a row.

Bond and Preferred Stock capital losses, both realized and unrealized, were reviewed earlier in this Report.

There are no known trends which will cause future operation results to deviate materially from 2011 results.

The AVR decreased by \$621,146, and stands 2.4% below the maximum of \$2,197,799. The decrease in AVR was also detailed earlier in this report. The IMR decreased 15.6% and now stands at \$1,332,565.

The combination of surplus, AVR and IMR total \$22,461,590, an increase of 2.7% over the same items in 2010. This amount represents stable funds available for member fund safety.

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

### Cash Flow and Liquidation:

The items which provide liquidity are \$5,245,505 of cash/short term funds, \$2,757,043 of Common Stock, over \$1,500,000 of bonds maturing in less than one year, \$15,472,990 of premium income and almost \$13,300,000 of investment income. Expected outgo for benefit payments, commissions, dividends and expenses is about \$25,000,000. The society has more than adequate liquidity as reflected by the \$2,543,980 of cash from operations in 2011. 2011 was a year in which the Society elected to put reduced emphasis on annuity products.

### Risk Based Surplus:

The Risk Based surplus calculations indicate that total adjusted surplus is \$21,329,025, which is above actual surplus. This does not include the IMR. The total for 50% of the calculated RBC was \$3,262,383 (after RBC Cash Flow Scenario testing amount of \$954,775), which is substantially lower than actual surplus. The Society's RBS ratio of 654 is safely above regulatory action levels.

The Society had three IRS Ratios outside the NAIC designated ranges. The unusual ratios results from the large decrease in premium income.

### Insurance in Force:

The Society recorded a decrease of \$817,000 for insurance in force. Insurance in-force has increased only .4% since 2007.

### Summary:

Our 2011 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 2011 we had a loss in insurance membership (death claims, cash withdrawals, expels, etc.) of 1,989 members compared to a loss of 1,267 in 2010. We had a decrease in the number of life insurance certificates of 1,492 in 2011 compared to a loss of 1,312 in 2010.

As of December 31, 2011, the Society had 4,971 annuity certificates. As of December 31, 2011, annuitant membership totals 1,810 annuitant members (this total does not reflect members who have both insurance and annuity contracts). The total cash value of our annuity accounts for 2011 was \$142,712,772.34 compared to \$141,768,864.52 in 2010. Our annuity products continue to be the bright spot in our portfolio, bringing in over \$80,000,000 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.

In 2011 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 2012 we will be establishing an incentive plan to encourage our recommenders to obtain their state insurance license. We will be looking into costs and education center locations that will be available to them.

We are further expanding our search for new independent insurance agents to sell our products. The agents that have signed contracts with our Society are eager and very interested in making our products available to their clients. They have been especially enthusiastic about our annuity products and insurance rates. We have developed an illustration program for our insurance and annuity products. This illustration tool will be helpful to our independent agents.

The home office maintains a supply of sales tools, which aid our officers, recommenders

*continued on page 18*

## Report of the Executive Secretary

March 23 – 24, 2012

*continued from page 17*

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. The 2001 Mortality Tables have also been incorporated into the sales kits. We now have available our new updated version of the pamphlet: What is the Jednota. This pamphlet gives a brief history of our Society. Our highly qualified home office staff is also available during normal business hours to answer any questions concerning rates, completing applications, etc. To better serve our members and to increase efficiency, we offer an automatic premium payment service, which enables our members to have their premium payments automatically deducted from their bank accounts. Automatic deposit for annuity checks is also available to our annuity holders. For the convenience of our members, we are now accepting Visa and Master Card credit cards which may be used for premium payments, annuity deposits, loan payments and newspaper subscriptions.

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

We continue to use, direct mail as a means of contacting our branches and our members, giving them information about our existing and new products. Direct mail is a necessary tool in marketing our products as we can reach a vast majority of our members in a short time. We have expanded our marketing advertising in our *Jednota*, our official organ, to better inform our members about our products. Our official organ, *Jednota*, is also a very useful vehicle for advertising 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](mailto: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. 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 have the capability of sending and receiving information from our members through our e-mail address, [fcsu@aol.com](mailto:fcsu@aol.com). We encourage our members and officers to use e-mail when corresponding with the home office. In 2011 our annual statement was filed electronically with the NAIC. We have been filing electronically financial and various reports required by the states in which we are licensed.

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 2011 our internal auditors and outside auditors, Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, conducted their audits for the period ending December 31, 2011. 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 2011, we continued merging inactive branches with active branches. This process will continue through 2011. 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 them with. One of 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.

The year 2011 was the thirteenth year that our branches had 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 2011 the requirements for the financial obligations (bylaw section 4.05) has been mailed to all branch officers as a reminder of the expectations for each branch.

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

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

Our Society is very active in fraternal activities. We sponsor bowling and golf tournaments

each year. A coloring contest and photo contest for the younger members of our Society is held each year. Family picnics are now held on the District and Branch level and are more centrally located for our members. There were activities for the young and older members of the FCSU at the picnics. We hope to continue this practice annually. 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 a Director of the Secretary Section of the American Fraternal Alliance I have attended and represented the Society at fraternal functions not only within our FCSU but also other fraternal societies. I represent the society at various branch and district meetings throughout the year. Each year I attend the American Fraternal Alliance Annual Convention. I also attend many seminars, including the Bruce and Bruce Seminars, which are always very informative regarding current insurance trends and pending state and NAIC regulations that might affect the FCSU.

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

### Kent Dudince Sister City Association Tenth Annual Anniversary Banquet

Sunday, May 20, 2012

Kent Elks Lodge Hall, Elks Lane – State Route 59  
(behind Twin Star Bowling Lanes, 2245 State Route 59)

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1:00 PM – Social Hour      2:00 PM – Dinner      3:00 PM – Program

\*\*\*\*\*

Music by Johnny Pastirik Band during Social Hour and Dinner  
Orchestra members: Johnny Pastirik, Len Jacko, and Ken Javor

Dancing following the program

\*\*\*\*\*

Šarišan of Greater Detroit, Michigan  
Milan Straka, Founder & Director

\*\*\*\*\*

Slovenske Mamičky of Greater Cleveland Vocal Ensemble  
Members: Milka Anderko, Maria Cvicela, Monica Smid

\*\*\*\*\*

Lučinka Children's Slovak Folk Ensemble of Greater Cleveland  
Nadia Oros, Choreographer  
Michele Mager, Director  
Tom Ivanec, Honorary Director

\*\*\*\*\*

Tickets - \$20.00 per person – Catered by Tom's Country Place  
Donation of Baked Goods would be appreciated

\*\*\*\*\*

Advance Ticket Sales Only    Deadline for purchase: May 15, 2012  
Tickets with directions will be mailed. Please include all guest names.

Make checks payable to:  
Kent-Dudince Sister City Association  
1544 Vine Street  
Kent, OH 44240

\*\*\*\*\*

(Or for more information, call Rudy Bachna – 330-673-3255)

## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Radio Host/Producer, The Christophers

### The Unexpected Road to God

"None of the characters went looking for God, but God found them."

Writer/Director/Producer Emilio Estevez recalled that reaction from a viewer when I interviewed him on Christopher Closeup about his Christopher Award-winning movie, "The Way."

It tells the story of Tom (Martin Sheen), an American doctor whose son, Daniel (Emilio Estevez), dies while on the historical pilgrimage called the Camino de Santiago (or Way of St. James) in France and Spain. Tom had a strained relationship with Daniel, so he decides to complete the several-hundred-mile pilgrimage himself to honor his son's memory. Along the way, he is joined by several other pilgrims who are walking the route for non-religious reasons as well. Their journey culminates in the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral where tradition maintains that the Apostle James' remains are buried. That's where the pilgrims have more of an experience of God than they expected.

A key theme in "The Way" has to do with the sense of community that all of us need, but don't always acknowledge. It's made very clear in a humorous, but moving sequence in which the four pilgrims who've been spending virtually every waking and sleeping hour together decide to get separate rooms in a hotel so they can experience some alone time for a change. Ultimately, they discover they miss each other's company and wind up congregating in Tom's room.

The sense of community in that scene has a special resonance for Estevez. He explained to me, "I'm very connected to my family, and one of the great salvations of my life is that I live very close to my parents. We talk daily. In this film, you have four pilgrims who are without family. They're orphans in the world. Then they find each other and, in that moment, they create a refugio, a shelter, in that hotel room. They realize that they need each other more than anything else. These people get to the end of the road and they realize what connects them is their humanity and brokenness."

Estevez's genius as director of "The Way" is made most clear near the end of the film when the pilgrims arrive at the Cathedral. The architecture and artwork in churches like that were meant to inspire awe in people who came there, to remind us of the sheer grandeur and awesomeness of God. Estevez's reaction was exactly the same.

He says, "It was extraordinary! We were not allowed access to the Cathedral at first. While we were along the Camino, we kept calling and trying to get access. They said, 'No, we're not going to allow you to shoot. There's another church you guys can access and use as a stand-in.' And I said, 'If we can't get into the Cathedral, then we have no ending for the film.' I think they believed we had this American sensibility that was going to poke fun at the Church, that it was not going to represent the Church or the Cathedral in a good light. And I said, 'That couldn't be further from the truth.' I asked the crew to light candles and to pray on it. And about 48 hours before we arrived in Santiago, they gave us permission not only to shoot in the Church, but to shoot the Mass, the tomb [of St. James], to film at the Portico de Gloria. It was a miracle that they allowed us to film there. Even though we only had a few hours to shoot, what you see on film is my awe and how I was inspired."

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



## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The following branches have not qualified to receive the 2011 stipend as of April 25, 2012, per Bylaw 4.05

Branch #	Branch #	Branch #	Branch #	Branch #	Branch #	Branch #
001P	124K	233K	330K	454K	635K	779K
004K	128K	238K	333K	456K	636K	780K
016P	132K	240P	335K	461K	638K	784K
027P	136K	266K	348K	465K	652K	785K
032K	144P	270K	353K	472K	659K	787K
047K	149K	278K	353P	480K	661K	788K
051P	152K	279K	356P	487K	667K	789K
053K	156K	280K	358K	497K	686K	810K
064K	157K	282K	362K	505K	700K	812K
075K	163K	294K	368K	510K	701K	821K
083K	164K	299K	369K	512K	702K	823K
085K	165K	308K	373K	514K	703K	830K
086K	175K	310P	381K	517K	704K	831K
090K	189K	315K	388K	543K	714K	842K
096K	189P	319K	402K	571K	717K	844K
098K	196P	321K	403K	584K	729K	852K
102K	198P	321P	404K	586K	733K	853K
108K	211K	322K	414K	591K	735K	858K
110K	215K	323K	417K	600K	748K	862K
114P	221K	324K	429K	615K	754K	865K
121K	224K	326K	430K	618K	756K	888K
122K	226P	327K	434K	623K	777K	890K

## Tour Slovakia with Youngstown/Spišska Nová Ves Sister Cities

15th Heritage Tour Set For July 10 - 24, 2012



Spiš Castle is one of the many cities featured on the 15th Youngstown/Spišska Nová Ves Sister Sites Heritage Tour

Join us as we host the 15th Youngstown/Spišska Nová Ves Sister Cities Heritage Tour of Slovakia July 10 - 24, 2012, visiting such cities as Bratislava, Piešťany, Trnava, Prešov, Banská Bystrica, Nitra, Sliač, Spišska Nová Ves and more. Spend time in the Tatra's, raft ride on the Dunajec River, visit historical sites, see many beautiful churches and castles while enjoying cultural performances. Discover your roots—side trips to ancestral villages available with advance notice.

**Special Leap Year Discount:** The price from Pittsburgh, PA, is \$3699.00 ---from Washington D.C. is \$3649.00

For more information contact:

Jim and Kay Bench  
428 West 4th Ave.  
Derry, Pa. 15627  
Phone 724-694-5101---cell phone 724-858-5843  
e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com  
or  
Adventure International Travel  
PO Box 770410 Lakewood, Ohio 44107  
Phone 216-228-7171 (Toll free 800-542-2487)  
e-mail paul@aits.webmail.com

## Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

## Address Changes?

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

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

**THINK ABOUT IT!**



Pictured Mgrs. John E. Rura District Board (L-R): Joe Minarovich - Regional Director, Sabina Sabados- President, Mary Karch-Vice President, Stephen Minarovich-Treasurer, and Mary Kapitan-Recording/Financial Secretary.

## March Meeting of Mgrs. John Rura District

The Mgrs. John E. Rura District (Okres) meeting was hosted on March 25, 2012 at the Mgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The successful meeting concluded with singing of Hey Slovaci. Members then enjoyed delicious Slovak food by Julie Rada Catering.



## 55th Congress of the Slovak League set for June 8-9 in Bridgeport, Conn.

The Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry, will host its 55th Congress in Bridgeport, Conn. at The Holiday Inn, June 8-9, 2012. Founded in Cleveland, Ohio in 1907 by the Rev. Stephen Furdek and Peter P. Rovnianek, its founding assembly attracted more than 10,000 Slovaks from all across the United States, representing every original purpose was to alert the United States to the plight of the Slovaks who were then one of the subject peoples of old Austria-Hungary. Working together as a unified body, they sought to press for the rights of the Slovaks at home to seek political self-determination. The Slovak League was a major force in helping to emancipate the Slovaks at home from Hungarian domination. Through its efforts, the first Republic of Czecho-Slovakia was established in 1919 with the blessings of President Woodrow Wilson. In addition to promoting Slovak rights at home, the Slovak League for more than century has hosted programs promoting Slovak culture and heritage in the United States. It has promoted higher education among Americans of Slovak ancestry and has assisted hundreds of students through its scholarship program. Over the years, it has also published numerous works in both Slovak and English related to Slovak culture and history. Since the independence of Slovakia, the Slovak League has participated in many educational and cultural exchange projects between the United States and Slovakia. From its earliest years, the organization has enjoyed the full support of the Slovak fraternal which enjoy institutional membership in the Slovak League of America.

The Keynote Address at the 55th Congress will be given by retired U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia, the Hon. Vincent Obsitnik. Ambassador Obsitnik, who was born in Slovakia, represented the United States in the Slovak capital from 2007-09. He is a well-known Slovak cultural and fraternal leader and has promoted numerous projects. The 55th Congress will be held at The Holiday Inn located at 1070 Main Street conveniently located in downtown Bridgeport, Conn. Overnight accommodations are \$139.00 plus tax. A block of rooms has been reserved under the Slovak League of America. For reservations call (203)334-1234. Registration will open on Thursday evening, June 7. The business sessions will begin on Friday, June 8 at 10:30 a.m. The gala banquet is scheduled for Saturday evening, June 9 beginning with a reception at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:15 p.m. Banquet tickets are \$40.00 per person. A commemorative journal with patron listings including: Diamond - \$100; Golden - \$50; Silver - \$25.00 and individual patron listing at \$10 will be published. Make checks payable to Slovak League of America and send same to Slovak League of America, 205 Madison St., Passaic, NJ 07055. For additional information on the 55th Congress, feel free to call the Slovak League's national office in Passaic, N.J. at 973-472-8993, fax: 973-835-3723.

A local 55th Congress Committee has been organized under the very capable leadership of well-known Slovak fraternal and cultural leader, Eileen S. Wilson. The Bridgeport area has enjoyed an important role in the history of the Slovaks in America. One of the country's oldest Slovak colonies, it organized its first Slovak society in 1884. As their numbers increased, the Slovaks established Roman Catholic, Byzantine Catholic and Lutheran churches. St. John Nepomucene Roman Catholic Parish in Bridgeport founded in 1891, was the first Slovak church established in the New England States. It remained an important center of the area's Slovak community until its closing in 2001. The current generation of Slovak activists look forward to welcoming delegates and guests of the Slovak League from all parts of the U.S. for what looks to be a memorable and enjoyable weekend.

**Daniel F. Tanzone**  
National President, Slovak League of America

## John's Tours Sets 15-day Slovakia Tour for September 2012

This year, John's Tours offers a 15-day tour of Slovakia and the surrounding countries of Poland, (Vienna), Austria, and the Czech Republic.

The tour which departs on September 10, 2012 will include: visits to Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia; Levoča, Špania Dolina, Prešov, Banská Štiavnica, Stará Ľubovňa, Poprad, Nitra, Košice, Trnava, Piešťany, Spišský Hrad, a "castle" which actually consists of three castles – upper, central, and middle. This tour also will include a raft ride – Rajecká Lesná – on the Dunajec River which runs between the Slovak and Polish border. The tour will feature two folklore programs with dinners.

We will see sights in Vienna, Austria, such as Schoenbrunn Place, St. Stephen's Cathedral, and the Platz, as well as a visit to Schoenbrunn Place. In the Czech Republic, you can look forward to seeing Old Town Square, St. Vitus Cathedral, Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, the Astronomical Clock, plus many other sights.

Tours include: two (2) meals daily – breakfasts and dinners; an English-speaking guide; bus transportation with restroom and air conditioning; admittance to all scheduled sights; accommodations in three- or four-star hotels, all with private baths; and group air transportation, for your convenience and the best possible price.

If you are interested, please call or write for a complete day-to-day itinerary and price:

John's Tours, P.O. Box 154, Vandergrift, PA, 15690

1-724-567-7341 OR 1-724-568-3215 OR toll free at 1-800-260-8687



FOTO TASR - Michal Svitok

Novovymenovaný predseda vlády SR Robert Fico si prebral úrad od expremiérky SR Ivety Radičovej 4. apríla 2012 v Bratislave.

Newly named premier of the government Robert Fico formerly assumes the office from former premier Iveta Radicova on April 4, 2012, in Bratislava.

## Nový premiér si prevzal od Ivety Radičovej Úrad vlády SR

Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič 4. apríla za nového premiéra vymenoval predsedu Smeru-SD Roberta Fica.

“Zložili ste ústavný sľub a som presvedčený, že ako predseda vlády, spolu s ministerským zborom, budete tento sľub naplňať. Čakajú to od vás všetci občania SR,” povedal krátko po vymenovaní Gašparovič. Zároveň vyjadril presvedčenie, že doteraz získané skúsenosti v sociálnej, ekonomickej, štátoprávnej aj duchovno-kultúrnej oblasti využije Fico vo vedení štátu.

“Chcem povedať, že budete mať aj vo mne oporu, aby sme spolu SR vždy udržali v úrovniach váženej republiky, ktorá sa zodpovedne stará o svojich občanov a je aj v medzinárodnej politike uznávaná ako dôveryhodný partner. K tomuto vám držím palce,” uzavrela hlava štátu.

“Z celého srdca ďakujem za prejavenú dôveru a veľmi si vážim slová o vašej pripravenosti podporovať v zásadných rozhodnutiach vládu SR a mňa osobne,” reagoval vo svojom prihovore Fico. Podľa vlastných slov má z rokov 2006 až 2010, kedy prvýkrát viedol vládny kabinet, len tie najlepšie skúsenosti zo spolupráce troch najvyšších ústavných činiteľov a očakáva pokračovanie tejto tradície.

TASR

## Pred 24 rokmi sa v Bratislave konala Sviečková manifestácia

Výročie Sviečkovej manifestácie 25. marca na Hviezdoslavovo námestie v Bratislave priviedlo asi 150 ľudí. Na rovnakom námestí sa pred 24 rokmi stretli tisíce ľudí, ktorí so sviečkami v rukách volali po dodržiavaní občianskych a náboženských práv. Po položení sviečok k pamätníku Sviečkovej manifestácie sa zhromaždení presunuli na svätú omšu, ktorú v Katedrále sv. Martina celebroid bratislavský arcibiskup metropolita Stanislav Zvolenský. Po omši účastníci osláv v centre mesta pokračovali modlitbovým zhromaždením.

Sviečková manifestácia z roku 1988 pripomína 25. marec - Deň zápasu za ľudské práva. Od roku 1993 je zo zákona Deň zápasu za ľudské práva pamätným dňom Slovenskej republiky. Na Hviezdoslavovom námestí v Bratislave sa 25. marca 1988 konala sviečková manifestácia, na ktorej sa zišli tisíce občanov z hlavného mesta i ďalších miest a obcí Slovenska. So sviečkami v rukách vyjadrili názor na nedodržiavanie ľudských a najmä náboženských práv vo vtedajšom Československu.

Manifestácia v roku 1988 sa stala najväčším verejným vystúpením proti komunistickému režimu vo vtedajšej ČSSR od roku 1968. Pripravili ju predstavitelia náboženskej opozície, biskup Ján Chryzostom Korec, Ján Čarnogurský, Silvester Krčméry, Vladimír Jukl, František Mikloško a ďalší členovia katolíckeho disentu. Ten na území Slovenska plnil úlohu opozičného hnutia proti totalitnému socialistickému systému s vládnucou úlohou KSC a KSS.

Na programe verejného zhromaždenia bola tichá manifestácia občanov za vymenovanie katolíckych biskupov, za úplnú náboženskú slobodu a za úplné dodržiavanie občianskych práv. Akcia sa uskutočnila aj napriek rozsiahlym protiopatreniam vtedajších stranických a štátnych orgánov a aj napriek výzvam vtedajšej organizácie Pacem in terris, ktorá spolupracovala s komunistami.

Hotel Carlton na Hviezdoslavovom námestí v ten deň pre verejnosť zatvorili. Pôsobila v ňom stranícka a vládna komisia, ktorá sledovala priebeh udalostí a viedla zásah bezpečnostných síl režimu proti veriacim účastníkom manifestácie a ich priaznivcom.

Tisíce ľudí okrem Hviezdoslavovho námestia zaplnili aj priľahlé ulice pri námestí, a to aj napriek nepriaznivému počasiu. Manifestácia trvala od 18.00 do 18.30 h. Po zaspievaní štátnej a pápežskej hymny sa ľudia začali verejne modliť. Prítomní neposlúchli výzvu na rozchod z amplióna policajného auta a vytrvali aj pri ohlušujúcich sirénach út bezpečnostných zložiek. Niekoľko minút pred plánovaným ukončením zhromaždenia zasiahli bezpečnostné sily aj vodnými delami. Polícia použila i slzotvorný plyn, psov, obušky a fyzické násilie. Príslušníci bezpečnostných síl bili a zatýkali aj nezainteresovaných občanov, ktorí sa im náhodne dostali na dosah. Zásah proti účastníkom manifestácie nebol zameraný na stabilizáciu a ochranu verejného poriadku, ale na prezentovanie moci komunistami ovládaného socialistického režimu. Jeho cieľom bolo zastrašiť opozičné sily, ktoré nesúhlasili s praktikami nedemokratického spoločenského systému. Sviečková manifestácia patrí medzi udalosti v slovenských dejinách, ktoré sa radia k medzníkom boja za demokracizáciu slovenskej spoločnosti.

TASR

## Výchova – dôležitý faktor pri formovaní osobnosti

*Motto: Ohýbaj ma, mamko, pokým som ja Janko, keď ja budem Jano, neohneš ma mamko.*

Výchova má veľa prívlastkov: asketická, ateistická, autoritatívna, bigotná, bezcitná, bilíngválna, cieľavedomá, citová, dopravná, domyselná, estetická, etická, hudobná, individuálna, koedukačná, kolektívna, náboženská, nápravná, mimoškolská, ústavná, občianska, pochybná, pracovná, predškolská, rodičovská, rozumová, socialistická, spartánska, spoločenská, školská, telesná, všeobecná, výtvarná, zanedbaná ...

Každá je svojím spôsobom viac menej odlišná. My sa budeme zaoberať rodičovskou a školskou, pretože sú si veľmi blízke a zaberajú popredné miesto v spoločnosti.

### Spätosť rodiny a školy

Škola a rodina boli odjakživa úzko späté. Spájalo ich rovnako dôležité pôsobenie na človeka: výchova a vzdelanie. Kým sa rodina venovala viac-menej len výchove detí, ktoré sa niekedy samočinne, inokedy z vlastného záujmu priučali od rodičov niektorým životne potrebným a dôležitým zručnostiam, napr. dievčatá: pečeni chleba, koláčov, zákuskov a rôznych mäsitých jedál, vareniu, tkaniu plátna a kobercov, pleteniu svetrov, šálov, šitiu, háčkovaniu dečiek, maľovaniu veľkonočných kraslíc ..., chlapci: výrobe hračiek z dreva, korbáčov na šibanie, pišťaliiek a fujár, prútených košíkov, lyžíc, varešiek, črpkov, hrablí, násad do hospodárskeho náradia ( motýk, vidiel, lopát, sekier, kladív), vtáčích búdok...

### Zhoda záujmov

Nie je zriedkavý jav, že deti majú rovnaké hobby ako ich rodičia, napr. chlapci (po otcovi): numizmatik, šachista, poľovník, včelár, rybár, hubár, filatelista, tenista, futbalista ..., dievčatá: kuchárka, záhradkárka, pestovanie kvetín a okrasných kríkov, výroba postavičiek z kukuričného šúpolia, vyšívanie (paličkovanie), výroba plyšových hračiek, vianočných ozdôb, lúštenie krížoviek ...

### Výchovnovyučovací proces

Škola sa oddávna venovala popri upevňovaní rodičovskej výchovy aj cieľnému vzdelávaniu, najprv vo forme trívia (čítanie, písanie, rátanie), ktoré sa postupne rozvíjalo do širších vedných odborov ako: hudobná, telesná, výtvarná, pracovná výchova, vlastiveda, zemepis, dejepis, fyzika, chémia ...

### Vážnosť a úcta

Obe inštitúcie požívali vo verejnosti úctu, dôveru, vážnosť, rešpekt. No zatiaľ, čo si škola upevňovala svojim cieľným výchovným a vzdelávacím pôsobením kladný vplyv na žiakov, v niektorých rodinách sa tento začínal oslabovať, strácať. Príčin bolo viacero: otec, hlava rodiny, odišiel za prácou do cudziny alebo ďaleko od domova, pričom výchova detí tam spočívala výlučne len na pleciach matky, úmrtie jedného alebo oboch rodičov a zverenie detí do výchovy starých rodičov, strýka, tety, rozvod rodičov, príchod druhá alebo družky do rodiny (často aj s dieťaťom), čo malo neraz na dieťa veľmi neblahý vplyv, najmä, ak sa robil rozdielny prístup k vlastnému a nevlastnému dieťaťu, pričom v takýchto prípadoch preberala škola aj časť rodinnej výchovy.

### Úspech pri výchove neprichádza sám od seba

Ani v úplnej a dobre situovanej a usporiadanej rodine to niekedy celkom neklape. Rodičia síce zariadili dieťaťu detskú izbu s celým komfortom (rádio, televízor, mobil, počítač s internetom, moderný nábytok, rôzne videokazety...) no sami, v honbe za peniazmi, často ako podnikatelia, pracujú deň čo deň, sobota, nedeľa, od vidiš doma alebo v zahraničí, aby bolo auto, chata, dom, rekreácia pri mori ... pričom niet času na vlastné deti, na prechádzku s nimi, na rozhovor, ako to ide v škole, čo číta teraz (ak vôbec číta nejakú knihu)...

Úspech rodičovskej výchovy je podmienený častým kontaktom rodičov s dieťaťom, sledovaním jeho práce, poskytovaním rady alebo pomoci, ak treba, pochvalou pri sebameneších úspechoch v škole (neodmeňovať ho za to peniazmi), rozumne ho pokarhať pri prípadnom si neplnení povinností, zapájať ho do pomoci v domácnosti, pohrať sa s ním občas nejakú spoločenskú hru, pošantiť, požartovať, spoločne si zaspievať či vypočuť ľudovú (umelú) pieseň ... Slovom dať mu pocítiť, že v rodičoch má aj svojich priateľov.

### Rovnaké požiadavky na dieťa

Veľmi dôležité je rovnaké pôsobenie rodičov a primeraná náročnosť na dieťa. Občas sa stáva, že otec je veľmi prísny, má vysoké požiadavky a matka je v tom povolnejšia (opak býva zriedkavý) alebo obaja rodičia sú príliš nároční.

### Aj prísnosť a náročnosť majú svoju mieru

Prichádzajú mi na um správy v médiách v období vydávania vysvedčení, keď niektoré deti z obavy pred bitkou, že nie je také, ako by si rodičia želali, neprídu domov, pokúšajú sa otráviť, vziať si život ... A čo, keby tak dieťa poprosilo rodičov, aby mu ukázali ich vysvedčenie, aby ho porovnálo so svojím? Možno by to zahovorili, okríkli ho, ostýchajúc sa, aby mu ho nemuseli ukázať. A neraz sú to oni, ktorí nespokojnosťou so školou.

### Podmienky pre vzdelávanie sa dieťaťa

Nie vždy má dieťa vhodné podmienky pre učenie a prípravu na vyučovanie. Je to najmä vtedy, ak jeden z rodičov alebo obaja sú alkoholici, ak sú v rodine časté hádky, ak sú rodičia v rozvodovom konaní, požívajú omamné prostriedky, fajčia a ak sú pritom jeden alebo obaja nezamestnaní...

### Po vzore rodičov

Nie je raritou, že niektoré z detí kráča v šľapajách otcovho (matkinho) povolania. napr.: lekár, učiteľka, zdravotná sestra, artista (cirkusový akrobat), športovec, operná speváčka, herec, hudobník, vedecký pracovník, šofér, automechanik ... Je tu obojstranná výhoda, pretože rodič môže aktívne, z vlastnej skúsenosti pomôcť dieťaťu, ktoré sa obracia o pomoc alebo radu.

### Rodič ako rada a priateľ

Obzvlášť dôležitá je pomoc a rada rodičov dieťaťu, ktoré končí základnú školu a nevie sa rozhodnúť, kam ďalej. Dobré je porozmýšľať nad tým doma, ale aj poradiť sa s triednym učiteľom a psychologom v škole. Treba prihliadať aj na to, ktoré predmety mal žiak počas dochádzky najradšej, v čom bol dobrý, ktoré predmety mu neboli po chuti, ktoré obľuboval ...

### Nerobiť nátlak na dieťa

Zásadne by rodičia nemali robiť nátlak a presadzovať si svoje na žiaka pri ukončení základnej školy a výbere ďalšej školy. Je pravdou, že žiak v tomto veku nemá ešte ustálený názor na svoje budúce povolanie a často ho mení, pričom niekedy chce ísť na istú školu len preto, že tam ide jeho najbližší kamarát (priateľka). Nemuselo by sa to vždy skončiť po dobrom a mohlo by sa to aj vypomstíť.

### Šťastní rodičia - šťastné deti

Šťastní sú rodičia, ktorí majú dobré, poslušné, pracovité, v škole prosperujúce deti, ktoré si ctia a vážia svojich rodičov a nedopúšťajú sa takých nezdravých alebo protispoločenských prejavov skutkov ako fajčenie, fetovanie, alkoholizmus, krádež, výtržníctvo, vandalizmus, osočovanie a týranie mladších spolužiakov...

Ale šťastné sú aj deti, ktoré majú rozumných, milých, uvedomelých a láskavých rodičov, ktorí ich netýrajú, neholdujú alkoholu, nehádajú sa, nepodvádzajú, nefetujú, nemiňajú peniaze v hazardných hrách, nedopúšťajú sa protispoločenských priestupkov..., ale vedú príkladný a usporiadaný život a sú deťom nielen rodičmi, ale aj dobrými spoločníkmi, priateľmi, radcami a pomocníkmi.

O výchove sa zmieňujú aj niektoré príslovia, napr.: *Aká matka, taká Katka, aký otec taký syn. Ako kráča starý rak i mladý sa učí tak. Čo sa zamladi naučíš, ako by si na starosť našiel. Skôr vychová jedna mať sedmoro synov ako sedmoro detí jednu matku...*

Správnu výchovu môže zabezpečovať len človek, ktorý ňou sám prešiel a chce ju odovzdať ďalším osobám.

Andrej Štelmák, Sliac, Slovakia

## Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

### Polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu, Spolok č. 16 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 24. júna 2012 o 1:00 hodine odpolednia na fare Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City.

Prosíme predsedov všetkých spolkov, ktoré patria do nášho Okresu, aby poslali čo najviac delegátov. Upozorňujeme, že aj nedelegáti sú vítaní. Program schôdze bude zameraný na prípravu plánu činnosti na budúce obdobie ako aj finančnú správu. Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripravia členovia spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ.

**Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka**

### 55. kongres Slovenskej ligy bude 8. a 9. júna v Bridgeporte, CT

Na základe rozhodnutia Výkonného výboru Slovenskej ligy oznamujeme, že 55. kongres Slovenskej ligy sa bude konať v piatok a sobotu 8. a 9. júna 2012 v hoteli Bridgeport Holiday Inn v Bridgeport, Connecticut. Adresa hotela je: Bridgeport Holiday Inn, 1070 Main Street, Bridgeport CT 06640. Telefónne číslo na rezervácie je 1-888-465-4329.

Prvé zasadanie kongresu bude v piatok 8. júna o 1:30 hodine popoludní a ďalšie zasadanie bude v sobotu o 9. hodine a bude pokračovať popoludní. Banket bude v sobotu 9. júna. Recepčia začne o 6:30 večer a banket bude o 7:30 hodine.

Slovenská liga pozýva na 55. kongres členské organizácie, spolky, zbory Slovenskej ligy a doživotných členov, ako aj slovenskú verejnosť. Blížšie informácie a inštrukcie budú poskytnuté v písomných komunikáciách v ďalších tlačových správach Slovenskej ligy.

**Daniel F. Tanzone, predseda  
W. Nina Holy, tajomníčka**

## Kanadský Slovák jubiluje (1942 – 2012)

Začiatkom marca 2012 dovŕšil 70 rokov svojho pionierskeho apoštolátu v slovenskej diaspore zainteresovaným známy ako už ojedinelý slovenský týždenník vychádzajúci v Severnej Amerike s heslom: „Za Boha, národ a Slovensko“.

Narodil sa 5. marca 1942 v Montreale, uprostred druhej svetovej vojny a rozvrátenej politickej situácie nežičlivej Slovákom od rodu, ako úradný orgán Kanadskej Slovenskej Ligy, vrcholnej fraternalistickej svojpomocnej organizácie národno-slovenskej orientácie. Vychádzal v tlačiarňi Verdun Printing na 10 stranách novinovej veľkosti, prevažne v slovenskom jazyku, s prílohou Slovenka pre slovenskú mládež.

V desiatom roku svojho života sa presťahoval z Montrealu do Winnipegu, do svojej vlastnej tlačiarne na 392 Logan Avenue.

Po odpredaji tlačiarne vo Winnipegu v roku 1958 sa Kanadský Slovák presťahoval do Toronta, kde dodnes vychádza na 12 stranách v slovenskom a anglickom jazyku, už s tradičným štvorfarebným vianočným číslom na 44 stranách. Ako iné periodiká i Kanadský Slovák, vychádzajúci v mori asimilácie a odnárodňovania a do nemalkej miery aj slovenskej dedičnej nedbalosti a nezaujmu, prežil vydateľské problémy a ťažkosti, ktoré obyčajne sprevádzajú etnické noviny. Neobišli ho ani neodvratné technické, jazykové a vnútorné zmeny.

Pri tvorbe novín sa vystriedalo niekoľko redaktorov. Každý z nich v nich zanechal stopu svojej tvorivosti. Medzi známejších redaktorov patrili František Kvetan, Štefan Rejšetter, Marián Jankovský a administrátorky Mária Kvetanová a Pavlína Hrehová. Zakladajúcim redaktorom bol Štefan Hreha a prvým predsedom Tlačového výboru sa stal Pavol Blaho.

Terajším redaktorom je už vyše 15 rokov Julio Behul, nositeľ niekoľkých ocenení a predsedom redakčnej rady prof. Stanislav Kirschbaum.

Daj, Bože, aby Kanadský Slovák ešte mnoho plodných rokov ohrieval srdcia svojeti žijúcej v Kanade a v zahraničí.



**Štefan Hreha**

## Pápežskú univerzitu v Ríme povedie slovenský dominikán

Slovenský dominikán profesor Miroslav Konštanc Adam bol 26. marca 2012 vymenovaný za rektora Pápežskej univerzity sv. Tomáša Akvinského (Angelicum) v Ríme. Táto pápežská univerzita je známa tým, že v roku 1947 na nej dosiahol doktorát zo spirituálnej teológie Karol Wojtyła, neskorší pápež b. Ján Pavol II.

Páter Miroslav Konštanc Adam OP sa narodil 2. augusta 1963 v Michalovciach. Po gymnaziálnych štúdiách v rodnom meste v rokoch 1982-1987 absolvoval štúdium na Vysoké škole veterinárskej v Košiciach. V rokoch 1987-1990 pracoval v Štátnom veterinárnom ústave v Michalovciach ako veterinárny lekár, bakteriológ a hygienik potravín. Dňa 26. februára 1989 vstúpil do tajného noviciátu rehole dominikánov, 28. apríla 1990 zložil prvé rehoľné sľuby a 13. apríla 1993 doživotné. V rokoch 1990-1995 absolvoval filozoficko-teologické štúdium na Cyrilometodějskej teologickej fakulte Palackého univerzity v Olomouci. Po svojej kňazskej vysviacke 24. júna 1995 pôsobil ako kaplán študentov Ekonomickej univerzity vo farnosti Bratislava-Kalvária. Postgraduálnu lektorskú skúšku z teológie zložil v septembri 1996 v Prahe. V rokoch 1996-2001 absolvoval licenciatne a doktorské štúdium kánonického práva na Pápežskej univerzite sv. T. Akvinského (Angelicum) v Ríme. V rokoch 2001-2005 bol provinciálom Rehole dominikánov na Slovensku. V rokoch 2001-2010 bol odborným asistentom kánonického práva na Teologickej fakulte Trnavskej univerzity v Bratislave, v roku 2004 aj na Teologickom inštitúte sv. T. Akvinského v Kyjeve. V rokoch 2003-2005 bol sudcom Metropolitného tribunálu Košickej arcidiecézy. Dňa 11. októbra 2005 bol vymenovaný za profesora na Fakulte kánonického práva Pápežskej univerzity sv. T. Akvinského v Ríme. V letných mesiacoch rokov 2006-2007 pracoval ako obhajca zväzku na Metropolitnom tribunáli Losangeleskej arcidiecézy v Kalifornii. Od roku 2006 je sudcom Prvej inštancie Interdiecézneho tribunálu Rímskej diecézy a ostatných diecéz Lazia. Od roku 2009 je komisařom Kongregácie pre náuku viery a takisto Kongregácie pre inštitúty zasväteného života a spoločnosti apoštolského života v Ríme. V decembri 2009 bol vymenovaný za dekana Fakulty kánonického práva a prorektora Pápežskej univerzity sv. T. Akvinského v Ríme. Dňa 26. marca 2012 bol vymenovaný za rektora Pápežskej univerzity sv. T. Akvinského v Ríme.

(TK KBS, RV)

## Spomienková oslava slovenskej štátnosti

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Oslava sa začala slovenskou svätou omšou odslúženou v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC za prvého prezidenta Slovenského štátu Dr. Jozefa Tisu a obeť Slovenského štátu. Svätú omšu odslúžil otec Štefan Chanas. Pri piesni: „Bože čos ráčil slovenskému ľudu po mnohoročnom ťažkom utrpení ...“ nejednému z nás vypadli slzy šťastia pri uvedomení si opätovnej existencii samostatnej a slobodnej Slovenskej republiky. Veľkú zásluhu na víťazstve slovenského národa v boji za jeho práva na svojbytnosť mala aj Slovenská liga v Amerike, ktorá udržovala slovenské povedomie u Slovákov žijúcich v Amerike.

Na úvod podujatia zaspievali prítomní Americkú a Slovenskú štátnu hymnu za doprovodu Jozefa Jurášiho a Rada Lesaya a pokračovalo sa modlitbou. Hlavným rečníkom Osláv bol predseda I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v NYC, Milan Dait, ktorý svoj referát venoval na vysvetlenie otázky: „Prečo došlo k tragédii slovenského národa na ceste k vzniku štátnej samostatnosti v minulosti? O histórii vzniku oboch Slovenských štátov sa tiež zmienil vo svojom príhovore predseda Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Daniel F. Tanzone.

V ďalšom čísle programu odzneli dve básne a to „Slávnostne“ od Luda Bešeňovského a „Moja vlasť“ od Antona Žarnova, ktoré zarecitovala Henrieta H. Daitová. V hudobnom čísle programu zaspieval slovenský spevák, Rado Lesay: „Keby som bol vtáčkom, letel by som za les, pozrieť sa čo robí, mamička moja dnes“, ako i ďalšiu slovenskú pieseň.

Po kultúrnom programe pre zúčastnených nasledovalo bohaté občerstvenie, ktoré pripravil Janko Škrkoň za pomoci ďalších členov spolkov. Na koniec sa zaspievali hymnické piesne: „God Bless America“ a „Hej, Slováci“ za hudobného doprovodu Jozefa Jurášiho a speváka Rada Lesaya.

Na záver sa žiada vysloviť vďaka všetkým zúčastneným, oddaným Slovákom, ktorí si prišli uctiť toto dôstojné podujatie nielen z New Yorku a New Jersey, ale aj zo štátov Connecticut a Pennsylvánie.

**Henrieta H. Daitová  
tajomníčka I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v NYC**



**Štefan Hreha**



**Otec Štefan Chanas počas sv. omše.**



**Slávnostný rečník Milan R. Dait.**



**Zľava Jozef Juráš a Jozef Lesay počas hudobného výstupu.**



**Otec Štefan Chanas zahájil oslavu modlitbou.**

## Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Hranica** vnímania staroby je na Slovensku najnižšia zo všetkých krajín Európskej únie (EÚ). Slováci považujú človeka za starého už po dosiahnutí 57,7 roka. Za starého pokladajú človeka pred dovŕšením šesťdesiatky už len susedia z Maďarska a Českej republiky. V rámci EÚ ako celku sa človek stáva v priemere pre okolie starým vo veku necelých 64 rokov. Pritom úplne opačne ako Slováci vidia starobu obyvateľa Holandska. V tejto krajine je hranica pre vnímanie staroby na úrovni 70,4 roka, čo je najvyššie v celej únii. Zároveň ide o jedinú krajinu, kde staroba začína až po sedemdesiatom roku života. V drvivej väčšine krajín EÚ za starých považujú už šesťdesiatnikov. Podľa prieskumu sú rozdiely v ponímaní staroby badateľné aj podľa veku respondentov.

• **Slovenská** technická univerzita (STU) v Bratislave sa umiestnila medzi najlepšími univerzitami sveta vo vysoko rešpektovanom hodnotení Webometrics Ranking of World Universities. Posunula sa z 830. miesta v roku 2010 na súčasnú 468. priečku. V európskom meradle je STU z pohľadu tohto hodnotenia na 196. mieste a na Slovensku zastáva prvenstvo. "Posunuli nás predovšetkým excelentné výkony v oblasti vedy a techniky, ktoré dosahujeme najmä v oblasti získavania zdrojov financovania vedeckých projektov a publikovania v prestížnych vedeckých časopisoch. Dlhodobo sa nám darí udržať vysokú kvalitu vzdelávania vo všetkých troch stupňoch. Naša zahraničná spolupráca sa orientuje najmä na medzinárodné vedecko-technické a výskumné projekty," uviedol prorektor STU Marián Peciar.

• **Dcérska** spoločnosť U.S. Steelu Košice Refrako, ktorá má takmer 250 zamestnancov ohlásila prepúšťanie. "Bolo to ťažké rozhodnutie. Na úrade práce sme oznámili prepustenie 26 zamestnancov. Trh so žiaruvzdornými materiálmi reaguje veľmi citlivo na úroveň objednávok na trhu s oceľou", informoval hovorca U.S. Steelu Ján Bača. Odborári vo firme vyhlásili štrajkovú pohotovosť. Šéf odborov František Ujlaki uviedol, že vďaka ich aktivitám sa podarilo nájsť miesto pre tri žeriavničky priamo v U.S. Steele. Vedenie oceliarní chce prechod z päťzmenného pracovného cyklu na štvorzmenný, čo však podľa odborárov enormne zaťaží zamestnancov.

• **Slovenských** pacientov pomaly nebude mať kto liečiť. Absolventov lekárskeho štúdia síce mierne pribúda, ale ľudia majú čoraz častejšie problém nájsť svojho obvodného lekára či špecialistu, ktorý by ich ošetril. Podľa odborníkov za to môže zle nastavený systém, ktorý núti mladých lekárov k odchodu do zahraničia a starším zase limity od zdravotných poisťovní bránia prijímať nových pacientov. "Personálny manažment je u nás absolútne zlý. Vzniklo tu nejaké dvadsaťročné vákuum, pretože o túto problematiku sa nikto nestaral. Pre všetky odbornosti je typické, že lekári starnú, no mladí veľmi nepríbúdajú", povedal prezident Asociácie súkromných lekárov Ladislav Pásztor.

• **Tlačová** agentúra Slovenskej republiky (TASR) spustila nový spravodajský portál Teraz.sk. Počas prvého dňa portál navštívilo podľa Google Analytics 6,496 unikátnych návštevníkov, ktorí si spolu prezreli 30,109 stránok. Portál Teraz.sk sa tak od prvého dňa zaradil medzi relevantné spravodajské weby. "Portál bude širokej verejnosti sprístupňovať spravodajstvo národnej a verejnoprávnej tlačovej agentúry vrátane fotografií a videí tak, aby pokryl rastúci dopyt po aktuálnych informáciách. Projekt Teraz.sk je ďalším posilnením služieb pre verejnosť, ktoré Tlačová agentúra Slovenskej republiky prináša. Projekt nebude spolpatnený, denne bude ponúkať približne stovku najdôležitejších a najzaujímavejších správ z agentúrneho servisu TASR. Niekoľko stoviek prispievateľov do tohto jedinečného projektu verejnoprávnej agentúry tak získa vzácny priestor na publikovanie svojich správ v celoslovenskom online médiu, a aj širšie publikum, pretože ich správy si bude môcť prečítať každý návštevník portálu. Tlačová agentúra Slovenskej republiky je verejnoprávna, národná, nezávislá, informačná inštitúcia, ktorá poskytuje službu verejnosti v oblasti spravodajstva.

• **Na Slovensku** sa rodí menej detí a starším matkám, ukázali to štatistiky Národného centra zdravotníckych informácií (NCZI). V roku 2009 sa narodilo menej detí (55,157), ako v roku 1997 (58,483), najmenej za toto sledované obdobie sa ich však narodilo v roku 2002 (49,578). To, že sa na Slovensku rodí menej detí, potvrdili aj výsledky Štatistického úradu SR z minuloročného sčítania obyvateľov, domov a bytov. V porovnaní s výsledkami sčítania pred desiatimi rokmi došlo k ďalšiemu poklesu počtu obyvateľov v predproduktívnom veku, teda detí do 14 rokov. Ich počet klesol z 18,9 percenta na 15,3 percenta. Pokles sa zaznamenal aj v tých krajoch, kde je táto časť populácie najviac zastúpená.

• **Na Slovensku** padali teplotné rekordy. Napríklad na Chopku namerali vo štvrtok (22. 3.) až 7,8 stupňa Celzia, čo je teplota, ktorá prekonal dosiaľ najvyššie nameranú hodnotu 7,6 stupňa Celzia z roku 1990. Podľa klimatológa zo Slovenského hydrometeorologického ústavu (SHMÚ) Pavla Faška sú podobné teploty vo vysokohorskom prostredí v tomto ročnom období netypické. Nie je ale prekvapením, že rekordy boli zaznamenané na východnom Slovensku, kde je klíma kontinentálnejšia. V piatok (23. 3.) boli prekonané hodnoty z roku 1977 v Bardejove (20,4 stupňa Celzia) a z roku 1974 v Medzilaborciach (20,0 stupňa Celzia), Košiciach (20,5 stupňa Celzia) a Trebišove (21,5 stupňa Celzia). V nedeľu (25. 3.) bola opätovne prekonaná teplota v Trebišove (22,0 stupňa Celzia) z roku 1973 a z roku 1977 v Čaklove (21,0 stupňa Celzia), Somotore (22,3 stupňa Celzia) a Michalovciach (21,9 stupňa Celzia).

• **Poľsko** a Slovensko bude na severnej hranici spájať nový most. V obci Mníšek nad Popradom, okres Stará Ľubovňa sa totiž začne s prekládkou pôvodnej cesty 1/68 a miesto starej vozovky tu vznikne nový mostný objekt. Práce by mali byť ukončené v januári 2014. Základný kameň stavby novej cesty, ktorá je spolufinancovaná z eurofondov, v polovici marca poklopali prvý podpredseda vlády a minister dopravy, výstavby a regionálneho rozvoja SR Ján Figel a poľský minister dopravy, výstavby a námorného hospodárstva Slawomír Novak. Nová cesta by mala byť bez obmedzení a zároveň sa stane cyklomagistrálou až do poľského mesta Nowy Sacz.

• **Známy** ľudový zabávač z východu, Ander z Košíc, vyráza na turné do svojej vysnenej krajiny, do Austrálie. U protinožcov ho čaká spolu šesť vystúpení, navštívi mestá Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane a Sydney. Odlieta v apríli. Nikdy si nemyslel, že sa so svojou nezameniteľnou východniarčinou dostane do toľkých štátov sveta. Za oceánom už bol, Slováci ho privítali v USA, v Kanade, precestoval aj Európu. V Austrálii sľubuje tamojším Slovákom galavečer, na ktorom "sa utrhne". Ander oslávil pred pár mesiacmi 70 rokov. Očakáva, že okrem Slovákov prídu aj Poliaci, Srbi a Česi.

TASR a slovenské časopisy



## MZV SR má dvoch nových štátnych tajomníkov Petra Buriana a Petra Javorčíka

Rezort diplomacie má od 11. apríla 2012 dvoch štátnych tajomníkov. Vláda na tento post vymenovala bývalého veľvyslanca SR v Spojených štátoch amerických Petra Buriana a zástupcu stáleho predstaviteľa SR pri EÚ Petra Javorčíka.

Novým vedúcim služobného úradu ministerstva zahraničných vecí sa stal bývalý veľvyslanec SR v Uzbekistane, Tadžikistane a Turkménsku Juraj Siváček.

Druhým mužom na ministerstve obrany je zase bývalý veľvyslanec SR pri OSN, niekdajší vedúci misie SR pri NATO a voľakedajší europoslanec za Smer-SD Miloš Koterec.

Aby mohli svoje nové funkcie zastávať, museli svoje dovtedajšie pôsobiská opustiť. Novovymenovaný kabinet Roberta Fica schválil ešte 4. apríla 2012 na svojom prvom rokovaní návrh na odvolanie Buriana, Siváčka a Koterca z veľvyslanckých postov. Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič ich odvolal vo štvrtok 5. apríla.

TASR

## Z vymenovania členov novej vlády SR v Prezidentskom paláci



FOTO TASR - Vladimír Benko

Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič na základe návrhu Roberta Fica (Smer-SD) vymenoval v Prezidentskom paláci v Bratislave 4. apríla 2012 13 nových ministrov.

*Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic formally names thirteen new members of Parliament on April 4, 2012 in the Presidential Palace in Bratislava.*

Na snímke novovymenovaní ministri vládneho kabinetu Roberta Fica. Predný rad zľava - minister vnútra Robert Kaliňák (Smer-SD), minister financií Peter Kažimír (Smer-SD), minister zahraničných vecí Miroslav Lajčák (neustraní), minister hospodárstva Tomáš Malatinský (neustraní), minister dopravy Ján Počiatek (Smer-SD), minister pôdohospodárstva Lubomír Jahnátek (neustraní) a minister obrany Martin Glváč (Smer-SD). Zadný rad zľava - minister spravodlivosti Tomáš Borec (neustraní), minister práce Ján Richter (Smer-SD), minister životného prostredia Ján Žiga (Smer-SD), minister školstva Dušan Čaplovič (Smer-SD), minister kultúry Marek Maďarič (Smer-SD) a ministerka zdravotníctva Zuzana Zvolenská (neustraníčka).

## Digitalizácia slovenského písomníctva je svetovým unikátom

Projekt Digitálna knižnica a digitálny archív, v rámci ktorého Slovenská národná knižnica do konca roku 2015 zdigitalizuje 2,8 milióna objektov a približne 250 miliónov strán, je unikátny vo svetovom meradle. Na tlačovej konferencii to v Martine povedal generálny riaditeľ Slovenskej národnej knižnice Dušan Katusčák. Projekt sa bude realizovať v Martine a na novom detašovanom pracovisku Slovenskej národnej knižnice vo Vrútkach.

Projekt označil za kľúčový pre slovenské písomné dedičstvo. „Zachránime podstatnú časť písomného dedičstva Slovenska. Hlavne takého, ktoré je na kyslom papieri. Ide o papier vyrábaný približne od roku 1839 do roku 1990. Z čoho vyplýva, že podstatná časť písomného dedičstva Slovenska, ktoré súvisí s moderným slovenským národom, je na kyslom papieri. A je našou povinnosťou toto dedičstvo zachrániť,“ skonštatoval generálny riaditeľ Slovenskej národnej knižnice.

Na projekt je podľa neho pridelených 49,57 milióna eur zo štrukturálnych fondov Európskej únie. „Zo štátneho rozpočtu prispieva Slovensko čiastkou v objeme 25 percent. Partnerom Slovenskej národnej knižnice je Ministerstvo vnútra Slovenskej republiky – Slovenský národný archív v Bratislave. Projekt sa bude realizovať v Martine a na novom detašovanom pracovisku Slovenskej národnej knižnice vo Vrútkach do konca roku 2015.“

TASR

## Slovenská kuchárska kniha bodovala v Paríži

Medzi najlepšie kuchárske knihy sveta patrí podľa Gourmand International slovenská publikácia Menu z edície Kuchárska elita. Jej vydavateľia si 13. marca prevzali certifikát Best in the World v regióne východnej Európy na Gourmand World Cookbook Awards v Paríži, v predvečer svetového veľtrhu kuchárskych kníh Paris Cookbook Fair.

Do súťaže boli prihlásené tisíce kníh zo 162 krajín sveta, z nich vybrali 283 finalistov zo 72 krajín. Z regiónu východnej Európy súťažilo niekoľko desiatok kníh, silné zastúpenie mali Poliaci, Maďari, Rusi, kvalitné knihy predstavili aj Estónci. Podľa Jána Kramára, konateľa vydavateľstva Direct press, v ktorom ocenená kniha vyšla, cena patrí predovšetkým tým, ktorí sa na vzniku publikácie podieľali. „Slovenskej kuchárskej špičke od A po Z, čo v našom prípade znamená od Artza až po Žideka. Ich diela ešte zhodnotili excelentné fotografie Luca Biscontiho a kvalitná tlač,“ dodal.

Kniha Kuchárska elita - Menu prináša 57 moderných receptov ako inšpiráciu pre profesionálov, nadšených gurmánov a zberateľov kuchárskych kníh. Tí v nej nájdu studené či teplé predjedlá, polievky, hlavné jedlá mäsité či bezmäsité, dezerty. Kniha je druhou v poradí z edície Kuchárska elita, prvou sú Dezerty v podaní 32 šéfkuchárov Slovenska. Tretia kniha edície reflektujúca na nový gastronomický trend je v štádiu príprav a na trhu sa má objaviť v lete.

TASR



Foto: Juraj Pavlišin

Procesia mladých katolíckych veriacich s kardinálom Jozefom Tomkom na Kvetnú nedeľu v Banskej Bystrici.

*Cardinal Jozef Tomko leads the traditional procession on Palm Sunday in Banska Bystrica.*

## Kvetný víkend s kardinálom Jozefom Tomkom

Aj tohtoročná Kvetná nedeľa sa v Banskej Bystrici niesla v znamení 27. svetových dní mládeže tentoraz pod výzvou z Listu sv. Apoštola Pavla Filipanom „Ustavične sa radujte v Pánovi!“ Kvetný víkend sa v srdci Slovenska organizuje už od Jubilejného roka 2000 a do Banskej Bystrice pritiahol od 30. marca do 1. apríla viac ako 500 mladých katolíckych veriacich zo všetkých dvanástich dekanátov Banskobystrickej diecézy. Po dobu troch dní sa mladí kresťania mali možnosť zapojiť do veľkého množstva rôznych aktivít. Okrem bohatého duchovného programu (spoločná krížová cesta, spoločná modlitba bolestného ruženca a spoločné slávenie sv. omši) ich čakal aj rozsiahly kultúrny program (divadelné hry, animácie a workshopy).

Vyvrcholením Kvetného víkendu bola slávnostná svätá omša na Kvetnú nedeľu vo farskom kostole Panny Márie Nanebovzatej, ktorej hlavným celebrantom bol vzácny hosť emeritný prefekt Kongregácie pre evanjelizáciu národov pri Svätej Stoliči Jeho Eminencia Kardinál Jozef Tomko a koncebrovali kňazi Banskobystrickej diecézy spoločne so svojim diecéznym administrátorom Mons. Mariánom Bublincom. Pred samotnou slávnostnou svätou omšou Otec kardinál vykonal cirkevný obrad posvätenia bahniatok, ktoré si mladí veriaci priniesli so sebou a ktoré symbolizujú slávnostný príchod Ježiša Krista do Jeruzaléma.

V piatok a v sobotu pred Kvetnou nedeľou kardinál Jozef Tomko viedol prostredníctvom Banskobystrickej redakcie Rádia Lumen v priamom prenose duchovné cvičenia pre širokú poslucháčsku verejnosť, ktoré mali veľký ohlas medzi veriacimi po celom Slovensku. Tieto duchovné cvičenia boli zároveň dôstojným zakončením osláv jeho 88. narodenín, ktorých sa kardinál Jozef Tomko v zdraví dožil dňa 11. marca 2012.

Juraj Pavlišin, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia

## Kardinál Dolan celebrantom svätej omše za zosnulého kňaza Martina Svitaňa

Vdp. Martin Svitaň (1939), hlavný farár Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City zomrel 10. apríla v New Yorku. Americký kardinál Mons. Timothy Dolan bol v pondelok 16. apríla hlavným celebrantom svätej omše za zosnulého vdp. Martina Svitaňa. Pohrebná svätá omša s newyorským arcibiskupom sa konala o 10:00 h v slovenskom Kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého. Homíliu predniesol slovenský kňaz, kaplán Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, Štefan Chanas.

Telo nebohého otca Svitaňa bolo vystavené v nedeľu 15. apríla k pietnej a modlitbovej rozlúčke v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku. Po nej bola za zosnulého svätá omša, ktorú celebraval biskup Gerald T. Walsh. Kazateľom na nej bol kňaz a slovenský filmový režisér, scenárista a fotograf George J. Torok, C.O. Dôstojného otca Martina Svitaňa pochovali na Fantinekill Cemetery, Ellenville, N.Y. Nech odpočíva vo svätom pokoji!

## Spomienková oslava slovenskej štátnosti

V nedeľu dňa 11. marca 2012 o 1.00 hodine odpoľudnia v spoločenskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC, sa konala Spomienková oslava slovenskej štátnosti. Ako tradične bola organizovaná I. Zborom Slovenskej ligy v NYC za spolupráce Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Spolku sv. Štefana, Spolku sv. Matúša, Slovenského Katolíckeho Sokola a Farskej rady Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého.



Usporiadatelia spomienkovej oslavy Slovenskej štátnosti zľava: Predseda Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Daniel F. Tanzone; predseda spolku sv. Matúša IKSJ, Jozef Juráši; tajomníčka I. Zboru SL v NYC, Henrieta H. Daitová; kňaz Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC, Štefan Chanas; predseda I. Zboru SL v NYC, Milan R. Dait; tajomníčka SLvA, Nina Holá; predseda Zboru 182 Slovenského katolíckeho Sokola, Dr. Ladislav Korček; predseda Spolku sv. Štefana IKSJ Jozef Bilik.

Pokračovanie na str. 22

## Kondolenčný list hlavného predsedu IKSJ

*farníkom Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City*

Drahí osadníci kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City,

S hlbokým smútkom v našich srdciach sme prijali správu o úmrtí otca Martina Svitanu, ktorý odišiel do večného odpočinku dňa 10. apríla 2012.

Drahí osadníci, v mene mojom a v mene všetkých členov Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty vyslovujeme úprimnú sústrasť rodine otca Svitanu ako aj Vám, všetkým osadníkom Kostola svätého Jána Nepomuckého.

I keď ja osobne som mal len niekoľko príležitostí stretnúť otca Svitanu viem, že otec Svitan bol pevnou oporou Kostola sv. Jána, zásluhou ktorou tento kostol zostal silný.

Som presvedčený, že Otec Martin bude odpočívať vo večnom pokoji po boku nášho Spasiteľa a my sa budeme modliť, aby roky jeho oddanej práce pre Slovenskú komunitu v New Yorku neboli zabudnuté a že jeho nástupca bude pokračovať v jeho zasvätených činoch tak, ako si to Otec Martin určite prial.

Zbohom, Otec Martin.

*Andrew M. Rajec*  
Andrew M. Rajec  
President